

## Content-Type and Other Headers for HTML

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[Content-Type and Other Headers for HTML](#)

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### Content-Type Header

#### And Other HTTP Headers for HTML

`<dfn>HTTP headers</dfn>` are sent to the client (browser) in the response from the web server before the document itself. The [HTTP headers](#) which control how an HTML document is displayed might look like this:

```
Content-Type: application/xhtml+xml; charset=UTF-8
X-UA-Compatible: IE=9
```

For static web pages, the headers are provided by the HTTP web server.

- [Set Content-Type using .htaccess](#)

When a server-side program or scripting is generating HTML, the language probably has an [API](#) to send the proper HTTP headers.

- [Set Content-Type in ASP .NET](#)
- [Set Content-Type in Java](#)
- [Set Content-Type in JSP](#)
- [Set Content-Type in Perl CGI](#)
- [Set Content-Type in PHP](#)
- [Set Content-Type in Ruby on Rails](#)

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### .htaccess Code for Content-Type Header

#### Set Content-Type Header using .htaccess AddType

For static web pages, it may be necessary to add the MIME Type for HTML to the HTTP web server configuration to send the appropriate Content-Type header. With the Apache HTTP Server, for example, the HTML 5 MIME Type can be added to the .htaccess file(s):

```
AddType application/xhtml+xml; charset=UTF-8 html
```

For a detailed explanation of why the `Content-Type` header is set to `application/xhtml+xml`, see [HTML 5's HTML Serialization](#).

It is highly recommended that the `charset` attribute specifying the character encoding of the HTML page be included in the `Content-Type` header for non-XML user agents as well as in the [xml declaration](#) for XML parsers.

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## HTTP Header Examples

### Examples of HTTP Headers for HTML

```
DirectoryIndex index.html
ErrorDocument 404 /error.html
AddType application/xhtml+xml; charset=UTF-8 html
```

In this example, the `DirectoryIndex` document comes from the directory indicated by the HTTP request URL and the `ErrorDocument` comes from the document root directory, due to the leading slash (/) in that directive. The Content-Type header for any .html documents will have a value of `application/xhtml+xml` and the documents will be encoded with UTF-8 character encoding.

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*THE END*