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Beginner's Guide to HTTP Methods and Status Codes



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[http](#) [status](#) [methods](#)

Have you ever wondered how websites and servers talk to each other? Well, they use something called HTTP methods and status codes. These are like the special codes and signals that help them understand what's going on. In this beginner's guide, we'll break down these concepts into easy-to-understand terms. Let's dive in!

HTTP Methods: How Websites and Servers Chat

Think of HTTP methods as the different ways websites and servers have conversations. They're like actions you can take to get things done. Here are the main ones:

1. GET Method: Asking for Stuff

This method is like asking a question. When you use GET, you're saying, "Hey, can you give me this information from that place on the internet?"

2. POST Method: Sending Information

Imagine you're sending a message. POST is like that – you're giving the server some new information to handle, like a comment or a message.

3. **PUT Method: Making Changes**

If you want to change something, you use PUT. It's like editing a document or updating a photo.

4. **PATCH Method: Fixing Small Parts**

When you just need to fix a tiny part of something, like a typo in an article, PATCH is your go-to.

5. **DELETE Method: Removing Things**

DELETE is what you use when you want to get rid of something – like throwing away an old toy.

6. **HEAD Method: Checking Basics**

Sometimes you only want to know the basics, like the title of a book. HEAD gives you that without showing you the whole thing.

7. **OPTIONS Method: Asking What's Allowed**

It's like asking, "What can I do here?" OPTIONS tells you the actions that are allowed on a website.

8. **CONNECT Method: Setting Up Secure Paths**

Imagine you want to build a secret tunnel. CONNECT helps set up a safe way to connect to a server.

9. **TRACE Method: Following the Path**

TRACE is like retracing your steps. It helps you figure out the path something took to get to you.

Understanding HTTP Status Codes: The Website Emojis

Now, let's talk about status codes. These are like emojis websites use to show how things went. Here are a few examples: Sure, here's a simple and concise definition for each of the common HTTP status codes:

1xx Informational Codes:

- **100 Continue:** The server got your message and is ready for more.
- **101 Switching Protocols:** The server is changing the way it talks to you.
- **102 Processing:** The server is still working on your request.

2xx Successful Codes:

- **200 OK:** Everything worked out fine.
- **201 Created:** Something new was made, and it's all good.
- **202 Accepted:** The server accepted your request, but it's not done yet.
- **204 No Content:** Everything's fine, but there's nothing to show you.
- **206 Partial Content:** The server gave you just a part of what you asked for.

3xx Redirection Codes:

- **300 Multiple Choices:** There are a bunch of places you can go.
- **301 Moved Permanently:** The thing you're looking for has moved to a new place.
- **302 Found:** This is like a temporary move – the thing will come back later.
- **304 Not Modified:** You asked for something, but it hasn't changed since you last saw it.
- **307 Temporary Redirect:** Just like the 302, but more specific.

4xx Client Error Codes:

- **400 Bad Request:** Oops, something's not right with what you asked.
- **401 Unauthorized:** You need to log in or prove who you are to see this.
- **403 Forbidden:** You're not allowed to see this, sorry.
- **404 Not Found:** Whatever you're looking for is nowhere to be found.
- **408 Request Timeout:** The server waited too long for you to send a request.
- **429 Too Many Requests:** You're asking for stuff too often, slow down!

5xx Server Error Codes:

- **500 Internal Server Error:** The server messed up, but it's not your fault.
- **502 Bad Gateway:** The server got an invalid response from another server it was talking to.
- **503 Service Unavailable:** The server is busy or down, so it can't help right now.
- **504 Gateway Timeout:** The server tried to get data from another server, but that server didn't answer in time.
- **505 HTTP Version Not Supported:** The server doesn't support the version of HTTP you're using.

Remember, these codes help computers understand how things are going between them. If you see one, it's like a little message that tells you what's happening behind the scenes when you're using the internet.

Conclusion

HTTP methods and status codes might sound like a secret code, but they're actually simple tools that help websites and servers talk to each other. Remember, it's like learning a new game – once you get the hang of it, you'll be able to understand how websites work behind the scenes. So the next time you click a link or send a message online, you'll have a little peek into the magic happening behind the screen.

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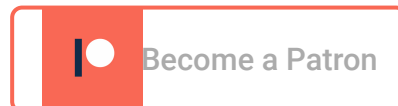


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