

Liferay Strip URL Accents

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Introduction

Liferay Strip URL Accents is an OSGi module for Liferay DXP / Liferay Portal designed to standardize page friendly URLs by automatically removing diacritical marks (accented characters) during page creation.

In multilingual portals, accented characters in URLs can introduce inconsistencies, negatively affect SEO performance, and complicate integrations with external systems. This module provides a controlled and configurable mechanism to normalize friendly URLs while fully preserving Liferay's native behavior and language semantics.

The solution operates transparently and does not require any modification to Liferay core code, ensuring stability, maintainability, and full compatibility with enterprise environments.

Prerequisites

- Liferay Portal / Liferay DXP 7.4.x
 - Administrative access to Liferay
 - Basic knowledge of:
 - Liferay Instance Settings
 - OSGi module deployment
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Supported Environments

Liferay Strip URL Accents is compatible with all standard Liferay deployment models:

- Liferay SaaS
- Liferay PaaS
- Liferay Self-Hosted (On-Premises)

The module does not require filesystem customization, database changes, or infrastructure-specific configuration, making it suitable for cloud-based, containerized, and traditional installations.

Environmental Requirements

- Liferay Community Edition or Liferay DXP
 - OSGi module deployment enabled
 - Access to Instance-level configuration
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Deploying the Module

1. Module Deployment

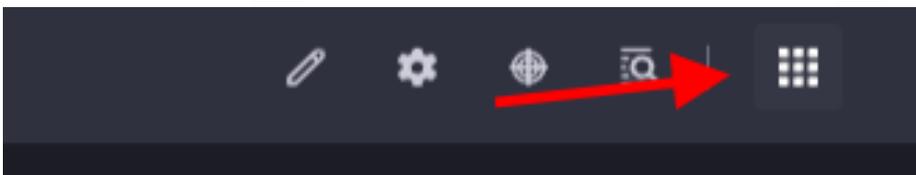
Download the module JAR file and deploy it into the Liferay environment.

Steps:

1. Download the module JAR file.
2. Copy the JAR file into the Liferay deploy directory.
3. Wait for Liferay to complete the automatic deployment process.

Deployment can be verified through:

- Liferay server logs
- Gogo Shell (lb command)
- Control Panel → System Settings → OSGi Modules



Configuration and Usage

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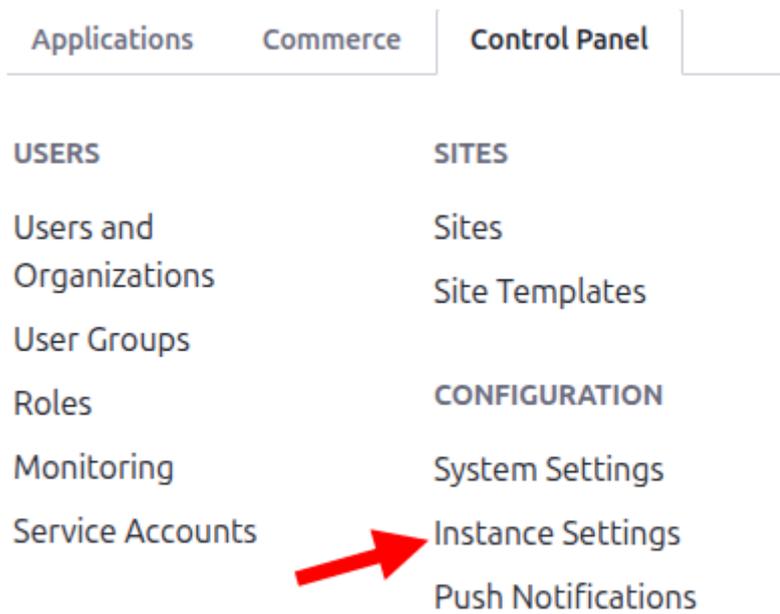
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2. Configuring URL Normalization

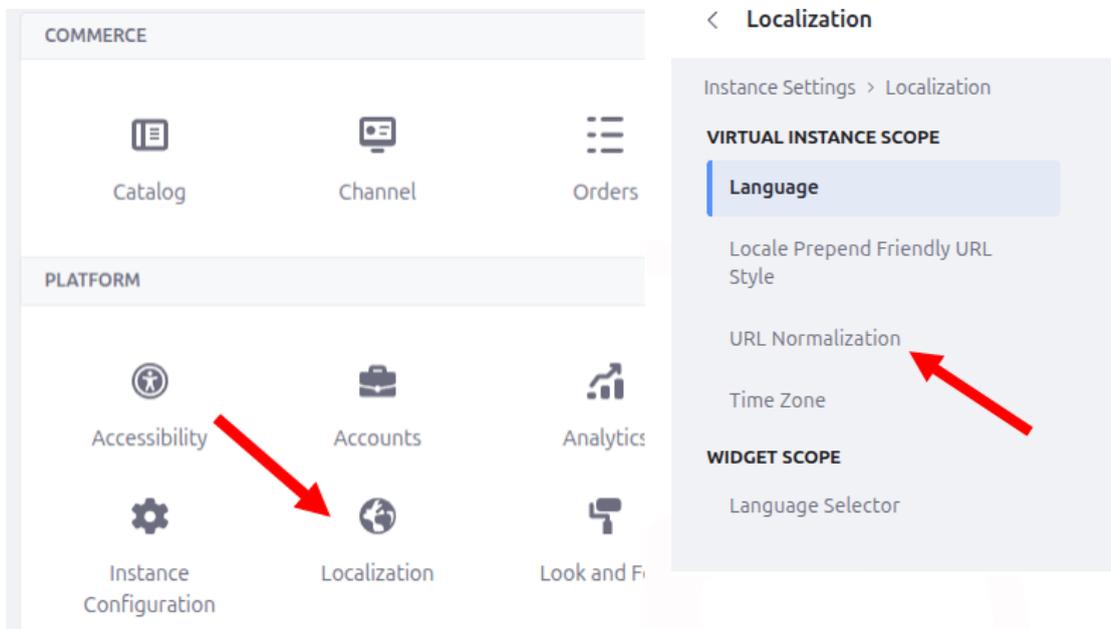
After successful deployment, the module must be configured at the instance level.

Steps:

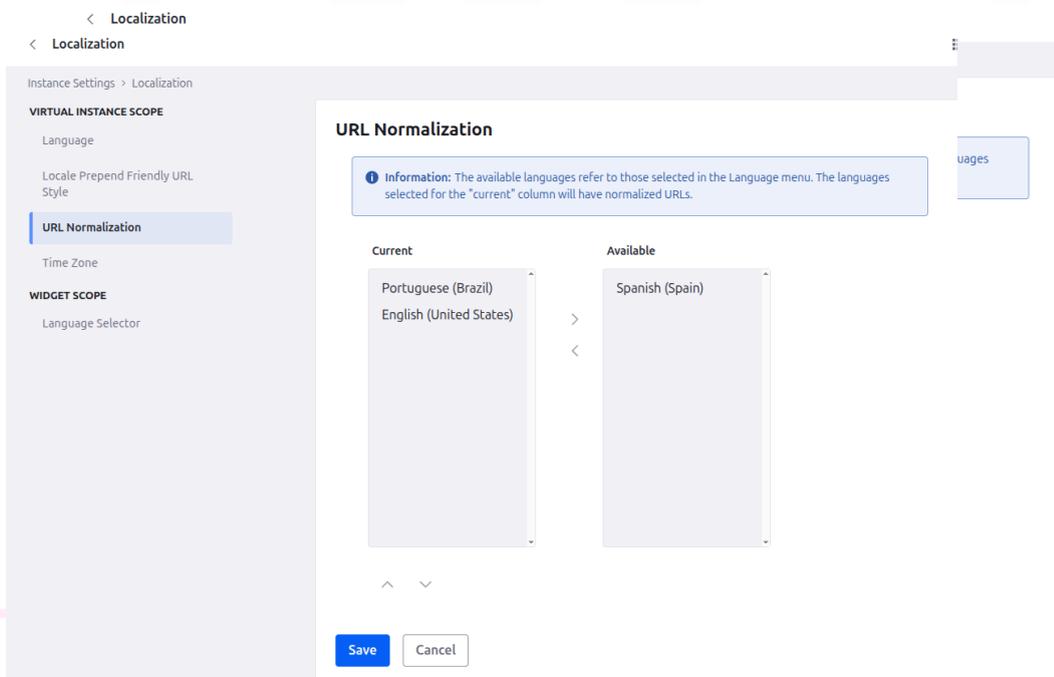
1. Log in as a Liferay administrator.
2. Navigate to **Control Panel**.



3. In the Control Panel, click on **Instance Settings**.



4. Navigate to **Localization** → **URL Normalization**.



5. Select the languages for which accent stripping should be applied.
6. Save the configuration.

The configuration takes effect immediately and applies only to newly created pages.

Step 5 – Creating and Validating a New Page

Finally, create a new page and configure its Friendly URL as usual.

When the page is created, the module will automatically apply accent stripping according to the languages configured under **URL Normalization**, generating a normalized friendly URL without diacritical marks.

Module Behavior

What the Module Does

- Intercepts the friendly URL generation process for pages (layouts).
- Removes diacritical marks from friendly URLs based on the configured languages.
- Preserves all default Liferay URL normalization rules and behaviors.

What the Module Does Not Do

- Does not modify existing friendly URLs.
- Does not affect Web Content, Documents, or other entities by default.
- Does not apply accent stripping globally without explicit configuration.

This design ensures predictable behavior and prevents unintended side effects.

Example

Page Title	Default Friendly URL	Normalized Friendly URL
São Paulo News	/são-paulo-news	/sao-paulo-news

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Extensibility

Tip:

If you need to apply the same accent stripping behavior to Web Content URLs, you can extend the solution by creating a new class that extends `JournalArticleLocalServiceWrapper`, following the same architectural approach used in the `CustomLayoutFriendlyURLLocalServiceWrapper` class.

This allows organizations to reuse the same normalization logic for additional entities while preserving modularity and maintainability.

The current implementation targets page (layout) friendly URLs only.

Organizations that require accent normalization for additional entities (such as Web Content) can extend the solution by implementing additional service wrappers (for example, `JournalArticleLocalServiceWrapper`), following the same architectural pattern used by this module.

Troubleshooting for Administrators

1. Module Not Active

- Verify successful deployment in the server logs.
- Confirm the module status via the OSGi console.

2. Accents Still Present in URLs

- Ensure the language is enabled under **Instance Settings** → **URL Normalization**.
- Confirm that the page was created after the module was deployed and configured.

Benefits of Using Liferay Strip URL Accents

- **Improved URL consistency:** Standardized URLs across environments.
- **SEO optimization:** Cleaner, more readable, search-engine-friendly URLs.
- **Language-level control:** Accent stripping applied only where appropriate.
- **Low maintenance:** No core patches or platform upgrades required.
- **Enterprise-ready:** Safe for production use in large-scale environments.

Known Limitations

- Applies only to page friendly URLs.
- Existing URLs are not modified retroactively.
- Additional entities require explicit extension.

These limitations are intentional and designed to preserve data integrity and backward compatibility.

Compatibility

- Tested and validated on **Liferay 7.4**.
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Performance Considerations

- Negligible performance overhead.
 - Executed only during page creation.
 - No background processing or scheduled jobs.
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