Abstract

This document defines mechanism which allows HTTP servers to notify clients about not recognized or not proceed headers - ‘Headers-Not-Recognized’ HTTP Response header.

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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 processes or not recognized headers.

The proposal is to send a response with definite header field to the client if one or more headers of request were not processed. This document defines 'Headers-Not-Recognized' header field to be used in such occasion.

1.2. Conventions

HTTP refers to protocol, defined in RFC 2616 [RFC2616]

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).

The construction <n>#<m>element is used as defined in RFC 2616 [RFC2616], Section 2.1.

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. Technical Overview

2.1 Model of Work

If a server receives request with unknown (for it) headers, it SHOULD send a response with ‘Headers-Not-Recognized’ headers field. Information about what headers were not recognized MUST be put into this header. If a client receives such a response, it is RECOMMENDED that it avoids sending requests with headers mentioned in the ‘Headers-Not-Recognized’ header field or tries to change them so that the server recognize them.

‘Headers-Not-Recognized’ is a response HTTP header.

2.2 Syntax

‘Headers-Not-Recognized’ header field has the following format:

headers_not_recognized = 1#header_name
header_name = token ; name of not recognized header
3. IANA Considerations

The permanent message header field registry should be updated with the following registration:

Header field name: Headers-Not-Recognized
Applicable protocol: http
Status: standard
Specification document: this document

Note: This registration should take place at http://www.iana.org/assignments/message-headers/perm-headers.html
This note MUST be deleted upon publication.

4. Security Considerations

Security considerations are not discussed by this document.

5. Normative References


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