

## Question

When the W3 Total Cache setting **“Prevent caching of objects after settings change”** is enabled, it adds the version number twice to all media file URLs.

We have observed this issue with both PDF and image files.

### Example:

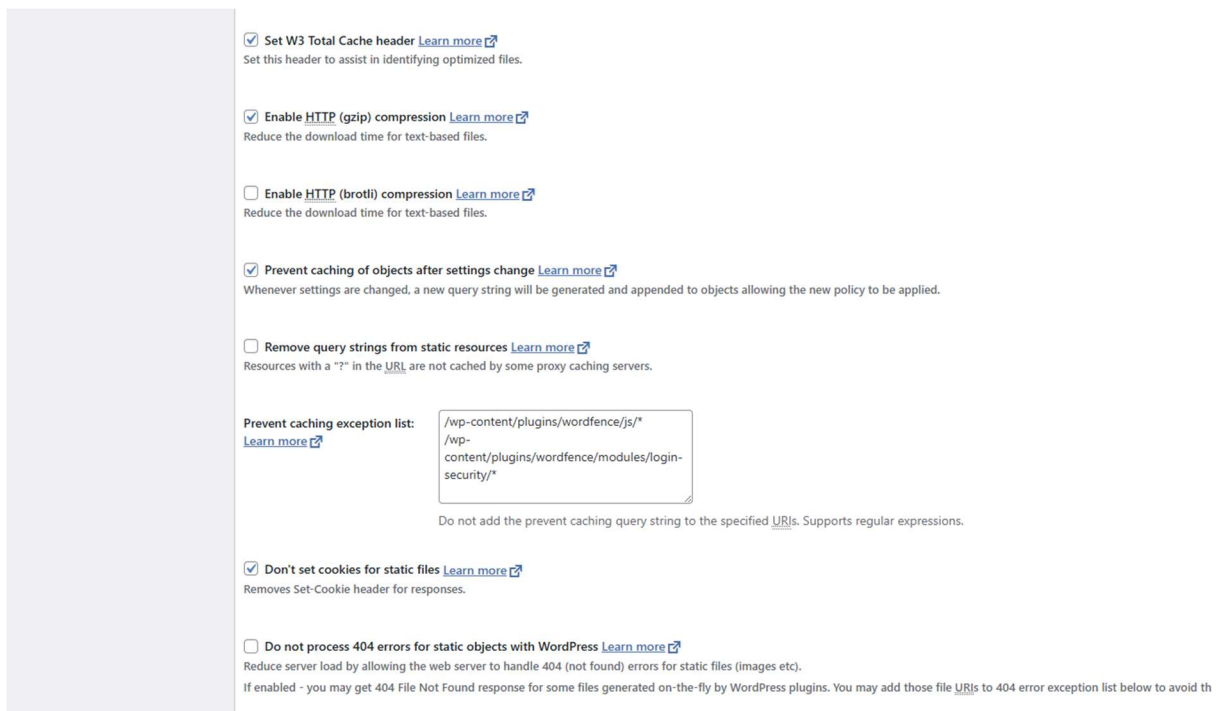
.pdf?x94710&x94710

The expected result should be:

.pdf?x94710

### Notes:

- The setting **“Update media query string”** has also been applied.
- There are no other caching plugins installed
- It has been tested with theme Twenty Twenty-Three.



The screenshot shows the W3 Total Cache settings page. The following options are visible:

- Set W3 Total Cache header** [Learn more](#)  
Set this header to assist in identifying optimized files.
- Enable HTTP (gzip) compression** [Learn more](#)  
Reduce the download time for text-based files.
- Enable HTTP (brotli) compression** [Learn more](#)  
Reduce the download time for text-based files.
- Prevent caching of objects after settings change** [Learn more](#)  
Whenever settings are changed, a new query string will be generated and appended to objects allowing the new policy to be applied.
- Remove query strings from static resources** [Learn more](#)  
Resources with a "?" in the URL are not cached by some proxy caching servers.

**Prevent caching exception list:** [Learn more](#)

```
/wp-content/plugins/wordfence/js/*  
/wp-content/plugins/wordfence/modules/login-security/*
```

Do not add the prevent caching query string to the specified [URLs](#). Supports regular expressions.

- Don't set cookies for static files** [Learn more](#)  
Removes Set-Cookie header for responses.
- Do not process 404 errors for static objects with WordPress** [Learn more](#)  
Reduce server load by allowing the web server to handle 404 (not found) errors for static files (images etc).  
If enabled - you may get 404 File Not Found response for some files generated on-the-fly by WordPress plugins. You may add those file [URLs](#) to 404 error exception list below to avoid th