

HTTP request



HTTP request is a default Switch app that for each incoming job executes an HTTP or HTTPS request. Thus the incoming job is a request trigger and it can be used to define the request specification: URL, authentication data, request parameters, file to upload, etc. The protocol type (HTTP or HTTPS) is automatically detected from the URL: if the URL starts with “https://”, HTTPS is used, otherwise HTTP is used.

The server responds to the request by sending something back: an HTML source, JSON or XML data, or a file that is downloaded. The tool provides properties to manipulate this server response. The server response is always saved as a file and the tool can inject this file into the flow as a new job, attach it as metadata dataset to the incoming job or assemble it into a job folder together with the incoming job.

Keywords

If you enter one of the following keywords in the Search field at the top of the Flow Elements pane, the **HTTP request** element will be shown in the list:

- HTTP
- HTTPS
- POST
- PUT
- GET
- HEAD
- DELETE
- download
- upload
- request


Connections

HTTP request supports outgoing traffic light connections:

- The 'Data' connections transfer the server response file as well as the input job (depending on the property values specified for the flow element).
- The 'Log' connections transfer a generated text log file containing the request URL, the finished status, the status code, the status description, the last error and other relevant information. The log file name is generated from the input job file name by replacing the input job extension with 'log'.
- The 'Success out' connections are used in case the request finished status is 'Ok' and the HTTP request status code is in the range 100-299.


- The 'Error out' connections are used in case the request finished status is not 'Ok' or the HTTP request status code is in the range 300-599. The input job may fail in case of some internal tool error or invalid tool settings.

Properties

Property	Description
Element type	<p>The flow element type: HTTP request.</p> <p>This property is useful to identify renamed flow elements. It cannot be changed.</p>
Name	The name of the flow element displayed in the canvas.
Description	A description of the flow element displayed in the canvas. This description is also shown in the tooltip that appears when moving your cursor over the flow element.
URL	<p>The URL to fetch. The URL string must be URI-encoded (in a URI-encoded string a space is shown as %20).</p> <p>The tool detects the protocol to use for the request automatically from the URL: if the URL starts with 'https://', the tool will use HTTPS, otherwise HTTP will be used.</p> <p>Example 1 (entered using the 'Single-line text with variables' editor); assumes the job name can contain only ASCII alphabetic characters and digits:</p> <pre>https://api-content.dropbox.com/1/files_put/auto/[Job.Name]</pre> <p>Example 2 (entered using the 'Script expression' editor):</p> <pre>HTTP.encodeURI("https://api-content.dropbox.com/1/files_put/auto/" + job.getName());</pre>
Request type	<p>The type of the request.</p> <p>The supported request types are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUT (used for uploading data) GET (used for downloading data) HEAD (used for retrieving response headers) POST (used for uploading with extra parameters) DELETE (used for removing resources on external services) <p> Note: The value for the "Content-Type" header in the request is generated automatically depending on the request type and other settings like MIME encoding and defined parameters. In the HTTP request tool, it is not possible to define the custom header value. However in some cases it is possible by writing a script that uses the HTTP class from the Switch scripting API. More details about the automatically generated value for the</p>

Property	Description
	"Content-Type" header and the ways to specify a custom value for it, can be found in Switch scripting reference.
<i>Attached file</i>	This property is available only if Request type is <i>POST</i> or <i>PUT</i> . A file to append to request if the POST or PUT requests are used. The file will be uploaded to the server.
<i>Use MIME encoding</i>	This property is available only if Request type is <i>POST</i> . To use MIME encoding, choose Yes ; otherwise choose No (default).
<i>File variable</i>	This property is available only if Request type is <i>POST</i> and Use MIME encoding is Yes. The name of the HTTP form data variable that is used by the receiving HTTP server to identify the correct file part of the uploaded MIME package.
Authentication scheme	The authentication scheme to use when server authorization is required. If the property is set to <i>None</i> (default), no authentication is performed. If this property is set to <i>Basic</i> , the User name and Password properties must be set, and in this case the element will attempt basic authentication. If the authentication scheme is set to <i>Digest</i> or <i>NTLM</i> , digest or NTLM authentication will be attempted instead. If the authentication scheme is set to <i>OAuth</i> , the authorization string must be supplied through Authorization property. If the authentication scheme is set to <i>OAuth2.0</i> , the authorization string must be supplied through the OAuth2.0 authorization property. Click the three dots to open the dialog to enter the parameters necessary to initiate the OAuth2.0 authorization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application ID • Application password • Redirection port (or select the Automatic checkbox) • Authorization URL • Token URL • Scope
<i>User name</i>	This property is available only if Authentication scheme is <i>Basic</i> , <i>Digest</i> or <i>NTLM</i> .

Property	Description
	A user name if authentication is to be used.
<i>Password</i>	<p>This property is available only if Authentication scheme is <i>Basic</i>, <i>Digest</i> or <i>NTLM</i>.</p> <p>A password if authentication is to be used.</p>
<i>Authorization</i>	<p>This property is available only if Authentication scheme is <i>OAuth</i>.</p> <p>The authorization string to be sent to the server.</p>
Parameters	<p>The parameters to attach to the request. Each parameter should be specified in a separate line by the string 'key=value' (without quotes).</p> <p>The parameters are URI-encoded automatically. For the POST and PUT requests, the parameters are included in the HTTP request after the HTTP headers. For the HEAD and GET requests, the parameters are appended to the URL after the question mark ('?').</p> <p>Example:</p> <pre>root=auto path=[Job.JobState]</pre>
Headers	<p>The headers to attach to the request. Each header should be specified on a separate line by the string key:value.</p> <p>Example: Content-Type : text/plain</p>
Response	<p>The response received from the server is always saved to a file. This property defines how to handle this file:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inject as new job</i>: the response is sent to the output data connections as a new job. • <i>Attach as dataset</i>: the response is attached to the input job as an opaque dataset with the name specified in the 'Dataset name' property ('HTTPResponse' by default) and then the input job is sent to the output data connections. • <i>Assemble in jobfolder</i>: the response is assembled into a new jobfolder together with the input job and the jobfolder is sent to the output data connections. The jobfolder name is the same as the name of the input job (without the extension). • <i>Discard</i>: the response is discarded. In this case the input job is sent to the output data connections.

Property	Description
<i>Dataset name</i>	This property is a subordinate property of Response if it is set to <i>Attach as dataset</i> ; it allows you to specify a custom name for the dataset.
<i>Dataset model</i>	<p>This property subordinate property of Response if it is set to <i>Attach as dataset</i>; it allows you to define the dataset model of the response. Options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic (default). In this case, the dataset model is determined by the Content-type key in the header, for example, if the Content-type key is application/json, the dataset model will be JSON, if the Content-type key is application/vnd.cip4-jdf+xml or application/vnd.cip4-jmf+xml, the dataset model will be JDF. • Opaque • JSON • XML • JDF
<i>File Name</i>	<p>This property is available only if Response is <i>Inject as new job</i> or <i>Assemble in jobfolder</i>.</p> <p>The file name (with an extension) to use for the response file.</p> <p><i>Automatic:</i> The tool will attempt to determine the file name from the Content-Disposition header of the server response. If the Content-Disposition header is missing or does not contain a valid file name, the extension is taken from the response Content-type and the file name will become [JobNameProper].extension.</p>
<i>Input job</i>	<p>This property is available only if Response is <i>Inject as new job</i>.</p> <p>Defines what to do with the input job in case the response file is injected as a new job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Send to output:</i> the input job is sent to the output data connections as a separate job. In other words, the input job and the response file are now two separate jobs. • <i>Attach as dataset:</i> if the input job is a file, it is attached as an opaque dataset with the name specified in the 'Dataset name' property ('HTTPInput' by default) to the new job representing the response file. If the input job is a folder then it is discarded and an error message is logged. <p> Note: If "Attach as dataset" is chosen, you'll get two extra subordinate properties: <i>Dataset name</i>, allowing you to specify a custom name for the dataset, and <i>Dataset model</i>,</p>

Property	Description
	<p>allowing you to specify the dataset model of the response.</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discard</i>: the input job is discarded.
Response headers	<p>This property defines how to handle the response headers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Attach as dataset</i>: the response headers are saved to a text file (each header on a separate line in format 'key:value') and the file is attached to the output job as an opaque dataset with the name specified in the 'Dataset name' property ('HTTPResponseHeaders' by default) and the dataset model specified in the 'Dataset model' property (JSON (default) or XML). • <i>Discard</i>: the response headers are discarded.
<i>Dataset name</i>	<p>This property is a subordinate property of Response headers if it is set to <i>Attach as dataset</i>; it allows to specify a custom name for the dataset.</p>
Retry after failed connection	<p>If enabled, Switch will try again to process jobs that failed due to a network connection failure. This way, you don't have to restart your flow manually.</p>
<i>Retry count</i>	<p>This property is available only if Retry after failed connection is set to <i>Yes</i>.</p> <p>The number of retry attempts in case of a network connection error. The default value is 0 (= unlimited retries), meaning that Switch will keep on trying.</p>
<i>Retry delay</i>	<p>This property is available only if Retry after failed connection is set to <i>Yes</i>.</p> <p>The delay (in minutes) between each retry attempt. The default value is 10.</p>
Ignore server certificate errors	<p>If set to <i>Yes</i>, server certificate errors will be ignored when connecting to an HTTPS server.</p> <p>Examples of certificate errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-signed certificate • Invalid host name • Expired certificate