

# List of HTTP header fields

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**HTTP header fields** are components of the header section of [request](#) and response messages in the [Hypertext Transfer Protocol](#) (HTTP). They define the operating parameters of an HTTP transaction.

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## General format[\[edit\]](#)

The header fields are transmitted after the request or response line, which is the first line of a message. Header fields are colon-separated name-value pairs in clear-text [string](#) format, terminated by a carriage return (CR) and line feed (LF) character sequence. The end of the header section is indicated by an empty field, resulting in the transmission of two consecutive CR-LF pairs. Historically, long lines could be folded into multiple lines; continuation lines are indicated by the presence of a space (SP) or horizontal tab (HT) as the first character on the next line. This folding is now deprecated. <sup>[1]</sup>

## Field names[\[edit\]](#)

A core set of fields is standardized by the [Internet Engineering Task Force](#) (IETF) in RFCs 7230, 7231, 7232, 7233, 7234, and 7235. The

[permanent registry of header fields](#) and [repository of provisional registrations](#) are maintained by the [IANA](#). Additional field names and permissible values may be defined by each application.

Non-standard header fields were conventionally marked by prefixing the field name with X-<sup>[2]</sup> but this convention was deprecated in June 2012 because of the inconveniences it caused when non-standard fields became standard.<sup>[3]</sup> An earlier restriction on use of Downgraded- was lifted in March 2013.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Field values[\[edit\]](#)

A few fields can contain comments (i.e. in User-Agent, Server, Via fields), which can be ignored by software.<sup>[5]</sup>

Many field values may contain a quality (*q*) key-value pair, specifying a weight to use in [content negotiation](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

## Size limits[\[edit\]](#)

The standard imposes no limits to the size of each header field name or value, or to the number of fields. However, most servers, clients, and proxy software impose some limits for practical and security reasons. For example, the Apache 2.3 server by default limits the size of each field to 8190 bytes, and there can be at most 100 header fields in a single request.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Request fields[\[edit\]](#)

Header field name	Description	Example	Status
Accept	Content-Types that are acceptable for the response. See <a href="#">Content negotiation</a> .	Accept: text/plain	Permanent
Accept-Charset	Character sets that are acceptable	Accept-Charset: utf-8	Permanent
Accept-Encoding	List of acceptable encodings. See	Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate	Permanent

Header field name	Description	Example	Status
	<a href="#">HTTP compression.</a>		
Accept-Language	List of acceptable human languages for response. See <a href="#">Content negotiation.</a>	Accept-Language: en-US	Permanent
Accept-Datetime	Acceptable version in time	Accept-Datetime: Thu, 31 May 2007 20:35:00 GMT	Provisional
Authorization	Authentication credentials for HTTP authentication	Authorization: Basic QWxhZGRpbjpvcGVuIHNlc2FtZQ==	Permanent
<a href="#">Cache-Control</a>	Used to specify directives that <i>must</i> be obeyed by all caching mechanisms along the request-response chain	Cache-Control: no-cache	Permanent
Connection	Control options for the current connection and list of hop-by-hop request fields <sup>[8]</sup>	Connection: keep-alive <a href="#">Connection: Upgrade</a>	Permanent
Cookie	An <a href="#">HTTP cookie</a> previously sent by the server with <a href="#">Set-Cookie</a> (below)	Cookie: \$Version=1; Skin=new;	Permanent standard
Content-Length	The length of the request body in <a href="#">octets</a> (8-bit bytes)	Content-Length: 348	Permanent
Content-MD5	A <a href="#">Base64</a> -encoded binary <a href="#">MD5</a> sum of the	Content-MD5: Q2hlY2sgSW50ZWdyaXR5IQ==	Obsolete

Header field name	Description	Example	Status
Content-Type	<p>content of the request body</p> <p>The <a href="#">MIME type</a> of the body of the request (used with POST and PUT requests)</p>	Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded	Permanent
Date	<p>The date and time that the message was sent (in "HTTP-date" format as defined by <a href="#">RFC 7231 Date/Time Formats</a>)</p>	Date: Tue, 15 Nov 1994 08:12:31 GMT	Permanent
Expect	<p>Indicates that particular server behaviors are required by the client</p>	Expect: 100-continue	Permanent
Forwarded	<p>Disclose information of a client connecting to a web server through an HTTP proxy <a href="#">[10]</a></p>	<p>Forwarded: for=192.0.2.60;proto=http;by=203.0.113.43</p> <p>Forwarded: for=192.0.2.43, for=198.51.100.17</p>	Permanent
From	<p>The email address of the user making the request</p>	From: user@example.com	Permanent
Host	<p>The domain name of the server (for <a href="#">virtual hosting</a>), and the <a href="#">TCP port</a> number on which the server is listening. The</p>	<p>Host: en.wikipedia.org:80</p> <p>Host: en.wikipedia.org</p>	Permanent

Header field name	Description	Example	Status
	<p><a href="#">port</a> number may be omitted if the port is the standard port for the service requested.</p> <p><a href="#">[11]</a> Mandatory since HTTP/1.1.</p> <p>Only perform the action if the client supplied entity matches the same entity on the server.</p>		
If-Match	<p>This is mainly for methods like PUT to only update a resource if it has not been modified since the user last updated it.</p> <p>Allows a <i>304 Not Modified</i> to be returned if content is unchanged</p>	<p>If-Match: "737060cd8c284d8af7ad3082f209582d"</p>	Permanent
If-Modified-Since	<p>Allows a <i>304 Not Modified</i> to be returned if content is unchanged</p>	<p>If-Modified-Since: Sat, 29 Oct 1994 19:43:31 GMT</p>	Permanent
If-None-Match	<p>Allows a <i>304 Not Modified</i> to be returned if content is unchanged, see <a href="#">HTTP ETag</a></p> <p>If the entity is unchanged, send me the part(s) that I am missing; otherwise, send</p>	<p>If-None-Match: "737060cd8c284d8af7ad3082f209582d"</p>	Permanent
If-Range	<p>send me the part(s) that I am missing; otherwise, send</p>	<p>If-Range: "737060cd8c284d8af7ad3082f209582d"</p>	Permanent

Header field name	Description	Example	Status
If-Unmodified-Since	me the entire new entity Only send the response if the entity has not been modified since a specific time.	If-Unmodified-Since: Sat, 29 Oct 1994 19:43:31 GMT	Permanent
Max-Forwards	Limit the number of times the message can be forwarded through proxies or gateways.	Max-Forwards: 10	Permanent
Origin	Initiates a request for <a href="#">cross-origin resource sharing</a> (asks server for an 'Access-Control-Allow-Origin' response field) .	Origin: http://www.example-social-network.com	Permanent standard
Pragma	Implementation-specific fields that may have various effects anywhere along the request-response chain.	<a href="#">Pragma: no-cache</a>	Permanent
Proxy-Authorization	Authorization credentials for connecting to a proxy.	Proxy-Authorization: Basic QWxhZGRpbjpvGVuIHNlc2FtZQ==	Permanent
Range	Request only part of an entity. Bytes are numbered from 0. See <a href="#">Byte serving</a> .	Range: bytes=500-999	Permanent

Header field name	Description	Example	Status
<a href="#">Referer</a> [ <i>sic</i> ]	<p>This is the address of the previous web page from which a link to the currently requested page was followed. (The word “referrer” has been misspelled in the RFC as well as in most implementations to the point that it has become standard usage and is considered correct terminology)</p> <p>The transfer encodings the user agent is willing to accept: the same values as for the response header field Transfer-Encoding can be used, plus the “trailers” value (related to the “<a href="#">chunked</a>” transfer method) to notify the server it expects to receive</p>	<p>Referer: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page</a></p>	Permanent
TE	<p>used, plus the “trailers” value (related to the “<a href="#">chunked</a>” transfer method) to notify the server it expects to receive</p>	TE: trailers, <a href="#">deflate</a>	Permanent



Header field name	Description	Example	Status
	additional fields in the trailer after the last, zero-sized, chunk.		
User-Agent	The <a href="#">user agent string</a> of the user agent	User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:12.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/21.0	Permanent
<a href="#">Upgrade</a>	Ask the server to upgrade to another protocol.	Upgrade: HTTP/2.0, SHHTTP/1.3, IRC/6.9, RTA/x11	Permanent
Via	Informs the server of proxies through which the request was sent.	Via: 1.0 fred, 1.1 example.com (Apache/1.1)	Permanent
Warning	A general warning about possible problems with the entity body.	Warning: 199 Miscellaneous warning	Permanent

## Common non-standard request fields[\[edit\]](#)

Field name	Description	Example
X-Requested-With	mainly used to identify <a href="#">Ajax</a> requests. Most <a href="#">JavaScript frameworks</a> send this field with value of XMLHttpRequest	X-Requested-With: XMLHttpRequest
<a href="#">DNT</a> <sup>[12]</sup>	Requests a web application to disable their tracking of a user. This is Mozilla's version	DNT: 1 (Do Not Track Enabled) DNT: 0 (Do Not Track Disabled)

Field name	Description	Example
	of the X-Do-Not-Track header field (since <a href="#">Firefox 4.0 Beta 11</a> ). <a href="#">Safari</a> and <a href="#">IE9</a> also have support for this field. <sup>[13]</sup> On March 7, 2011, a draft proposal was submitted to IETF. <sup>[14]</sup> The <a href="#">W3C</a> Tracking Protection Working Group is producing a specification. <sup>[15]</sup> a <i><a href="#">de facto standard</a></i> for identifying the originating IP address of a	X-Forwarded-For: client1, proxy1, proxy2
<a href="#">X-Forwarded-For</a> <sup>[16]</sup>	client connecting to a web server through an HTTP proxy or load balancer a <i><a href="#">de facto standard</a></i> for identifying the original host requested by the client in the Host	X-Forwarded-For: 129.78.138.66, 129.78.64.103
X-Forwarded-Host <sup>[17]</sup>	HTTP request header, since the host name and/or port of the reverse proxy (load balancer) may differ from the origin server handling the request.	X-Forwarded-Host: en.wikipedia.org:80 X-Forwarded-Host: en.wikipedia.org

Field name	Description	Example
X-Forwarded-Proto <sup>[18]</sup>	<p>a <a href="#"><i>de facto</i></a> <a href="#">standard</a> for identifying the originating protocol of an HTTP request, since a reverse proxy (or a load balancer) may communicate with a web server using HTTP even if the request to the reverse proxy is HTTPS. An alternative form of the header (X-ProxyUser-Ip) is used by Google clients talking to Google servers.</p> <p>Non-standard header field used</p>	X-Forwarded-Proto: https
Front-End-Https <sup>[19]</sup>	<p>by Microsoft applications and load-balancers</p> <p>Requests a web application override the method specified in the request (typically POST) with the method given in the header field</p>	Front-End-Https: on
X-Http-Method-Override <sup>[20]</sup>	<p>(typically PUT or DELETE). Can be used when a user agent or firewall prevents PUT or DELETE methods from being sent directly (note</p>	X-HTTP-Method-Override: DELETE

Field name	Description	Example
	that this either a bug in the software component, which ought to be fixed, or an intentional configuration, in which case bypassing it may be the wrong thing to do).	
	Allows easier parsing of the MakeModel/Firmware	
X-ATT-DeviceId <sup>[21]</sup>	that is usually found in the User-Agent String of AT&T Devices	X-Att-Deviceid: GT-P7320/P7320XXLPG
	Links to an XML file on the Internet with a full description and details about the device currently connecting. In the example to the right is an XML file for an AT&T Samsung Galaxy S2.	
X-Wap-Profile <sup>[22]</sup>	Implemented as a misunderstanding of the HTTP specifications. Common because of mistakes in implementations of early HTTP versions. Has exactly the same functionality as	x-wap-profile: <a href="http://wap.samsungmobile.com/uaprof/SGH-I777.xml">http://wap.samsungmobile.com/uaprof/SGH-I777.xml</a>
Proxy-Connection <sup>[23]</sup>		Proxy-Connection: keep-alive

Field name	Description	Example
	standard Connection field.	
X-UIDH <sup>[24][25][26]</sup>	Server-side <a href="#">deep packet insertion</a> of a unique ID identifying customers of <a href="#">Verizon Wireless</a> ; also known as "perma-cookie" or "supercookie"	X-UIDH: ...
X-Csrft-Token <sup>[27]</sup>	Used to prevent <a href="#">cross-site request forgery</a> . Alternative header names are: X- CSRFToken <sup>[28]</sup> and X- XSRF-TOKEN <sup>[29]</sup>	X-Csrft-Token: i8XNjC4b8KVok4uw5RftR38Wgp2BFwq1

## Response fields<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>

Field name	Description	
Access-Control-Allow-Origin	Specifying which web sites can participate in <a href="#">cross- origin resource sharing</a>	Access-Control-Allow-Origin:
Accept-Patch <sup>[30]</sup>	Specifies which patch document formats this server supports	Accept-Patch: text/example;ch
Accept-Ranges	What partial content range types this server supports via <a href="#">byte serving</a>	Accept-Ranges: bytes
Age	The age the object has been in a <a href="#">proxy cache</a> in seconds	Age: 12
Allow	Valid actions for a specified resource. To be used for a <i>405 Method not allowed</i>	Allow: GET, HEAD
Alt-Svc <sup>[31]</sup>	A server uses "Alt-Svc" header (meaning Alternative Services) to indicate that its resources can also be accessed at a different	Alt-Svc: h2="http2.example.co

Field name	Description	
	network location (host or port) or using a different protocol	
<a href="#">Cache-Control</a>	Tells all caching mechanisms from server to client whether they may cache this object. It is measured in seconds	Cache-Control: max-age=3600
Connection	Control options for the current connection and list of hop-by-hop response fields <sup>[8]</sup>	Connection: close
Content-Disposition <sup>[32]</sup>	An opportunity to raise a "File Download" dialogue box for a known MIME type with binary format or suggest a filename for dynamic content. Quotes are necessary with special characters.	Content-Disposition: attachment
Content-Encoding	The type of encoding used on the data. See <a href="#">HTTP compression</a> .	Content-Encoding: gzip
Content-Language	The natural language or languages of the intended audience for the enclosed content <sup>[33]</sup>	Content-Language: da
Content-Length	The length of the response body in <a href="#">octets</a> (8-bit bytes)	Content-Length: 348
Content-Location	An alternate location for the returned data	Content-Location: /index.htm
Content-MD5	A <a href="#">Base64</a> -encoded binary <a href="#">MD5</a> sum of the content of the response	Content-MD5: Q2hlY2sgSW50ZWdy
Content-Range	Where in a full body message this partial message belongs	Content-Range: bytes 21010-47
Content-Type	The <a href="#">MIME type</a> of this content	Content-Type: text/html; char
Date	The date and time that the message was sent (in "HTTP-date" format as defined by <a href="#">RFC 7231</a> )	Date: Tue, 15 Nov 1994 08:12:

Field name	Description
<a href="#">ETag</a>	An identifier for a specific version of a resource, often a <a href="#">message digest</a> ETag: "737060cd8c284d8af7ad30"
Expires	Gives the date/time after which the response is considered stale (in "HTTP-date" format as defined by <a href="#">RFC 7231</a> ) Expires: Thu, 01 Dec 1994 16:00:00 GMT
Last-Modified	The last modified date for the requested object (in "HTTP-date" format as defined by <a href="#">RFC 7231</a> ) Last-Modified: Tue, 15 Nov 1994 12:45:26 GMT
Link	Used to express a typed relationship with another resource, where the relation type is defined by <a href="#">RFC 5988</a> Link: </feed>; rel="alternate"
<a href="#">Location</a>	Used in <a href="#">redirection</a> , or when a new resource has been created. Location: http://www.w3.org/p3p/
P3P	This field is supposed to set <a href="#">P3P</a> policy, in the form of P3P:CP="your_compact_policy". However, P3P did not take off, <sup>[36]</sup> most browsers have never fully implemented it, a lot of websites set this field with fake policy text, that was enough to fool browsers the existence of P3P policy and grant permissions for <a href="#">third party cookies</a> . P3P: CP="This is not a P3P policy. See http://www.google.com/support/privacy for more info."
Pragma	Implementation-specific fields that may have various effects anywhere along the request-response chain. Pragma: no-cache
Proxy-Authenticate	Request authentication to access the proxy. Proxy-Authenticate: Basic
Public-Key-Pins <sup>[37]</sup>	<a href="#">HTTP Public Key Pinning</a> , announces hash of website's authentic <a href="#">TLS</a> certificate Public-Key-Pins: max-age=2592000, sha256="E9CZ9INDbd+2eRQozYqqb"

Field name	Description	
<a href="#">Refresh</a>	Used in redirection, or when a new resource has been created. This refresh redirects after 5 seconds.	Refresh: 5; url=http://www.w3
Retry-After	If an entity is temporarily unavailable, this instructs the client to try again later. Value could be a specified period of time (in seconds) or a HTTP-date. <sup>[38]</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example 1: Retry-After:</li> <li>• Example 2: Retry-After:</li> </ul>
Server	A name for the server	Server: Apache/2.4.1 (Unix)
Set-Cookie	An <a href="#">HTTP cookie</a>	Set-Cookie: UserID=JohnDoe; M
Status	<a href="#">CGI</a> header field specifying the <a href="#">status</a> of the HTTP response. Normal HTTP responses use a separate "Status-Line" instead, defined by <a href="#">RFC 7230</a> . <sup>[39]</sup>	Status: 200 OK
<a href="#">Strict-Transport-Security</a>	A HSTS Policy informing the HTTP client how long to cache the HTTPS only policy and whether this applies to subdomains.	Strict-Transport-Security: ma
Trailer	The Trailer general field value indicates that the given set of header fields is present in the trailer of a message encoded with <a href="#">chunked transfer coding</a> .	Trailer: Max-Forwards
Transfer-Encoding	The form of encoding used to safely transfer the entity to the user. <a href="#">Currently defined methods</a> are: <a href="#">chunked</a> ,	Transfer-Encoding: chunked



Field name	Description
	compress, deflate, gzip, identity.
	Tracking Status Value, value suggested to be sent in response to a DNT(do-not-track), possible values: "! " — under construction "? " — dynamic "G " — gateway to multiple parties
TSV	TSV: ? "N " — not tracking "T " — tracking "C " — tracking with consent "P " — tracking only if consented "D " — disregarding DNT "U " — updated
<a href="#">Upgrade</a>	Ask the client to upgrade to another protocol. Upgrade: HTTP/2.0, SHTTP/1.3,
	Tells downstream proxies how to match future request headers to decide whether the cached response can be used rather than requesting a fresh one from the origin server.
Vary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Example 1: Vary: *</li> <li>• Example 2: Vary: Accept</li> </ul>
	Via: 1.0 fred, 1.1 example.co
Via	Via: 1.0 fred, 1.1 example.co
	Warning: 199 Miscellaneous wa
Warning	Warning: 199 Miscellaneous wa
	WWW-Authenticate: Basic
WWW-Authenticate	WWW-Authenticate: Basic
	<a href="#">Clickjacking</a> protection: deny
	- no rendering within a
X-Frame-Options <sup>[40]</sup>	X-Frame-Options: deny
	rendering if origin mismatch,
	allow-from - allow from
	specified location, allowall

## Field name

## Description

- non-standard, allow from any location

### Common non-standard response fields[[edit](#)]

Field name	Description	Example
X-XSS-Protection <sup>[42]</sup>	<a href="#">Cross-site scripting</a> (XSS) filter	X-XSS-Protection: 1; mode=block
Content-Security-Policy, <i>X-Content-Security-Policy</i> , <i>X-WebKit-CSP</i> <sup>[43]</sup>	<a href="#">Content Security Policy</a> definition.  The only defined value, "nosniff", prevents <a href="#">Internet Explorer</a> from MIME-sniffing a response away from the declared content-type. This also applies to <a href="#">Google Chrome</a> , when downloading extensions. <sup>[45]</sup>	X-WebKit-CSP: default-src 'self'
X-Content-Type-Options <sup>[44]</sup>	specifies the technology (e.g. ASP.NET, PHP, JBoss) supporting the web application (version details are often in X-Runtime, X-Version, or X-AspNet-Version)	X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff
X-Powered-By <sup>[46]</sup>		X-Powered-By: PHP/5.4.0
X-UA-Compatible <sup>[47]</sup>	Recommends the preferred rendering engine (often a backward-compatibility mode) to use to display the content. Also used to activate <a href="#">Chrome Frame</a> in Internet Explorer.	X-UA-Compatible: IE=EmulateIE7 X-UA-Compatible: IE=edge X-UA-Compatible: Chrome=1
X-Content-Duration <sup>[48]</sup>	Provide the duration of the audio or video in seconds; only supported by Gecko browsers	X-Content-Duration: 42.666

Field name	Description	Example
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests <sup>[49]</sup>	Tells a server which (presumably in the middle of a HTTP -> HTTPS migration) hosts mixed content that the client would prefer redirection to HTTPS and can handle Content-Security-Policy: upgrade-insecure-requests	Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

## Effects of selected fields[\[edit\]](#)

### Avoiding caching[\[edit\]](#)

If a web server responds with Cache-Control: no-cache then a web browser or other [caching system](#) (intermediate proxies) must not use the response to satisfy subsequent responses without first checking with the originating server (this process is called validation). This header field is part of HTTP version 1.1, and is ignored by some caches and browsers. It may be simulated by setting the Expires HTTP version 1.0 header field value to a time earlier than the response time. Notice that no-cache is not instructing the browser or proxies about whether or not to cache the content. It just tells the browser and proxies to validate the cache content with the server before using it (this is done by using if-Modified-Since, If-Unmodified-Since, If-Match, If-None-Match attributes mentioned above). Sending a no-cache value thus instructs a browser or proxy to not use the cache contents merely based on "freshness criteria" of the cache content. Another common way to prevent old content from being shown to the user without validation is Cache-Control: max-age=0. This instructs the user agent that the content is stale and should be validated before use.

The header field Cache-Control: no-store is intended to instruct a browser application to make a best effort not to write it to disk (i.e not to cache it).

The request that a resource should not be cached is no guarantee that it will not be written to disk. In particular, the HTTP/1.1 definition draws a distinction between history stores and caches. If the user navigates back to a previous page a browser may still show you a page that has been stored on disk in the history store. This is correct behavior according to the specification. Many user agents

show different behavior in loading pages from the history store or cache depending on whether the protocol is HTTP or HTTPS.

The Cache-Control: no-cache HTTP/1.1 header field is also intended for use in requests made by the client. It is a means for the browser to tell the server and any intermediate caches that it wants a fresh version of the resource. The Pragma: no-cache header field, defined in the HTTP/1.0 spec, has the same purpose. It, however, is only defined for the request header. Its meaning in a response header is not specified.<sup>[50]</sup> The behavior of Pragma: no-cache in a response is implementation specific. While some user agents do pay attention to this field in responses,<sup>[51]</sup> the HTTP/1.1 RFC specifically warns against relying on this behavior.

See also[[edit](#)]

- [HTTP header injection](#)
- [HTTP ETag](#)
- [List of HTTP status codes](#)

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## External links[[edit](#)]

- [Headers: Permanent Message Header Field Names](#)
- [RFC 7230](#): Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Message Syntax and Routing
- [RFC 7231](#): Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Semantics and Content
- [RFC 7232](#): Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Conditional Requests
- [RFC 7233](#): Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Range Requests
- [RFC 7234](#): Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Caching
- [RFC 7235](#): Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Authentication
- [RFC 2965](#): IETF HTTP State Management Mechanism RFC
- [HTTP/1.1 headers from a web server point of view](#)
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