

APPENDIX C

LYNX TEXT READER

Lynx is a text-only Web browser for use on character terminals. It is released under the GNU General Public License. Supported protocols include HTTP, HTTPS, and FTP amongst others. For an overview of the Lynx Web browser we refer to the Wikipedia Web page

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynx_\(web_browser\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lynx_(web_browser))

Lynx was originally designed for Unix. Versions are also available for all Microsoft Windows releases, Linux and Mac OS X. You can access the home page of the browser via the link

<http://lynx.isc.org>

There you can find the current development sources, the main help page, the current User Guide. The main help page and the User Guide are online available.

WINDOWS INSTALLATION

cygwin Win32 Installation

Our preferred way to use the text browser lynx is to call the function `lynx.exe` from a cygwin installation under Windows. To learn how to install cygwin under Windows we refer to the following links

<http://www.cygwin.com>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cygwin>

cygwin is a Unix-like environment and command-line interface for Microsoft Windows. This environment allows to launch Windows applications from the cygwin environment, as well as to use many cygwin tools and applications within the Windows operating context, this includes the lynx Web browser.

When you have installed cygwin, please do not forget to add the location of the `lynx.exe` binary to the search path of your windows environment. Our experience is that cygwin is the most stable way under Windows to download data from the Internet¹.

The Minimalist Win32 Version

A standalone installation will be an alternative option if you like to avoid the time consuming and maybe for you difficult cygwin installation. You can find many pointers on the Internet to standalone Windows binaries of lynx but none was working properly together with R. We have prepared a zip file with the necessary lynx files from the cygwin distribution. You can download this file named `lynx4RmetricsWindows.zip` from the r-forge server

<https://r-forge.r-project.org/scm/viewvc.php/share/lynx4RmetricsWindows.zip?root=rmetrics>

Click on the (download) link to get the latest revision. Then unzip the downloaded file and copy the cygwin folder to your "Computer". i.e. place it under

`C:\cygwin`

Please do not forget to add the location of the `lynx.exe` binary, i.e.

`C:\cygwin\bin`

to the search path of your windows environment. That's all.

LINUX INSTALLATION

We assume that the user is familiar with his Linux operating system. lynx is in almost all cases already installed and the binary is in the search path. So the `read.lynx()` will work out of the box.

MAC OS X INSTALLATION

For the Mac OS X operating system the Lynx web browser is available from

http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/unix_open_source/lynxtextwebbrowser.html

Alternatively, you can install lynx using the Macports package management system:

<http://www.macports.org>

¹Note with a full cygwin installation you also get access to other web browsers and downloaders like `wget`, `w3m`, or `links`.