

Linking to iTunes U

This section describes how to obtain an iTunes U URL for each page, each group within each page, and each track within each group in your iTunes U site, as well as what happens when a user clicks a link to return to a page, group, or track if iTunes U determines that the user is not currently logged in to an iTunes U session.

Obtaining an iTunes U URL

Each page, each group within each page, and each [track](#) within each group in your iTunes U site has a unique URL, making it easy for you to create links from your iTunes U [Links box](#), scripts, webpages, or Learning Management Systems (LMS) to the requested iTunes U page, group, or track.

To obtain the URL for a specific iTunes U page, group, or track:

1. Open a plain text file.
2. Navigate in the iTunes application to the specific iTunes U page, group, or track you want.
3. Do one of the following:
 - For a page, drag the [navigation bar](#) from the iTunes application into your open text file.
 - For a group, Control-click the tab for the group (or right-click for Windows), choose Copy iTunes Store URL from the shortcut menu, and paste the URL into your open text file. The last portion of the link is the iTunes U [destination](#) information for the group. If you copy this destination information, or [handle](#), to use as a direct link to the group, be sure to first delete the leading zero in the handle.
 - For a track, Control-click the track (or right-click for Windows), choose Copy iTunes Store URL from the shortcut menu, and paste the URL into your open text file. The last portion of the link, excluding everything from the question mark to then of the URL, is the iTunes U destination information, or handle, for the track.

This is the URL you use to generate a link from your iTunes U Links box, script, webpage, or LMS to the selected page, group, or track within iTunes U.

Notes:

- You can drag any segment from the navigation bar or any link in iTunes U to your desktop to create a quicklink to that page, group, or link.
- To obtain a public URL for your site, drag the element of the navigation bar containing your institution's name into your open text file.

- Links created as described above use an `https://` or `http://` URL protocol. If you paste these URLs directly into a link you created in your iTunes U Links box, when a user clicks the link, the user is first redirected to a web browser and then taken to the page, group, or track defined in the link. To avoid a trip through the web browser, use an iTunes link by changing the `https://` or `http://` in the URL to `itmss://`. When you installed iTunes on your system, it added itself as a URL scheme handler for `itmss://` URLs.

Linking to iTunes U After Session Timeout

When a user clicks a link to return to a page, group, or [track](#), if iTunes U determines that advanced access controls are in use and that the user is not currently logged in to an iTunes U session, the following steps occur:

1. iTunes U redirects the request to your institution's web authentication and authorization server, based on the [Site login URL](#) you provided in the Edit Site Settings page.
2. Your institution's web server re-authenticates the user and sends the necessary [authorization token](#) to iTunes U.

In order to display the exact page, group, or track the user was trying to access, iTunes U needs to send [destination](#) information during the redirect and receive the destination information back with the authorization token. Destination information is an internal set of numbers that uniquely identifies an iTunes U page, group, or track. Without the destination information, iTunes U cannot display the requested page, group, or track and, instead, displays your site's root page.

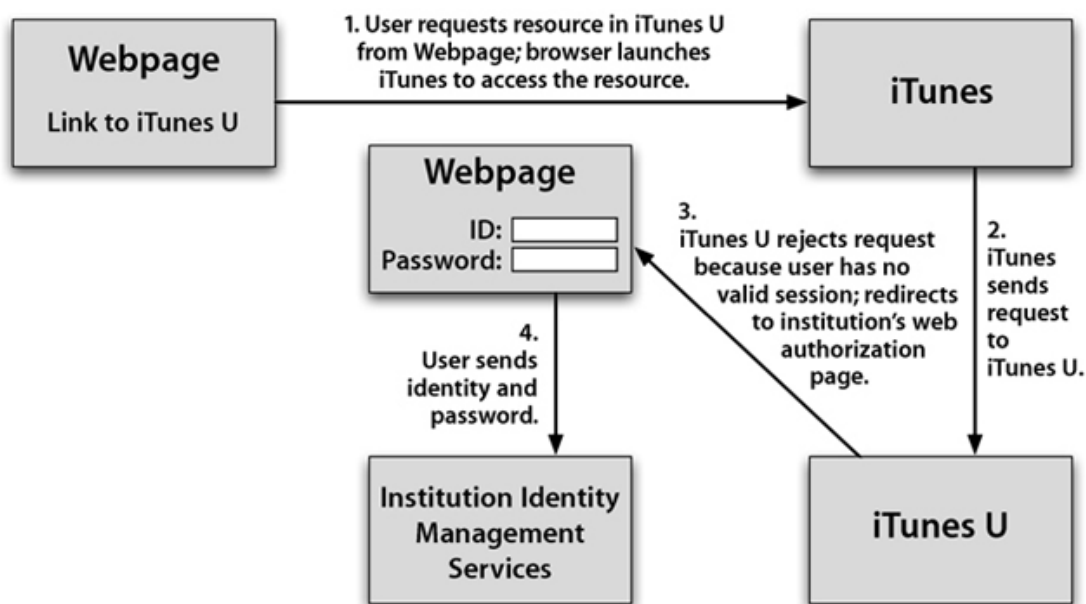
To send destination information during a redirect, specify the `#{DESTINATION}` variable at the end of your "Site login URL" in the iTunes U Edit Site Settings page. When iTunes U redirects the user's request for a page, group, or track, iTunes U replaces the `#{DESTINATION}` variable with the page, group, or track destination information. If you designed your [transfer script](#) to accept the variable through an HTTP POST or GET request, the script can also generate a URL to pass to iTunes U and display the requested page, group, or track.

For example, if a user attempts to access a track in a [Course page](#) after the session timeout has expired, iTunes U redirects the user to the Site login URL defined in the Edit Site Settings page.

If the user logs in and is re-authenticated successfully, and the transfer script is designed to handle the destination variable, iTunes U redirects the user back to the track in the Course page instead of your site's root page. For more information, see "[Editing Site Settings](#)" (page 61).

3. iTunes U logs the user back in and displays the requested page, group, or track.

The following diagram illustrates what happens when a user clicks a link referencing iTunes U content.



Note: After step 4 in the diagram, your server validates the user and transfers authorization data to iTunes U. For more information on the next steps, see step 3 in the previous iTunes U integration interaction diagram and “Using Authentication and Authorization Services” (page 26).

Linking Content within Your iTunes U Site

If your iTunes U site contains an existing [track](#) in a [Course page](#) and you want the same track to appear in a different page in your iTunes U site, without uploading the track again, you can create a link to the existing track using:

- The Featured Content section in a [Public Feature page](#). For more information, see the steps below.
- A Smart group within a Course page. For more information, see “[Creating Group Types](#)” (page 96).

To add a track link to the Featured Content section in a Public Feature page:

1. Log in to iTunes U as an administrator (or another user with editing access).
2. Click Edit Page in the Tools area of a Public Feature page.
3. Choose Create Track Link from the Create Page pop-up menu in the section where you want to add a track link.
4. Type the [destination handle](#) for the existing track.
5. Click the Save icon to save the track link.
 - You can also create a link to an existing Course page by choosing Create Course Link from the Create Page pop-up menu.

You can also copy and paste course and track URLs into the Destination Handle field to link to the course or track. If you copy and paste a track URL, be sure to delete everything from the question mark to then of the URL before you click the Save icon to save the new track link.