I am retrieving a GET variable from URL which contains "+" in between the string. But PHP is storing "space" instead of "+"

PFB output:

in URL: key=7VR47W0tmD+acS0
php echo : echo rawurlencode$_GET['key'] ;
//returns
7VR47W0tmD acS0

Could you please tell me how to get + symbol in the php output?

Note: do not suggest find and replace option

```php
//
```

2 Answers

You need to encode reserved characters ( $ & + / : ; ? @ etc) if you want to use them in an URL. You need to use `urlencode()` instead of `. If you're using PHP to generate the URL, then you can use the function `urlencode()` to automatically encode all characters that require encoding.

```
answered Dec 27 '13 at 20:29
Amal Murali
```

Yes, that's how URLs work. The character + in URLs must, because of the URL specification, be interpreted as a space, as plain spaces are not allowed in URLs. If you want to send a true + character (or a space for that matter) you must escape it using something like `urlencode("+")` in the browser or `urlencode("+")` in PHP, before sending it.

```
answered Dec 27 '13 at 20:29
Mike 'Pomax' Kamermans
```

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