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## "Backdoor" Options for Adding Links

From: [campbell@ufomind.com](mailto:campbell@ufomind.com) (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)  
Date: Tue, 1 Jul 1997 06:58:53 -0800  
Subject: "Backdoor" Options for Adding Links

I realize that the Add-a-Link page can be slow, so here is a tip that might help you use it more efficiency....

When you are working with the big fill-in form for adding a link to a page, look at the very last field:

Attach link to page: <http://www.ufomind.com>[\_\_\_\_\_]

The info that appears in the field is the local server address of the page you are adding to. For example, when adding to the sightings page, the field contains "/ufo/topic/sighting/". (This address, without the server name is called the "uri"; whereas the address with the server name is called the "URL". Since the two names are easily confused, I try to capitalize one and not the other.)

The secret trick is, YOU CAN CHANGE THIS ADDRESS TO BE ANY INDEX PAGE ON THE SERVER, and the new link will be added there instead of the page you originally called the screen up for.

This means you need to keep only one Add-a-Link screen on your desktop. You can reuse the same screen again and again to add links all over the server. You can also add the same link to multiple index pages without having to retype all the information.

You can add a link to ANY index page which supports links, even high-level ones that do not have and "Add New Link" button. All changes are still queued to me for approval, and I may get MAD if you put a link where it does not belong, but there are no technical barriers to it.

Another trick: The URL that calls the Add-a-Link page is in this form:

<http://www.ufomind.com/cgi-bin/addlink.cgi?file=/ufo/topic/sighting/>

You can change the file= name to whatever index page you want and get the corresponding Add-a-Link page, even for one where there is no "Add-a-Link" button.

Since there is potential for abuse here, I am offering these features only provisionally. If there are problems, I may have to restrict them.

Please observe these rules:

-- Avoid adding the same link to too many pages. Usually adding it to one or two pages is sufficient -- three pages at most. As a rule, a link should be added only to the most specific page that applies.

(E.g. a link regarding UFO sightings by pilots should be added only to the "Sightings by Pilots" page, not the general Sightings page.

You should add the link to multiple pages only when the user has no reasonable path to it otherwise. For example, a report on a conflict between two ufologists should be linked to both of their pages, and maybe to the topic they are arguing about.

-- If you add a link to a page where I have not provided an "Add New Link" button, please send me an email message telling me why. The fact that I do not provide a button means I am very sensitive about irrelevant links being added here. Be careful not to make me MAD.

-- If you use these "backdoor" features, there is much greater possibility of adding a link to the wrong page, or of including information from a previous link in a new link. Be sure to double-check your info, especially the uri, before pressing the "Attach" button. Also, use the "Clear Form" button to make sure all old info is wiped out between links.

Another note: When you want to add a link to the [www.vegasindex.com](http://www.vegasindex.com) server, which is actually a part of the [www.ufomind.com](http://www.ufomind.com) server, the uri should begin with "/vi/".

Glenn

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