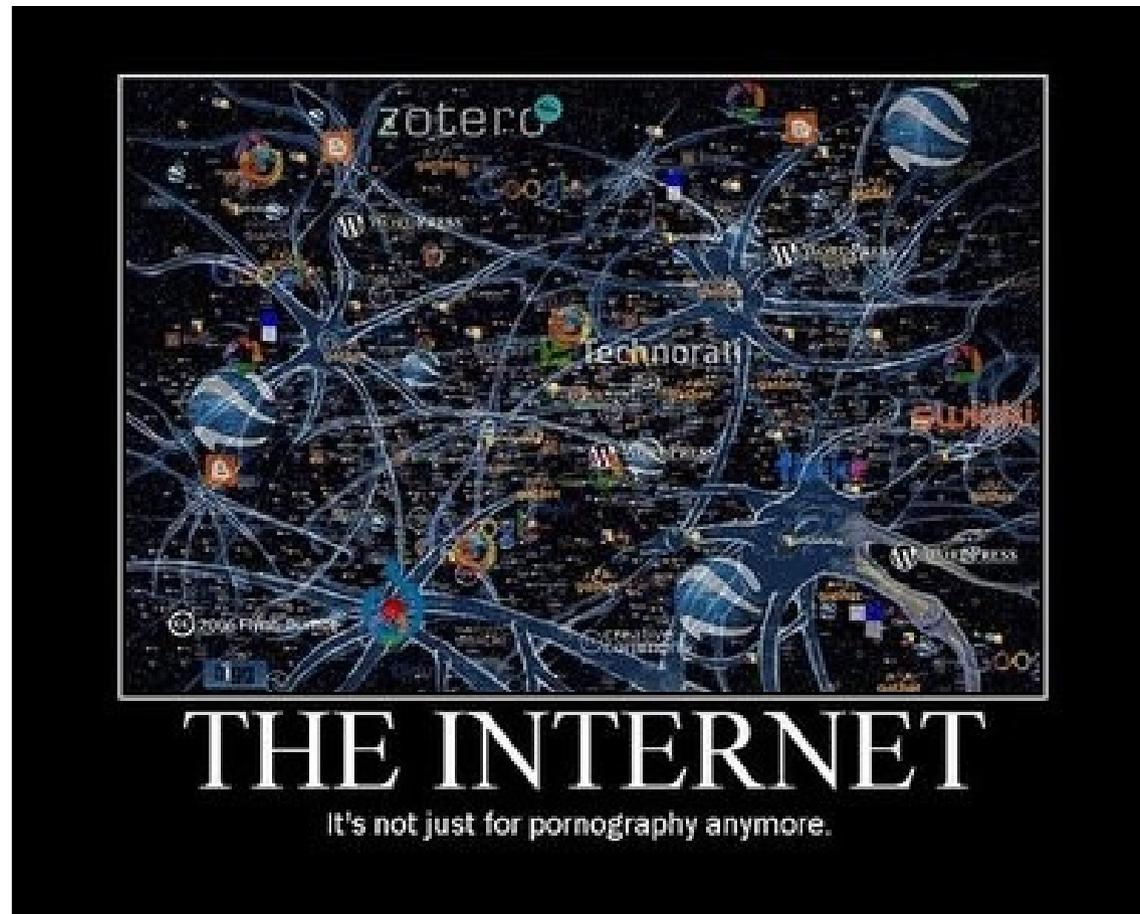


(How to make your own PHP powered)

Proxies, Web Crawlers, Search Engines



Google



(this will be you)

[PHP Manual](#)[Function Reference](#)[File System Related Extensions](#)[Filesystem](#)[Filesystem Functions](#)

- [basename](#)
- [chgrp](#)
- [chmod](#)
- [chown](#)
- [clearstatcache](#)
- [copy](#)
- [delete](#)
- [dirname](#)
- [disk_free_space](#)
- [disk_total_space](#)
- [diskfreespace](#)

[<<file_exists](#)view this page in Brazilian Portuguese [↗](#)

file_get_contents

(PHP 4 >= 4.3.0, PHP 5)

file_get_contents — Reads entire file into a string

Description

```
string file_get_contents ( string $filename [, bool $use_include_path = false [, resource $context [, int $offset = 0 [, int $max_length = 0]]]] )
```

This function is similar to [file\(\)](#), except that **file_get_contents()** returns the file in a [string](#), starting at the specified offset. In case of a failure, **file_get_contents()** will return FALSE.

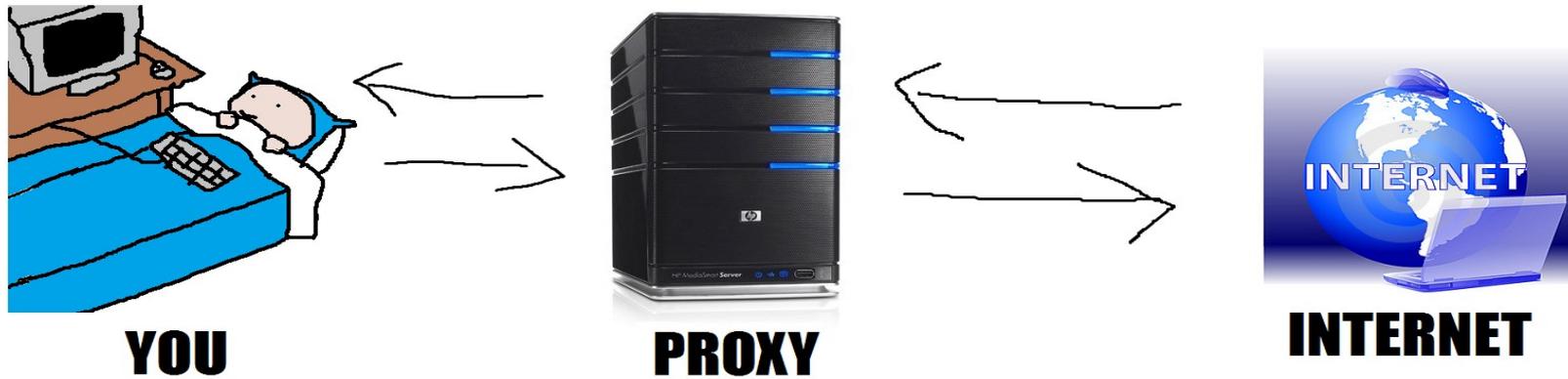
file_get_contents() is the preferred way to read the contents of a file into a string. It will use memory mapping to enhance performance.

Examples

Example #1 Get and output the source of the homepage of a website

```
<?php
$homepage = file_get_contents('http://www.example.com/');
echo $homepage;
?>
```

<-- NICE



A proxy is a server we can choose to route our internet requests through. When we use one, our requests appear to be made from the proxy server instead.

We just implemented one!

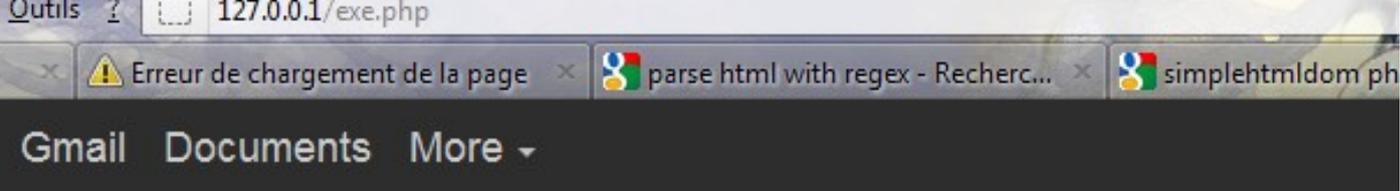
Exercise: make a proxy “site” where the user can give a url to go to.

Using...

HTML forms?

URL parameters?

POST/GET ???



Google *(Where's the image?)*

A screenshot of a browser's developer tools. The 'HTML' tab is active, showing the source code for the Google logo. The code is as follows:

```
img#hplogo <div#lga <center <body <html
/srpr/nav_logo80.png">
  <textarea id="csi" style="display:none"></textarea>
  <div id="mngb">
  <iframe style="display:none" name="wgjf">
  <center>
    <br id="lgpd" clear="all">
    <div id="lga">
      
      <br>
      <br>
    </div>
```

The 'img' tag is highlighted in blue. A yellow box with a black border contains the text 'Failed to load the given URL'.

We have a problem with relative urls. (It tries to load it from our php folder).

We'll need to fix the HTML string itself. How to do that?

NOT just with regexes! (it's actually impossible)



CODING HORROR

programming and human factors
by Jeff Atwood

NEWER »

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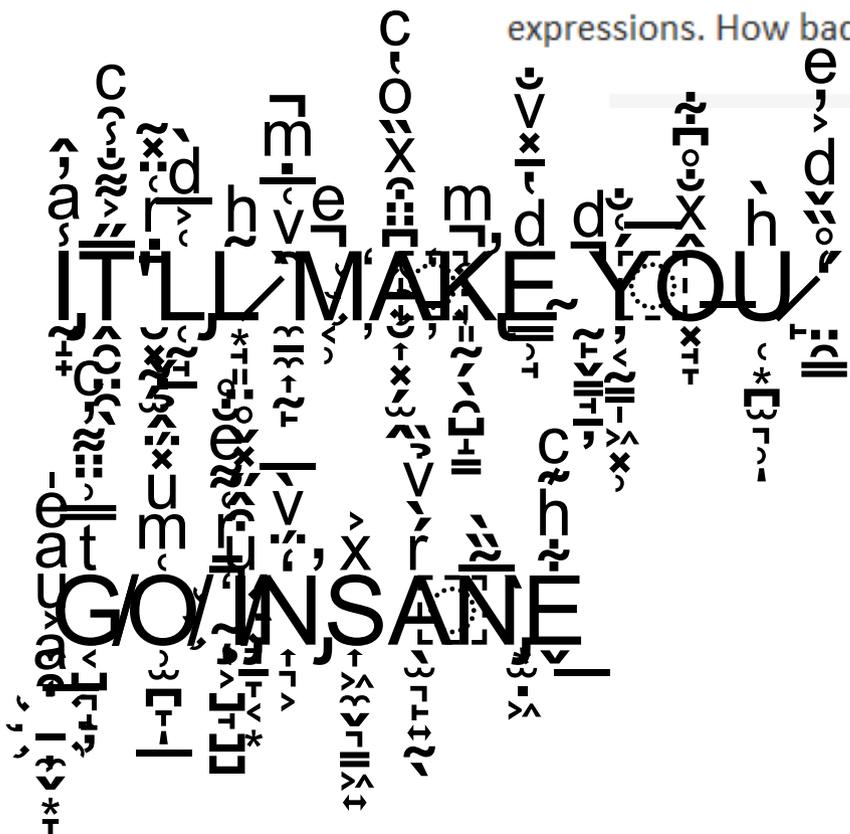
OLDER

[Whitespace: The Silent Killer](#)

Parsing Html The Cthulhu Way

November 15, 2009

Among programmers of any experience, it is generally regarded as A Bad Idea™ to attempt to parse HTML with regular expressions. How bad of an idea? It apparently [drove one Stack Overflow user to the brink of madness](#).



How to do it?

Use a library!

(I found a very simple and easy to use one here)

<http://simplehtmldom.sourceforge.net/>

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/simplehtmldom/>

Just download the .php file and place it in your folder.

Then be sure to call:

```
include("simple_html_dom");
```

in your own file.

How to create HTML DOM object?

Quick way

Object-oriented way

```
// Create a DOM object from a string
$html = str_get_html('<html><body>Hello!</body></html>');

// Create a DOM object from a URL
$html = file_get_html('http://www.google.com/');

// Create a DOM object from a HTML file
$html = file_get_html('test.htm');
```

How to find HTML elements?

Basics

Advanced

Descendant selectors

Nested selectors

```
// Find all anchors, returns a array of element objects
$ret = $html->find('a');

// Find (N)th anchor, returns element object or null if not found (zero based)
$ret = $html->find('a', 0);

// Find all <div> which attribute id=foo
$ret = $html->find('div[id=foo]');

// Find all <div> with the id attribute
$ret = $html->find('div[id]');
```

A few things to keep in mind #1

Object-Oriented PHP

```
class MyClass {  
    protected $field_name;  
  
    public function method1() {  
        //code goes here...  
    }  
}
```

What we need to know...

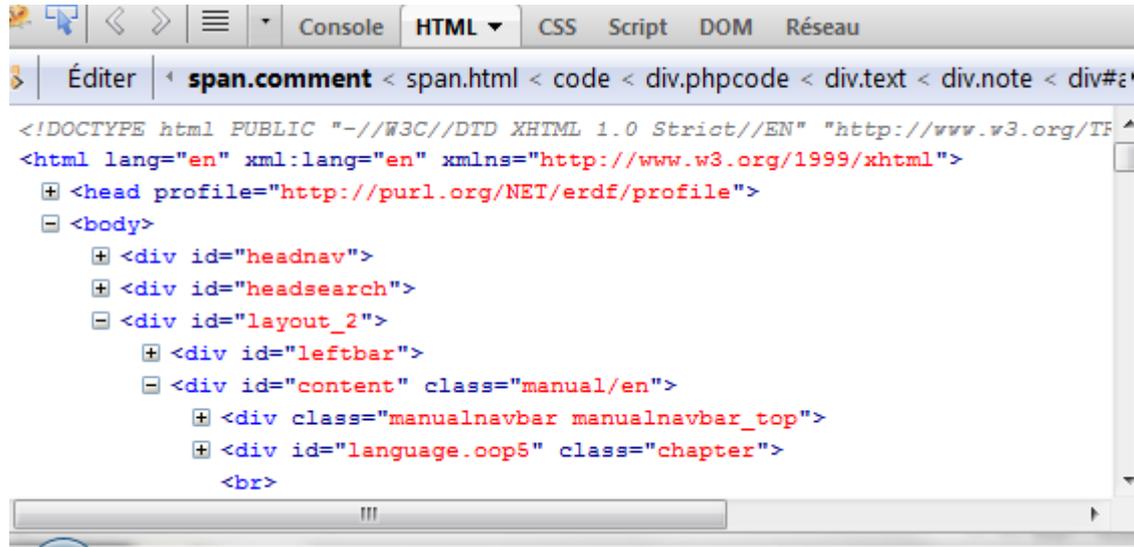
```
$instance = new MyClass();
```

```
$instance->method1();
```

(Equivalent of java's instance.method();)

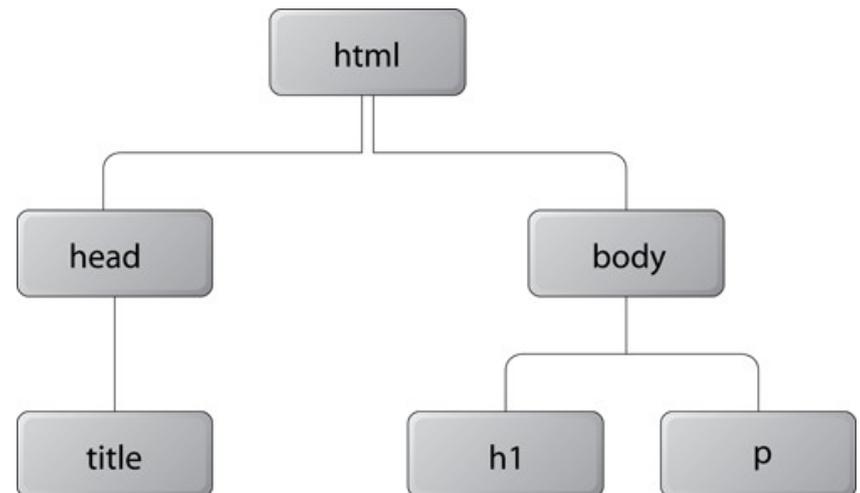
A few things to keep in mind #2

The DOM



```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR
<html lang="en" xml:lang="en" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
  <head profile="http://purl.org/NET/erdf/profile">
    <body>
      <div id="headnav">
      <div id="headsearch">
      <div id="layout_2">
        <div id="leftbar">
          <div id="content" class="manual/en">
            <div class="manualnavbar manualnavbar_top">
            <div id="language.oop5" class="chapter">
              <br>
```

HTML is loaded as a tree-like structure where nested elements are children.



Exercise #1:

*Have our proxy grab every tag, then display them.
(try this on amazon.com!)*

Exercise #2:

*Have our proxy grab every <a> tag.
Then, get each tag's href property.
IF the href is relative, make it absolute.
Finally, print every href.*

Some syntax...

```
include("simple_html_dom.php");

$html = '<p id="lol">sup</p>';
$html = str_get_html($html);
$ret = $html->find('p');

foreach ($ret as $tag) {
    $id = $tag->id;
    echo $tag;
    echo $id;
}
```

PHP Function that will make relative URL absolute (and do nothing to absolute URL)

```
/**
 * Function to convert relative URL to absolute given a base URL
 *
 * @param string the relative URL
 * @param string the base URL
 * @return string the absolute URL
 */
function rel2abs($rel, $base) {
    if (strlen($rel) == 0)
        return $base;
    else if (parse_url($rel, PHP_URL_SCHEME) != '')
        return $rel;
    else if ($rel[0] == '#' || $rel[0] == '?')
        return $base.$rel;

    extract(parse_url($base));

    $abs = ($rel[0] == '/' ? '' : preg_replace('#/[^\/*]*$#', '', $path))."/$rel";
    $re = array('#(\/\.\?\/)#', '#/(?!\.\.)([^\/*]+\/\.\.\.\/#)');

    for ($n = 1; $n > 0; $abs = preg_replace($re, '/', $abs, -1, $n));
    return $scheme.'://'.$host.str_replace('..', '', $abs);
}
```

Where to go from here?

```
http://www.cs.washington.edu/  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/index.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/syllabus.html  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/190m_12su_syllabus.pdf  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/textbook.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/faq.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/links.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/lectures.shtml#today  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/homework.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/sections.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/labs.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/final.shtml  
http://www.cs.washington.edu/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/staff.shtml  
https://webster.cs.washington.edu/ipl/iplschedule.php?course=190m&quarter=12su  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/static_pages/working-at-home.shtml  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/static_pages/static_pages/upload.shtml  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/gradeit.shtml  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/myuw.shtml  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/graden:  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/extra.:  
https://catalyst.uw.edu/gopost/board/mcelmr/28550/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/static_pages/sideba:  
http://www.washington.edu/maps/print/?place=214  
http://validator.w3.org/check/referer  
http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/check/referer?profile=css3  
https://webster.cs.washington.edu/jslint/?referer
```

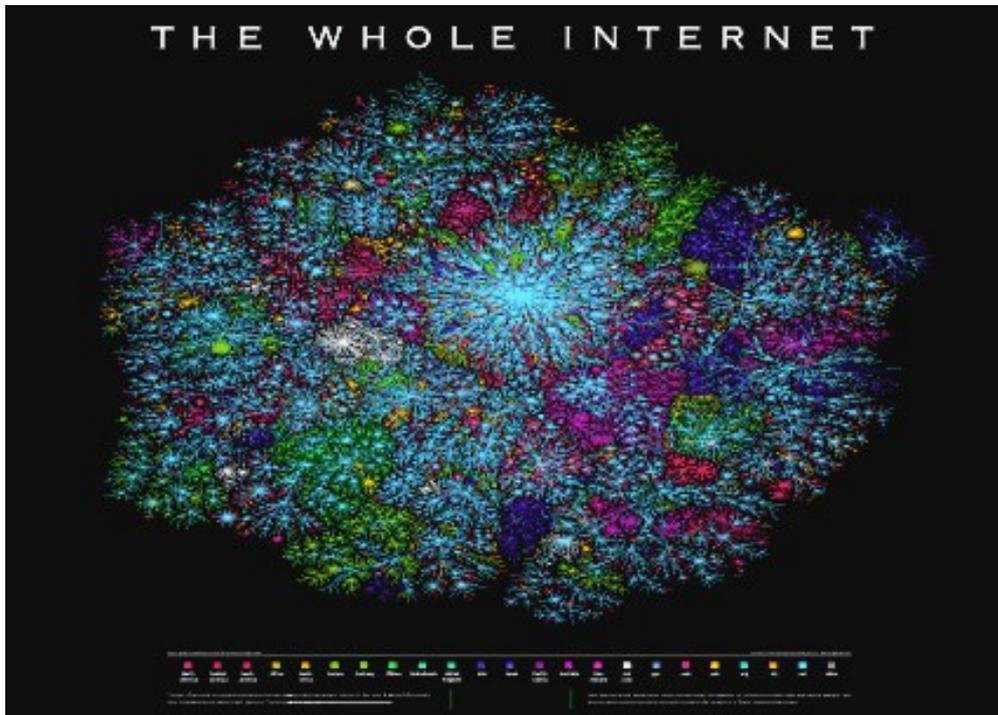
Every single one of these links is another URL which we can load. It'll also have a list of href's, all of which we can load as well. And so on...

This should sound like a **RECURSIVE** problem to you...

It only gets **EXPONENTIALLY BETTER** from here...

The CSE 190m frontpage has about 20 links.
Each of these links will have 20 links of their own.
Then those will have 20 links each, and so on.

Only 3 “levels” in, and that's already $20^3 + 20^2 + 20^1$ or **8420** pages!
(We obviously can't do this by brute force)



There are over
1,000,000,000,000 pages on
the internet.

How would you parse then
categorize them all?
Google it!

What we **CAN** do

Write a relatively shallow (2 levels) search engine.

Apply regex on the html strings to find all occurrences of the query.

Some notes:

```
error_reporting(E_ERROR | E_PARSE);  
(to disable warnings)
```

```
set_time_limit(0);  
(to set unlimited time)
```

```
$htmlstring = file_get_contents($url);  
check if the string is truthy before parsing
```

```
preg_match("/[^\.]+shiny[^\.]+/i", $htmlstring, $matches);  
Matches will be in $matches array
```

Problems?

`file_get_contents()` is incredibly slow and not suited for this task.

A fast web crawler is possible in PHP, but we'll need to use something else to make our requests.

(I recommend cURL, a PHP binding to a C library -- so you know it's fast!)

<http://lu.php.net/manual/en/book.curl.php>

```
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_URL, $url);
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_HEADER, TRUE);
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_NOBODY, TRUE); // remove body
curl_setopt($ch, CURLOPT_RETURNTRANSFER, TRUE);
$head = curl_exec($ch);
$httpCode = curl_getinfo($ch, CURLINFO_HTTP_CODE);
curl_close($ch);

if(!$head)
{
    return FALSE;
}

if($status === null)
{
    if($httpCode < 400)
```

But not friendly...

What can you do with web crawling?

```
FILE: SOIL&-PIMP- SESSIONS - Pimp Master - 11 - No Matter.mp3
FILE: SOIL&-PIMP- SESSIONS - Pimp Master - 10 - Low Life.mp3
FILE: SOIL&-PIMP- SESSIONS - Pimp Master - 09 - J.D.F #.mp3
FILE: SOIL&-PIMP- SESSIONS - Pimp Master - 08 - A Wheel Within A Wheel.mp3
FILE: SOIL&-PIMP- SESSIONS - Pimp Master - 07 - Avalanche.mp3
FILE: SOIL&-PIMP- SESSIONS - Pimp Master - 06 - Waltz For Goddess.mp3
FILE: SOIL&-PIMP- SESSIONS - Pimp Master - 05 - Stinger.mp3
FILE: 253 Family.mp3
FILE: 252 The Wish.mp3
FILE: 251 Star Babies.mp3
FILE: 250 Flying Mario.mp3
FILE: 249 The Girl's Sadness.mp3
FILE: 248 Ball Rolling 2.mp3
FILE: 247 Boss Kamek.mp3
FILE: 246 Dungeon Cave.mp3
FILE: 245 AH-WA-WA-WA-WA.mp3
FILE: 244 The Evil Steel Mecha Koopa.mp3
FILE: 243 Sand Island.mp3
```

```
QUEUE:(1851) REQUEST TO: http://spotcos.com/misc/music/The%20Pillows/The%20Pillows/
```

Check out StreamPlayer:

<http://spotcos.com/misc/scrapeplayer/scrapeplayer.swf>

To use, type:

```
load spotcos.com/misc
```

then

```
random
```