

# sending file and json in POST multipart/form-data request with axios

Asked 3 years, 5 months ago   Active 1 year ago   Viewed 94k times

I am trying to send a file and some json in the same multipart POST request to my REST endpoint. The request is made directly from javascript using axios library as shown in the method below.

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```
doAjaxPost() {
  var formData = new FormData();
  var file = document.querySelector('#file');

  formData.append("file", file.files[0]);
  formData.append("document", documentJson);

  axios({
    method: 'post',
    url: 'http://192.168.1.69:8080/api/files',
    data: formData,
  })
  .then(function (response) {
    console.log(response);
  })
  .catch(function (response) {
    console.log(response);
  });
}
```

However, the problem is when I inspect the request in chrome developer tools in the network tab, I find no `Content-Type` field for `document`, while for `file` field `Content-Type` is `application/pdf` (I'm sending a pdf file).

▼ General

Request URL: http://192.168.1.69:8080/api/files  
Request Method: POST  
Status Code: 500 Internal Server Error  
Remote Address: 192.168.1.69:8080  
Referrer Policy: no-referrer-when-downgrade

▼ Response Headers

view source  
Connection: keep-alive  
Content-Length: 80  
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8  
Date: Sat, 09 Jun 2018 11:36:00 GMT

▼ Request Headers

view source  
Accept: application/json, text/plain, \*/\*  
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate  
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9  
Connection: keep-alive  
Content-Length: 41395519  
Content-Type: multipart/form-data; boundary=----WebKitFormBoundaryMkenLW7Aox7v4D1X  
Host: 192.168.1.69:8080  
Origin: http://localhost:3000  
Referer: http://localhost:3000/upload-file  
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86\_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Ubuntu Chromium/66.0.3359.181 Chrome/66.0.3359.181 Safari/537.36

▼ Request Payload

-----WebKitFormBoundaryMkenLW7Aox7v4D1X  
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="file"; filename="[object Object]"  
Content-Type: application/pdf  
  
-----WebKitFormBoundaryMkenLW7Aox7v4D1X  
Content-Disposition: form-data; name="document"  
  
-----WebKitFormBoundaryMkenLW7Aox7v4D1X--

On the server `Content-Type` for `document` is `text/plain; charset=us-ascii`.

## Update:


I managed to make a correct request via Postman, by sending `document` as a `.json` file. Though I discovered this only works on Linux/Mac.

javascript   json   file   axios   multipartform-data

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edited Jun 9 '18 at 12:39

asked Jun 9 '18 at 12:14

 pavlee  
519   1   10   16

## 3 Answers

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To set a content-type you need to pass a file-like object. You can create one using a `Blob`.

73

```
const obj = {
  hello: "world"
};
const json = JSON.stringify(obj);
const blob = new Blob([json], {
  type: 'application/json'
});
const data = new FormData();
data.append("document", blob);
axios({
  method: 'post',
  url: '/sample',
  data: data,
})
```

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answered Jun 9 '18 at 12:37

 **Quentin**  
828k 112 1109  
1233

- 1 I couldn't find a solution anywhere for so long, and you come almost instantly with the correct answer. Thank you very much! :) – [pavlee](#) Jun 9 '18 at 12:56
- 2 Where do you append the file here? Is it missing in this code sample? – [ElectRocnic](#) Feb 20 '19 at 18:21
- 1 @ElectRocnic — The entire answer is about generating the JSON file in memory and appending that. I didn't repeat the logic for reading a file from a file input because the question isn't about that (and the code to demonstrate that is already in the question). – [Quentin](#) Feb 20 '19 at 19:50
- 6 Thanks I got it running anyways. The only missing line was for me `formData.append("file", file)` which I added and it works for me :) – [ElectRocnic](#) Feb 20 '19 at 20:33
- 1 Very useful. Thanks. On the server, how do I unpack the 'document'? I see that the blob is uploaded as well as the file. I don't want the blob to be uploaded. I just need to unpack 'document'. How do I achieve that? – [abhisek](#) Mar 15 '19 at 6:56

Try this.

```
5 doAjaxPost() {
  var formData = new FormData();
  var file = document.querySelector('#file');

  formData.append("file", file.files[0]);
  // formData.append("document", documentJson); instead of this, use the line below.
  formData.append("document", JSON.stringify(documentJson));

  axios({
    method: 'post',
    url: 'http://192.168.1.69:8080/api/files',
    data: formData,
  })
  .then(function (response) {
    console.log(response);
  })
  .catch(function (response) {
    console.log(response);
  });
}
```

You can decode this stringified JSON in the back-end.

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edited Oct 30 '20 at 21:38

 **David Buck**  
3,503 32 27 34

answered Oct 30 '20 at 18:10

 **Fullstack Engineer**  
67 2 4


- 1 but the backend receives blob as the string of object like '[object Object]'. – [Fullstack Engineer](#) Nov 2 '20 at 4:28

you only need to add the right headers to your request

```
2 axios({
  method: 'post',
  url: 'http://192.168.1.69:8080/api/files',
  data: formData,
  header: {
    'Accept': 'application/json',
    'Content-Type': 'multipart/form-data',
  },
})
```

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answered Jun 9 '18 at 12:43

 **eth3rmit3**  
547 4 21

- My header fields were already correctly set. The problem was `Content-Type` in the payload. – [pavlee](#) Jun 9 '18 at 12:59
- yes precisely in the request it is written text/plain when there should be multipart/form-data – [eth3rmit3](#) Jun 9 '18 at 13:04
- 8 This will override the Content-Type for the multipart data, discarding the boundary parameter and breaking the ability of the server to parse it. It won't have any effect on

