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How to Send an HTTP Header With Every Request With Spring RestTemplate

Oct 27th, 2013 | [Comments](#)

In [Know Which Apps Are Hitting Your Web Service](#), I showed how to write a servlet filter that enforces the existence of a special HTTP request header.

From a client perspective, it would be nice to send this header automatically, instead of having to set the header manually with every request. This post shows how we can use Spring's `RestTemplate` and `ClientHttpRequestInterceptor` to accomplish this.

First we need to implement a `ClientHttpRequestInterceptor`:

```
package com.myapp.connector;

import java.io.IOException;
import org.springframework.http.HttpHeaders;
import org.springframework.http.HttpRequest;
import org.springframework.http.client.ClientHttpRequestExecution;
import org.springframework.http.client.ClientHttpRequestInterceptor;
import org.springframework.http.client.ClientHttpResponse;

public class XUserAgentInterceptor implements ClientHttpRequestInterceptor {

    @Override
    public ClientHttpResponse intercept(
        HttpRequest request, byte[] body, ClientHttpRequestExecution execution)
        throws IOException {

        HttpHeaders headers = request.getHeaders();
        headers.add("X-User-Agent", "My App v2.1");
        return execution.execute(request, body);
    }
}
```

Now we need to configure our `RestTemplate` to use it. Here I'm using Spring's Java-based configuration, but you can implement the same thing with the XML-based configuration too:

```
package com.myapp;

import java.util.Collections;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.Bean;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.Configuration;
import org.springframework.http.client.ClientHttpRequestInterceptor;
import org.springframework.web.client.RestTemplate;
import com.myapp.connector.XUserAgentInterceptor;

@Configuration
public class MyAppConfig {


    @Bean
    public RestTemplate restTemplate() {
        RestTemplate restTemplate = new RestTemplate(clientHttpRequestFactory());
        restTemplate.setInterceptors(Collections.singletonList(new XUserAgentInterceptor()));
        return restTemplate;
    }
}
```


With this configuration, any requests you make through the RestTemplate will automatically carry the desired HTTP request header.


To learn how to set request timeouts automatically, see my post [How to Set HTTP Request Timeouts With Spring RestTemplate](#).

Posted by Willie Wheeler Oct 27th, 2013 [Chapter 13 - Integration](#), [Quick Tips](#)

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