Uses inefficient cache policy on static assets

Overview

HTTP caching can speed up your page load time on repeat visits.

When a browser requests a resource, the server providing the resource can tell the browser how long it should temporarily store or "cache" the resource. For any subsequent request for that resource, the browser uses its local copy, rather than going to the network to get it.

Recommendations

Configure your server to return the `Cache-Control` HTTP response header.
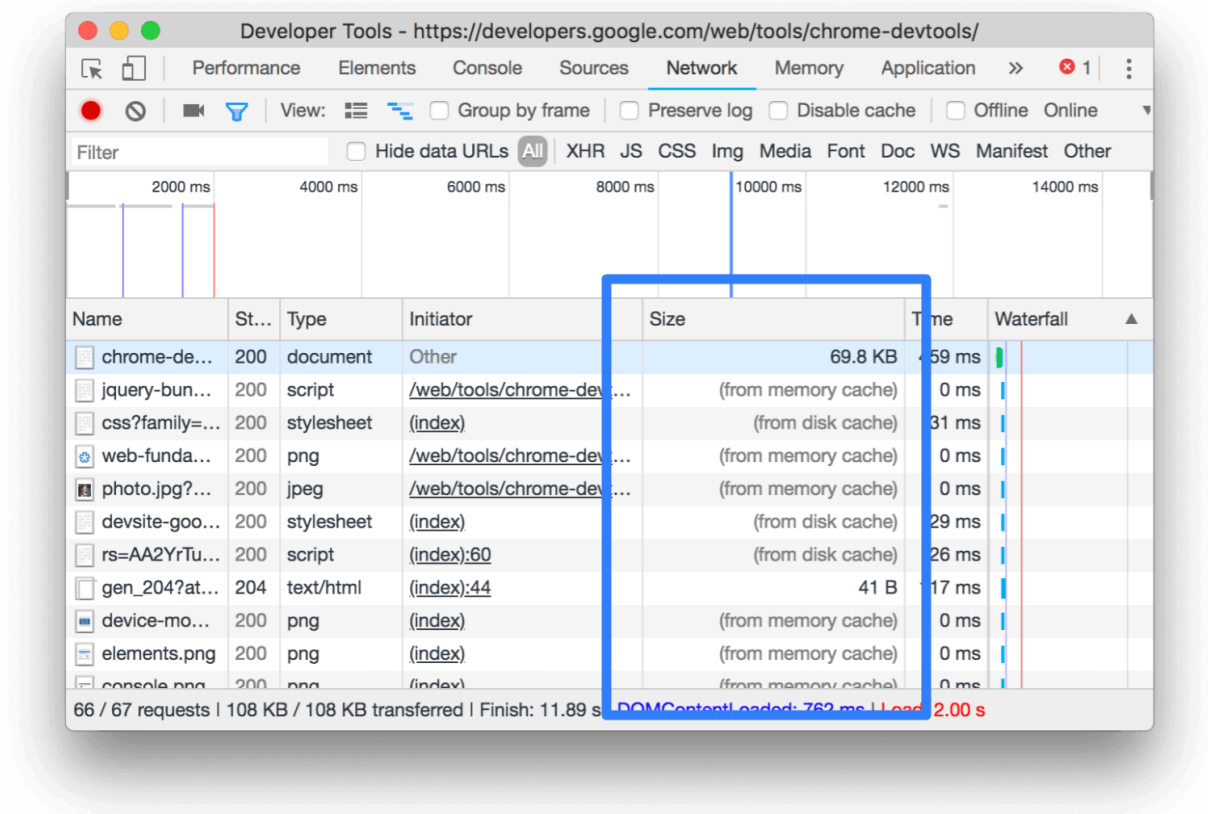
```
Cache-Control: max-age=86400
```

The `max-age` directive tells the browser how long it should cache the resource, in seconds. `86400` corresponds to 1 day (60 seconds * 60 minutes * 24 hours).

There are many directives for customizing how the browser caches different resources. See the links below for more guidance.

- Defining optimal Cache-Control policy
- Cache-Control specification ↗
- Cache-Control (MDN) ↗

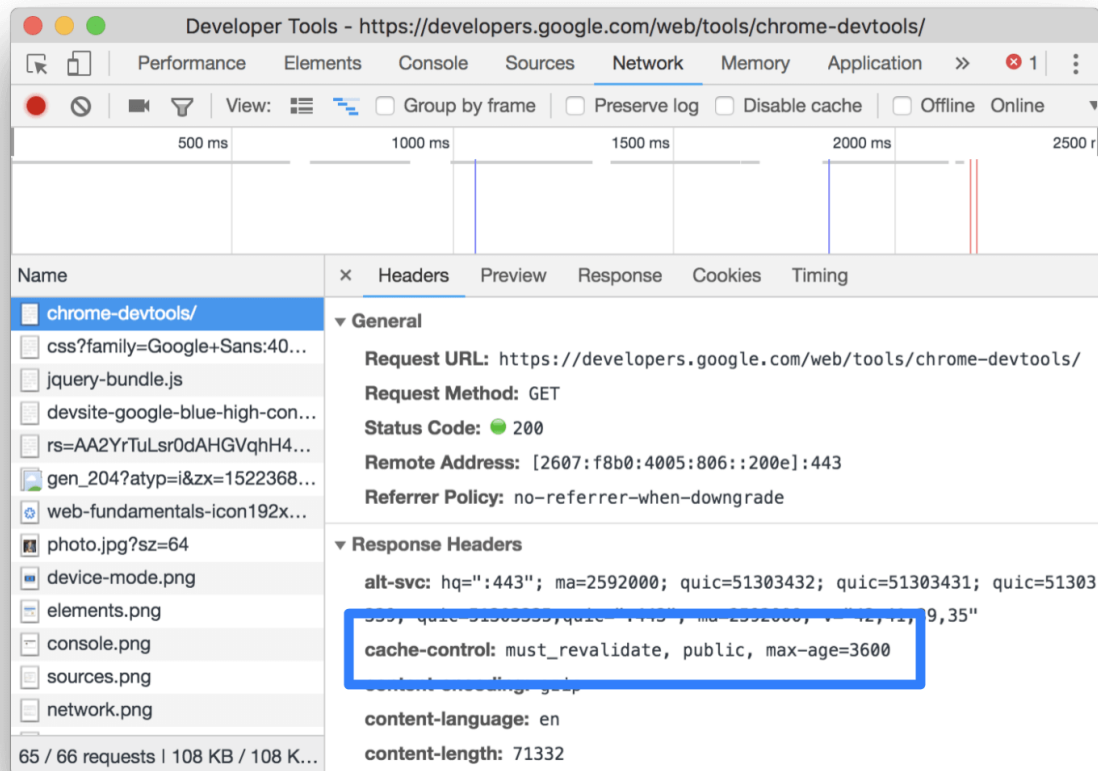**Caution:** Make sure to provide yourself a way to invalidate and update cached responses.

The **Size** column in Chrome DevTools can help you verify that a resource has been cached.

Figure 1. The **Size** column

Chrome serves the most requested resources from the memory cache, which is very fast, but is cleared when the browser is closed.

The **Headers** tab can help you verify a resource's `Cache-Control` header is set as expected.

Figure 2. Inspecting the `Cache-Control` header via the **Headers** tab

More information

Lighthouse considers a resource cache-able if:

- It's a font, image, media file, script, or stylesheet.

- It has a `200`, `203`, or `206` HTTP status code.

- It doesn't have an explicit no-cache policy.

Lighthouse then estimates how much network data you could have saved your users if the resources had been cached. This estimate includes some calculations of optimal cache duration for each resource, based on aggregate usage statistics reported to Chrome. A longer duration is not necessarily better. Check out the audit source for details. Ultimately, it's up to you to decide what the optimal cache duration is for your resources.

Sources:

- Audit source ↗

Feedback

Was this page helpful?

YES NO

Great! Thank you for the feedback.

Sorry to hear that. Please open an issue and tell us how we can improve.