# 7.46: Dividing URLs and email addresses

In printed works, it is often necessary to break an email address or a uniform resource identifier such as a URL at the end of a line. Such a break should be made between elements if at all possible: *after* a colon or a double slash; *before or after* an equals sign or an ampersand; or *before* a single slash, a period, or any other punctuation or symbol. To avoid confusion, an address that contains a hyphen should be broken before the hyphen rather than after (so that the hyphen begins a new line); by a similar logic, a hyphen should never be added to break an email address or URL. If a particularly long element must be broken to avoid a seriously loose or tight line, it can be broken between words or syllables according to the guidelines offered elsewhere in this section. Editors, proofreaders, and compositors should use their discretion in applying these recommendations, aiming for a balance between readability and aesthetics. See also 6.8, 14.18.

> http://
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