Hosting Services

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Outline

Hosting Overview

Service Configuration

WCF Service Library Hosting

Self Hosting

IIS Hosting

Hosting Overview

- Services need to run in a host process

- The host listens for incoming messages and dispatches calls to the appropriate service method

- How the service is exposed by the host is driven through configuration

Hosting Options

- **Self Host**
  - Any .NET process
  - Use ServiceHost class

- **IIS Host**
  - Hosted in a web site on an IIS server
  - Defined through an ASP.NET Web Application project
  - Can only handle HTTP traffic
  - Get the benefit of IIS scalability, robustness, and configurability
  - Can handle other protocols through "WAS"
    - Windows Process Activation Service

- **WCF Service Library**
  - OK for quick "smoke testing"
  - Generally want to debug and develop with a self or IIS host

Summary

- Configuration drives how your services are exposed

- WCF Service Library hosting is a good first quick test, but you will quickly want to have a host that you can debug into

- Self-hosting through Console App is great for debugging, Windows Service more likely for deployment to a server

- IIS Hosting makes a lot of sense when exposing services via HTTP, possibly other protocols using WAS