

Work Paper / Draft Interpretation for Request C03001
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Group 8760

The question is whether individual implementations are free to use the http HEAD command, prior to using the POST command to deliver the NAESB payload.

Discussion: The NAESB (really GISB 1.4) EDM standards have been published since August of 1999, a period of 3 ½ years. During that time the requester's software (along with many other companies' software), has successfully exchanged data using the NAESB EDM standards, all the while sending HEAD requests, and processing them on inbound exchanges.

Nothing has changed in the NAESB V1.4 EDM specifications.

The NAESB specification is silent on the use of HEAD requests (as it is on many other technical implementation details), relying on the HTTP specification. The HTTP specification includes the use of HEAD requests. The requester believes it is in full compliance with the NAESB EDM standards when sending the HEAD request. However, other technical experts now disagree saying that HEAD requests should not be sent when following the NAESB standards.

In the interest of compromise, and in order to be inclusive of the many installed systems in place, and in order not to attempt to retroactively force a change to installed version 1.4 NAESB EDM solutions, we propose the following interpretation.

Proposed Interpretation:

All NAESB EDM solutions should be capable of processing HEAD requests when sent. Connections should not be rejected by the receipt computer if a HEAD request is sent. Senders may choose not to send a HEAD request, this is also acceptable.