HTTP Extension Framework

The HTTP Extension Framework is a generic extension mechanism for HTTP which describes which extensions are used along with information about who the recipient is, and how the recipient should deal with them. This way, the problem between private agreement and public specification are dealt with and extension of applications using HTTP clients, servers, and proxies are accommodated. On February 14, 2000, the HTTP Extension Framework was moved to Experimental RFC (RFC 2774).

**Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning (WebDAV)**

WebDAV is an HTTP extension that allows clients to perform remote Web content authoring operations such as copy, move, delete and create. It was created by a group of the Internet Engineering Task Force and defined in RFC 4918.WebDAV supports maintenance of properties about an author or modification date, namespace management, collections, and overwrite protection. This way, certain authoring operations could be done within a server’s namespace, with different resources.

The DAV protocol enables property setting, deleting, and retrieving. The DASL (DAV Searching and Locating) protocol enables searches based on property values for locating resources on the Web.

History

It began in 1996 when Jim Whitehead partnered with the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to host two meetings to discuss the problem of distributed authoring on the World Wide Web because as the Web grew, it became a read-only medium for most users. Dealing with both distributed and versioning together was a lot to handle so it was decided that WebDAV would focus more on distributed authoring, which facilitates collaborative editing and file management between users located remotely from each other on the Internet.

WebDAV extends the set of standard HTTP verbs and headers allowed for request methods:

**COPY**

This allows you to copy a resource from one URI to another.

**LOCK**

This puts a lock on a resource. WebDAV supports both shared and exclusive locks.

**MKCOL**

This creates collections or directories.

**MOVE**

This moves a resource from one URI to another.

**PROPFIND**

This retrieves properties that are stored as XML from a web resource. It can also retrieve the collection structure (directory hierarchy) of a remote system.

**PROPPATCH**

This changes and deletes multiple properties on a resource in a single atomic act.

**UNLOCK**

This removes a lock from a resource.