

# The Neo4j HTTP API Docs v4.2

# Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Discovery API	3
Root discovery	3
Cypher transaction API	4
Transaction flow	4
Query format	5
Result formats	6
Begin a transaction	11
Run queries inside a transaction	12
Keeping transactions alive with an empty statement	13
Commit a transaction	13
Rollback an open transaction	14
Begin and commit a transaction in one request	14
Execute multiple statements	15
Include query statistics	16
Return results in graph format	17
Expired transactions	18
Handling errors	
Handling errors in an open transaction	19
Authentication and authorization	21
Introduction	21
Missing authorization	21
Incorrect authentication	21

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This is the manual for the Transactional Cypher HTTP endpoint for Neo4j version 4.2, authored by the Neo4j Team.

### This manual covers the following areas:

- Introduction
- Discovery API
- Cypher transaction API
- Authentication and authorization



For information on using the HTTP API to monitor a Causal Cluster, see Operations Manual \( \Bigcap \) Endpoints for status information.

### Who should read this?

This manual is written for the developer of a client application which accesses Neo4j through the HTTP API.

# Introduction

This chapter introduces the Neo4j HTTP API, and how to effectively use it.

The Neo4j transactional HTTP endpoint allows you to execute a series of Cypher statements within the scope of a transaction. The transaction may be kept open across multiple HTTP requests, until the client chooses to commit or roll back. Each HTTP request can include a list of statements, and for convenience you can include statements along with a request to begin or commit a transaction.

The server guards against orphaned transactions by using a timeout. If there are no requests for a given transaction within the timeout period, the server will roll it back. You can configure the timeout in the server configuration, by setting Operations Manual [] dbms.rest.transaction.idle\_timeout to the number of seconds before timeout. The default timeout is 60 seconds.

- Literal line breaks are not allowed inside Cypher statements.
- Cypher queries with USING PERIODIC COMMIT (see Cypher Manual 

  COMMIT query hint) may only be executed when creating a new transaction and immediately committing it with a single HTTP request (see Cypher Manual 

  Begin and commit a transaction in one request for how to do that).
- When a request fails the transaction will be rolled back. By checking the result for the presence/absence of the transaction key you can figure out if the transaction is still open.



In order to speed up queries in repeated scenarios, try not to use literals but replace them with parameters wherever possible. This will let the server cache query plans. See Cypher Manual 

Parameters for more information.

Responses from the HTTP API can be transmitted as JSON streams, resulting in better performance and lower memory overhead on the server side. To use streaming, supply the header X-Stream: true with each request.

# Discovery API

This chapter describes the actions that can be performed using the Discovery HTTP endpoint.

# Root discovery

Each server provides a root discovery URI that lists a basic index of other URIs, as well as version information.

### Example request

```
GET http://localhost:7474/
Accept: application/json
```

```
200 OK
Content-Type: application/json

{
    "bolt_direct": "bolt://localhost:7687",
    "bolt_routing": "neo4j://localhost:7687",
    "cluster": "http://localhost:7687/db/{databaseName}/cluster",
    "transaction": "http://localhost:7687/db/{databaseName}/tx",
    "neo4j_version": "4.0.0",
    "neo4j_edition": "enterprise"
}
```

# Cypher transaction API

This chapter describes the actions that can be performed using the Cypher transaction HTTP endpoint.

This chapter includes the following sections:

### Concepts:

- Transaction flow
- Query format
- Result formats

### Using the API:

- Begin a transaction
- Run queries inside a transaction
- · Keeping transactions alive with an empty statement
- Commit a transaction
- Rollback an open transaction
- · Begin and commit a transaction in one request

#### Additional actions:

- Execute multiple statements
- Include query statistics
- Return results in graph format

### Error handling:

- Expired transactions
- Handling errors
- Handling errors in an open transaction

### Transaction flow

Cypher transactions are managed over several distinct URIs that are designed to be used in a prescribed pattern. Facilities are provided to carry out the full transaction cycle over a single HTTP request, or over multiple HTTP requests.

The overall flow is illustrated below, with each box representing a separate HTTP request:

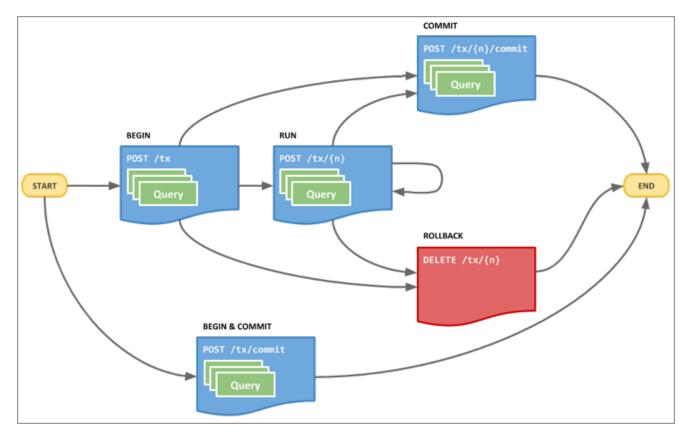


Figure 1. Cypher transaction flow

### Transaction lifetime

The state of each transaction is maintained on the server on which the transaction began. Transactions expire automatically after a period of inactivity. By default this is 60 seconds.

To keep a transaction alive without submitting new queries, an empty statement list can be posted to the  $\frac{tx}{n}$  URI.

# Query format

All transaction POST requests can accept one or more Cypher queries within the request payload. This enables a large amount of flexibility in how, and when, queries are sent, and can help to reduce the number of individual HTTP requests overall.

The payload is sent as JSON with the following general structure:

For example:

Parameters are included as key-value pairs, with each value adopting a type that corresponds to an entry in the mapping table below:

Table 1. HTTP parameter type mappings

JSON Type	Cypher Type
null	Null
boolean	Boolean
number	Float
string	String
array	List
object	Мар

# Result formats

### Default

This format returns JSON with an embedded results element. To request this format, place application/json in the Accept header. This format is the default returned if no Accept header is provided.

For example, running the query UNWIND range (0,2,1) as number RETURN number will return the following results:

```
{
    "results": [
             "columns": [
                 "number"
             "data": [
                     "row": [
                         0
                      "meta": [
                          null
                      "row": [
                          1
                      "meta": [
                          null
                     ]
                      "row": [
                     ],
"meta": [
                          null
                 }
             ]
        }
    ],
// other transactional data
}
```

# Jolt

Jolt, short for JSON Bolt, is a JSON-based format which encloses the response value's type together with the value inside a singleton object.

For example:

```
{ "Z": "2" }
```

This labels the value 2 as an integer type.

This format can be returned when adding application/vnd.neo4j.jolt+json-seq to the request's Accept header.

### Strict and sparse

There are two modes of Jolt that can be returned:

- Strict mode, where all values are paired with their type.
- Sparse mode, which omits typing pairing on values which can suitably be matched to JSON types.

By default, the *sparse mode* is returned. To enable *strict mode*, pass application/vnd.neo4j.jolt+json-seq; strict=true in the Accept header.

### Jolt types

### Base types

Type Label	Туре	Example
(N/A)	null	null
?	Boolean	{ "?": "true" }
Z	Integer	{ "Z": "123" }
R	Float/Real	{ "R": "9.87" } <sup>[1]</sup>
U	String	{ "U": "A string" }
Т	Date/Time	{ "T": "2002-04-16T12:34:56"}
@	Geospatial	{"@": "POINT (30 10)"}
#	Base64	{ "#": "AaBb" }

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>[1]</sup>The type label R is used both to indicate floating point numbers and integers that are outside the range of 32-bit signed integers.

### Composite types

Type Label	Туре	Example
	List	{ "[]": [ { "Z": "123" }, ] }
{}	Dictionary	{ "{}": { "name": { "U": "Jeff"},}}

### Entity types

### Node

```
{"()": [ node_id, [ node_labels], {"prop1": "value1", "prop2": "value2"}]}
```

For example:

```
{
"()": [
    4711,
    [
        "A",
        "B"
    ],
    {
        "prop1": {
             "Z": "1"
        },
        "prop2": {
             "U": "Hello"
        }
    }
}
```

### Relationships

```
{"->": [ rel_id, start_node_id, rel_type, end_node_id, {properties}]}
{"<-": [ rel_id, end_node_id, rel_type, start_node_id, {properties}]}</pre>
```

For example:

```
{
    "->": [
        4711,
        123,
        "KNOWS",
        124,
        {
            "since": {
                "Z": "1999"
        }
     }
}
```

### Paths

```
{"..": [{node_1},{rel_1},{node_2},...,{node_n},{rel_n},{node_n+1}]}
```

For example:

### Container format

Jolt results will be returned in a new container format based on events. A typical response will contain:

```
{"header":{"fields":["name","age"]}}
{"data":[{"U":"Bob"},{"Z":"30"}]}
{"data":[{"U":"Alice"},{"Z":"40"}]}
{"data":[{"U":"Eve"},{"Z":"50"}]}
...
{"summary":{}}
{"info":{"commit":"commit/uri/1"}}
```

Each event is a separate JSON document separated by a single new line character:

Event	Function
header	Marks the start of a result set for a statement, and contains query fields.
data	For each record returned in the result set there will be a data json object. Depending on the query, each query can return multiple data objects.  The order of values in the array match the fields received in the header.
summary	Marks the end of a result set for a statement.  Can contain query plan information if requested.

Event	Function
info	Final event to appear after processing all statements (unless an error has occurred), and can contain transaction information (e.g. a commit URI).
error	Errors which occur during the processing of the transaction.

### Multiple result sets in a request

When there are multiple queries in a single request there will be multiple header, data, and summary outputs for each query.

For example, posting the following request:

```
{
    "statements" : [
        { "statement" : "RETURN 1 as resultA"},
        { "statement" : "UNWIND range(1,3,1) as resultB RETURN resultB"}
    ]
}
```

will yield the following result response:

```
{"header":{"fields":["resultA"]}}
{"data":[{"Z":"1"}]}
{"summary":{}}
{"header":{"fields":["resultB"]}}
{"data":[{"Z":"1"}]}
{"data":[{"Z":"2"}]}
{"data":[{"Z":"3"}]}
{"summary":{}}
{"summary":{}}
{"info":{}}
```

Results sets will be returned in the same order as passed in the original request.

## Begin a transaction

A new transaction can be started by posting zero or more Cypher queries to the transaction endpoint. The server will respond with the results of your queries, as well as the location of your new transaction.

Transactions expire automatically after a period of inactivity (i.e. queries and a commit). By default this is 60 seconds.

To keep a transaction alive without submitting new queries, an empty statement list can be posted to the transaction URI.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- Content-Type: application/json

### Example response

- 201: Created
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8
- Location: http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/14

# Run queries inside a transaction

Once you have an open transaction by calling db/{name}/tx, you can run additional statements that form part of your transaction by calling the newly created transaction endpoint. The endpoint will be in the form db/{name}/tx/{txid}, where txid is provided in the response of the initial call to begin the transaction.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/16
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "CREATE (n) RETURN n"
   } ]
}
```

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

# Keeping transactions alive with an empty statement

If you need to extend the timeout while processing a transaction, you can send a POST to the transaction's endpoint with a blank HTTP body.

For example:

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/2
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- · Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ ]
}
```

### Example response

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

```
{
   "results" : [ ],
   "errors" : [ ],
   "commit" : "http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/2/commit",
   "transaction" : {
        "expires" : "Wed, 17 Feb 2021 16:32:38 GMT"
   }
}
```

### Commit a transaction

When you have executed all the statements for the transaction, and want to commit the changes to the database, you can use POST db/{name}/tx/{txid}/commit, which can also include any final statements to execute before committing:

#### Example request

POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/commit

- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- Content-Type: application/json

```
{
    "statements" : [ {
        "statement" : "MATCH (n) WHERE ID(n) = $nodeId RETURN n",
        "parameters" : {
            "nodeId" : 5
        }
    }
}
```

### Example response

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

# Rollback an open transaction

Given that you have an open transaction, you can send a rollback request. The server will roll back the transaction. Any attempt to run additional statements in this transaction will fail immediately.

#### Example request

- DELETE http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/3
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8

### Example response

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

```
{
    "results" : [ ],
    "errors" : [ ]
}
```

# Begin and commit a transaction in one request

If there is no need to keep a transaction open across multiple HTTP requests, you can begin a transaction, execute statements, and commit within a single HTTP request.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/commit
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- · Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "MATCH (n) WHERE ID(n) = $nodeId RETURN n",
      "parameters" : {
            "nodeId" : 6
      }
    }
} ]
}
```

### Example response

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

# Execute multiple statements

You can send multiple Cypher statements in the same request. The response will contain the result of each statement.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/commit
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "MATCH (n) WHERE ID(n) = $nodeId RETURN n",
      "parameters" : {
            "nodeId" : 2
      }
    } ]
}
```

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

# Include query statistics

By setting includeStats to true for a statement, query statistics will be returned for it.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/commit
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "CREATE (n) RETURN id(n)",
      "includeStats" : true
   } ]
}
```

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

```
"results" : [ {
    "columns" : [ "id(n)" ],
   "data" : [ {
    "row" : [ 4 ],
    "meta" : [ null ]
   } ],
    'stats" : {
      "contains_updates" : true,
      "nodes_created" : 1,
"nodes_deleted" : 0,
      "properties_set" : 0,
      "relationships_created" : 0,
      "relationship_deleted" : 0,
      "labels_added" : 0,
"labels_removed" : 0,
     "indexes_added" : 0,
"indexes_removed" : 0,
"constraints_added" : 0,
"constraints_removed" : 0,
      "contains_system_updates": false,
      "system_updates" : 0
   }
} ],
 "errors" : [ ]
```

# Return results in graph format

If you want to understand the graph structure of nodes and relationships returned by your query, you can specify the graph results data format. This is useful when you want to visualize the graph structure. The format collates all the nodes and relationships from all columns of the result, and also flattens collections of nodes and relationships, including paths.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/commit
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- · Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "CREATE ( bike:Bike { weight: 10 } ) CREATE ( frontWheel:Wheel { spokes: 3 } ) CREATE (
backWheel:Wheel { spokes: 32 } ) CREATE p1 = (bike)-[:HAS { position: 1 } ]->(frontWheel) CREATE p2 =
(bike)-[:HAS { position: 2 } ]->(backWheel) RETURN bike, p1, p2",
      "resultDataContents" : [ "row", "graph" ]
} ]
}
```

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

```
"results": [ {
    "columns": [ "bike", "p1", "p2" ],
   "data" : [ {
    "row" : [ {
          "weight": 10
     }, [ {
    "weight" : 10
      }, {
         "position" : 1
      }, {
    "spokes" : 3
      } ], [ {
          'weight" : 10
          "position" : 2
      }, {
  "spokes" : 32
      } ] ],
"meta" : [ {
    "id" : 7,
    "type" : "node",
         "deleted" : false
      }, [ {
    "id" : 7,
    "type" : "node",
    "deleted" : false
      }, {
    "id" : 0,
    "type" : "relationship",
         "deleted" : false
      }, {
   "id" : 8,
   "type" : "node",
         "deleted" : false
      } ], [ {
         "id" : 7,
"type" : "node",
         "deleted" : false
          "id" : 1,
```

```
"type" : "relationship",
"deleted" : false
       }, {
    "id" : 9,
    "type" : "node",
           "deleted" : false
       } ]],
        'graph" : {
    "nodes" : [ {
              "id" : "7",
              "labels" : [ "Bike" ],
"properties" : {
                  "weight" : 10
              }
          }, {
    "id" : "8",
    "labels" : [ "Wheel" ],
    "properties" : {
                  "spokes": 3
             }
          }, {
             "id" : "9",
"labels" : [ "Wheel" ],
"properties" : {
                  "spokes" : 32
              }
          } ],
           "relationships" : [ {
              "id" : "0",
"type" : "HAS"
              "startNode" : "7",
"endNode" : "8",
              "properties" : {
    "position" : 1
              }
          }, {
    "id" : "1",
             "id" : "1",
"type" : "HAS",
"startNode" : "7",
"endNode" : "9",
"properties" : {
    "position" : 2
          } ]
       }
   } ]
```

# Expired transactions

If an attempt is made to commit a transaction which has timed out, you will see the following error:

## Handling errors

The result of any request against the transaction endpoint is streamed back to the client. Therefore, the server does not know whether the request will be successful or not when it sends the HTTP status

code.

Because of this, all requests against the transactional endpoint will return 200 or 201 status code, regardless of whether statements were successfully executed. At the end of the response payload, the server includes a list of errors that occurred while executing statements. If the list is empty, the request completed successfully.

If errors occur while executing statements, the server will roll back the transaction.

In this example, we send an invalid statement to the server in order to demonstrate error handling.

For more information on the status codes, see neo4j-status-codes-4.2.pdf.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/15/commit
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- · Content-Type: application/json

```
{
    "statements" : [ {
        "statement" : "This is not a valid Cypher Statement."
    } ]
}
```

### Example response

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

```
{
   "results" : [ ],
   "errors" : [ {
      "code" : "Neo.ClientError.Statement.SyntaxError",
      "message" : "Invalid input 'This': expected \n \"RETURN\"\n \"CREATE\"\n \"DELETE\"\n \"SET\"\n \"REMOVE\"\n \"DETACH\"\n \"MATCH\"\n \"WITH\"\n \"UNWIND\"\n \"USE\"\n \"CALL\"\n \"LOAD\"\n \"FROM\"\n \"FOREACH\"\n \"MERGE\"\n \"OPTIONAL\"\n \"USING\" (line 1, column 1 (offset: 0))\n\"This is not a valid Cypher Statement.\"\n ^"
        } ],
      "commit" : "http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/15/commit"
    }
}
```

# Handling errors in an open transaction

If there is an error in a request, the server will roll back the transaction. You can tell if the transaction is still open by inspecting the response for the presence/absence of the transaction key.

#### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/13
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "This is not a valid Cypher Statement."
   } ]
}
```

- 200: OK
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8

```
{
    "results" : [ ],
    "errors" : [ {
        "code" : "Neo.ClientError.Statement.SyntaxError",
        "message" : "Invalid input 'This': expected \n \"RETURN\"\n \"CREATE\"\n \"DELETE\"\n \"SET\"\n \"REMOVE\"\n \"DETACH\"\n \"MATCH\"\n \"WITH\"\n \"UNWIND\"\n \"USE\"\n \"CALL\"\n \"LOAD\"\n \"FROM\"\n \"FOREACH\"\n \"MERGE\"\n \"OPTIONAL\"\n \"USING\" (line 1, column 1 (offset: 0))\n\"This is not a valid Cypher Statement.\"\n ^"
        } ],
        "commit" : "http://localhost:35105/db/neo4j/tx/13/commit"
}
```

# Authentication and authorization

This chapter describes the authentication and authorization required to use the HTTP API.

This chapter includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- · Missing authorization
- Incorrect authentication

### Introduction

Authentication and authorization are enabled by default in Neo4j (refer to Operations Manual 

Authentication and authorization). With authentication and authorization enabled, requests to the 
HTTP API must be authorized using the username and password of a valid user.

## Missing authorization

If an Authorization header is not supplied, the server will reply with an error.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:44923/db/neo4j/tx/commit
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- · Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "CREATE (n:MyLabel) RETURN n"
   } ]
}
```

#### Example response

- 401: Unauthorized
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8
- WWW-Authenticate: Basic realm="Neo4j"

```
{
  "errors" : [ {
    "code" : "Neo.ClientError.Security.Unauthorized",
    "message" : "No authentication header supplied."
  } ]
}
```



If authentication and authorization have been disabled, HTTP API requests can be sent without an Authorization header.

## Incorrect authentication

If an incorrect username or password is provided, the server replies with an error.

### Example request

- POST http://localhost:35851/db/neo4j/tx/commit
- Accept: application/json;charset=UTF-8
- Authorization: Basic bmVvNGo6aW5jb3JyZWN0
- Content-Type: application/json

```
{
   "statements" : [ {
      "statement" : "CREATE (n:MyLabel) RETURN n"
   } ]
}
```

- 401: Unauthorized
- Content-Type: application/json;charset=utf-8
- WWW-Authenticate: Basic realm="Neo4j"

```
{
   "errors" : [ {
      "code" : "Neo.ClientError.Security.Unauthorized",
      "message" : "Invalid username or password."
   } ]
}
```