What is HTTP?

The Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is designed to enable communications between clients and servers.

HTTP works as a request-response protocol between a client and server.

Example: A client (browser) sends an HTTP request to the server; then the server returns a response to the client. The response contains status information about the request and may also contain the requested content.

HTTP Methods

* **GET**
* **POST**
* **PUT**
* **HEAD**
* **DELETE**
* **PATCH**
* **OPTIONS**

The two most common HTTP methods are: GET and POST.

The GET Method

**GET is used to request data from a specified resource.**

**GET is one of the most common HTTP methods.**

Note that the query string (name/value pairs) is sent in the URL of a GET request:

/test/demo\_form.php?name1=value1&name2=value2

**Some other notes on GET requests:**

* GET requests can be cached
* GET requests remain in the browser history
* GET requests can be bookmarked
* GET requests should never be used when dealing with sensitive data
* GET requests have length restrictions
* GET requests are only used to request data (not modify)

The POST Method

**POST is used to send data to a server to create/update a resource.**

The data sent to the server with POST is stored in the request body of the HTTP request:

POST /test/demo\_form.php HTTP/1.1  
Host: w3schools.com  
name1=value1&name2=value2

**POST is one of the most common HTTP methods.**

**Some other notes on POST requests:**

* POST requests are never cached
* POST requests do not remain in the browser history
* POST requests cannot be bookmarked
* POST requests have no restrictions on data length