

A Rant About Error Handling

Rob Allen

19ft.com ~ @akrabat ~ July 2016

Consider this error response

```
$ curl -iH "Accept: application/xml" http://api.example.com/portal
```

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
```

```
Date: Thu, 07 Jul 2016 19:47:50 GMT
```

```
Content-Type: application/xml
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html
```

```
PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"
```

```
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
```

```
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en" lang="en">
```

```
<head>
```

```
<title>UV9 Error (1.0)</title>
```

```
</head>
```

```
<body bgcolor='yellow'>
```

```
<h1>Error during execution of API request</h1>
```

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Execution started at 20:47:50
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Status Code

1xx,2xx,3xx - NOT an error

4xx - Client error

5xx - Server error

Media Type

Honour accept header

Content-Type *must* match the data

Messages

Code & human readable, please!

Use a structured response format

Thank you!

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