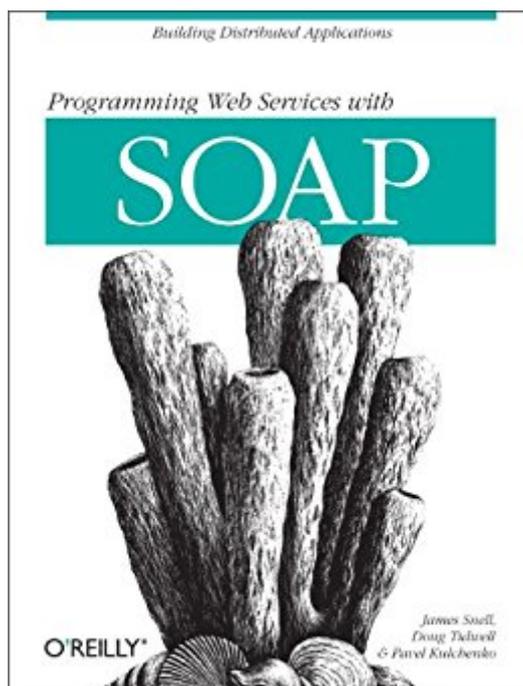


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Programming Web Services With SOAP



Synopsis

The web services architecture provides a new way to think about and implement application-to-application integration and interoperability that makes the development platform irrelevant. Two applications, regardless of operating system, programming language, or any other technical implementation detail, communicate using XML messages over open Internet protocols such as HTTP or SMTP. The Simple Open Access Protocol (SOAP) is a specification that details how to encode that information and has become the messaging protocol of choice for Web services. Programming Web Services with SOAP is a detailed guide to using SOAP and other leading web services standards--WSDL (Web Service Description Language), and UDDI (Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration protocol). You'll learn the concepts of the web services architecture and get practical advice on building and deploying web services in the enterprise. This authoritative book decodes the standards, explaining the concepts and implementation in a clear, concise style. You'll also learn about the major toolkits for building and deploying web services. Examples in Java, Perl, C#, and Visual Basic illustrate the principles. Significant applications developed using Java and Perl on the Apache Tomcat web platform address real issues such as security, debugging, and interoperability. Covered topic areas include: The Web Services Architecture SOAP envelopes, headers, and encodings WSDL and UDDI Writing web services with Apache SOAP and Java Writing web services with Perl's SOAP::Lite Peer-to-peer (P2P) web services Enterprise issues such as authentication, security, and identity Up-and-coming standards projects for web services Programming Web Services with SOAP provides you with all the information on the standards, protocols, and toolkits you'll need to integrate information services with SOAP. You'll find a solid core of information that will help you develop individual Web services or discover new ways to integrate core business processes across an enterprise.

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Customer Reviews

This book was a disappointment. I got thrown into an XML/SOAP project and had to get up to speed in short order. After struggling on my own for a while I bought this book hoping it would have lots of meat on actually using SOAP::Lite, but it had pretty thin coverage. I did like the big-picture overview of the various technologies, but it was not very helpful in writing an actual SOAP client to talk to a third party's SOAP server. Considering that the author of SOAP::Lite also wrote this book, it seems to me that there could have been a whole chapter on SOAP::Lite from the client view. This will stay on my shelf as a reference, but for getting up to speed rapidly on actually writing a SOAP client, it was a bust.

I usually give preference to O'Reilly's books when looking to purchase a book on a certain programming technology. O'Reilly is generally ahead of the pack in terms of writing style, author's reputation, and knowledge of the subject. Unfortunately, I have little to no confidence in the knowledge of the authors in this book just from reading and trying out the introductory examples on SOAP::Lite in PERL. It starts off with the trivial "Hello World" example of writing a SOAP server and a client. The authors didn't even get this one right! Already there are errata submitted for this example on the oreilly.com site. I couldn't believe it! I mean, if you cannot get the "Hello World" example right, then what confidence do I have in the authors of presenting something more complex?

If you are new to SOAP and you want to get the overall picture, and you don't care for details, this is the book you need. If you need a reference guide, this is not the book you want. If you're looking for a

book about SOAP on a particular platform (say Java), this is not the book you need.

This book would have been a great opportunity to get to the core to provide a good set of examples of SOAP application development. Unfortunately it shows how hard it is to get functionality of a SOAP app from three different languages. It is a messy affair. One gets excited at the beginning to see simple Perl implementations but then it starts with the Java mess and that other language... There are too many XML snippets thrown around without a careful presentation of the big picture. People who write on SOAP get all excited about the XML representation of the protocol and forget completely that it is the programming API that counts: XML is not for human consumption unless it is less than 10 lines long!!!! The UDDI and WSDL stuff, forget it. It is easier to go and fetch examples from the web. I hope the authors reconsider their approach and produce a really really revised second edition including a better overview of the protocol (less on long XML listings) and sections on when does it make sense to use SOAP. So far this one is not a good one.

This book is a good candidate for the city dump. This, in my experience, the book is one of the worst O'Reilly books and should have never been published! Sloppy examples riddled with errors. Why, the errata page on the O'Reilly web site appears to be written by a reader. The only correction I found in the "Official" errata was a mis-spelled author name. I'm setting fire to my copy as soon as I submit this review!

Again, another bad book about Web Services. I was hoping that the O'Reilly version of programming with SOAP would be usable, but unfortunately, it's not. There is only 174 pages of real information, and a lot is code. There is 70 pages of appendices, which is roughly 1/4 of the book. Any topics are so vaguely described that you still don't understand anything about programming with SOAP. I got this book because it deals with Apache SOAP, something that I'm personally interested in, however a lot of the published stuff is almost taken straight from the documentation. Reading Apache's sparse documentation and going through their examples is probably a much better value than trying to go through this book. The book also tries to deal with Perl, SOAP, and .NET programming. So for every example, he reiterates the same sample in 3 different forms, which is a waste of space. Because he splits his efforts amongst these three languages, his information is spread extremely thin. There's not a lot of information that is given in this book, and I would avoid it entirely. Basically, it's [not worth it].

Hi I'm the one who wants to learn how to build cool apps with SOAP. To be honest, this book is not that practical. It certainly explains the overview, but in terms of developing a real application, I don't think this is useful. It should have focused on only 1.) what is SOAP, 2.) how it works 3.) how to write code. It tries to cover more broad, vague topic Web Services, which is more or less overview, as it is not ready for prime time. How to use SOAP API should be not that difficult to understand, but what each SOAP envelope's xml tag syntax means are most important to me. It's so complex and this book doesn't explain clearly, which makes this book less valuable. Looking forward to next improved edition.

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