422 Unprocessable Content

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The HTTP **`422 Unprocessable Content`** client error response status code indicates that the server understood the content type of the request content, and the syntax of the request content was correct, but it was unable to process the contained instructions.

Clients that receive a `422` response should expect that repeating the request without modification will fail with the same error.

Status

```
422 Unprocessable Content
```

Examples

SHA validation failure

The following example makes a request to update file contents (based on GitHub's API). The `content` field is Base64 encoded and uses `\n` line feeds every 60 characters, with one terminating the string:

```
PUT /repos/mdn/content/contents/README.md HTTP/1.1
Host: api.example.com
Accept: application/vnd.github+json
```

```
Authorization: Bearer abcd123
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 165

{
  "message": "My commit",
  "content":
"WW9zaGkgd2FzIHRoZXJlLCBzbyB3ZXJlIEF5c2UsIGFuZCBCZWxnaW4uIEl0\nIHdhcyBncmVhdCE=\n",
  "sha": "80e73970fdee49dbdbac27c1f565d1eb1975d519"
}
```

In this implementation, the server expects strictly RFC 4648-compliant Base64 encoded content (using strict encoding methods). A `422` Unprocessable Content response is returned and the `message` field provides context about the validation error:

```
HTTP/1.1 422 Unprocessable Content
Date: Fri, 28 Jun 2024 12:00:00 GMT
Content-Type: application/json; charset=utf-8
Content-Length: 187

{
  "message": "content is not valid Base64",
  "documentation_url": "https://docs.example.com/en/rest/repos/contents"
}
```

Specifications

See also

- HTTP response status codes

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□ □□□ □□□ 2026-10-31 03:27:53 UTC
□ cocobook-sync □□□ 2026-11-04 17:36:18 UTC