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alibaba / **nginx-http-concat**

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A Nginx module for concatenating files in a given context: CSS and JS files usually

⊙ **30** commits   ⅄ **1** branch   ⬥ **1** release   ⬢ **7** contributors

⅄ branch: **master** ▾   **nginx-http-concat** / **+**

Merge pull request **#13** from lepture/doc-fix   ⋯

yaoweibin authored on Apr 9, 2013   latest commit **b8d3e7ec51**

🖹 README.md	fix links on readme, since it is transfered from taobao to alibaba	2 years ago
🖹 config	this module should be a normal handler module	2 years ago
🖹 ngx_http_concat_module.c	added some features for concat module	3 years ago

📖 **README.md**

HTTP Concatenation module for Nginx

Introduction

This is a module that is distributed with tengine which is a distribution of Nginx that is used by the e-commerce/auction site Taobao.com. This distribution contains some modules that are new on the Nginx scene. The `ngx_http_concat` module is one of them.

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The module is inspired by Apache's `modconcat` . It follows the same pattern for enabling the concatenation. It uses two `?` , like this:

```
http://example.com/??style1.css,style2.css,foo/style3.css
```

If a **third** `?` is present it's treated as **version string**. Like this:

```
http://example.com/??style1.css,style2.css,foo/style3.css?v=102234
```

Configuration example

```
location /static/css/ {
    concat on;
    concat_max_files 20;
}

location /static/js/ {
    concat on;
    concat_max_files 30;
}
```

Module directives

concat `on` | `off`

default: `concat off`

context: `http, server, location`

It enables the concatenation in a given context.

concat_types `MIME types`

default: `concat_types: text/css application/x-javascript`

context: `http, server, location`

Defines the MIME types which can be concatenated in a given context.

concat_unique `on` | `off`

default: `concat_unique on`

context: `http, server, location`

Defines if only files of a given MIME type can concatenated or if several MIME types can be concatenated. For example if set to `off` then in a given context you can concatenate Javascript and CSS files.

Note that the default value is `on` , meaning that only files with same MIME type are concatenated in a given context. So if you have CSS and JS you cannot do something like this:

```
http://example.com/static/??foo.css,bar/foobaz.js
```

In order to do that you **must** set `concat_unique off` . This applies to any other type of files that you decide to concatenate by adding the respective MIME type via `concat_types` ,

concat_max_files `number` p

default: `concat_max_files 10`

context: `http, server, location`

Defines the **maximum** number of files that can be concatenated in a given context. Note that a given URI cannot be bigger than the page size of your platform. On Linux you can get the page size issuing:

```
getconf PAGESIZE
```

Usually is 4k. So if you try to concatenate a lot of files together in a given context you might hit this barrier. To overcome that OS defined limitation you must use the `large_client_header_buffers` directive. Set it to the value you need.

concat_delimiter: string

default: NONE

context: `http, server, locatione`

Defines the **delimiter** between two files. If the config is **concat_delimiter "\n"**,a '\n' would be inserted betwen 1.js and 2.js when visted http://example.com/??1.js,2.js

concat_ignore_file_error: `on` | `off`

default: off

context: `http, server, location`

Whether to ignore 404 and 403 or not.

Installation

1. Clone the git repo.

   ```
   git clone git://github.com/alibaba/nginx-http-concat.git
   ```

2. Add the module to the build configuration by adding `--add-module=/path/to/nginx-http-concat`.

3. Build the nginx binary.

4. Install the nginx binary.

5. Configure contexts where concat is enabled.

6. Build your links such that the above format, i.e., all URIs that have files that are to be concatenated have a `??` prefix. The HTML produced would have something like this inside the `<head>` element for concatenating CSS files.

   ```
   <link rel="stylesheet" href="??foo1.css,foo2.css,subdir/foo3.css?v=2345" />
   ```

   Similarly for Javascript files you should have:

```
<script src="??bar1.js,bar22.css,subdir/bar3.js?v=3245" />
```

7. Now if you open up the network tab on firebug or on safari/chrome/chromium browser inspector you should see a single bar where before there were many. Congratulations you're now using file concatenation at the server level. No longer messing around with scripts for aggregating files. Note although that there's no minification of files. So you might want to minify the files before concatenating them.

8. Done.

Tagging releases

Perusio is maintaing a tagged release at http://github.com/alibaba/nginx-http-concat in synch with the Tengine releases. Refer there for the latest uncommitted tags.

Other tengine modules on Github

- footer filter: allows to add some extra data (markup or not) at the end of a request body. It's pratical for things like adding time stamps or other miscellaneous stuff without having to tweak your application.

- http slice: allows to serve a file by slices. A sort of reverse byte-range. Useful for serving large files while not hogging the network.

Other builds

1. As referred at the outset this module is part of the `tengine` Nginx distribution. So you might want to save yourself some work and just build it from scratch using `tengine` in lieu if the official Nginx

source.

2. If you fancy a bleeding edge Nginx package (from the dev releases) for Debian made to measure then you might be interested in Perusio's HA/HP debian Nginx package with built-in support for nginx-http-concat. Instructions for using the repository and making the package live happily inside a stable distribution installation are provided.

Acknowledgments

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