

Dates in Requests

[draft-thomson-httpapi-date-requests](#)

IETF HTTPAPI Working Group

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Using the Date field in HTTP requests is rare

Sometimes it is necessary to somehow include *now()*

Signed requests (such as ACME, message signatures)

OHTTP

Purpose of draft:

Explore the consequences

Make dates/timestamps work better

Purpose

In OHAI we need an anti-replay strategy

We could build something bespoke, but we decided not to

HTTP has all the pieces we need

The Date header field is perfect*



Use Case: OHTTP

Clients and servers often disagree about what time it is

By a **lot** sometimes and more often than you might think

To correct errors: copy the Date from the response

New problem type [RFC7807bis] to signal this

Draft reviews some considerations

Using untrusted time is not a good idea (so limit scope of use)

Intermediaries might overwrite Date (no problem, probably)

Rules for how to avoid caching problems (use Vary as appropriate)

Bad Clocks

Is this useful material?

Is this group interested in working on this?

Questions