**Servelets-HTTP client request**

When a browser requests for a web page, it sends lot of information to the web server which cannot be read directly because this information travel as a part of header of HTTP request. You can check [HTTP Protocol](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/http/index.htm) for more information on this.

Following is the important header information which comes from browser side and you would use very frequently in web programming −

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| **Sr.No.** | **Header & Description** |
| 1 | **Accept**  This header specifies the MIME types that the browser or other clients can handle. Values of **image/png** or **image/jpeg** are the two most common possibilities. |
| 2 | **Accept-Charset**  This header specifies the character sets the browser can use to display the information. For example ISO-8859-1. |
| 3 | **Accept-Encoding**  This header specifies the types of encodings that the browser knows how to handle. Values of **gzip** or **compress** are the two most common possibilities. |
| 4 | **Accept-Language**  This header specifies the client's preferred languages in case the servlet can produce results in more than one language. For example en, en-us, ru, etc |
| 5 | **Authorization**  This header is used by clients to identify themselves when accessing password-protected Web pages. |
| 6 | **Connection**  This header indicates whether the client can handle persistent HTTP connections. Persistent connections permit the client or other browser to retrieve multiple files with a single request. A value of **Keep-Alive** means that persistent connections should be used. |
| 7 | **Content-Length**  This header is applicable only to POST requests and gives the size of the POST data in bytes. |
| 8 | **Cookie**  This header returns cookies to servers that previously sent them to the browser. |
| 9 | **Host**  This header specifies the host and port as given in the original URL. |
| 10 | **If-Modified-Since**  This header indicates that the client wants the page only if it has been changed after the specified date. The server sends a code, 304 which means **Not Modified** header if no newer result is available. |
| 11 | **If-Unmodified-Since**  This header is the reverse of If-Modified-Since; it specifies that the operation should succeed only if the document is older than the specified date. |
| 12 | **Referer**  This header indicates the URL of the referring Web page. For example, if you are at Web page 1 and click on a link to Web page 2, the URL of Web page 1 is included in the Referrer header when the browser requests Web page 2. |
| 13 | **User-Agent**  This header identifies the browser or other client making the request and can be used to return different content to different types of browsers. |

Methods to read HTTP Header

There are following methods which can be used to read HTTP header in your servlet program. These methods are available with *HttpServletRequest* object

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| **Sr.No.** | **Method & Description** |
| 1 | **Cookie[] getCookies()**  Returns an array containing all of the Cookie objects the client sent with this request. |
| 2 | **Enumeration getAttributeNames()**  Returns an Enumeration containing the names of the attributes available to this request. |
| 3 | **Enumeration getHeaderNames()**  Returns an enumeration of all the header names this request contains. |
| 4 | **Enumeration getParameterNames()**  Returns an Enumeration of String objects containing the names of the parameters contained in this request |
| 5 | **HttpSession getSession()**  Returns the current session associated with this request, or if the request does not have a session, creates one. |
| 6 | **HttpSession getSession(boolean create)**  Returns the current HttpSession associated with this request or, if if there is no current session and value of create is true, returns a new session. |
| 7 | **Locale getLocale()**  Returns the preferred Locale that the client will accept content in, based on the Accept-Language header. |
| 8 | **Object getAttribute(String name)**  Returns the value of the named attribute as an Object, or null if no attribute of the given name exists. |
| 9 | **ServletInputStream getInputStream()**  Retrieves the body of the request as binary data using a ServletInputStream. |
| 10 | **String getAuthType()**  Returns the name of the authentication scheme used to protect the servlet, for example, "BASIC" or "SSL," or null if the JSP was not protected. |
| 11 | **String getCharacterEncoding()**  Returns the name of the character encoding used in the body of this request. |
| 12 | **String getContentType()**  Returns the MIME type of the body of the request, or null if the type is not known. |
| 13 | **String getContextPath()**  Returns the portion of the request URI that indicates the context of the request. |
| 14 | **String getHeader(String name)**  Returns the value of the specified request header as a String. |
| 15 | **String getMethod()**  Returns the name of the HTTP method with which this request was made, for example, GET, POST, or PUT. |
| 16 | **String getParameter(String name)**  Returns the value of a request parameter as a String, or null if the parameter does not exist. |
| 17 | **String getPathInfo()**  Returns any extra path information associated with the URL the client sent when it made this request |
| 18 | **String getProtocol()**  Returns the name and version of the protocol the request. |
| 19 | **String getQueryString()**  Returns the query string that is contained in the request URL after the path. |
| 20 | **String getRemoteAddr()**  Returns the Internet Protocol (IP) address of the client that sent the request. |
| 21 | **String getRemoteHost()**  Returns the fully qualified name of the client that sent the request. |
| 22 | **String getRemoteUser()**  Returns the login of the user making this request, if the user has been authenticated, or null if the user has not been authenticated. |
| 23 | **String getRequestURI()**  Returns the part of this request's URL from the protocol name up to the query string in the first line of the HTTP request. |
| 24 | **String getRequestedSessionId()**  Returns the session ID specified by the client. |
| 25 | **String getServletPath()**  Returns the part of this request's URL that calls the JSP. |
| 26 | **String[] getParameterValues(String name)**  Returns an array of String objects containing all of the values the given request parameter has, or null if the parameter does not exist. |
| 27 | **boolean isSecure()**  Returns a Boolean indicating whether this request was made using a secure channel, such as HTTPS. |
| 28 | **int getContentLength()**  Returns the length, in bytes, of the request body and made available by the input stream, or -1 if the length is not known. |
| 29 | **int getIntHeader(String name)**  Returns the value of the specified request header as an int. |
| 30 | **int getServerPort()**  Returns the port number on which this request was received |