**WHAT IS W-PESA?**

W-Pesa is a PHP library that enables website administrators to automate mobile payments on their site. The situation here involves a business website where one is asked to pay to a provided phone number (M-PESA – business and private, YU-CASH, Airtel-Money, etc.) in order to access a certain service. Assuming a lot of clients make these payments at close to the same time, the bulk of incoming SMS on the administrator’s/business number would make it hard for him/her to monitor them and also how to handle this online as some form of authentication is required. This is where W-Pesa comes in handy.

W-Pesa makes use of an SMS gateway that forwards incoming SMSs to specified URL as HTTP POST requests. W-Pesa provides the architecture to extract data from the SMS and make database entries. Authentication is possible (You can check the HOW TOs section to see examples).

**WHAT W-PESA IS NOT**

W-Pesa is not a web API for mobile payments, W-Pesa simply automates the process of the administrator having to extract information manually from the incoming payment SMS.

An API has to provide base functions that extend mobile payments to the web without the need for the administrator to use a phone (administration is provided for by the API).

Simply put, W-Pesa is PHP library to automate reading of incoming payment SMSs.