

The Redirect-By HTTP Response Header Field

Redirect-By lets the component that issued a redirect identify itself, so you can see at a glance which part of the chain sent you elsewhere.

draft-devalk-redirect-by

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Problems this solves

- Any component in the chain can issue a redirect: CDN edge rule, reverse proxy, load balancer, CMS, plugin
- A misconfigured redirect shows only status code + Location; neither says which component fired it
- Diagnosis means disabling components one by one: slow and error-prone

Current practice

- Deployed practice: X-Redirect-By, WordPress core since 5.1 (2019), also TYPO3, Moodle and PHPNuke
- Widely deployed, never standardized

The draft

- Redirect-By as an Item Structured Field (String);
deprecates X-Redirect-By
- Value SHOULD be a URI identifying the component
- MAY carry instance information after the URI:
"https://wordpress.org/; FrontEndBypass"
- Informational only: recipients MUST NOT base automated decisions
on the value

Since -00: list review

- URI values + explicit ban on automated decisions (merged)
- String-only (was Token or String)
- Instance qualifier after the URI

and now, discuss!