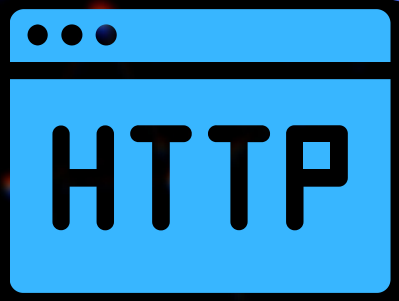
HTTP STATUS CODE TYPES & THEIR MEANING



HTTP Status Code is returned when an HTTP request is made to the server. The server returns an HTTP Status Code in response to your request. When it comes to Bug Bounty, Pentesting, these codes are crucial to how an attacker would want to approach next.

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There are five classes of HTTP Status Code:

INFORMATIONAL WITH STATUS CODE: 1XX

SUCCESS WITH STATUS CODE: 2XX

REDIRECTION WITH STATUS CODE: 3XX

CLIENT ERROR WITH STATUS CODE: 4XX

SERVER ERROR WITH STATUS CODE: 5XX

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Some Common Types & Their Meaning:

SUCCESS RESPONSE

200 – OK:

The standard HTTP response for successful HTTP requests. In another way, the webserver will return 200 when the requested content is served successfully.

202 – Accepted:

The server has accepted your request and yet to process them.

206 – Partial Content:

Only partial content is delivered due to the range header sent by a client like wget.

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REDIRECTION RESPONSE

301 – Moved permanently

Your requested page has been moved permanently to a new location. This instructs search engine bot to crawl a new location.

302 – Moved temporarily

The server has accepted your request and yet to process them.

305 – Use proxy

The requested resource is only available through a proxy. That means you must use a relevant proxy to get the requested page successfully.

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CLIENT ERROR

400 – Bad request

The server is confused about what you have requested. Probably bad syntax or trying to include characters in URI, which server doesn't understand.

401 – Not authorized

The requested page is protected & requires authentication. You must log in in order to get the requested page successfully.

403 – Forbidden

You have to try to access which you don't have permission. This, not necessary resource is protected by the password; it could also be when files/folder permission doesn't allow viewing the requested page.

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404 – Not found

Probably the most famous one – your requested page is not found on the server. You are trying to access something, which doesn't exist.

405 – Method not allowed

You are requesting a page with the wrong method. For example, you are doing GET on POST data. Or you are trying the method, which is disabled, for example – TRACE, PUT, DELETE.

SERVER ERROR

500 – Internal server error

A very generic error when the server encountered an error due to various reasons. Logs must be examined to see why the server has responded to an internal error.

502 – Bad gateway

The server was acting as a gateway or proxy and received an invalid response from the upstream server like Tomcat, WebSphere.

503 – Service unavailable

The server can’t serve your request. This could be due to either server is too busy in other stuff or almost dead.

Users normally only see an HTTP status code in the form of an automatically generated HTML page if the web server wasn't able to perform the client's request. Each HTTP response code is crucial to understand even from an Offensive Security Side. Based on these responses reconnaissance, OSINT and hacking tools are built around these. It also allows Developers to diagnose the behavior of these responses and the defensive team, to setup special rules in order to do action based on the requests they could get externally.

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