



April 21, 2020 / Comments (1)

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## Changing the Android captive portal page

If you don't want your Android phone to always contact a Google server when switching networks, the following article might be useful!

It's pretty easy to switch the captive portal check URL on an Android phone. But first...

### What is a captive portal?

Ever been connected to a public or hotel WiFi? Chances are, if you tried to connect to it,  Comments (1) notified you that you had to “*Sign in to Wi-Fi network*” – and that's what a captive portal is: a page that has to be accepted before being able to surf on the net. In some cases like in a hotel, you might have to log in on that page too. You can read more about captive portals on [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captive_portal) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captive\\_portal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captive_portal)).

### But, why should I change it?

Well, on Android 6 or higher, every time you switch networks, your phone tries to access the following URL:

```
http://connectivitycheck.gstatic.com/generate_204
```

As we can see, gstatic.com – Google's servers. We might not want Google to know our new IP address or when we switched between networks. So... Why don't we just self-host it? It's pretty easy.



Here's my PHP script:

```
<?php
header("HTTP/1.0 204 No Content");
die();
```

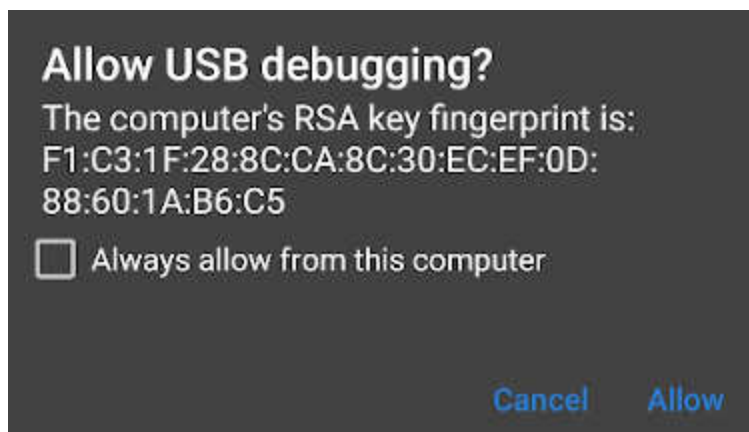
After that, you can change the URL on your phone.

## Changing the URL

To change the URL, open up a shell/terminal connection to your phone. You can do this with a Terminal emulator (e.g. Termux) or with adb. In my case, I did it with adb and a USB cable.

To start the adb session, connect your phone to your PC with a USB cable and enter `adb shell` in your terminal. Accept the dialog on your phone.

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Make sure to allow USB debugging for your PC.

You should now be greeted with a shell: `PhoneName : / $`

Change the URL with the following commands:

```
settings put global captive_portal_http_url "http://<YOUR-URL>"
settings put global captive_portal_https_url "https://<YOUR-URL>"
```



## My URLs

If you want to, you can just use my URLs – logging is disabled here:

```
settings put global captive_portal_http_url "http://conntest.yxa.at/204.php"  
settings put global captive_portal_https_url "https://conntest.yxa.at/204.php?https"
```

## That's it!

You've now changed your captive portal link on your Android device.

You might want to [change the link in your Firefox browser](https://www.encrypted.at/firefox-captive-portal-url/) (<https://www.encrypted.at/firefox-captive-portal-url/>) too.

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