

[MS-CORS]:

Internet Explorer Standards Support Cross-Origin Resource Sharing Document for XMLHttpRequest

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Revision Summary

Date	Revision History	Revision Class	Comments
7/16/2014	1.0	New	Released new document.
1/22/2015	2.0	Major	Updated for new product version.
7/7/2015	2.1	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
11/2/2015	2.1	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
3/22/2016	2.2	Minor	Clarified the meaning of the technical content.
11/2/2016	2.2	None	No changes to the meaning, language, or formatting of the technical content.
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1 Introduction

This document describes the level of support provided by Microsoft web browsers for the *Cross-Origin Resource Sharing* [CORS] specification, published 16 January 2014. The [CORS] specification defines a mechanism to enable client-side cross-origin requests. It is a building block for other specifications, so-called CORS API specifications, which define how the [CORS] specification is used.

This document describes support for aspects of [CORS] pertinent to XMLHttpRequest [XMLHTTPREQUEST-LEVEL1], an implementation of [CORS] for Windows Internet Explorer 8 and Windows Internet Explorer 9.

1.1 Glossary

MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT: These terms (in all caps) are used as defined in [RFC2119]. All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

1.2 References

Links to a document in the Microsoft Open Specifications library point to the correct section in the most recently published version of the referenced document. However, because individual documents in the library are not updated at the same time, the section numbers in the documents may not match. You can confirm the correct section numbering by checking the [Errata](#).

1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact dochelp@microsoft.com. We will assist you in finding the relevant information.

[CORS] World Wide Web Consortium, "Cross-Origin Resource Sharing", W3C Recommendation 16 January 2014, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2014/REC-cors-20140116/>

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

[XMLHTTPREQUEST-LEVEL1] World Wide Web Consortium, "XMLHttpRequest Level 1", W3C Working Draft 30 January 2014, <http://www.w3.org/TR/2014/WD-XMLHttpRequest-20140130/>

1.2.2 Informative References

None.

1.3 Microsoft Implementations

The following Microsoft web browser versions implement some portion of the [CORS] specification for XMLHttpRequest [XMLHTTPREQUEST-LEVEL1]:

- Windows Internet Explorer 10
- Internet Explorer 11
- Internet Explorer 11 for Windows 10
- Microsoft Edge

Each browser version may implement multiple document rendering modes. The modes vary from one to another in support of the standard. The following table lists the document modes supported by each browser version.

Browser Version	Document Modes Supported
Internet Explorer 10	Quirks Mode IE7 Mode IE8 Mode IE9 Mode IE10 Mode
Internet Explorer 11	Quirks Mode IE7 Mode IE8 Mode IE9 Mode IE10 Mode IE11 Mode
Internet Explorer 11 for Windows 10	Quirks Mode IE7 Mode IE8 Mode IE9 Mode IE10 Mode IE11 Mode
Microsoft Edge	EdgeHTML Mode

For each variation presented in this document there is a list of the document modes and browser versions that exhibit the behavior described by the variation. All combinations of modes and versions that are not listed conform to the specification. For example, the following list for a variation indicates that the variation exists in three document modes in all browser versions that support these modes:

Quirks Mode, IE7 Mode, and IE8 Mode (All Versions)

1.4 Standards Support Requirements

To conform to [\[CORS\]](#) a user agent must implement all required portions of the specification. Any optional portions that have been implemented must also be implemented as described by the specification. Normative language is usually used to define both required and optional portions. (For more information, see [\[RFC2119\]](#).)

The following table lists the sections of [\[CORS\]](#) and whether they are considered normative or informative.

Sections	Normative/Informative
1	Informative
2 - 3	Normative
4	Informative
5 - 6.2	Normative
6.3 - 6.4	Informative

Sections	Normative/Informative
7 - 7.2	Normative
7.3 - 8	Informative
References	Informative
Acknowledgments	Informative

1.5 Notation

The following notations are used in this document to differentiate between notes of clarification, variation from the specification, and extension points.

Notation	Explanation
C####	Identifies a clarification of ambiguity in the target specification. This includes imprecise statements, omitted information, discrepancies, and errata. This does not include data formatting clarifications.
V####	Identifies an intended point of variability in the target specification such as the use of MAY, SHOULD, or RECOMMENDED. (See [RFC2119] .) This does not include extensibility points.
E####	Identifies extensibility points (such as optional implementation-specific data) in the target specification, which can impair interoperability.

For document mode and browser version notation, see section [1.3](#).

2 Standards Support Statements

This section contains all variations and clarifications for the Microsoft implementation of [\[CORS\]](#).

- Section [2.1](#) describes normative variations from the MUST requirements of the specification.
- Section [2.2](#) describes clarifications of the MAY and SHOULD requirements.
- Section [2.3](#) considers error handling aspects of the implementation.
- Section [2.4](#) considers security aspects of the implementation.

2.1 Normative Variations

The following subsections describe normative variations from the MUST requirements of [\[CORS\]](#).

2.1.1 [CORS] Section 5.2, Access-Control-Allow-Credentials Response Header

V0001:

The specification states:

```
The Access-Control-Allow-Origin header indicates whether a resource can be
shared based by returning the value of the Origin request header, "*", or
>null" in the response. ABNF:
```

```
Access-Control-Allow-Origin = "Access-Control-Allow-Origin" ":" origin-list-or-
null | "*"
```

IE10 Mode and IE11 Mode (all versions)

Origin lists are not supported. Instead, a single origin and the "null" string is supported.

2.1.2 [CORS], Section 7.1.7, Generic Cross-Origin Request Algorithms

V0002:

The specification states:

```
Whenever the make a request steps are applied, fetch the request URL from
origin source origin using referrer source as override referrer source with the
manual redirect flag set, and the block cookies flag set if the omit
credentials flag is set.
```

IE10 Mode (all versions)

The `override referrer source` is not supported.

2.2 Clarifications

There are no clarifications of the MAY and SHOULD requirements of [\[CORS\]](#).

2.3 Error Handling

There are no additional error handling considerations.

2.4 Security

There are no additional security considerations.

3 Change Tracking

No table of changes is available. The document is either new or has had no changes since its last release.

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