

# Client-Cert HTTP Header Field

[draft-ietf-httpbis-client-cert-field](https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-httpbis-client-cert-field)



# Context and Motivation

- HTTPS application deployments often have TLS 'terminated' by a reverse proxy somewhere in front of the actual HTTP(S) application
  - 'Old fashioned' n-tier reverse proxy and origin server
  - CDN-as-a-service type offerings or application load balancing services
  - Ingress controllers
- TLS client certificate authentication is *sometimes* used
  - In which case the actual application often needs to know something about the client certificate
  - But the original TLS connection terminated upstream so that info isn't available
- In the absence of a standardized method of conveying the client certificate information, different implementations have done it differently (or not at all)

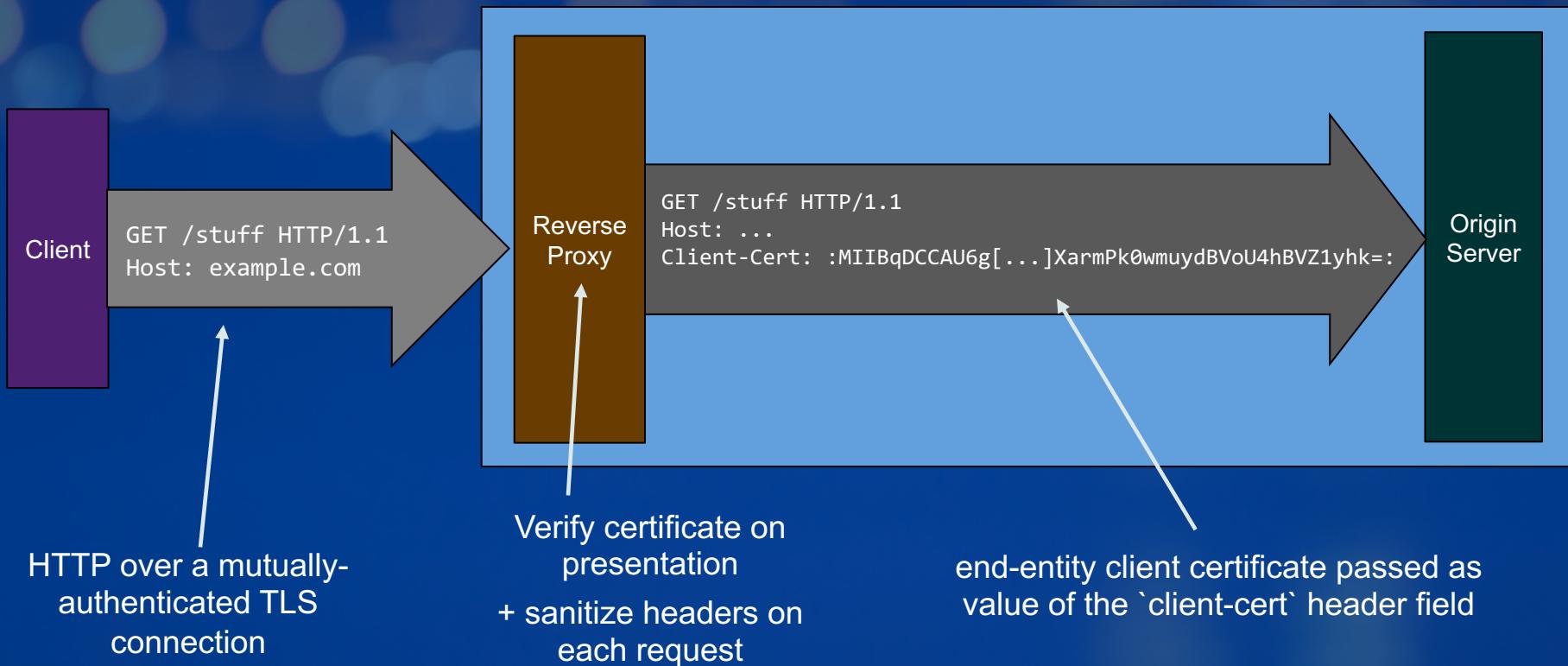


# Goal

- Informational RFC that documents existing practice while codifying specific details sufficient to facilitate improved and lower-touch interoperability going forward
- Participate...

The screenshot shows the IETF website's header with the logo and navigation links: News & blog, Support us, Get started, Contact, Links, Search, ABOUT, TOPICS OF INTEREST, PARTICIPATE, and INTERNET STANDARDS. Below the header is a banner for "IETF 106 Singapore" with the dates "16 Nov 2019 - 22 Nov 2019". A sub-banner below it states: "IETF 106 started Saturday 16 November and ran through Friday afternoon, 22 November 2019 in Singapore."

# The `Client-Cert` header field *solution* offered by the draft





# Recent Updates

draft-ietf-htpbis-client-cert-field-01

- Now uses Structured Fields aka RFC 8941
- Introduced a separate `client_cert_chain` header that can convey the certificate chain
  - Two fields is a bit awkward...
- Considerations added about header compression and size
- Described potential interaction with caching
- Discussed renegotiation / post-handshake auth
- Filled out IANA Considerations with HTTP field name registrations

