A new Request for Comments is now available in online RFC libraries.

**RFC 3229**

**Title:** Delta encoding in HTTP  
**Author(s):** J. Mogul, B. Krishnamurthy, F. Douglis, A. Feldmann, Y. Goland, A. van Hoff, D. Hellerstein  
**Status:** Standards Track  
**Date:** January 2002  
**Mailbox:** JeffMogul@acm.org, bala@research.att.com, douglis@research.att.com, anja@cs.uni-sb.de, yaron@goland.org, avh@marimba.com, danielh@crosslink.net  
**Pages:** 49  
**Characters:** 111953  
**Updates/Obsoletes/SeeAlso:** None  
**I-D Tag:** draft-mogul-http-delta-10.txt  
**URL:** ftp://ftp.rfc-editor.org/in-notes/rfc3229.txt

This document describes how delta encoding can be supported as a compatible extension to HTTP/1.1.

Many HTTP (Hypertext Transport Protocol) requests cause the retrieval of slightly modified instances of resources for which the client already has a cache entry. Research has shown that such modifying updates are frequent, and that the modifications are typically much smaller than the actual entity. In such cases, HTTP would make more efficient use of network bandwidth if it could transfer a minimal description of the changes, rather than the entire new instance of the resource. This is called "delta encoding."

This is now a Proposed Standard Protocol.

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

This announcement is sent to the IETF list and the RFC-DIST list. Requests to be added to or deleted from the IETF distribution list should be sent to IETF-REQUEST@IETF.ORG. Requests to be added to or deleted from the RFC-DIST distribution list should be sent to RFC-DIST-REQUEST@RFC-EDITOR.ORG.

Details on obtaining RFCs via FTP or EMAIL may be obtained by sending an EMAIL message to rfc-info@RFC-EDITOR.ORG with the message body help: ways_to_get_rfcs. For example:

To: rfc-info@RFC-EDITOR.ORG
Subject: getting rfcs

help: ways_to_get_rfcs

Requests for special distribution should be addressed to either the
author of the RFC in question, or to RFC-Manager@RFC-EDITOR.ORG. Unless
specifically noted otherwise on the RFC itself, all RFCs are for
unlimited distribution.

Submissions for Requests for Comments should be sent to
RFC-EDITOR@RFC-EDITOR.ORG. Please consult RFC 2223, Instructions to RFC
Authors, for further information.