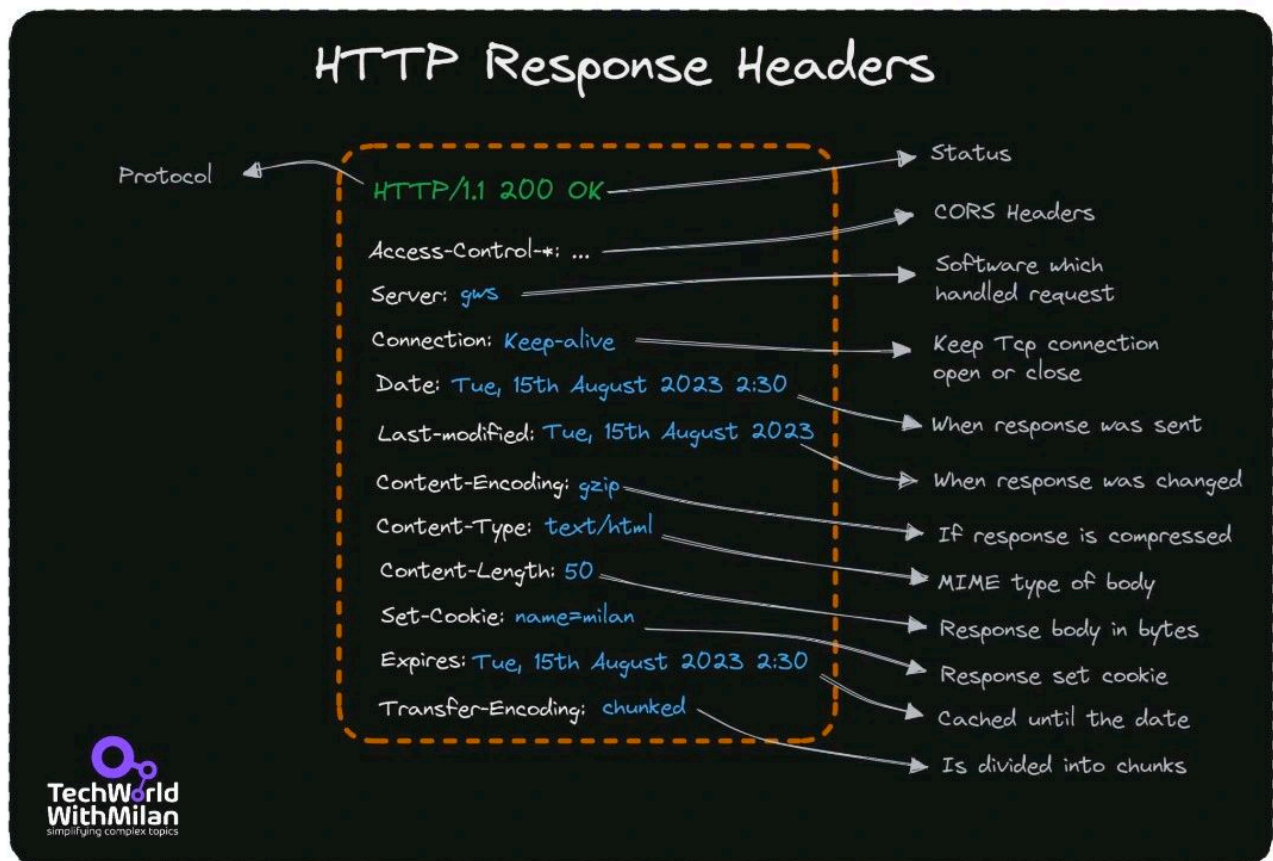


Understanding REST Headers



The Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) header is a component of HTTP and transmits extra data during HTTP requests and responses. The server uses the HTTP header and the browser to share metadata about the document and the data sent to the browser by the web server of the called website.

A variety of data in the **REST headers** can be used to trace down problems as they arise. As they show the meta-data related to the API request and response, HTTP Headers play a significant role in the API request and response. Headers contain data for:

1. Request and Response Body

2. Request Authorization

3. Response Caching

4. Response Cookies

Also, to the categories mentioned above, HTTP headers contain various information about different HTTP connection types, proxies, etc. The majority of these headers are used to maintain connections between clients, servers, and proxies. Thus, testing is not necessary.

In general, we have **request and response headers**. We set a request header when sending a request to an API and get some headers with a response. The common header structure is in the form **Name:value**, but it can have many values separated using a comma.

Some **common headers** are:

◆ **Authorization**: which contains the client's authentication information for the requested resource.

◆ **Accept-Charset**: This header instructs the server which character sets the client accepts and is set with the request.

◆ **Content-Type**: Specifies the response's media type (text/html or text/JSON), which will aid the client in processing the response's body.

◆ **Cache-Control**: The client may keep and reuse a cached response for the duration specified by the Cache-Control header. This is the cache policy set by the server for this response.