A Web Service is an application component that can be remotely callable using standard Internet Protocols such as HTTP and XML. A major advantage of the Web services architecture is, it allows programs written in different languages on different platforms to communicate with each other in a standards-based way. Web Service is a class that resides on a Web Server, accessed from the internet or an Intranet, and can be accessed by an ASP.NET application, another web service, or other application types.

Web Service Uses include developing distributed Web applications and allow applications to be developed by different organizations that interact. The developing distributed Web applications Portions of a web application can reside on different servers, calls from the user interface can be made to the business logic/database processing Web service as necessary, provide for scalability of applications, and make it easy to upgrade components of an application by replacing the components individually.

Web Services Work by accessed by a Web page that is part of an application. For Microsoft products, a server hosting a Web service must have the .NET Framework and IIS installed. The communication protocol between a Web page and Web service is XML. There are other protocols involved like WSDL which a language used to describe a web service. SOAP which is a protocol for accessing objects when a web service resides on a different web server from the web page that is part of the application. And the XMIL which is enables Web servers using different web service software to communicate, e.g., communication between IIS and Apache Web servers.