

Http-headers

Here's are the list of http headers, their purpose and what will be the result of its absence.

1. Content-type

Purpose -- This header tells the type of response body.(Ex: Html, Text)

Absence impact -- If this header is being absent, so the client won't know what is the format of server's response, which creates issues in processing or rendering.

2. Content-length

Purpose -- This header specifies, that what is the size of response body in bytes.

Absence impact -- If this header is absent, So , the client won't know that what is the size of response body. It creates issues in streaming or chunked transfer (the data stream divided into a series of non - overlapping large part of those data).

3. Authorization

Purpose -- It authenticates the client against the server. For ex: Basic authentication or Token-based authentication.

Absence impact -- If this header is absent, then server will not be authenticate the client and the request will be considered unauthorised which generates 401 unauthorised error.

4. User - Agent

Purpose -- It gives us information about clients application or browser from which server can identify.

Absence impact -- The server not found any details about client, it also impacts custom responses or optimizations.

5. Cache - Control

Purpose -- It gave us cache related instructions. For ex : No cache , Max-age etc.

Absence impact -- The client might not know how to cache response, leading performance issues.

6. Cookie

Purpose -- Sends cookies previously stored on the client id.

Absence impact -- It impacts things like sessions, tracking etc.

7. Accept

Purpose -- It specifies types of Media from which the client is able to accept the process from the server. For ex : Json / Application or Html / text.

Absence impact -- The server send an inconsistent data format which leads error.

8. Server

Purpose -- It identify the web server software and sometimes it also includes the version number.

Absence impact -- It reveals information about server that could be used for attacks

9. Accept encoding

Purpose -- Tells the servers compression algorithm from which client can understand.

Absence impact -- The server will send the uncompressed data , increasing loading request time.

10. Allow

Purpose -- It allows the list of http methods of a resource. For ex : Post, Get etc.

Absence impact -- Clients can make unsupported requests leading to a 405 method not allowed response.