



Engraving of mammoth and horses superimposed, Combarelles, Dordogne.

REST RULES

Handbook

- Herve Caumont, Terradue herve.caumont@terradue.com
- Pedro Gonçalves, Terradue pedro.goncalves@terradue.com
- Volker Mische, Couchbase volker@couchbase.com
- Jeff Harrison, The Carbon Project jharrison@thecarbonproject.com
- Peter Vretanos, CubeWerx, pvmobile@cubewerx.com

Table of Contents

- End Point
 - [is valid and available](#)
- Landing Page
 - [uses HTML5](#)
 - [has links to Discovery Documents in Head](#)
- OpenSearch Document
 - [is accessible](#)
 - [HTML API Search](#)
 - [Atom API Search](#)
- Discovery Service
 - [Using Google API Discovery Document](#)
 - [Using Geoservices Discovery Catalog](#)
 - [Using Atompub](#)
 - [No Discovery Document](#)
- API Explorer
 - [link can be discovered](#)
- Uniform Interface
 - [uses limited http verbs](#)
 - [follows idempotence rules](#)
- Content Negotiation
 - [uses Accept and Content-Type headers](#)
 - [allows representation suffixes](#)
 - [supports custom mime types](#)
- Atom Feeds
 - [are available for lists of resources](#)
 - [may be extended](#)

- Frontend Caching
- Hypermedia As The Engine Of State
 - Embedded links in resources
 - Defines links relations
- Security
 - defines security protocol
- Cross Origin Resource Sharing
 - supports cross-origin resource sharing

So that can start interfacing with the web service

***rationale** We want to make sure that the web service exists and is available*

Acceptance Criteria

Given a supplied url

When I make a HEAD request

Then it is valid and available

So that I can find various document links

***rationale** This allows the application to mine to API. It requires the page to be properly formatted using HTML5.*

Acceptance Criteria

Given a published web service endpoint

When I access the landing page

Then I can find an HTML5 namespace

So that I can understand API

***rationale** This allows an external application to get knowledge information regarding the service*

Acceptance Criteria

Given the available web service endpoint

When I access the page

Then I can find a link to the API discovery document

And I can find a link to the OpenSearch document

And I can find a link to the API Explorer document

And I can find a link to the Documentation root

And I can find a link to an atom feed

So that I can provide in-browser search to my users

***rationale** This allows a browser to provide in-line custom search*

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to OpenSearch document

When I follow the link

Then OpenSearch Document is accessible

So that I can can provide in-browser search to my users

***rationale** This allows a browser to provide in-line custom search*

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to OpenSearch document

When I follow the link and specify HTML output

Then I should get results in html

So that I can provide in-browser search to my users

***rationale** This allows a browser to provide in-line custom search*

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to OpenSearch document

When I follow the link and specify ATOM output

Then I should get results in Atom format

So that I can can get knowledge of API

***rationale** This allows an application to get context information to access API*

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to API Discovery document is accessible

When I follow the link

Then API Discovery Document is accessible

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to API Discovery document is accessible

When I follow the link

Then document should contain service metadata

Then document should contain resource collections

Then document should contain schemas

Then document should contain security protocol

So that I can can get knowledge of API

***rationale** This allows an application to get context information to access API*

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to Catalog document is accessible

When I follow the link

Then Catalog Document is accessible

And Catalog Document should be accessible with proper headers as well

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to API Discovery document is accessible

When I follow the link

Then document should contain service metadata

Then document should contain service collections

Then document should contain folders

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to API Discovery document is accessible

When I follow the link

Then document should point to service catalogs

Then services should have their own description documents

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to Service document is accessible

When I follow the link

Then service description is available

Then service description document should contain description

Then service description document should contain list of published resources

When I follow the link

Then service description is available

Then folders should have their own description documents

So that I can can get knowledge of API

rationale *Follow the AtomPub Discovery Service - TO BE IMPLEMENTED*

So that I can can get knowledge of API

rationale *Not offering a discovery document is not very helpful! Sorry!*

So that I can can reduce interface complexity

***rationale** This allows an application to access resources in a limited and consistent manner*

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to API Discovery document

When I exercise API

Then it uses limited http verbs

So that I can can reduce interface complexity

***rationale This allows an application to access resources in a limited and consistent manner*

Acceptance Criteria

Given link to API Discovery document

When I exercise API

Then it follows idempotence rules

So that I can can get a representation that I can process

***rationale** This allows an external application to get resources using a specific representation that may be easier to process.*

Acceptance Criteria

Given list a resource urls and for each url

When I set the header: Accept=text/html

Then I obtain a resource with Content-Type=text/html

Acceptance Criteria

Given list a resource urls and for each url

When I set the header: Accept=application/json

Then I obtain a resource with Content-Type=application/json

Acceptance Criteria

Given list a resource urls and for each url

When I set the header: Accept=application/rip_me (or any invalid mime type)

Then I get a 406 error

So that I can can get a representation that I can process without using Accept Headers

***rationale** This allows an external user to get specific resource representation directly from the browser without using Accept headers*

Acceptance Criteria

Given list a resource urls and for each url

When I add .html extension to the URL

Then I obtain a resource with Content-Type=text/html

Acceptance Criteria

Given list a resource urls and for each url

When I add .json extension to the URL

Then I obtain a resource with Content-Type=application/json

Acceptance Criteria

Given list a resource urls and for each url

When I set .xyz or invalid extension to the URL

Then I get a 406 error

So that I can can signify my acceptance of the interface and get proper resource representation

Acceptance Criteria

Given desire to use Content Negotiation to constrain the interface

When I use Mime-types in Accept headers to determine the proper resource representation to retrieve

Then I use one of the existing IANA-approved mime-types that service may support

Acceptance Criteria

Given desire to use custom media type for Content Negotiation to constrain the interface

When I use custom Mime-type in Accept headers to determine the proper resource representation to output

Then I use existing IANA-approved mime-types

And I use a profile information attribute

And I use a version information attribute

And I use a describedby information attribute to point to an existing schema or profile document

rationale Content negotiation is important in some cases to specify a particular resource representation. The danger is to expand the concept to domain specific content. Some organizations have been pushing for custom media types of the form: `application/vnd.myapp+json`. This form extends the defined application mime-type and specifies the vendor-domain specific content `vnd.myapp`. This is problematic and turns out to hurt more than help content negotiation. It requires developers to change their browser settings to accept the new type and may require IT administrators to change firewall/proxy settings (which may be difficult in highly secured environments). It will not scale easily. An alternate form may be used to alleviate those problems but does not seem to be of much value. The application provides a schema or profile (which it should). This alternate form is, using a json example: `application/json; profile='vnd.myapp'; version=1.0; describedby='http://myapp.com/schema.rnc'`. It is highly likely that the schema and/or profile will contain version information and all domain specific information. The schema and/or profile will have been accessed in the discovery phase making that over-specification unnecessary and overly complex with no value added.

So that I can subscribe to and visualize the data feed in browser

***rationale** This allows a user to subscribe to particular data feed using a familiar NewsFeed Reader. If the feed is published to an aggregator, the user notifications on changes.*

Acceptance Criteria

Given list of resources, for each resource end point

When I use GET with an application/atom+xml Accept Header

Then server returns application/atom+xml content

And it returns a valid feed

And I can see that the feed is published to an aggregator

rationale This allows an external application to mine the entries of a feed without having to parse the HTML content of the entry. Atom Extensions C
GData 2.0 or 1.0 protocol, or OData 1.0.

So that I can publish my own resources in a meaningful way

***rationale** This allows an external Application to have access to the resources in a meaningful way without having to parse the HTML content*

Acceptance Criteria

Given list of resources, for each resource end point

When I use GET with an application/atom+xml Accept Header

Then feed uses etag attribute

And feed uses category tag and proper accessible schema

And feed uses OpenSearch namespace and attributes

And entries use etag attribute

And entries use category tag and proper accessible format

So that I can avoid sending superfluous data

rationale *This reduces overall bandwidth.*

So that I can avoid sending superfluous data

***rationale** This reduces overall bandwidth.*

Acceptance Criteria

Given http transaction

When using GData 2.0 protocol

Then I should use GData-Version 2.0 in headers

Then I should use ETag in headers

Then I should use Last-Modified in headers

Then I should return a 304 Not Modified if using If-None-Match

Then I should return a 304 Not Modified if using Last-Modified

Then I should support Conditional Replace with If-Match in headers

Then I should support Conditional Replace with If-Match in headers

Then I should support Override Replace with If-Match: * in headers

Then I should support Conditional Delete with If-Match in headers

Then I should support Delete with If-Match: * in headers