Bindings for OBIX: REST Bindings
Version 1.0

Committee Specification Draft 02 /
Public Review Draft 02

19 December 2013

Specification URIs
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Related work:
This specification is related to:

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.

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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

- **OBIX 1.1** OBIX Version 1.1. See link in "Related work" section on cover page.
- **OBIX Encodings** Encodings for OBIX: Common Encodings Version 1.0. See link in "Related work" section on cover page.

1.3 Non-Normative References

- **CoAP-OBSERVE** Hartke, K., “Observing Resources in CoAP”, IETF Internet-Draft 08, February 25, 2013
2 HTTP Binding

The HTTP binding specifies a simple REST mapping of OBIX requests to HTTP. A read request is a simple HTTP GET, which means that you can simply read an Object 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 OBIX requests map to HTTP methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBIX Request</th>
<th>HTTP Method</th>
<th>Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read</td>
<td>GET</td>
<td>Any Object with an href</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write</td>
<td>PUT</td>
<td>Any Object with an href and writable=true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invoke</td>
<td>POST</td>
<td>Any op Object</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td>DELETE</td>
<td>Any Object 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 Object being read, written, or invoked. Read requests use a simple HTTP GET and return the resulting OBIX document. Write and invoke are implemented with the PUT and POST methods respectively. The input is passed to the server as an OBIX document and the result is returned as an OBIX document.

If the OBIX server processes a request, then it MUST return the resulting OBIX 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 Object 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

OBIX resources MUST be encoded using MIME types defined by the corresponding encoding as 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 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 OBIX HTTP implementations including:

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

Servers SHOULD follow the localization approach outlined in the core OBIX Specification. If the desired locale of the client cannot be determined through authentication, it SHOULD be determined via the Accept-Language HTTP header. As a fallback, the locale MAY be derived from the Accept-Language header.
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 OBIX requests map to CoAP methods:

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

OBIX 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 OBIX 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 OBIX 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 OBIX Object is updated a CoAP response message is sent to the client according to the CoAP-OBSERVE specification.
3.4 Security

For securing the CoAP binding the DTLS binding of CoAP as specified in 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:

Participants:
- Ron Ambrosio, IBM
- Brad Benson, Trane
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- William Cox, Individual
- Robert Dolin, Echelon Corporation
- Marek Dziedzic, Treasury Board of Canada, Secretariat
- Brian Frank, SkyFoundry
- Craig Gemmill, Tridium, Inc.
- Wonsuk Ko, Kyungwon University
- Perry Krol, TIBCO Software Inc.
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- Ulf Magnusson, Schneider Electric
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- Rob Zivney, Hirsch Electronics Corporation
- Markus Jung, Institute of Computer Aided Automation, Vienna University of Technology
# Appendix B. Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Date</th>
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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 OBIX 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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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>wd06</td>
<td>28 Jun 2013</td>
<td>Markus Jung</td>
<td>Updated reference section</td>
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<tr>
<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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