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HTTP 'Headers-Not-Recognized' Header Field
<draft-yevstifeyev-http-headers-not-recognized-11>

Abstract

   This document defines mechanism which allows HTTP hosts to notify
   another hosts about not supported header fields - 'Headers-Not-
   Recognized' HTTP header field.

Status of this Memo

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[1](#). Introduction

[1.1](#). Motivation

   HTTP is one of the most widely-used protocols in the Internet. One
   of the things which made it so popular is extensibility. One can
   easily add any header field to the HTTP message. However, all hosts
   are not able to support all the header fields. Generally, if a it
   host does not support the header field, it is simply ignored. The
   another side of exchange is not notified about not processed header
   fields.

   This document proposes mechanism which allows HTTP hosts to notify
   another hosts about not recognized header fields.

   The proposal is to send an HTTP message with definite header field to
   the host if one or more header fields of its message are not
   supported. This document defines 'Headers-Not-Recognized' HTTP header
   field to be used in such occasion.

[1.2](#). Conventions

[1.2.1](#). Conformance Criteria

   The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT",
   "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this
   document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

[1.2.2](#). Syntax Notation

   This specification uses the Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF)
   notation of [[RFC5234](#)].

   The construction <n>#<m>element is used as defined in [RFC 2616](#)
   [[RFC2616], Section 2.1](#).

[1.2.3](#). Terminology

   HTTP refers to protocol, defined in [RFC 2616](#) [[RFC2616](#)]

   The terms client, server, proxy, gateway and tunnel have the same
   meaning as in the HTTP/1.1 specification ([[RFC2616], Section 1.3](#)).

   The term host means client or server.

2. **Technical Overview**

2.1 **Model of Work**

   If the HTTP host receives HTTP message which contains some header
   fields which are not supported by it, it is RECOMMENDED for it to
   include the Headers-Not-Recognized header field in the response to
   the host that sent message with not supported header fields.
   Information about not supported header fields is to be put in the
   'Headers-Not-Recognized' header field following the rules of Section
   2.2 of this document. The 'Headers-Not-Recognized' header field MUST
   contain information only about not supported header fields - i.e.
   header fields which are not able to be processed anyway. It MUST NOT
   contain information about header fields, which are partly supported,
   whose entity cannot be processed while the header field is supported
   at all, etc.

   When HTTP host receives HTTP message with Headers-Not-Recognized
   header field, it is RECOMMENDED that it avoids sending messages with
   header fields with mentioned in it names to source (for such message)
   host.

   Intermediate systems (also called middle-boxes), such as proxies,
   tunnels, gateways, etc. SHALL transfer the messages with 'Headers-
   Not-Recognized' header field to the destination host without changing
   the entity of this header field if the not supported header field was
   present in the initial HTTP message (i. e. message which intermediate
   system received before transferring it to destination host), but
   SHALL omit it if Headers-Not-Recognized header field's entity
   concerns only to header fields added to initial message by middle-
   box. If the aforementioned header field concerns added header fields
   partly, middle-box SHALL change the entity so that it concerns only
   initial message header field.

2.2 **Syntax**

   'Headers-Not-Recognized' header field has the following format:

   headers_not_recognized = 1#header_name
   header_name   = 1*VCHAR

3. IANA Considerations

The permanent message header field registry should be updated with
the following registration (see [RFC3864]):

Header field name
  Headers-Not-Recognized

Applicable protocol
  http

Status
  experimental

Specification document
  RFC xxxx

[RFC Editor: replace xxxx with assigned RFC number]
[Note: This registration should take place at
http://www.iana.org/assignments/message-headers/perm-headers.html
This note is to be deleted upon publication.]

4. Security Considerations

This extension to HTTP is not believed to add any additional security
concerns not already present in RFC 2616 [RFC2616].

5. Normative References

[RFC2119]   S. Bradner, "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate
             Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.

[RFC2616]   Fielding, R., Gettys, J., Mogul, J., Frystyk, H.,
             Masinter, L., Leach, P., and T. Berners-Lee, "Hypertext
             Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1", RFC 2616, June 1999.

[RFC3864]   Klyne, G., Nottingham, M., and J. Mogul, "Registration
             Procedures for Message Header Fields", BCP 90, RFC 3864,
             September 2004.

[RFC5234]   Crocker, D., Ed., and P. Overell, "Augmented BNF for
             Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, RFC 5234, January
             2008.

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