

# HTTP request methods

HTTP defines a set of **request methods** to indicate the purpose of the request and what is expected if the request is successful. Although they can also be nouns, these request methods are sometimes referred to as *HTTP verbs*. Each request method has its own semantics, but some characteristics are shared across multiple methods, specifically request methods can be [safe](#), [idempotent](#), or [cacheable](#).

## [GET](#)

The `GET` method requests a representation of the specified resource. Requests using `GET` should only retrieve data and should not contain a request [content](#).

## [HEAD](#)

The `HEAD` method asks for a response identical to a `GET` request, but without a response body.

## [POST](#)

The `POST` method submits an entity to the specified resource, often causing a change in state or side effects on the server.

## [PUT](#)

The `PUT` method replaces all current representations of the target resource with the request [content](#).

## [DELETE](#)

The `DELETE` method deletes the specified resource.

## [CONNECT](#)

The `CONNECT` method establishes a tunnel to the server identified by the target resource.

## [OPTIONS](#)

The `OPTIONS` method describes the communication options for the target resource.

## [TRACE](#)

The `TRACE` method performs a message loop-back test along the path to the target resource.

## [PATCH](#)

The `PATCH` method applies partial modifications to a resource.

## Safe, idempotent, and cacheable request methods

The following table lists HTTP request methods and their categorization in terms of safety, cacheability, and idempotency.

Method	Safe	Idempotent	Cacheable
<a href="#">GET</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<a href="#">HEAD</a>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<a href="#">OPTIONS</a>	Yes	Yes	No
<a href="#">TRACE</a>	Yes	Yes	No
<a href="#">PUT</a>	No	Yes	No
<a href="#">DELETE</a>	No	Yes	No
<a href="#">POST</a>	No	No	Conditional*
<a href="#">PATCH</a>	No	No	Conditional*
<a href="#">CONNECT</a>	No	No	No

\* [POST](#) and [PATCH](#) are cacheable when responses explicitly include [freshness](#) information and a matching [Content-Location](#) header.

## Specifications

Specification
<a href="#">HTTP Semantics</a> # <a href="#">PUT</a>
<a href="#">HTTP Semantics</a> # <a href="#">POST</a>
<a href="#">HTTP Semantics</a> # <a href="#">HEAD</a>
<a href="#">HTTP Semantics</a> # <a href="#">OPTIONS</a>
<a href="#">HTTP Semantics</a> # <a href="#">DELETE</a>
<a href="#">HTTP Semantics</a> # <a href="#">CONNECT</a>
<a href="#">HTTP Semantics</a> # <a href="#">GET</a>