* **Web services require a network.** While APIs can be on- or offline, web services must use a network.
* **APIs are protocol agnostic**. While APIs can use any protocols or design styles, web services usually use SOAP (but sometimes REST, UDDI, and XML-RPC).

**Difference between Web Services and APIs:**

| Web Services | Web API |
| --- | --- |
| Web services are a type of API, which must be accessed through a network connection. | APIs are application interfaces, implying that one application can communicate with another application in a standardized manner. |
| Web service is used for REST, SOAP and XML-RPC for communication. | API is used for any style of communication. |
| All Web services are APIs. | APIs are not web services. |
| It doesn’t have lightweight design, needs a SOAP convention to send or receive data over the system. | It has a light-weight architecture furthermore, useful for gadgets which have constrained transmission capacity like smart phones. |
| It provides supports only for the HTTP protocol. | It provides support for the HTTP/s protocol: URL Request/Response Headers, and so on. |
| It is not open source, however, can be devoured by any customer that comprehends xml. | It is an open source and also ships with .NET framework. |
| Web service supports only XML. | API supports XML and JSON. |
| Web Services can be hosted on IIS. | Web API can be hosted only on IIS and self. |