

The GNU libmicrohttpd Reference Manual

Version 0.9.4
25 December 2010

Marco Maggi (marco.maggi-ipsu@poste.it)
Christian Grothoff (christian@grothoff.org)

This manual documents GNU libmicrohttpd version 0.9.4, last updated 25 December 2010. It is built upon the documentation in the header file `'microhttpd.h'`.

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GNU libmicrohttpd is a GNU package.

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1 Introduction

All symbols defined in the public API start with `MHD_`. MHD is a small HTTP daemon library. As such, it does not have any API for logging errors (you can only enable or disable logging to `stderr`). Also, it may not support all of the HTTP features directly, where applicable, portions of HTTP may have to be handled by clients of the library.

The library is supposed to handle everything that it must handle (because the API would not allow clients to do this), such as basic connection management; however, detailed interpretations of headers — such as range requests — and HTTP methods are left to clients. The library does understand `HEAD` and will only send the headers of the response and not the body, even if the client supplied a body. The library also understands headers that control connection management (specifically, `Connection: close` and `Expect: 100 continue` are understood and handled automatically).

MHD understands `POST` data and is able to decode certain formats (at the moment only `application/x-www-form-urlencoded` and `multipart/form-data`) using the post processor API. The data stream of a `POST` is also provided directly to the main application, so unsupported encodings could still be processed, just not conveniently by MHD.

The header file defines various constants used by the HTTP protocol. This does not mean that MHD actually interprets all of these values. The provided constants are exported as a convenience for users of the library. MHD does not verify that transmitted HTTP headers are part of the standard specification; users of the library are free to define their own extensions of the HTTP standard and use those with MHD.

All functions are guaranteed to be completely reentrant and thread-safe. MHD checks for allocation failures and tries to recover gracefully (for example, by closing the connection). Additionally, clients can specify resource limits on the overall number of connections, number of connections per IP address and memory used per connection to avoid resource exhaustion.

1.1 Including the `microhttpd.h` header

Ideally, before including "`microhttpd.h`" you should add the necessary includes to define the `uint64_t`, `size_t`, `fd_set`, `socklen_t` and `struct sockaddr` data types. Which specific headers are needed may depend on your platform and your build system might include some tests to provide you with the necessary conditional operations. For possible suggestions consult `platform.h` and `configure.ac` in the MHD distribution.

Once you have ensured that you manually (!) included the right headers for your platform before "`microhttpd.h`", you should also add a line with `#define MHD_PLATFORM_H` which will prevent the "`microhttpd.h`" header from trying (and, depending on your platform, failing) to include the right headers.

If you do not define `MHD_PLATFORM_H`, the "`microhttpd.h`" header will automatically include headers needed on GNU/Linux systems (possibly causing problems when porting to other platforms).

1.2 SIGPIPE

MHD does not install a signal handler for `SIGPIPE`. On platforms where this is possible (such as GNU/Linux), it disables `SIGPIPE` for its I/O operations (by passing `MSG_NOSIGNAL`).

On other platforms, SIGPIPE signals may be generated from network operations by MHD and will cause the process to die unless the developer explicitly installs a signal handler for SIGPIPE.

Hence portable code using MHD must install a SIGPIPE handler or explicitly block the SIGPIPE signal. MHD does not do so in order to avoid messing with other parts of the application that may need to handle SIGPIPE in a particular way. You can make your application handle SIGPIPE by calling the following function in `main`:

```
static void
catcher (int sig)
{
}

static void
ignore_sigpipe ()
{
    struct sigaction oldsig;
    struct sigaction sig;

    sig.sa_handler = &catcher;
    sigemptyset (&sig.sa_mask);
#ifdef SA_INTERRUPT
    sig.sa_flags = SA_INTERRUPT; /* SunOS */
#else
    sig.sa_flags = SA_RESTART;
#endif
    if (0 != sigaction (SIGPIPE, &sig, &oldsig))
        fprintf (stderr,
                "Failed to install SIGPIPE handler: %s\n", strerror (errno));
}
```

1.3 MHD_LONG_LONG

Some platforms do not support `long long`. Hence MHD defines a macro `MHD_LONG_LONG` which will default to `long long`. If your platform does not support `long long`, you should change "platform.h" to define `MHD_LONG_LONG` to an appropriate alternative type and also define `MHD_LONG_LONG_PRINTF` to the corresponding format string for printing such a data type (without the percent sign).

2 Constants

MHD_FLAG [Enumeration]

Options for the MHD daemon.

Note that if neither `MHD_USER_THREAD_PER_CONNECTION` nor `MHD_USE_SELECT_INTERNALLY` are used, the client wants control over the process and will call the appropriate `microhttpd` callbacks.

Starting the daemon may also fail if a particular option is not implemented or not supported on the target platform (i.e. no support for SSL, threads or IPv6). SSL support generally depends on options given during MHD compilation. Threaded operations (including `MHD_USE_SELECT_INTERNALLY`) are not supported on Symbian.

MHD_NO_FLAG

No options selected.

MHD_USE_DEBUG

Run in debug mode. If this flag is used, the library should print error messages and warnings to `stderr`. Note that for this run-time option to have any effect, MHD needs to be compiled with messages enabled. This is done by default except you ran configure with the `--disable-messages` flag set.

MHD_USE_SSL

Run in https mode (this option may not work with all threading modes yet).

MHD_USE_THREAD_PER_CONNECTION

Run using one thread per connection.

MHD_USE_SELECT_INTERNALLY

Run using an internal thread doing `SELECT`.

MHD_USE_IPv6

Run using the IPv6 protocol (otherwise, MHD will just support IPv4).

MHD_USE_PEDANTIC_CHECKS

Be pedantic about the protocol (as opposed to as tolerant as possible). Specifically, at the moment, this flag causes MHD to reject HTTP 1.1 connections without a `Host` header. This is required by the standard, but of course in violation of the “be as liberal as possible in what you accept” norm. It is recommended to turn this **ON** if you are testing clients against MHD, and **OFF** in production.

MHD_USE_POLL

Use poll instead of select. This allows sockets with descriptors `>= FD_SETSIZE`. This option only works in conjunction with `MHD_USE_THREAD_PER_CONNECTION` (at this point).

MHD_OPTION [Enumeration]

MHD options. Passed in the varargs portion of `MHD_start_daemon()`.

MHD_OPTION_END

No more options / last option. This is used to terminate the VARARGs list.

MHD_OPTION_CONNECTION_MEMORY_LIMIT

Maximum memory size per connection (followed by a `size_t`). The default is 32 kB (32*1024 bytes) as defined by the internal constant `MHD_POOL_SIZE_DEFAULT`.

MHD_OPTION_CONNECTION_LIMIT

Maximum number of concurrent connections to accept (followed by an `unsigned int`). The default is `FD_SETSIZE - 4` (the maximum number of file descriptors supported by `select` minus four for `stdin`, `stdout`, `stderr` and the server socket). In other words, the default is as large as possible.

Note that if you set a low connection limit, you can easily get into trouble with browsers doing request pipelining. For example, if your connection limit is “1”, a browser may open a first connection to access your “index.html” file, keep it open but use a second connection to retrieve CSS files, images and the like. In fact, modern browsers are typically by default configured for up to 15 parallel connections to a single server. If this happens, MHD will refuse to even accept the second connection until the first connection is closed — which does not happen until timeout. As a result, the browser will fail to render the page and seem to hang. If you expect your server to operate close to the connection limit, you should first consider using a lower timeout value and also possibly add a “Connection: close” header to your response to ensure that request pipelining is not used and connections are closed immediately after the request has completed:

```
MHD_add_response_header (response,
                          MHD_HTTP_HEADER_CONNECTION,
                          "close");
```

MHD_OPTION_CONNECTION_TIMEOUT

After how many seconds of inactivity should a connection automatically be timed out? (followed by an `unsigned int`; use zero for no timeout). The default is zero (no timeout).

MHD_OPTION_NOTIFY_COMPLETED

Register a function that should be called whenever a request has been completed (this can be used for application-specific clean up). Requests that have never been presented to the application (via `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback()`) will not result in notifications.

This option should be followed by **TWO** pointers. First a pointer to a function of type `MHD_RequestCompletedCallback()` and second a pointer to a closure to pass to the request completed callback. The second pointer maybe `NULL`.

MHD_OPTION_PER_IP_CONNECTION_LIMIT

Limit on the number of (concurrent) connections made to the server from the same IP address. Can be used to prevent one IP from taking over all of the allowed connections. If the same IP tries to establish more than the specified number of connections, they will be immediately rejected. The option should be followed by an **unsigned int**. The default is zero, which means no limit on the number of connections from the same IP address.

MHD_OPTION_SOCK_ADDR

Bind daemon to the supplied socket address. This option should be followed by a **struct sockaddr ***. If **MHD_USE_IPv6** is specified, the **struct sockaddr*** should point to a **struct sockaddr_in6**, otherwise to a **struct sockaddr_in**. If this option is not specified, the daemon will listen to incoming connections from anywhere.

MHD_OPTION_URI_LOG_CALLBACK

Specify a function that should be called before parsing the URI from the client. The specified callback function can be used for processing the URI (including the options) before it is parsed. The URI after parsing will no longer contain the options, which maybe inconvenient for logging. This option should be followed by two arguments, the first one must be of the form

```
void * my_logger(void * cls, const char * uri)
```

where the return value will be passed as ***con_cls** in calls to the **MHD_AccessHandlerCallback** when this request is processed later; returning a value of **NULL** has no special significance; (however, note that if you return non-**NULL**, you can no longer rely on the first call to the access handler having **NULL == *con_cls** on entry) **cls** will be set to the second argument following **MHD_OPTION_URI_LOG_CALLBACK**. Finally, **uri** will be the 0-terminated URI of the request.

MHD_OPTION_HTTPS_MEM_KEY

Memory pointer to the private key to be used by the HTTPS daemon. This option should be followed by an "const char*" argument. This should be used in conjunction with 'MHD_OPTION_HTTPS_MEM_CERT'.

MHD_OPTION_HTTPS_MEM_CERT

Memory pointer to the certificate to be used by the HTTPS daemon. This option should be followed by an "const char*" argument. This should be used in conjunction with 'MHD_OPTION_HTTPS_MEM_KEY'.

MHD_OPTION_HTTPS_MEM_TRUST

Memory pointer to the CA certificate to be used by the HTTPS daemon to authenticate and trust clients certificates. This option should be followed by an "const char*" argument. The presence of this option activates the request of certificate to the client. The request to the client is marked optional, and it is the responsibility of the server to check the presence

of the certificate if needed. Note that most browsers will only present a client certificate only if they have one matching the specified CA, not sending any certificate otherwise.

MHD_OPTION_HTTPS_CRED_TYPE

Daemon credentials type. Either certificate or anonymous, this option should be followed by one of the values listed in "enum gnutls_credentials_type_t".

MHD_OPTION_HTTPS_PRIORITIES

SSL/TLS protocol version and ciphers. This option must be followed by an "const char *" argument specifying the SSL/TLS protocol versions and ciphers that are acceptable for the application. The string is passed unchanged to gnutls_priority_init. If this option is not specified, "NORMAL" is used.

MHD_OPTION_DIGEST_AUTH_RANDOM

Digest Authentication nonce's seed.

This option should be followed by two arguments. First an integer of type "size_t" which specifies the size of the buffer pointed to by the second argument in bytes. Note that the application must ensure that the buffer of the second argument remains allocated and unmodified while the daemon is running. For security, you SHOULD provide a fresh random nonce when using MHD with Digest Authentication.

MHD_OPTION_NONCE_NC_SIZE

Size of an array of nonce and nonce counter map. This option must be followed by an "unsigned int" argument that have the size (number of elements) of a map of a nonce and a nonce-counter. If this option is not specified, a default value of 4 will be used (which might be too small for servers handling many requests). If you do not use digest authentication at all, you can specify a value of zero to save some memory.

You should calculate the value of NC_SIZE based on the number of connections per second multiplied by your expected session duration plus a factor of about two for hash table collisions. For example, if you expect 100 digest-authenticated connections per second and the average user to stay on your site for 5 minutes, then you likely need a value of about 60000. On the other hand, if you can only expect only 10 digest-authenticated connections per second, tolerate browsers getting a fresh nonce for each request and expect a HTTP request latency of 250 ms, then a value of about 5 should be fine.

MHD_OPTION_LISTEN_SOCKET

Listen socket to use. Pass a listen socket for MHD to use (systemd-style). If this option is used, MHD will not open its own listen socket(s). The argument passed must be of type "int" and refer to an existing socket that has been bound to a port and is listening.

MHD_OPTION_EXTERNAL_LOGGER

Use the given function for logging error messages. This option must be followed by two arguments; the first must be a pointer to a function of type 'void fun(void * arg, const char * fmt, va_list ap)' and the second a pointer of type 'void*' which will be passed as the "arg" argument to "fun".

Note that MHD will not generate any log messages without the MHD_USE_DEBUG flag set and if MHD was compiled with the "-disable-messages" flag.

MHD_OPTION_THREAD_POOL_SIZE

Number (unsigned int) of threads in thread pool. Enable thread pooling by setting this value to something greater than 1. Currently, thread model must be MHD_USE_SELECT_INTERNALLY if thread pooling is enabled (MHD_start_daemon returns NULL for an unsupported thread model).

MHD_OPTION_ARRAY

This option can be used for initializing MHD using options from an array. A common use for this is writing an FFI for MHD. The actual options given are in an array of 'struct MHD_OptionItem', so this option requires a single argument of type 'struct MHD_OptionItem'. The array must be terminated with an entry MHD_OPTION_END.

An example for code using MHD_OPTION_ARRAY is:

```
struct MHD_OptionItem ops[] = {
    { MHD_OPTION_CONNECTION_LIMIT, 100, NULL },
    { MHD_OPTION_CONNECTION_TIMEOUT, 10, NULL },
    { MHD_OPTION_END, 0, NULL }
};
d = MHD_start_daemon(0, 8080, NULL, NULL, dh, NULL,
                    MHD_OPTION_ARRAY, ops,
                    MHD_OPTION_END);
```

For options that expect a single pointer argument, the second member of the struct MHD_OptionItem is ignored. For options that expect two pointer arguments, the first argument must be cast to intptr_t.

MHD_OPTION_UNESCAPE_CALLBACK

Specify a function that should be called for unescaping escape sequences in URIs and URI arguments. Note that this function will NOT be used by the MHD_PostProcessor. If this option is not specified, the default method will be used which decodes escape sequences of the form "%HH". This option should be followed by two arguments, the first one must be of the form

```
size_t my_unescaper(void * cls, struct MHD_Connection *c, char *s)
```

where the return value must be strlen(s) and s should be updated. Note that the unescape function must not lengthen s (the result must be shorter than the input and still be 0-terminated). cls will be set to the second argument following MHD_OPTION_UNESCAPE_CALLBACK.

MHD_OPTION_THREAD_STACK_SIZE

Maximum stack size for threads created by MHD. This option must be followed by a `size_t`). Not specifying this option or using a value of zero means using the system default (which is likely to differ based on your platform).

MHD_OptionItem

[C Struct]

Entry in an `MHD_OPTION_ARRAY`. See the `MHD_OPTION_ARRAY` option argument for its use.

The `option` member is used to specify which option is specified in the array. The other members specify the respective argument.

Note that for options taking only a single pointer, the `ptr_value` member should be set. For options taking two pointer arguments, the first pointer must be cast to `intptr_t` and both the `value` and the `ptr_value` members should be used to pass the two pointers.

MHD_ValueKind

[Enumeration]

The `MHD_ValueKind` specifies the source of the key-value pairs in the HTTP protocol.

MHD_RESPONSE_HEADER_KIND

Response header.

MHD_HEADER_KIND

HTTP header.

MHD_COOKIE_KIND

Cookies. Note that the original HTTP header containing the cookie(s) will still be available and intact.

MHD_POSTDATA_KIND

POST data. This is available only if a content encoding supported by MHD is used (currently only URL encoding), and only if the posted content fits within the available memory pool. Note that in that case, the upload data given to the `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback()` will be empty (since it has already been processed).

MHD_GET_ARGUMENT_KIND

GET (URI) arguments.

MHD_FOOTER_KIND

HTTP footer (only for http 1.1 chunked encodings).

MHD_RequestTerminationCode

[Enumeration]

The `MHD_RequestTerminationCode` specifies reasons why a request has been terminated (or completed).

MHD_REQUEST_TERMINATED_COMPLETED_OK

We finished sending the response.

MHD_REQUEST_TERMINATED_WITH_ERROR

Error handling the connection (resources exhausted, other side closed connection, application error accepting request, etc.)

MHD_REQUEST_TERMINATED_TIMEOUT_REACHED

No activity on the connection for the number of seconds specified using **MHD_OPTION_CONNECTION_TIMEOUT**.

MHD_REQUEST_TERMINATED_DAEMON_SHUTDOWN

We had to close the session since MHD was being shut down.

MHD_ConnectionInfoType [Enumeration]

Values of this enum are used to specify what information about a connection is desired.

MHD_CONNECTION_INFO_CIPHER_ALGO

What cipher algorithm is being used. Takes no extra arguments.

MHD_CONNECTION_INFO_PROTOCOL,

Takes no extra arguments. Allows finding out the TLS/SSL protocol used (HTTPS connections only).

MHD_CONNECTION_INFO_GNUTLS_SESSION,

Takes no extra arguments. Allows access to the underlying GNUTls session, including access to the underlying GNUTls client certificate (HTTPS connections only). Takes no extra arguments.

MHD_DaemonInfoType [Enumeration]

Values of this enum are used to specify what information about a daemon is desired.

MHD_DAEMON_INFO_KEY_SIZE

Request information about the key size for a particular cipher algorithm. The cipher algorithm should be passed as an extra argument (of type 'enum MHD_GNUTLS_CipherAlgorithm').

MHD_DAEMON_INFO_MAC_KEY_SIZE

Request information about the key size for a particular cipher algorithm. The cipher algorithm should be passed as an extra argument (of type 'enum MHD_GNUTLS_HashAlgorithm').

MHD_DAEMON_INFO_LISTEN_FD

Request the file-descriptor number that MHD is using to listen to the server socket. This can be useful if no port was specified and a client needs to learn what port is actually being used by MHD. No extra arguments should be passed.

3 Structures type definition

MHD_Daemon	[C Struct]
Handle for the daemon (listening on a socket for HTTP traffic).	
MHD_Connection	[C Struct]
Handle for a connection / HTTP request. With HTTP/1.1, multiple requests can be run over the same connection. However, MHD will only show one request per TCP connection to the client at any given time.	
MHD_Response	[C Struct]
Handle for a response.	
MHD_PostProcessor	[C Struct]
Handle for POST processing.	
MHD_ConnectionInfo	[C Union]
Information about a connection.	
MHD_DaemonInfo	[C Union]
Information about an MHD daemon.	

4 Callback functions definition

`int *MHD_AcceptPolicyCallback (void *cls, const struct sockaddr * addr, socklen_t addrlen)` [Function Pointer]

Invoked in the context of a connection to allow or deny a client to connect. This callback return `MHD_YES` if connection is allowed, `MHD_NO` if not.

cls custom value selected at callback registration time;

addr address information from the client;

addrlen length of the address information.

`int *MHD_AccessHandlerCallback (void *cls, struct MHD_Connection * connection, const char *url, const char *method, const char *version, const char *upload_data, size_t *upload_data_size, void **con_cls)` [Function Pointer]

Invoked in the context of a connection to answer a request from the client. This callback must call MHD functions (example: the `MHD_Response` ones) to provide content to give back to the client and return an HTTP status code (i.e. 200 for OK, 404, etc.).

[Chapter 10 \[microhttpd-post\]](#), page 24, for details on how to code this callback.

Must return `MHD_YES` if the connection was handled successfully, `MHD_NO` if the socket must be closed due to a serious error while handling the request

cls custom value selected at callback registration time;

url the URL requested by the client;

method the HTTP method used by the client (GET, PUT, DELETE, POST, etc.);

version the HTTP version string (i.e. HTTP/1.1);

upload_data

the data being uploaded (excluding headers):

- for a POST that fits into memory and that is encoded with a supported encoding, the POST data will **NOT** be given in *upload_data* and is instead available as part of `MHD_get_connection_values()`;
- very large POST data **will** be made available incrementally in *upload_data*;

upload_data_size

set initially to the size of the *upload_data* provided; this callback must update this value to the number of bytes **NOT** processed; unless external select is used, the callback maybe required to process at least some data. If the callback fails to process data in multi-threaded or internal-select mode and if the read-buffer is already at the maximum size that MHD is willing to use for reading (about half of the maximum amount of memory allowed for the connection), then MHD will abort handling the connection and return an internal server error to the client. In order to avoid this, clients must be able to process upload data incrementally and reduce the value of *upload_data_size*.

con_cls reference to a pointer, initially set to NULL, that this callback can set to some address and that will be preserved by MHD for future calls for this request;

since the access handler may be called many times (i.e., for a PUT/POST operation with plenty of upload data) this allows the application to easily associate some request-specific state;

if necessary, this state can be cleaned up in the global `MHD_RequestCompletedCallback` (which can be set with the `MHD_OPTION_NOTIFY_COMPLETED`).

void *MHD_RequestCompletedCallback (*void *cls, struct MHD_Connection connection, void **con_cls, enum MHD_RequestTerminationCode toe*) [Function Pointer]

Signature of the callback used by MHD to notify the application about completed requests.

cls custom value selected at callback registration time;

connection connection handle;

con_cls value as set by the last call to the `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback`;

toe reason for request termination see `MHD_OPTION_NOTIFY_COMPLETED`.

int *MHD_KeyValueIterator (*void *cls, enum MHD_ValueKind kind, const char *key, const char *value*) [Function Pointer]

Iterator over key-value pairs. This iterator can be used to iterate over all of the cookies, headers, or POST-data fields of a request, and also to iterate over the headers that have been added to a response.

Return `MHD_YES` to continue iterating, `MHD_NO` to abort the iteration.

int *MHD_ContentReaderCallback (*void *cls, uint64_t pos, char *buf, size_t max*) [Function Pointer]

Callback used by MHD in order to obtain content. The callback has to copy at most *max* bytes of content into *buf*. The total number of bytes that has been placed into *buf* should be returned.

Note that returning zero will cause MHD to try again, either “immediately” if in multi-threaded mode (in which case the callback may want to do blocking operations to avoid busy waiting) or in the next round if `MHD_run` is used. Returning zero for a daemon that runs in internal `select()` mode is an error (since it would result in busy waiting) and cause the program to be aborted (`abort()`).

While usually the callback simply returns the number of bytes written into *buf*, there are two special return value:

`MHD_CONTENT_READER_END_OF_STREAM` (-1) should be returned for the regular end of transmission (with chunked encoding, MHD will then terminate the chunk and send any HTTP footers that might be present; without chunked encoding and given an unknown response size, MHD will simply close the connection; note that while returning `MHD_CONTENT_READER_END_OF_STREAM` is not technically legal if a response

MHD_CONTENT_READER_END_WITH_ERROR (-2) is used to indicate a server error generating the response; this will cause MHD to simply close the connection immediately. If a response size was given or if chunked encoding is in use, this will indicate an error to the client. Note, however, that if the client does not know a response size and chunked encoding is not in use, then clients will not be able to tell the difference between MHD_CONTENT_READER_END_WITH_ERROR and MHD_CONTENT_READER_END_OF_STREAM. This is not a limitation of MHD but rather of the HTTP protocol.

Return **-1** on error (MHD will no longer try to read content and instead close the connection with the client).

```
int *MHD_PostDataIterator (void *cls, enum MHD_ValueKind [Function Pointer]
    kind, const char *key, const char *filename, const char *content_type, const
    char *transfer_encoding, const char *data, uint64_t off, size_t size)
Iterator over key-value pairs where the value maybe made available in increments
and/or may not be zero-terminated. Used for processing POST data.
```

Return `MHD_YES` to continue iterating, `MHD_NO` to abort the iteration.

5 Starting and stopping the server

void MHD_set_panic_func (*MHD-PanicCallback cb, void *cls*) [Function]

Set a handler for fatal errors.

cb function to call if MHD encounters a fatal internal error. If no handler was set explicitly, MHD will call **abort**.

cls closure argument for *cb*; the other arguments are the name of the source file, line number and a string describing the nature of the fatal error (which can be NULL)

struct MHD_Daemon * MHD_start_daemon (*unsigned int flags, unsigned short port, MHD-AcceptPolicyCallback apc, void *apc_cls, MHD-AccessHandlerCallback dh, void *dh_cls, ...*) [Function]

Start a webserver on the given port.

flags OR-ed combination of **MHD_FLAG** values;

port port to bind to;

apc callback to call to check which clients will be allowed to connect; you can pass NULL in which case connections from any IP will be accepted;

apc_cls extra argument to *apc*;

dh default handler for all URIs;

dh_cls extra argument to *dh*.

Additional arguments are a list of options (type-value pairs, terminated with **MHD_OPTION_END**). It is mandatory to use **MHD_OPTION_END** as last argument, even when there are no additional arguments.

Return NULL on error, handle to daemon on success.

void MHD_stop_daemon (*struct MHD_Daemon *daemon*) [Function]

Shutdown an HTTP daemon.

int MHD_run (*struct MHD_Daemon *daemon*) [Function]

Run webserver operations (without blocking unless in client callbacks). This method should be called by clients in combination with **MHD_get_fdset()** if the client-controlled **select()** method is used.

Return **MHD_YES** on success, **MHD_NO** if this daemon was not started with the right options for this call.

6 Implementing external `select`

`int MHD_get_fdset (struct MHD_Daemon *daemon, fd_set *
read_fd_set, fd_set * write_fd_set, fd_set * except_fd_set, int *max_fd)` [Function]

Obtain the `select()` sets for this daemon. The daemon's socket is added to `read_fd_set`. The list of currently existent connections is scanned and their file descriptors added to the correct set.

see [\[1\]](#), page [\[1\]](#) for details on file descriptor sets.

After the call completed successfully: the variable referenced by `max_fd` references the file descriptor with highest integer identifier. The variable must be set to zero before invoking this function.

Return `MHD_YES` on success, `MHD_NO` if: the arguments are invalid (example: `NULL` pointers); this daemon was not started with the right options for this call.

`int MHD_get_timeout (struct MHD_Daemon *daemon, unsigned long
long *timeout)` [Function]

Obtain timeout value for `select` for this daemon (only needed if connection timeout is used). The returned value is how long `select()` should at most block, not the timeout value set for connections.

set to the timeout (in milliseconds).

Return `MHD_YES` on success, `MHD_NO` if timeouts are not used (or no connections exist that would necessitate the use of a timeout right now).

7 Handling requests

```
int MHD_get_connection_values (struct MHD_Connection [Function]
                             *connection, enum MHD_ValueKind kind, MHD_KeyValueIterator iterator,
                             void *iterator_cls)
```

Get all the headers matching *kind* from the request.

The *iterator* callback is invoked once for each header, with *iterator_cls* as first argument. Return the number of entries iterated over; this can be less than the number of headers if, while iterating, *iterator* returns `MHD_NO`.

iterator can be `NULL`: in this case this function just counts and returns the number of headers.

```
int MHD_set_connection_value (struct MHD_Connection *connection, [Function]
                             enum MHD_ValueKind kind, const char *key, const char *value)
```

This function can be used to add an entry to the HTTP headers of a connection (so that the `MHD_get_connection_values` function will return them – and the MHD PostProcessor will also see them). This maybe required in certain situations (see Mantis #1399) where (broken) HTTP implementations fail to supply values needed by the post processor (or other parts of the application).

This function **MUST** only be called from within the `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback` (otherwise, access maybe improperly synchronized). Furthermore, the client must guarantee that the key and value arguments are 0-terminated strings that are NOT freed until the connection is closed. (The easiest way to do this is by passing only arguments to permanently allocated strings.).

connection is the connection for which the entry for *key* of the given *kind* should be set to the given *value*.

The function returns `MHD_NO` if the operation could not be performed due to insufficient memory and `MHD_YES` on success.

```
const char * MHD_lookup_connection_value (struct [Function]
                                           MHD_Connection *connection, enum MHD_ValueKind kind, const char *key)
```

Get a particular header value. If multiple values match the *kind*, return one of them (the “first”, whatever that means). *key* must reference a zero-terminated ASCII-coded string representing the header to look for: it is compared against the headers using `strcasestr()`, so case is ignored. Return `NULL` if no such item was found.

8 Building answers to responses

Response objects handling by MHD is asynchronous with respect to the application execution flow. Instances of the `MHD_Response` structure are not associated to a daemon and neither to a client connection: they are managed with reference counting.

In the simplest case: we allocate a new `MHD_Response` structure for each response, we use it once and finally we destroy it.

MHD allows more efficient resources usages.

Example: we allocate a new `MHD_Response` structure for each response **kind**, we use it every time we have to give that response and we finally destroy it only when the daemon shuts down.

8.1 Enqueuing a response

`int MHD_queue_response (struct MHD_Connection *connection, [Function]
 unsigned int status_code, struct MHD_Response *response)`

Queue a response to be transmitted to the client as soon as possible but only after `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback` returns. This function checks that it is legal to queue a response at this time for the given connection. It also increments the internal reference counter for the response object (the counter will be decremented automatically once the response has been transmitted).

connection

the connection identifying the client;

status_code

HTTP status code (i.e. 200 for OK);

response response to transmit.

Return `MHD_YES` on success or if message has been queued. Return `MHD_NO`: if arguments are invalid (example: `NULL` pointer); on error (i.e. reply already sent).

`void MHD_destroy_response (struct MHD_Response *response) [Function]`

Destroy a response object and associated resources (decrement the reference counter). Note that MHD may keep some of the resources around if the response is still in the queue for some clients, so the memory may not necessarily be freed immediately.

An explanation of reference counting¹:

1. a `MHD_Response` object is allocated:

```
struct MHD_Response * response = MHD_create_response_from_data(...);
/* here: reference counter = 1 */
```

2. the `MHD_Response` object is enqueued in a `MHD_Connection`:

```
MHD_queue_response(connection, , response);
/* here: reference counter = 2 */
```

¹ Note to readers acquainted to the Tcl API: reference counting on `MHD_Connection` structures is handled in the same way as Tcl handles `Tcl_Obj` structures through `Tcl_IncrRefCount()` and `Tcl_DecrRefCount()`.

3. the creator of the response object discharges responsibility for it:

```
MHD_destroy_response(response);
/* here: reference counter = 1 */
```

4. the daemon handles the connection sending the response's data to the client then decrements the reference counter by calling `MHD_destroy_response()`: the counter's value drops to zero and the `MHD_Response` object is released.

8.2 Creating a response object

```
struct MHD_Response * MHD_create_response_from_callback      [Function]
    (uint64_t size, size_t block_size, MHD_ContentReaderCallback crc, void
    *crc_cls, MHD_ContentReaderFreeCallback crfc)
```

Create a response object. The response object can be extended with header information and then it can be used any number of times.

size size of the data portion of the response, -1 for unknown;

block_size preferred block size for querying *crc* (advisory only, MHD may still call *crc* using smaller chunks); this is essentially the buffer size used for IO, clients should pick a value that is appropriate for IO and memory performance requirements;

crc callback to use to obtain response data;

crc_cls extra argument to *crc*;

crfc callback to call to free *crc_cls* resources.

Return NULL on error (i.e. invalid arguments, out of memory).

```
struct MHD_Response * MHD_create_response_from_fd (uint64_t      [Function]
    size, int fd)
```

Create a response object. The response object can be extended with header information and then it can be used any number of times.

size size of the data portion of the response (should be smaller or equal to the size of the file)

fd file descriptor referring to a file on disk with the data; will be closed when response is destroyed; note that 'fd' must be an actual file descriptor (not a pipe or socket) since MHD might use 'sendfile' or 'seek' on it

Return NULL on error (i.e. invalid arguments, out of memory).

```
struct MHD_Response * MHD_create_response_from_fd_at_offset (uint64_t size, int fd, off_t
    offset) [Function]
```

Create a response object. The response object can be extended with header information and then it can be used any number of times.

size size of the data portion of the response (number of bytes to transmit from the file starting at *offset*).

fd file descriptor referring to a file on disk with the data; will be closed when response is destroyed; note that 'fd' must be an actual file descriptor (not a pipe or socket) since MHD might use 'sendfile' or 'seek' on it

offset offset to start reading from in the file

Return NULL on error (i.e. invalid arguments, out of memory).

struct MHD_Response * MHD_create_response_from_data (*size_t* [Function]
*size, void *data, int must_free, int must_copy*)

Create a response object. The response object can be extended with header information and then it can be used any number of times.

size size of the data portion of the response;

data the data itself;

must_free if true: MHD should free data when done;

must_copy if true: MHD allocates a block of memory and use it to make a copy of *data* embedded in the returned **MHD_Response** structure; handling of the embedded memory is responsibility of MHD; *data* can be released anytime after this call returns.

Return NULL on error (i.e. invalid arguments, out of memory).

Example: create a response from a statically allocated string:

```
const char * data = "<html><body><p>Error!</p></body></html>";
```

```
struct MHD_Connection * connection = ...;
struct MHD_Response * response;
```

```
response = MHD_create_response_from_data(strlen(data), data,
                                         MHD_NO, MHD_NO);
```

```
MHD_queue_response(connection, 404, response);
```

```
MHD_destroy_response(response);
```

8.3 Adding headers to a response

int MHD_add_response_header (*struct MHD_Response *response*, [Function]
*const char *header, const char *content*)

Add a header line to the response. The strings referenced by *header* and *content* must be zero-terminated and they are duplicated into memory blocks embedded in *response*.

Notice that the strings must not hold newlines, carriage returns or tab chars.

Return **MHD_NO** on error (i.e. invalid header or content format or memory allocation error).


```
int MHD_add_response_footer (struct MHD_Response *response,      [Function]
                           const char *footer, const char *content)
```

Add a footer line to the response. The strings referenced by *footer* and *content* must be zero-terminated and they are duplicated into memory blocks embedded in *response*.

Notice that the strings must not hold newlines, carriage returns or tab chars. You can add response footers at any time before signalling the end of the response to MHD (not just before calling 'MHD_queue_response'). Footers are useful for adding cryptographic checksums to the reply or to signal errors encountered during data generation. This call was introduced in MHD 0.9.3.

Return MHD_NO on error (i.e. invalid header or content format or memory allocation error).

```
int MHD_del_response_header (struct MHD_Response *response,      [Function]
                           const char *header, const char *content)
```

Delete a header (or footer) line from the response. Return MHD_NO on error (arguments are invalid or no such header known).

8.4 Inspecting a response object

```
int MHD_get_response_headers (struct MHD_Response *response,      [Function]
                             MHD_KeyValueIterator iterator, void *iterator_cls)
```

Get all of the headers added to a response.

Invoke the *iterator* callback for each header in the response, using *iterator_cls* as first argument. Return number of entries iterated over. *iterator* can be NULL: in this case the function just counts headers.

iterator should not modify the its key and value arguments, unless we know what we are doing.

```
const char * MHD_get_response_header (struct MHD_Response        [Function]
                                       *response, const char *key)
```

Find and return a pointer to the value of a particular header from the response. *key* must reference a zero-terminated string representing the header to look for. The search is case sensitive. Return NULL if header does not exist or *key* is NULL.

We should not modify the value, unless we know what we are doing.

9 Utilizing Authentication

MHD support three types of client authentication.

Basic authentication uses a simple authentication method based on BASE64 algorithm. Username and password are exchanged in clear between the client and the server, so this method must only be used for non-sensitive content or when the session is protected with https. When using basic authentication MHD will have access to the clear password, possibly allowing to create a chained authentication toward an external authentication server.

Digest authentication uses a one-way authentication method based on MD5 hash algorithm. Only the hash will transit over the network, hence protecting the user password. The nonce will prevent replay attacks. This method is appropriate for general use, especially when https is not used to encrypt the session.

Client certificate authentication uses a X.509 certificate from the client. This is the strongest authentication mechanism but it requires the use of HTTPS. Client certificate authentication can be used simultaneously with Basic or Digest Authentication in order to provide a two levels authentication (like for instance separate machine and user authentication). A code example for using client certificates is presented in the MHD tutorial.

9.1 Using Basic Authentication

```
char * MHD_basic_auth_get_username_password (struct MHD_Connection *connection, char** password) [Function]
```

Get the username and password from the basic authorization header sent by the client. Return NULL if no username could be found, a pointer to the username if found. If returned value is not NULL, the value must be `free()`'ed.

password reference a buffer to store the password. It can be NULL. If returned value is not NULL, the value must be `free()`'ed.

```
int MHD_queue_basic_auth_fail_response (struct MHD_Connection *connection, const char *realm, struct MHD_Response *response) [Function]
```

Queues a response to request basic authentication from the client. Return `MHD_YES` if successful, otherwise `MHD_NO`.

realm must reference to a zero-terminated string representing the realm.

response a response structure to specify what shall be presented to the client with a 401 HTTP status.

9.2 Using Digest Authentication

```
char * MHD_digest_auth_get_username (struct MHD_Connection *connection) [Function]
```

Find and return a pointer to the username value from the request header. Return NULL if the value is not found or header does not exist. If returned value is not NULL, the value must be `free()`'ed.

```
int MHD_digest_auth_check (struct MHD_Connection *connection,      [Function]
                           const char *realm, const char *username, const char *password, unsigned int
                           nonce_timeout)
```

Checks if the provided values in the WWW-Authenticate header are valid and sound according to RFC2716. If valid return MHD_YES, otherwise return MHD_NO.

realm must reference to a zero-terminated string representing the realm.

username must reference to a zero-terminated string representing the username, it is usually the returned value from MHD_digest_auth_get_username.

password must reference to a zero-terminated string representing the password, most probably it will be the result of a lookup of the username against a local database.

nonce_timeout is the amount of time in seconds for a nonce to be invalid. Most of the time it is sound to specify 300 seconds as its values.

```
int MHD_queue_auth_fail_response (struct MHD_Connection             [Function]
                                  *connection, const char *realm, const char *opaque, struct MHD_Response
                                  *response, int signal_stale)
```

Queues a response to request authentication from the client, return MHD_YES if successful, otherwise MHD_NO.

realm must reference to a zero-terminated string representing the realm.

opaque must reference to a zero-terminated string representing a value that gets passed to the client and expected to be passed again to the server as-is. This value can be a hexadecimal or base64 string.

response a response structure to specify what shall be presented to the client with a 401 HTTP status.

signal_stale a value that signals "stale=true" in the response header to indicate the invalidity of the nonce and no need to ask for authentication parameters and only a new nonce gets generated. MHD_YES to generate a new nonce, MHD_NO to ask for authentication parameters.

Example: handling digest authentication requests and responses.

```
#define PAGE "<html><head><title>libmicrohttpd demo</title></head><body>Access granted"
#define DENIED "<html><head><title>libmicrohttpd demo</title></head><body>Access denied"
#define OPAQUE "11733b200778ce33060f31c9af70a870ba96ddd4"
```

```
static int
ahc_echo (void *cls,
          struct MHD_Connection *connection,
          const char *url,
          const char *method,
          const char *version,
          const char *upload_data, size_t *upload_data_size, void **ptr)
{
    struct MHD_Response *response;
    char *username;
    const char *password = "testpass";
```

```

const char *realm = "test@example.com";
int ret;

username = MHD_digest_auth_get_username(connection);
if (username == NULL)
{
    response = MHD_create_response_from_data(strlen (DENIED),
        DENIED,
        MHD_NO, MHD_NO);
    ret = MHD_queue_auth_fail_response(connection, realm,
OPAQUE,
response,
MHD_NO);
    MHD_destroy_response(response);
    return ret;
}
ret = MHD_digest_auth_check(connection, realm,
    username,
    password,
    300);
free(username);
if ( (ret == MHD_INVALID_NONCE) ||
    (ret == MHD_NO) )
{
    response = MHD_create_response_from_data(strlen (DENIED),
        DENIED,
        MHD_NO, MHD_NO);
    if (NULL == response)
return MHD_NO;
    ret = MHD_queue_auth_fail_response(connection, realm,
OPAQUE,
response,
(ret == MHD_INVALID_NONCE) ? MHD_YES : MHD_NO);
    MHD_destroy_response(response);
    return ret;
}
response = MHD_create_response_from_data(strlen(PAGE), PAGE,
    MHD_NO, MHD_NO);
ret = MHD_queue_response(connection, MHD_HTTP_OK, response);
MHD_destroy_response(response);
return ret;
}

```

10 Adding a POST processor

MHD provides the post processor API to make it easier for applications to parse the data of a client's POST request: the `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback` will be invoked multiple times to process data as it arrives; at each invocation a new chunk of data must be processed. The arguments `upload_data` and `upload_data_size` are used to reference the chunk of data.

When `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback` is invoked for a new connection: its `*con_cls` argument is set to `NULL`. When POST data comes in the upload buffer it is **mandatory** to use the `con_cls` to store a reference to per-connection data. The fact that the pointer was initially `NULL` can be used to detect that this is a new request.

One method to detect that a new connection was established is to set `*con_cls` to an unused integer:

```
int
access_handler (void *cls,
                struct MHD_Connection * connection,
                const char *url,
                const char *method, const char *version,
                const char *upload_data, size_t *upload_data_size,
                void **con_cls)
{
    static int old_connection_marker;
    int new_connection = (MYNULL == *con_cls);

    if (new_connection)
    {
        /* new connection with POST */
        *con_cls = &old_connection_marker;
    }

    ...
}
```

In contrast to the previous example, for POST requests in particular, it is more common to use the value of `*con_cls` to keep track of actual state used during processing, such as the post processor (or a struct containing a post processor):

```
int
access_handler (void *cls,
                struct MHD_Connection * connection,
                const char *url,
                const char *method, const char *version,
                const char *upload_data, size_t *upload_data_size,
                void **con_cls)
{
    struct MHD_PostProcessor * pp = *con_cls;

    if (pp == NULL)
    {
```

```

        pp = MHD_create_post_processor(connection, ...);
        *con_cls = pp;
        return MHD_YES;
    }
    if (*upload_data_size)
    {
        MHD_post_process(pp, upload_data, *upload_data_size);
        *upload_data_size = 0;
        return MHD_YES;
    }
    else
    {
        MHD_destroy_post_processor(pp);
        return MHD_queue_response(...);
    }
}

```

Note that the callback from `MHD_OPTION_NOTIFY_COMPLETED` should be used to destroy the post processor. This cannot be done inside of the access handler since the connection may not always terminate normally.

10.1 Programming interface for the POST processor

```

struct MHD_PostProcessor * MHD_create_post_processor (struct [Function]
    MHD_Connection *connection, size_t buffer_size, MHD_PostDataIterator
    iterator, void *iterator_cls)

```

Create a PostProcessor. A PostProcessor can be used to (incrementally) parse the data portion of a POST request.

connection

the connection on which the POST is happening (used to determine the POST format);

buffer_size

maximum number of bytes to use for internal buffering (used only for the parsing, specifically the parsing of the keys). A tiny value (256-1024) should be sufficient; do **NOT** use a value smaller than 256;

iterator

iterator to be called with the parsed data; must **NOT** be NULL;

iterator_cls

custom value to be used as first argument to *iterator*.

Return NULL on error (out of memory, unsupported encoding), otherwise a PP handle.

```

int MHD_post_process (struct MHD_PostProcessor *pp, const char [Function]
    *post_data, size_t post_data.len)

```

Parse and process POST data. Call this function when POST data is available (usually during an `MHD_AccessHandlerCallback`) with the *upload_data* and *upload_data_size*. Whenever possible, this will then cause calls to the `MHD_IncrementalKeyValueIterator`.

pp

the post processor;

post_data *post_data_len* bytes of POST data;

post_data_len
length of *post_data*.

Return MHD_YES on success, MHD_NO on error (out-of-memory, iterator aborted, parse error).

int MHD_destroy_post_processor (*struct MHD_PostProcessor *pp*) [Function]

Release PostProcessor resources. After this function is being called, the PostProcessor is guaranteed to no longer call its iterator. There is no special call to the iterator to indicate the end of the post processing stream. After destroying the PostProcessor, the programmer should perform any necessary work to complete the processing of the iterator.

Return MHD_YES if processing completed nicely, MHD_NO if there were spurious characters or formatting problems with the post request. It is common to ignore the return value of this function.

11 Obtaining status information.

11.1 Obtaining state information about an MHD daemon

```
const union MHD_DaemonInfo * MHD_get_daemon_info (struct      [Function]
    MHD_Daemon *daemon, enum MHD_DaemonInfoType infoType, ...)
```

Obtain information about the given daemon. This function is currently not fully implemented.

daemon the daemon about which information is desired;

infoType type of information that is desired

... additional arguments about the desired information (depending on infoType)

Returns a union with the respective member (depending on infoType) set to the desired information), or NULL in case the desired information is not available or applicable.

11.2 Obtaining state information about a connection

```
const union MHD_ConnectionInfo * MHD_get_connection_info      [Function]
    (struct MHD_Connection *daemon, enum MHD_ConnectionInfoType infoType,
    ...)
```

Obtain information about the given connection.

connection the connection about which information is desired;

infoType type of information that is desired

... additional arguments about the desired information (depending on infoType)

Returns a union with the respective member (depending on infoType) set to the desired information), or NULL in case the desired information is not available or applicable.

GNU-LGPL

Version 2.1, February 1999

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