

# HTTP METHODS

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BONUS  
INTERVIEW  
QUESTIONS



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# HTTP

**defines a set of request methods to indicate specific action to be performed for a resource.**

**Most commonly used HTTP methods:**

- GET
- PUT
- POST
- DELETE



## 0. GET

Used to request data from server

Only used to request data, not modify

Safe, idempotent and cacheable

## 1. POST

Most commonly used HTTP request method

Creates new entry in server

Cacheable (in several cases), not idempotent or safe

## 2. PUT

Creates new entry or replaces already present data

Idempotent not safe or cacheable

## 3. DELETE

Deletes the specified resource

Idempotent not safe or cacheable



# Methods can be classified under the following features :

**SAFE**

**IDEMPOTENT**

**CACHEABLE**



## SAFE

Methods that do not alter the state of the server (i.e. reading from data)

Eg- GET, HEAD, or OPTIONS.

PUT and DELETE are not safe

All safe methods are idempotent

## IDEMPOTENT

Making multiple identical requests have the same effect as making a single request. (i.e. making several DELETE request, will only result in deleting data once with 200 return code and is likely to 400 for duplicate ones)

Eg- GET, HEAD, PUT, and DELETE methods are idempotent, but not the POST method

## CACHEABLE

Response that can be cached, that is stored to be retrieved and used later.

GET, POST (in some cases only) can be cached, but not PUT or DELETE.

Can be prevented by specific headers in the response, like Cache-Control

Some response codes are also cacheable

If both method and the status of the response are cacheable, the response can be cached



# **BONUS INTERVIEW QUESTION**

## Difference between POST vs PUT ?

**This is very confusing and a frequently asked question in interviews.**

The difference between PUT and POST is that; PUT is idempotent. Calling it once or several times has no side effect, where multiple POST may have additional effects, like entering new data every time.

POST means “**create new entry**” whereas PUT says “**if the entry doesn’t exist, create else replace**”.

Both PUT and POST can be used for creating, but you have to choose wisely among them.



# Consider an example of any Social media

0. POST - You want to upload status, you POST it on your timeline (its new and not already present )
1. Your friend POST a comment on your post (again a new entry)
2. PUT - Your friend wants to edit his comment, he will do it by PUT (only the entry needs to be edited, using POST will create new comment under the status every time)

**Simple thumb Rule :**

Use POST to create,  
use PUT to update. □





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