Response groups

Ask the REST API for exactly the parts of an answer a screen needs with the ResponseGroups parameter - the groups each route knows (Metadata, Locations, Fields, FieldValues), the defaults that are always added, both...

Source file: `doc/eng-us/help/mobile-app-developers/rest-api/response-groups.md` Last changed 2026-11-04
https://doc.exponential.earth/learninminutes/exphelp/viewer/help/mobile-app-developers/rest-api/response-groups.md

This page is for app developers who want small answers on a slow mobile connection and complete answers where a screen needs them. Response groups are the REST API's switch for that.

Contents

1. The groups per route
2. Writing the parameter
3. Defaults are always added
4. Choosing groups for screens

The groups per route

From the constants of `ezp7xRestContentController`:

Route	Group	Adds	Default
`GET /content/node/<id>`, `GET /content/object/<id>`	`Metadata`	the `metadata` object	yes
same	`Locations`	the `locations` list	no
same	`Fields`	the `fields` map	no
`GET .../fields`, `GET .../field/<identifier>`	`FieldValues`	the `fields` map (or the one field)	yes
same	`Metadata`	the `metadata` object of the content	no
`GET /content/node/<id>/list...`	`Metadata`	the list `metadata`: `childrenCount`, `parentNodeId`	yes
same	`Fields`	a `fields` map in each child	no
`GET /content/node/<id>/childrenCount`	`Metadata`	`metadata` with `childrenCount`	yes

Names are case-sensitive: `Fields`, not `fields`.

Writing the parameter

Both forms are accepted by the request parser:

```
?ResponseGroups=Metadata,Locations,Fields
?ResponseGroups[]=Metadata&ResponseGroups[]=Locations&ResponseGroups[]=Fields
```

The second form is what some HTTP libraries make from an array. Before 6.0.15 it ended in an error page; the parser now accepts it (comment in `http_parser.php`).

Defaults are always added

A route's default groups are included whether you name them or not: asking for `?ResponseGroups=Fields` on a node read still gives `metadata`. The answer lists the groups that were applied in `requestedResponseGroups`, which is useful when you debug a missing key.

Choosing groups for screens

Screen	Call	Why
A list of titles	`.../list/offset/0/limit/20`	metadata has `objectName`, `classIdentifier`, `nodeId`; no fields needed
A list of cards with a teaser and an image	`.../list/offset/0/limit/20?ResponseGroups=Fields`	every child carries its fields
A detail screen	`/content/node/<id>?ResponseGroups=Fields`	metadata and all fields in one call
A badge with a count	`/content/node/<id>/childrenCount`	one number, no items
Refreshing one value	`/content/node/<id>/field/<identifier>`	one field only

`Fields` on a list returns every field of every child. For classes with many or large fields, measure the size of the answer on a phone connection and consider reading details only when the user opens an item.

Related pages

- Reading a node
- Listing children and pagination
- Fields and field values
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

> **Become an Exponential Partner**
>
> Partners share their information, provide funding, contribute back and develop the products with us, and that is how Exponential grows. A partner website and dashboard are planned for mid-2027: please become a partner today to speed up our growth rate and land new features faster.
>
> Partners: start here | How to apply

Exponential Copyright © 1998-2026 Exponential Foundation and 7x
Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.3 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation; with no Invariant Sections, no Front-Cover Texts, and no Back-Cover Texts. A copy of the license is included in the section entitled "GNU Free Documentation License".
This documentation is free documentation, licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License 1.3 or later:
https://www.gnu.org/licenses/fdl-1.3.html.