definition, while allowing for implementations matched to Java environments where these features are not available.

B.9   HttpServletResponse Buffering and Header Commit Semantics

The Servlet Specification defines buffering of the HttpServletResponse body such that filling the response body[1] (for the first time) can cause the response status code, HTTP response headers, and first buffer's worth of response body to be sent. Similarly, during processing of an HttpServletRequest, methods may be called on the corresponding HttpServletResponse (for example, sendRedirect or flushbuffer) that will cause the analogous content to be sent. In all such cases, the response has effectively been committed with respect to the status code, headers, and first response body buffer that will be returned to the client. After a response has committed, subsequent changes are not permitted to the status code or headers, and change to the response body is only permitted to the extent that more content may be appended. As such, when response buffering triggers a commit, for example during processing within the servlet, a call to secureResponse, following return from the servlet, will be unable to effect the response status code, the response headers, or any response body content that has already been sent (any or all of which may be necessary to secure the response).

Resolution– The Servlet Specification defines the HttpServletResponseWrapper class, which can be used to extend the buffering capacity of the response, and thereby delay commit until the response is complete. When a ServerAuthModule requires that responses be buffered until they are explicitly completed, the module's validateRequest method should install a response wrapper when it returns AuthStatus.SUCCESS. Just prior to its return, the secureResponse method of the ServerAuthModule should write the completed message to the wrapped response and remove the wrapper.

B.10   Reporting New Issues

Resolution– The maintenance project for this specification is located on the web at: http://java.net/projects/jaspic-spec where you will find the technology issue tracker at: http://java.net/jira/browse/JASPIC_SPEC

[1.] Some HttpServletResponse implementations extend the buffering methodology to the response headers, such that the status code and the first buffers worth of response headers are sent when when the header buffer is full. This does not, strictly speaking, cause the response to be committed, but instead creates a situation where attempts to change the status code, or to replace an existing header, would not be expected to succeed.