REST

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Web services

what exactly are web services?

API for web applications

some examples:

- weather
- sport results
- stock market

a bit of history

Remote Procedure Call

XML-RPC

uses XML over HTTP

XML RPC sample request

```
<?rml version="1.0"?>
<methodCall>
<methodName>examples.getStateName</methodName>
<params>
<param>
<value><i4>40</i4></value>
</param>
</params>
</methodCall>
```

XML RPC sample response

this evolved into

SOAP

Simple Object Access Protocol

this acronym was dropped with version 1.2 of the standard

- it was confused with SOA
- it's not that simple after all

uses XML over HTTP

SOAP sample request

```
<SOAP-ENV: Envelope

xmlns:SOAP-ENV="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"

SOAP-ENV:encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">

<SOAP-ENV:encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">

<SOAP-ENV:Body>

<m:GetEndorsingBoarder xmlns:m="http://namespaces.snowboard-info.com">

<m:GetEndorsingBoarder xmlns:m="http://namespaces.snowboard-info.com">

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<m:GetEndorsingBoarder xmlns:m="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">

<m:GetEndorsingBoarder xmlns:m="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">

<m:GetEndorsingBoarder xmlns:m="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">

</model>Fatbob</model>

</m:GetEndorsingBoarder>

</mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschemations/mschem
```

SOAP sample response

```
<SOAP-ENV: Envelope

xmlns:SOAP-ENV="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"

SOAP-ENV: encodingStyle="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/encoding/">

<SOAP-ENV: Body>

<m: GetEndorsingBoarderResponse xmlns:m="http://namespaces.snowboard-info.co

<endorsingBoarder>Chris Englesmann</endorsingBoarder>

</m: GetEndorsingBoarderResponse>

</SOAP-ENV: Body>

</SOAP-ENV: Envelope>
```

services are defined using Web Services Description Language (WSDL)

WSDL sample

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
```

```
<!-- root element wsdl:definitions defines set of related services -->
<rsdl:definitions name="EndorsementSearch"
targetNamespace="http://senwespaces.sowboard-info.com"
xmlns:ess="http://senwas.snowboard-info.com/EndorsementSearch.wsdl"
xmlns:soap="http://senwas.snowboard-info.com/EndorsementSearch.xsd"
xmlns:soap="http://senwas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/soap/"
xmlns:wsdl="http://senwas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/">
```

<!-- wsdl:types encapsulates schema definitions of communication types; here using xsd -->
<wsdl:types>

... about 100 lines of XML later ...

WSDL sample

```
<!-- give the binding an network address -->
<soap:address location="http://www.snowboard-info.com/EndorsementSearch"/>
</wsdl:port>
</wsdl:service>
```

</wsdl:definitions>

- lets tools create client APIs
- client developers see methods with parameters

WS-* specifications

- WS-Addressing
- WS-Security
- WS-Trust
- WS-SecureConversation
- WS-ReliableMessaging
- WS-AtomicTransaction
- WS-Coordination
- WS-Policy

• WS-MetadataExchange

Web Services Standards Overview



service oriented design

- UserManager
 - createUser(u:User)
 - getUserDetails(id:ID)
- StatusManager
 - submitStatus(u_id:ID, s:Status)
 - getStatus(u_id:ID)

Cons of SOAP services:

- complex
- strong typing
- XML is not necessarily the best data format for the web
- non-uniform interface
- uses HTTP POST only

not everyone needs enterprisey and complex web services

you don't have to use SOAP

others don't

Dirty Harry



- Amazon Web Services provides both
 - 20% uses SOAP
 - 80% uses REST
- Google Search API deprecated SOAP in favor of REST
- Yahoo API uses REST only



REST



REpresentational State Transfer


introduced by Roy Fielding, who also worked on the following specifications:

- URI
- HTTP
- HTML



very short demo



URI



resources



uniquely addressable using URIs



http://localhost/users/1



http://localhost/users/1/statuses/1



http://localhost/users



http://localhost/users/1/statuses



HTTP



CRUD



ACTION CREATE READ UPDATE DELETE

ACTION SQL CREATE INSERT READ SELECT UPDATE UPDATE DELETE DELETE

ACTION	SQL	HTTP
CREATE	INSERT	POST
READ	SELECT	GET
UPDATE	UPDATE	PUT
DELETE	DELETE	DELETE

ACTION	SQL	HTTP
CREATE	INSERT	POST
READ	SELECT	GET
UPDATE	UPDATE	PUT
DELETE	DELETE	DELETE

ACTION	SQL	HTTP
CREATE	INSERT	POST
READ	SELECT	GET
UPDATE	UPDATE	PUT
DELETE	DELETE	DELETE

ACTION	SQL	HTTP
CREATE	INSERT	POST
READ	SELECT	GET
UPDATE	UPDATE	PUT
DELETE	DELETE	DELETE

ACTION	SQL	HTTP
CREATE	INSERT	POST
READ	SELECT	GET
UPDATE	UPDATE	PUT
DELETE	DELETE	DELETE

think of REST as a sentence:

- HTTP actions are verbs
- resources' URIs are nouns

POSThttp://localhost/usersGEThttp://localhost/users/1PUThttp://localhost/users/1DELETEhttp://localhost/users/1

POST http://localhost/users GET http://localhost/users/1 PUT http://localhost/users/1 DELETE http://localhost/users/1



uniform interface to interact with resources

POSThttp://localhost/users/1/statusesGEThttp://localhost/users/1/statuses/1PUThttp://localhost/users/1/statuses/1DELETEhttp://localhost/users/1/statuses/1



resources can have many representations



"Get XML representation of user with ID 1"

GET http://localhost/users/1.xml GET Accept: application/xml http://localhost/users/1

"Get JSON representation of user with ID 1"

GEThttp://localhost/users/1.jsonGETAccept: application/json http://localhost/users/1

"Get HTML representation of user with ID 1"

GET http://localhost/users/1.html GET Accept: text/html http://localhost/users/1

"Get vCard representation of user with ID 1" $% \left({{{\rm{D}}}_{{\rm{T}}}} \right)$

GET http://localhost/users/1.vcf GET Accept: text/x-vCard http://localhost/users/1

REST is not a standard it's a style of software architecture



REST in Rails

in Rails it's easier to build RESTful than non-RESTful apps

quick demo

how does it work?

REST actions POST GET PUT DELETE
Rails actions

create show update destroy new edit index

Rails actions

create show update destroy new edit index

7 default actions

create
show
update
destroy
index
new
edit

Rails actions

HTTP request

POST	/users
GET	/users/1
PUT	/users/1
DELETE	/users/1
GET	/users
GET	/users/1/new
GET	/users/1/edit

how does Rails know how to map URI to an action?

routes

config/routes.rb

ActionController::Routing::Routes.draw do |map|

map.resources :users

end

generates mapping for 7 default actions for user resource

generates helper methods for 7 default actions for user resource

Rails actions	URI	helpers
create	/users	users_path
show	/users/1	$user_path(1)$
update	/users/1	$user_path(1)$
destroy	/users/1	$user_path(1)$
index	/users	users_path
new	/users/1/new	new_user_path
edit	/users/1/edit	edit_user_path(1)

resource representations

${\sf respond_to}$

app/controllers/users_controller.rb

class UsersController < ApplicationController</pre>

```
# GET /users/1
# GET /users/1.xml
def show
    @user = User.find(params[:id])
    respond_to do |format|
    format.html # show.html.erb
    format.xml { render :xml => @user }
    end
end
```

end

Consuming RESTful web services

system tools

• cURL

we get raw XML/JSON response that we still need to parse



Ruby libraries

- HTTParty
- ActiveResource

HTTParty

for RESTful and RESTful-like web services

what does it do for you:

- sends request
- processes response

HTTParty client example

```
class TwitterCloneClient
  include HTTParty
  base_uri "localhost:3000"
  format :xml
end
```

```
TwitterCloneClient.get("/statuses/1")
#{"status"=>{
# "id"=>1,
# "body"=>"First message",
# "created_at"=>Wed Apr 26 20:38:19 UTC 2009,
# "user_id"=>1...}
#}
```

demo

ActiveResource

for strictly RESTful web services

- part of Rails core
- works best with Rails apps
- provides ActiveRecord like API to RESTful web services

what does it do for you:

- forms request URI
- sends request
- processes response
- provides OO access to response

how to write a client?

ActiveResource client example

```
class Status < ActiveResource::Base
  self.site = "http://localhost:3000/"
end</pre>
```

```
# Find
status = Status.find(:first)
status.body # => "First message"
```

ActiveResource client example

```
# Create
status = Status.create(:body => "New messsage")
# Update
status.body = "Updated"
status.save
```

Delete
status.destroy

demo