

# HTTP ETag on PUT issues

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# Issue

- 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.