

Getting Started with Service Definition Language Standards

Summary

Service Definition Languages are used to define information about services such as Enterprise Services primarily by defining the input and output messages for the service. Enterprise Services play a key role in SAP's Enterprise Services Architecture. Using standard service definition languages to model and describe Enterprise Services will accelerate the adoption of these services by ISVs and developers who will use these services to create new composite processes.

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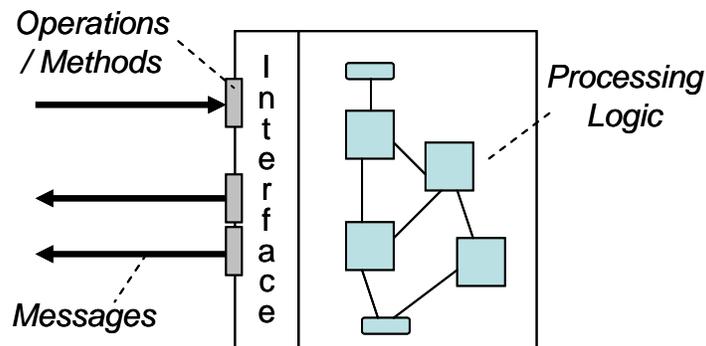
What's a Service

A service executes a process within a business and does useful work by processing input and generating output. For example, a Sales Order Management Service could accept orders and provide an order response in return. In providing the response the service could do several activities or sub-processes such as checking stock levels, prices, credit checks etc.

Service Definition Languages

Service Definition Languages are languages that are used to define services. Languages are needed that can define the different parts of a service:

- The service interface which consists of one or more methods/operations
- The messages or parameters associated with each method/operation
- The ordering constraints over the messages the service may exchange, and
- The implementation of a service that is used at run time.



Unified Modeling Language (UML)

The Unified Modeling Language (UML) can be used to define service interfaces, messages and processing logic requirements as object classes. See the [SDN UML-page](#) for more information on UML.

Web Service Definition Language (WSDL)

The Web Services Definition Language (WSDL) can be used to describe:

The static interface of Web services which includes definitions of individual operations and accompanying messages

Deployment information, e.g. the endpoint where the service has been deployed.

See the [SDN WSDL-page](#) for more information on WSDL.

Web Services Business Process Execution Language (WS-BPEL)

The Web Services Business Process Execution Language (WS-BPEL) can be used to specify:

The service implementation, i.e. the process running behind the service

The observable behavior of Web services. Process definition capabilities can be used to extend the static interface of Web services and add behavioral aspects, such as ordering constraints over the messages the service may exchange002E

See the [SDN WS-BPEL-page](#) for more information on WS-BPEL.

UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology UMM

The UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM) defines a procedure for developing UML models that include service definitions.

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