Difference between PUT and POST in REST

**Using HTTP Methods for RESTful Services**

The HTTP verbs comprise a major portion of our “uniform interface” constraint and provide us the action counterpart to the noun-based resource. The primary or most-commonly-used HTTP verbs (or methods, as they are properly called) are POST, GET, PUT, PATCH, and DELETE. These correspond to create, read, update, and delete (or CRUD) operations, respectively. There are a number of other verbs, too, but are utilized less frequently. Of those less-frequent methods, OPTIONS and HEAD are used more often than others.

Below is a table summarizing recommended return values of the primary HTTP methods in combination with the resource URIs:

| **HTTP Verb** | **CRUD** | **Entire Collection (e.g. /customers)** | **Specific Item (e.g. /customers/{id})** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| POST | Create | **201 (Created), 'Location' header with link to /customers/{id} containing new ID.** | **404 (Not Found), 409 (Conflict) if resource already exists..** |
| GET | Read | 200 (OK), list of customers. Use pagination, sorting and filtering to navigate big lists. | 200 (OK), single customer. 404 (Not Found), if ID not found or invalid. |
| PUT | Update/Replace | **404 (Not Found), unless you want to update/replace every resource in the entire collection.** | **200 (OK) or 204 (No Content). 404 (Not Found), if ID not found or invalid.** |
| PATCH | Update/Modify | 404 (Not Found), unless you want to modify the collection itself. | 200 (OK) or 204 (No Content). 404 (Not Found), if ID not found or invalid. |
| DELETE | Delete | 404 (Not Found), unless you want to delete the whole collection—not often desirable. | 200 (OK). 404 (Not Found), if ID not found or invalid. |

# HTTP PATCH Method

**The HTTP methods PATCH can be used to update partial resources. For instance, when you only need to update one field of the resource, PUTting a complete resource representation might be cumbersome and utilizes more bandwidth**