Bindings for **eOBI**X: REST Bindings Version 1.0

Committee Specification Draft 0102 / Public Review Draft 0102

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Related work:
This specification is related to:


- Encodings for **OBI**X: Common Encodings Version 1.0. 11 July 2013. OASIS Committee Specification Draft 01 / Public Review Draft 01.
Abstract:
This document specifies REST bindings for oBIX. oBIX provides the core information model and interaction pattern for communication with building control systems. Specific implementations of oBIX must choose how to bind oBIX interactions. This document describes the REST Binding, an interaction pattern that can be used in conjunction with XML, EXI, CoAP, and JSON encodings, as well as other encodings that may be specified elsewhere.

Status:
This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Open Building Information Exchange (oBIX) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the “Latest version” location noted above for possible later revisions of this document.

Technical Committee members should send comments on this specification to the Technical Committee’s email list. Others should send comments to the Technical Committee by using the “Send A Comment” button on the Technical Committee’s web page at http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/obix/.

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[obix-REST]
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1 Introduction

This document specifies the REST bindings for OBIX.

1.1 Terminology

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC2119.

1.2 Normative References


COAP Shelby, Z., Hartke, K., Bormann, C., "Constrained Application Protocol (CoAP)", IETF Internet Draft, Version 47.26-May 18, 26 June 2013.

eOBIX Encodings Encodings for eOBIX: Common Encodings Version 1.0.

See link in "Related work" section on cover page.

1.3 Non-Normative References


2 HTTP Binding

The HTTP binding specifies a simple REST mapping of eOBIX requests to HTTP. A read request is a simple HTTP GET, which means that you can simply read an eObject by typing its URI into your browser.

Refer to "RFC2616" for the full specification of HTTP 1.1.

2.1 Requests

The following table summarizes how eOBIX requests map to HTTP methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>eOBIX Request</th>
<th>HTTP Method</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read</td>
<td>GET</td>
<td>Any eObject with an href</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write</td>
<td>PUT</td>
<td>Any eObject with an href and writable=true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoke</td>
<td>POST</td>
<td>Any op eObject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td>DELETE</td>
<td>Any eObject with an href and writable=true</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2-1. Mapping of OBIX Requests to HTTP Methods.

The URI used for an HTTP request MUST map to the URI of the eObject being read, written, or invoked. Read requests use a simple HTTP GET and return the resulting eOBIX document. Write and invoke are implemented with the PUT and POST methods respectively. The input is passed to the server as an eOBIX document and the result is returned as an eOBIX document.

If the eOBIX server processes a request, then it MUST return the resulting eOBIX document with an HTTP status code of 200 OK. The 200 status code MUST be used even if the request failed and the server is returning an err eObject as the result.

2.2 MIME Type

The HTTP client MAY specify the MIME type of the encoding according to the OBIX Encodings specification for the payload of a PUT or POST request using the HTTP content type header.

2.2.1 Content Negotiation

eOBIX resources mayMUST be encoded using MIME types defined by the corresponding encodingas defined by the OBIX Encodings according encoding [OBIX Encodings]. specification. Clients and servers SHOULD follow Section 12 of RFC2616 for content negotiation.

If a client wishes to GET a resource using a specific encoding, then it SHOULD specify the desired MIME type in the Accept header.

If the server does not support the MIME type of a client request, then it SHOULD respond with the 406 Not Acceptable status code. There are two use cases for a 406 failure: 1) the client specifies an unsupported MIME type in the Accept header of a GET (read) request, or 2) the client specifies an unsupported MIME type in the Content-Type of a PUT (write) or POST (invoke) request.

2.3 Security

Numerous standards are designed to provide authentication and encryption services for HTTP. Existing standards SHOULD be used when applicable for eOBIX HTTP implementations including:

- RFC2617 - HTTP Authentication: Basic and Digest Access Authentication
- RFC2618 - HTTP Over TLS (HTTPS)
2.4 Localization

Servers SHOULD localize appropriate data based on follow the localization approach outlined in the core OBIX Specification. If the desired locale of the client agent, Localization SHOULD include the display and displayName attributes. The desired locale of the client SHOULD not be determined through authentication or, it SHOULD be determined via the Accept-Language HTTP header. A suggested algorithm is to check if the authenticated user has As a preferred locale configured in the server’s user database, and if not then fallback to, the locale MAY be derived from the Accept-Language header.

Localization MAY include auto-conversion of units. For example if the authenticated user has configured a preferred unit system such as English versus Metric, then the server might attempt to convert values with an associated unit facet to the desired unit system.
3 CoAP Binding

The Constrained Application Protocol (CoAP) is a specialized Web transfer protocol for use within constrained nodes and constrained (e.g., low-power, lossy) networks [CoAP]. CoAP is designed for nodes operated by microcontrollers and networks such as 6LoWPAN, which often have a high packet error rate and low bandwidth (10s of kbits/s). It is intended to be used within building automation systems. CoAP can be seen as optimized HTTP equivalent that uses UDP for packet exchange instead of TCP. Since UDP is a non-reliable packet oriented transport protocol CoAP provides custom facilities for reliable messaging and includes a CoAP specific acknowledgement mechanism to provide reliable point-to-point communication. Through the use of UDP it enables additional interaction patterns like asynchronous and group communication.

3.1 Requests

The following table summarizes how eOBIx requests map to CoAP methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>eOBIx Request</th>
<th>CoAP Method</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read</td>
<td>GET</td>
<td>Any eObject with an href</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write</td>
<td>PUT</td>
<td>Any eObject with an href and writable=true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoke</td>
<td>POST</td>
<td>Any op eObject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td>DELETE</td>
<td>Any eObject with an href and writable=true</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3-1. Mapping of OBIx Requests to CoAP Methods.

3.2 MIME Type

The CoAP client MAY specify the MIME type of the encoding according to the OBIx Encodings specification for the payload of a PUT or POST request using the CoAP header content format option to a value according to the CoAP content-format registry defined by CoAP which maps standard MIME types to a numeric value. Content negotiation eOBIx resources may be encoded using either the "text/xml" or the "application/x-obix-binary" MIME types defined by the corresponding encoding defined by the OBIx Encodings specification. Clients and servers SHOULD follow Section 12 of RFC2616 for content negotiation.

If a client wishes to GET a resource using a specific encoding, then it SHOULD specify the desired MIME type content-format identifier in the Accept header CoAP header accept option according to the CoAP content-format registry which maps standard MIME types to a numeric value. If the server does not support the MIME type of a client request, then it SHOULD respond with the 406 Not Acceptable status code. There are two use cases for a 406 failure: 1) the client specifies an unsupported MIME type in the Accept header of a GET (read) request, or 2) the client specifies an unsupported MIME type in the Content-Type of a PUT (write) or POST (invoke) request.

3.3 Observing resources

An eOBIx server that provides a CoAP binding should also support the CoAP observe option on CoAP GET requests. This provides an alternative to the concept of eOBIx watches, since no polling for updates on a resource is required. If the client issues a CoAP GET request with the observe option set an observation relationship is established on the server. If an observed eBIx object is updated a CoAP response message is sent to the client according to the CoAP-OBSERVE specification. If the server does not support the MIME type of a client request, then it SHOULD respond with the 406 Not Acceptable status code. There are two use cases for a 406 failure: 1) the client specifies an unsupported MIME type in the Accept header of a GET (read) request, or 2) the client specifies an unsupported MIME type in the Content-Type of a PUT (write) or POST (invoke) request.
For securing the CoAP binding the DTLS binding of CoAP as specified in COAP[CoAP] should be used.
4 Conformance

An implementation is compliant with this specification if it implements all MUST or REQUIRED level requirements.
Appendix A. Acknowledgments

The following individuals have participated in the creation of this specification and are gratefully acknowledged:

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- Ron Ambrosio, IBM
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- Rob Zivney, Hirsch Electronics Corporation
- Markus Jung, Institute of Computer Aided Automation, Vienna University of Technology
## Appendix B. Revision History

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<td>wd01</td>
<td>26 Mar 13</td>
<td>Markus Jung</td>
<td>Initial creation with HTTP binding taken out of OBI 1.1 WD07 working draft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>wd02</td>
<td>27 Mar 2013</td>
<td>Craig Gemmill</td>
<td>Add HTTP DELETE, references</td>
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<td>wd03</td>
<td>10 Apr 2013</td>
<td>Craig Gemmill</td>
<td>Upper case SHOULD keywords</td>
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<tr>
<td>wd04</td>
<td>23 May 2013</td>
<td>Markus Jung</td>
<td>First draft on CoAP binding, Updated MIME and content negotiation of HTTP binding to reference the encodings document.</td>
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<td>wd05</td>
<td>13 Jun 2013</td>
<td>Markus Jung</td>
<td>Updated CoAP reference</td>
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<td>28 Jun 2013</td>
<td>Markus Jung</td>
<td>Updated reference section</td>
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<td>wd07</td>
<td>04 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Craig Gemmill</td>
<td>Localization moved to core spec</td>
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<tr>
<td>wd08</td>
<td>16 Dec 2013</td>
<td>Markus Jung</td>
<td>Merge with changes of Craig</td>
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