* **What is web services ?**
* A "web service is the communication platform between two different or  same platform  applications  that allows to use their web method."  
    
  In the preceding definition you observed that I used the two main points in the definition of web service; they are**different or same platform application**and the second is **web method**.  
  so let us learn some basic about it**.  
    
  What does different or same application and platform mean**It means that I can create a web service in any language, such as Java or other languages and that the language web service can be used in a .Net based application and also a .Net web service or in another application to exchange the information.

Web Service is an application that is designed to interact directly with other applications over the internet

**Advantages of Web Service**

Web Service messages are formatted as XML, a standard way for communication between two incompatible system. And this message is sent via HTTP, so that they can reach to any machine on the internet without being blocked by firewall.

**Examples for Web Service**

**Weather Reporting:** You can use Weather Reporting web service to display weather information in your personal website.

**Stock Quote:** You can display latest update of Share market with Stock Quote on your web site.

**News Headline:** You can display latest news update by using News Headline Web Service in your website.

In summary you can any use any web service which is available to use. You can make your own web service and let others use it. Example you can make Free SMS Sending Service with footer with your advertisement, so whosoever use this service indirectly advertise your company... You can apply your ideas in N no. of ways to take advantage of it

Components of Web Services

The basic web services platform is XML + HTTP. All the standard web services work using the following components

* SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)
* UDDI (Universal Description, Discovery and Integration)
* WSDL (Web Services Description Language)

How Does a Web Service Work?

A web service enables communication among various applications by using open standards such as HTML, XML, WSDL, and SOAP. A web service takes the help of:

* XML to tag the data
* SOAP to transfer a message
* WSDL to describe the availability of service.

SOAP

SOAP is a standard XML based protocol that communicated over HTTP. We can think of SOAP as message format for sending messaged between applications using XML

WSDL

Web Services Description Language (WSDL) is a format for describing a Web Services

It is a way to describe services and how they should be bound to specific network addresses

UDDL

Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration (UDDI) specification defines a way to publish and find information about Web services.