



WSFL

WEB SERVICE FLOW LANGUAGE

01 WHAT IS WSFL

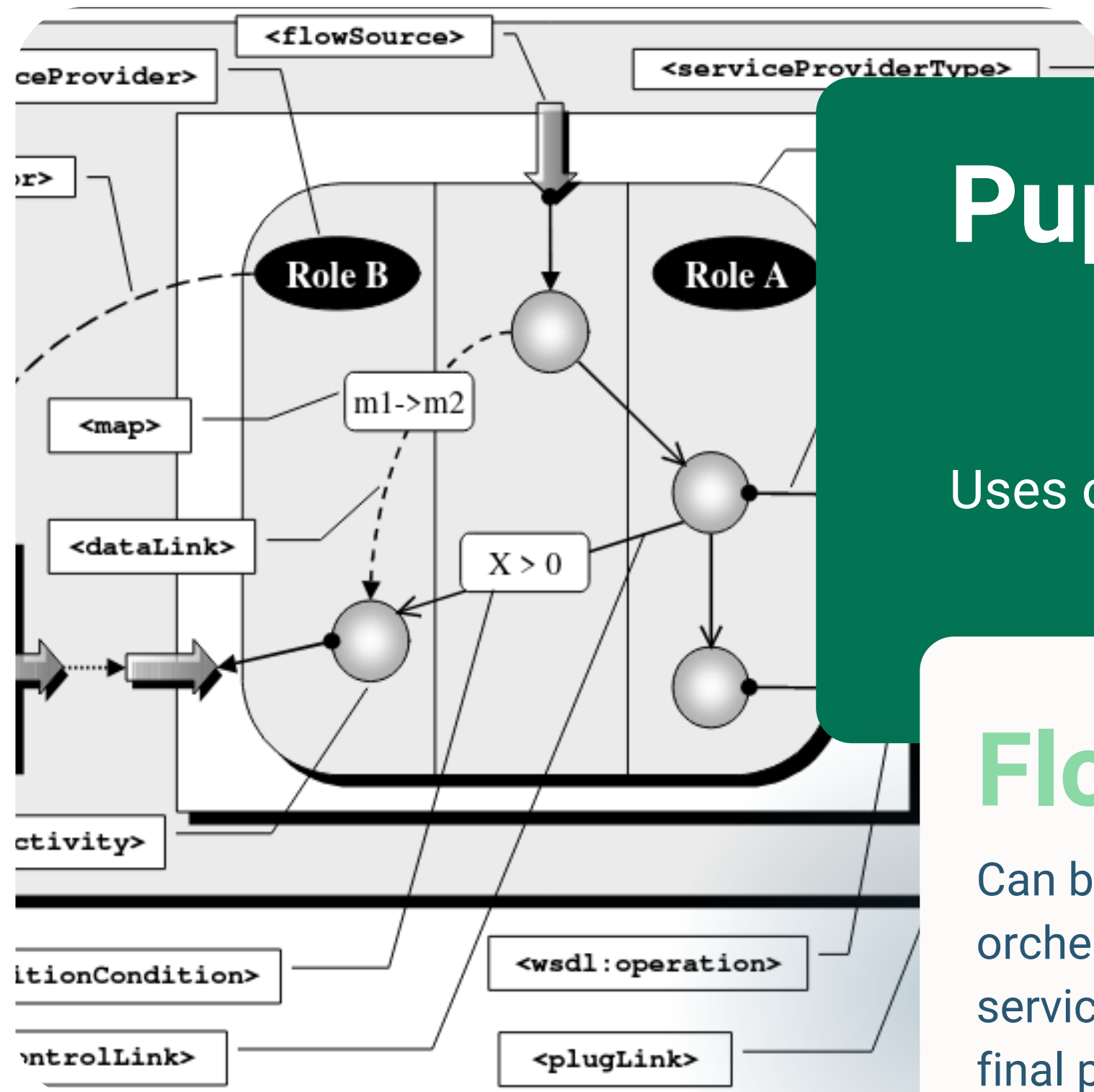
WSFL abbreviation for Web Services Flow Language is a protocol that helps depicts the interactions between various web services. These web services often described using WSDL

WDSL stands for web service description language that is used to describe service in terms of what they do and how they do it. WSFL and WDSL go hand in hand.

02 WHY AND WHO CREATED WSFL

Back in 2001, various web services started hitting the mainstream market. Often simple business transaction has multiple web service working together. Back then there did not exist an easy way to describe interactions between these services.

IBM proposed WSFL in addition to WSDL to solve this exact problem



Purpose of WSFL

Uses of WSFL can be seen in two ways

Flow

Can be used to create an orchestration between services to create/achieve a final product

Interactions

Here only the way services interact with each other is mentioned with no heed given to order or timing

Format \ language

```
<flowModel name="totalSupplyFlow"
  service ProviderType="totalSupply">
<serviceProvider name="mySupplier" type="supplier">
<locator type="static" service="qualitySupply.com" />
</serviceProvider>
<serviceProvider name="myShipper" type="shipper">
<locator type="static" service="worldShipper.com"/>
</serviceProvider>
<activity name="processPO">
<performed By service Provider="mySupplier"/>
<implement>
<export>
<target portType="totalSupplyPT"
operation="sendProcorder"/>
</export>
</implement>
</activity>
```

```
<flowModel name="totalSupplyFlow"
service ProviderType="totalSupply">
<serviceProvider name="mySupplier" type="supplier">
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</serviceProvider>
<activity name="processPO">
<performed By service Provider="mySupplier"/>
<implement>
<export>
<target portType="totalSupplyPT"
operation="sendProcorder"/>
</export>
</implement>
</activity>
```

Here we can see, a service of total supply defining not only interaction but also the flow between these services making it a flow type interaction

Use cases

As seen before WSFL is used to create orchestrations or define services, but in detail and real world:

01.

In the first use case, an enterprise wants to implement a business process for processing purchase orders using a set of Web Services.

02.

an enterprise wants to offer a Web Service that mediates between service requesters (customers) who want to order goods and service providers who produce and deliver goods

Conclusion

WSFL a language/protocol defined in the year 2001 hasn't gained much traction in real-world applications, but it may make a comeback in the upcoming years to support blockchain and its systems.