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## Zimbra REST API Reference

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Zimbra exposes its data via a REST API. This document is the reference for that functionality.

REST (REpresentational State Transfer) is an approach for building application services that make resources available via a URL. For example, the following REST command retrieves all inbox items as a simple RSS feed:

`http://localhost:7070/home/user1/inbox.rss`

Learn more about REST at the Wikipedia article [Representational State Transfer](#).

## Overview

### Command Format

The format of a Zimbra REST command is:

`{protocol}://{host}:{port}/home/{user}/{object}?{params}`

HTTP GET methods are for reading items. HTTP POST methods are for creating/modifying items. The following describes the components of the Zimbra REST command:

Component	Description
protocol	The transport protocol, for example, http.
host	The host name or IP address of the Zimbra Collaboration Suite server
port	The port number, for example, 7070.
user	The user. To load an explicit user account, specify the user in one of the following formats:



**Article Information**

This article applies to the following ZCS versions.

 [ZCS 8.0](#)  [ZCS 7.0](#)  [ZCS 6.0](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>john.doe <code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/inbox.rss</code></li> <li>john.doe@mydomain.com <code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe@mydomain.com/inbox.rss</code></li> </ul> <p>You can also use "~" as a shortcut to the current authenticated user. For example:</p> <p><code>http://localhost:7070/home/~inbox.rss</code></p>
object	<p>Designates the object to perform the command against. This might be a folder (such as inbox or drafts) or omitted (to download a specific item). If omitted, the query parameters provide the information the command requires.</p> <p>For example, to download the inbox folder as XML:</p> <p><code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/inbox.rss</code></p> <p>For example, to download an item:</p> <p><code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/?id=657</code></p>
params	A list of command-specific URL parameters. See the specific command for a list of the required and optional parameters.

## Response Formats

The following describes the various response formats, designated using the `fmt=` parameter. Not all commands support all formats. See the specific command for a list of supported formats and command-specific details:

Format	Description
xml	Extensible Markup Language file format. See the Wikipedia article <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML</a> .
json	JavaScript Object Notation file format. See <a href="http://www.json.org">http://www.json.org</a>
rss	Really Simple Syndication web feed format. See <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS</a>
atom	Atom syndication format. See <a href="#">[1]</a>
html	Hyper Text Markup Language file format. Produced the output as a web page.
zip	Data compression and archive format.
tar	Data archive format ("tar").
tgz	Compressed tar file.
ics	iCalendar file format. See <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICalendar">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ICalendar</a> and <a href="#">RFC 2445</a> .
ifb	Internet Free Busy format. See <a href="#">RFC 2445</a> .
csv	<p>Common Separated Values file format. A specific CSV format can be designated using the <code>csvfmt</code> parameter. Supported CSV formats include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>zimbra-csv</li> <li>yahoo-csv</li> <li>thunderbird-csv</li> <li>outlook-2000-csv</li> <li>outlook-2003-csv</li> </ul>
sync	<p>Requests that the server return additional meta-data in the response headers. When using this option, the headers are returned inline of the response, unless you specify <code>nohdr=1</code>.</p> <p>For example, get a mail message by item id and return the meta-data in the response headers and inline.</p> <p><code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/?id=288&amp;fmt=sync</code></p> <p>For example, get a mail message by item id and return the meta-data in the response headers only.</p> <p><code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/?id=288&amp;fmt=sync&amp;nohdr=1</code></p> <p>The following is a list of the meta-data headers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>X-Zimbra-ItemId</li> <li>X-Zimbra-FolderId</li> <li>X-Zimbra-Tags</li> <li>X-Zimbra-Flags</li> <li>X-Zimbra-Received</li> <li>X-Zimbra-Modified</li> <li>X-Zimbra-Change</li> <li>X-Zimbra-Revision</li> <li>X-Zimbra-Conv</li> </ul>

## Authentication

There are multiple methods to authenticate as a user when accessing a mailbox. Using the `auth=` parameter, you can designate how to authenticate and whether or not to set the authentication cookie.

Default is `auth=co,nsc,qp`. Meaning: first, check for a cookie auth token; second, check for query parameter auth token; third, prompt for basic authentication.

The `auth=` parameter supports a list of comma-separated values which include:

Value	Description
co	The authentication token will be retrieved from the <code>ZM_AUTH_TOKEN</code> cookie.  For example: <code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/inbox.rss?auth=co</code>
qp	The authentication token will be retrieved from request parameter <code>zauthtoken</code> .  For example: <code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/inbox.rss?auth=qp&amp;zauthtoken=0_thisismyzauthtokenthisismyzauthtoken_thisismyzauthtoken</code>
ba nsc sc	These methods refer to Basic Authentication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <code>ba</code> = Use Basic Authentication and do not set cookie after authentication.</li><li>• <code>nsc</code> = Same as <code>ba</code>.</li><li>• <code>sc</code> = Use Basic Authentication and set cookie after authentication.</li></ul> For example: <code>http://localhost:7070/home/john.doe/inbox.rss?auth=ba</code>

## Methods

The API supports the following methods to retrieve Zimbra data.

### Mail Methods

[Get Folder](#)

[Import Message](#)

### Address Book Methods

[Get Contacts](#)

[Import Contacts](#)

### Calendar Methods

[Get Calendar](#)

[Get FreeBusy](#)

[Import Appointments](#)

### Task Methods

[Get Tasks](#)

### Item Methods

[Get Item](#)

### Briefcase Methods

[Get Briefcase](#)

[Get Briefcase Item](#)

### Mailbox Methods

[Export Mailbox](#)

## Using the `zmmailbox` CLI

A useful Zimbra Command Line Interface (CLI) for use with the REST API is `zmmailbox`. With `zmmailbox`, you can execute REST methods via the command line. This is a particularly useful tool if you plan to script exporting & importing data. See the [ZCS-to-ZCS Migrations](#) blog entry for an

example. When exporting/importing large mailboxes, it is important to set the timeout to "0" (infinity):

To perform GET methods (like exporting the inbox content in ZIP format), use the following syntax:

```
zmmailbox -z -m user@domain.com -t 0 getRestURL "/inbox?fmt=zip"
```

To perform POST methods (like importing the content of inbox.zip), use the following syntax:

```
zmmailbox -z -m user@domain.com -t 0 postRestURL "/inbox?fmt=zip" /tmp/inbox.zip
```

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