Web Service vs Web Application

http://stackoverflow.com/questions/9111243/web-service-vs-web-application

web is common element in web application and web service

As the name would suggest, application is an application in itself, whereas a service is meant to serve others. A service probably has no meaning unless someone is going to use it. It can serve one or more applications or services.

if there is an entity which takes a request and returns data, you are talking about a service."

Because I am not worried about what is going to happen with that data? Who will use it? How will that be displayed?

I am taking a request and returning data. Now how am I doing that is part of implementation.

I might use SOAP or REST. I might use Jersey or Spring MVC/ REST or

may be a simple servlet which takes a request and returns data in JSON or XML or String or any other required format.

Web services are normally API's using JSON, can also be SOA type using SOAP and XML primarily, can also be sockets, and servers and other micro web services, etc..

There are several ways to create your application (Web applications) by orchestration of multiple web services, and

a separate gui to control them which ties into these services.

The other way which does not use services is to procedurally embed code into your UI interface app, or even better,

make an Object Oriented application which has its own services separed in the Model later, which the controller access, and

has its own view as a GUI which access the services in the back end, or even more complicated apps that pass A2B, B2B, B2C services from some GUI.

Services dont always have a GUI, they can have a CRUD to maintain the data, but once you start to have these types of features, it becomes an application in its own right. The services are applied to something greater than themselves. this applying creates your application. It has to have a purpose. Normally it takes more than one blind service to complete your applicatoin, and there is some kind of interface.

If you just blindly send a uri request to your service, and it blindly sends back json, that's a service. Whats blindly sending this? If you, then not an application. If some sort of crud, then its becoming an application, the crud is a GUI for accessing the services, and as a whole, its a data management application system. Now if you put a layer on the front to demonstrate this data in website fashion, you now have a product to display this data, a product to manage it, and the data which is the real product, and which is accessible via the web service, its now a full on application. Your endeavour at creating this becomes your application.

There are two main use cases of WEB in the industry

Business to Consumer(B2C) : Whenever there is consumer directly interacting with the business for its needs we always uses a Web-Application to provide a communication between two parties.

Business to Business(B2B) : It means one part of the business need some input/services from another part of the business. Always a Web-Service is used to meet the business to business requirements. Usually a consumer never interact with the Web-Services directly we only interacts with a Web-Application and a Web-Application interact with a Web-Services for information/data or processing.