A web service allows different systems to talk to each other over the internet. The client sends a message and waits for a response from the server. The server receives the message, and the web service performs an action. Then, a message is sent back to the client. For ex: you are in a coffee shop and you want to buy a cup of coffee. But You're in a different country, say, Belgium, and don't speak the language. How are you going to communicate and get what you want? So, you need help from someone who is able to translate what you want and to get your coffee. So, you turn to your friend who happens to speak both English and French. You're able to communicate to your friend in English. So he translates to shopkeeper and gets u tea. In this scenario, you are the client sending a message in a language that your friend, the web service, can understand. The web service is able to communicate with the server and get the task completed. Data is transferred between client and server with a common web language, like XML. Each application can be written in two completely different languages, like .NET or Java, but they can use XML to communicate the data they need. There are two main types of web services, SOAP and RESTful