

34. Calling REST Services with **WebClient**

If you have Spring WebFlux on your classpath, you can also choose to use **WebClient** to call remote REST services. Compared to **RestTemplate**, this client has a more functional feel and is fully reactive. You can create your own client instance with the builder, **WebClient.create()**. See the [relevant section on WebClient](#).

Spring Boot creates and pre-configures such a builder for you. For example, client HTTP codecs are configured in the same fashion as the server ones (see [WebFlux HTTP codecs auto-configuration](#)).

The following code shows a typical example:

```
@Service
public class MyService {

    private final WebClient webClient;

    public MyService(WebClient.Builder webClientBuilder) {
        this.webClient = webClientBuilder.baseUrl("http://example.org").build();
    }

    public Mono<Details> someRestCall(String name) {
        return this.webClient.get().url("/{name}/details", name)
            .retrieve().bodyToMono(Details.class);
    }
}
```

34.1 WebClient Customization

There are three main approaches to **WebClient** customization, depending on how broadly you want the customizations to apply.

To make the scope of any customizations as narrow as possible, inject the auto-configured `WebClient.Builder` and then call its methods as required. `WebClient.Builder` instances are stateful: Any change on the builder is reflected in all clients subsequently created with it. If you want to create several clients with the same builder, you can also consider cloning the builder with `WebClient.Builder other = builder.clone();`.

To make an application-wide, additive customization to all `WebClient.Builder` instances, you can declare `WebClientCustomizer` beans and change the `WebClient.Builder` locally at the point of injection.

Finally, you can fall back to the original API and use `WebClient.create()`. In that case, no auto-configuration or `WebClientCustomizer` is applied.

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