IETF 75 - HTTPbis -07 Changes Overview

Julian Reschke, greenbytes

History

- -05: published November 2008 (during IETF 73)
- -06: published March 2009 (before IETF 74)
- -07: published July 2009 (before IETF 75)

Referer (Issue 37)

http://trac.tools.ietf.org/wg/httpbis/trac/ticket/37

- clarified that a missing request header matches only another missing request header, for the purposes of variant selection
- part of a larger rewrite of the p6 sections on validation model, caching negotiated responses and combining responses

Referer (Issue 144)

http://trac.tools.ietf.org/wg/httpbis/trac/ticket/144

- adresses one of the issues that led to the proposal of the "Origin" header
- allows clients to sent

```
Referer: about:blank
```

instead of not sending the header

Content Sniffing (Issue 155)

http://trac.tools.ietf.org/wg/httpbis/trac/ticket/155

- RFC2616 essentially forbids sniffing when a Content-Type header is present

- Draft 07 gets out of the way, and only says:
  "Content-Type specifies the media type of the underlying data. Any HTTP/1.1 message containing an entity-body SHOULD include a Content-Type header field defining the media type of that body, unless that information is unknown. If the Content-Type header field is not present, it indicates that the sender does not know the media type of the data; recipients MAY either assume that it is "application/octet-stream" ([RFC2046], Section 4.5.1) or examine the content to determine its type. [...] Note that neither the interpretation of the data type of a message nor the behaviors caused by it are defined by HTTP; this potentially includes examination of the content to override any indicated type ("sniffing")."

IANA registries (Issue 170)

http://trac.tools.ietf.org/wg/httpbis/trac/ticket/170

- Status Code and Method registries used to require the spec to "update" the HTTP/1.1 spec

- this was inherited from RFC 2817, which introduced the Status Code registry (Section 7.1)

- -07 just requires "IETF Review" ([RFC5226], Section 4.1)

- Erratum was raised and confirmed for RFC 2817 (Erratum)