After PUTting a successful version update API request to /versions/1234.json, a response body consisting of one space is returned, while it declares itself to be 'Content-Type: application/json'.

One space (" ") is not valid JSON, so a client interpreting the response according to the content-type header will issue an error.

(Reported before in #9598, but does not mention content-type clash)

Fixed that 200 API responses have a body containing one space (#11388).

#1 - 2012-07-13 16:05 - Etienne Massip
- Category set to REST API

#2 - 2012-07-13 16:12 - Etienne Massip
- Target version set to Candidate for next minor release

#3 - 2012-07-13 16:32 - Jean-Philippe Lang
- Target version changed from Candidate for next minor release to Candidate for next major release

A more appropriate response should be a 204 response but I guess it could break some API clients. So I propose to respond with a 200 and an empty body. Should we keep the Content-Type as it is now?

#4 - 2012-07-13 16:48 - Jean-Philippe Lang

There has been a related commit in RoR (original LH ticket) to return an empty object (because setting Content-Type and no body makes no sense either I guess).
After discussion, it was eventually overridden by a new commit setting the response code to 204 and setting the body back to an single space.

I would do the way Rails do.

Edit: not an empty string, a single space.

#6 - 2012-07-13 17:33 - Jean-Philippe Lang

The default Rails behaviour is now a 204 No Content with a non-empty body, really?

#7 - 2012-07-13 17:50 - Etienne Massip

Jean-Philippe Lang wrote:

The default Rails behaviour is now a 204 No Content with a non-empty body, really?

Well, I did not test but that’s what the code and commit say :D

... 
assert_equal 204, @response.status
assert_equal " ", @response.body
...

#8 - 2012-07-13 18:00 - Jean-Philippe Lang

I have made a few tests with JQuery. It gives an error when responding with a one space response body indeed. But it seems to work fine with a 200 response and an empty body, even if the response Content-Type is set to text/json. It gives no error and returns null.

So I propose to just change the "one space" response body to an empty body.

#9 - 2012-07-13 18:18 - Etienne Massip

Did you try with a 204 and a single space?

#10 - 2012-07-13 18:33 - Jean-Philippe Lang

No, but I really don’t want to change the API behaviour in this way and break compatibility.

#11 - 2012-07-13 18:36 - Jean-Philippe Lang

Etienne Massip wrote:

Did you try with a 204 and a single space?

It seems to behave just like with an empty 200 response.
FTR, there exists a jQuery bug which has been closed.

Quote: An example of this is the 204 No Content status. The HTTP specification is unclear as to the inclusion of content-type. It does not forbid including it at any rate. **But it does forbid the inclusion of a message-body.**

Jean-Philippe Lang wrote:

> So I propose to just change the "one space" response body to an empty body.

Agreed.

2020-04-08

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