



# M2Web Knowhow

Recommendations when designing your own web page  
to be reached through an M2Web connection

**SSH-0294-01-EN**

Product type: M2WEB



# 1. Preface:

This document was written to help you decide how to access your own webpage on your device through an M2web connection.

## 2. Difference between M2Web and eCatcher

**eCatcher** provides a VPN connection – it simulates a local Ethernet connection. Webpages can virtually be accessed as if one was locally on-site.

**M2Web** provides a display of the webpage, but your Browser/PC is not directly connected to the local website. Each interaction between the webpage and the local device is routed and interpreted through the M2Web services.

*Pro Tip:* M2Web is acting as a reverse proxy.

## 3. How to design a webpage for M2Web

*Pro Tip:*

Use	Avoid
HTML & HTML 5	Active X, Java request, scripts, applets
relative links	absolute links, dynamically created absolute links

### Difference between absolute and relative links:

Webpages often consist of several sub webpages, organized in a folder system. An absolute link consists of the *base-URL* (like the root directory in a File System), subfolders, and the desired webpage. If the base-URL changes and the webpages consist only of absolute links, it is a lot of work for the webpage administrator to adjust each link to have the new base-URL.

A relative link does not contain the base-URL. If you are already in folder “Xyz”, a relative link provides you the directions from where you are right now (no matter how you arrived there) to your destination webpage. Webpages using relative links do not need to be adjusted if the base-URL changes.

#### **Absolute link HTML examples:**

```
<a href="http://192.168.1.19"></a>  
<a href="www.beispiel.de/produkt1.html"></a>  
<a href="http://192.168.1.19/usr/folder/test2.html"></a>
```

#### **Relative link HTML examples:**

```
<a href="produkt1.html"></a>  
<a href="usr/folder/test2.html"></a>
```

The base-URL is not indicated.

## Absolute and relative links and M2Web

*Pro Tip: To reduce the possibility of display errors, we recommend the use of relative links and avoid absolute links.*

### Example of an absolute link via M2Web:

```
<a href="http://192.168.1.19/usr/folder/test2.html"></a>
```

The above link is an absolute link to a device with the IP address 192.168.1.19

To be able to be displayed on M2Web, the base-URL of such an absolute link would need to be replaced by the M2web base-URL: <https://token.proxy-eu2.m2web.talk2m.com/usr/folder/test2.html>

This means each link has to be found, analyzed what part of it is the current base-URL, and correctly replaced. Unfortunately, there are far too many types of absolute links, and not all of them can be implemented within M2Web.

If you use absolute links, there is a high risk it will not work via M2Web. Especially dynamically created links that result from scripting need to be relative.

With a relative link, the base-URL is not important. A relative link simply indicates where to go from the current link. This works best with M2Web.

Furthermore, the compatibility of relative links is also better in case of updates. Often firmware updates also include changes to the webpages. Relative links are easy to take care of and will continue to be compatible.

*Pro Tip: Depending on your Browser: Use F12 to debug and test your webpage with M2Web. F12 will show you the console of your Browser and the Html code.*

## 4. Alternative options to M2Web

If it is not possible to adapt the local webpage, one can use eCatcher or our eCatcher mobile app to display the webpage. eCatcher mobile is, like eCatcher, a full VPN tunnel from your mobile device. Absolute links work in a VPN connection. Since the eCatcher simulates a local Ethernet connection to the devices.

*Pro Tip: In terms of concurrent connections, the eCatcher mobile app counts as a concurrent web connection like the M2Web Connections.*

Free+ Account <sup>1</sup>	Pro Account <sup>1</sup>
1 concurrent eCatcher connection	3+ concurrent eCatcher connection
5 concurrent web connections (M2Web or eCatcher mobile)	unlimited concurrent web connections (M2Web or eCatcher mobile)
3 GB traffic/month	9+ GB traffic/month

<sup>1</sup> based on situation off 2021-04

# Important User Information

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LAST REVISION:	
	11 MAY 2021
Product version for document generation:	
	M2Web [2021-04]