

# The Dispatcher

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The Dispatcher handles URL redirections.

For instance, instead of using multiple files in the root folder like `product.php`, `order.php` or `category.php`, PrestaShop only uses one file: `index.php`.

Starting with PrestaShop 1.5, front office URLs look like this:

- `/index.php?id_category=3&controller=category`
- `/index.php?id_product=7&controller=product`
- `/index.php?id_cms=4&controller=cms`
- etc.

Likewise, back office URLs look like this:

- `/admin-dev/index.php?controller=AdminDashboard`
- `/admin-dev/index.php?controller=AdminProducts`
- `/admin-dev/index.php?controller=AdminCmsContent`
- etc.

Additionally, the Dispatcher is built to support URL rewriting (or "Friendly URLs"). Therefore, PrestaShop URLs which look like this when URL-rewriting is off...

```
http://myprestashop.com/index.php?controller=category&id_category=3&id_lang=1
http://myprestashop.com/index.php?controller=product&id_product=1&id_lang=2
```

...will look like this when URL-rewriting is on:

```
http://myprestashop.com/en/3-music-ipods
http://myprestashop.com/fr/1-ipod-nano.html
```

There are several advantages to this system:

- It is easier to add a controller.
- You can use custom routes to change your friendly URLs (which is really better for SEO!)
- There is only one single entry point into the software, which improves PrestaShop's reliability, and facilitates future developments.

The Dispatcher makes use of three abstract classes: `Controller`, `FrontController` and `AdminController` (the last two inheriting from the first one).

New routes can be created by overriding the `loadRoutes()` method.

The store's administrator can change a controller's URL using the "SEO & URLs" page in the back office's "Preferences" menu.