

Work Paper / Draft Interpretation for Request C03001
February 28, 2003
Systrends

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 requesters of C03001 provide the following interpretation of the EDM standard with regard to HTTP POST and GET methods, ref the following from C03001:

“It is also clear that the http POST command should be used, and not the GET command.”

Section 5.1.1 of the HTTP standard contains the following listing of all HTTP standard methods:

Method	= "OPTIONS"	; Section 9.2
	"GET"	; Section 9.3
	"HEAD"	; Section 9.4
	"POST"	; Section 9.5
	"PUT"	; Section 9.6
	"DELETE"	; Section 9.7
	"TRACE"	; Section 9.8
	"CONNECT"	; Section 9.9
	extension-method	
	extension-method = token	

Section 9.4 of the HTTP standard clearly describes the “HEAD” method as follows:

“ The HEAD method is identical to GET except that the server MUST NOT return a message-body in the response.”

Proposed Interpretation:

All NAESB EDM implementations should regard HEAD requests as identical to a GET request, per the interpretation provided in section 9.4 of the HTTP standard. The EDM specification clearly indicates that the GET method should not be used and this should also pertain to the HEAD method.