'Some Headers Not Recognized' HTTP Status
<draft-yevstifeyev-http-headers-not-recognized-00>

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Abstract

This document defines mechanism which allows HTTP servers to notify clients about not recognized or not proceed headers.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation

HTTP is one of the most widely-used protocols in the Internet. One of the things which made it so popular is extensibility. One can easily add any header to the HTTP message. However, servers are not able to support all the HTTP headers. Generally, if a server does not recognize the header, it simply ignores it. The client is not notified about not processed headers.

This document proposes mechanism which allows servers to notify clients about not processed or not recognized headers.

The proposal is to send a response with definite status code to the client if one or more headers of request were not processed. This document defines ‘Some Headers Not Recognized’ HTTP status to be used in such occasions.

1.2 Conventions

1.2.1 Conformance Criteria

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

1.2.2 Syntax Notation

This specification uses the Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF) notation of [RFC5234].

The following core rules are included by reference, as defined in [RFC5234], Appendix B.1: ALPHA (letters), CR (carriage return), CRLF (CR LF), CTL (controls), DIGIT (decimal 0-9), DQUOTE (double quote), HEXDIG (hexadecimal 0-9/A-F/a-f), LF (line feed), OCTET (any 8-bit sequence of data), SP (space), HTAB (horizontal tab), CHAR (any US-ASCII character), VCHAR (any visible US-ASCII character), and WSP (whitespace).

1.2.3 Terminology

The terms user agent, client, server, proxy, and origin server have the same meaning as in the HTTP/1.1 specification ([RFC2616], Section 1.3).
2 General Overview

This section gives a brief overview of issues discussed by this document.

'Some Headers Not Recognized' HTTP status SHOULD be sent if server does not support one or more headers of request. Information about not recognized headers MUST be put into the body of response with 'Some Headers Not Recognized' status.

3 Technical Overview

3.1 Model of Work

If a server receives request with unknown (for it) headers, it SHOULD send a response with 'Some Headers Not Recognized' status. Information about what headers were not recognized MUST be put into the body in this occasion. If a client receives such a response, it SHOULD avoid sending requests with headers mentioned in the body of response.

3.2 Technical Description

3.2.1 'Some Headers Not Recognized' Status

'Some Headers Not Recognized' status is Informational. The status code 103 has been assigned to be used with this status. If a server sends a response with aforementioned status, it SHOULD continue processing of client’s request.

3.2.2 Information About Headers Not Recognized

If a response with 'Some Headers Not Recognized' status is sent, information about what headers were not recognized MUST be put into the body of the request. This information has the following format:

headers_not_recognized_information = header_name ["(SP ";" header name)"] header_name = <name of not recognized header>

4 IANA Considerations

HTTP Status Code registry should be updates by the following entry:

Value - 103
Description - Some Headers Not Recognized
Reference - this document.
5 Security Considerations

Security considerations are not discussed by this document.

6 Normative References


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