

Data Standards Body

Technical Working Group

Decision 010 – Standard HTTP Headers

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Context

A key component of an API call is the HTTP headers provided in the request and the response. This proposal outlines the standard headers that will be expected per call. This list may be added to as the standards emerge and further decisions are made.

Decision To Be Made

Determine the list of standard HTTP headers to be supported by the API standards.

Feedback Provided

The original proposal and the associated feedback can be found at:

<https://github.com/ConsumerDataStandardsAustralia/open-banking/issues/10>

There was substantial feedback related to the use of the Accept header to convey version instead of custom headers. Arguments were provided on both sides on this topic but the end result was to continue with the headers as defined in the previously endorsed decision number 004.

In addition, there was the following feedback that has been accommodated:

- Additional standard headers for compression and caching should be permitted, if not specifically mandated
- An optional correlation ID header should be supported for allow for improved insights for the data consumers

Decision For Approval

The HTTP headers to be supported for the API standards are described below.

Request Headers

Header Field	Description
Content-Type	Standard HTTP Header. Represents the format of the payload provided in the request. Must be set to "application/json".
Accept	Standard HTTP Header. Specify the Content-Type that is required from the Server. If specified, must be set to "application/json" unless otherwise specified in the resource end point standard If set to an unacceptable value the provider must respond with a 406 Not Acceptable. If not specified, default is "application/json".
x-v	Version of the API end point requested by the client. Must be set to a positive integer. If the version(s) requested is not supported then the provider should respond with a 406 Not Acceptable.
x-min-v	Minimum version of the API end point requested by the client. Must be set to a positive integer if provided. The provider should respond with the highest supported version between x-min-v and x-v. If all versions requested are not supported then the provider should respond with a 406 Not Acceptable.
x-<PID>-v	A provider specific version of extension fields. Should not be used in conjunction with x-min-v.
x-Correlation-Id	Optional correlation ID provided by the data consumer that should be reflected back in the response headers. Can be used for reporting and logging.

Note: Security headers have not yet been included but it is expected that the request headers will include the following data in some form:

- The last time the customer logged in to the client service
- The original IP Address of the customer device if the customer is currently logged in
- The original user agent of the customer device if the customer is currently logged in

Response Headers

Header Field	Description	Mandatory?
Content-Type	Standard HTTP Header. Represents the format of the payload returned in the response. Must be "application/json" unless otherwise specified in the resource end point standard.	Mandatory
Retry-After	Header indicating the time (in seconds) that the client should wait before retrying an operation. The provider should include this header along with responses with the HTTP status code of 429 (Too many requests).	Optional
x-v	The version of the API end point that the provider has responded with.	Mandatory
x-Correlation-Id	Reflected value of the correlation ID provided by the data consumer in the request headers. If no correlation ID was provided in the request this header should not be supplied. If a correlation ID was provided in the request then this header is mandatory.	Optional

Additional Headers

Generally understood headers used in HTTP transactions to provide caching guidance and the use of the compression are not specified but are considered acceptable. It is at the discretion of the data provider if these headers are used for a specific implementation. Data providers should not require these headers for successful API access, however.