

## Re: [PHP] Problems with Zip+IE6

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/php.general/2006-12/msg00910.html>

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- *From:* [neuhauser@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:neuhauser@xxxxxxxxxx) (Roman Neuhauser)
  - *Date:* Tue, 19 Dec 2006 03:24:41 +0000
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# ceo@xxxxxxxxxx / 2006-12-18 15:00:48 -0600:

On Sat, December 16, 2006 6:17 am, Roman Neuhauser wrote:

# ceo@xxxxxxxxxx / 2006-12-15 22:55:54 -0600:

On Tue, December 12, 2006 11:04 am, Frank M. Kromann wrote:

if you use:

```
header("Content-Type: application/zip");  
header("Content-Disposition: attachment;
```

```
filename="somefile.zip");
```

That works for me with IE 6/7 and other browsers.

Argggggh.

Please read this:

<http://richardlynch.blogspot.com/>

Go test with MORE browsers and MORE OSes, because you haven't yet hit the ones where your Content-Disposition does not work, and they are out there somewhere.

As if it mattered that much. The filename's just a hint, the browser can be configured to ignore it even if it understands it, whatever. I would even say you're bound to hit a browser configured for some unintelligent reason to handle all app/o-s files with winamp. So what? You cannot count on anything the UA will/not do to the content.

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If the browser ignores application/octet-stream and doesn't do a download, it's broken.

I think you missed my point, which was: broken software is.

It *\*HAS\** to prompt you for a filename and do a download, by the original HTTP RFC spec. Please read more RFCs until you find the one about "application/octet-stream"

If the UA opens up "application/octet-stream" it is in direct violation of one of the few HTTP standards that every other UA on the planet actually honors!

A standard that is clear-cut, with no wiggle room for mis-interpretation whatsoever.

The only mention of a/o-s in HTTP 1.0 or 1.1 is this (1.1 version):

Any HTTP/1.1 message containing an entity-body SHOULD include a Content-Type header field defining the media type of that body. If and only if the media type is not given by a Content-Type field, the recipient MAY attempt to guess the media type via inspection of its content and/or the name extension(s) of the URI used to identify the resource. If the media type remains unknown, the recipient SHOULD treat it as type "application/octet-stream".

HTTP actually defers to MIME for the CT entity header values.

a/o-s was actually proposed in RFC1341 (obsoleted by RFC1521), the latter says:

application — some other kind of data, typically either uninterpreted binary data or information to be processed by a mail-based application. The primary subtype, "octet-stream", is to be used in the case of uninterpreted binary data, in which case the simplest recommended action is to offer to write the information into a file for the user.

and:

RFC 1341 also defined the use of a "NAME" parameter which gave a suggested file name to be used if the data were to be written to a file. This has been deprecated in anticipation of a separate Content-Disposition header field, to be defined in a subsequent RFC.

The recommended action for an implementation that receives

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application/octet-stream mail is to simply offer to put the data in a file, with any Content-Transfer-Encoding undone, or perhaps to use it as input to a user-specified process.

What filename will any sane browser use for:

<http://example.com/dir1/dir2/iwant.xyz>

HTTP doesn't discuss this at all, as far as I can tell.

[RFC2616 quote]

If you read between the lines, what you will find is that Qualcomm essentially asked for an RFC to standardize the stupid behaviour of MS IE, which was using Content-Disposition, originally conceived for MIME Email, and not HTTP at all.

Qualcomm simply wanted to standardize something it badly needed for Eudora.

Not to mention that it's a STUPID thing for MS IE to have done in the first place, to re-purpose a MIME email header for HTTP. It doesn't even make sense, since Content-Disposition has a MIME type embedded in it, which may or may not match the Content-type of the HTTP Request!

Now you've completely discredited yourself.

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How many Vietnam vets does it take to screw in a light bulb?

You don't know, man. You don't KNOW.

Cause you weren't THERE. <http://bash.org/?255991>

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