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Which URL does Apple request when connecting to a Wi-Fi network to look for redirects?

I remember reading somewhere that when you connect to a Wi-Fi network, Apple tries accessing their own URL which is guaranteed not to follow any redirects. (E.g. <http://apple.com/no-redirects>). If it sees a redirect, it assumes you are on a Wi-Fi network that needs you to login, so it presents the login screen. Otherwise, if it was able to reach that URL with no redirects, it will just assume you are connected to the internet normally.

What is this URL, and where can I get more info about the mechanism Apple uses?

[iphone](#) [network](#) [wifi](#)

asked Jan 9 '15 at 20:10



Senseful

11.8k ● 62 ● 148 ● 240

1 Answer

I found it. Apple uses <http://www.apple.com/library/test/success.html>

More information can be found at <http://blog.erratasec.com/2010/09/apples-secret-wispr-request.html#VLA9UsabLOY>

The advantage of using a no redirect URL is that you can determine which state you are in:

1. Connected
2. Connected to Wi-Fi but Internet is inaccessible due to Wi-Fi router requiring user intervention.
3. Not connected

These are called [captive portals](#), or, as Apple calls them, [captive networks](#):

Captive networks (often used in hotels, coffee shops, and other public places) may intercept your software's HTTP requests and provide a login page instead of the expected data.

edited Jan 20 '16 at 0:09

answered Jan 9 '15 at 20:45



Senseful

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