Use-As-Dictionary header

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The HTTP **`Use-As-Dictionary`** response header lists the matching criteria that the Compression Dictionary Transport dictionary can be used for, for future requests.

The browser uses the dictionary only while the response that carries this header is fresh, or while `stale-while-revalidate` still allows that response to be served stale. A response sent with `no-cache` or `no-store` is never used as a dictionary, and one sent with `must-revalidate` is used only until its `max-age` runs out. See Dictionary freshness for more details.

See the Compression Dictionary Transport guide for more information.

Syntax

```
Use-As-Dictionary: match="<url-pattern>"
Use-As-Dictionary: match-dest=("<destination1>" "<destination2>", …)
Use-As-Dictionary: id="<string-identifier>"
Use-As-Dictionary: type="raw"
```

```
// Multiple, in any order
Content-Encoding: match="<url-pattern>", match-dest=("<destination1>")
```

Directives

- `match`
  - : A string value containing a URL Pattern: only resources whose URLs match this pattern may use this resource as a dictionary. Regular expression capturing groups are not allowed, so URLPattern.hasRegExpGroups must be `false`.
- `match-dest`
  - : A space-separated list of strings, with each string in quotes and the whole value enclosed in parentheses, that provides a list of Fetch request destinations that requests must match if they are to use this dictionary.
- `id`
  - : A string value that specifies a server identifier for the dictionary. This ID value will then be added in the Dictionary-ID request header when the browser requests a resource which can use this dictionary.
- `type`
  - : A string value that describes the file format of the supplied dictionary. Currently only `raw` is supported (which is the default) so this is more for future compatibility.

Examples

Path prefix

```
Use-As-Dictionary: match="/product/*"
```

This says the dictionary is only to be used for URLs starting with `/product/`.

Versioned directories

```
Use-As-Dictionary: match="/app/*/main.js"
```

This uses a wildcard to match multiple versions of a file.

Destinations

```
Use-As-Dictionary: match="/product/*", match-dest=("document")
```

This uses `match-dest` to ensure the dictionary is only used for `document` requests so `<script src="/product/js/app.js">` resource requests for example would not match.

```
Use-As-Dictionary: match="/product/*", match-dest=("document" "frame")
```

This would allow the dictionary to match both top-level documents and iframes.

Id

```
Use-As-Dictionary: match="/product/*", id="dictionary-12345"
```

When `Use-As-Dictionary` includes an `id` directive, as in this example, the `id` value will be included in the Dictionary-ID request header for resources that can use this dictionary. The resource request will also include the SHA-256 hash of the dictionary surrounded by colons in the Available-Dictionary header:

```
Accept-Encoding: gzip, br, zstd, dcb, dcz
Available-Dictionary: :pZGm1Av0IEBKARczz7exkNYsZb8LzaMrV7J32a2fFG4=:
Dictionary-ID: "dictionary-12345"
```

The server must still check the hash from the `Available-Dictionary` header — the `Dictionary-ID` is additional information for the server to identify the dictionary but does not replace the need for the `Available-Dictionary` header.

Type

```
Use-As-Dictionary: match="/product/*", type="raw"
```

Currently, only `raw` is supported (which is the default) so this is more for future compatibility.

Specifications

Browser compatibility

See also

- Compression Dictionary Transport guide
- Available-Dictionary
- Dictionary-ID

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