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WSDI Documents

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A WSDL document is just a simple XML document.

It contains set of definitions to describe a web service.

The WSDL Document Structure

A WSDL document describes a web service using these major elements:

Element	Description
<types></types>	A container for data type definitions used by the web service
<message></message>	A typed definition of the data being communicated
<porttype></porttype>	A set of operations supported by one or more endpoints
 	A protocol and data format specification for a particular port type

The main structure of a WSDL document looks like this:

```
<definitions>
<types>
  data type definitions.....
</types>
<message>
 definition of the data being communicated....
</message>
<portType>
```

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```
set of operations.....
</portType>
<br/>binding>
 protocol and data format specification....
</binding>
</definitions>
```

A WSDL document can also contain other elements, like extension elements, and a service element that makes it possible to group together the definitions of several web services in one single WSDL document.

WSDL Ports

The **<portType>** element is the most important WSDL element.

It describes a web service, the operations that can be performed, and the messages that are involved.

The <portType> element can be compared to a function library (or a module, or a class) in a traditional programming language.

WSDL Messages

The **<message>** element defines the data elements of an operation.

Each message can consist of one or more parts. The parts can be compared to the parameters of a function call in a traditional programming language.

WSDL Types

The **<types**> element defines the data types that are used by the web service.

For maximum platform neutrality, WSDL uses XML Schema syntax to define data types.

WSDL Bindings

The **<bird** element defines the data format and protocol for each port type.

WSDL Example

This is a simplified fraction of a WSDL document:

```
<message name="getTermRequest">
 <part name="term" type="xs:string"/>
</message>
```

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```
<message name="getTermResponse">
 <part name="value" type="xs:string"/>
</message>
<portType name="glossaryTerms">
 <operation name="getTerm">
   <input message="getTermRequest"/>
   <output message="getTermResponse"/>
 </operation>
</portType>
```

In this example the <portType> element defines "glossaryTerms" as the name of a port, and "getTerm" as the name of an **operation**.

The "getTerm" operation has an input message called "getTermRequest" and an output message called "getTermResponse".

The **<message>** elements define the **parts** of each message and the associated data types.

Compared to traditional programming, glossaryTerms is a function library, "getTerm" is a function with "getTermRequest" as the input parameter, and getTermResponse as the return parameter.

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