How to manually send HTTP POST requests from Firefox or Chrome browser

Asked 13 years, 2 months ago   Modified 1 year, 2 months ago   Viewed 2.0m times

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I want to test some URLs in a web application I'm working on. For that I would like to manually create HTTP POST requests (meaning I can add whatever parameters I like).

Is there any functionality in Chrome and/or Firefox that I'm missing?

`ajax`   `google-chrome`   `firefox`   `browser`   `http-post`

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edited Jul 19, 2021 at 20:24

Peter Mortensen
31k ●22 ●109 ●132

asked Jan 25, 2011 at 18:45

Pascal Klein
24.3k ●24 ●82 ●120

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25   Make an AJAX call in the Chrome console. No extension needed. This is a good way to make POST requests without the need to grab authentication cookies. `$.post('/resource/path/')` – FearlessFuture Mar 15, 2017 at 16:51 ✎

12   Whilst an add on is necessary, the close is niitpicking nonsense. He was asking for functionality in chrome or firefox , or iif it needs a plugin. That it might require a specifed or unspecified plugin is not the point – Shayne Jun 16, 2017 at 7:48

35   The post is closed incorrectly. It does not ask for a tool, but for a functionality in the tools the author already is working with. This way we have to close all questions about how to do this or that on some tool - and it will be a good on-tenth of SO. – Gangnus Dec 5, 2017 at 15:22

13   I noticed this feature on **Firefox** when you open the **network tab** and choose a random request you can `Edit and Resend` it which is pretty cool. – jurl Mar 26, 2018 at 13:01 ✎

4   In modern browsers you can make use of the Fetch API which lets you do a POST request from the JavaScript developer console with minimal effort. I am prefering this because you don't need to install a third party extension and especially when posting sensitive data (like passwords) it's recommended to NOT rely on external software. Here is a code snippet how to use the Fetch API: gist.github.com/bennyn/ed95ed9edd6ce0d04e7c8d6e6eb1a1f8 – Benny Code Feb 18, 2019 at 23:21 ✎

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19 Answers

Sorted by:

Highest score (default) ⇕

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2812

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I have been making a Chrome app called Postman for this type of stuff. All the other extensions seemed a bit dated so made my own. It also has a bunch of other features which have been helpful for documenting our own API here.

Postman now also has *native apps* (i.e. standalone) for Windows, Mac and Linux! It is more preferable now to use native apps, read more here.

edited Mar 17, 2021 at 11:25

D Malan
10.9k ● 3 ● 26 ● 56

answered Mar 15, 2012 at 8:32

Abhinav
39.2k ● 9 ● 42 ● 49

3   Make sure to install Postman interceptor plugin too if you want to use your browser's cookies, session. – GP cyborg Feb 1, 2018 at 20:04

9   Tool might be useful, but a 3rd party app doesn't answer the question, which asks for doing this through Chrome or Firefox. – Gloweye Jul 7, 2021 at 11:30

5   Unfortunately, the Postman app uses a huge chunk of your RAM when IDLE. That's a shame when you just need a lightweight app to send basic HTTP request, with eventually some auth. It is a great app with good ergonomy though. – Netsab612 Sep 16, 2021 at 15:16

168 Wait... This post is sacred   – Shahriar Dec 20, 2021 at 17:00

35   And Postman as we know was born. – akr_ Jul 3, 2022 at 19:09

CURL is *awesome* to do what you want! It's a simple, but effective, command line tool.

REST implementation test commands:

```
curl -i -X GET http://rest-api.io/items
curl -i -X GET http://rest-api.io/items/5069b47aa892630aae059584
curl -i -X DELETE http://rest-api.io/items/5069b47aa892630aae059584
curl -i -X POST -H 'Content-Type: application/json' -d '{"name": "New item",
"year": "2009"}' http://rest-api.io/items
curl -i -X PUT -H 'Content-Type: application/json' -d '{"name": "Updated item",
"year": "2010"}' http://rest-api.io/items/5069b47aa892630aae059584
```

539

edited Jul 20, 2021 at 3:45

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Jun 1, 2013 at 7:54

Arno 2501
9,189 ● 8 ● 37 ● 55

98   I'm upvoting this even though it's a wrong answer to the question: it's what I needed to know instead. – Jim Pivarski Jan 7, 2016 at 17:11

14   It doesn't fit the whole purpose, because it cannot attach cookies already set in a browser. For example, you might want to log in to a website manually, and then send a post request. With curl, this would be a huge pain if the login process is handled with javascript stuff – Vic Seedoubleyew Apr 25, 2016 at 14:18

This doesn't work for me, I can't use single quotes on OSX with zsh and bash, shell is turning into `quote>` mode. I need to use `-d "{\"..` – Daniel W. Mar 3, 2020 at 15:32 ✏

Yeah, `curl` is awesome, you almost always already have it on Unix, and it's really lightweight for Windows. No registration or SMS! ;) – RAM237 Oct 4, 2020 at 5:48

4   Windows cmd.exe also doesn't like the single quotes, so for my POST I used: curl -i -X POST -H "Content-Type: application/json" -d "{\"name\": \"New item\", \"year\": 2009}" localhost:60524 – C.M. Oct 27, 2021 at 16:24

Firefox

Open Network panel in Developer Tools by pressing `Ctrl+Shift+E` or by going Menubar -> Tools -> Web Developer -> Network. Select a row corresponding to a request.

Newer versions

Look for a resend button in the far right. Then a new editing form would open in the left. Edit it.

Older versions

Then Click on small door icon on top-right (in expanded form in the screenshot, you'll find it just left of the highlighted Headers), second row (if you don't see it then reload the page) -> Edit and resend whatever request you want

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3   Is this feature broken for anyone else? When editing the parameters in the "Query String" box, after altering a single character, it refuses to alter the request any further. The only way to do it beyond that is to edit the entire URL/request (which is difficult because it's all smooshed together) – Coldblackice Mar 29, 2015 at 21:03

1   this does not work in the current version of Chrome – Dima Lituiev May 16, 2021 at 18:30

1   @dima-lituiev, The screenshots above are for Firefox and I've confirmed it works in firefox version 88.0.1 – youcantexplainthat May 21, 2021 at 15:15

3   I've also confirmed it works in Firefox 88.0.1 - However, in my case, the "Edit and Resend" button is not showing up. I have to right-click on the request then click "Open in Network Panel". From there, I am able to click the "Resend" dropdown in the upper right and select "Edit and Resend". Kudos to this solution going strong years later. You even have an option for it to create a fetch() command for the request to use in the console like OP was initially requesting. – Jeff82 May 24, 2021 at 22:31 ✎

1   In the latest version of Firefox, only "Resend" is there instead of "Edit & Resend"!!. I took 5 mins to figure it out that there is no other button to EDIT it. – Ambuj Mani Tripathi Dec 12, 2022 at 12:06

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187

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Forget the browser and try CLI. HTTPie is a great tool!

```
$ http PUT httpbin.org/put hello=world
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Access-Control-Allow-Credentials: true
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: *
Connection: keep-alive
Content-Length: 434
Content-Type: application/json
Date: Sun, 08 Feb 2015 00:39:38 GMT
Server: nginx

{
    "args": {},
    "data": "{\"hello\": \"world\"}",
    "files": {},
    "form": {},
    "headers": {
        "Accept": "application/json",
        "Accept-Encoding": "gzip, deflate",
        "Content-Length": "18",
        "Content-Type": "application/json; charset=utf-8",
        "Host": "httpbin.org",
        "User-Agent": "HTTPie/0.9.1"
    },
    "json": {
        "hello": "world"
    },
    "origin": "109.81.210.175",
    "url": "http://httpbin.org/put"
}
```

CLI HTTP clients:

- [HTTPie](#)

- [Curlie](#)

- [HTTP Prompt](#)

- [Curl](#)

- [wget](#)

If you insist on a browser extension then:

Chrome:

- [Postman - REST Client](#) (deprecated, [now has a desktop program](#))

- [Advanced REST client](#)

- [Talend API Tester - Free Edition](#)

Firefox:

- [RESTClient](#)

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edited Jul 20, 2021 at 3:43

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Feb 9, 2012 at 15:43

amra
16.4k ● 7 ● 51 ● 47

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1   also resource test addon [addons.mozilla.org/en-us/firefox/addon/http-resource-test](#) – akostadinov Aug 27, 2013 at 4:58

Poster last updated 28/06/11 - updates to Firefox means there's no way to launch it – Richard Aug 27, 2014 at 11:17

@akostadinov i am unable to use resource test addon in mozilla the tool does not appear (even after installaion and restart) to me under developer tools in the lastest version of firefox. – Ram Sep 18, 2014 at 7:23

1   Just tried REST Easy. Uninstalled on the spot: the interface does way too much hand-holding and forces the user into rigid use cases. Not good for API development. – 7heo.tk Jul 9, 2015 at 11:20

1   I would rather use [curlie](#) than HTTPie. `curlie` is based on the more powerful `curl`. – Diti May 17, 2021 at 13:35

48

Having been greatly inspired by [Postman for Chrome](#), I decided to write something similar for Firefox.

[REST Easy](#)* is a restartless Firefox add-on that aims to provide as much control as possible over requests. The add-on is still in an experimental state (it hasn't even been reviewed by Mozilla yet) but development is progressing nicely.

The project is open source, so if anyone feels compelled to help with development, that would be awesome: [https://github.com/nathan-osman/Rest-Easy](#)

* the add-on available from http://addons.mozilla.org, will always be slightly behind the code available on GitHub

edited Oct 22, 2015 at 16:59

answered Nov 9, 2013 at 19:53

Nathan Osman
72.3k ● 73 ● 259 ● 364

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2   Seems nice, but lacks the ability to control the request body fully. Currently, it offers key/value abilities, but full control of the post body would be nice. – galmok Apr 1, 2014 at 9:54

      PUT and DELETE support would win me over. Looks good otherwise. – Dennis Oct 15, 2014 at 11:28

1   @Pacerier: it's a feature I'm currently working on and am about 90% complete. Hopefully it will be released before the end of the year. There does seem to be a backlog getting addons approved by Mozilla. – Nathan Osman Dec 11, 2014 at 8:58

2   After over a month of waiting, the new version has been approved. PUT and DELETE support has arrived! And in that month, I've also made a ton of other new changes that will show up soon in the next release. (Hopefully it gets approved sooner this time.) – Nathan Osman Dec 23, 2014 at 19:18

5   That is not available anymore, as it seems. (It likely is not a WebExtension and thus not compatible with Firefox >= 57.) This problem is tracked here: github.com/nathan-osman/REST-Easy/issues/78 – rugk Mar 12, 2019 at 10:25

29

You specifically asked for "extension or functionality in Chrome and/or Firefox", which the answers you have already received provide, but I do like the simplicity of oezi's answer to the closed question *"How can I send a POST request with a web browser?"* for simple parameters. oezi says:

With a form, just set `method` to `"post"`

```
<form action="blah.php" method="post">
  <input type="text" name="data" value="mydata" />
  <input type="submit" />
</form>
```

I.e., build yourself a very simple page to test the POST actions.

edited Jul 20, 2021 at 3:54

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Jan 21, 2015 at 10:42

dumbledad
17k ● 25 ● 126 ● 278

    I will add, for the ones that don't know: what you specify as `action` is the resource you want to get (which can include GET-style query parameters), and `value` specifies the POST's data body. E.g. `action="api/ids?name=John"` and `value="hello"` will make a POST request to `<hostname>/api/ids?name=John` with a body of `hello`. – Michele Piccolini Jun 23, 2021 at 8:17

26

I think that Benny Neugebauer's comment on the OP question about the Fetch API should be presented here as an answer since the OP was looking for a functionality in Chrome to manually create HTTP POST requests and that is exactly what the fetch command does.

There is a nice simple example of the Fetch API [here](#):

```
// Make sure you run it from the domain
'https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/'. (cross-origin-policy)
fetch('https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts',{method: 'POST', headers:
{'test': 'TestPost'} })
  .then(response => response.json())
  .then(json => console.log(json))
```

Some of the advantages of the fetch command are really precious: It's simple, short, fast, available and even as a console command it stored on your chrome console and can be used later.

The simplicity of pressing F12 , write the command in the console tab (or press the up key if you used it before) then press Enter , see it pending and returning the response is what making it really useful for simple POST requests tests.

Of course, the main disadvantage here is that, unlike Postman, this won't pass the cross-origin-policy, but still I find it very useful for testing in local environment or other environments where I can enable [CORS](#) manually.

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edited Jul 20, 2021 at 4:04

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Dec 24, 2020 at 19:46

ShayD
759 ● 9 ● 21

1   This worked great to get "unstuck" when I had an app that was caught in a bad state that couldn't be cleared because a bug was keeping the UI locked. Got the user going again till the bug could be addressed. – [Steve In CO](#) Jan 28, 2021 at 17:37

Exactly like @SteveInCO, I needed a *native Chrome* method just to get my user (who can't be expected to have anything besides Chrome available) unstuck as an emergency measure. (Even though I use most of the other tools for my own day-to-day use.) – [user3067860](#) Mar 19, 2021 at 12:08

Here's the [Advanced REST Client](#) extension for Chrome.

It works great for me -- do remember that you can still use the debugger with it. The Network pane is particularly useful; it'll give you rendered JSON objects and error pages.

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18

edited Jul 17, 2020 at 2:34

Andor Németh
459 ● 6 ● 12 ● 27

answered Jan 23, 2012 at 21:41

Nate
4,639 ● 2 ● 36 ● 44

For Firefox there is also an extension called RESTClient which is quite nice:

[*RESTClient, a debugger for RESTful web services*](#)

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14

edited Jul 20, 2021 at 3:44

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132
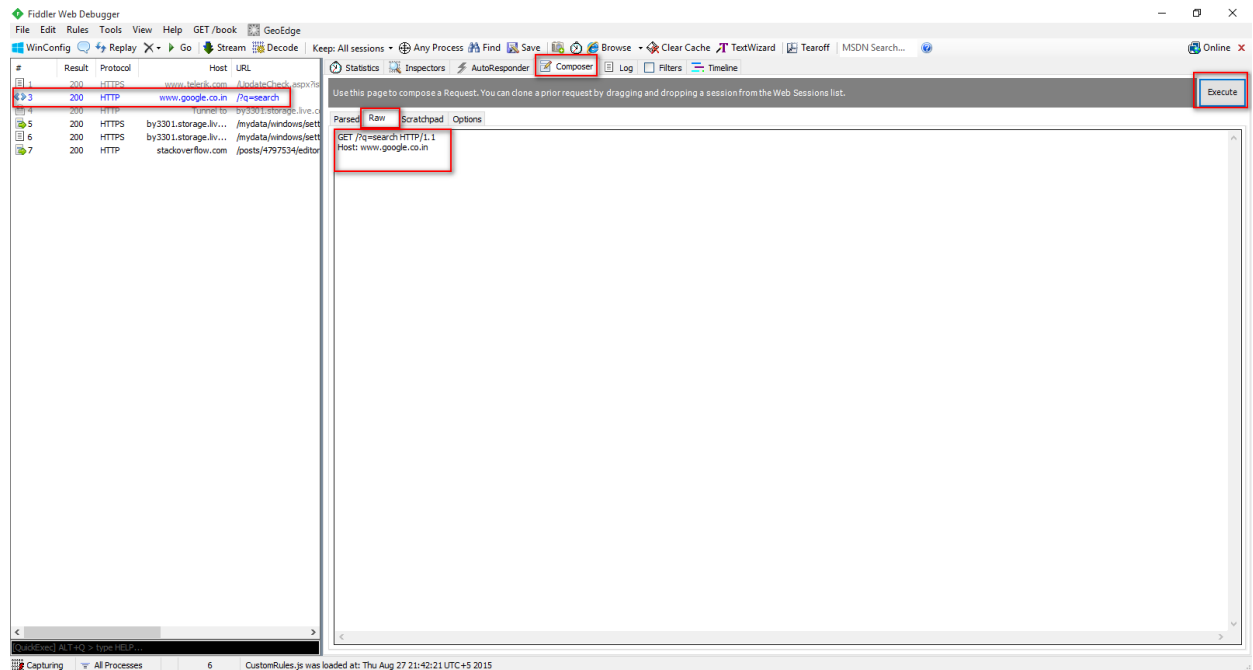
answered Oct 24, 2012 at 21:25

Johan Falk
4,339 ● 2 ● 30 ● 43

It may not be directly related to browsers, but [Fiddler](#) is another good software.

edited Jul 20, 2021 at 3:59

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Aug 27, 2015 at 16:17

Vineel
1,430 ● 15 ● 18

You could also use [Watir](#) or [WatiN](#) to automate browsers. Watir is written for Ruby and Watin is for .NET languages. I am not sure if it's what you are looking for, though.

- http://watin.sourceforge.net/

- http://watir.com/

edited Jul 19, 2021 at 20:31

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Jan 25, 2011 at 18:52

Ceres
3,605 ● 3 ● 18 ● 28

There have been some other clients born since the rise of Postman that is worth mentioning here:

- [Insomnia](#): with both desktop application and [Chrome plugin](#)

- [Hoppscotch](#): previously known as Postwoman, and with a [Chrome plugin available](#) as well. You can also [make it work locally with docker](#) if you want to get funny

- [Paw](#): if you are on Mac

- [Advanced Rest Client](#): already mentioned as a [Chrome plugin](#), but it is worth pointing out that it also has a desktop application

- [soapUI](#): written in Java and with lots of testing functionality

- **Boomerang**: yet another way to test APIs. It comes with SOAP integration and it also has a Chrome plugin available

- **Thunder Client**: if you use VS Code as your text editor then you should go and check out this awesome extension

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edited Jul 21, 2021 at 21:54

answered Sep 10, 2020 at 22:01

AnhellO
987 ● 1 ● 15 ● 17

3

The question being 12 years old now, it is easy to understand why the author asked a solution for Firefox or Chrome back then. After 12 years though, there are also other browsers and the best one which does not involve any add-ons or additional tools is **Microsoft Edge**.

Just open devtools (F12) and then Network Console tab (not the Network or Console tab. Click on + sign and open it, if it is not visible.).

And here is the official guide: https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-edge/devtools-guide-chromium/network-console/network-console-tool

Have fun!

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edited Feb 1, 2023 at 13:05

answered Feb 1, 2023 at 12:49

Adeptus
77 ● 4

3

Try Runscope. A free tool sampling their service is provided at https://www.hurl.it/.

You can set the method, authentication, headers, parameters, and body. The response shows status code, headers, and body. The response body can be formatted from JSON with a collapsable hierarchy.

Paid accounts can automate test API calls and use return data to build new test calls.

COI disclosure: I have no relationship to Runscope.

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edited Jul 20, 2021 at 3:58

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Apr 2, 2015 at 17:37

Bennett Brown
5,346 ● 1 ● 28 ● 35

> There is a free tier for Runscope too, it just has a lower limit of request per month and only 1 team member. Disclosure: I do :-) – Darrel Miller Apr 2, 2015 at 21:34

2

Windows CLI solution

In PowerShell you can use Invoke-WebRequest. Example syntax:

```
Invoke-WebRequest -Uri http://localhost:3000 -Method POST -Body @{
username='clever_name', password='hunter2' } -UseBasicParsing
```

On systems without Internet Explorer, you need the `-UseBasicParsing` flag.

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So it occurs to me that you can use the console, create a function, and just easily send requests from the console, which will have the correct cookies, etc.

so I just grabbed this from here: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Fetch_API/Using_Fetch#supplying_request_options

```javascript
// Example POST method implementation:
async function postData(url = '', data = {}, options = {}) {
  // Default options are marked with *
let defaultOptions = {
    method: 'POST', // *GET, POST, PUT, DELETE, etc.
    mode: 'cors', // no-cors, *cors, same-origin
    cache: 'no-cache', // *default, no-cache, reload, force-cache, only-if-cached
    credentials: 'same-origin', // include, *same-origin, omit
    headers: {
      'Content-Type': 'application/json'
      // 'Content-Type': 'application/x-www-form-urlencoded',
    },
    redirect: 'follow', // manual, *follow, error
    referrerPolicy: 'no-referrer', // no-referrer, *no-referrer-when-downgrade,
origin, origin-when-cross-origin, same-origin, strict-origin, strict-origin-
when-cross-origin, unsafe-url
    body: JSON.stringify(data) // body data type must match "Content-Type"
header
  }

// update the default options with specific options (e.g. { "method": "GET" } )
const requestParams = Object.assign(defaultOptions, options);

const response = await fetch(url, requestParams);
  return response.text(); // displays the simplest form of the output in the
console. Maybe changed to response.json() if you wish
}
```

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE GET REQUESTS, you can just put them in your browser address bar!

if you paste that into your console, then you can make POST requests by repeatedly calling your function like this:

```javascript
postData('https://example.com/answer', { answer: 42 })
  .then(data => {
    console.log(data); // you might want to use JSON.parse on this
  });
```

and the server output will be printed in the console (as well as all the data available in the network tab)

This function assumes you are sending JSON data. If you are not, you will need to change it to suite your needs

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edited Apr 11, 2022 at 13:28

answered Apr 11, 2022 at 12:59

Jay Day Zee
610 ● 6 ● 8

1

Check out http-tool for Firefox...

> Aimed at web developers who need to debug HTTP requests and responses. Can be extremely useful while developing REST based API.

> Features:
>
> - GET
> - HEAD
> - POST
> - PUT
> - DELETE
>
> Add header(s) to request.
> Add body content to request.
>
> View header(s) in response.
> View body content in response.
> View status code of response.
> View status text of response.

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edited Jul 20, 2021 at 3:48

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Jul 19, 2014 at 23:42

bobbyrne01
6,565 ● 20 ● 82 ● 156

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3   That is not available anymore, as it seems. (It likely is not a WebExtension and thus not compatible with Firefox >= 57.) – rugk Mar 12, 2019 at 10:24

The link (effectively) broken: *"Oops! We can't find that page"* – Peter Mortensen Jul 20, 2021 at 3:48

1

I tried to use postman app, had some auth issues. If you have to do it exclusively using browser, go to network tab, right click on the call, say edit and send response. There is a similar ans on here about Firefox, this right click worked for me on edge and pretty sure it would work for chrome too

answered Mar 10, 2022 at 18:33

Niraj Motiani
71 ● 1 ● 9

Option is available in Edge, but not in Chrome. – schmiddy98 Mar 23, 2023 at 20:52

▲

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You can post requests directly from the browser with ReqBin. No plugin or desktop application is required.

edited Jul 20, 2021 at 4:00

Peter Mortensen
31k ● 22 ● 109 ● 132

answered Jun 14, 2020 at 7:33

Khachatur
961 ● 1 ● 13 ● 31

🔥 Highly active question. Earn 10 reputation (not counting the association bonus) in order to answer this question. The reputation requirement helps protect this question from spam and non-answer activity.