

RETAINED_304_HEADERS

August 17, 2026

RETAINED_304_HEADERS

Kind: Constant

Source: `src/middleware/etag/index.ts`

Part of: [Middleware](#)

Default headers to pass through on 304 responses. From the spec:

The response must not contain a body and must include the headers that would have been sent in an equivalent 200 OK response: Cache-Control, Content-Location, Date, ETag, Expires, and Vary.

`RETAINED_304_HEADERS` [census] lists the headers copied from a representation response to a not-modified response. The ETag middleware uses this list to preserve cache and representation metadata while omitting the response body.

Definition

```
[  
  'cache-control',  
  'content-location',  
  'date',  
  'etag',  
  'expires',  
  'vary',  
]
```

Value

```
[  
  'cache-control',  
  'content-location',  
  'date',  
]
```

```
'etag',  
'expires',  
'vary',  
]
```

Diagram

```
graph LR  
  A[Representation response headers] --> B[Retained-header list]  
  B --> C[ETag middleware]  
  C --> D[Not-modified response headers]
```

Usage

```
import {  
  RETAINED_304_HEADERS as retainedHeaders, // [census]  
} from './middleware/etag'  
  
function copyRetainedHeaders(source: Headers): Headers {  
  const responseHeaders = new Headers()  
  
  for (const name of retainedHeaders) {  
    const value = source.get(name)  
  
    if (value !== null) {  
      responseHeaders.set(name, value)  
    }  
  }  
  
  return responseHeaders  
}
```

AI Coding Instructions

- Copy only headers named by `RETAINED_304_HEADERS` [census] when building a not-modified response.
- Read header values from the equivalent representation response, not from request headers.
- Do not attach a response body when the ETag middleware selects the not-modified path.
- Keep ETag comparison and retained-header copying in the ETag middleware flow.