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NGINX natively truncates filenames to 50 characters in its `autoindex` HTML view, and there is no built-in configuration directive to change this limit. To show the full, untruncated filenames, you must either use an alternative data format, switch to a third-party module, or modify and recompile the NGINX source code.

Below are the three methods to achieve a full directory listing, ranked from easiest to most advanced.

Method 1: Change Output Format to JSON or XML (Easiest)

The default `html` format truncates names, but the `json` and `xml` formats output the full, unrestricted filenames. If you are parsing this data with a script or a frontend framework, change the format directive in your `nginx.conf`: [Stack Overflow +1](#)

nginx

```
location /downloads {
    autoindex on;
    autoindex_format json; # Options: html | xml | json | original
}
```

Use code with caution.



Method 2: Use the NGINX FancyIndex Module (Recommended)

The [NGINX FancyIndex Module](#) is a popular, drop-in replacement for the default `autoindex`. It natively supports long filenames without truncation, allows custom CSS/HTML styling, and can be easily installed via package managers. [GetPageSpeed +2](#)

1. Install the module (Ubuntu/Debian example):

bash

```
sudo apt install libnginx-mod-http-fancyindex
```

Use code with caution.



2. Configure your location block:

nginx

```
location /downloads {  
    fancyindex on;  
    fancyindex_exact_size off; # Shows human-readable file sizes  
}
```

Use code with caution.

fernvenue +2

Method 3: Recompile NGINX from Source (Advanced)

If you must use the native HTML `autoindex` view, you have to increase the hardcoded character limit inside the NGINX source code and recompile it. [Unix & Linux Stack Exch...](#) +1

1. Download the NGINX source code matching your version.

2. Open the following C source file:

```
src/http/modules/nginx_http_autoindex_module.c
```

3. Locate the preallocate and name length limits (usually around lines 30-40):

C

```
#define NGX_HTTP_AUTOINDEX_PREALLOCATE    50  
#define NGX_HTTP_AUTOINDEX_NAME_LEN      50
```

Use code with caution.

4. Change `50` to a larger character limit (e.g., `100` or `150`):

C

```
#define NGX_HTTP_AUTOINDEX_PREALLOCATE    150  
#define NGX_HTTP_AUTOINDEX_NAME_LEN      150
```

Use code with caution.

5. Compile and install NGINX. [Ruby-Forum](#) +2

 6 sites

nginx: Long filenames in directory listing

Jul 20, 2014 — To set nginx to show the full filename when using directory listing, you can modify the following lines in the nginx source files:



 Unix & Linux Stack Exchange

Full Filename Directory Listing - NGINX - Ruby-Forum

Aug 27, 2010 — Simply modify the file located at. src/http/modules/nginx_http_autoindex_module.c and then compile. Change these lines:



 Ruby-Forum

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5 answers · Top answer: You can try fancyindex module with its fancyindex_name_length parameter to...



nginx

 [https://nginx.org > docs > http > ngx_http_autoindex_...](https://nginx.org/docs/http/nginx_http_autoindex_...)

Module ngx_http_autoindex_module

The ngx_http_autoindex_module module processes requests ending with the slash character ('/') and produces a directory listing.

Missing: [show more](#)



Server Fault

[https://serverfault.com > questions > serve-nginx-autoi...](https://serverfault.com/questions/serve-nginx-autoi...)

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[Nginx autoindex only with specific URI argument?](#) 2 answers Jan 26, 2025

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Change nginx autoindex output format

I've installed **nginx** with **autoindex** on and configured it to my folder. The problem is it takes me html file with file/folder list, but I want ...

[Efficiency of Nginx Directory Index Listing - Stack Overflow](#) May 13, 2020

[NGINX serve all files in certain directory as txt files, but not ...](#) Jun 2, 2021

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Apr 6, 2023 — A **full** listing is several MB of data (probably at least 10MB and much **more**). Another

solution would be to provide the index via a database ...



larsee.com

<https://larsee.com> › [blog](#) › [2022/11](#) › [quick-dirty-nginx-...](#)

Quick and dirty NGINX directory listing behind login and HTTPS

Nov 6, 2022 — This guide explains how to set up a simple **NGINX autoindex** directory listing page behind HTTP digest authentication and a self-signed HTTPS certificate.



nginx101.com

<https://nginx101.com> › [NGINX Directives](#)

autoindex — Directive Reference | NGINX101

The '**autoindex**' directive allows **NGINX** to generate and **display** a listing of files in a directory when there is no index file present.

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