

NAME

LWP::Protocol - Base class for LWP protocols

SYNOPSIS

```
package LWP::Protocol::foo;
require LWP::Protocol;
@ISA=qw(LWP::Protocol);
```

DESCRIPTION

This class is used as the base class for all protocol implementations supported by the LWP library.

When creating an instance of this class using `LWP::Protocol::create($url)`, and you get an initialized subclass appropriate for that access method. In other words, the `LWP::Protocol::create()` function calls the constructor for one of its subclasses.

All derived `LWP::Protocol` classes need to override the `request()` method which is used to service a request. The overridden method can make use of the `collect()` function to collect together chunks of data as it is received.

The following methods and functions are provided:

`$prot = LWP::Protocol->new()`

The `LWP::Protocol` constructor is inherited by subclasses. As this is a virtual base class this method should **not** be called directly.

`$prot = LWP::Protocol::create($scheme)`

Create an object of the class implementing the protocol to handle the given scheme. This is a function, not a method. It is more an object factory than a constructor. This is the function user agents should use to access protocols.

`$class = LWP::Protocol::implementor($scheme, [class])`

Get and/or set implementor class for a scheme. Returns "" if the specified scheme is not supported.

`$prot->request(...)`

```
$response = $protocol->request($request, $proxy, undef);
$response = $protocol->request($request, $proxy, '/tmp/sss');
$response = $protocol->request($request, $proxy, \&callback, 1024);
```

Dispatches a request over the protocol, and returns a response object. This method needs to be overridden in subclasses. Refer to `LWP::UserAgent` for description of the arguments.

`$prot->collect($arg, $response, $collector)`

Called to collect the content of a request, and process it appropriately into a scalar, file, or by calling a callback. If `$arg` is undefined, then the content is stored within the `$response`. If `$arg` is a simple scalar, then `$arg` is interpreted as a file name and the content is written to this file. If `$arg` is a reference to a routine, then content is passed to this routine.

The `$collector` is a routine that will be called and which is responsible for returning pieces (as ref to scalar) of the content to process. The `$collector` signals EOF by returning a reference to an empty string.

The return value from `collect()` is the `$response` object reference.

Note: We will only use the callback or file argument if `$response->is_success()`. This avoids sending content data for redirects and authentication responses to the callback which would be confusing.

`$prot->collect_once($arg, $response, $content)`

Can be called when the whole response content is available as `$content`. This will invoke `collect()` with a collector callback that returns a reference to `$content` the first time and an empty string the next.

SEE ALSO

Inspect the *LWP/Protocol/file.pm* and *LWP/Protocol/http.pm* files for examples of usage.

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