

curl://up
2025

wcurl – one year later



About me

- Samuel Henrique <samueloph>
- *Debian Developer* since 2018
 - Volunteer, on my free time
- Member of *Security Tools Packaging Team*
- Maintains curl, rsync, shellcheck...
- Mentorship for Debian packaging
- *Senior System Development Engineer* in Amazon Linux, security team
- Debian/Linux, Python, Rust, Bash, Security
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Inception

- Idea on the way to curl-up 2024
- Discussed the idea for the first time in the second day of curl-up 2024, over lunch, called it “curld”
 - “worth a try”
- Discussed it again in between Debian curl maintainers and other Brazilian Debian Developers
 - “curld” sounds like a daemon, Charles Melara suggested “wcurl” instead
- Sergio Durigan Junior ported it from bash to POSIX-compliant shell script
 - Besides working a bunch of other nice features

Public reception

- Majoritarily good
- “A simplest alias ``dl='curl -O'`` just does the same for me.”
- “`wcurl` seems neat, but the idea that `curl` is so complex we can only fix it by adding **more** code in the form of a shell script ... bothers me. Seems like the lessons of Unix keep being forgotten.”
- “This happens so often. A developer could just read a man page or learn something deeply by example, but they don't. Instead they struggle for the rest of their lives in ignorance, even going so far as to adopt a hack to avoid having to learn a new thing. They will go far out their way to not learn a new thing, and over time, cause themselves untold misery.”

Contributions

- Non GNU/Linux support - “tssva”
 - <https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=40873627>
- HTTPS as default protocol - “heinrich5991”
 - <https://github.com/curl/wcurl/issues/1#issuecomment-2208468484>
- Disable curl’s globbing parser - “gnomon-”
 - <https://github.com/curl/wcurl/pull/9>
- Default filename index.html - Ryan Carsten Schmidt
 - https://salsa.debian.org/debian/wcurl/-/merge_requests/4
- Percent-decode resulting filename - Ryan Carsten Schmidt
 - https://salsa.debian.org/debian/wcurl/-/merge_requests/4
- Logo - Daniel Stenberg
- Allow “-o” and “-O” to be used without whitespaces (e.g.: “-oNAME”) - “MithicSpirit”, who uses Arch BTW
 - <https://github.com/curl/wcurl/issues/42>

Availability

- The major convenience factor comes from being installed automatically with curl
 - Done in Debian since wcurl creation
 - Done in Amazon Linux 2 and Amazon Linux 2023 since April 2025
- Shipped as its own package:
 - Arch Linux
 - Fedora
 - Homebrew
 - FreeBSD
 - OpenSUSE
 - MSYS2 (Windows)
 - ...
- Installed as part of curl in the next curl release (8.14.0)

Looking back

- `wcurl` is an extremely simple solution that does one use case well
- `curl` developers' support was essential for the adoption
- The right place and in the right time
- Me and other contributors spent hours discussing small design decisions, such as what should the “`--curl-options`” parameter be called
 - It really paid off in the end
- Other people's contributions really made a difference

What's Next

- Not a lot of testing done on the retries parameters, could they be improved?
 - UPDATE: Found a bug, sergiodj is sending a PR to curl
- The current version of wcurl has 0 maintenance cost, we might not get any more releases
- About a compiled wcurl
 - No concrete plans
 - Fancier features, like wget
 - More portable but also less portable (requires compilation)
 - If it happens, it's likely to co-exist with the script wcurl

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Questions?



Muito obrigado!

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curl-up 2025

Prague, Czech Republic

Slides available at samueloph.dev/slides