

Http Requests Methods

Overview of HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol)

HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) is the primary protocol used for transferring information on the web. It allows for communication between clients (like web browsers) and servers by structuring requests and responses in a standardized way.

- ▶ **HTTP is stateless**, meaning each request is independent, and servers do not store any session information about past interactions. This statelessness makes HTTP scalable but requires additional methods (like cookies) to manage user sessions.
- ▶ **HTTP methods** like GET, POST, PUT, and DELETE define the actions clients can perform on the server's resources.

Importance and Usage in the Web

HTTP is the backbone of the internet, facilitating nearly all data exchanges on the web. Here's why HTTP is essential:

- ▶ **Foundation of Web Communication:** HTTP is the protocol that enables clients (browsers or apps) to request resources like HTML, images, or JSON data from web servers.
- ▶ **Cross-Platform and Universal:** HTTP is platform-independent, allowing any device (desktop, mobile, IoT) to interact with web servers.
- ▶ **Support for Secure Transactions (HTTPS):** HTTPS is an encrypted version of HTTP, protecting sensitive data like passwords and payment information during transmission.
- ▶ **Versatility with RESTful APIs:** HTTP is the protocol behind RESTful APIs, enabling clients to interact with servers using simple HTTP methods. Many modern web applications rely on APIs to retrieve data dynamically, such as weather information or social media posts.

Basic Terms - URL, URI, and Resources

Understanding basic HTTP terminology is essential:

- ▶ **URL (Uniform Resource Locator):** Specifies the exact location of a resource on the web (e.g., <https://example.com/page>).
- ▶ **URI (Uniform Resource Identifier):** A broader term that includes URLs and URNs (Uniform Resource Names) to identify resources.
- ▶ **Resources:** Resources are the data or services that a client accesses on a server, such as web pages, images, or API data.

Resources

- ▶ In HTTP, resources refer to the data or content provided by a server that clients can access via URLs. Resources can be anything accessible on the web: HTML pages, images, files, or structured data like JSON. Resources are identified by URLs, and different HTTP methods specify how to interact with them (e.g., GET to retrieve, POST to create).

Client-Server Model

The client-server model is a fundamental concept in HTTP communication. In this model:

- ▶ **Client:** A client (e.g., web browser, mobile app) initiates a request to a server to fetch or send data.
- ▶ **Server:** A server (e.g., web server, database) receives the request, processes it, and sends back a response to the client.

The client-server model enables separation of concerns, allowing clients to focus on displaying information and servers to handle data storage, processing, and retrieval.

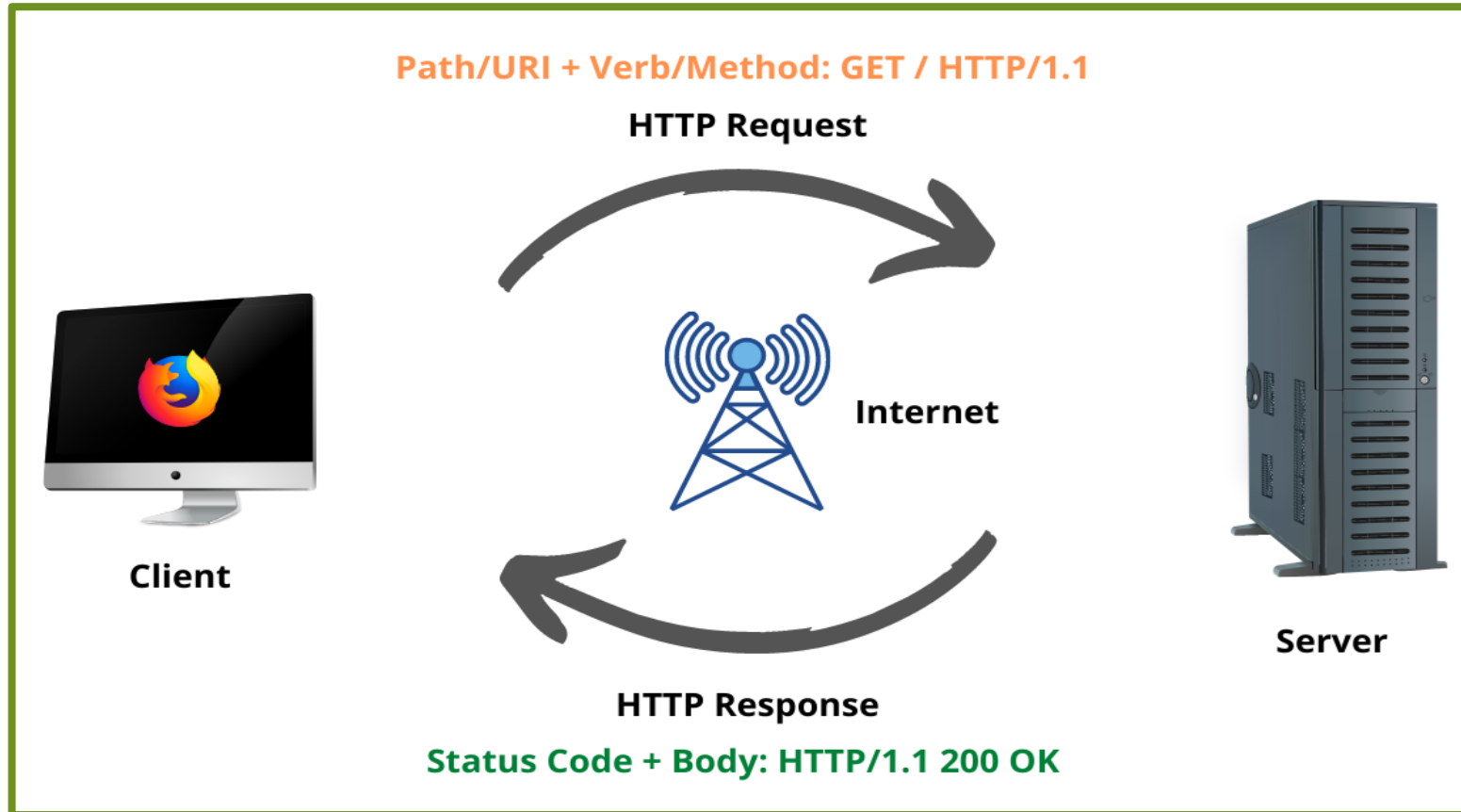
Python_requests Module

The requests module in Python is a simple, yet powerful library for making HTTP requests. It enables you to easily send GET, POST, PUT, DELETE, and other types of requests to interact with web services and APIs. With requests, you can customize headers, manage cookies, handle authentication, and work with JSON responses seamlessly. It's widely used for API integration, web scraping, and automating interactions with online resources due to its intuitive and flexible interface.

Request and Response Cycle

The request and response cycle is the core of HTTP communication, allowing clients and servers to exchange data.

- ▶ **Client Request:** The client sends an HTTP request to the server, specifying a method (e.g., GET, POST) and additional information (headers, body).
- ▶ **Server Response:** The server processes the request and sends back an HTTP response, which includes a status code, headers, and possibly a body with data.



Structure of an HTTP Request and Response

HTTP requests and responses have a standardized structure to facilitate clear communication between clients and servers. Each consists of three main parts: the start line, headers, and an optional body.

HTTP Request Structure

- ▶ **Request Line:** Contains the HTTP method (e.g., GET, POST), URL, and HTTP version.
- ▶ **Headers:** Key-value pairs that provide additional information about the request.
- ▶ **Body (optional):** Data sent with the request, often used in POST or PUT requests.

HTTP Response Structure

- **Status Line:** Contains the HTTP version, status code, and a reason phrase (e.g., 200 OK, 404 Not Found).
- **Headers:** Metadata about the response (e.g., Content-Type, Content-Length).
- **Body** (optional): Contains the requested resource or data.

Python Example: Basic GET Request

```
import requests
```

```
# Define the URL to fetch data from
```

```
url = "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts/1"
```

```
# Make a GET request
```

```
response = requests.get(url)
```

```
# Print the response status code
```

```
print("Status Code:", response.status_code)
```

```
# Print the response content
```

```
print("Content:", response.text)
```

GET Request with Headers

#This example demonstrates a GET request with custom headers. Headers like *User_Agent* and *Accept* provide additional metadata about the client or specify the desired response format.

```
import requests
```

```
# Define the URL
```

```
url = "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts/1"
```

```
# Define custom headers
```

```
headers = {
```

```
    "User-Agent": "Mozilla/5.0",
```

```
    "Accept": "application/json"
```

```
}
```

```
# Make a GET request with custom headers
```

```
response = requests.get(url, headers=headers)
```

```
# Print the response status and content
```

```
print("Status Code:", response.status_code)
```

```
print("Response Headers:", response.headers)
```

```
print("Response Content:", response.text)
```

Python Example: POST Request to Submit Data

A POST request is often used to submit data to a server, for example, when creating a new record.

```
import requests
```

URL for creating a new resource

```
url = "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts"
```

Data to send in the request

```
payload = {  
    "title": "New Post",  
    "body": "This is the content of the new post",  
    "userId": 1  
}
```

Make a POST request with JSON data

```
response = requests.post(url, json=payload)
```

Print the response status and content

```
print("Status Code:", response.status_code)
```

```
print("Response Content:", response.json())
```

Python Example: Handling an HTTP Response

#In the following example, we examine the response components,
such as the status code, headers, and body content.

```
import requests
```

URL to fetch data from

```
url = "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts/1"
```

Send a GET request

```
response = requests.get(url)
```

Print the status line (status code)

```
print("Status Code:", response.status_code) # e.g., 200 OK
```

Print response headers

```
print("Response Headers:", response.headers) # Metadata about the response
```

Print the body/content

```
print("Response Body:", response.text) # The actual data/content returned
```

Python Example: Request and Response Cycle

#This example shows both request and response components.

```
import requests
```

Define URL and make a GET request

```
url = "https://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/posts/1"
```

```
response = requests.get(url)
```

Print request information

```
print("Request Method:", response.request.method)
```

```
print("Request URL:", response.request.url)
```

Print response information

```
print("Response Status Code:", response.status_code)
```

```
print("Response Headers:", response.headers)
```

```
print("Response Body:", response.text)
```