



Explore! Web Services at the ETH Zurich

Presentations and Discussion
Thursday, December 16, 2004
15:00 - 18:00

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2004-12-16

Introduction

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Use Case 1/2

- Abel just arrived from UC San Diego as new assistant professor for biophysics at ETH Zurich.
- She wants to have an overview of all projects actually running in her field in Switzerland.
- To do this, she uses a dedicated online service: She only has to select “Biophysics”, “All Switzerland” and “Running Projects”.
- The project list is quite impressive. She now requests which of these projects are citing her research work in the bibliography.

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Use Case 2/2

- There is one research group at the University of Basel citing her work.
- A closer look to the reference lists of this research group cites a book she never heard before.
- She selects the book from the list: A list of places where the book can be ordered appears.
- She has the choice between ordering it at Amazon, at the library of the University of Basel or at the ETH Library.
- Eventually she orders the book from the ETH Library: It will be on her desktop in just a couple of hours.

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Use Case: The Hidden Part

- The list of research projects is created on the fly asking online all Swiss universities.
- The reference list of the research group at the university of Basel is managed by a service provided by the ETH Zurich.
- The list of places where the book can be ordered is created on the fly asking different libraries and book shops.

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Program 1/2

- 15:00 Welcome and Introduction;
Michele De Lorenzi, ETH World
- 15:10 Web Services in US Fortune-1000 Companies;
Dan Decasper, Jibe Networks
- 15:45 uddi.ethz.ch: Towards a directory and ontology
of ETH Web Services; Marcel Baur, ETH World
- 16:05 A Web Interface for ShaRef;
Erik Wilde, ETH Zurich
- 16:30 Break

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Program 2/2

- 16:45 Web Services at EPF Lausanne: Lessons
Learned; Pierre Crevoisier, EPF Lausanne
- 17:10 A Web Service Interface for the ETH Course
Catalogue; Armin Wittman and Reinhard Hess,
ETH Zurich
- 17:35 Discussion
- 18:00 Close

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Why Does ETH World Start a Discussion About Web Services?

- ETH World is supporting different projects providing new applications to the ETH community.
- The applications often only have a Web interface (calls from other applications are not supported).
- With a web service interface
 - it would be possible to access the functionality from other applications (e.g. myETH);
 - new services could be offered by merging the functionality of existing applications (building blocks, Enterprise Application Integration)



Some Open Questions

- Should we go towards a Services Oriented Architecture (SOA)?
- What is specific to a university about Web Services?
- What applications should be made available as Web Services?
- What new kind of services could be introduced supporting Web Services?
- What kind of Web Services could ETH Zurich offer to other universities? In what kind of Web Services could ETH Zurich be interested in?
- What are the technical and organizational best practices to successfully introduce Web Services?