

HTTP

{ Hypertext Transfer Protocol }



http://www.yahoo.com



Yahoo! Auctions  
Pokemon, Rolex, 'N  
Sync

free\_email@yahoo.com

Win Free Flowers  
FTD.COM

Search advanced search

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HTML



HTTP



SPEAKERINNEN

Oder registriere Dich über Twitter

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[Registrieren](#)



[https://speakerinnen.org/de/sign\\_up](https://speakerinnen.org/de/sign_up)

scheme

host

path

URI

`https://speakerinnen.org/de/sign_up`

is translated to

`https://54.255.158.2:443/de/sign_up`

using the DNS protocol



- Connect to the computer reachable under IP address 54.255.158.2
- Use an SSL/TLS encrypted TCP socket on port 443
- Speak HTTP
- Tell the server we know it as `speakerinnen.org`
- Access resource `/de/sign_up`

Server listens on TCP port

# TCP socket

- Is opened when client connects to port
- Client and server can send each other messages

# Client starts speaking

GET /de/sign\_up HTTP/1.1

Host: speakerinnen.org

# Server replies

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: text/html

```
<html>
```

```
  <head>
```

```
    <title>Speakerinnen*-Liste</title>
```

```
  </head>
```

```
</html>
```

# request vs response

VERB path HTTP/1.1

Header: Value

...

Body (if there is one)

HTTP/1.1 code description

Header: Value

...

Body (if there is one)

# Resources

- identified by host and path
- allow multiple operations
- can have multiple representations

`speakerinnen.org/de/sign_up`

HTTP methods

# GET

- Request a resource in its current state.
- The standard operation.
- Request does not include a body.
- Request is safe (and idempotent).

Safe? Idempotent?

Resource state?

What??

# Resource state

- Representations, headers and availability associated with a resource.
- /de/sign\_up exists, is accessible, and has an HTML page with a form as its representation.

# Safe requests

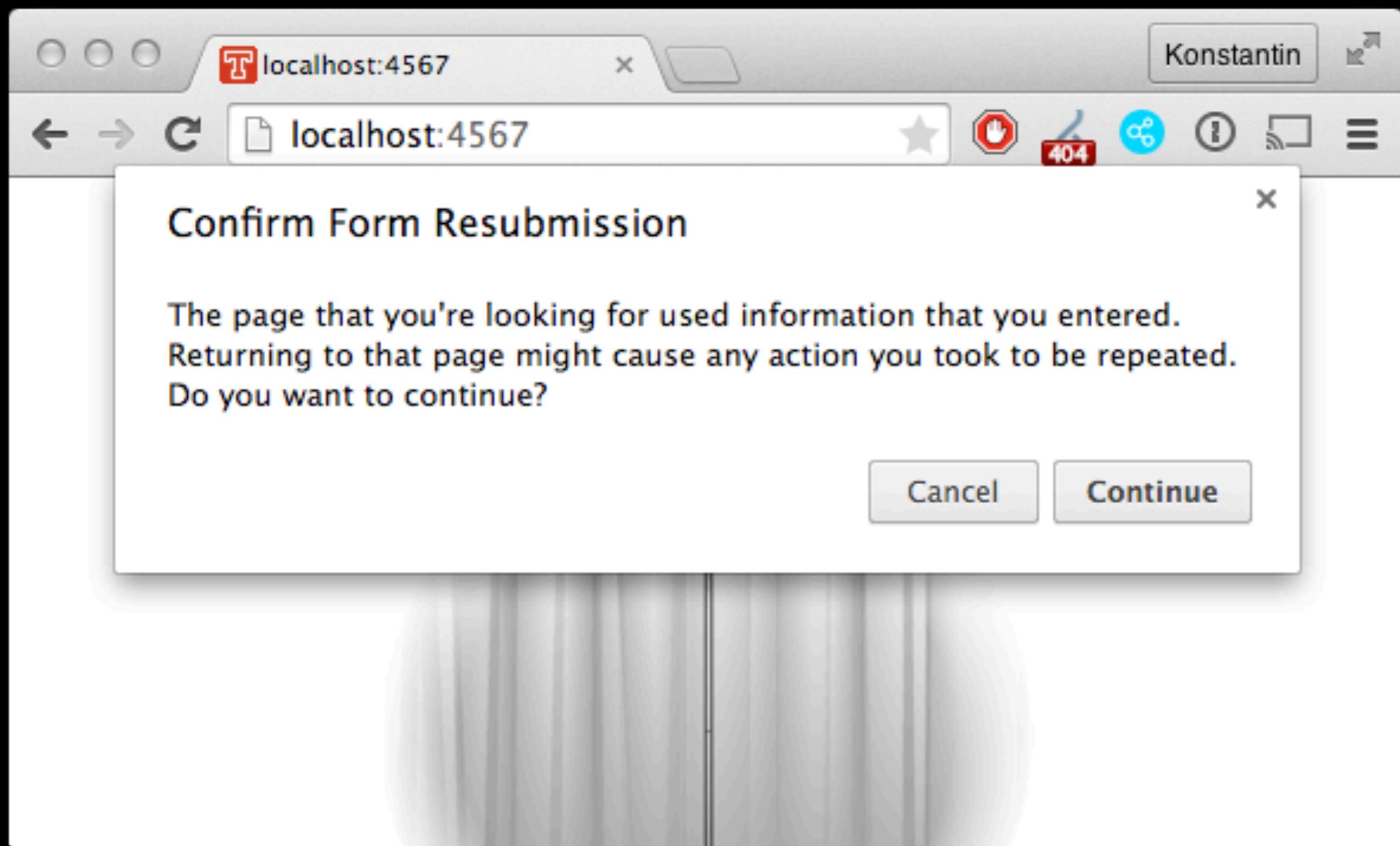
- Safe requests do not change the state of a resource.
- HTTP client does not need to ask the user for permission to perform request.

# Idempotent requests

- The resource state will be the same after performing the request once or multiple times.
- HTTP client does not need to ask the user for permission to repeat the request.

# Non-idempotent requests

- Can't be sure about the resource state after multiple requests.
- HTTP client should always ask the user for confirmation.



## Confirm Form Resubmission

The page that you're looking for used information that you entered. Returning to that page might cause any action you took to be repeated. Do you want to continue?

Cancel

Continue

# GET

- Request a resource in its current state.
- The standard operation.
- Request does not include a body.
- Request is safe (and idempotent).

# HEAD

- Same as GET, but there won't be a response body.
- Useful if you only care about the headers.
- Request is safe (and idempotent).

# POST

- "Do something dangerous."
- Default for requests that change something.
- Used for creating a new speakerinnen.
- Unsafe and non-idempotent.

```
<!-- in the /de/sign_up HTML representaiion -->  
<form action="/de/profiles" method="post">  
  <input name="profile[email]" />  
  <input name="profile[password]" type="password" />  
  <input type="submit" value="Registrieren" />  
</form>
```

**POST /de/profiles HTTP/1.1**

**Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded**

**Content-Length: 49**

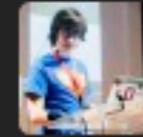
**profile[email]=me@rkh.im&profile[password]=abc123**

# PUT

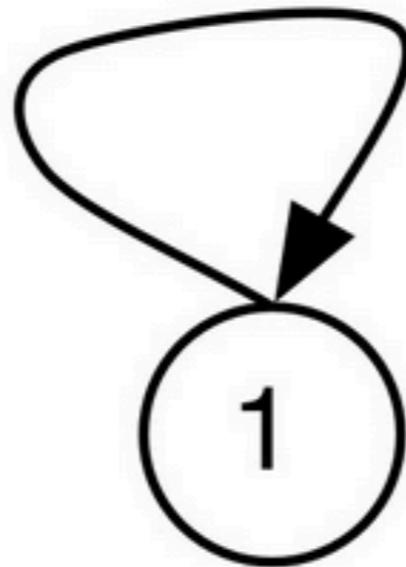
- Writing a resource to a given path.
- Often used for uploads.
- Unsafe, but idempotent (yay).

# Other HTTP methods

- DELETE: Remove a resource, idempotent.
- OPTIONS: Learn about available methods and representations for a resource, safe.
- PATCH: Update a resource from a partial representation, non-idempotent.
- LINK and UNLINK: Create or destroy relations between resources, idempotent.



# GET /



**Repeatable! :)**

**No state change! :)**

**Deterministic! :)**

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# Nordic Ruby 2012: We don't know HTTP

by [Konstantin Haase](#)

Published [June 15, 2012](#) in [Technology](#)

# Response Status

- 1xx - informational
- 2xx - success
- 3xx - redirection
- 4xx - client error
- 5xx - server error

If you don't know  
status `xyz`, treat it  
like `x00`.

# Examples

- 303 See Other
- 403 Forbidden
- 404 File Not Found
- 405 Method Not Allowed
- 418 I'm a Teapot
- 500 Internal Server Error

Headers

# Common request headers

- **Host**: Domain name in URI.
- **User-Agent**: Client software used.
- **Referer**<sup>[sic]</sup>: Page user was on before.

# Safari on iPad

```
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPad; U; CPU OS  
3_2_1 like Mac OS X; en-us) AppleWebKit/  
531.21.10 (KHTML, like Gecko) Mobile/  
7B405
```

A young man dressed as Robin from the 1960s television series. He is wearing a red, laced-up vest with a gold 'R' on the chest, a gold cape, and black gloves. He has a serious expression and is looking directly at the camera. A speech bubble is positioned to his right, containing the text 'Holy Browser wars Batman!'. The background is a plain, light blue wall.

**Holy Browser  
wars Batman!**

# Common response headers

- **Server:** Server software used.
- **Last-Modified:** The last time the resource state has changed.

# Representations

The "file type" of the response  
or request body.

# We have seen two so far

→ `text/html`

→ `application/x-www-form-urlencoded`

# Other examples

- `image/gif, image/png, image/jpeg`
- `text/plain, text/css, text/x-script.ruby`
- `application/javascript, application/  
json`

A resource can have  
multiple  
representations



But we need to tell it which one we want

# We want a PNG image

GET /resource HTTP/1.1

Host: example.org

Accept: image/png

# Server gives us PNG image

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: image/png

[ png data ]

# We want a PNG image

```
GET /resource HTTP/1.1
```

```
Host: example.org
```

```
Accept: image/png
```

Resource doesn't have a PNG representation

```
HTTP/1.1 406 Not Acceptable
```

```
Content-Type: text/plain
```

```
No PNG, sorry.
```

# We want any kind of image

```
GET /resource HTTP/1.1
```

```
Host: example.org
```

```
Accept: image/*
```

## Server gives us PNG image

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

```
Content-Type: image/png
```

```
[ png data ]
```

# We want a PNG or GIF image (but prefer PNG)

```
GET /resource HTTP/1.1
```

```
Host: example.org
```

```
Accept: image/png; q=1.0, image/gif; q=0.5
```

## Server gives us PNG image

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

```
Content-Type: image/png
```

```
[ png data ]
```

# The same works for language.

```
GET /resource HTTP/1.1
```

```
Host: example.org
```

```
Accept-Language: en, de
```



# Cookies

HTTP is stateless.

---

Cookies are a way to attach state.

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Set-Cookie: mycookie=foobar; HttpOnly

Content-Type: text/plain

Just gave you **a** cookie!

```
GET /somepage HTTP/1.1  
Host: example.org  
Cookie: mycookie=foobar
```

```
get '/' do
  name = session[:name]
  "Hello #{ name }!"
end
```



Konstantin

20 Presentations

# Death to Cookies



**Konstantin Haase**

@konstantinhaase

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