Web Services Foundations
Web Services Foundations

Foreword by Michael P. Papazoglou
To my parents, Horia and Mahmoud, and my wife Malika

Athman Bouguettaya

To my parents Shuilian and Jianwu, my brothers Guanzheng and Xinzheng, my wife Yaping and my daughters Fiona and Phoebe

Quan Z. Sheng

To Cinzia, my family, my friends

Florian Daniel
Service-Oriented Computing (SOC) is the computing paradigm that utilizes software services as fundamental elements for developing and deploying distributed software applications. Services are self-describing, platform-agnostic computational elements that support rapid, low-cost composition of distributed applications. They perform functions, which can be anything from simple requests to complicated business processes. Services allow organizations to expose their core competencies programmatically via a self-describing interface based on open standards over the Internet (or intranet) using standard (XML-based) languages and protocols. Because services provide a uniform and ubiquitous information distributor for wide range of computing devices (such as handheld computers, PDAs, cellular telephones, or appliances) and software platforms (e.g., UNIX or Windows), they constitute a major transition in distributed computing.

A Web service is a specific kind of service that is identified by a URI that exposes its features programmatically over the Internet using standard Internet languages and protocols, and can be implemented via a self-describing interface based on open Internet standards (e.g., XML interfaces which are published in network-based repositories).

Understanding the conceptual underpinnings and mastering the technical intricacies of Web services is anything but trivial and is absolutely necessary to construct a well-functioning service-based system or application. Web service technology is undergoing continuous, rapid evolution, thanks to both standardization efforts pushed forward by industry and the research efforts of the scientific community.

Web services standards are still evolving. However, they seem to converge today on a handful of standards: the Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) for service communication, Web Services Description Language (WSDL) for service description, Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration Infrastructure (UDDI) for registering and discovering services, and the Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) for service composition. A plethora of WS-* specifications also exists to describe the full spectrum of activities related to Web services in topics such as reliable messaging, security, privacy, policies, event processing, and coordination, to name but a few.
Leading international conferences, such as the International Conference on Service-Oriented Computing (ICSOC), the International Conference on Web Services (ICWS), the International Conference on Service Computing (SCC), and others, have spearheaded groundbreaking research efforts. This has led to the emergence of novel topics such as semantic Web services, automated Web service composition, Web service recommendations, quality of service, trust, and a range of other interesting themes. Related conference series such as Web Engineering, Cloud Computing, Business Process Management, HCI, and Database related conferences, have all been strongly influenced by the emergence of Web services and consistently feature Web service related topics in their calls for papers. These conferences contribute to the wealth of knowledge that is growing exponentially around Web services.

The content of this book and that of its companion book Advanced Web Services (Springer, 2013) reflect such activities. It is a testimonial of the leading role of its editors and their highly influential work in the area of Web services. Together, both books cover an enormous wealth of important topics and technologies that mirror the evolution of Web services. They provide an exhaustive overview of the challenges and solutions of all major achievements pertaining to Web services. Each chapter is an authoritative piece of work that synthesizes all pertinent literature and highlights important accomplishments and advances in its subject matter.

To my knowledge, this is the first attempt of its kind, providing complete coverage of the key subjects in Web services. I am not aware of any other book that is as thorough, comprehensive and ambitious in explaining the current state of the art of scientific research and in synthesizing the perspectives and know-how of so many experts in the field. Both books are a must-read for everyone interested in the field. They cater for the needs of both novices to the field as well as seasoned researchers and practitioners. They are a major step in this field’s maturation and will serve to unify, advance, and challenge the scientific community in many important ways.

It is a real pleasure to have been asked to provide the foreword for this book collection. I am happy to commend the editors and authors on their accomplishment, and to inform the readers that they are looking at a landmark in the development of the Web services field. Anybody serious about Web services ought to have handy a copy of Web Services Foundations and Advanced Web Services in their private library!

Tilburg, The Netherlands
Michael P. Papazoglou
December 2012
Preface

Web Service technology is undeniably the preferred delivery method for the Service-Oriented Computing (SOC) paradigm. It has evolved over the years to be a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to modern software development. Web services have gone beyond software componentization technology to embody and express the software manifestation of a general trend transforming our modern society from an industrial, production-centric economy into a digital, service-centric economy. Web services aim to provide the missing conceptual links that unify a variety of different disciplines, such as networking, distributed systems, cloud computing, autonomic computing, data and knowledge management, knowledge-based systems, and business process management. Web services are the technological proxies of services that power much of the developed and increasingly developing economies. In this respect, Web services play a central role in enabling and sustaining the growth of service-centric economies and help modernizing organizations, companies and institutions also from an IT perspective.

Over the last decade, Web services have become a thriving area of research and academic endeavors. Yet, despite a substantial body of research and scientific publications, the Web services community has been hitherto missing a one stop-shop that would provide a consolidated understanding of the scientific and technical progress of this important subject. This book (the second of a two-book collection) is a serious attempt to fill this gap and serve as a primary point of reference reflecting the pervasive nature of Web services.

This book is the first installment of a two-book collection (we discuss the advanced topics in the second book, Advanced Web Services, Springer, 2013). Together, they comprise approximately 1,400 pages covering state-of-the-art theoretical and practical aspects as well as experience using and deploying Web services. The collection offers a comprehensive overview of the scientific and technical progress in Web services technologies, design, architectures, applications, and performance. The first book of the collection consists of two major parts:
I Foundations of Web Services (12 chapters)—It explores the most representative theoretical and practical approaches to Web services, with a special focus on the general state-of-the-art approaches to Web service composition;

II Service Selection and Assisted Composition (16 chapters)—It focuses on other aspects of Web service composition problem, specifically takes a deep look at non-functional aspects (e.g., quality of service), Web service recommendations, and how Web service composition is made easy for less expert developers.

The second book (Advanced Web Services, Springer, 2013) consists of three major parts:

I Advanced Services Engineering and Management (11 chapters)—It explores advanced engineering problems, such as Web service transactions and recovery, security and identity management, trust and contracts, and Web service evolution and management;

II Web Service Applications and Case Studies (5 chapters)—It covers concrete scenarios of the use of Web service technology and reports on empirical studies of real-world Web service ecosystems;

III Novel Perspectives and Future Directions (10 chapters)—It surveys approaches of the applications on how the Web service paradigm can be applied to novel contexts, such as human-centric computing, human work and the Internet of Things, and discusses the value of Web services in the context of mobile and cloud computing.

The topics covered in the collection are reflective of their intent: they aim to become the primary source for all pertinent information regarding Web service technologies, research, deployment and future directions. The purpose of the two books is to serve as a trusted and valuable reference point to researchers and educators who are working in the area of Web services, to students who wish to learn about this important research and development area, and to practitioners who are using Web services and the service paradigm daily in their software development projects.

This collection is the result of an enormous community effort, and their production involved more than 100 authors, consisting of the worlds leading experts in this field. We would like to thank the authors for their high-quality contributions and the reviewers for their time and professional expertise. All contributions have undergone a rigorous review process, involving three independent experts in two rounds of review. We are also very grateful to Springer for their continuous help and assistance.

Melbourne, Australia, December 2012  
Athman Bouguettaya

Adelaide, Australia  
Quan Z. Sheng

Trento, Italy  
Florian Daniel
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Contributors

Dhaminda B. Abeywickrama Faculty of IT, Monash University, Clayton Campus, Wellington Road, Clayton, VIC 3800, Australia, e-mail: dhaminda.abeywickrama@gmail.com

Mohammed AbuJarour SAP AG, Potsdam, Germany, e-mail: mohammed.abujarour@sap.com

Amal Alhosban Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA, e-mail: ea1179@wayne.edu

Mohsen Asadi Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada, e-mail: masadi@sfu.ca

Ahmed Awad Faculty of Computers and Information, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt, e-mail: a.gaafar@fci-cu.edu.eg

Boualem Benatallah CSE, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, Australia, e-mail: boualem@cse.unsw.edu.au

Salima Benbernou Université Paris Descartes, Paris, France, e-mail: salima.benbernou@parisdescartes.fr

Swapan Bhattacharya Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India, e-mail: bswapan2000@yahoo.co.in

M. Brian Blake Graduate School, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL 33124-3220, USA, e-mail: m.brian.blake@miami.edu

Steffen Bleul Munich, Germany, e-mail: stbleul@gmx.de

Fabio Casati University of Trento, Via Sommarive 5, 38123 Trento, Italy, e-mail: casati@disi.unitn.it

Jayeeta Chanda BPPIMT, 137, VIP Road, Kolkata, India, e-mail: jayeeta.chanda@gmail.com

Min Chen Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada, e-mail: minchen2008halifax@yahoo.com
Xi Chen Schlumberger Technologies (Beijing) Ltd., Beijing, China, e-mail: bargittachen@gmail.com

Alan Colman Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, VIC, Australia, e-mail: acolman@swin.edu.au

Florian Daniel University of Trento, Via Sommarive 5, Trento, Italy, e-mail: daniel@disi.unitn.it

Joseph G. Davis School of Information Technologies, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia, e-mail: joseph.davis@sydney.edu.au

Giuseppe De Giacomo Dipartimento di Ingegneria Informatica Automatica e Gestionale Antonio Ruberti, Sapienza Università di Roma, via Ariosto 25, 00185 Rome, Italy, e-mail: degiacomo@dis.uniroma1.it

Khalil Drira CNRS, LAAS, University of Toulouse, 7 avenue du colonel Roche, 31400 Toulouse, France, e-mail: khalil.drira@laas.fr

Zaiwen Feng State Key Laboratory of Software Engineering, School of Computer, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, e-mail: fengzaiwen@whu.edu.cn

Dragan Gašević Athabasca University, Athabasca, AB, Canada; Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada, e-mail: dgasevic@acm.org

Claude Godart LORIA-INRIA-UMR 7503, 54506 Vandoeuvre-les-Nancy, France, e-mail: claude.godart@loria.fr

Nawal Guermouche CNRS, LAAS, University of Toulouse, 7 avenue du colonel Roche, 31400 Toulouse, France, e-mail: nawal.guermouche@laas.fr

Claudio Guidi Dipartimento di Matematica, University of Padua, Via Trieste 63, 35121 Padua, Italy, e-mail: cguidi@math.unipd.it

Riadh Ben Halima ReDCAD, University of Sfax, 3038 Sfax, Tunisia, e-mail: riadh.benhalima@enis.rnu.tn

Jun Han Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, VIC, Australia, e-mail: jhan@swin.edu.au

Khayyam Hashmi Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA, e-mail: eh2304@wayne.edu

Keqing He State Key Laboratory of Software Engineering, School of Computer, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, e-mail: hekeqing@whu.edu.cn

Patrick C. K. Hung University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Oshawa, ON, Canada, e-mail: patrick.hung@uoit.ca

Vu Hung University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, Australia, e-mail: vthung@gmail.com
Fuyuki Ishikawa  National Institute of Informatics, 2-1-2 Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8430, Japan, e-mail: f-ishikawa@nii.ac.jp

Ananya Kanjilal  BPPIMT, 137, VIP Road, Kolkata, India, e-mail: ag_k@rediffmail.com

Georgia Kleanthous  Manchester Centre for Service Research, University of Manchester, Manchester M60 1QD, UK, e-mail: georgia.kleanthous@gmail.com

Woralak Kongdenfha  ECPE, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok, Thailand, e-mail: woralakk@gmail.com

Freddy Lecue  IBM Research, Dublin, Ireland, e-mail: freddy.lecue@ie.ibm.com

Jaejoon Lee  Lancaster University, Lancashire, UK, e-mail: j.lee@comp.lancs.ac.uk

Angel Lagares Lemos  University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, Australia, e-mail: angell@cse.unsw.edu.au

Niels Lohmann  University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany, e-mail: niels.lohmann@uni-rostock.de

Michael R. Lyu  Department of Computer Science and Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong, China, e-mail: lyu@cse.cuhk.edu.hk

Zaki Malik  Department of Computer Science, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA, e-mail: zaki@cs.wayne.edu

Massimo Mecella  Dipartimento di Ingegneria Informatica Automatica e Gestionale Antonio Ruberti, Sapienza Università di Roma, via Ariosto 25, 00185 Rome, Italy, e-mail: mecella@dis.uniroma1.it

Brahim Medjahed  Department of Computer and Information Science, University of Michigan, Dearborn, MI, USA, e-mail: brahim@umich.edu

Nikolay Mehandjiev  Manchester Centre for Service Research, University of Manchester, Manchester M60 1QD, UK, e-mail: n.mehandjiev@manchester.ac.uk

Emna Mezghani  CNRS, LAAS, University of Toulouse, 7 avenue du colonel Roche, 31400 Toulouse, France; ReDCAD, University of Sfax, 3038 Sfax, Tunisia, e-mail: emna.mezghani@laas.fr

Mahboobeh Moghaddam  School of Information Technologies, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2015, Australia; National ICT Australia, Australian Technology Park, Sydney, NSW, Australia, e-mail: mahboobe@it.usyd.edu.au

Bardia Mohabbati  Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada, e-mail: mohabbati@sfu.ca
Contributors

Fabrizio Montesi  IT University of Copenhagen, Rued Langgaards Vej 7, 2300 Copenhagen, Denmark, e-mail: fmontesi@itu.dk

Hamid R. Motahari-Nezhad  HP Labs, Palo Alto, CA, USA, e-mail: hamid-reza.motahari-nezhad@hp.com

Abdallah Namoun  Manchester Centre for Service Research, University of Manchester, Manchester M60 1QD, UK, e-mail: abdallah.namoune@mbs.ac.uk

Tuan Nguyen  Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, VIC, Australia, e-mail: tmnguyen@swin.edu.au

Fabio Patrizi  Dipartimento di Ingegneria Informatica Automatica e Gestionale Antonio Ruberti, Sapienza Università di Roma, via Ariosto 25, 00185 Rome, Italy, e-mail: patrizi@dis.uniroma1.it

Cesare Pautasso  Faculty of Informatics, University of Lugano, via Buffi 13, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland, e-mail: c.pautasso@ieee.org

Pascal Poizat  LRI UMR CNRS, 8623 Orsay, France, e-mail: pascal.poizat@lri.fr

Carlos Rodríguez  University of Trento, Via Sommarive 5, 38123 Trento, Italy, e-mail: crodriguez@disi.unitn.it

Soudip Roy Chowdhury  University of Trento, Via Sommarive 5, 38123 Trento, Italy, e-mail: rchowdhury@disi.unitn.it

Regis Saint-Paul  Oceanet Technology, Nantes, France, e-mail: regis.saintpaul@gmail.com

Sabnam Sengupta  BPPIMT, 137, VIP Road, Kolkata, India, e-mail: sabnamsng@gmail.com

Stefano Soi  University of Trento, Via Sommarive 5, 38123 Trento, Italy, e-mail: soi@disi.unitn.it

Christian Stahl  Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, 5600 MB Eindhoven, 513, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, e-mail: C.Stahl@tue.nl

Wil M. P. van der Aalst  Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, 5600 MB Eindhoven, 513, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, e-mail: W.M.P.v.d.Aalst@tue.nl

Usman Wajid  Manchester Centre for Service Research, University of Manchester, Manchester M60 1QD, UK, e-mail: usman.wajid@manchester.ac.uk

Jian Wang  State Key Laboratory of Software Engineering, School of Computer, Wuhan University, Wuhan, China, e-mail: jianwang@whu.edu.cn
Thomas Weise  School of Computer Science and Technology, University of Science and Technology of China, 230027 Hefei, Anhui, China, e-mail: tweise@ustc.edu.cn

Karsten Wolf  University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany, e-mail: karsten.wolf@uni-rostock.de

Hua Xiao  IBM Canada Laboratory, Markham, ON, Canada, e-mail: huaxiao@ca.ibm.com

Yuhong Yan  Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada, e-mail: yuhong@encs.concordia.ca

Jian Yang  Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia, e-mail: jian.yang@mq.edu.au

Qi Yu  Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY, USA, e-mail: qi.yu@rit.edu

Gianluigi Zavattaro  INRIA Focus Research Team, University of Bologna, Mura A. Zamboni 7, 40127 Bologna, Italy, e-mail: zavattar@cs.unibo.it

Jia Zhang  Carnegie Mellon University, Silicon Valley, Mountain View, CA, USA, e-mail: jia.zhang@sv.cmu.edu

Liang-Jie Zhang  Kingdee International Software Group Co. Ltd., Shenzhen, China, e-mail: zhanglj@ieee.org

Weiliang Zhao  University of Wollongong, Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia, e-mail: wzhao@uow.edu.au

Huiyuan Zheng  Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia, e-mail: huiyuan.zheng@mq.edu.au

Zibin Zheng  Department of Computer Science and Engineering, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong, China, e-mail: zbzheng@cse.cuhk.edu.hk

Ying Zou  Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Queen’s University, Kingston, ON, Canada, e-mail: ying.zou@queensu.ca