

HTTP Methods

Computing

What each verb promises, and which ones are safe to retry.

Safe = changes nothing. Idempotent = doing it twice is the same as doing it once.

Method	Safe	Idempotent
GET — read	yes	yes
HEAD — headers only	yes	yes
OPTIONS — what is allowed	yes	yes
PUT — replace whole	no	yes
DELETE — remove	no	yes
POST — create / act	no	NO
PATCH — partial update	no	usually not

PUT replaces the whole resource; PATCH changes named fields.
Sending a partial body to PUT deletes the rest.