

NSURLCache and Byte Ranges



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The cache used by

NSURLSession

NSURLCache

) completely ignores byte ranges. This means that if you make a byte range request and it gets put in the cache, and then later make a full request (or a different byte range request), that second request can be satisfied by the cache, giving you back completely the wrong data. Not good.

This is a known, long-standing limitation of

NSURLCache

, but it's never been properly documented. We do plan to enhance

NSURLCache

to do the right thing here but there's no sign of that happening any time soon (r. 12581302). In the meantime, here's our advice:

• If you're making a byte range request, ensure that the response doesn't go into the cache. The easiest way to do that is to implement the

-URLSession:dataTask:willCacheResponse:completionHandler:

delegate method and return nil.

This ensures that a cached response to your byte range request doesn't confuse anyone else.

- If you're making byte range requests and want to take advantage of caching you have two options:
- o cache externally For example, if you're using byte range requests to download to a file, you can use the file itself as a place to store the results.
- cache full resources If you want to cache responses in the standard cache used by

NSURLSession , make sure you cache the full resource. For example, if you're using multiple connections to download a resource, store the results yourself and then, on the last connection, when you have all the data for the resource, have -URLSession:dataTask:willCacheResponse:completionHandler: return an NSCachedURLResponse that represents the entire resource. Alternatively, you could force the entire resource into the cache using

We have another bug on file (r. 12661119) requesting that this advice be added to the standard developer documentation. Share and Enjoy — Quinn "The Eskimo!" Apple Developer Relations, Developer Technical Support, Core OS/Hardware

let myEmail = "eskimo" + "1" + "@apple.com"

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-storeCachedResponse:forRequest:

Network

Asked 3 years ago by eskimo

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