HTTP ETag on PUT issues

Cyrus Daboo, Apple Inc.
What does a strong ETag on PUT mean?

Does it refer to the ETag of the data received?

Or does it refer to the ETag of the data actually stored?

The two may be different if the server re-writes the content.
Why do we care?

• In a client-server application like CalDAV or CardDAV, clients want to know how the server re-write their data for synchronization purposes.

• Right now clients have to do a GET right after a PUT to be sure they have the actual server data cached. Not efficient for the case where the data did not change.
Solutions?

- Explicitly define the meaning of a strong ETag on PUT. CalDAV/CardDAV do this but it is controversial.
- Define a new header for the stored ETag.
- Allow the client to request the server to return the data in the PUT response if it changed, with the ETag.
- Possible solution: draft-reschke-http-etag-on-write-07.