

DSG-SOA-M 2024: - Describing Services -

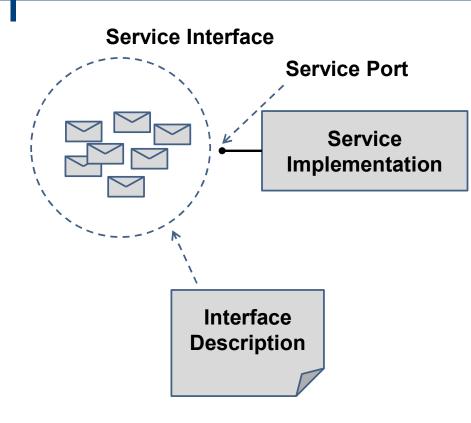
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What is Service Description?



Let's reconsider the service definition of chapter 3!
Service description actually is interface description.

A service "is what you can do with it", this comprises:

- Supported messages
- Message formats
- Semantics of message exchanges
- Constraints on message contents
- Constraints on interaction sequences (behavior)





Why Service Description?

Service description is both a technology and a process topic!

From a **technology** point of view, you want

- Decoupling of service interface and service implementation
- □ Code-first support
- Versioning
- Automation in terms of testing, mocking, monitoring

From a **process** point of view, you want

- □ Contract-first development
- Documentation
 - Easy understanding
 - A single source of truth





- Service Use Cases -

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Service Use Cases

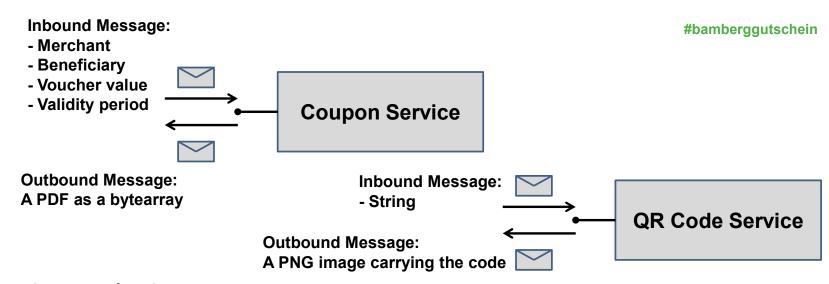
- Service description highly depends on the use case!
 - → still, let's try to give a rough classification
- Dedicated API
 - Describe a dedicated, well-defined functionality
 - Need a compact representation
- □ Business document exchange
 - Describe a legally binding interaction between companies
 - Need a standardized format that can be adapted to concrete companies
- Message hub / Crosscutting service
 - Describe recurring service integration tasks
 - Need a very precise format and interaction description
- What other service use cases can you come up with?





Dedicated API: Example

Let's reconsider the coupon service of chapter 3 and compare it to a QR Code service



- □ Limited complexity
- □ Context-free?
- □ Idempotent?

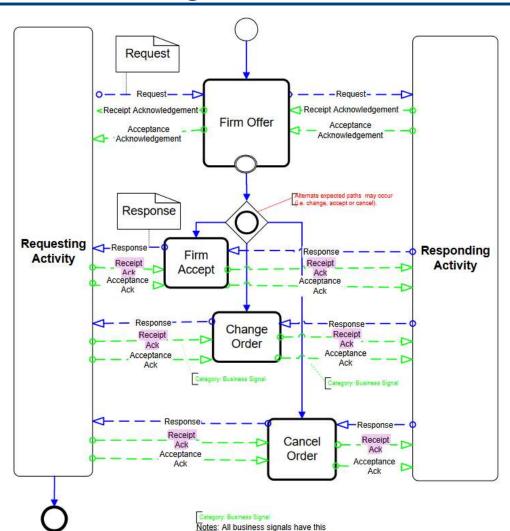


Business Document Exchange

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- Exchange an Offer and an Order
- ReceiptAcknowledg ement to signal structural validity
- AcceptanceAcknowl edgement to signal business validity
- → Is this actually a service?

btw: business docs may carry 1000s of attributes



Src.: http://docs.oasisopen.org/ebxmlbp/2.0.4/OS/spec/ ebxmlbp-v2.0.4-Spec-os-en.pdf



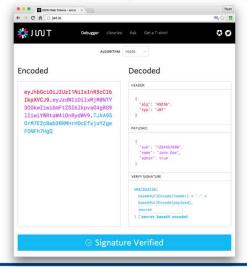
Describing Services

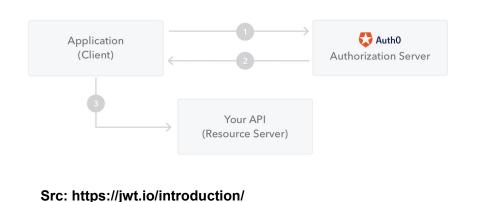


Message hub / Crosscutting service

As an example, let's look a JSON Web Tokens (JWT) that are used to represent security claims in service calls.

- □ Describing JWT obviously must comprise two aspects
 - Describing the actual format
 - Describing the process for generating, checking JWT tokens
- □ That is what https://jwt.io/introduction/ actually does











- Service Description Frameworks -

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What's on Offer?

- □ Actual service description frameworks
 - OpenAPI
 - RAML
- □ Schema description frameworks
 - JSON Schema
 - Google Protocol Buffers
 - XMI Schema
- □ Classical approaches
 - WSDL := Web Services Description Language
 - WADL := Web Application Description Language
- □ Prose

"If it (the interface description) was deployed as a WADL file, there is a strong chance that clients would be compiled against that WADL, and those clients would break every time the WADL changed."

(http://bitworking.org/news/193/Do-we-need-WADL)





OpenAPI

"The OpenAPI Specification (OAS) defines a standard, language-agnostic interface to RESTful APIs which allows both humans and computers to discover and understand the capabilities of the service without access to source code, documentation, or through network traffic inspection." (http://spec.openapis.org/oas/v3.0.3)

- Essentially focuses on HTTP interactions
- □ OpenAPI documents
 - describe APIs
 - can be represented as JSON or as YAML
- □ Ships with predefined types / schemes
 - Primtive types and advanced scheme objects suchs as OAuth flow objects
 - Based on JSON Schema
- What is missing?

We look at OpenAPI version 3

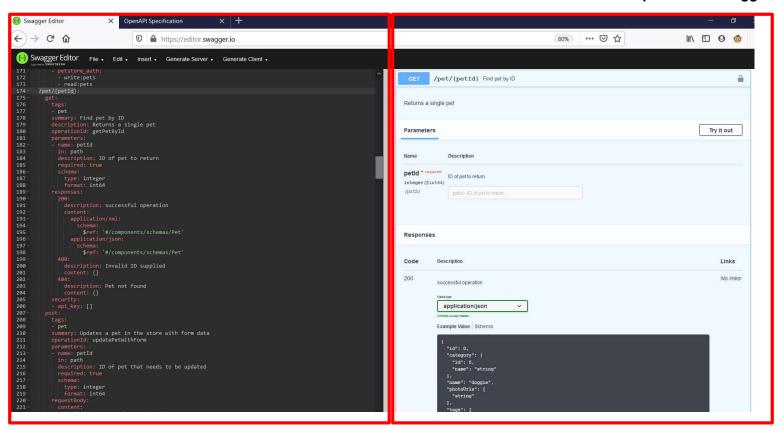




OpenAPI Example I

Try https://editor.swagger.io/ for learning

Examples taken from https://editor.swagger.io/



Specification

Tool Presentation







Basic API information ...

Examples taken from https://editor.swagger.io/

```
openapi: 3.0.1
  title: Swagger Petstore
  description: 'This is a sample server Petstore server. You can
    at [http://swagger.io](http://swagger.io) or on [irc.freenode
   this sample, you can use the api key 'special-key' to test t
 termsOfService: http://swagger.io/terms/
   email: apiteam@swagger.io
   name: Apache 2.0
   url: http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0.html
 version: 1.0.0
externalDocs:
 description: Find out more about Swagger
 url: http://swagger.io
servers:
- url: https://petstore.swagger.io/v2
- url: http://petstore.swagger.io/v2
- name: pet
 description: Everything about your Pets
  externalDocs:
   description: Find out more
   url: http://swagger.io
  name: store
```

Specification version

API version

Endpoint information

Grouping information for tools







... and path/operation description

```
/pet:
/pet/findByStatus: 📟
/pet/findByTags:
  get:
/pet/{petId}:
    - pet
    summary: Find pet by ID
    description: Returns a single pet
    operationId: getPetById
    parameters:
    - name: petId
    responses:
       description: successful operation
         application/xml:
             $ref: '#/components/schemas/Pet'
         application/json:
             $ref: '#/components/schemas/Pet'
      400:
      404:
    api_key: []
    - pet
```

Examples taken from https://editor.swagger.io/

Paths: /pet, /pet/findByStatus

Operations available per path

Description of possible responses

Typing information





JSON-Schema

- □ see http://json-schema.org/specification.html for details
- □ IETF standard for describing the schema of JSON documents
- □ First draft in 2010, but really popular in recent years
- □ Nice online tooling for generating schemas / document instances: https://www.jsonschema.net/

You will probably have to do an edit after generation

- □ Binding libraries for almost any language available
- □ No built-in support for namespaces as opposed to XMLSchema; use prefixes for disambiguation
 - → so federation of really complex data models might become challenging

Using JSON Schema is a choice, not an obligation





JSON-Schema Example I

For introducing JSON-Schema, let's look at the following use case:

- JSON documents shall be used to carry machine monitoring data
- Machines have status data sets and operation data sets
- Status and operation data sets share a certain set of attributes
- → Schema file and a sample operation data set are available online.

Try and feed a json schema generator with the sample document!

```
MachineDatasetSchema.json
                                n operation Dataset.json
```







```
MachineDatasetSchema.ison
                             n operation Dataset. ison
      definitions": {...},
```

This is the basic anatomy of JSON schema:

- definitions to define reusable document elements
- Meta data to identify the schema
- Definition of the top-level elements, e.g., datasetHeader, systemStatus etc.





JSON-Schema Example III

```
n operation Dataset. json
MachineDatasetSchema.json
```

- Use "definitions" to create a set of object definitions that can be reused across properties of the same or different documents
- □ \$id defines a local name relative to its context
 → taskReference can be referred to as "\$ref":
 "#/definitions/taskReference"

Note: "definitions" has been renamed to "defs".







This example here solves the problem that a complete group of attributes is optional.

We want to define that if an optional attribute is used (pressure) than all attributes must be used (temperature as well)...







. . .

So we have a standardCount or a detailedCount, but not a standardCount with just pressure.





- Summary -

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Summary

- Service description practices need to match the development task at hand
- □ Bigger development teams need frameworks that support automation, versioning and exploration of service descriptions
- □ Dedicated APIs may get by with simple input/output relations
- Complex document formats will need a reasonable schema description
- □ Behavior / complex multi-step service interaction is still an issue
 - How do you determine the validity of message sequences?
 - To-Be Behavior (StateCharts, Sequence Diagrams, ...)
 - Error Behavior (StateCharts, Sequence Diagrams, ...)
 - Choreography and orchestration languages have been designed for this purpose, but have not been widely adopted

