

The HTTP Module

Introduction

This blurb is about using QDL's HTTP module. This module allows you to do basic operations to a website using the HTTP protocol.

Loading the module

This is a Java module and is included in the standard distribution, but is not loaded, so to use it load it by issuing

```
q := module_load('edu.uiuc.ncsa.qdl.extensions.http.QDLHTTPLoader', 'java')
module_import(q)
http
```

Supported functions

| Name | Description | Comment |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| close() | close the connection | All requests will fail until open() is called |
| get() | get with the current host | |
| get(parameters.) | get with the current host and attach the parameters | parameters. is a stem |
| get(uri_path, parameters.) | get appending the path_uri to the current host, with the current parameters | |
| headers() | list the current default headers | |
| headers(arg.) | set the default headers | |
| host() | get the current host | |
| host(host_name) | set the current host | |
| is_open() | is the connection open? | |
| open() | open a new connection | |
| open(insecure) | open a new, insecure connection | insecure is a boolean, which if true will turn off security for SSL. Default is false . |

Get returns a stem with entries for status, content and any returned headers.

Typical examples

Assuming you have loaded the above, open up a connection and get

```

q := module_load('edu.uiuc.ncsa.qdl.extensions.http.QDLHTTPLoader','java') ;
module_import(q) ;
http
http#host('https://didact-patto.dev.umccr.org/api/visa') ;
http#open();
true
z. := http#get({'sub':'https://nagim.dev/p/wjaha-ppqrg-10000'});
z.
{
  headers: {
    Connection:keep-alive,
    etag:W/"e6-suhkGbMm3fkbNhOR6bOIwIgh8A",
    Apigw-Requestid:Gv9mdhv4SwMEMHw=,
    Content-Length:230,
    Date:Tue, 05 Oct 2021 19:37:04 GMT,
    Content-Type:application/json; charset=utf-8,
    X-Powered-By:Express
  },
  content: [
    {
      s:XnKFKl4RTXtB2DD0f5f4yLtfcTaCGyqMxIV8Q42zX_XR1p9Cnxeqg2KI_4UCzcJZ2XGv_h1qVGOW5_3FE
      9ZHCQ,
      v:c:8XZF4195109CIIERC35P577HAM et:1633549022 iu:https://nagim.dev/p/wjaha-ppqrg-
      10000 iv:2f69e2650aed4f0e,
      k:rfdc8032-7.1-test1
    }
  ],
  status: {
    code:200,
    message:OK
  }
}

```

So we see the various components of the response, z.:

- `headers.` - A stem of the headers, where the key is the name of the header and the value is its value (as a string, so `Content-Length` is not a number).
- `content.` - The exact content. Here, it is an array with a single element and note that `headers.Content-Type` contains `application/json` and hence was in JSON format. If the content type is anything else, it will be returned as a stem of lines.
- `status.` - The http status, which includes the [status code](#) and the message from the server. Anything other than something in the 200 range is an error.

Note that there are other options for `content.` but it will always be an array. For instance, from other servers it may be the lines in the body of the response if the `Content-Type` is `form_encoding`. In that case, you will have to loop through the lines and process each of them in turn.