

HTTP Status Codes

For great REST services the correct usage of the correct HTTP status code in a response is vital.

1xx – Informational	2xx – Successful	3xx – Redirection	4xx – Client Error	5xx – Server Error
This class of status code indicates a provisional response, consisting only of the Status-Line and optional headers, and is terminated by an empty line	This class of status code indicates that the client's request was successfully received, understood, and accepted.	This class of status code indicates that further action needs to be taken by the user agent in order to fulfill the request.	The 4xx class of status code is intended for cases in which the client seems to have erred.	Response status codes beginning with the digit "5" indicate cases in which the server is aware that it has erred or is incapable of performing the request.
<div>100 – Continue101 – Switching Protocols102 – Processing</div>	<div>200 – OK201 – Created202 – Accepted203 – Non-Authoritative Information204 – No Content205 – Reset Content206 – Partial Content207 – Multi-Status</div>	<div>300 – Multiple Choices301 – Moved Permanently302 – Found303 – See Other304 – Not Modified305 – Use Proxy307 – Temporary Redirect</div>	<div>400 – Bad Request401 – Unauthorised402 – Payment Required403 – Forbidden404 – Not Found405 – Method Not Allowed406 – Not Acceptable407 – Proxy Authentication Required408 – Request Timeout409 – Conflict410 – Gone411 – Length Required412 – Precondition Failed413 – Request Entity Too Large414 – Request URI Too Long415 – Unsupported Media Type416 – Requested Range Not Satisfiable417 – Expectation Failed422 – Unprocessable Entity423 – Locked424 – Failed Dependency425 – Unordered Collection426 – Upgrade Required</div>	<div>500 – Internal Server Error501 – Not Implemented502 – Bad Gateway503 – Service Unavailable504 – Gateway Timeout505 – HTTP Version Not Supported506 – Variant Also Negotiates507 – Insufficient Storage510 – Not Extended</div>

Examples of using HTTP Status Codes in REST

- 201 – When doing a POST to create a new resource it is best to return 201 and not 200.
- 204 – When deleting a resources it is best to return 204, which indicates it succeeded but there is no body to return.
- 301 – If a 301 is returned the client should update any cached URI’s to point to the new URI.
- 302 – This is often used for temporary redirect’s, however 303 and 307 are better choices.
- 409 – This provides a great way to deal with conflicts caused by multiple updates.
- 501 – This implies that the feature will be implemented in the future.

Special Cases

- 306 – This status code is no longer used. It used to be for switch proxy.
- 418 – This status code from RFC 2324. However RFC 2324 was submitted as an April Fools’ Joke. The message is *I am a teapot*.

Key	Description
Black	HTTP version 1.0
Blue	HTTP version 1.1
Aqua	Extension RFC 2295
Green	Extension RFC 2518
Yellow	Extension RFC 2774
Orange	Extension RFC 2817
Purple	Extension RFC 3648
Red	Extension RFC 4918