4.6 Apache Force Common URL

> This article is in quick note form and needs to be flushed out into an article.

In some cases you want to force what a consistent url for a variety of reasons,

- Vendor or product code that works with only a specific url
- Improve index results from search engines
- Enforcing a www. points to a CNAME record and puts you in a better position for DDoS DNS mitigation with a CDN

This can be accomplished using Apache's Rewrite.

This website uses this feature where http://bonsaiframework.com will redirect to http://www.bonsaiframework.com

Enable Rewrite Module

With Ubuntu this is very easy,

```
sudo a2enmod
```

Will result in showing a list of modules that you can enable. You want to enable **rewrite**. If it is not there than it might already be enabled.

Verify Rewrite Module

It is actually somewhat difficult to verify that the module is loaded.

> Fill in ways here.

Apply Directives

```
# Enforce www in front of url.
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} !^www\.bonsaiframework\.com$ [NC]
RewriteRule (.*) http://www.bonsaiframework.com$1 [R,L]
```

I usually place these rules right after my ServerAlias lines in my virtual host.

Debugging

> Talk about how to enable logging here.