



A Pragmatic Introduction to REST

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REST vs...?

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REST vs. SOAP? REST vs. SOA? REST vs. VS-*?

Not today

(At least we'll try)

First, let's define some things

What is SOA?

3 Possible Definitions

Take your pick

SOA: An Approach to Business/IT Alignment

A different approach to an enterprise's IT architecture ...

... driven by business, not technology

... focusing on shared and re-used functionality

... aligning business and IT

... relying on strong governance

SOA: An Approach to Business/IT Alignment

... can be implemented using any architecture, technology, or set of products

SOA: A Technical Architecture

Services with clearly defined interfaces

... autonomous and with explicit boundaries

... relying on shared schema, not shared code

... programming language-independent

... separating interface and implementation

... containing multiple specific operations

SOA: A Technical Architecture

... somewhat technology-independent – can be built with e.g. CORBA, DCE RPC, DCOM, RMI, or Web services.

SOA = Web Services

Business data as XML messages

... sent in a SOAP body

... enriched with metadata in SOA headers

... described with WSDL and XML Schema

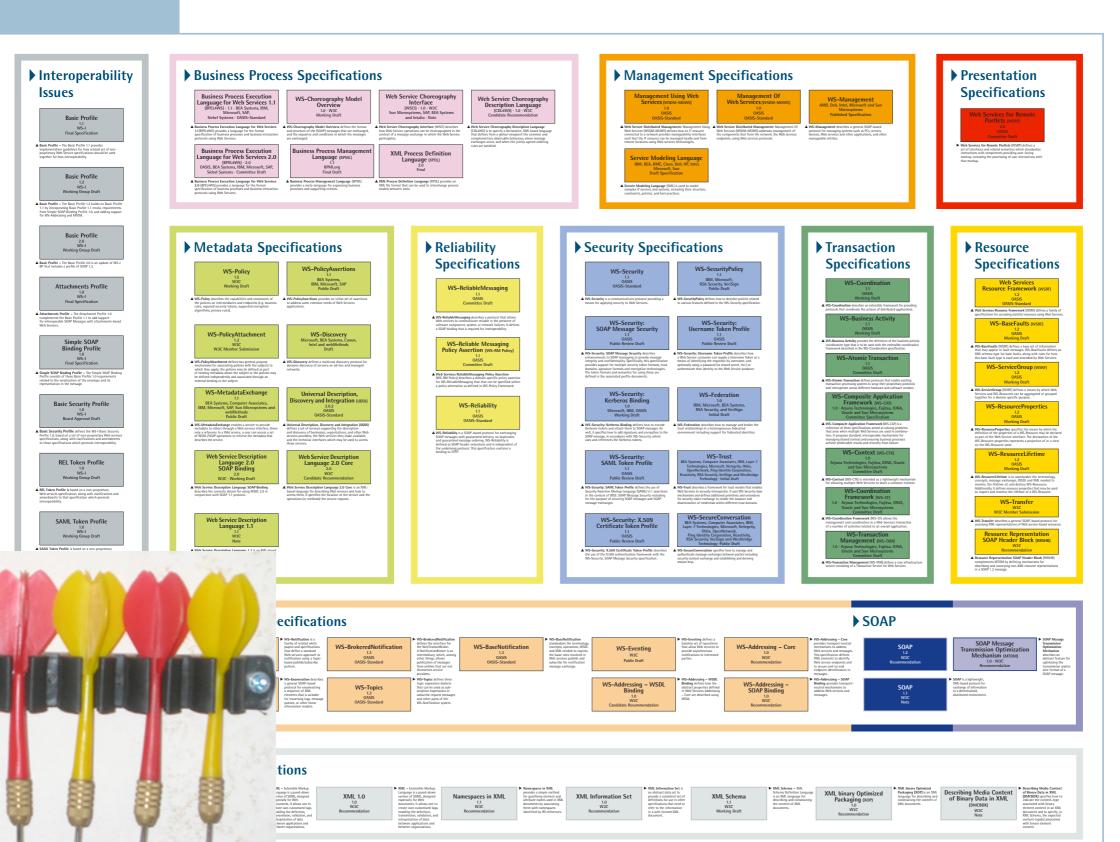
... configured through WS-Policy

... registered in a UDDI registry

SOA = Web Services

... implemented using technologies and products from the WS-* universe

Web Services Standards Overview







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http://www.innoq.com/resources/ws-standards-poster/

Why is SOA so hard to define?

A Web service is a software system designed to support interoperable machine-to-machine interaction over a network. It has an interface described in a machine-processable format (specifically WSDL). Other systems interact with the Web service in a manner prescribed by its description using SOAP messages, typically conveyed using HTTP with an XML serialization in conjunction with other Web-related standards.

W3C Web Services Architecture WG

http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/NOTE-ws-arch-20040211/

"Service Oriented Architecture is a paradigm for organizing and utilizing distributed capabilities that may be under the control of different ownership domains. It provides a uniform means to offer, discover, interact with and use capabilities to produce desired effects consistent with measurable preconditions and expectations."

OASIS SOA Reference Model

http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/tc_home.php?wg_abbrev=soa-rm

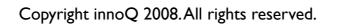
"An **Economy** is a paradigm for organizing and utilizing distributed capabilities that may be under the control of different ownership domains. It provides a uniform means to offer, discover, interact with and use capabilities to produce desired effects consistent with measurable preconditions and expectations."

Nick Gall, VP, Gartner

http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/service-orientated-architecture/message/9065

What is REST?

3 definitions again



REST: An Architectural Style

One of a number of "architectural styles"

... described by Roy Fielding in his dissertation

... defined via a set of constraints that have to be met

... architectural principles underlying HTTP, defined a posteriori

... with the Web as one particular instance

See: http://www.ics.uci.edu/~fielding/pubs/dissertation/top.htm

REST: The Web Used Correctly

A system or application architecture

... that uses HTTP, URI and other Web standards "correctly"

... is "on" the Web, not tunneled through it

... also called "WOA", "ROA", "RESTful HTTP"

REST: XML without SOAP

Send plain XML (w/o a SOAP Envelope) via HTTP

... violating the Web as much as WS-*

... preferably use GET to invoke methods

... or tunnel everything through POST

... commonly called "POX"

Only option I is the right one (because Roy said so)

But we'll go with option 2 (and equate "REST" with "RESTful HTTP usage")

and avoid option 3 like the plague

REST Explained in 5 Easy Steps

I. Give Every "Thing" an ID

http://example.com/customers/1234

http://example.com/orders/2007/10/776654

http://example.com/products/4554

http://example.com/processes/sal-increase-234

2. Link Things To Each Other

3. Use Standard Methods

GET	retrieve information, possibly cached	
PUT	Update or create with known ID	
POST	Create or append sub-resource	
DELETE	(Logically) remove	

4. Allow for Multiple "Representations"

```
GET /customers/1234
Host: example.com
Accept: application/vnd.mycompany.customer+xml
<customer>...</customer>
```

GET /customers/1234 Host: example.com Accept: text/x-vcard

begin:vcard
...
end:vcard

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5. Communicate Statelessly

```
GET /customers/1234
 Host: example.com
 Accept: application/vnd.mycompany.customer+xml
" <customer><order ref='./orders/46'</customer>
                 .....shutdown
                                 update software
                                 replace hardware
                                 startup
"GET /customers/1234/orders/46
 Host: example.com
 Accept: application/vnd.mycompany.order+xml
 <order>...</order>
```

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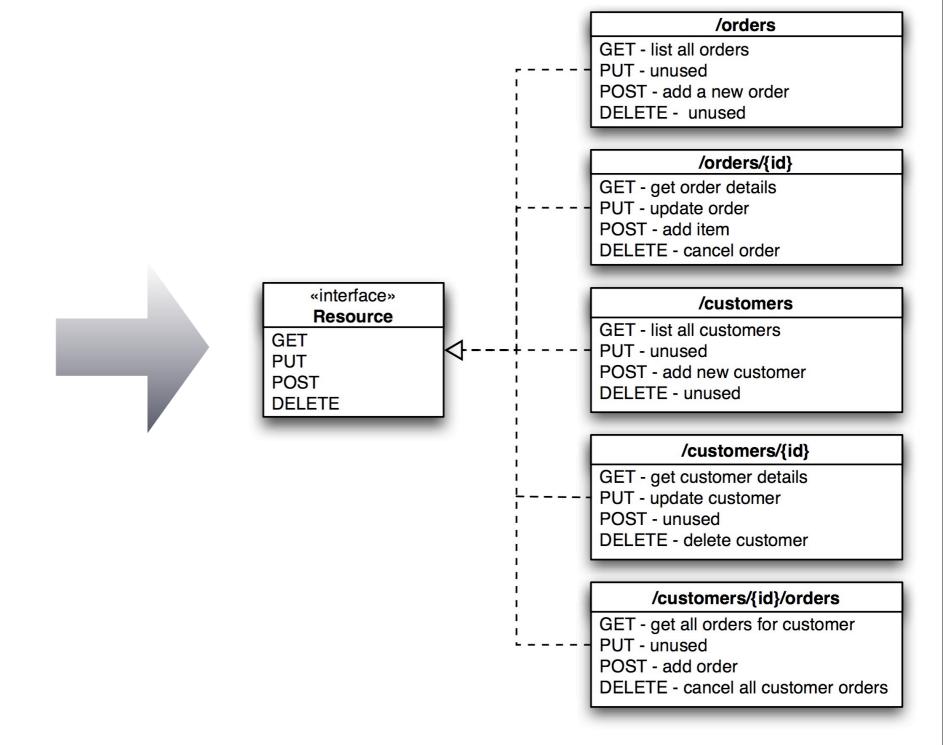
Consequences

OrderManagementService

- + getOrders()
- + submitOrder()
- + getOrderDetails()
- + getOrdersForCustomers()
- + updateOrder()
- + addOrderItem()
- + cancelOrder()

CustomerManagementService

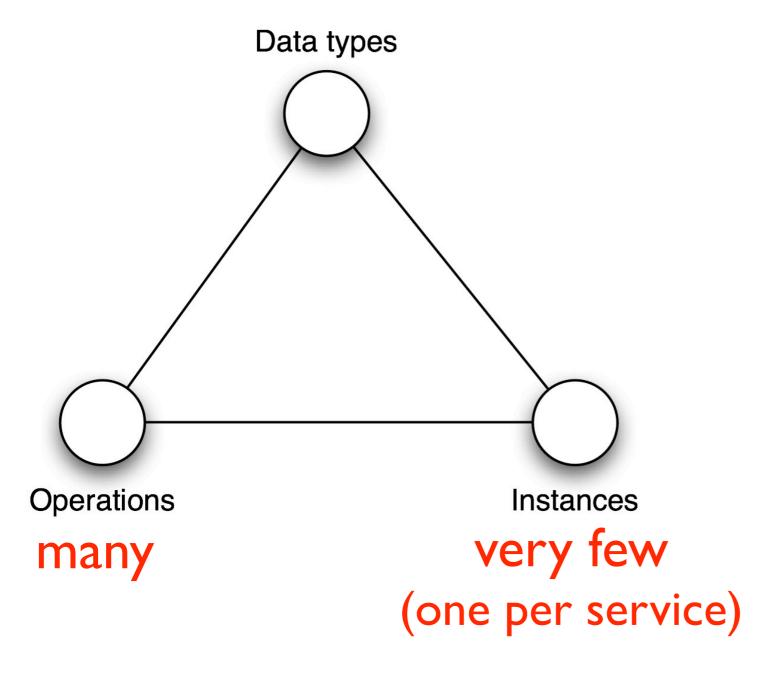
- + getCustomers()
- + addCustomer()
- + getCustomerDetails()
- + updateCustomer()
- + deleteCustomer()



Cheating?

Maybe.

many



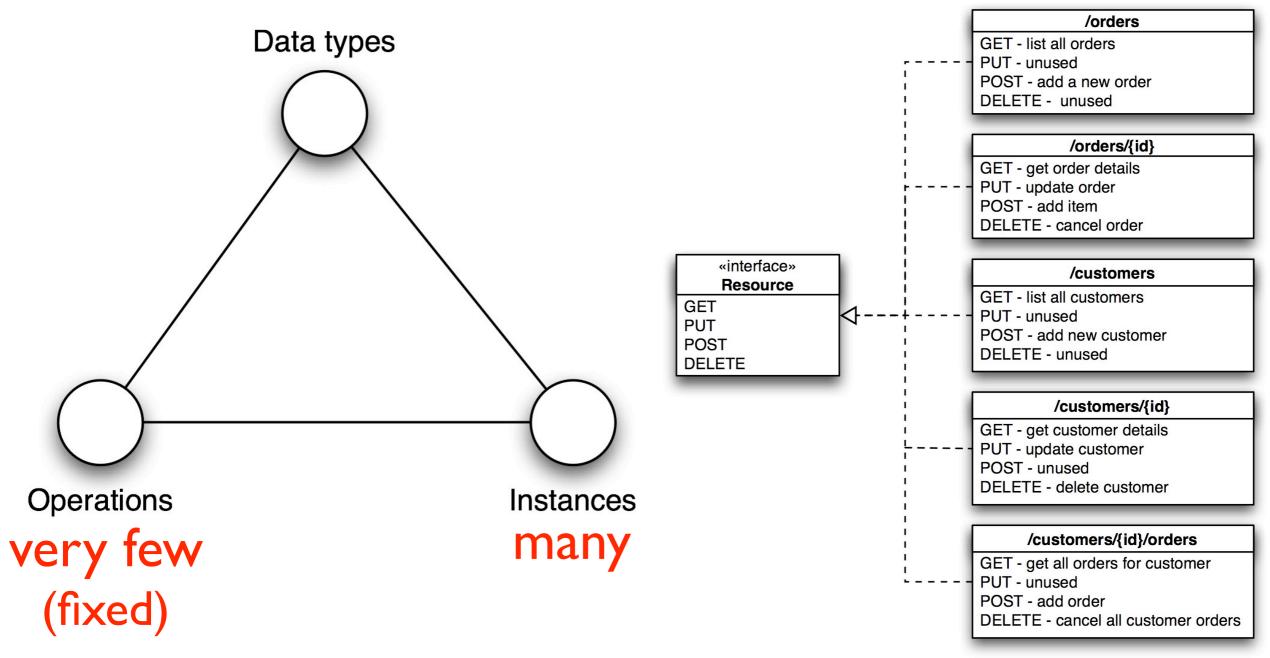
OrderManagementService

- + getOrders()
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- + addOrderItem()
- + cancelOrder()

CustomerManagementService

- + getCustomers()
- + addCustomer()
- + getCustomerDetails()
- + updateCustomer()
- + deleteCustomer()

many



Designing a RESTful Application

Identify resources & design URIs

Select formats (or create new ones)

Identify method semantics

Select response codes

See: http://bitworking.org/news/How_to_create_a_REST_Protocol

What's cool about REST?

A very rough analogy (in pseudocode)

```
interface Resource {
    Resource(URI u)
    Response get()
    Response post(Request r)
    Response put(Request r)
    Response delete()
}
```

```
generic
```

```
Any HTTP client (Firefox, IE, curl, wget)
```

Any HTTP server

Caches

Proxies

Google, Yahoo!, MSN

```
class CustomerCollection : Resource {
    ...
    Response post(Request r) {
        id = createCustomer(r)
           return new Response(201, r)
    }
    ...
}
```

Anything that knows your app

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```
generic
                                               Anything that
                                            understands HTTP
interface Resource {
class AtomFeed : Resource {
                                              Any feed reader
    AtomFeed get()
    post(Entry e)
                                            Any AtomPub client
                                               Yahoo! Pipes
class CustomerCollection : AtomFeed {
                                            Anything that knows
                                                 your app
```

Some HTTP Features

Verbs (in order of popularity):

GET, POST

PUT, DELETE

HEAD, OPTIONS, TRACE

Standardized (& meaningful) response codes

Content negotiation

Redirection

Caching (incl. validation/expiry)

Compression

Chunking

RESTful HTTP Advantages

Universal support (programming languages, operating systems, servers, ...)

Proven scalability

Real web integration for machine-2-machine communication

Support for XML, but also other formats

REST and Web Services

Web Services Issues

Web Services are "Web" in name only

WS-* tends to ignore the web

Abstractions leak, anyway

Protocol independence is a bug, not a feature

Web Services

OrderManagementService

- + getOrders()
- + submitOrder()
- + getOrderDetails()
- + getOrdersForCustomers()
- + updateOrder()
- + addOrderItem()
- + cancelOrder()
- + cancelAllOrders()

CustomerManagementService

- + getCustomers()
- + addCustomer()
- + getCustomerDetails()
- + updateCustomer()
- + deleteCustomer()
- + deleteAllCustomers()

A separate interface (façade) for each purpose

As known CORBA, DCOM, RMI/EJB

Often used for SOA ("CORBA w/ angle brackets)

Application-specific protocol

Contribution to the Net's Value

2 URLs

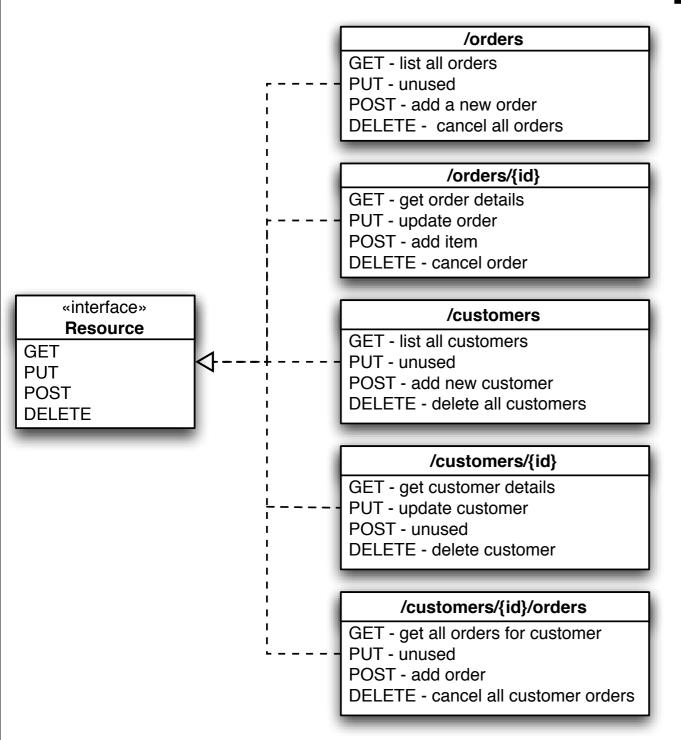
http://example.com/customerservice

http://example.com/orderservice

I method

POST

REST Approach



A single *generic* (uniform) interface for everything

Generic verbs mapped to resource semantics

A standard application protocol (e.g. HTTP)

Contribution to the Net's Value

Millions of URLs

every customer

every order

4-6 supported methods per resource

GET, PUT, POST, DELETE, OPTIONS, HEAD

Cacheable, addressable, linkable, ...

REST for SOA

Business	SOA as an approach to business/IT alignment	
Architecture	Technical SOA	REST
Technology	SOAP,WSDL,WS-*	(RESTful) HTTP, URI,

REST as an alternative way to achieve SOA goals

Why You Should Care

WS-* Roots

The Enterprise

RPC, COM, CORBA, RMI, EJB

Transaction Systems

Controlled Environment

Top-down Approach

REST Roots

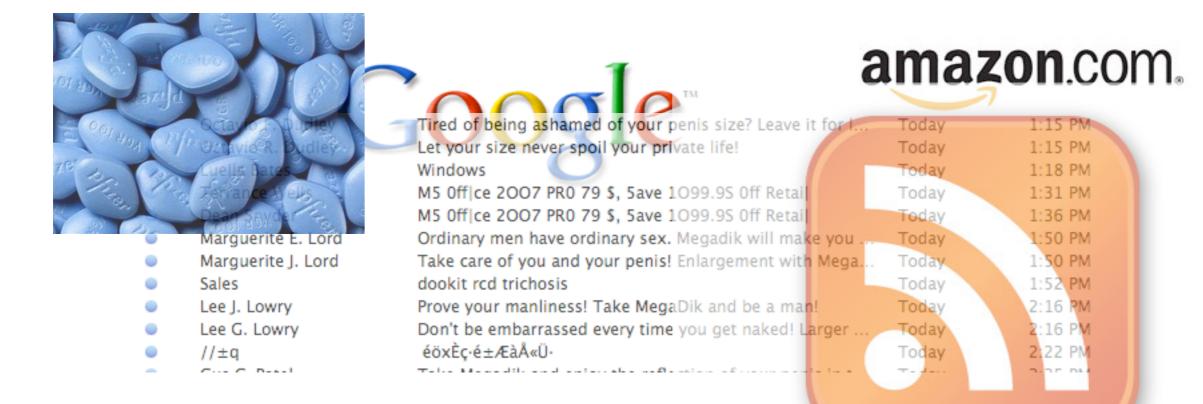
The Internet

Text formats

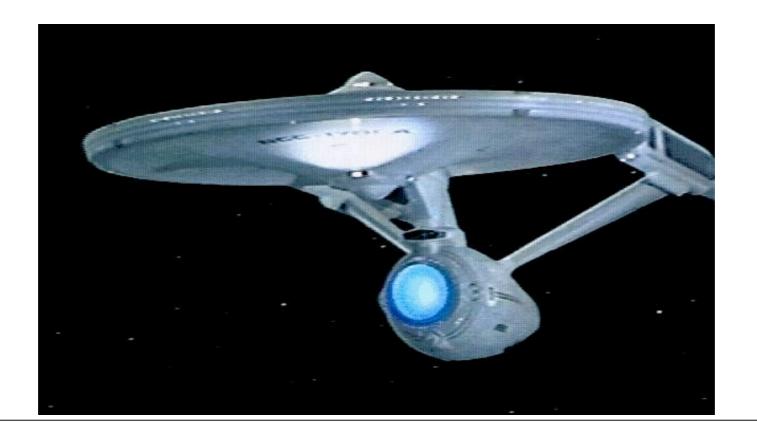
Wire Standards

FTP, POP, SMTP

Bottom-up Approach



Internet vs. Enterprise



What's the difference between the Internet and a typical enterprise?

Internet vs. Enterprise

One is a gigantic, uncontrollable anarchy of heterogeneous systems with varying quality that evolve independently and constantly get connected in new and unexpected ways.

The other is a worldwide, publicly accessible series of interconnected computer networks that transmit data by packet switching using the standard Internet Protocol (IP).

REST Support

Everybody	HTTP Servers, Clients, Proxies, Libraries,
DHH & The Rails Community	Ruby on Rails
Google	Base GData Calendar Document Lists Blogger Notebook Picasa
Amazon	Simple Storage Service (S3) Queue Service Flexible Payment Search
Sun	JSR 311 Jersey
IBM	Abdera Project Zero
Microsoft	Astoria WCF

Advanced Stuff

Description

What's the WSDL equivalent in REST?

There is none ...

XSD (95% of WSDL) is available to you, anyway

Of the remaining 5%, 90% is just silly

Why would you want to describe the uniform interface over and over again?

... unless you insist

WADL (Web Application Description Language) https://wadl.dev.java.net/

Use URI Templates to define resource behavior

WADL Example

```
<resources base="http://api.search.yahoo.com/NewsSearchService/V1/">
    <resource path="newsSearch">
        <method name="GET" id="search">
            <request>
                <param name="appid" type="xsd:string" style="query" required="true"/>
                <param name="query" type="xsd:string" style="query" required="true"/>
                <param name="type" style="query" default="all">
                    <option value="all"/>
                    <option value="any"/>
                    <option value="phrase"/>
                </param>
                <param name="results" style="query" type="xsd:int" default="10"/>
                <param name="start" style="query" type="xsd:int" default="1"/>
                <param name="sort" style="query" default="rank">
                    <option value="rank"/>
                    <option value="date"/>
                </param>
                <param name="language" style="query" type="xsd:string"/>
            </request>
            <response>
                <representation mediaType="application/xml" element="yn:ResultSet"/>
                <fault status="400" mediaType="application/xml" element="ya:Error"/>
            </response>
        </method>
    </resource>
</resources>
```

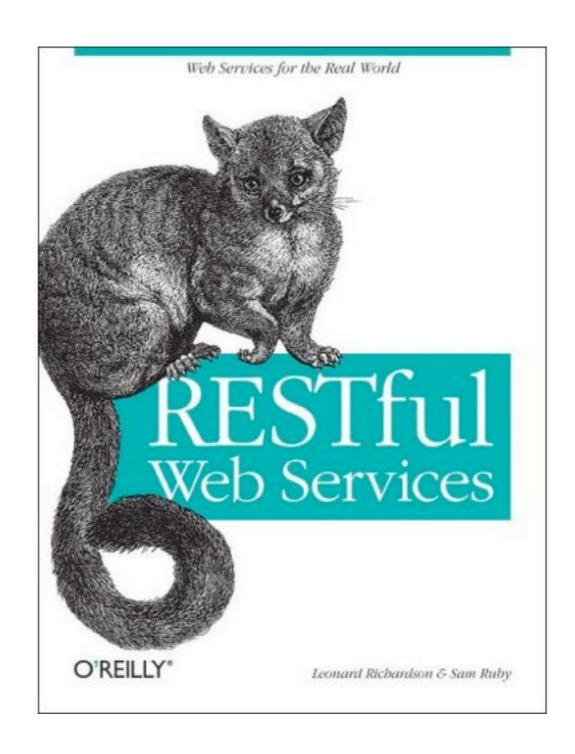
What You Should Do (in my very humble opinion)

Be skeptical of WS-* Learn more about REST Learn to love the URI

Appreciate the Web

If You Want to Know More

http://www.innoq.com/resources/REST



http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/9780596529260/

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Architecture Evaluation in

Thank you!

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