

Work Paper / Draft Interpretation for Request C03002
February 27, 2003
Group 8760

The question is whether basic authentication can be applied separately to HEAD and POST requests on a web server implementation, or whether consistent authentication should be applied.

(Note that the question is related, but distinct, from that addressed in Request for Clarification or Interpretation No. C03001. This question assumes that HEAD requests are allowed.)

Discussion: The NAESB EDM standards clearly require the use of basic authentication.

The requester believes that if and when a HEAD request is used, authentication is required and should match that required for the POST. Although some web servers do allow separate authentication for HEAD and POST, this is an extremely unusual practice.

Proposed Interpretation:

The NAESB EDM standards require the use of basic authentication. If a HEAD request is sent prior to the POST (see Request for Interpretation No. C03001), basic authentication is required for both the HEAD and the POST, and the same authentication credentials should be applied to both.