Quick Guide
SOAP vs REST

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Definition

Simple Object Access Protocol

Representational State Transfer

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What are they?

SOAP is a messaging protocol specification for exchanging structured information in the implementation of web services in computer networks.

REST is a software architectural style that describes a uniform interface between physically separate components, often across the Internet in a client-server architecture.

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Data Format

SOAP: XML format is used for data transportation

REST: Does not impose data format. Most popular format is JSON

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Methods

SOAP: Works with WSDL

REST: works with GET, POST, PUT, DELETE

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Protocol

SOAP: Works over HTTP, HTTPS, SMTP, XMPP

REST: Works over HTTP and HTTPS

Motive

SOAP: Designed with large enterprise applications in mind
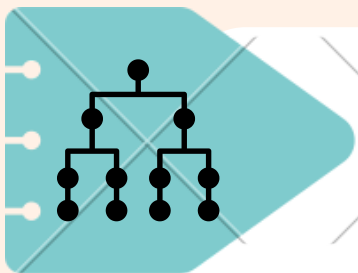
REST: Designed with mobile devices in mind

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Security

SOAP: SOAP has SSL and WS-security

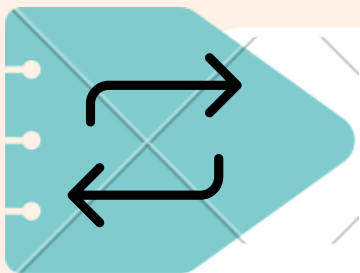REST: REST has SSL and HTTPS for security.

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Structurdness

SOAP: Highly structured

REST: Less structured

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Cross-Support

SOAP: It cannot make use of REST

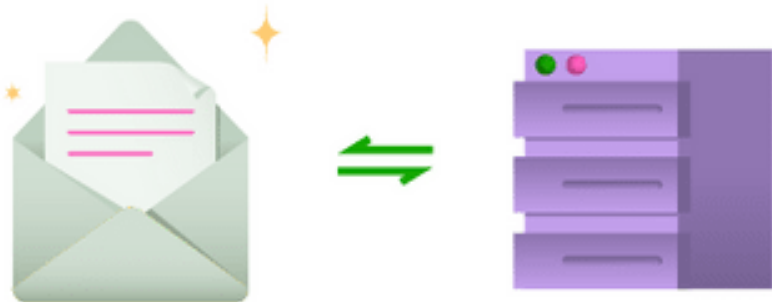REST: It can make use of SOAP as the underlying protocol for web services

SOAP vs. REST APIs

upwork

Server

App

SOAP is like using an envelope

Extra overhead, more bandwidth required, more work on both ends (sealing and opening).

REST is like a postcard

Lighterweight, can be cached, easier to update.

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