

# Portable Links

## Quarto Extension

Mickaël CANOUIL, *Ph.D.*

See the [extension overview](#) for installation and usage.

### What it does

In a Quarto website or book, relative links to other pages resolve only within the HTML site. When the document is rendered to a non-HTML format (PDF, DOCX, Typst), those pages do not exist alongside the output and the links break. This filter rewrites them to absolute URLs built from the project's `site-url`.

This page renders to HTML, where relative cross-page links already work, so the filter leaves them untouched.

### Cross-page links

These relative links are rewritten in non-HTML formats:

- A page link: `[methods page](methods.qmd)`.
- An anchored link: `[appendix notes](appendix.html#notes)`.
- A query-string link: `[search results](search.html?q=portable)`.
- A nested relative path: `[chapter two](chapters/02-intro.qmd)`.
- A root-relative path: `[chapter three](/chapters/03-summary.qmd)`.
- A current-directory path: `[chapter four](./chapters/04-discussion.qmd)`.

These links are never rewritten:

- An external link: `[Quarto](https://quarto.org)`.
- A protocol-relative link: `[CDN asset](//cdn.example.com/asset.html)`.
- An in-page anchor: `[jump to top](#what-it-does)`.
- An email link: `[contact](mailto:hello@example.com)`.
- A file whose name only contains `.qmd` as part of a longer suffix: `[backup notes](methods.qmd.backup)`.

### Before and after

With this project's `site-url`, a non-HTML render produces:

Source	Rewritten target
<code>methods.qmd</code>	<code>https://m.canouil.dev/quarto-portable-links/methods.html</code>
<code>appendix.html#notes</code>	<code>https://m.canouil.dev/quarto-portable-links/appendix.html#notes</code>
<code>search.html?q=portable</code>	<code>https://m.canouil.dev/quarto-portable-links/search.html?q=portable</code>
<code>chapters/02-intro.qmd</code>	<code>https://m.canouil.dev/quarto-portable-links/chapters/02-intro.html</code>

Source	Rewritten target
<code>/chapters/03-summary.qmd</code>	<code>https://m.canouil.dev/quarto-portable-links/chapters/03-summary.html</code>
<code>./chapters/04-discussion.qmd</code>	<code>https://m.canouil.dev/quarto-portable-links/chapters/04-discussion.html</code>

In this Typst output the filter has rewritten the links, so they resolve to the live site:

- [methods page](#).
- [appendix notes](#).
- [search results](#).
- [chapter two](#).
- [chapter three \(root-relative\)](#).
- [chapter four \(current-directory\)](#).

And these are left untouched:

- [backup notes](#).
- [CDN asset](#).