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RESTful Web Services:

Principles, Patterns, Emerging Technologies

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Overview

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9:00-10:30	1. What is REST?
11:00-12:30	2. RESTful Service Design
14:00-15:30	3. REST vs. WS-*
16:00-17:00	4. REST Composition
17:00-17:30	5. REST in Practice

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2 RESTful Service Design

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REST Design Constraints

1. Resource Identification
2. Uniform Interface
   GET, PUT, DELETE, POST
   (HEAD, OPTIONS...)
3. Self-Describing Messages
4. Hypermedia Driving Application State
5. Stateless Interactions

REST Design - Outline

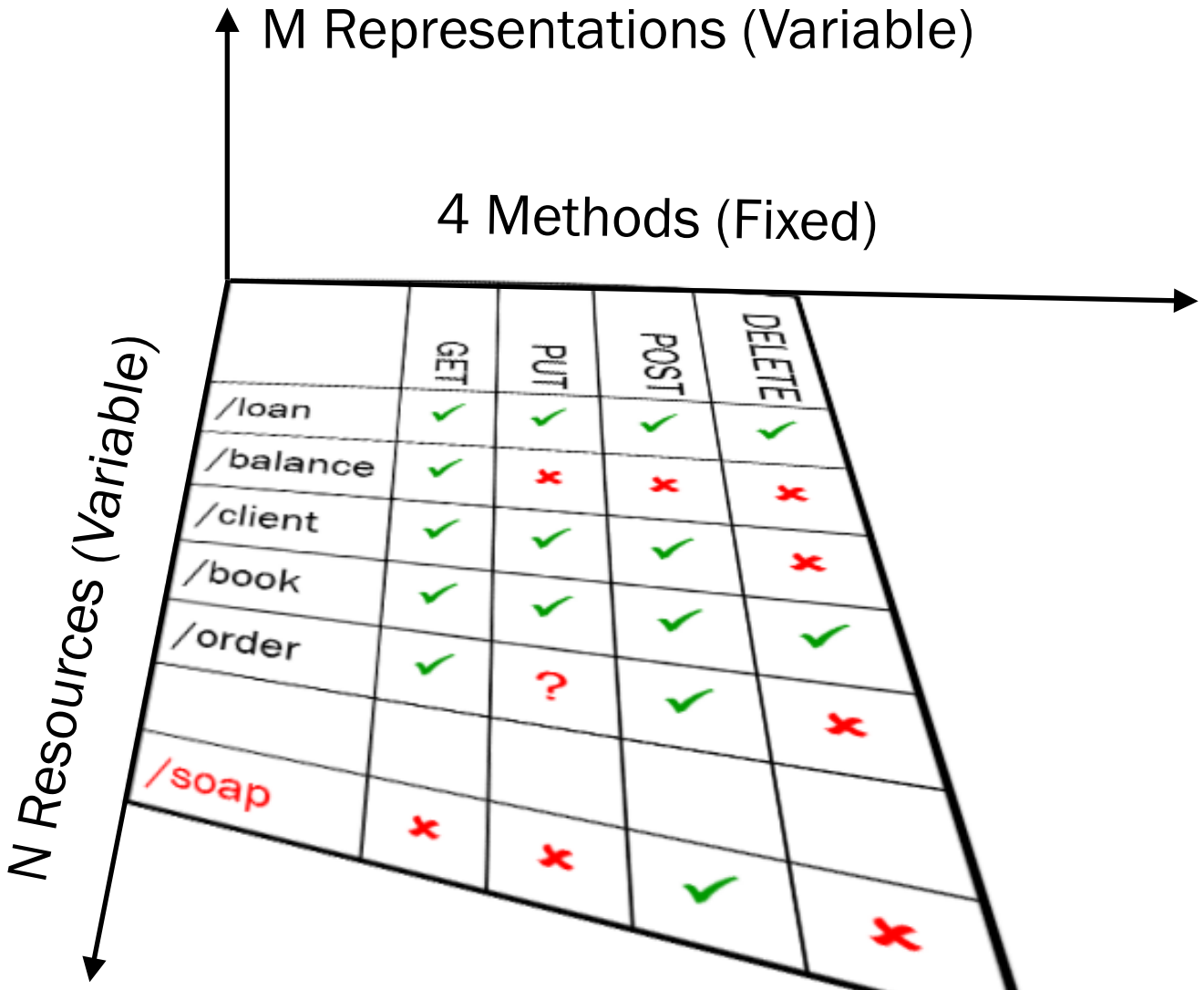
- Design Methodology
- Simple Doodle Service Example
- Design Tips
  - Is URI Design part of REST?
  - Understanding GET vs. POST vs. PUT
  - Multiple Representations
    - Content-Type Negotiation
  - Media Type Design
  - Exception Handling
    - Idempotent vs. Unsafe
    - Dealing with Concurrency
  - Stateful or Stateless?
- Some REST AntiPatterns

Design Methodology

1. Identify resources to be exposed as services (e.g., yearly risk report, book catalog, purchase order, open bugs, polls and votes)
2. Model relationships (e.g., containment, reference, state transitions) between resources with hyperlinks that can be followed to get more details (or perform state transitions)
3. Define “nice” URIs to address the resources
4. Understand what it means to do a GET, POST, PUT, DELETE for each resource (and whether it is allowed or not)
5. Design and document resource representations
6. Implement and deploy on Web server
7. Test with a Web browser

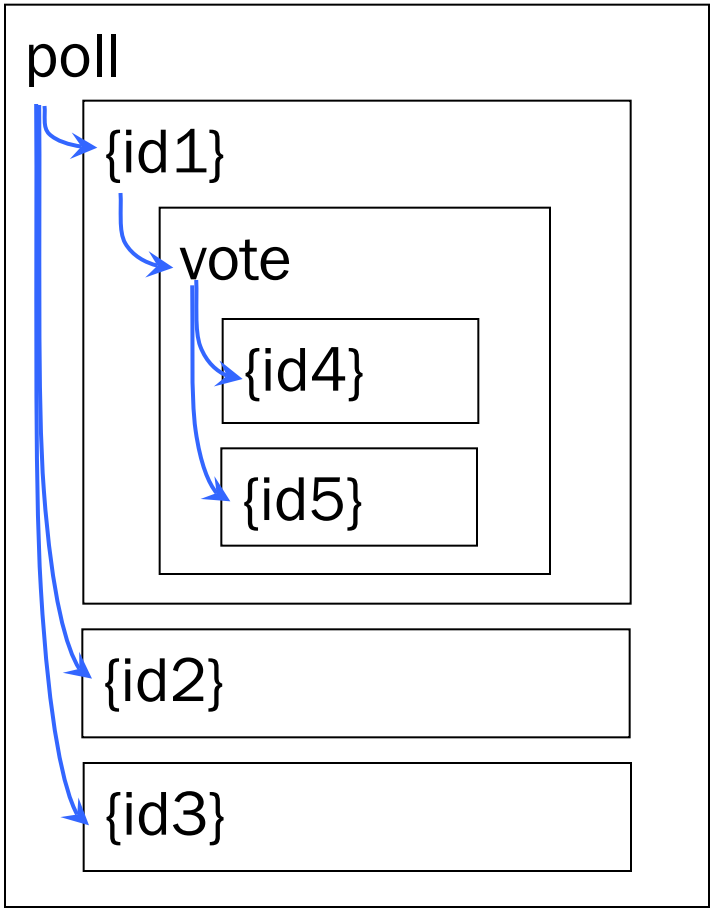
	GET	PUT	POST	DELETE
/loan	✓	✓	✓	✓
/balance	✓	✘	✘	✘
/client	✓	✓	✓	✘
/book	✓	✓	✓	✓
/order	✓	?	✓	✘
/soap	✘	✘	✓	✘

Design Space



Simple Doodle API Example Design

1. Resources:
   polls and votes
2. Containment Relationship:

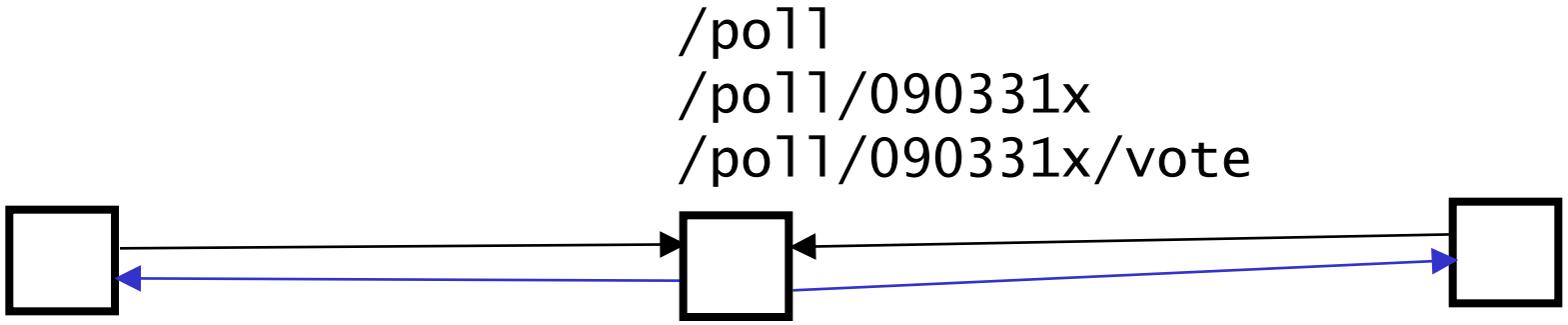


	GET	PUT	POST	DELETE
/poll	✓	✗	✓	✗
/poll/*{id}*	✓	✓	✗	✓
/poll/*{id}*/vote	✓	✗	✓	✗
/poll/*{id}*/vote/*{id}*	✓	✓	✗	?

3. URIs embed IDs of “child” instance resources
4. POST on the container is used to create child resources
5. PUT/DELETE for updating and removing child resources

Simple Doodle API Example

1. Creating a poll
(transfer the state of a new poll on the Doodle service)



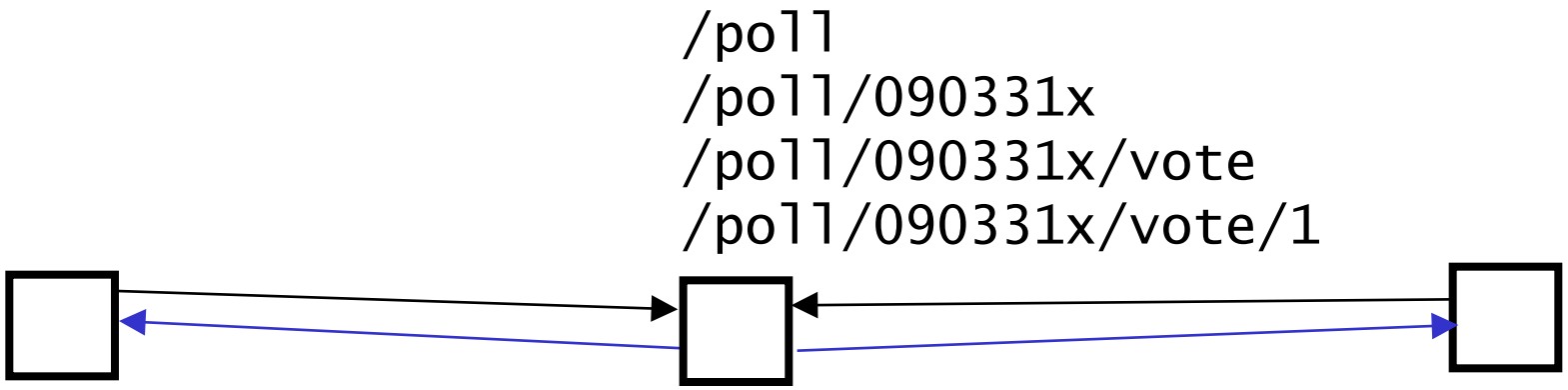

```
POST /poll
<options>A,B,C</options>

201 Created
Location: /poll/090331x
```

```
GET /poll/090331x

200 OK
<options>A,B,C</options>
<votes href="/vote"/>
```

2. Reading a poll
(transfer the state of the poll from the Doodle service)

Simple Doodle API Example

- Participating in a poll by creating a new vote sub-resource

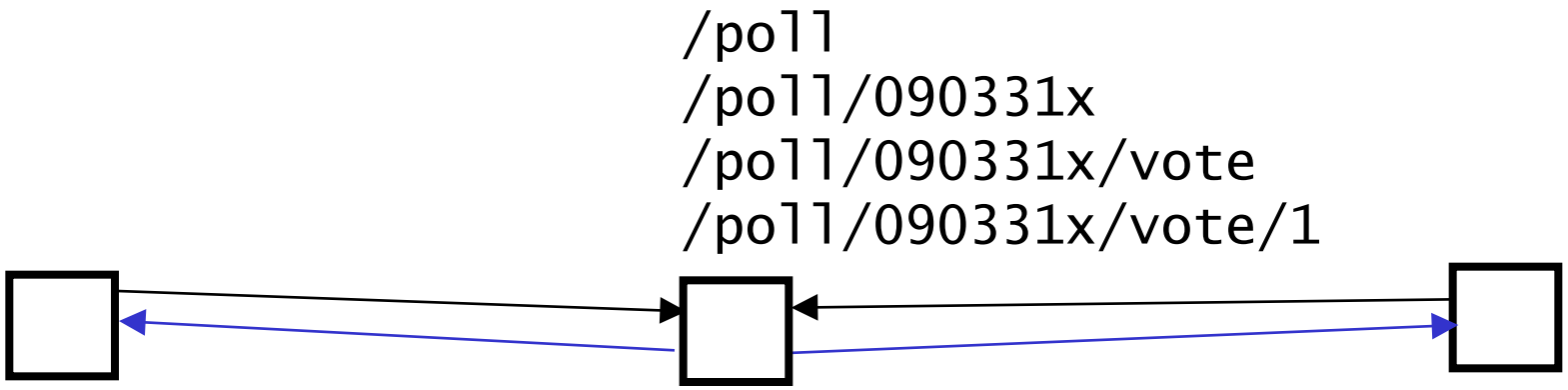



```
POST /poll/090331x/vote
<name>C. Pautasso</name>
<choice>B</choice>

201 Created
Location:
/poll/090331x/vote/1
```

```
GET /poll/090331x

200 OK
<options>A,B,C</options>
<votes><vote id="1">
<name>C. Pautasso</name>
<choice>B</choice>
</vote></votes>
```

Simple Doodle API Example

- Existing votes can be updated (access control headers not shown)

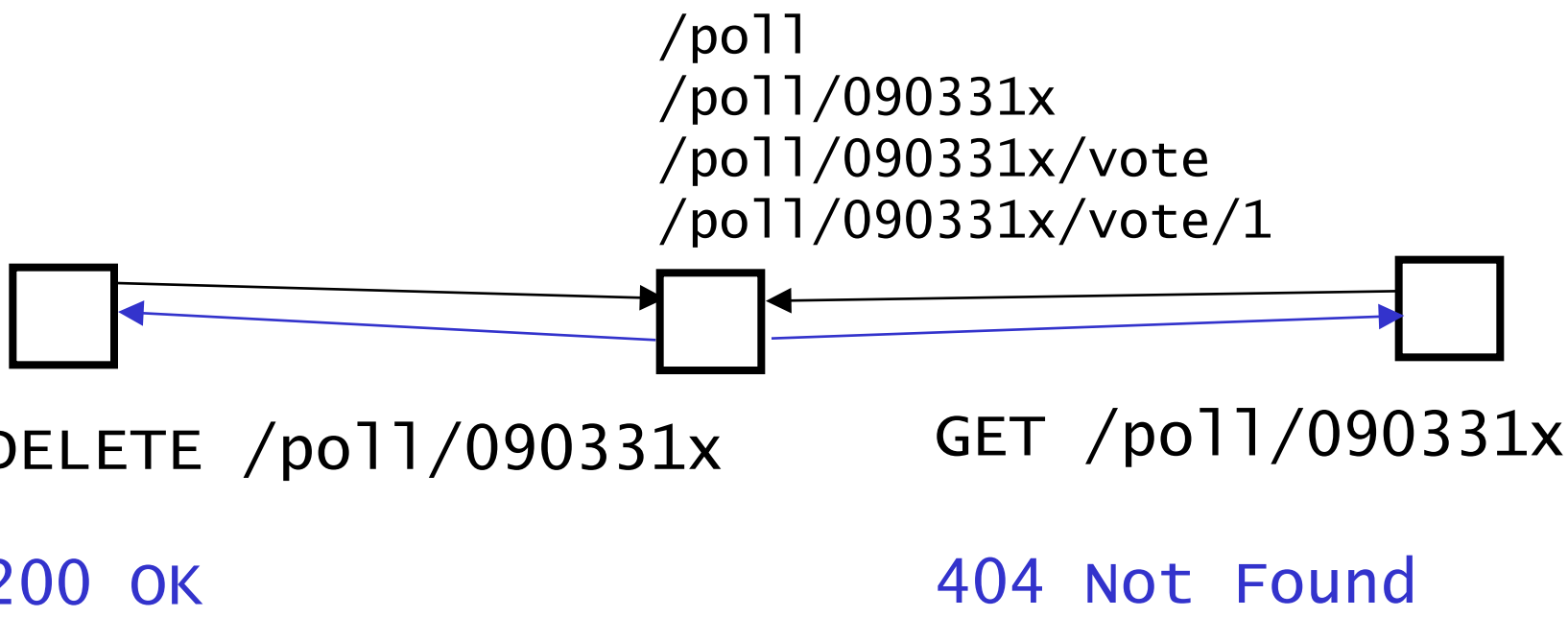



```
PUT /poll/090331x/vote/1
<name>C. Pautasso</name>
<choice>C</choice>

200 OK
```

```
GET /poll/090331x

200 OK
<options>A,B,C</options>
<votes><vote id="/1">
<name>C. Pautasso</name>
<choice>C</choice>
</vote></votes>
```

Simple Doodle API Example

- Polls can be deleted once a decision has been made



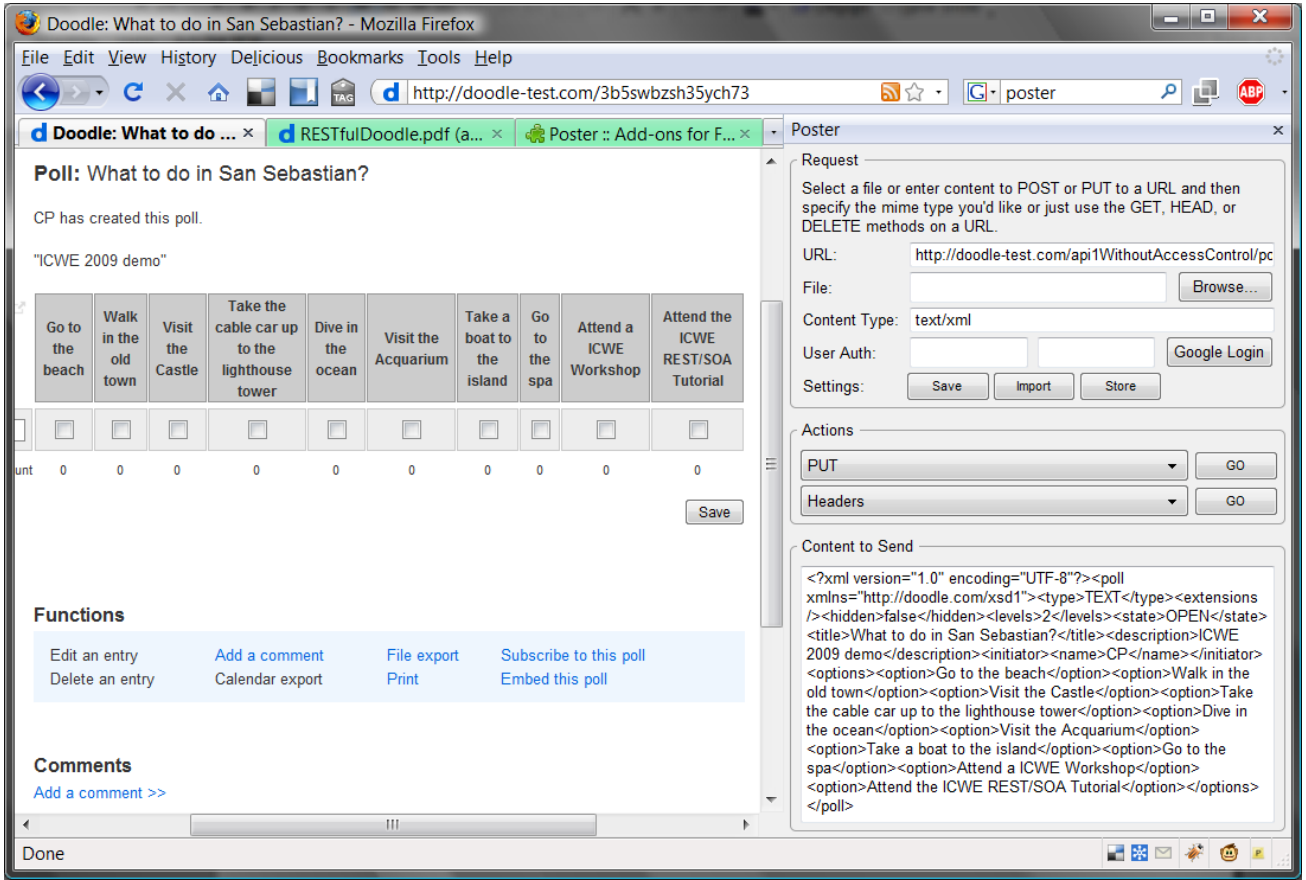
Real Doodle Demo

- Info on the real Doodle API:

http://doodle.com/xsd1/RESTfulDoodle.pdf

- Lightweight demo with Poster Firefox Extension:

http://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2691



1. Create Poll

POST http://doodle-test.com/api1WithoutAccessControl/polls/
Content-Type: text/xml

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?><poll xmlns="http://doodle.com/xsd1"><type>TEXT</type><extensions rowConstraint="1"/><hidden>false</hidden><writeOnce>false</writeOnce><requireAddress>false</requireAddress><requireEMail>false</requireEMail><requirePhone>false</requirePhone><byInvitationOnly>false</byInvitationOnly><levels>2</levels><state>OPEN</state><title>How is the tutorial going?</title><description></description><initiator><name>Cesare Pautasso</name><userId></userId><eMailAddress>test@jopera.org</eMailAddress></initiator><options><option>too fast</option><option>right speed</option><option>too slow</option></options><participants></participants><comments></comments></poll>

Content-Location: {id}

GET http://doodle-test.com/api1WithoutAccessControl/polls/{id}

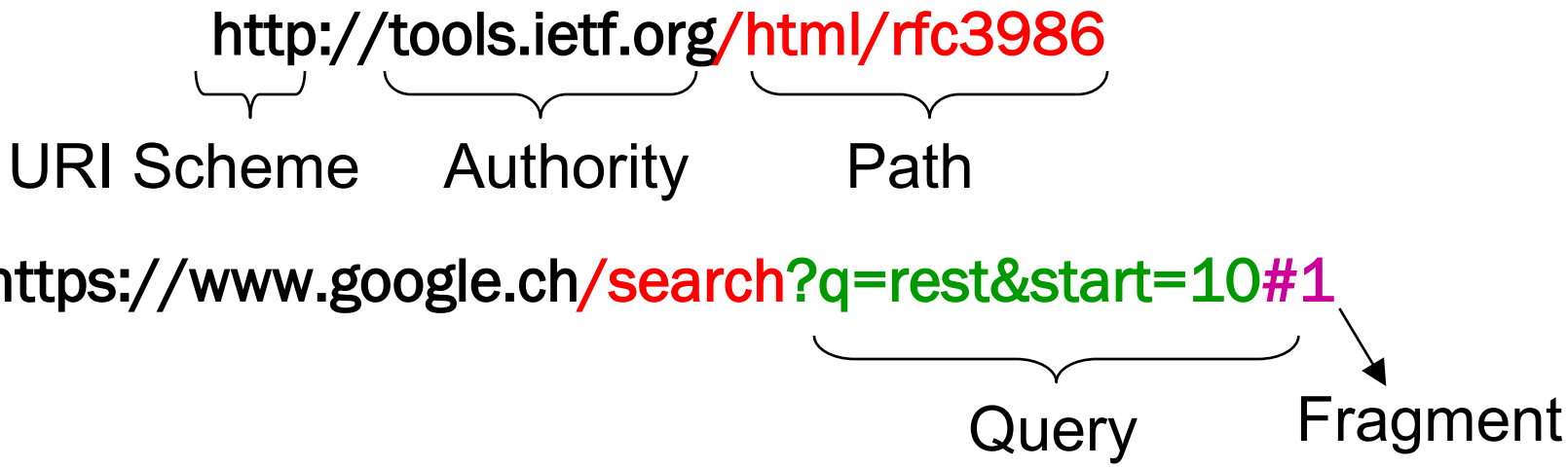
2. Vote

POST http://doodle-test.com/api1WithoutAccessControl/polls/{id}/participants
Content-Type: text/xml

```
<participant xmlns="http://doodle.com/xsd1"><name>Cesare
    Pautasso</name><preferences><option>0</option><option>1</option><
    option>0</option></preferences></participant>
```

URI - Uniform Resource Identifier

- Internet Standard for resource naming and identification (originally from 1994, revised until 2005)
- Examples:

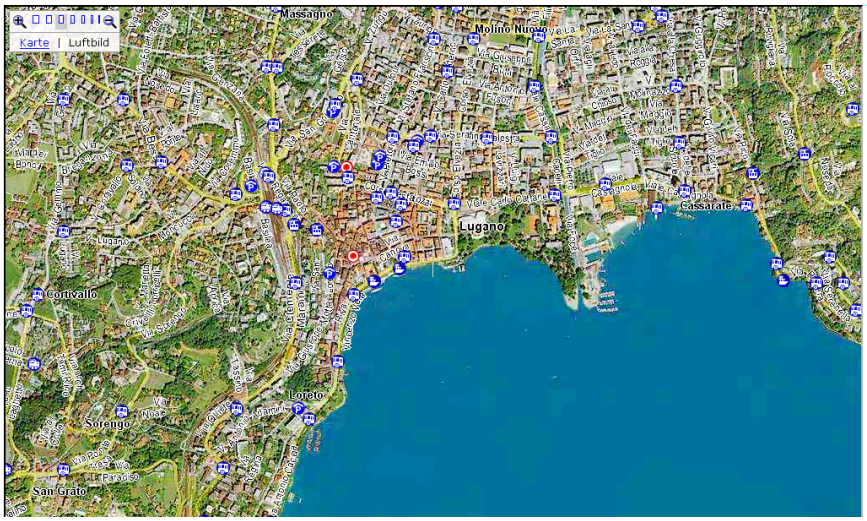


- REST does **not** advocate the use of “nice” URIs
- In most HTTP stacks URIs cannot have arbitrary length (4Kb)

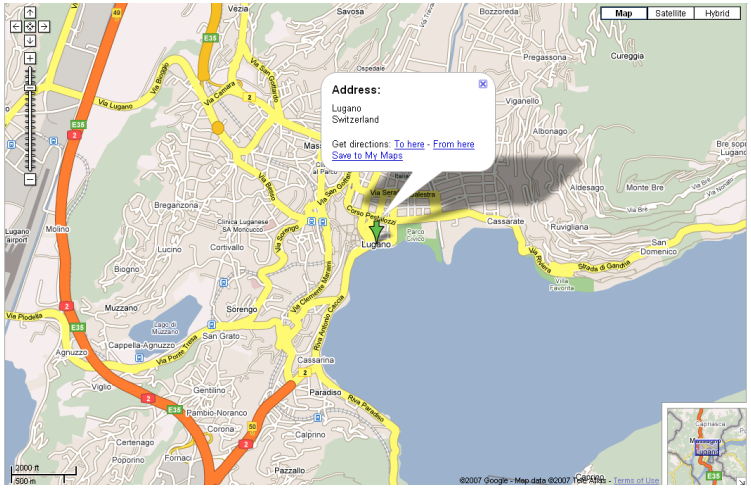
What is a “nice” URI?

A RESTful service is much more than just a set of nice URIs

http://map.search.ch/lugano



http://maps.google.com/lugano



http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=lugano,+switzerland&layer=&ie=UTF8&z=12&om=1&iwloc=addr

URI Design Guidelines

- Prefer Nouns to Verbs
- Keep your URIs short
- If possible follow a "positional" parameter-passing scheme for algorithmic resource query strings (instead of the key=value&p=v encoding)

GET /book?isbn=24&action=delete

DELETE /book/24

- **Note:** REST URIs are opaque identifiers that are meant to be discovered by following hyperlinks and *not constructed by the client*

- Some use URI postfixes to specify the content type

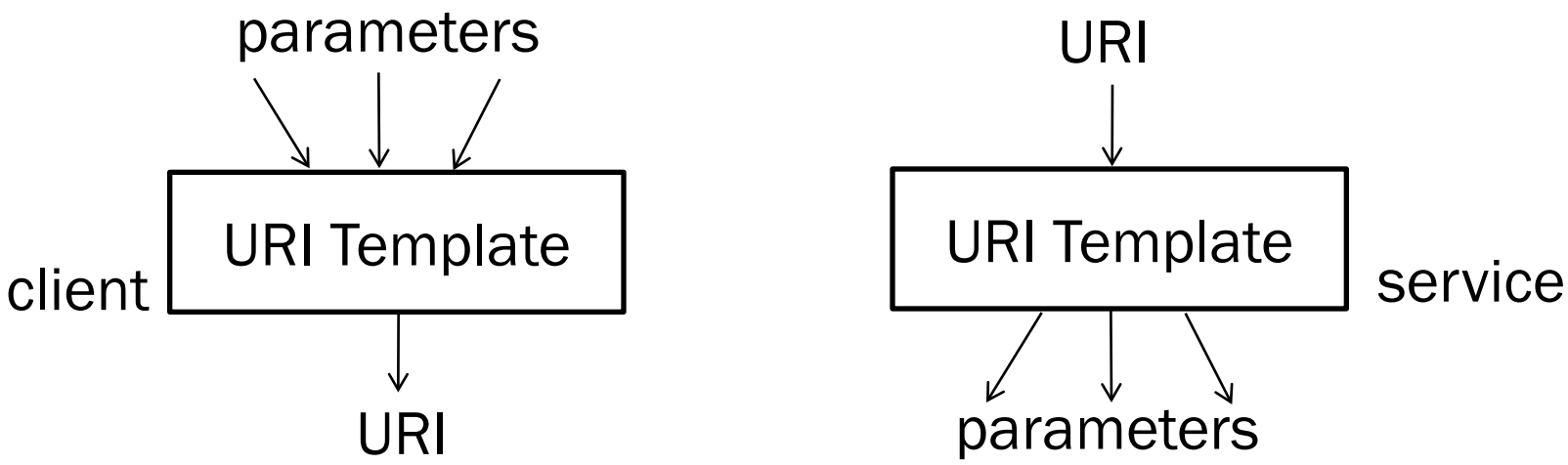
- *This may break the abstraction*

- Do not change URIs
- Use redirection if you really need to change them

- **Warning:** URI Templates introduce coupling between client and server

URI Templates

- URI Templates specify how to construct and parse parametric URIs.
  - On the service they are often used to configure “routing rules”
  - On the client they are used to instantiate URIs from local parameters



- Do not hardcode URIs in the client!
- Do not hardcode URI templates in the client!
- Reduce coupling by fetching the URI template from the service dynamically and fill them out on the client

URI Template Examples

- From http://bitworking.org/projects/URI-Templates/

- Template:

http://www.myservice.com/order/{oid}/item/{iid}

- Example URI:

http://www.myservice.com/order/XYZ/item/12345

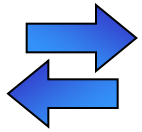
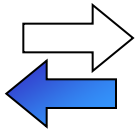
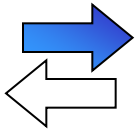
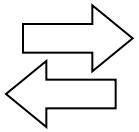
- Template:

http://www.google.com/search?{-join|&|q,num}

- Example URI:

http://www.google.com/search?q=REST&num=10

Uniform Interface Constraint

CRUD	REST	
CREATE	POST 	Create a sub resource
READ	GET 	Retrieve the *current state* of the resource
UPDATE	PUT 	Initialize or update the state of a resource at the given URI
DELETE	DELETE 	Clear a resource, after the URI is no longer valid

HTML5 Forms

- HTML4/XHTML
- <form method="GET|POST">

- HTML5
- <form method="GET|POST|PUT|DELETE">

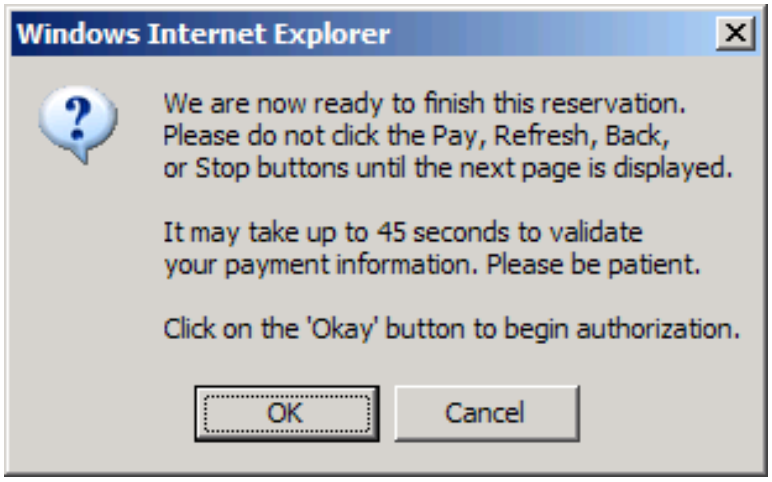
- http://www.w3.org/TR/html5/forms.html#attr-fs-method

POST vs. GET

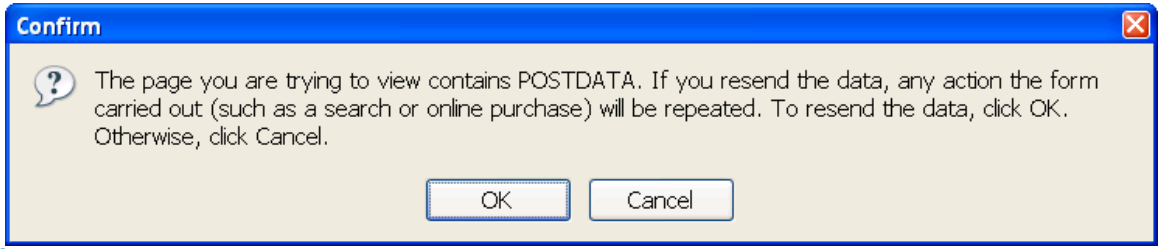
- GET is a **read-only** operation. It can be repeated without affecting the state of the resource (idempotent) and can be cached.

Note: this does not mean that the same representation will be returned every time.

- POST is a **read-write** operation and may change the state of the resource and provoke side effects on the server.

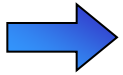


Web browsers warn you when refreshing a page generated with POST

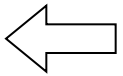


POST vs. PUT

What is the right way of creating resources (initialize their state)?



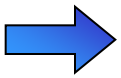
```
PUT /resource/{id}
```



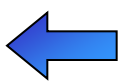
```
201 Created
```

Problem: How to ensure resource {id} is unique?
(Resources can be created by multiple clients concurrently)

Solution 1: let the client choose a unique id (e.g., GUID)



```
POST /resource
```

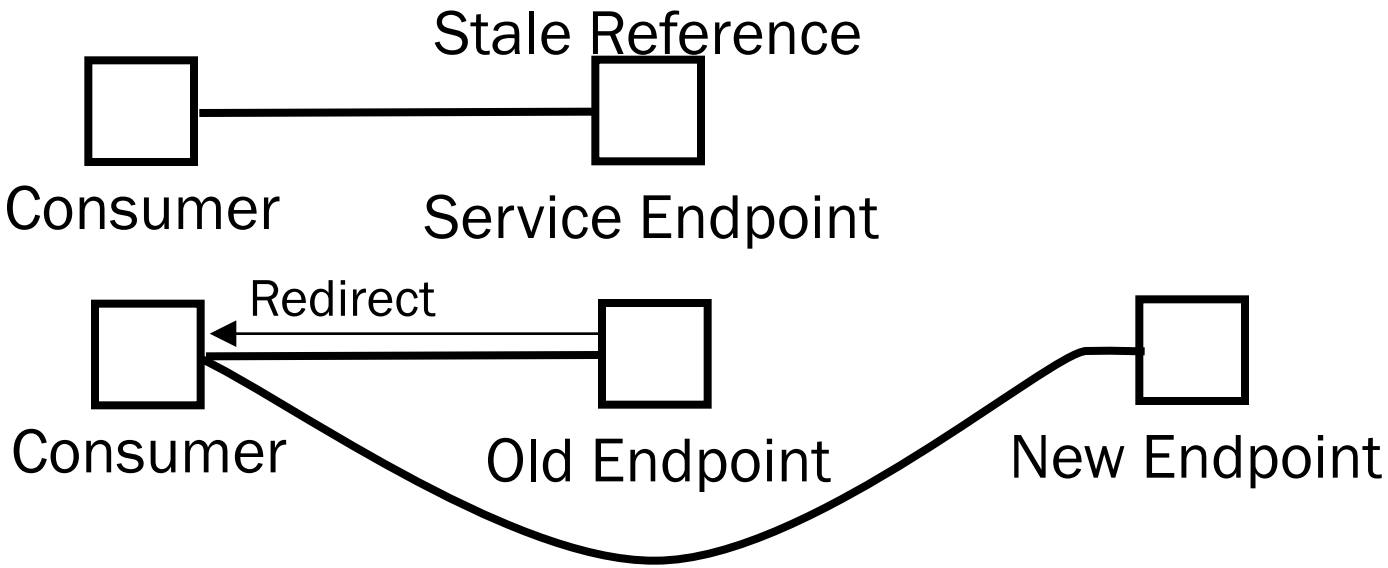


```
301 Moved Permanently
Location: /resource/{id}
```

Solution 2: let the server compute the unique id

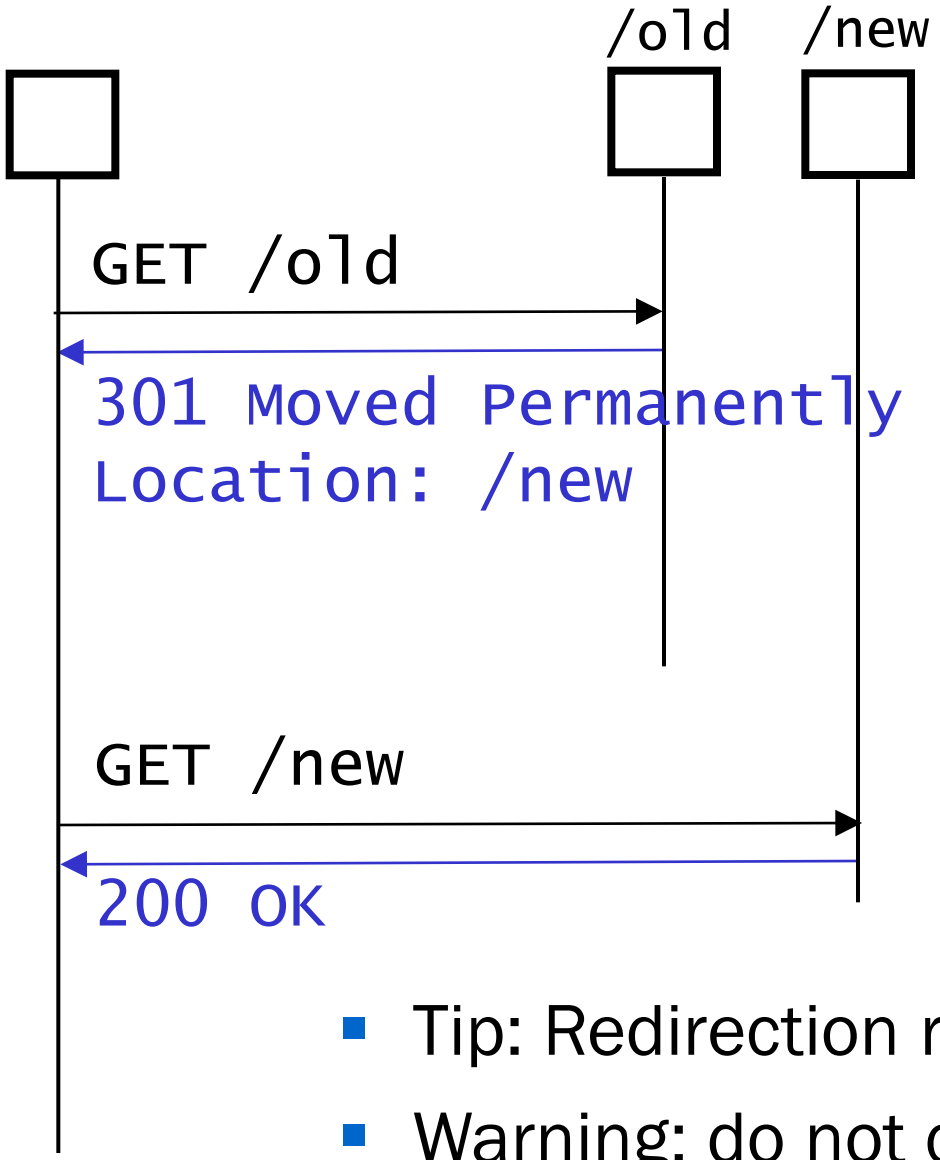
Problem: Duplicate instances may be created if requests are repeated due to unreliable communication

Redirection for Smooth Evolution



- How can consumers of a RESTful service adapt when service locations and URIs are restructured?
- Problem: Service URIs may change over time for business or technical reasons. It may not be possible to replace all references to old links simultaneously risking to introduce broken links.
- Solution: Automatically refer service consumers that access the old identifier to the current identifier.

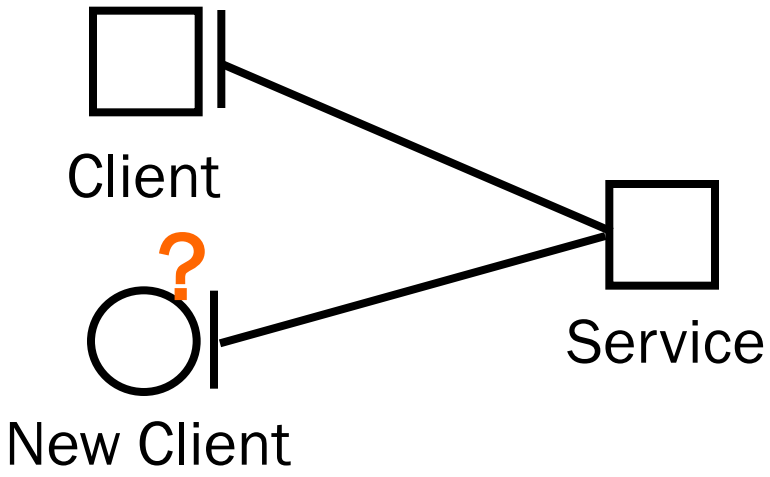
Redirection with HTTP



- HTTP natively supports redirection using a combination of 3xx status codes and standard headers:
  - 301 Moved Permanently
  - 307 Temporary Redirect
  - Location: /newURI

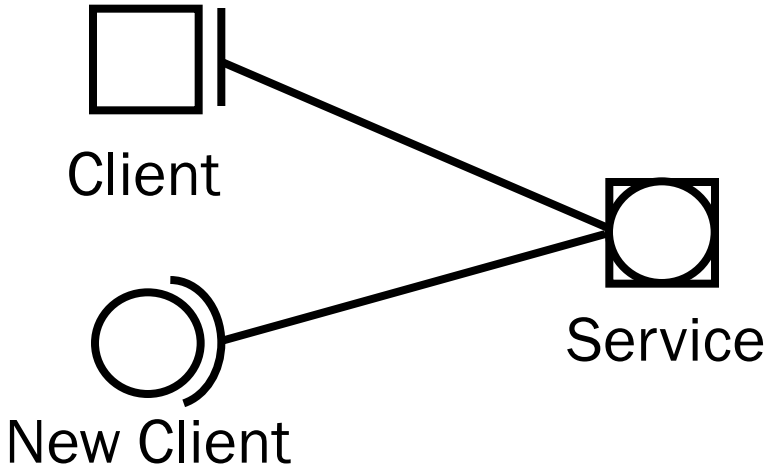
- Tip: Redirection responses can be chained.
- Warning: do not create redirection loops!

Should all agree on the same format?



- How can services support different consumers which make different assumptions about the messaging format?
- Problem: Service consumers may change their requirements in a way that is not backwards compatible. ***A service may have to support both old and new consumers*** without having to introduce a specific interface for each kind of consumer.

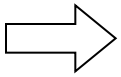
Solution: Content Negotiation



- Solution: specific content and data representation formats to be accepted or returned by a service capability is negotiated at runtime as part of its invocation. The service contract refers to multiple standardized “media types”.
- Benefits: Loose Coupling, Increased Interoperability, Increased Organizational Agility

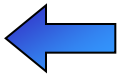
Content Negotiation in HTTP

Negotiating the message format does not require to send more messages (the added flexibility comes for free)



```
GET /resource
Accept: text/html, application/xml,
  application/json
```

1. The client lists the set of understood formats (MIME types)



```
200 OK
Content-Type: application/json
```

2. The server chooses the most appropriate one for the reply (status 406 if none can be found)

Advanced Content Negotiation

Quality factors allow the client to indicate the relative degree of preference for each representation (or media-range).

```
Media/Type; q=X
```

If a media type has a quality value q=0, then content with this parameter is not acceptable for the client.

```
Accept: text/html, text/*; q=0.1
```

The client prefers to receive HTML (but any other text format will do with lower priority)

```
Accept: application/xhtml+xml; q=0.9,
 text/html; q=0.5, text/plain; q=0.1
```

The client prefers to receive XHTML, or HTML if this is not available and will use Plain Text as a fall back

Forced Content Negotiation

The generic URI supports content negotiation

```
GET /resource
Accept: text/html, application/xml,
    application/json
```

The specific URI points to a specific representation format using the postfix (extension)

```
GET /resource.html
GET /resource.xml
GET /resource.json
```

Warning: This is a conventional practice, not a standard.

What happens if the resource cannot be represented in the requested format?

Multi-Dimensional Negotiation

Content Negotiation is very flexible and can be performed based on different dimensions (each with a specific pair of HTTP headers).

Request Header	Example Values	Response Header
`Accept:`	`application/xml, application/json`	`Content-Type:`
`Accept-Language:`	`en, fr, de, es`	`Content-Language:`
`Accept-Charset:`	`iso-8859-5, unicode-1-1`	`Charset` parameter fo the `Content-Type` header
`Accept-Encoding:`	`compress, gzip`	`Content-Encoding:`

Media Type Design

A REST API should spend almost all of its descriptive effort in defining the media type(s) used for representing resources and driving application state, or in defining extended relation names and/or hypertext-enabled mark-up for existing standard media types.

http://roy.gbiv.com/untangled/2008/rest-apis-must-be-hypertext-driven

- How to find the best media type?
- Reuse generic media types or invent custom/specific media types?
- Should you always standardize media types?

Media Type Design Trade Off

`text/xml`
(Generic, Reusable, Meaningless)

`application/atom+xml`
(Standardized, Reusable, Better Defined)

`application/vnd.my.type+xml`
(Specific, Less Reusable, Meaningful)

RFC4288 defines how to register custom media types.
List of existing standard media types:
http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/

Media Type Design Hints

- Reuse Existing Media Types
- Do not be afraid of inventing your own, but then standardize it and reuse it as much as possible
- Media Types capture the representation format of your resource information/data model and the implied processing model
- There is no best media type for a service, it all depends on what your clients need/support/understand
- Clients are not forced to process the media type as you expect them to

Exception Handling

Learn to use HTTP Standard Status Codes

```
100 Continue
200 OK
201 Created
202 Accepted
203 Non-Authoritative
204 No Content
205 Reset Content
206 Partial Content
300 Multiple Choices
301 Moved Permanently
302 Found
303 See Other
304 Not Modified
305 Use Proxy
307 Temporary Redirect
```

4xx Client's fault

```
400 Bad Request
401 Unauthorized
402 Payment Required
403 Forbidden
404 Not Found
405 Method Not Allowed
406 Not Acceptable
407 Proxy Authentication Required
408 Request Timeout
409 Conflict
410 Gone
411 Length Required
412 Precondition Failed
413 Request Entity Too Large
414 Request-URI Too Long
415 Unsupported Media Type
416 Requested Range Not Satisfiable
417 Expectation Failed
```

```
500 Internal Server Error
501 Not Implemented
502 Bad Gateway
503 Service Unavailable
504 Gateway Timeout
505 HTTP Version Not Supported
```

5xx Server's fault

Idempotent vs. Unsafe

- Idempotent requests can be processed multiple times without side-effects

```
GET /book
PUT /order/x
DELETE /order/y
```

- If something goes wrong (server down, server internal error), the request can be simply replayed until the server is back up again
- Safe requests are idempotent requests which do not modify the state of the server (can be cached)

```
GET /book
```

- Unsafe requests modify the state of the server and cannot be repeated without additional (unwanted) effects:

```
Withdraw(200$) //unsafe
Deposit(200$)  //unsafe
```

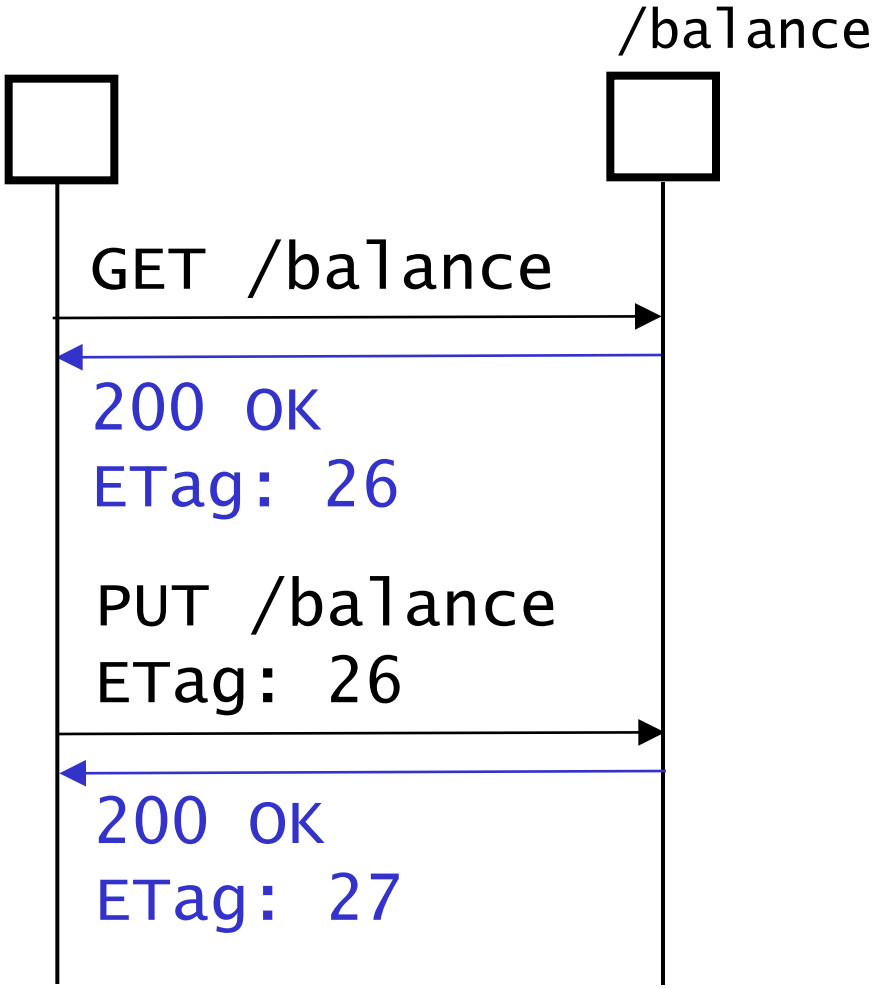
- Unsafe requests require special handling in case of exceptional situations (e.g., state reconciliation)

```
POST /order/x/payment
```

- In some cases the API can be redesigned to use idempotent operations:

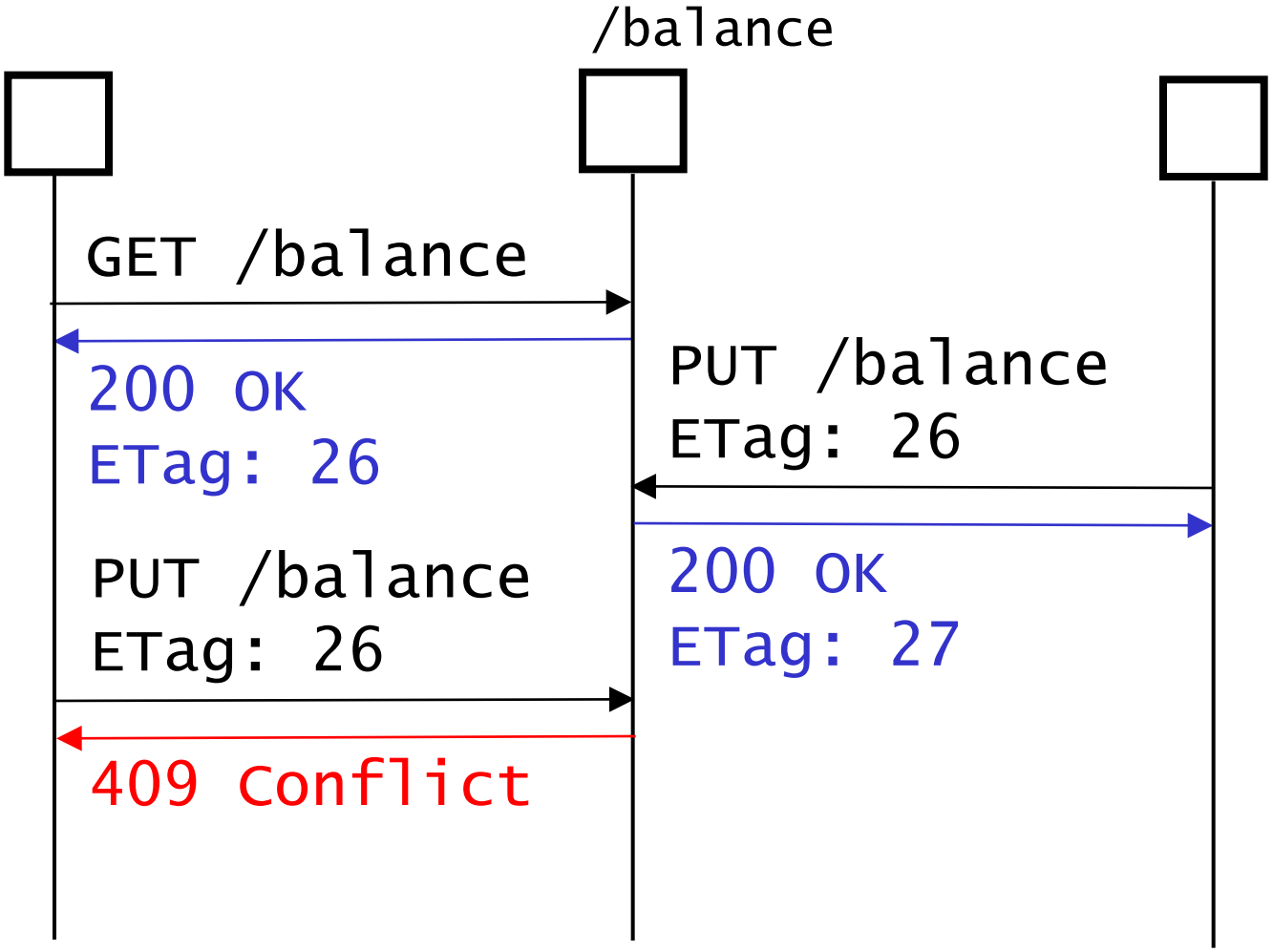
```
B = GetBalance() //safe
B = B + 200$     //local
SetBalance(B) //idempotent
```

Dealing with Concurrency



- Breaking down the API into a set of idempotent requests helps to deal with temporary failures.
- But what about if another client concurrently modifies the state of the resource we are about to update?
- Do we need to create an explicit `/balance/lock` resource? (Pessimistic Locking)
- Or is there an optimistic solution?

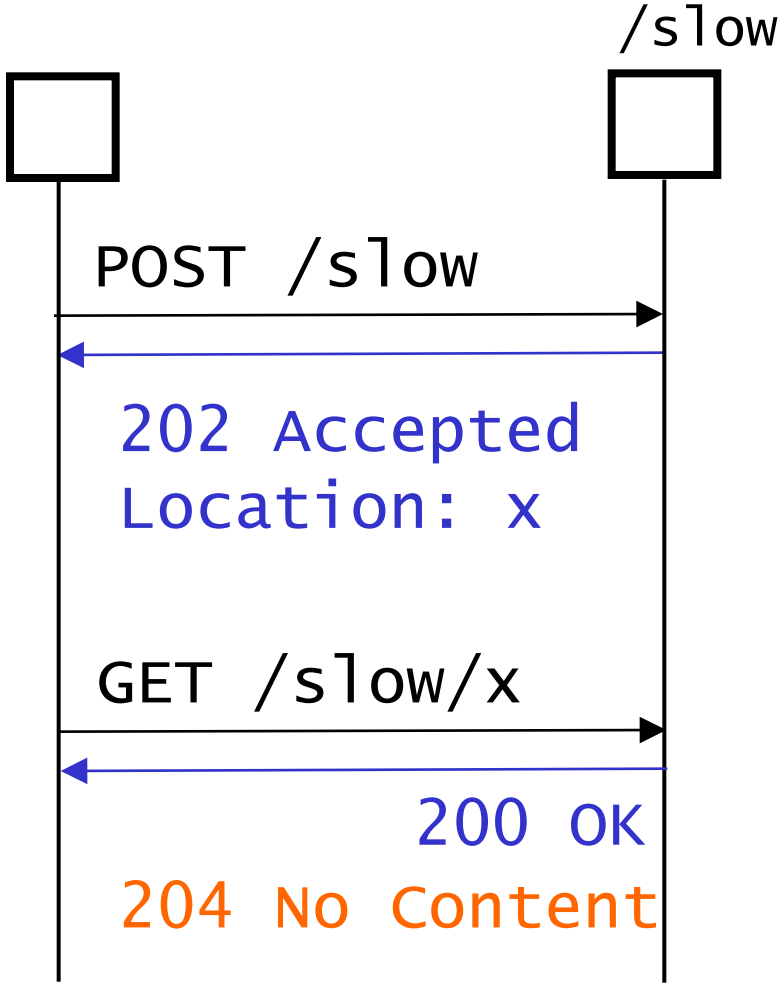
Dealing with Concurrency



The 409 status code can be used to inform a client that his request would render the state of the resource inconsistent

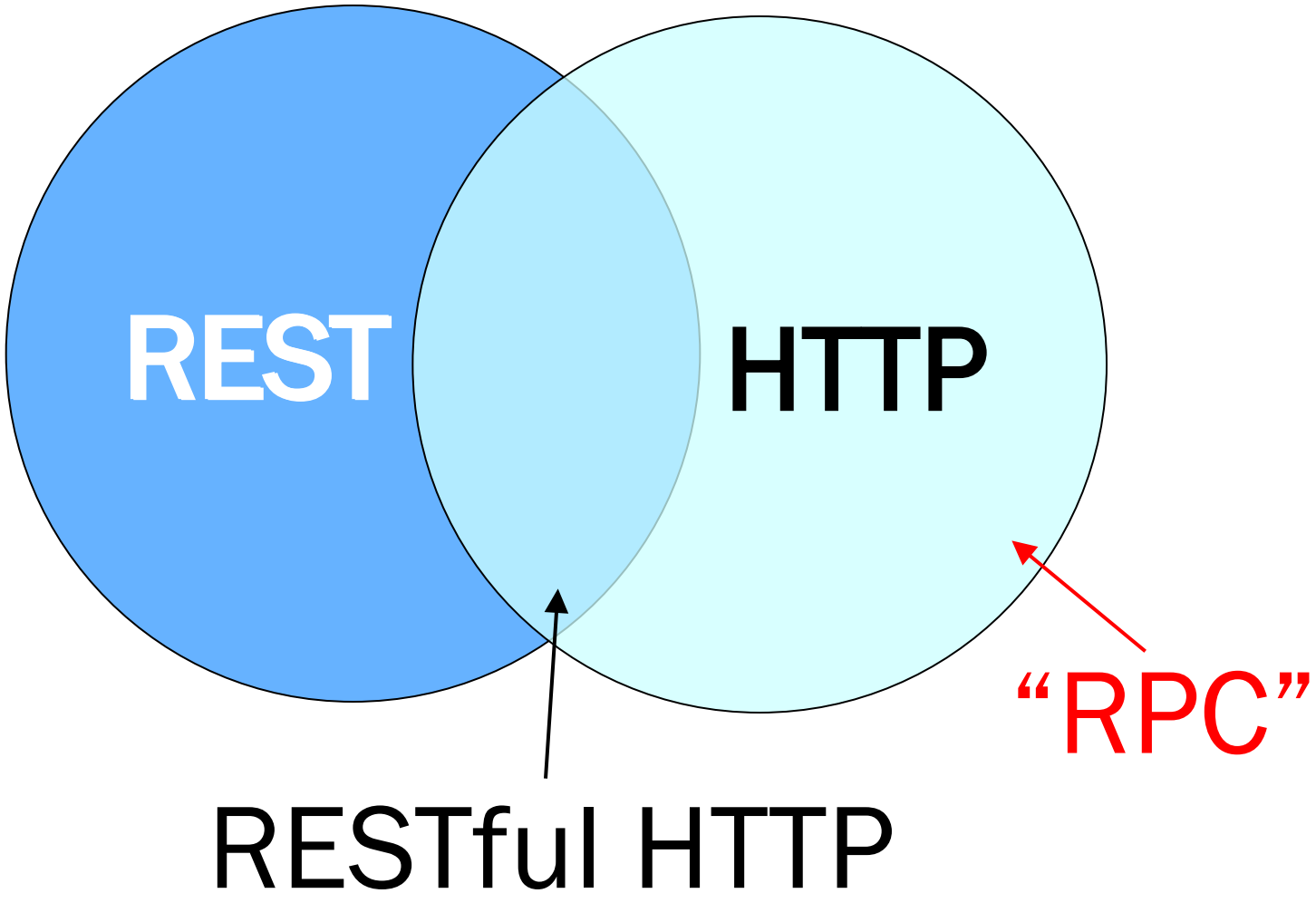
Blocking or Non-Blocking?

- HTTP is a synchronous interaction protocol. However, it does not need to be blocking.



- A Long running request may time out.
- The server may answer it with 202 Accepted providing a URI from which the response can be retrieved later.
- Problem: how often should the client do the polling? `/slow/x` could include an estimate of the finishing time if not yet completed

Antipatterns - REST vs. HTTP



REST Richardson Maturity Model

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0. HTTP as an RPC Protocol (Tunnel POST+POX or POST+JSON)
I. Multiple Resource URIs (Fine-Grained Global Addressability)
II. Uniform HTTP Verbs (Contract Standardization)
III. Hypermedia (Protocol Discoverability)

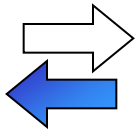
- A REST API needs to include levels I, II, III
- Degrees of RESTfulness?

Antipatterns – HTTP as a tunnel

- Tunnel through one HTTP Method

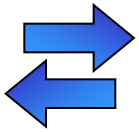
```
GET /api?method=addCustomer&name=Wilde
GET /api?method=deleteCustomer&id=42
GET /api?method=getCustomerName&id=42
GET /api?method=findCustomers&name=Wilde*
```

  - Everything through GET
    - Advantage: Easy to test from a Browser address bar (the “action” is represented in the resource URI)
    - Problem: GET should only be used for read-only (= idempotent and safe) requests.
      What happens if you bookmark one of those links?
    - Limitation: Requests can only send up to approx. 4KB of data (`414 Request-URI Too Long`)



Antipatterns – HTTP as a tunnel

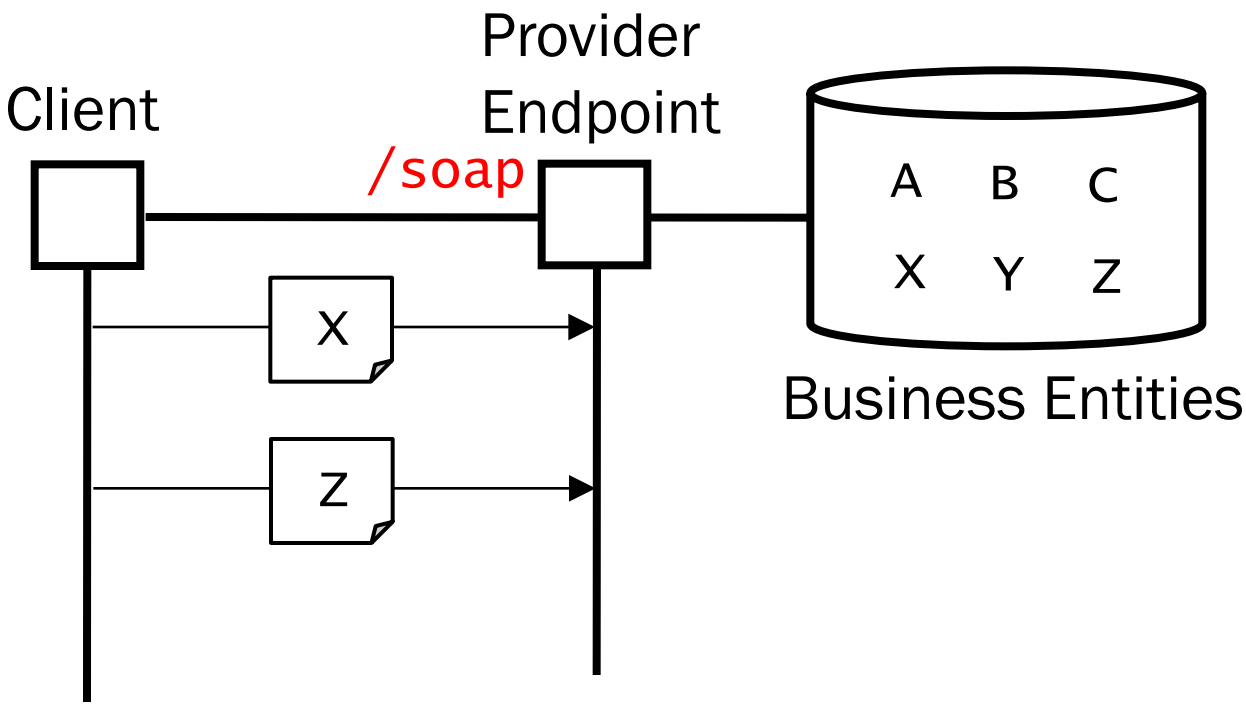
- Tunnel through one HTTP Method
  - Everything through POST



- Advantage: Can upload/download an arbitrary amount of data (this is what SOAP or XML-RPC do)
- Problem: POST is not idempotent and is unsafe (cannot cache and should only be used for “dangerous” requests)

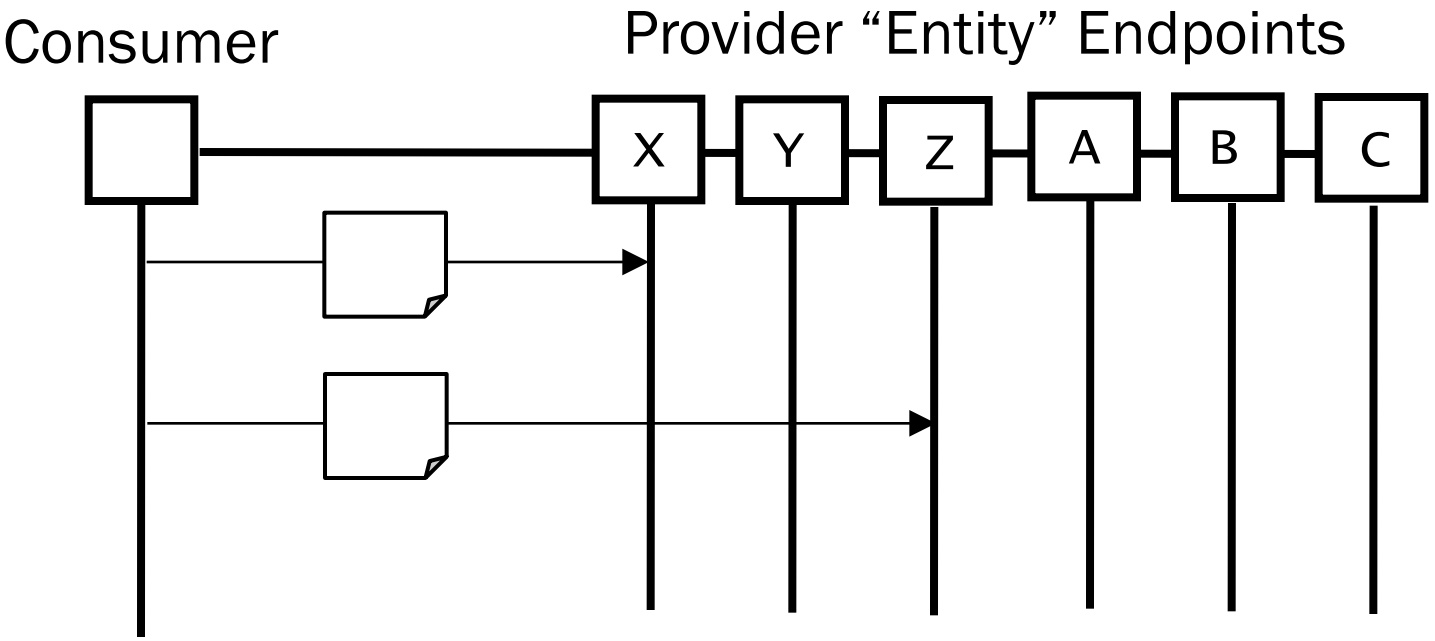
```
POST /service/endpoint

<soap:Envelope>
   <soap:Body>
       <findCustomers>
             <name>Wilde*</name>
       </findCustomers>
   </soap:Body>
</soap:Envelope>
```

Tunneling through one endpoint



- Problem: A service with a single endpoint is too coarse-grained when its operations need to be invoked on its data entities. A client needs to work with two identifiers: a global one for the service and a local one for the entity managed by the service. Entity identifiers cannot be easily reused and shared among multiple services

Global addressability



- Solution: expose each resource entitity as individual “endpoint” of the service they reside in
- Benefits: Global addressability of service entities

Antipatterns – Cookies

- Are Cookies RESTful or not?
  - It depends. REST is about stateless communication (without establishing any session between the client and the server)

1. Cookies can also be self-contained
   - carry all the information required to interpret them with every request/response
2. Cookies contain references to the application state (not maintained as a resource)
   - they only carry the so-called “session-key”
   - Advantage: less data to transfer
   - Disadvantage: the request messages are no longer self-contained as they refer to some context that the server needs to maintain. Also, some garbage collection mechanism for cleaning up inactive sessions is required. More expensive to scale-up the server.

Stateless or Stateful?

- RESTful Web services are not stateless. The very name of "Representational State Transfer" is centered around how to deal with state in a distributed system.

Client State

- The client interacts with resources by "navigating hyperlinks" and its state captures the current position in the hypertext.
- The server may influence the state transitions of the client by sending different representations (containing hyperlinks to be followed) in response to GET requests

Resource State

- The state of resources captures the persistent state of the service.
- This state can be accessed by clients under different representations
- The client manipulates the state of resources using the uniform interface CRUD-like semantics (PUT, DELETE, POST)

Stateless or Stateful?

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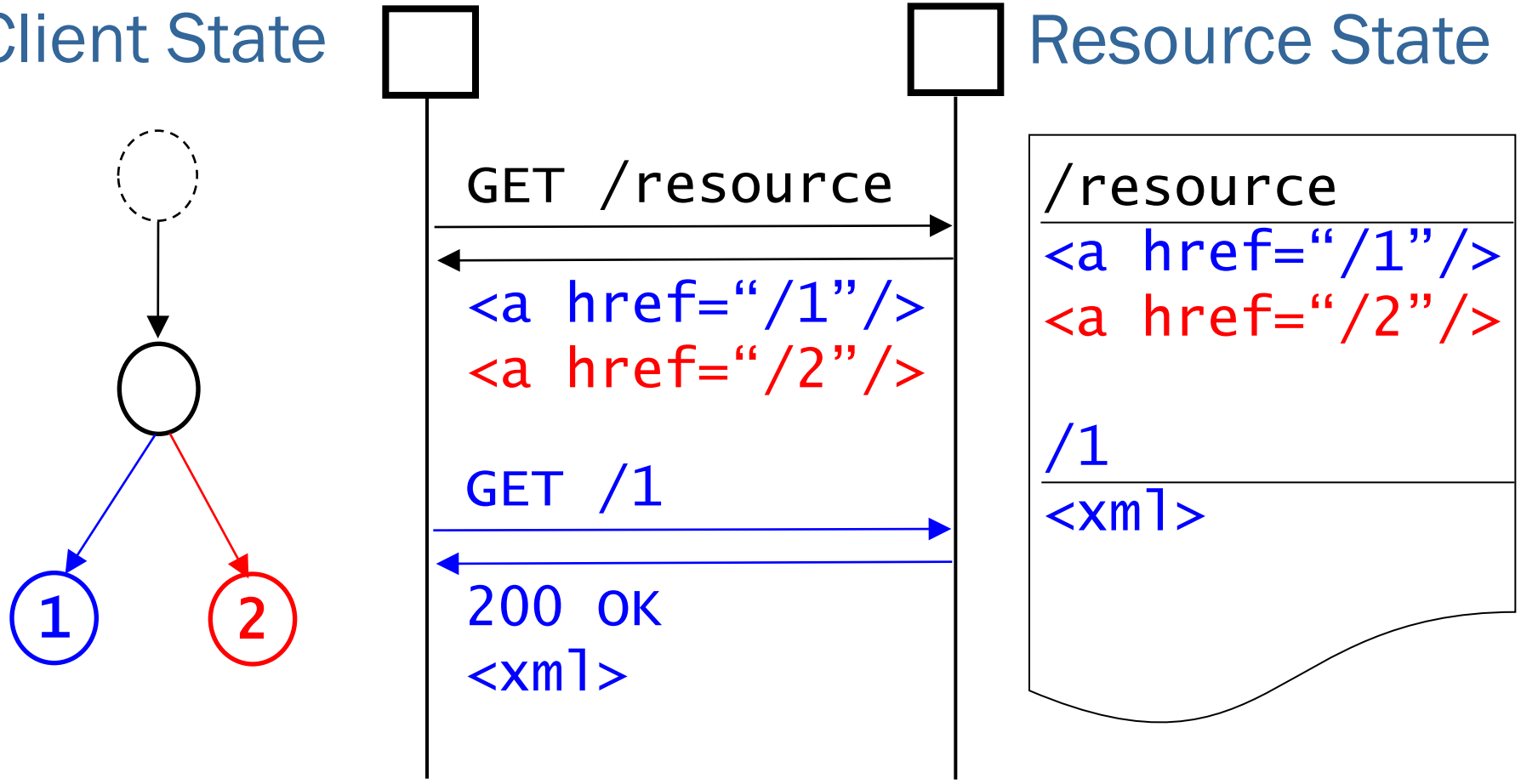
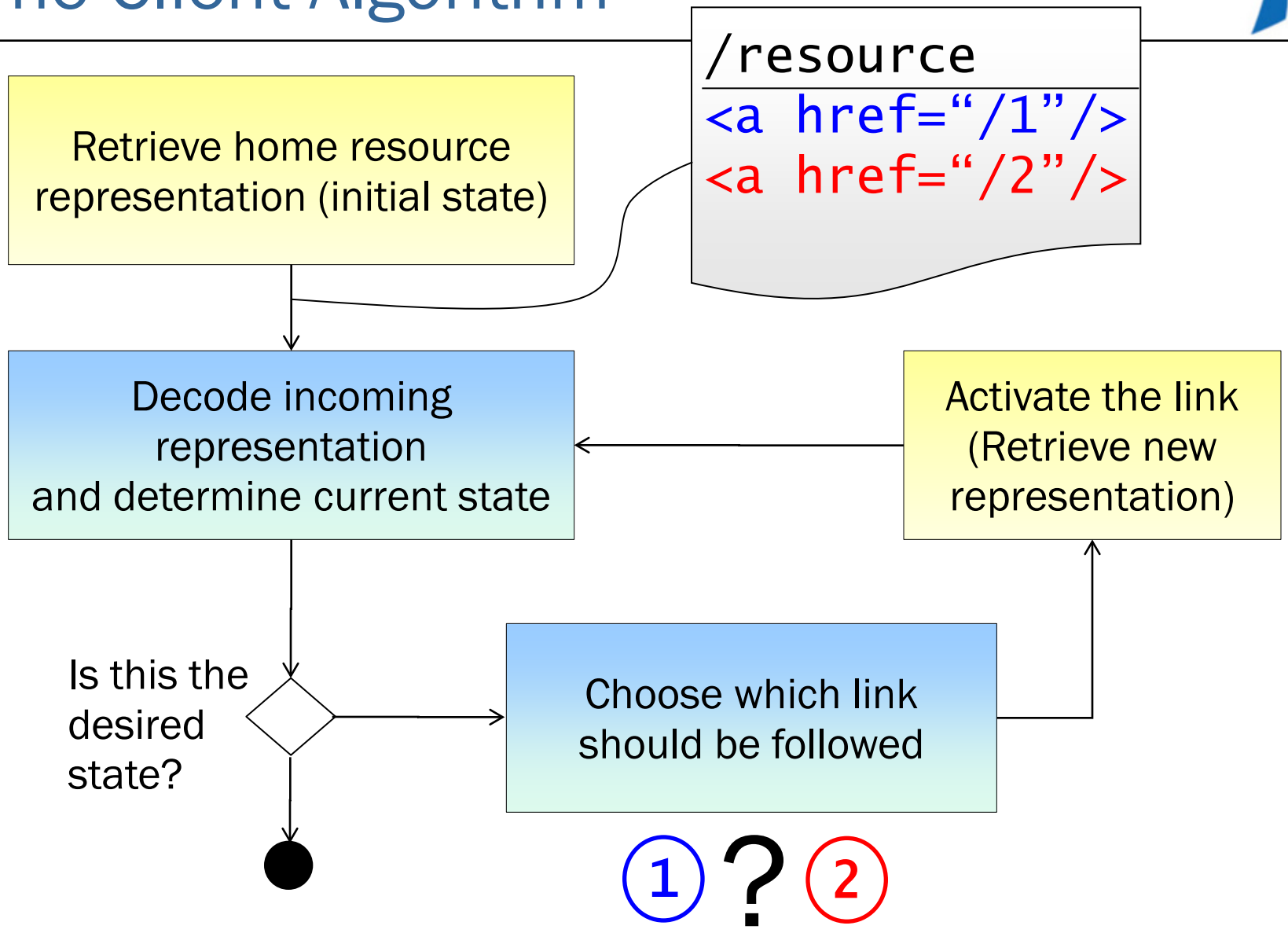


The Client Algorithm



Adapted from Leonard Richardson's WS-REST 2010 slides

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Faculty of Informatics

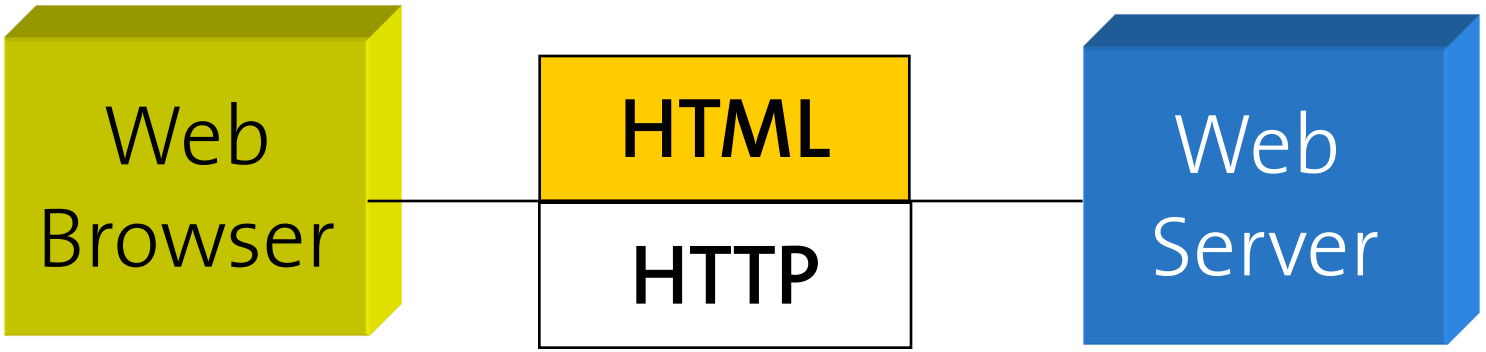
UC Berkeley School of Information

3 REST vs WS-* Comparison

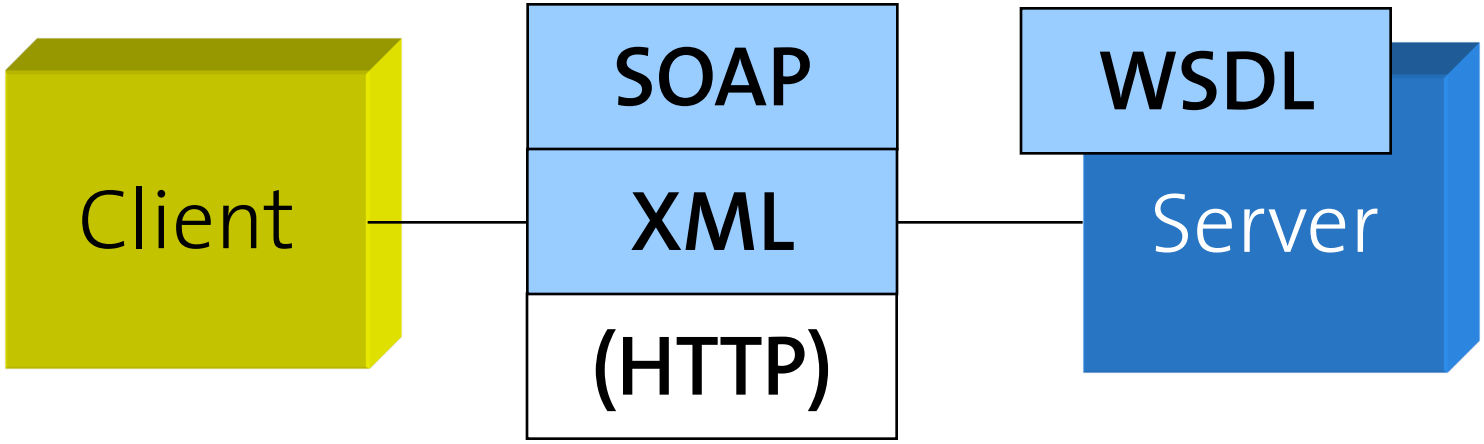
Cesare Pautasso
Faculty of Informatics
University of Lugano, Switzerland

c.pautasso@ieee.org
http://www.pautasso.info

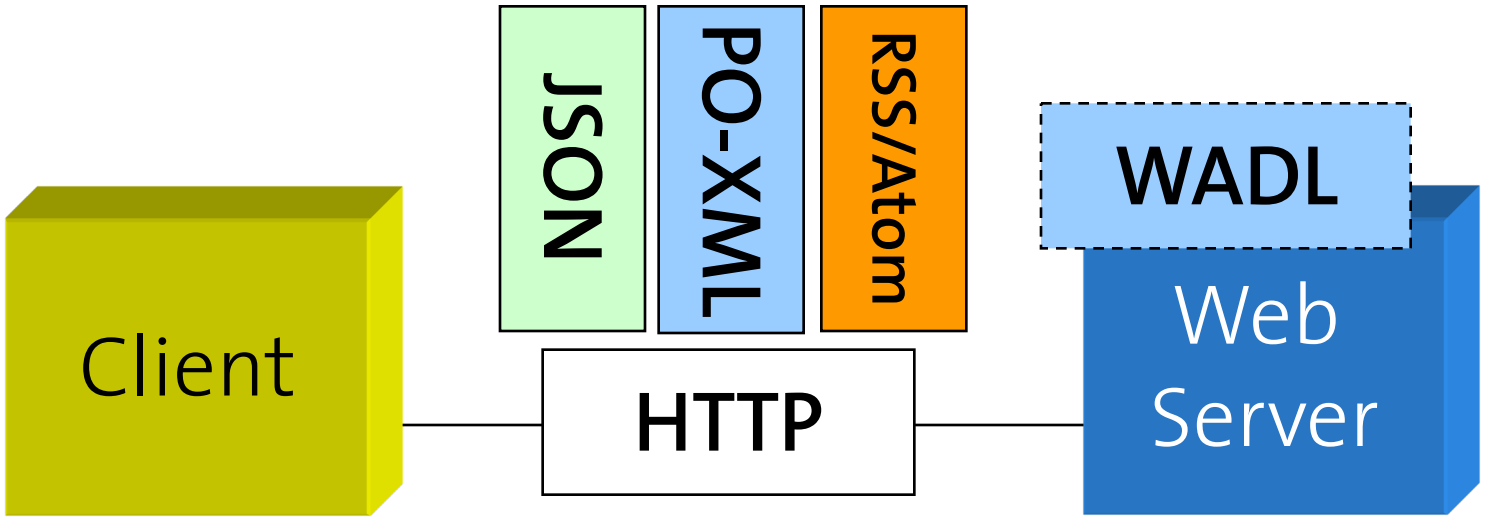
Web Sites (1992)



WS-* Web Services (2000)



RESTful Web Services (2007)



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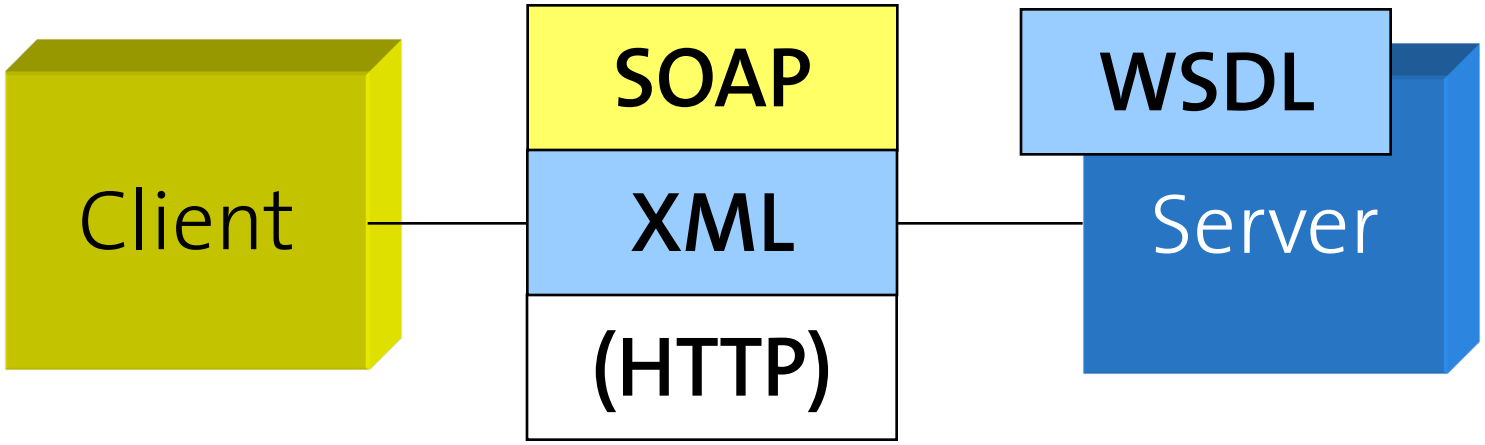
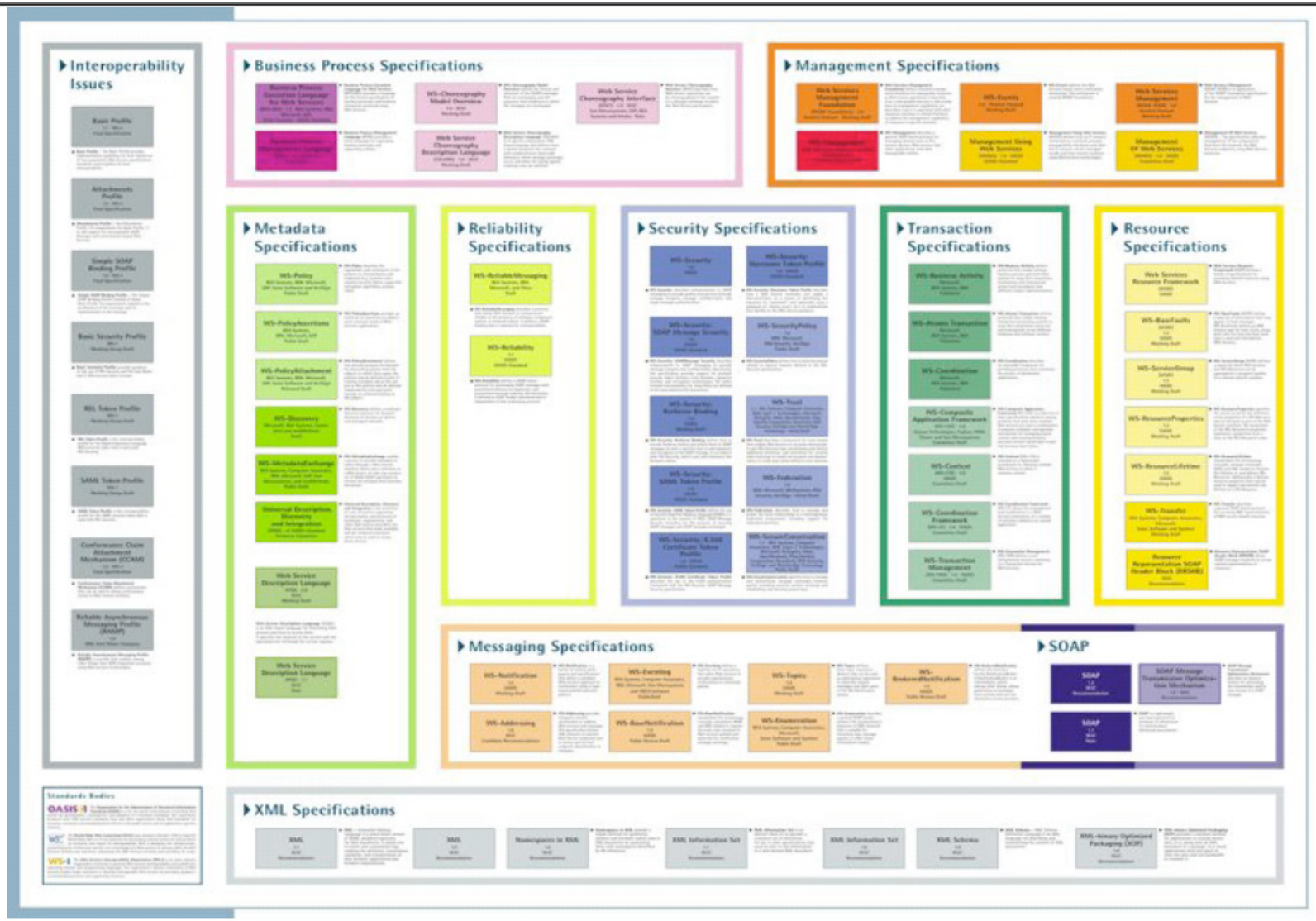
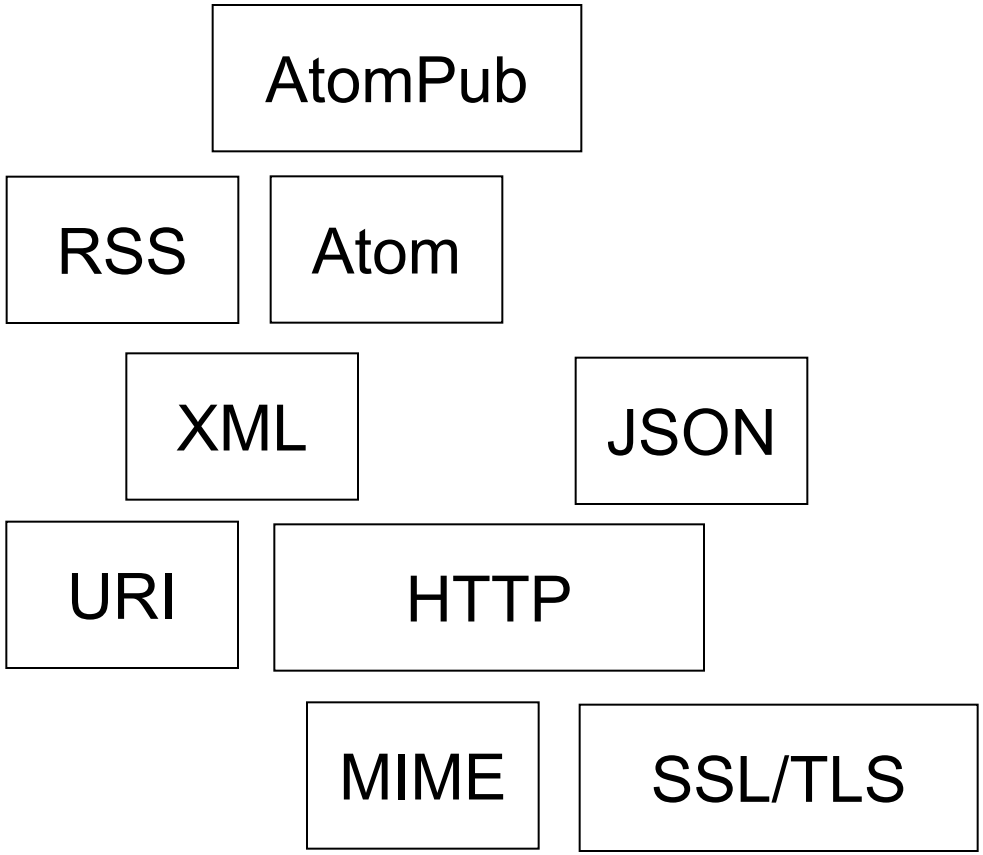


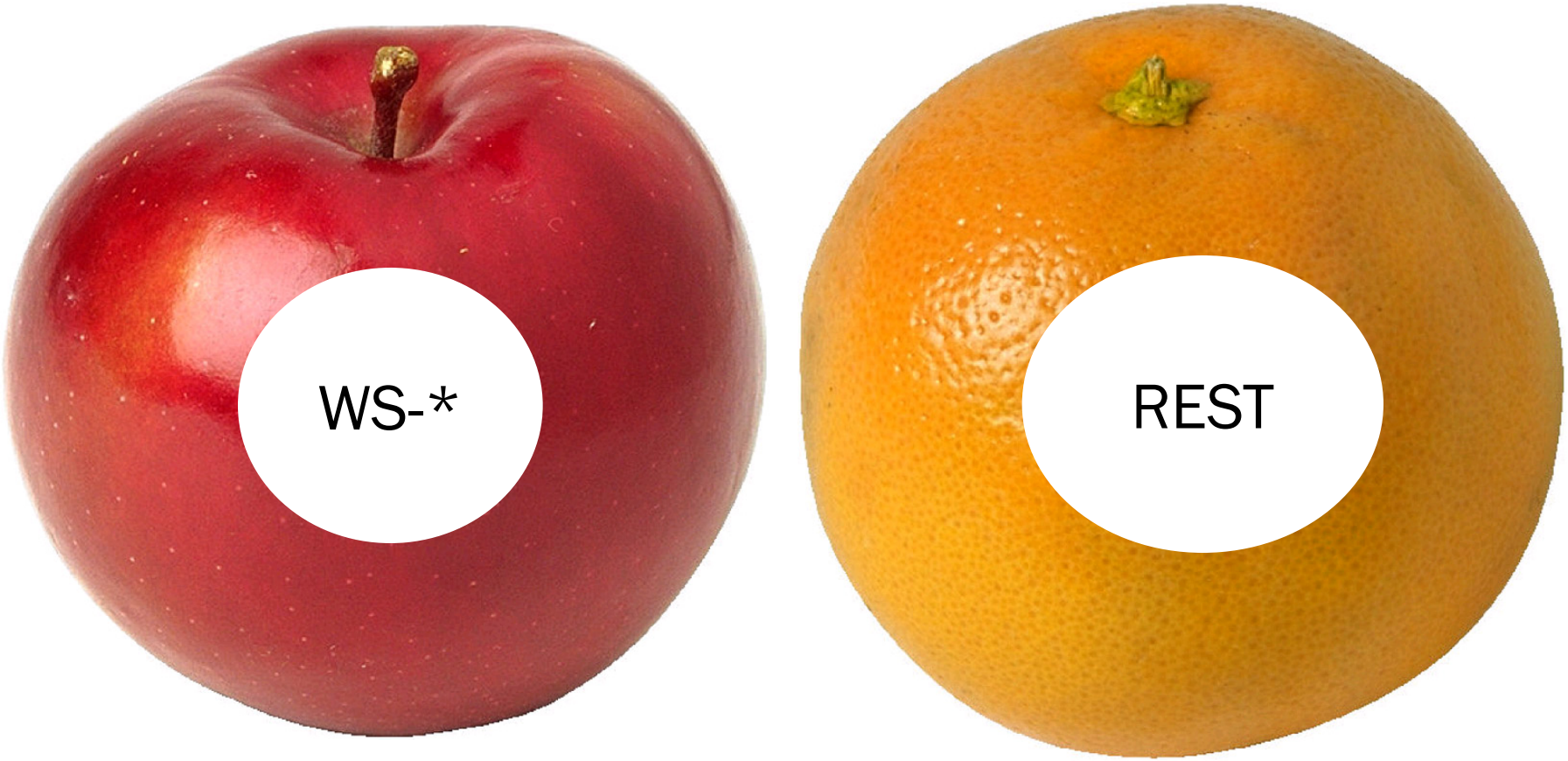
WS-* Standards Stack



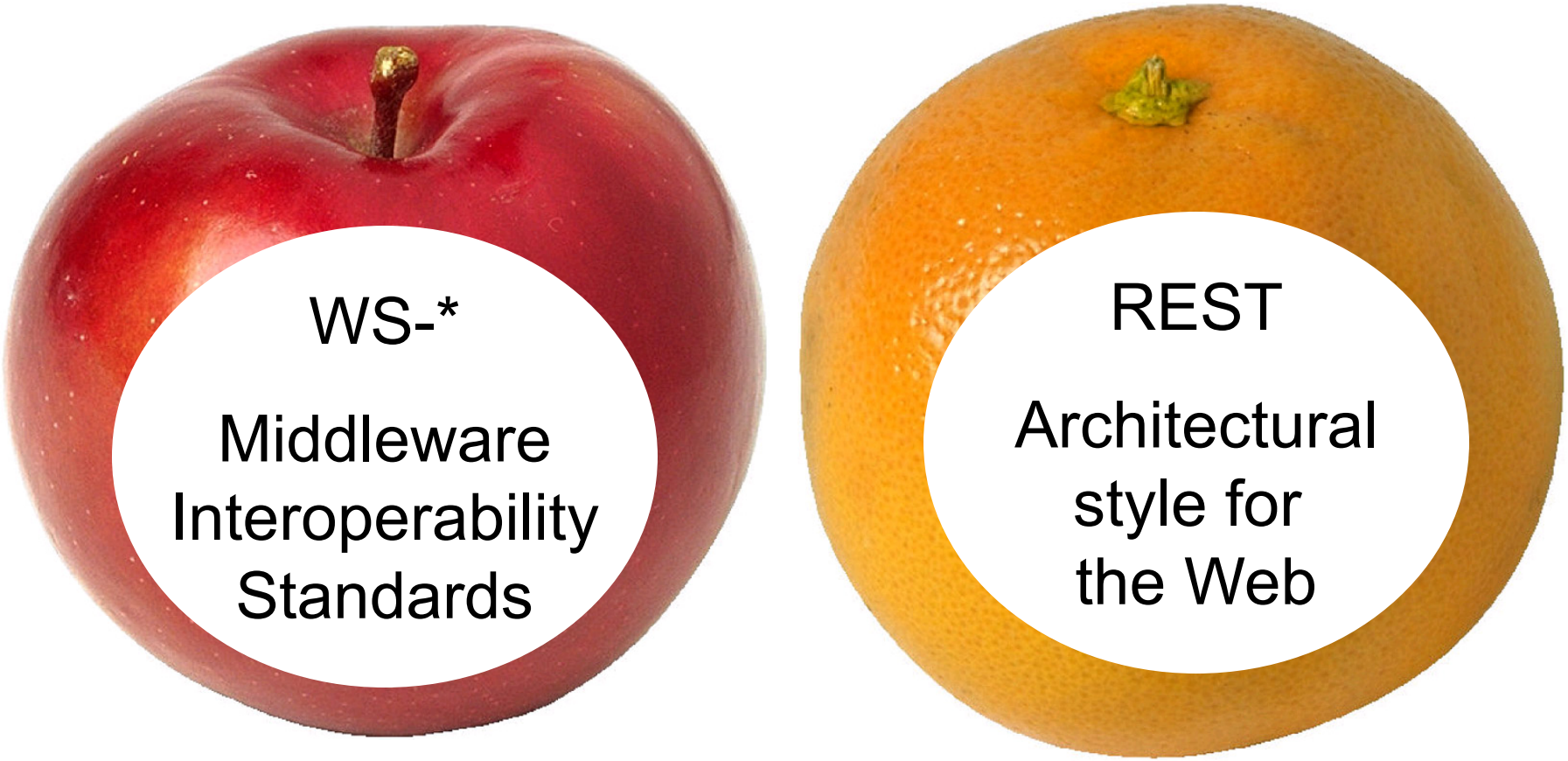
RESTful Web Services Standards Stack



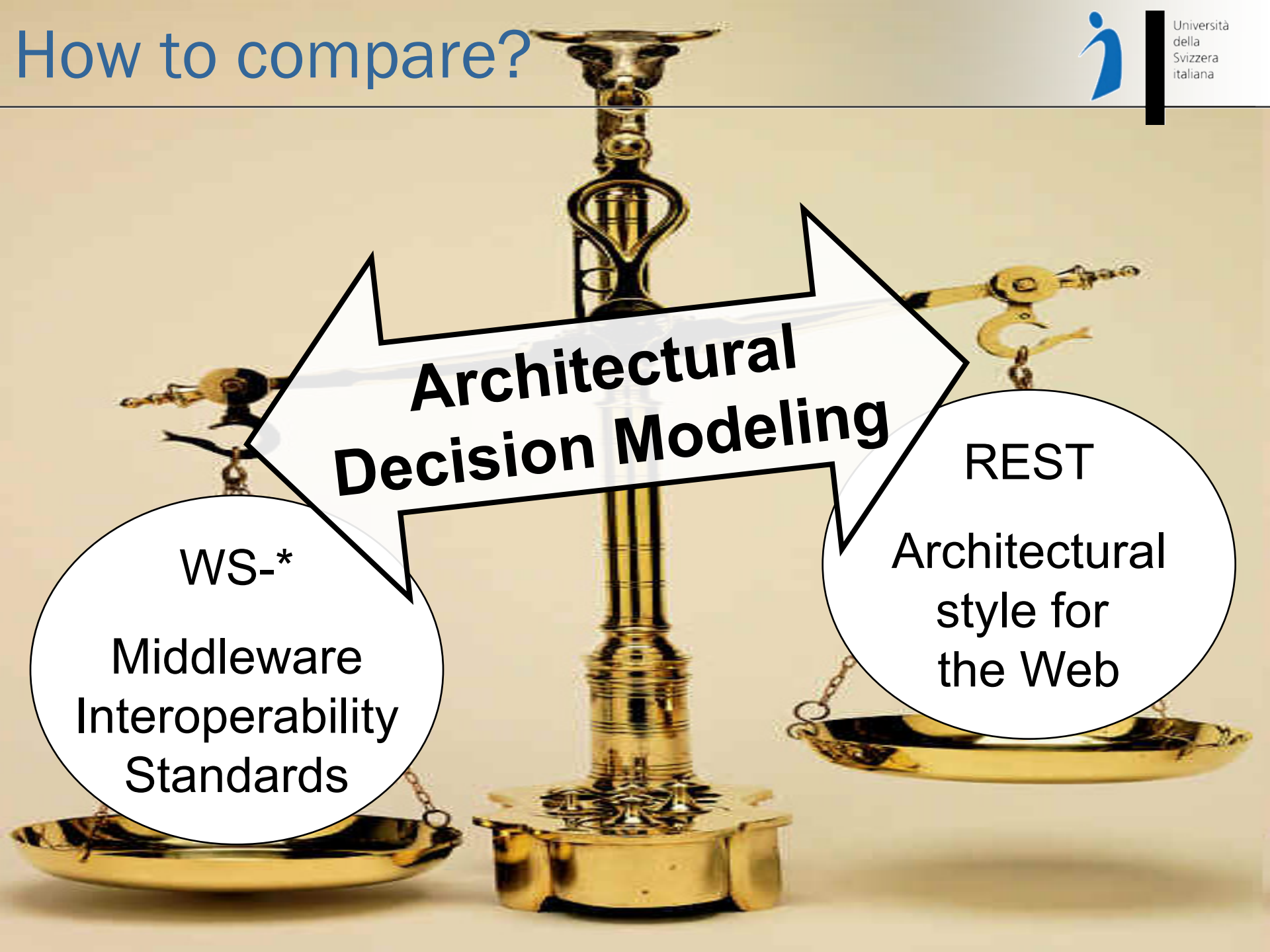
Can we really compare WS-* vs. REST?



Can we really compare WS-* vs. REST?



How to compare?



Architectural Decisions

- Architectural decisions capture the main design issues and the rationale behind a chosen technical solution
- **The choice between REST vs. WS-* is an important architectural decision for Web service design**
- **Architectural decisions affect one another**

Architectural Decision:
Programming Language

Architecture Alternatives:
1. **Java**
2. **C#**
3. **C++**
4. **C**
5. **Eiffel**
6. **Ruby**
7. **…**

Rationale

Decision Space Overview

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Architectural Decision and AAs	REST	WS-*
Integration Style	1 AA	2 AAs
Shared Database		
File Transfer		
Remote Procedure Call	✓	✓
Messaging		✓
Contract Design	1 AA	2 AAs
Contract-first		✓
Contract-last		✓
Contract-less	✓	
Resource Identification	1 AA	n/a
Do-it-yourself	✓	
URI Design	2 AA	n/a
"Nice" URI scheme	✓	
No URI scheme	✓	
Resource Interaction Semantics	2 AAs	n/a
Lo-REST (`POST`, `GET` only)	✓	
Hi-REST (4 verbs)	✓	
Resource Relationships	1 AA	n/a
Do-it-yourself	✓	
Data Representation/Modeling	1 AA	1 AA
XML Schema	(✓)[a]	✓
Do-it-yourself	✓	
Message Exchange Patterns	1 AA	2 AAs
Request-Response	✓	✓
One-Way		✓
Service Operations Enumeration	n/a	≥3 AAs
By functional domain		✓
By non-functional properties and QoS		✓
By organizational criterion (versioning)		✓
Total Number of Decisions, AAs	**8**, 10	**5**, ≥10

[a] Optional

Table 2: Conceptual Comparison Summary

Architectural Decision and AAs	REST	WS-*
Transport Protocol	1 AA	≥7 AAs
HTTP	✓	✓[a]
waka [13]	(✓)[b]	
TCP		✓
SMTP		✓
JMS		✓
MQ		✓
BEEP		✓
IIOP		✓
Payload Format	≥6 AAs	1 AA
XML (SOAP)	✓	✓
XML (POX)	✓	
XML (RSS)	✓	
JSON [10]	✓	
YAML	✓	
MIME	✓	
Service Identification	1 AA	2 AA
URI	✓	✓
WS-Addressing		✓
Service Description	3 AAs	2 AAs
Textual Documentation	✓	
XML Schema	(✓)[c]	✓
WSDL	✓[d]	✓
WADL [18]	✓	
Reliability	1 AA	4 AAs
HTTPR [38][e]	(✓)	(✓)
WS-Reliability		✓
WS-ReliableMessaging		✓
Native		✓
Do-it-yourself	✓	✓
Security	1 AA	2 AAs
HTTPS	✓	✓
WS-Security		✓

Transactions	1 AA	3 AAs
WS-AT, WS-BA		✓
WS-CAF		✓
Do-it-yourself	✓	✓
Service Composition	2 AAs	2 AAs
WS-BPEL		✓
Mashups	✓	
Do-it-yourself	✓	✓
Service Discovery	1 AAs	2 AAs
UDDI		✓
Do-it-yourself	✓	✓
Implementation Technology	many	many
…	✓	✓
Total Number of Decisions, AAs	**10**, ≥17	**10**, ≥25

[a] Limited to only the verb `POST`
[b] Still under development
[c] Optional
[d] WSDL 2.0
[e] Not standard

Table 3: Technology Comparison Summary

Architectural Principle and Aspects	REST	WS-*
Protocol Layering	yes	yes
HTTP as application-level protocol	✓	
HTTP as transport-level protocol		✓
Dealing with Heterogeneity	yes	yes
Browser Wars	✓	
Enterprise Computing Middleware		✓
Loose Coupling, aspects covered	yes, 2	yes, 3
Time/Availability		✓
Location (Dynamic Late Binding)	(✓)	✓
Service Evolution:		
Uniform Interface	✓	
XML Extensibility	✓	✓
Total Principles Supported	**3**	**3**

Table 1: Principles Comparison Summary

Decision Space Overview

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21 Decisions and 64 alternatives

Classified by level of abstraction:

- 3 Architectural **Principles**
- 9 **Conceptual** Decisions
- 9 **Technology**-level Decisions

Decisions help us to **measure the complexity** implied by the choice of REST or WS-*

Table 2: Conceptual Comparison Summary

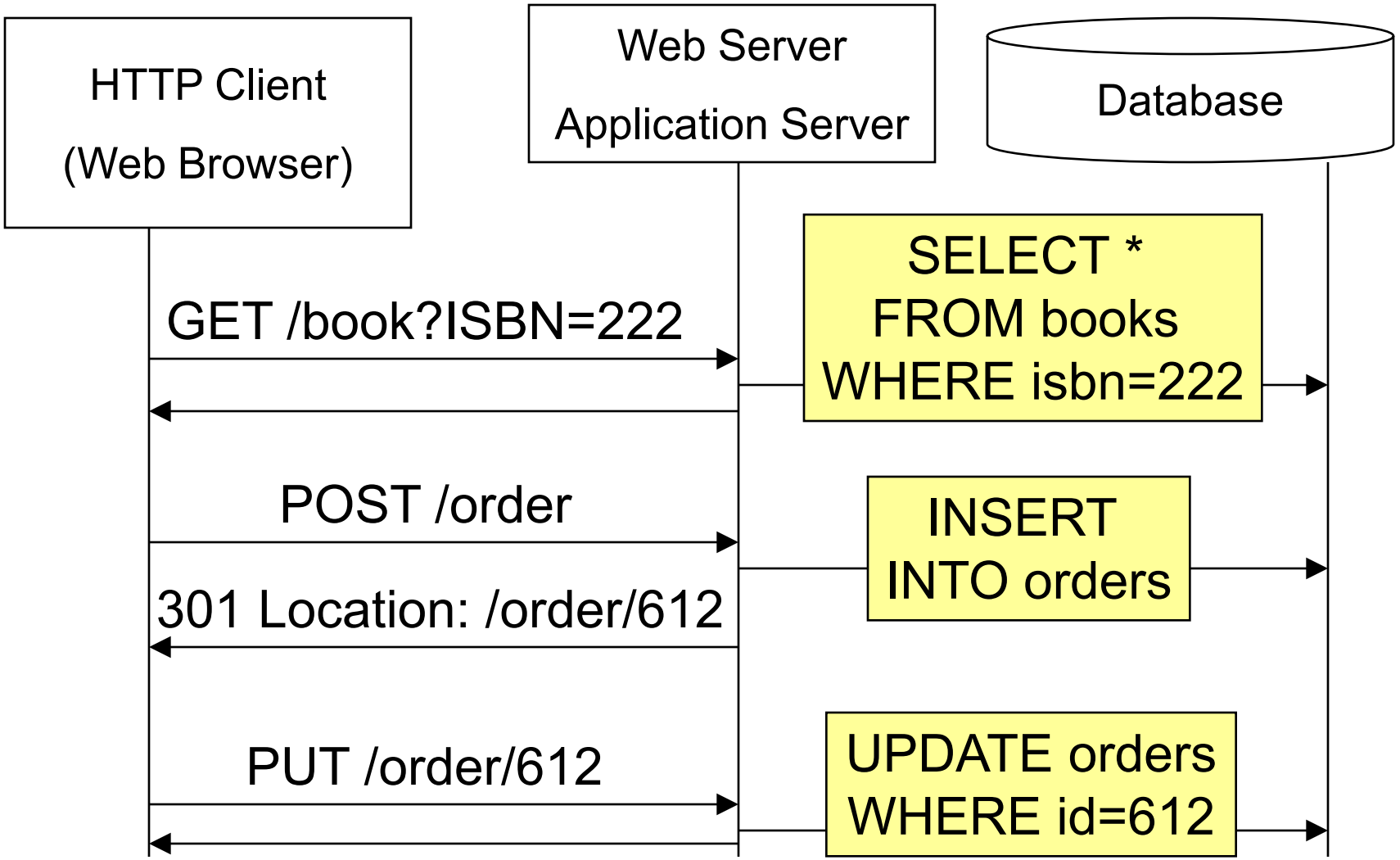
Table 1: Principles Comparison Summary

Architectural Principles

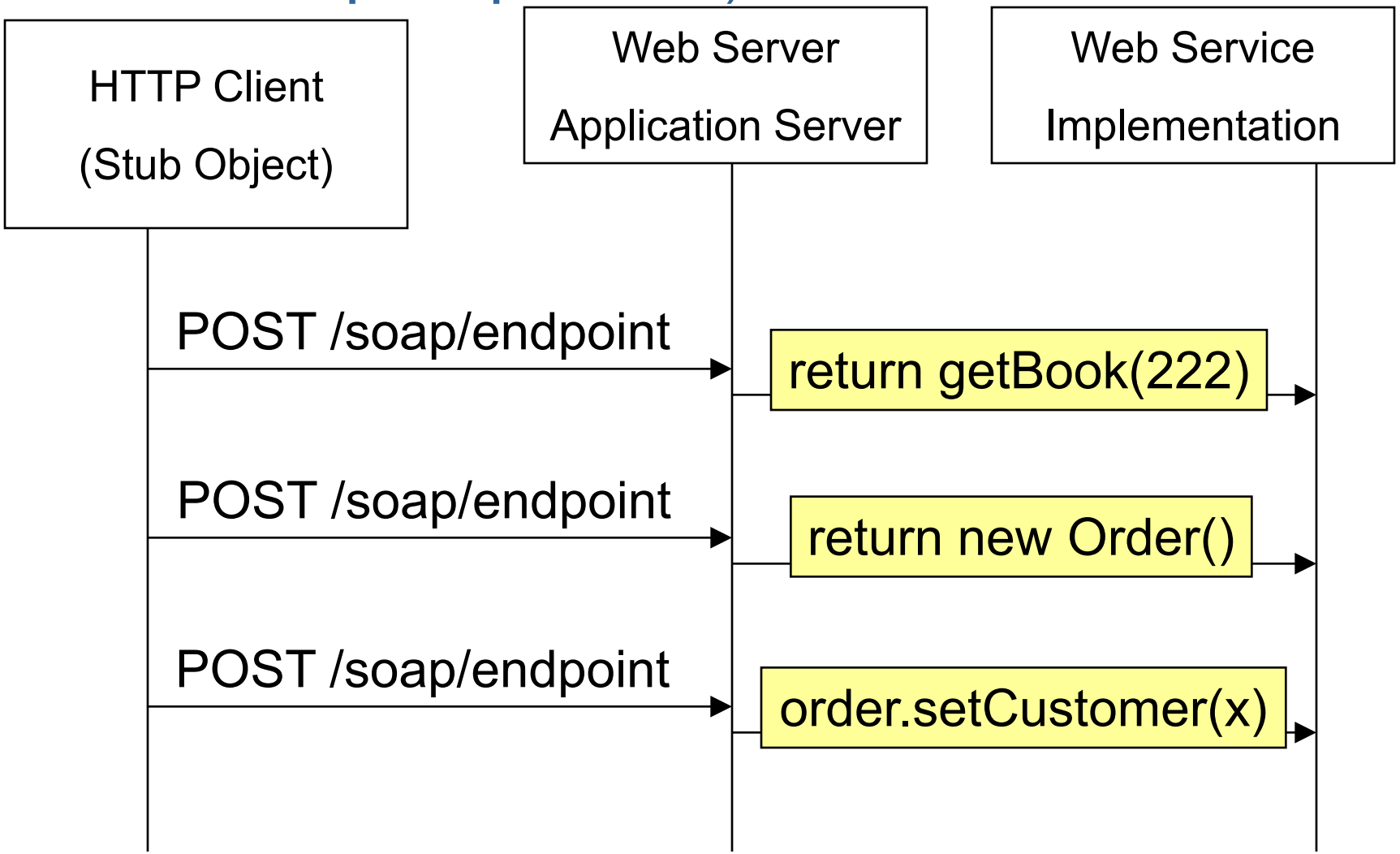
1. Protocol Layering
   - HTTP = Application-level Protocol (REST)
   - HTTP = Transport-level Protocol (WS-*)
2. Dealing with Heterogeneity
3. Loose Coupling*

* http://dret.net/netdret/docs/loosely-coupled-www2009/

RESTful Web Service Example



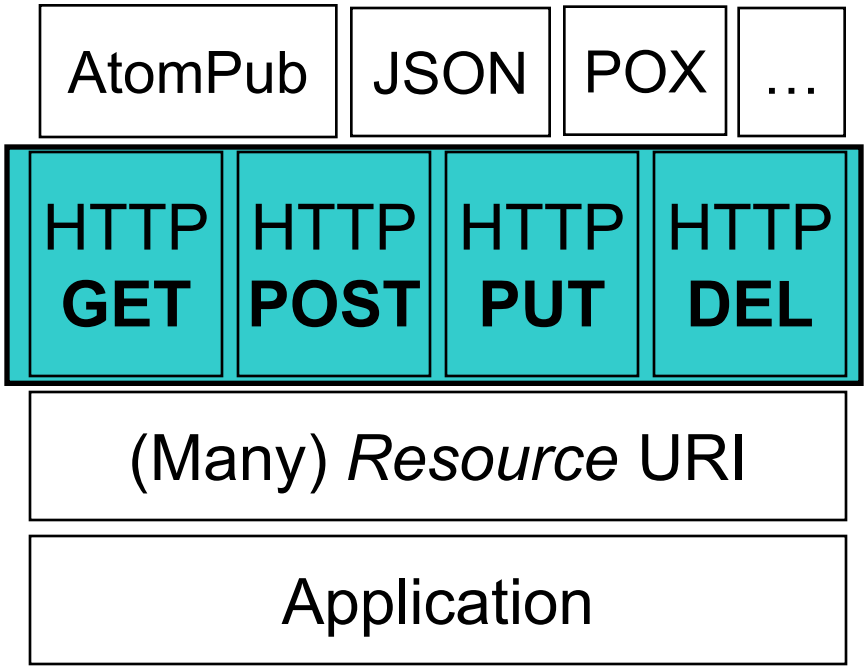
WS-* Service Example (from REST perspective)



Protocol Layering

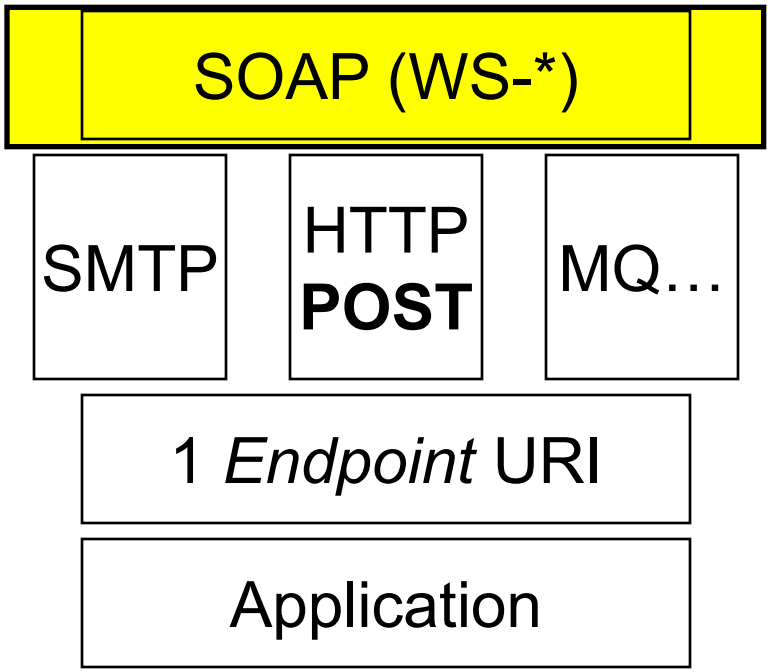
"The Web is the universe of globally accessible information" (Tim Berners Lee)

- Applications should publish their data on the Web (through URI)



"The Web is the universal (tunneling) transport for messages"

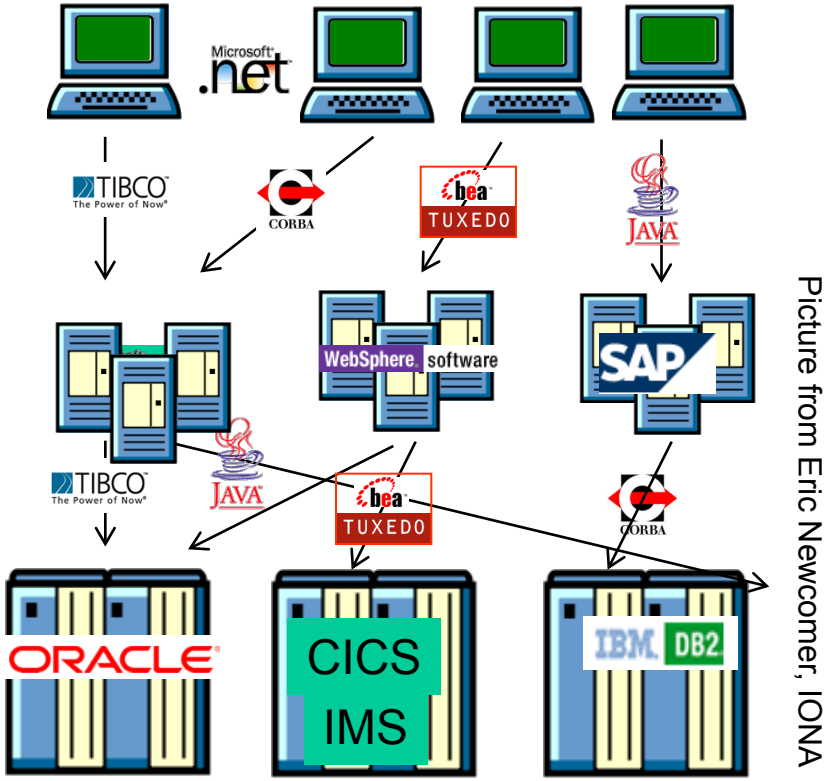
- Applications get a chance to interact but they remain "outside of the Web"



Dealing with Heterogeneity

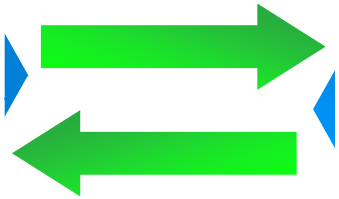
- Enable Cooperation
- Web Applications

- Enable Integration
- Enterprise Computing



Picture from Eric Newcomer, IONA

Different software connectors



Managing State

- REST provides explicit state transitions
  - Communication is stateless*
  - Resources contain data **and hyperlinks** representing valid state transitions
  - Clients maintain application state correctly by navigating hyperlinks
- Techniques for adding session to HTTP:
  - Cookies (HTTP Headers)
  - URI Re-writing
  - Hidden Form Fields

- SOAP services have implicit state transitions
  - Servers may maintain conversation state across multiple message exchanges
  - Messages contain only data (but do not include information about valid state transitions)
  - Clients maintain state by guessing the state machine of the service
- Techniques for adding session to SOAP:
  - Session Headers (non standard)
  - WS-Resource Framework (HTTP on top of SOAP on top of HTTP)

(*) Each client request to the server must contain all information needed to understand the request, without referring to any stored context on the server. Of course the server stores the state of its resources, shared by all clients.

What about service description?

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- REST relies on human readable documentation that defines requests URIs and responses (XML, JSON)
- Interacting with the service means hours of testing and debugging URIs manually built as parameter combinations. (Is is it really that simpler building URIs by hand?)
- Why do we need strongly typed SOAP messages if both sides already agree on the content?
- WADL proposed Nov. 2006
- XForms enough?

- Client stubs can be built from WSDL descriptions in most programming languages
- Strong typing
- Each service publishes its own interface with different semantics
- WSDL 1.1 (entire port type can be bound to HTTP GET or HTTP POST or SOAP/HTTP POST or other protocols)
- WSDL 2.0 (more flexible, each operation can choose whether to use GET or POST)

What about security?

- REST security is all about HTTPS (HTTP + SSL/TLS)
- Proven track record (SSL1.0 from 1994)
- HTTP Basic Authentication (RFC 2617, 1999 RFC 1945, 1996)
- Note: These are also applicable with REST when using XML content
- Secure, point to point communication (Authentication, Integrity and Encryption)

- SOAP security extensions defined by WS-Security (from 2004)
- XML Encryption (2002)
- XML Signature (2001)
- Implementations are starting to appear now
  - Full interoperability moot
  - Performance?
- Secure, end-to-end communication – Self-protecting SOAP messages (does not require HTTPS)

What about asynchronous reliable messaging?

- Although HTTP is a synchronous protocol, it can be used to "simulate" a message queue.

```
POST /queue

202 Accepted
Location:
  /queue/message/1230213
-----------------------
GET /queue/message/1230213

DELETE /queue/message/1230213
```

- SOAP messages can be transferred using asynchronous transport protocols and APIs (like JMS, MQ, ...)
- WS-Addressing can be used to define transport-independent endpoint references
- WS-ReliableExchange defines a protocol for reliable message delivery based on SOAP headers for message identification and acknowledgement

Measuring Complexity

- Why is REST perceived to be simpler?
- Architectural Decisions give a **quantitative measure** of the complexity of an architectural design space:
  - Total number of decisions
  - For each decision, number of alternative options
  - For each alternative option, estimate the effort

	REST	WS-*
Decisions	17	14
Alternatives	27	35

Decisions with *1 or more* alternative options

Measuring Complexity

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	REST	WS-*
Decisions	5	12
Alternatives	16	32

Decisions with *more than 1* alternative options

	REST	WS-*
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Decisions with *1 or more* alternative options

Measuring Complexity

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	REST	WS-*
Decisions	5	12
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Decisions with *more than 1* alternative options

- URI Design
- Resource Interaction Semantics
- Payload Format
- Service Description
- Service Composition

Measuring Complexity

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	REST	WS-*
Decisions	5	12
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Decisions with *more than 1* alternative options

	REST	WS-*
Decisions	12	2

Decisions with *only 1* alternative option

Measuring Complexity

- Payload Format
- Data Representation Modeling

	REST	WS-*
Decisions	12	2

Decisions with *only 1* alternative option

Measuring Effort

	REST	WS-*
Do-it-yourself Alternatives	5	0

Decisions with **only** *do-it-yourself* alternatives

	REST	WS-*
Decisions	12	2

Decisions with *only 1* alternative option

Measuring Effort

	REST	WS-*
Do-it-yourself Alternatives	5	0

Decisions with **only** *do-it-yourself* alternatives

- Resource Identification
- Resource Relationship
- Reliability
- Transactions
- Service Discovery

Freedom of Choice (>1 Alternative)

Freedom from Choice (=1 Alternative)

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XML Schema	(✓)[c]	✓
WSDL	✓[d]	✓
WADL [18]	✓	
Reliability	1 AA	4 AAs
HTTPR [38][e]	(✓)	(✓)
WS-Reliability		✓
WS-ReliableMessaging		✓
Native		✓
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Security	1 AA	2 AAs
HTTPS	✓	✓
WS-Security		✓

Transactions	1 AA	3 AAs
WS-AT, WS-BA		✓
WS-CAF		✓
Do-it-yourself	✓	✓
Service Composition	2 AAs	2 AAs
WS-BPEL		✓
Mashups	✓	
Do-it-yourself	✓	✓
Service Discovery	1 AAs	2 AAs
UDDI		✓
Do-it-yourself	✓	✓
Implementation Technology	many	many
…	✓	✓
Total Number of Decisions, AAs	**10**, ≥17	**10**, ≥25

[a] Limited to only the verb `POST`
[b] Still under development
[c] Optional
[d] WSDL 2.0
[e] Not standard

Table 3: Technology Comparison Summary

Architectural Principle and Aspects	REST	WS-*
Protocol Layering	yes	yes
HTTP as application-level protocol	✓	
HTTP as transport-level protocol		✓
Dealing with Heterogeneity	yes	yes
Browser Wars	✓	
Enterprise Computing Middleware		✓
Loose Coupling, aspects covered	yes, 2	yes, 3
Time/Availability		✓
Location (Dynamic Late Binding)	(✓)	✓
Service Evolution:		
Uniform Interface	✓	
XML Extensibility	✓	✓
Total Principles Supported	**3**	**3**

Table 1: Principles Comparison Summary

Comparison Summary

- Architectural Decisions measure complexity implied by alternative technologies
- **REST simplicity** = freedom from choice
  - 5 decisions require to choose among 16 alternatives
  - 12 decisions are already taken (but 5 are *do-it-yourself*)
- **WS-* complexity** = freedom of choice
  - 12 decisions require to choose among 32 alternatives
  - 2 decisions are already taken (SOAP, WSDL+XSD)

Comparison Conclusion

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- You should focus on whatever solution gets the job done and try to **avoid being religious** about any specific architectures or technologies.
- WS-* has strengths and weaknesses and will be highly suitable to some applications and positively terrible for others.
- Likewise with REST.
- The decision of which to use depends entirely on the application requirements and constraints.
- We hope this comparison will help you make the right choice.

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4 RESTful Service Composition

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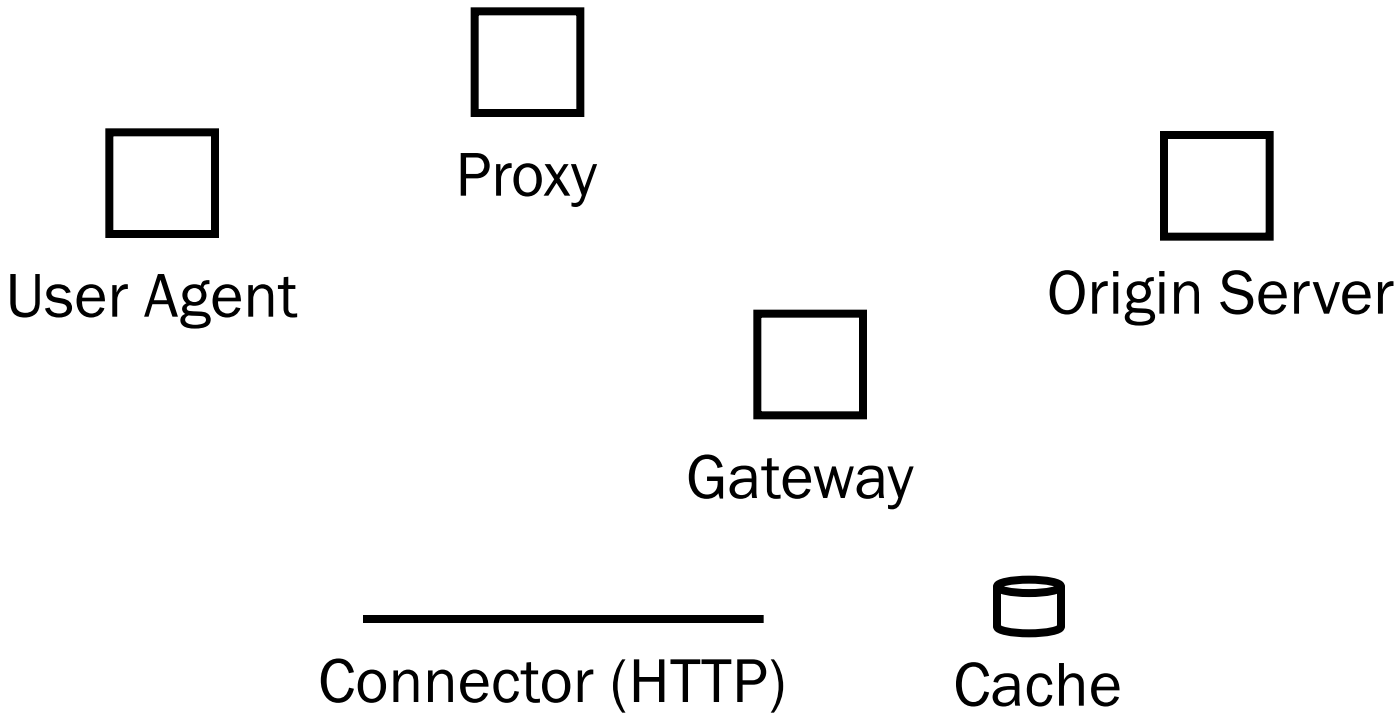
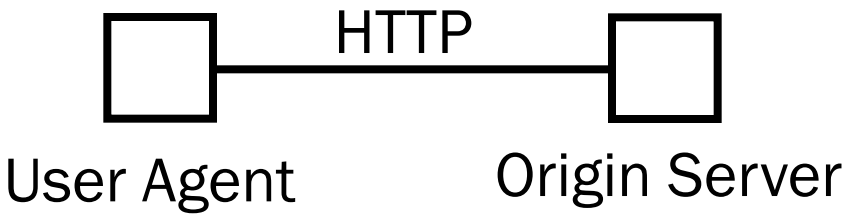
http://www.pautasso.info

REST Architectural Elements

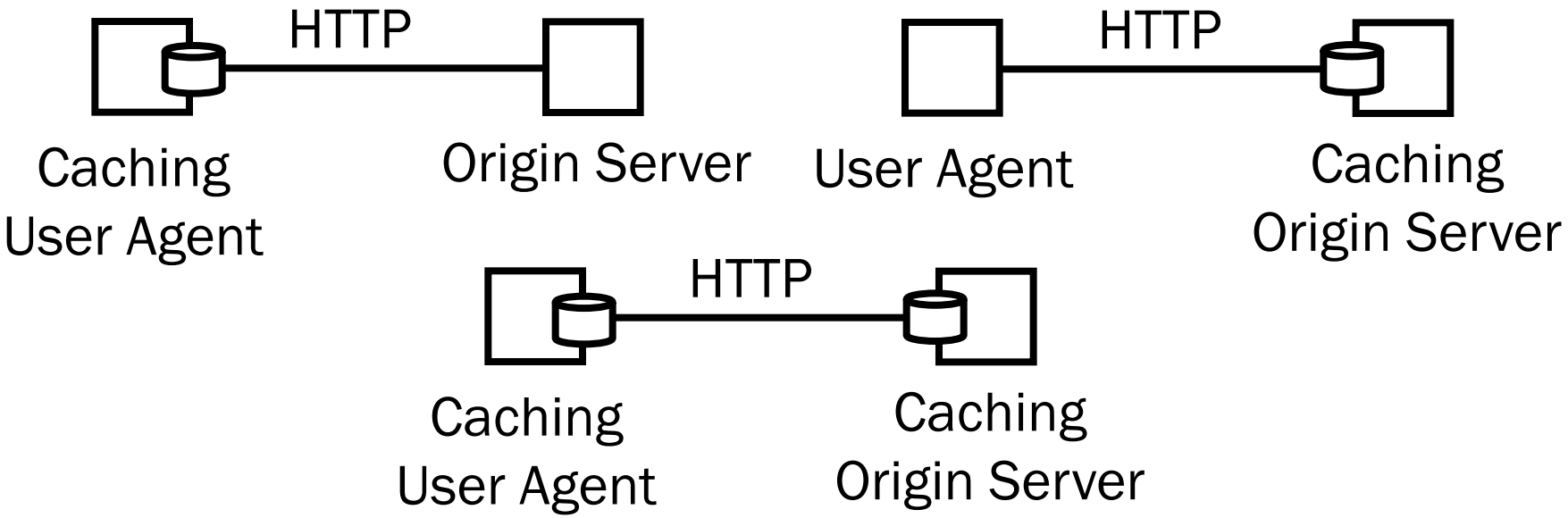
Client/Server Layered Stateless Communication Cache



Basic Setup

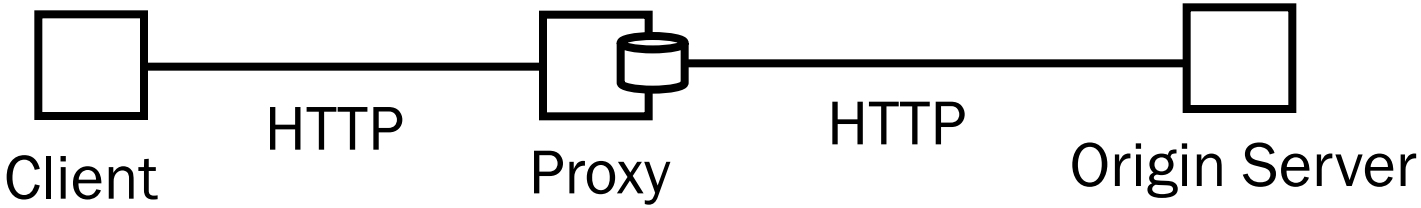


Adding Caching

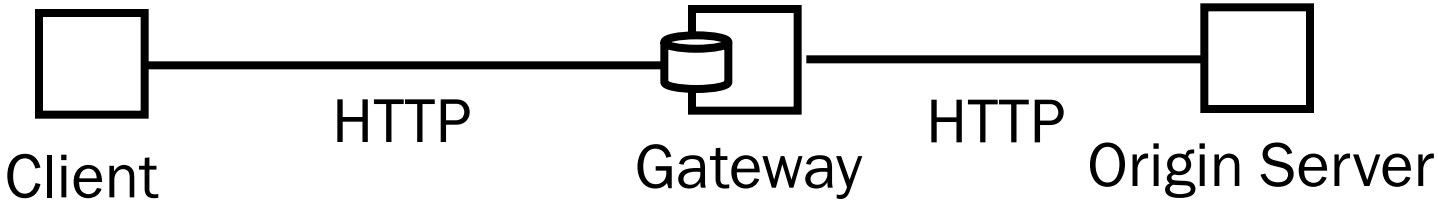


Proxy or Gateway?

Intermediaries forward (and may translate) requests and responses



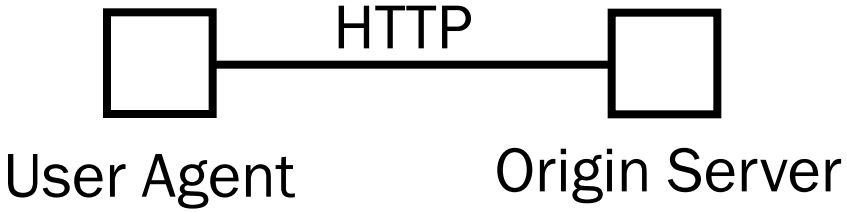
A proxy is chosen by the Client (for caching, or access control)



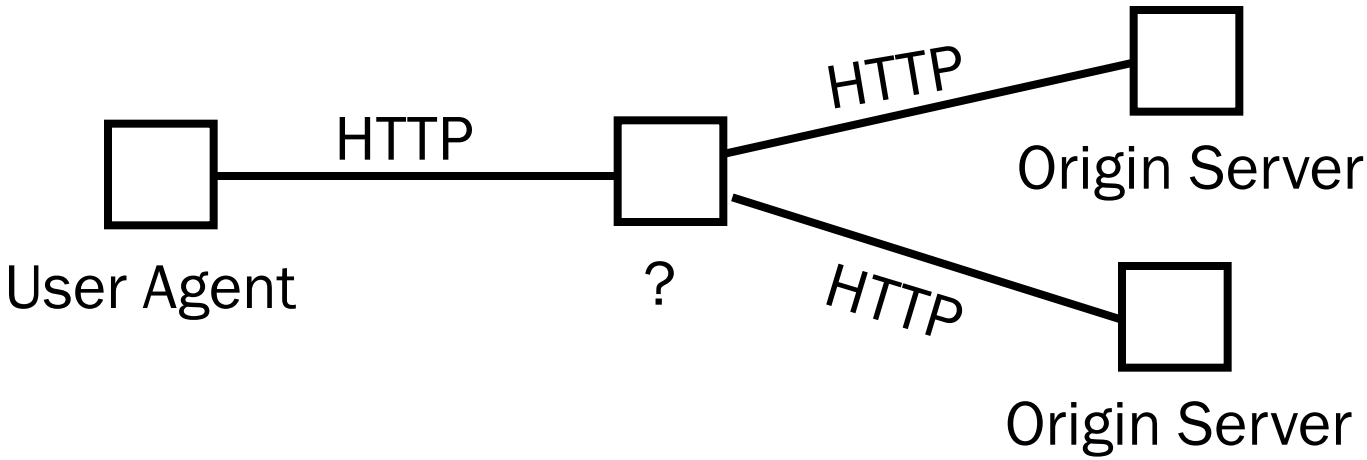
The use of a gateway (or reverse proxy) is imposed by the server

What about composition?

- The basic REST design elements do not take composition into account



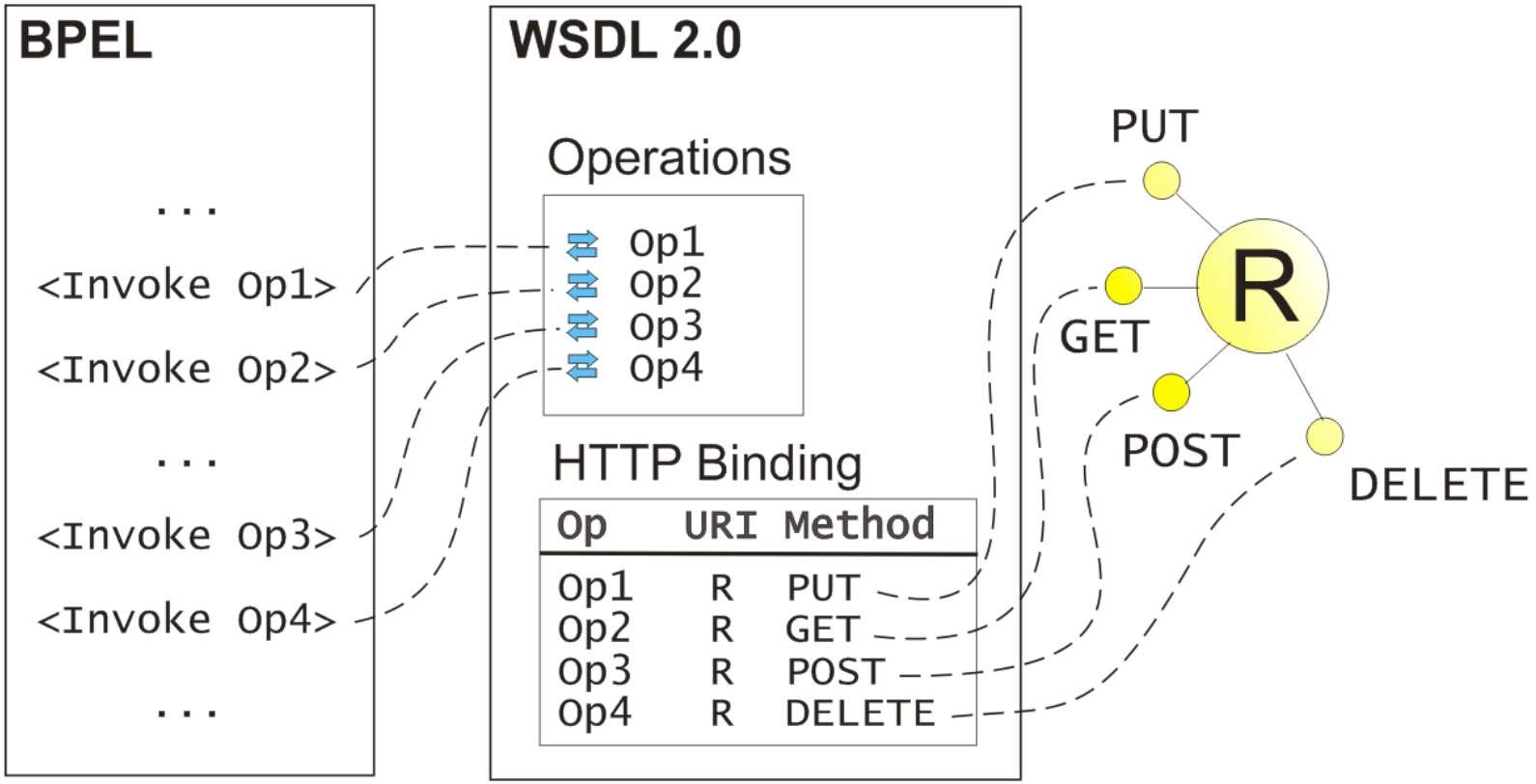
- WS-BPEL is the standard Web service composition language. Business process models are used to specify how a collection of services is orchestrated into a composite service
- Can we apply WS-BPEL to RESTful services?



BPEL and WSDL 2.0

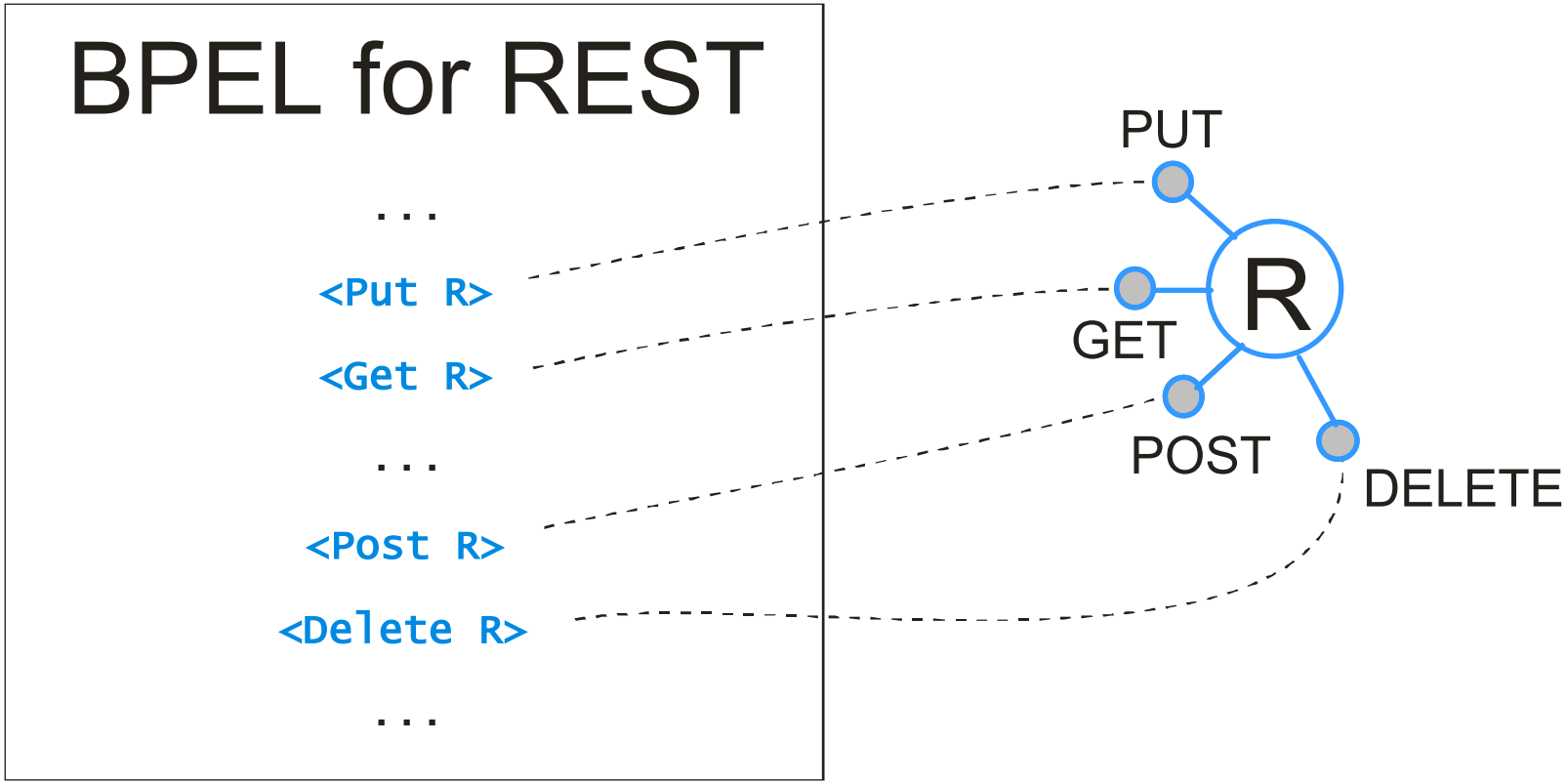
WSDL 2.0 HTTP Binding can wrap RESTful Web Services

(WS-BPEL 2.0 does not support WSDL 2.0)



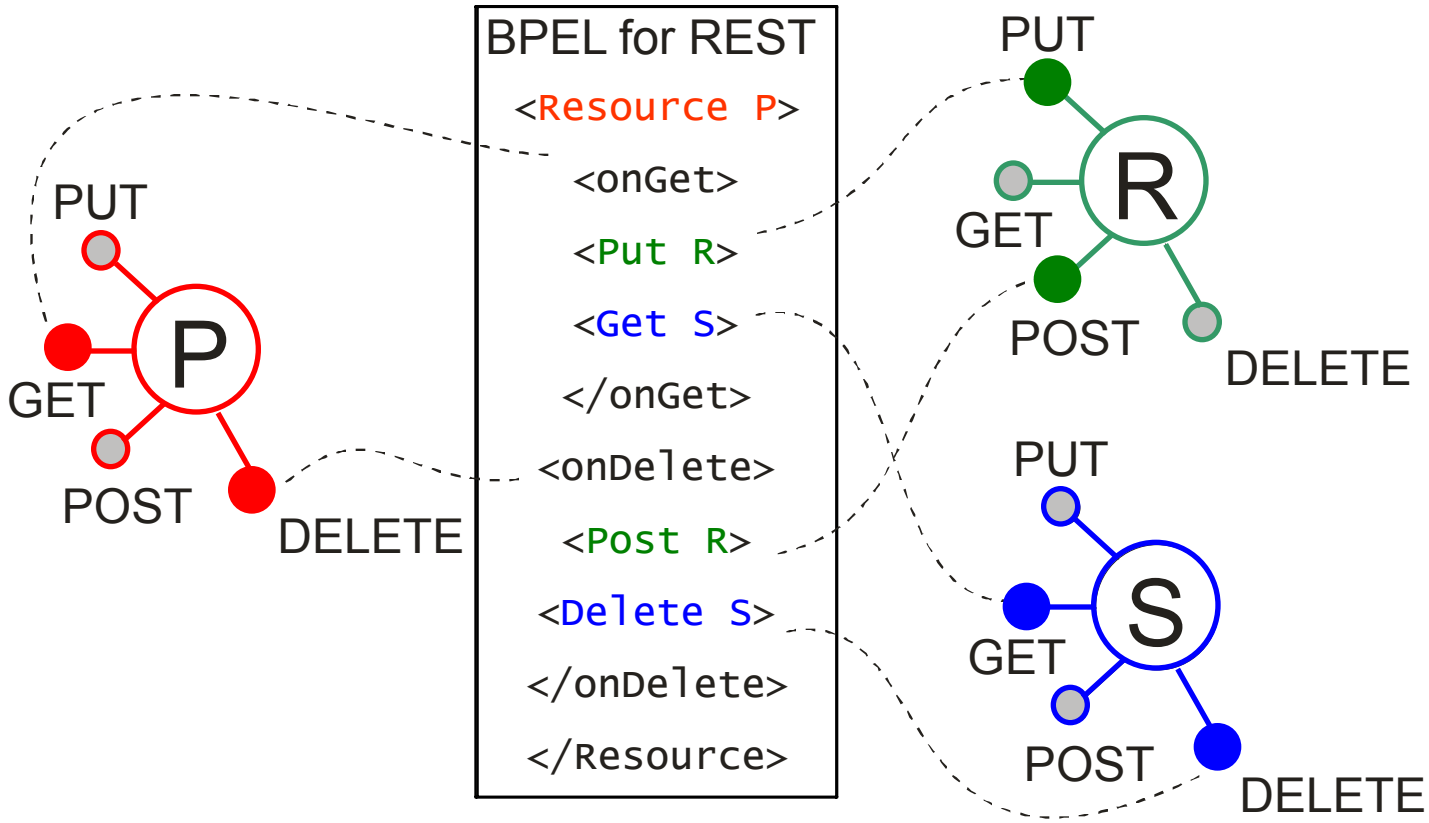
BPEL for REST

Make REST interaction primitives first-class language constructs of BPEL

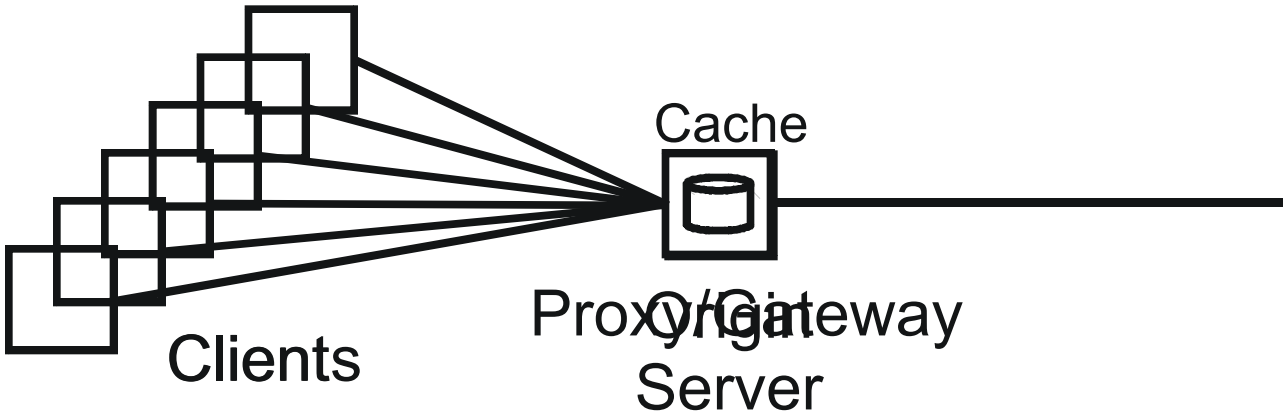


BPEL for REST – Resource Block

- Dynamically publish resources from BPEL processes and handle client requests

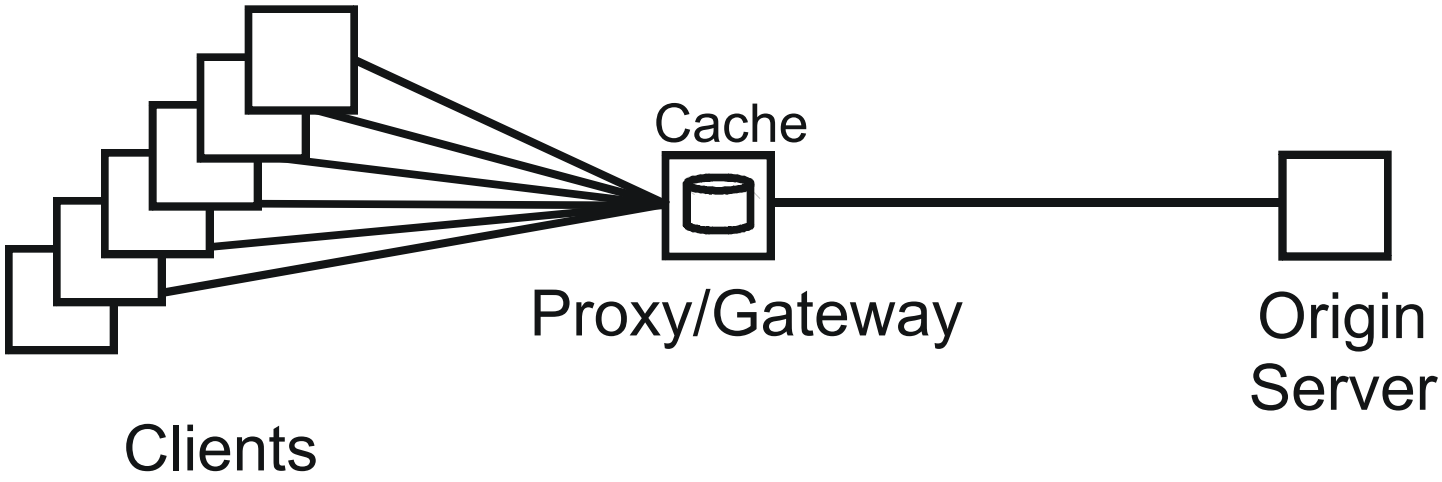


REST Scalability



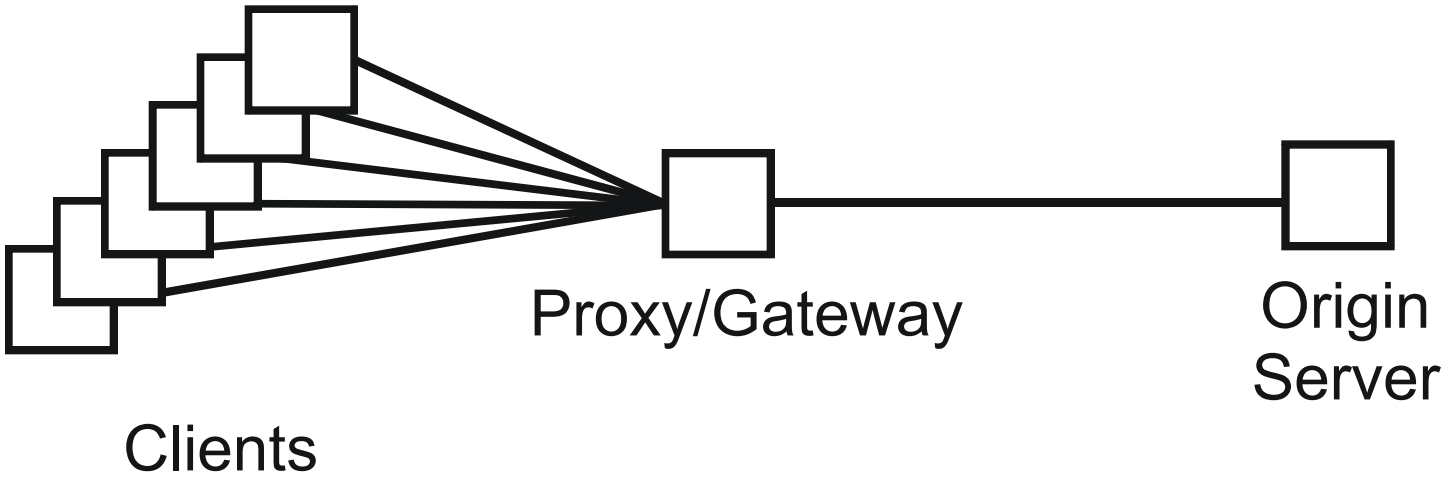
- One example of REST middleware is to help with the scalability of a server, which may need to service a very large number of clients

REST Scalability



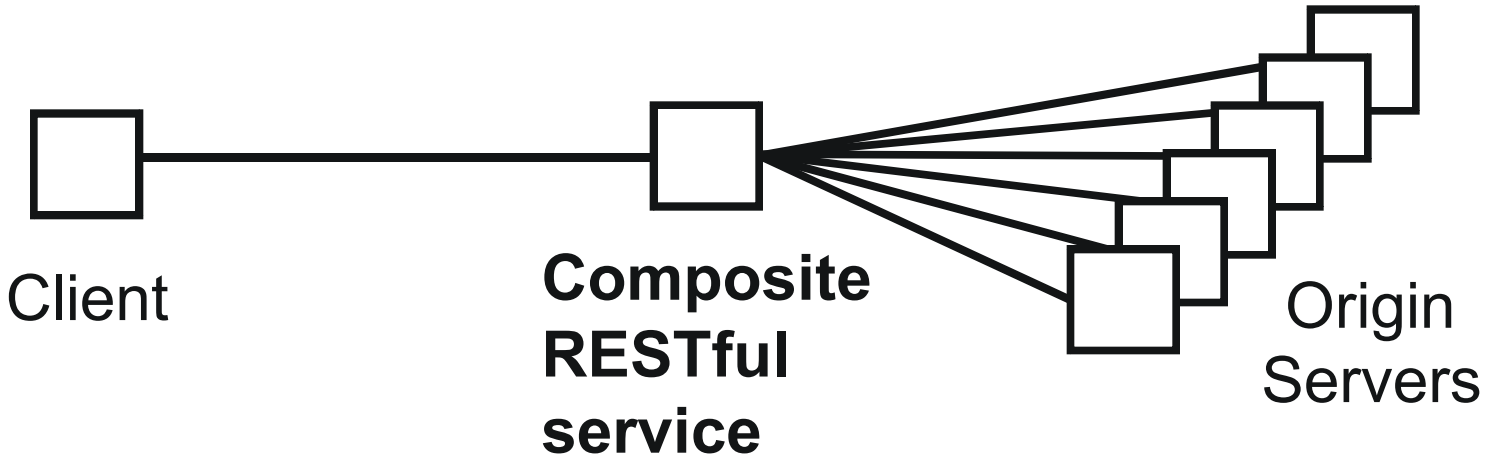
- One example of REST middleware is to help with the scalability of a server, which may need to service a very large number of clients

REST Composition



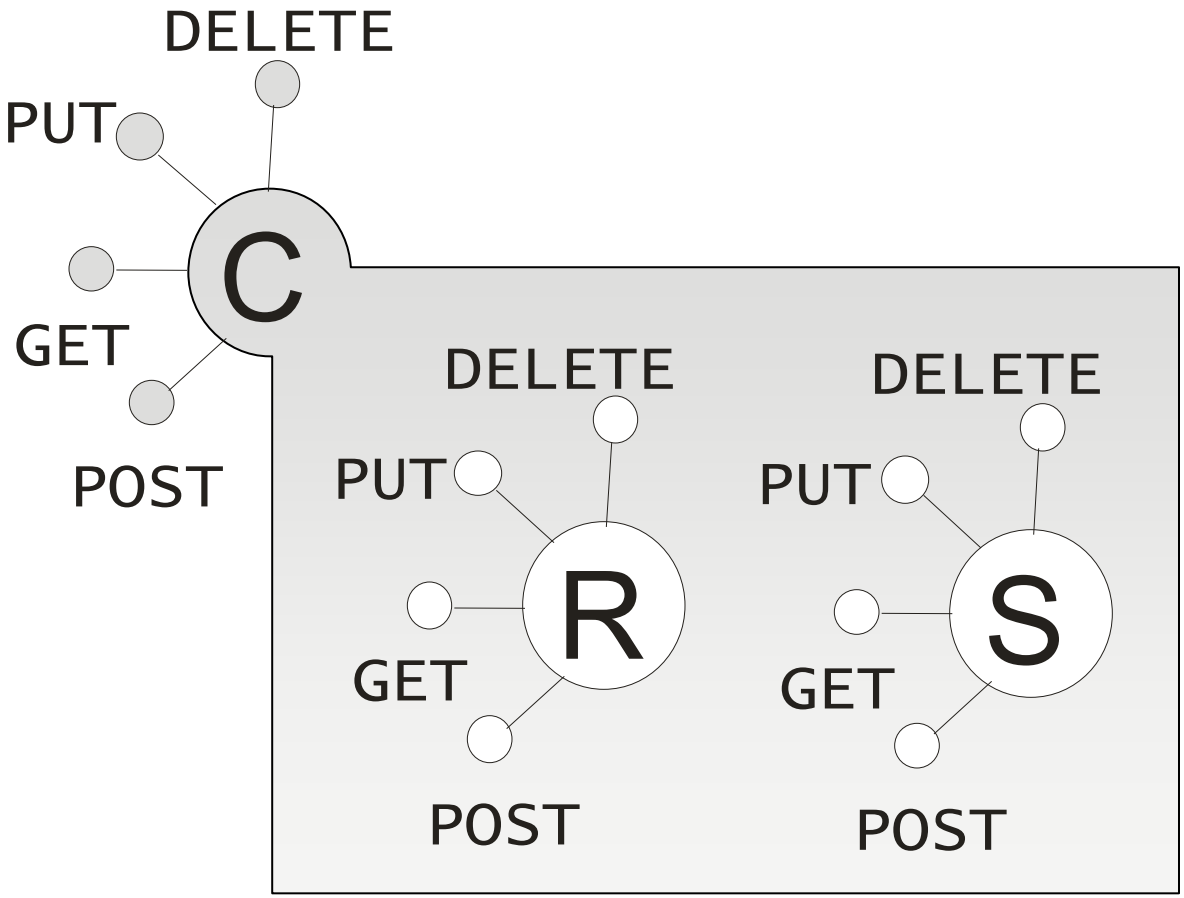
- Composition shifts the attention to the client which should consume and aggregate from many servers

REST Composition



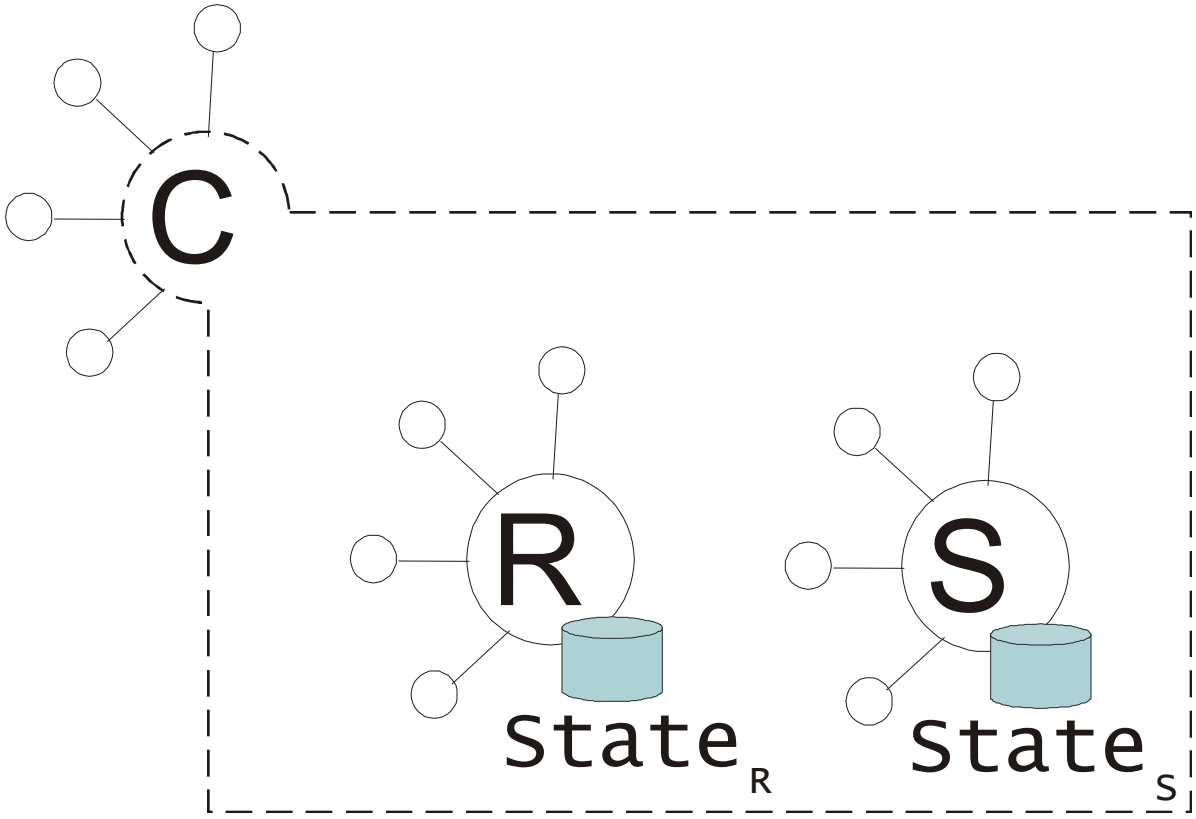
- The “proxy” intermediate element which aggregates the resources provided by multiple servers plays the role of a composite RESTful service
- Can/Should we implement it with BPM?

Composite Resources



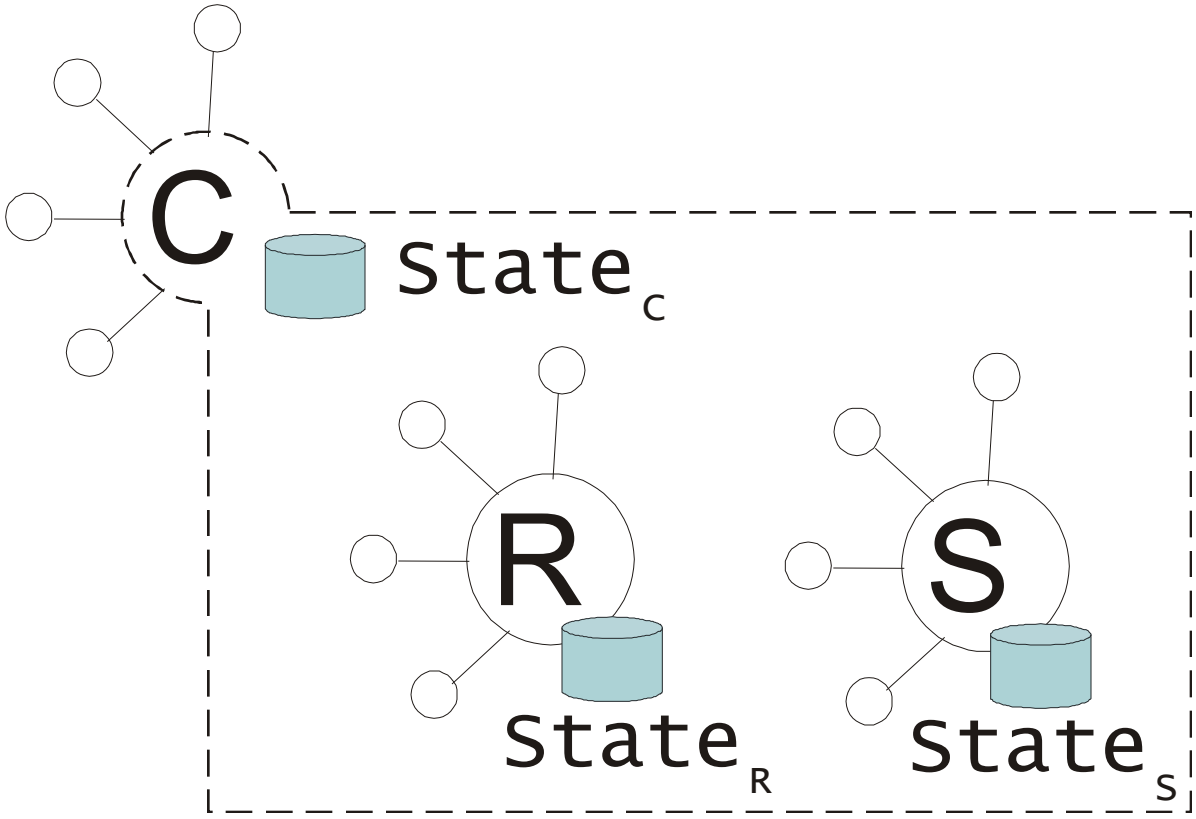
Composite Resources

- The composite resource only aggregates the state of its component resources

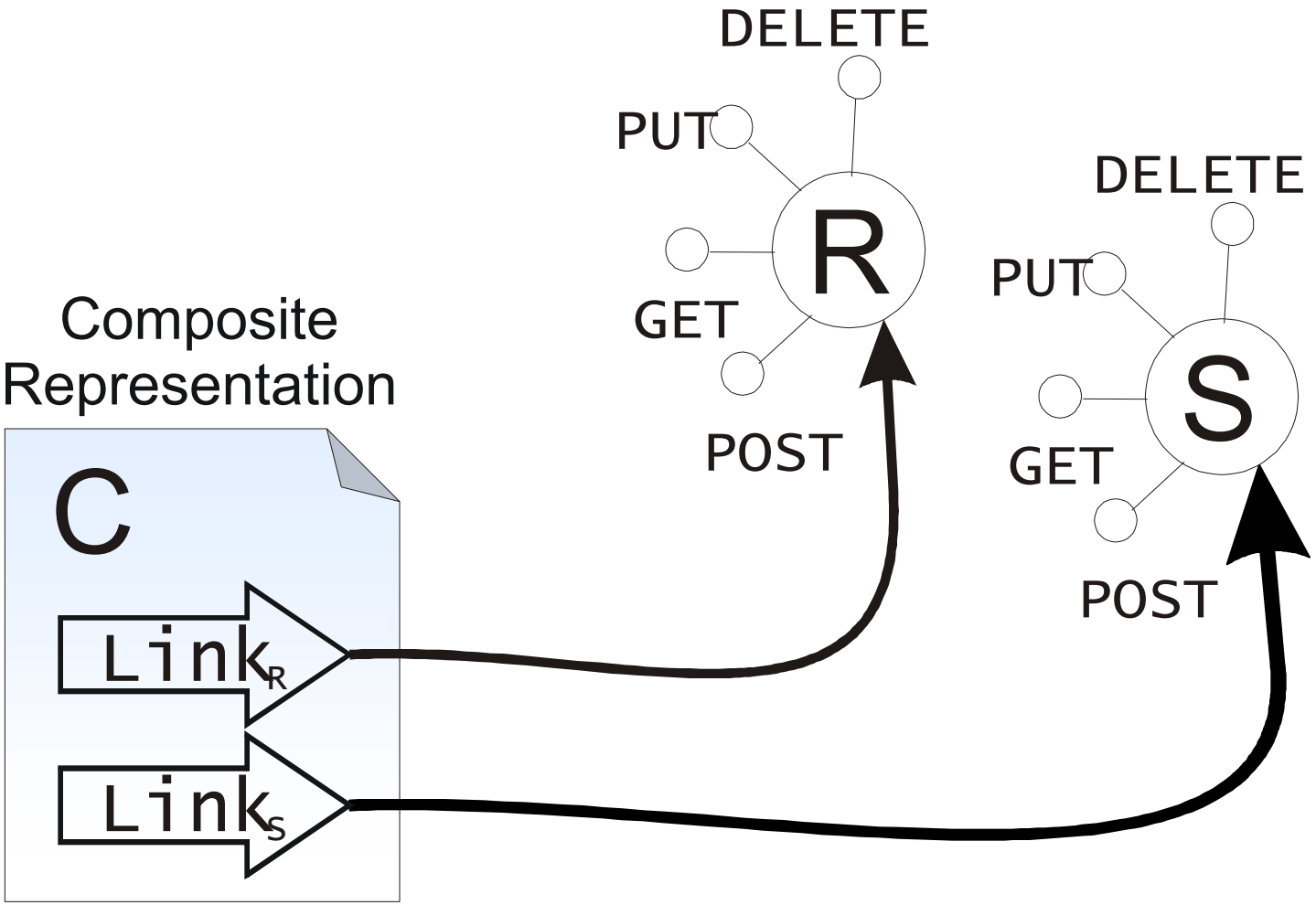


Composite Resources

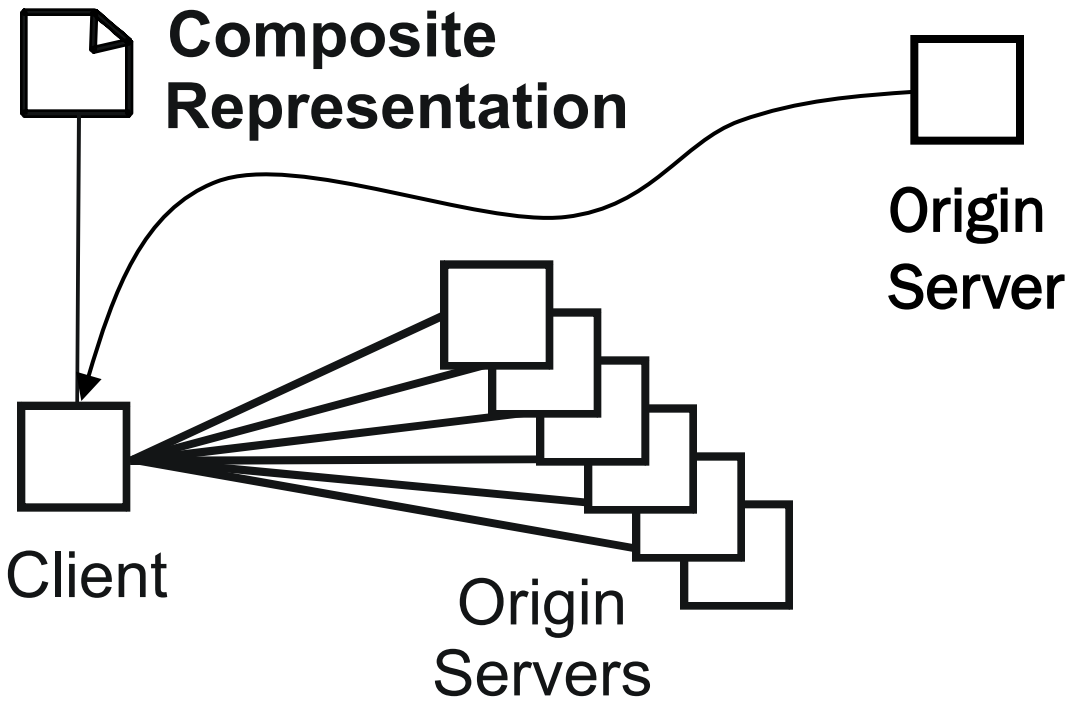
- The composite resource augments (or caches) the state of its component resources



Composite Representations

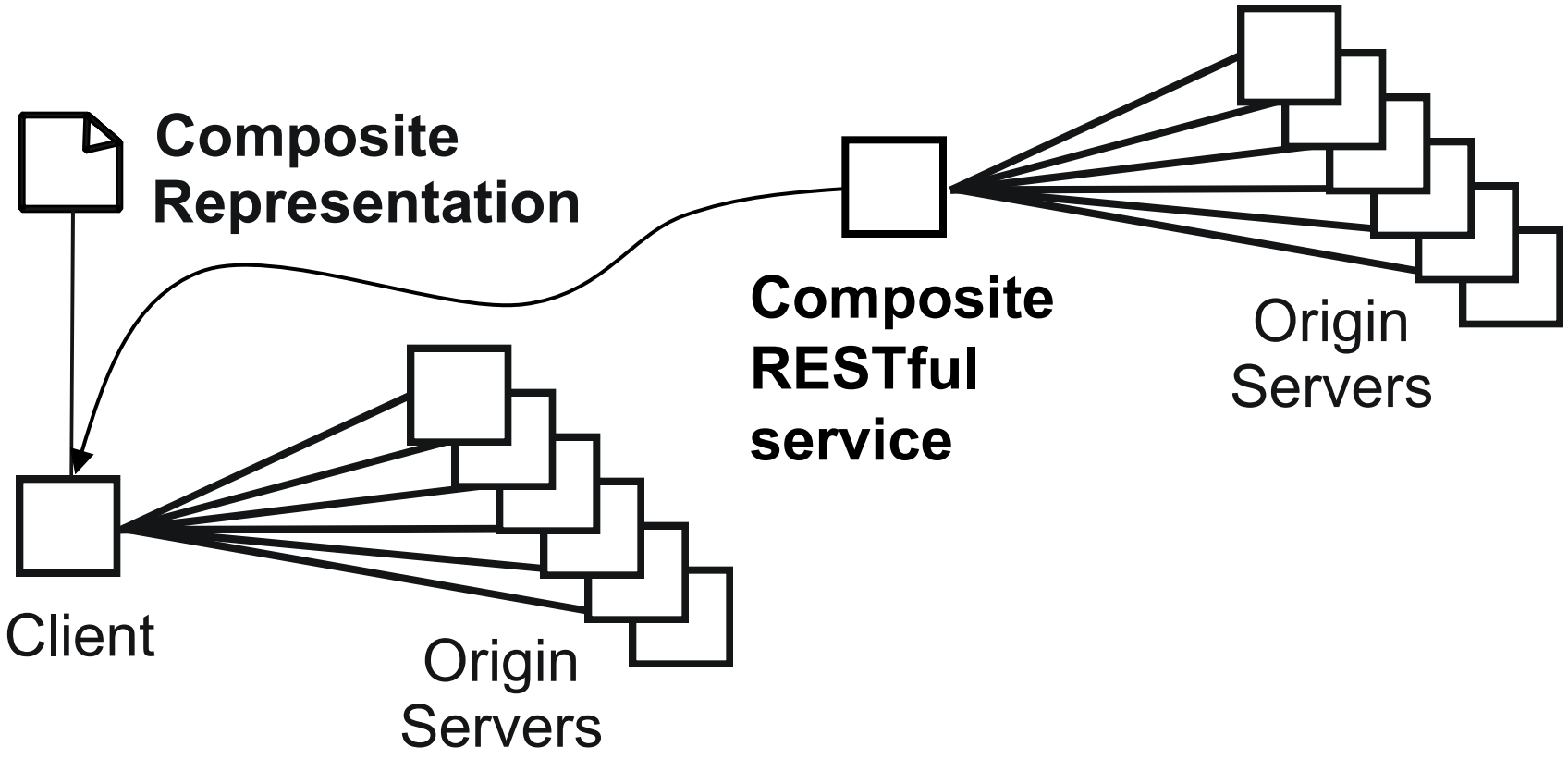


Composite Representation



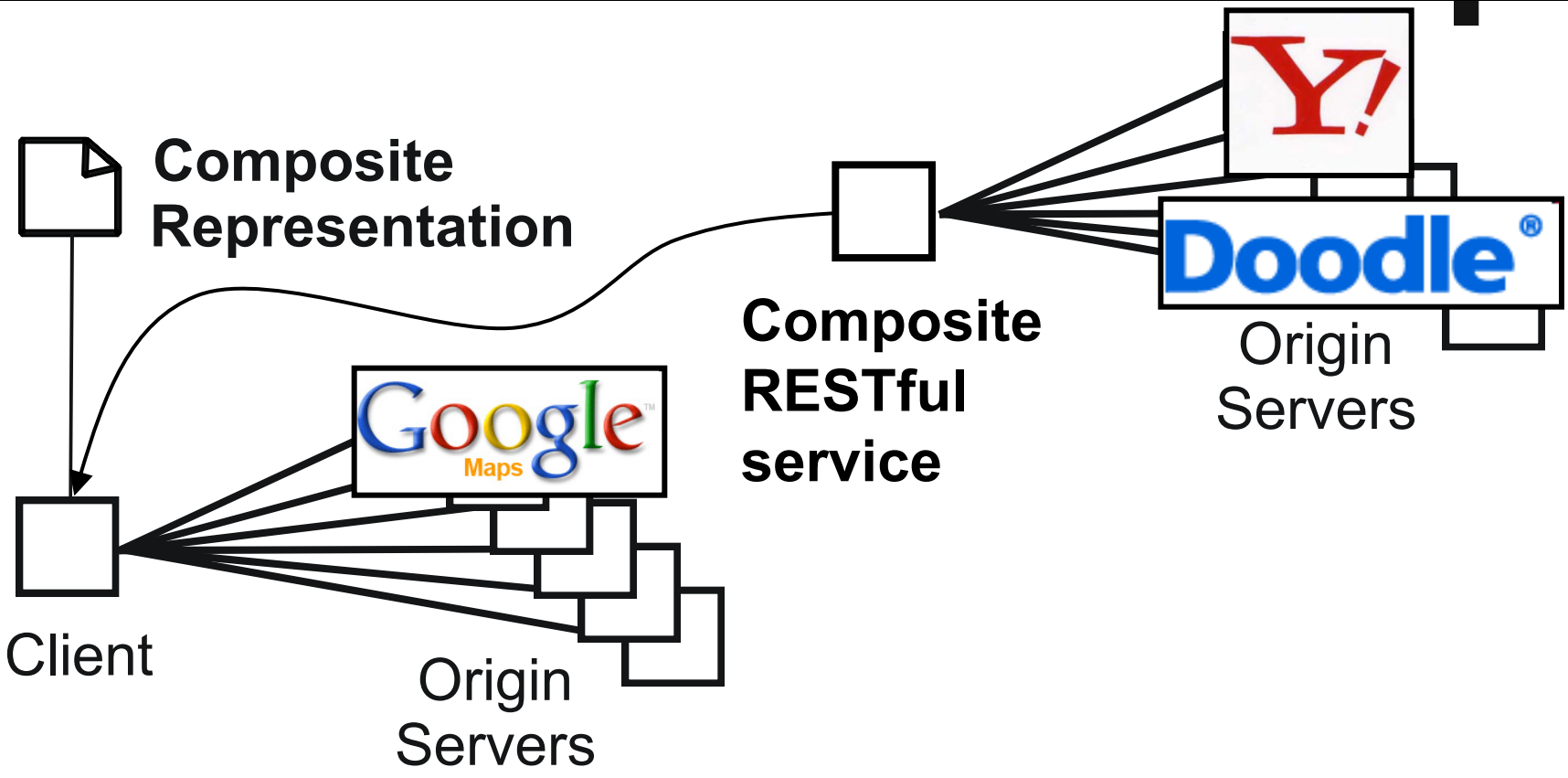
- A composite representation is interpreted by the client that follows its hyperlinks and aggregates the state of the referenced component resources

Bringing it all together



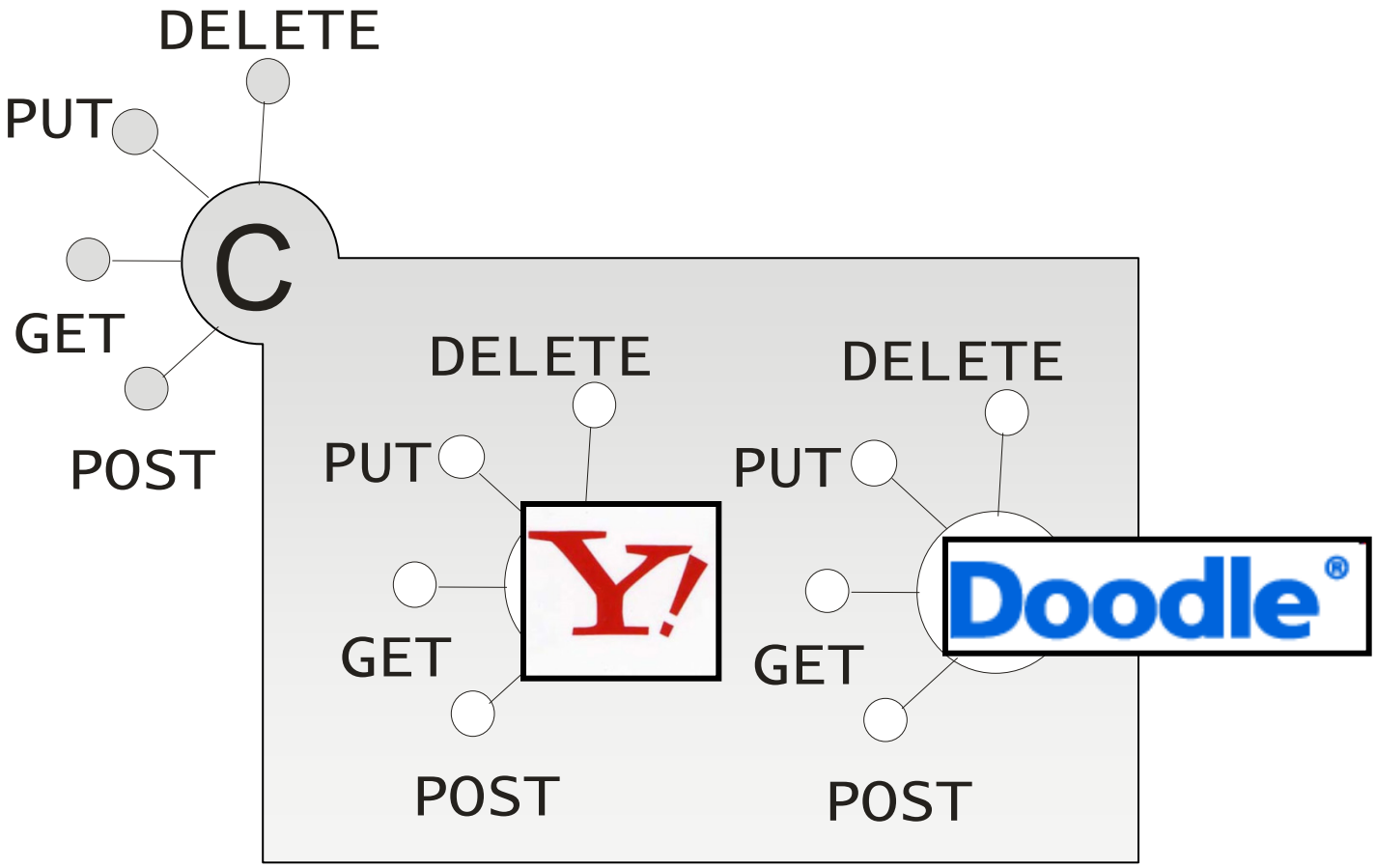
- A composite representation can be produced by a composite service too

Doodle Map Example

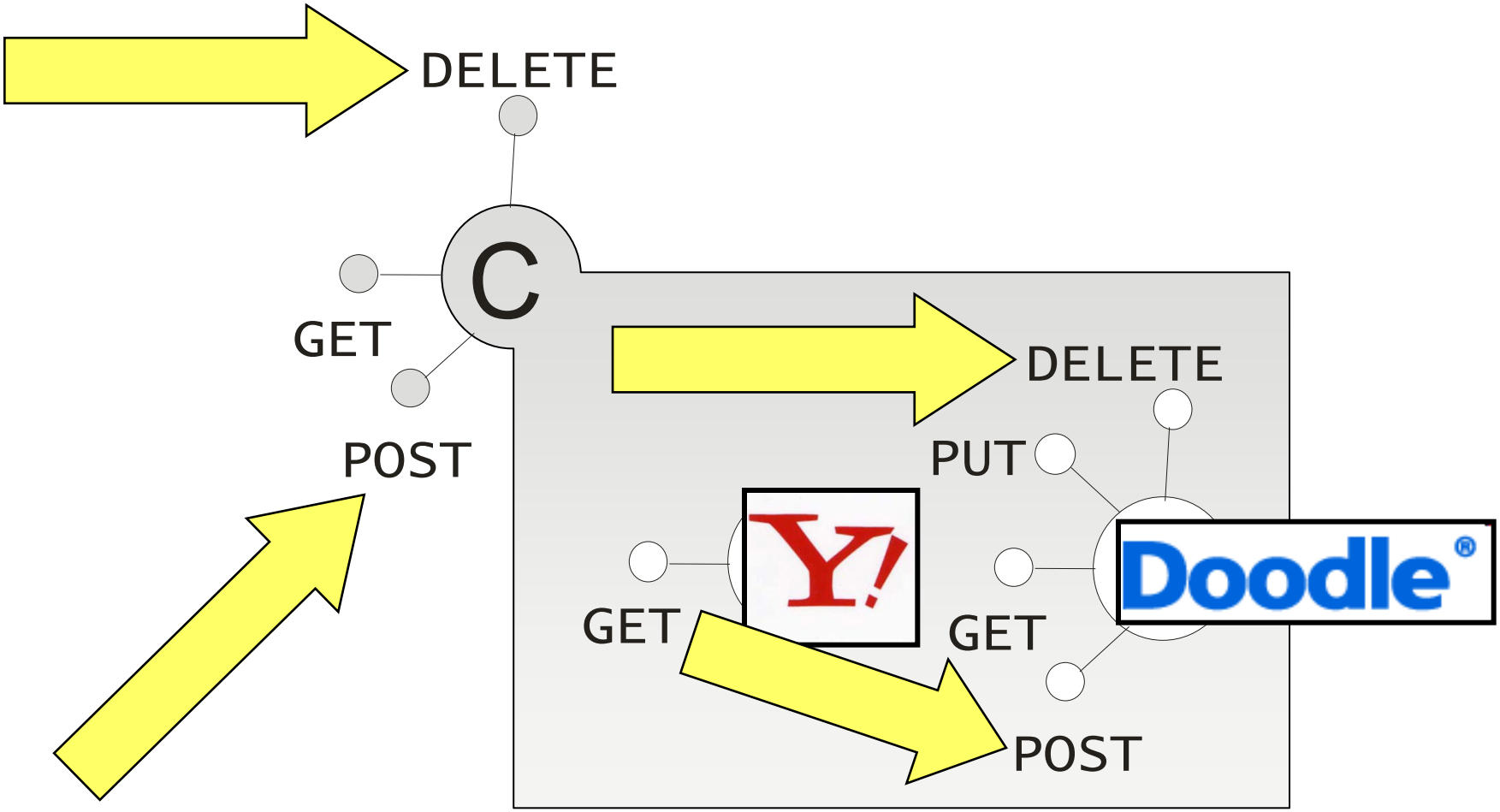


- Vote on a meeting place based on its geographic location

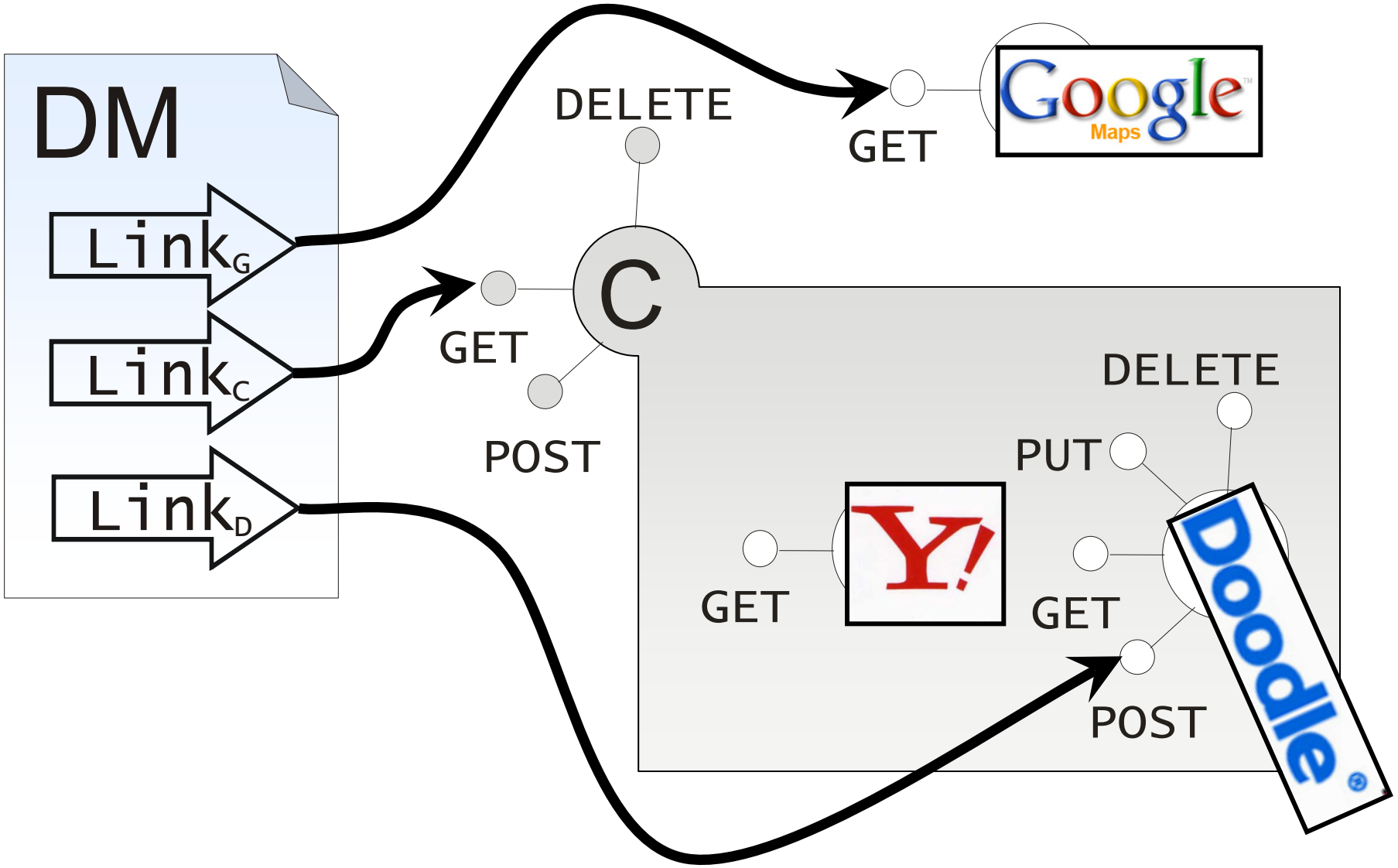
1. Composite Resource



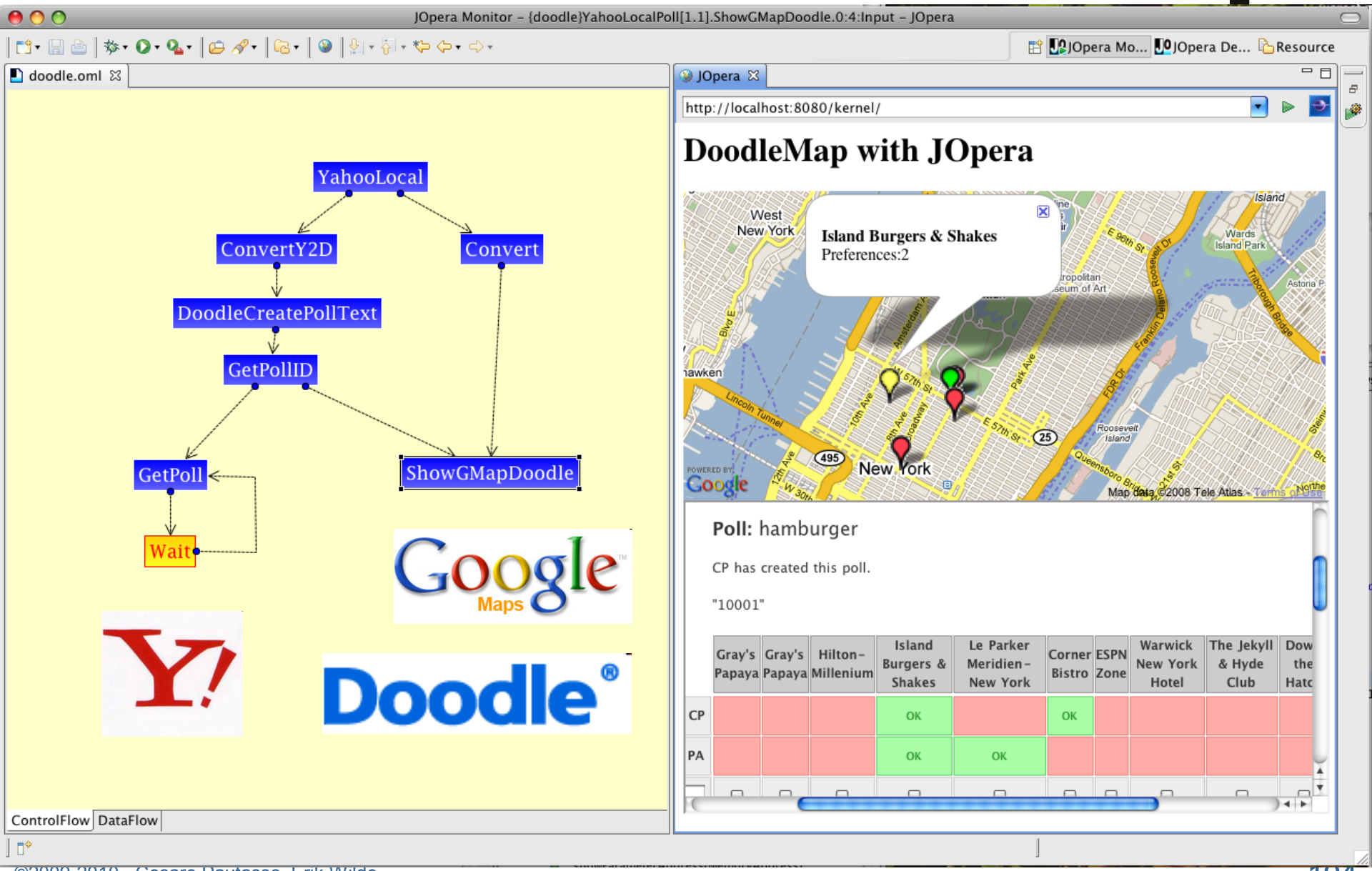
1. Composite Resource



2. Composite Representation

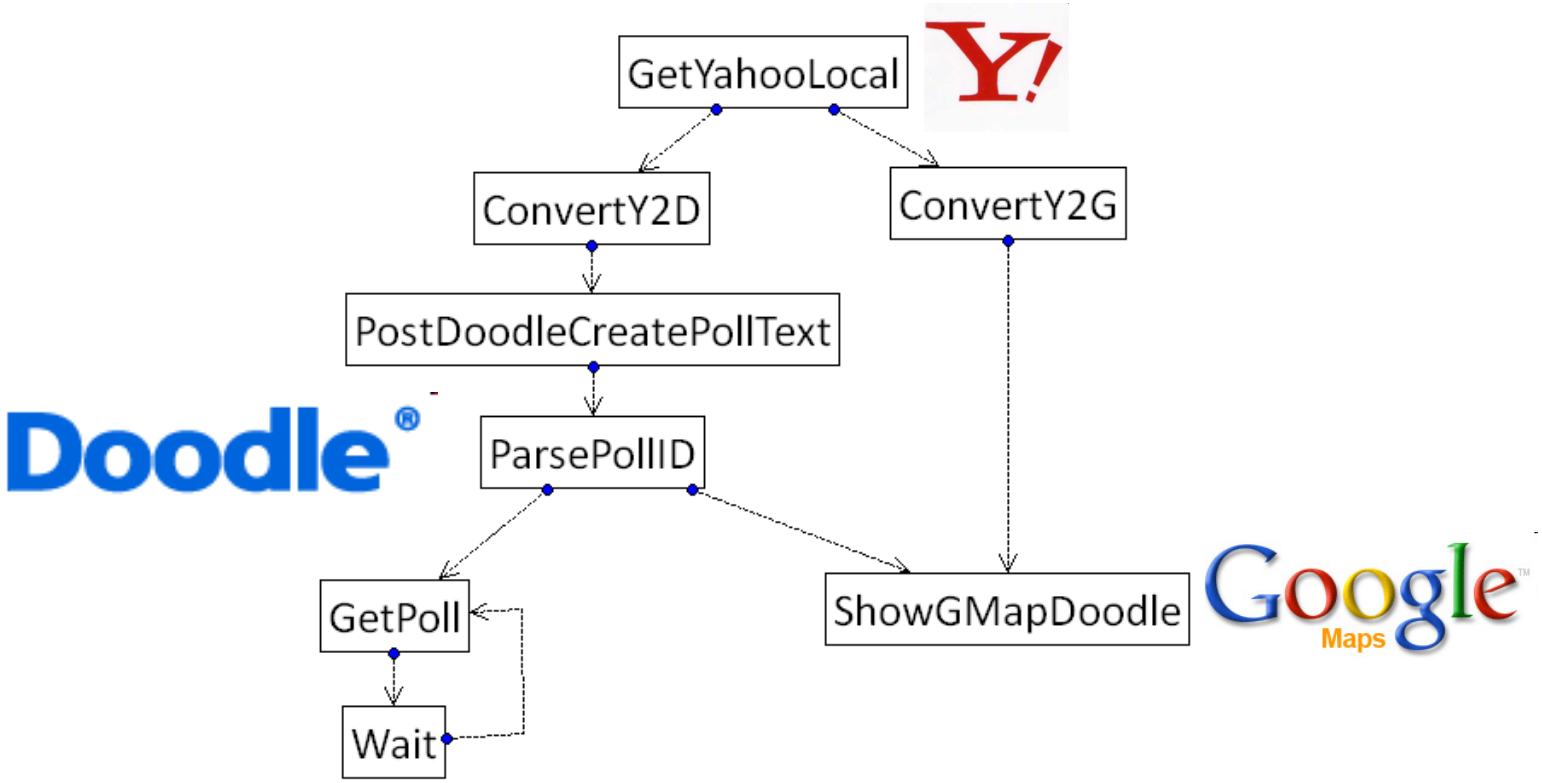


RESTful Composition Example

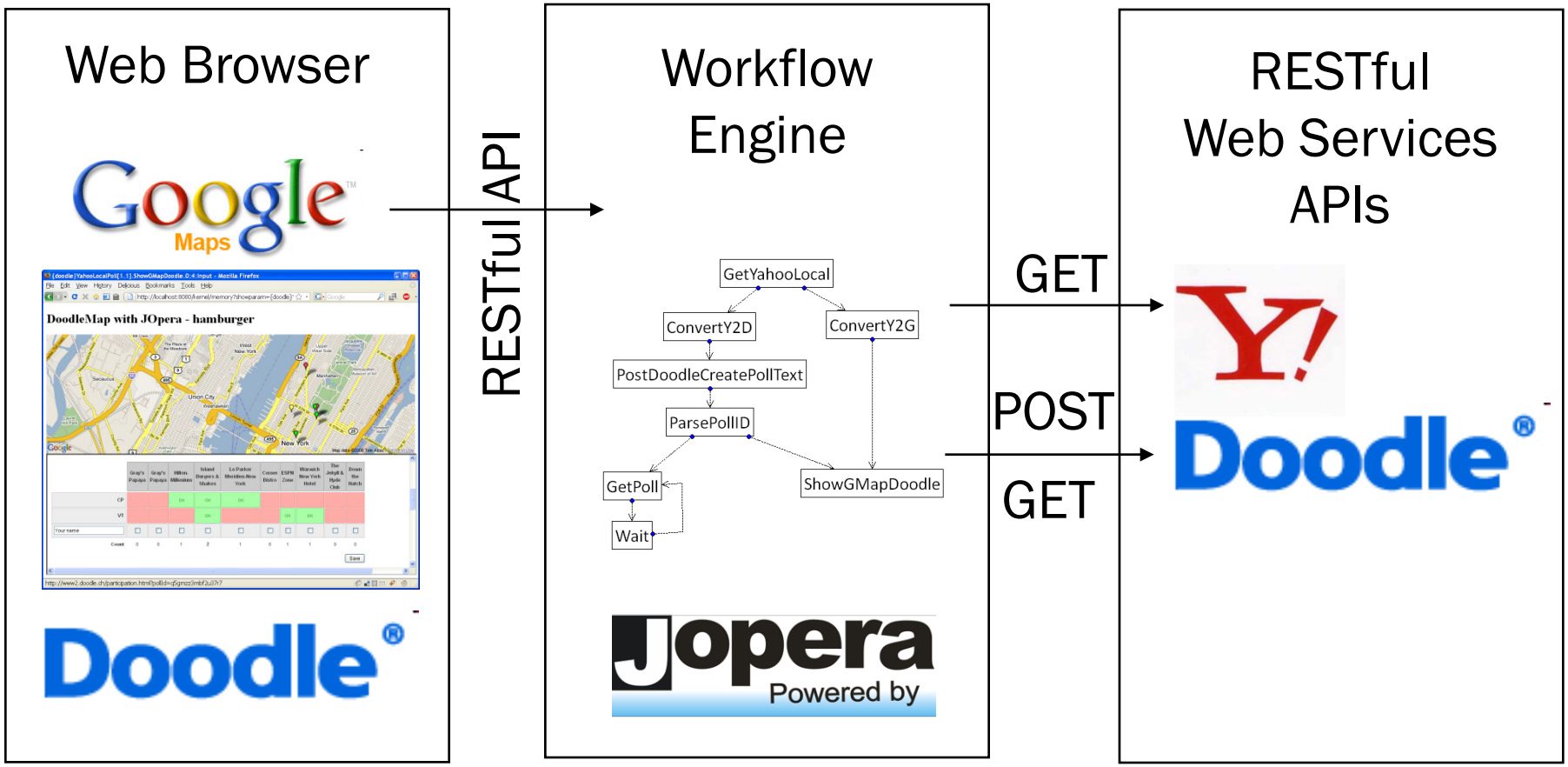


Example: Doodle Map Mashup

- Setup a Doodle with Yahoo! Local search and visualize the results of the poll on Google Maps

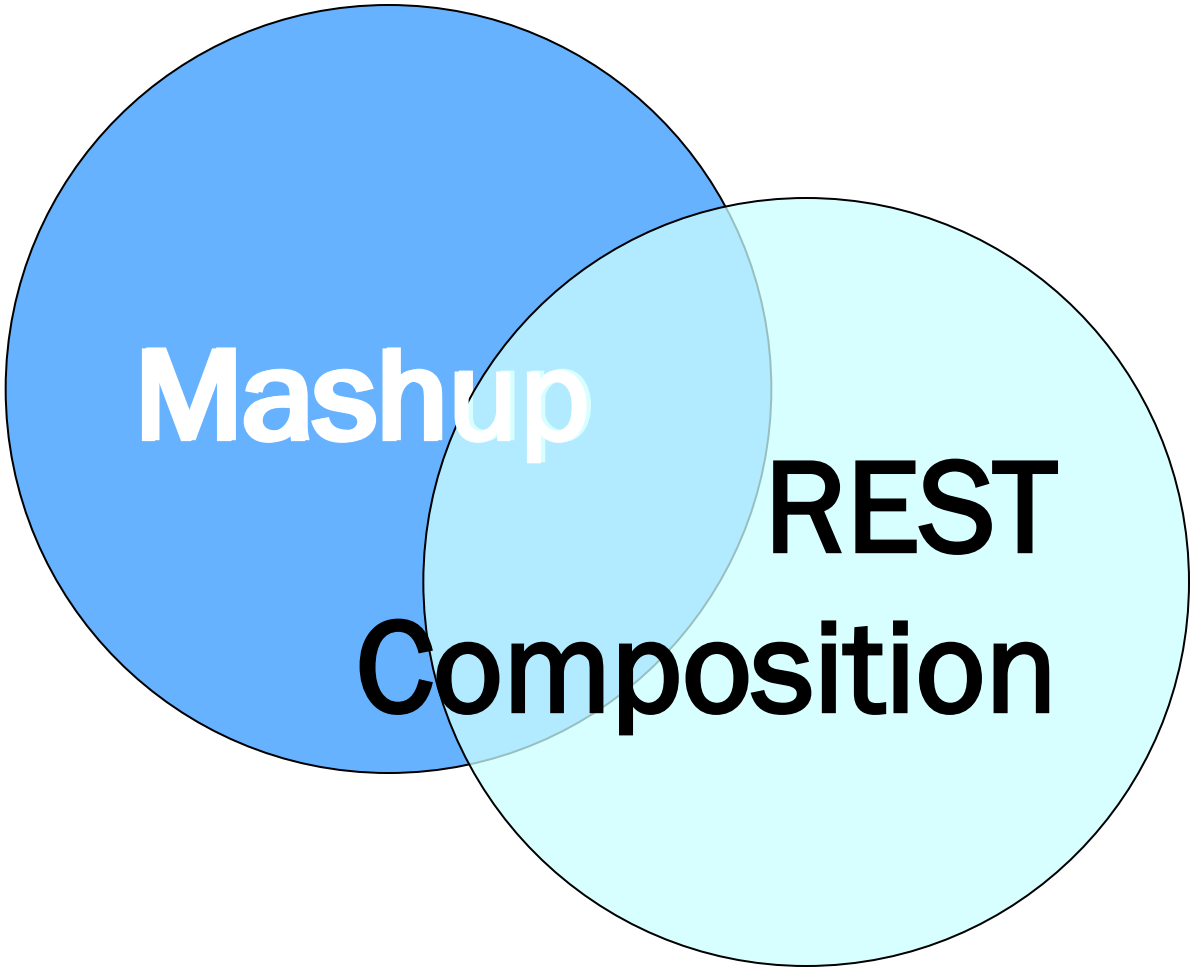


Doodle Map Mashup Architecture



Cesare Pautasso, RESTful Web Service Composition with JOpera, Proc. of the International Conference on Software Composition (SC 2009), Zurich, Switzerland, July 2009.

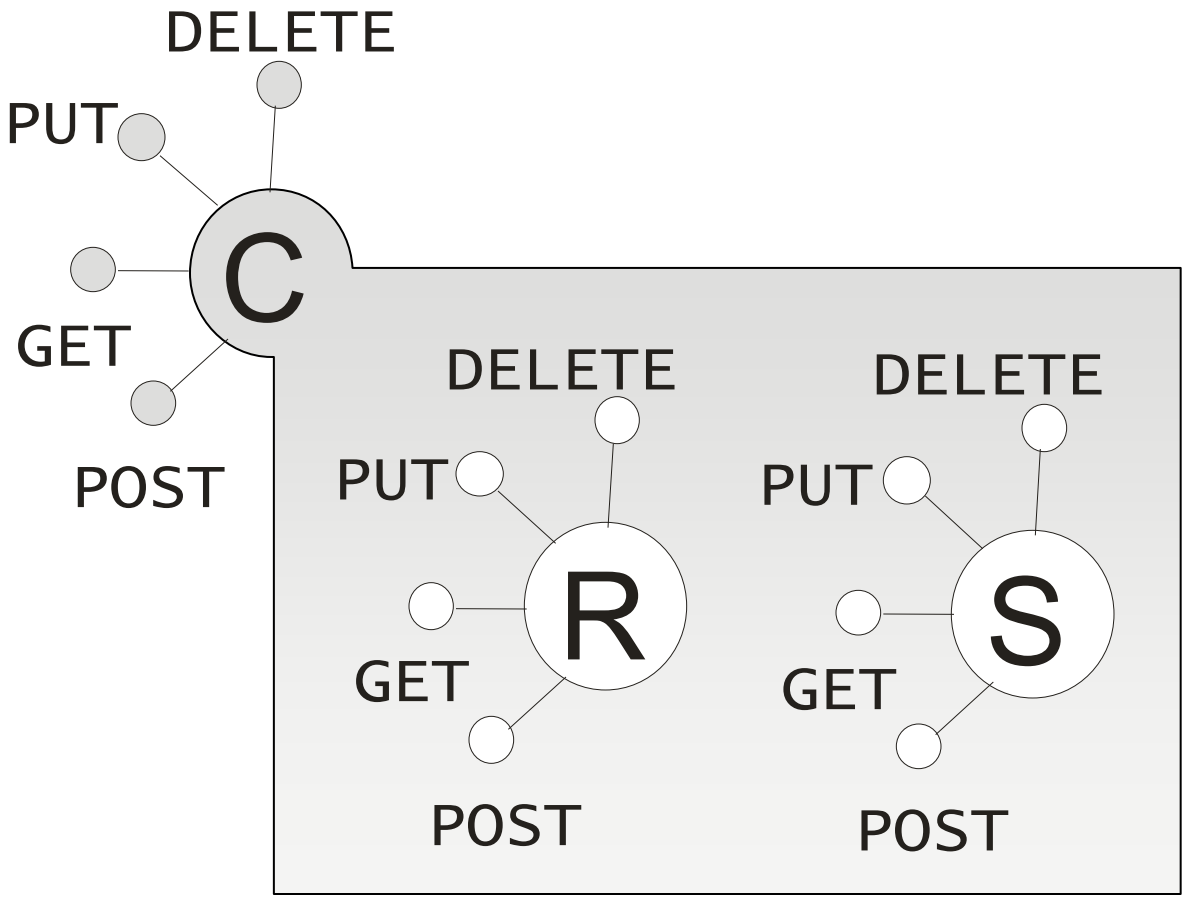
Was it just a mashup?



(It depends on the definition of Mashup)

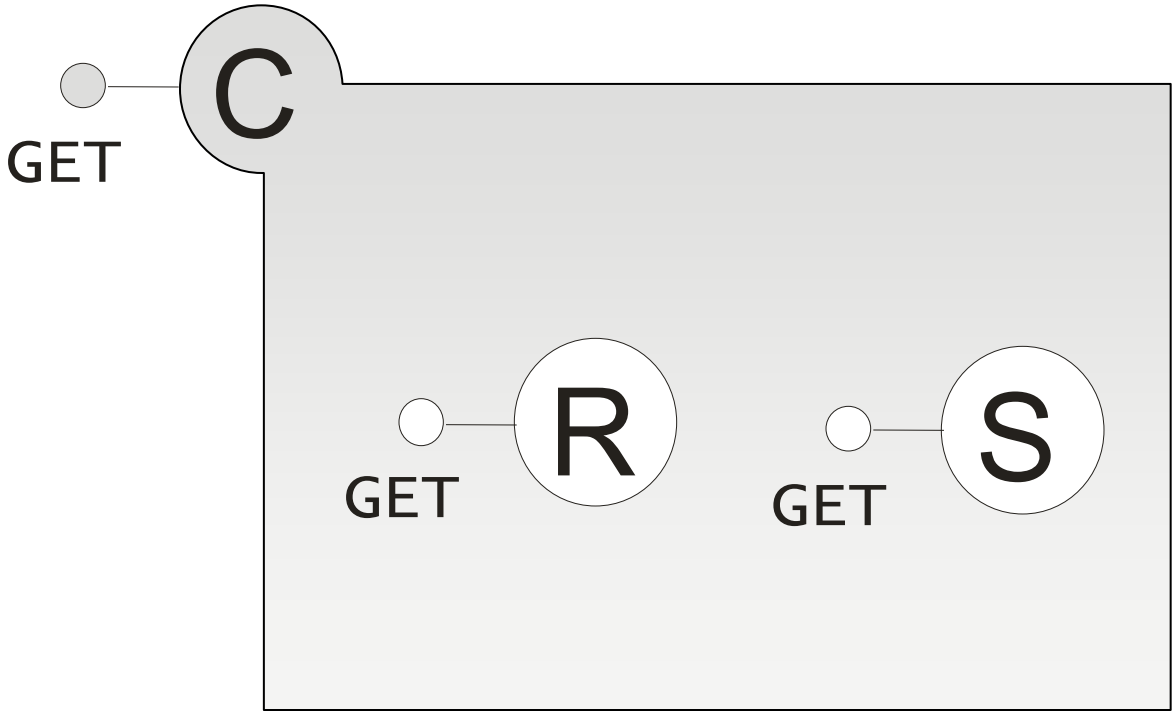
Moving state around

- Read-only vs. Read/Write



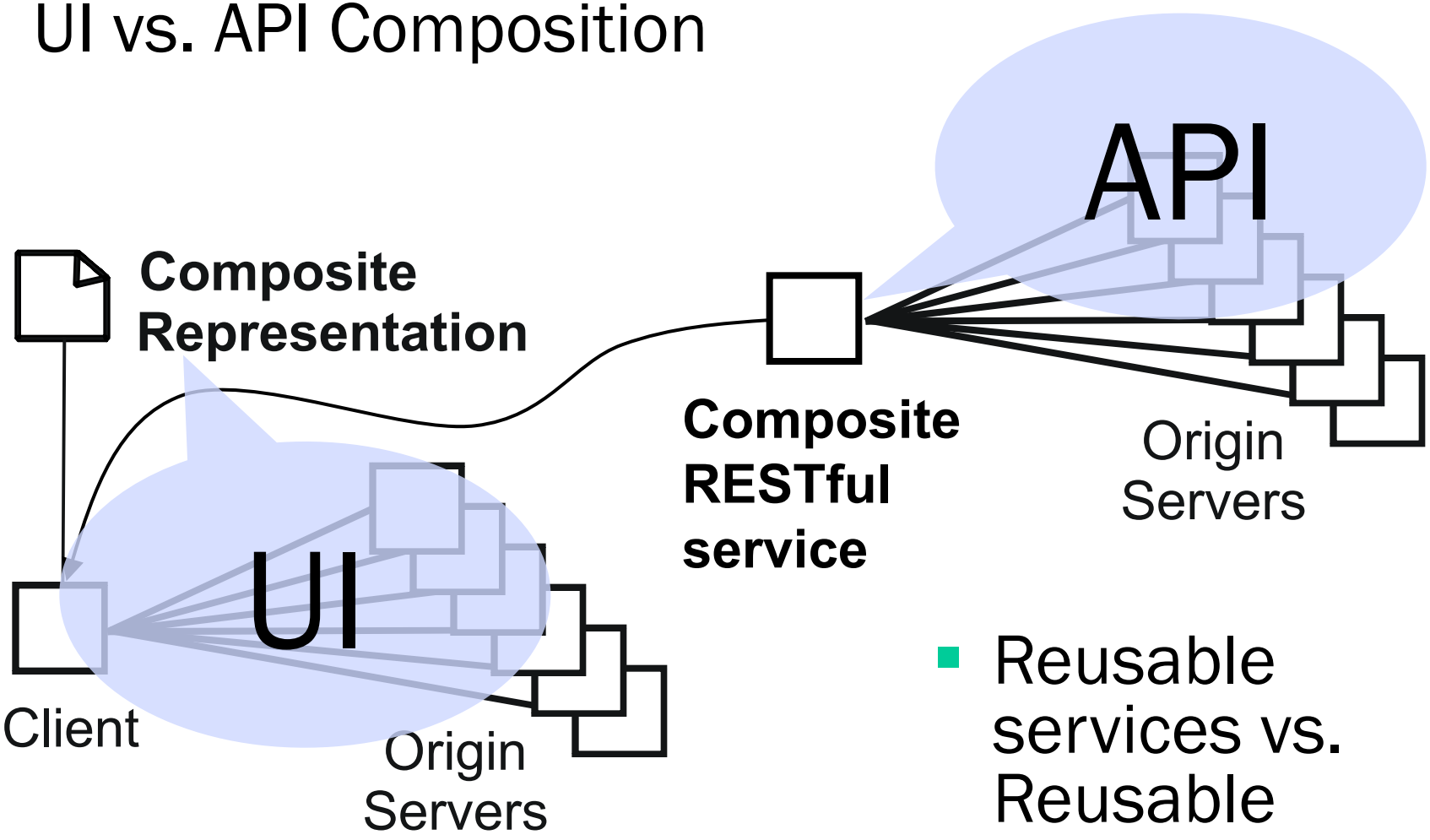
Simply aggregating data (feeds)

- Read-only vs. Read/write



Is your composition reusable?

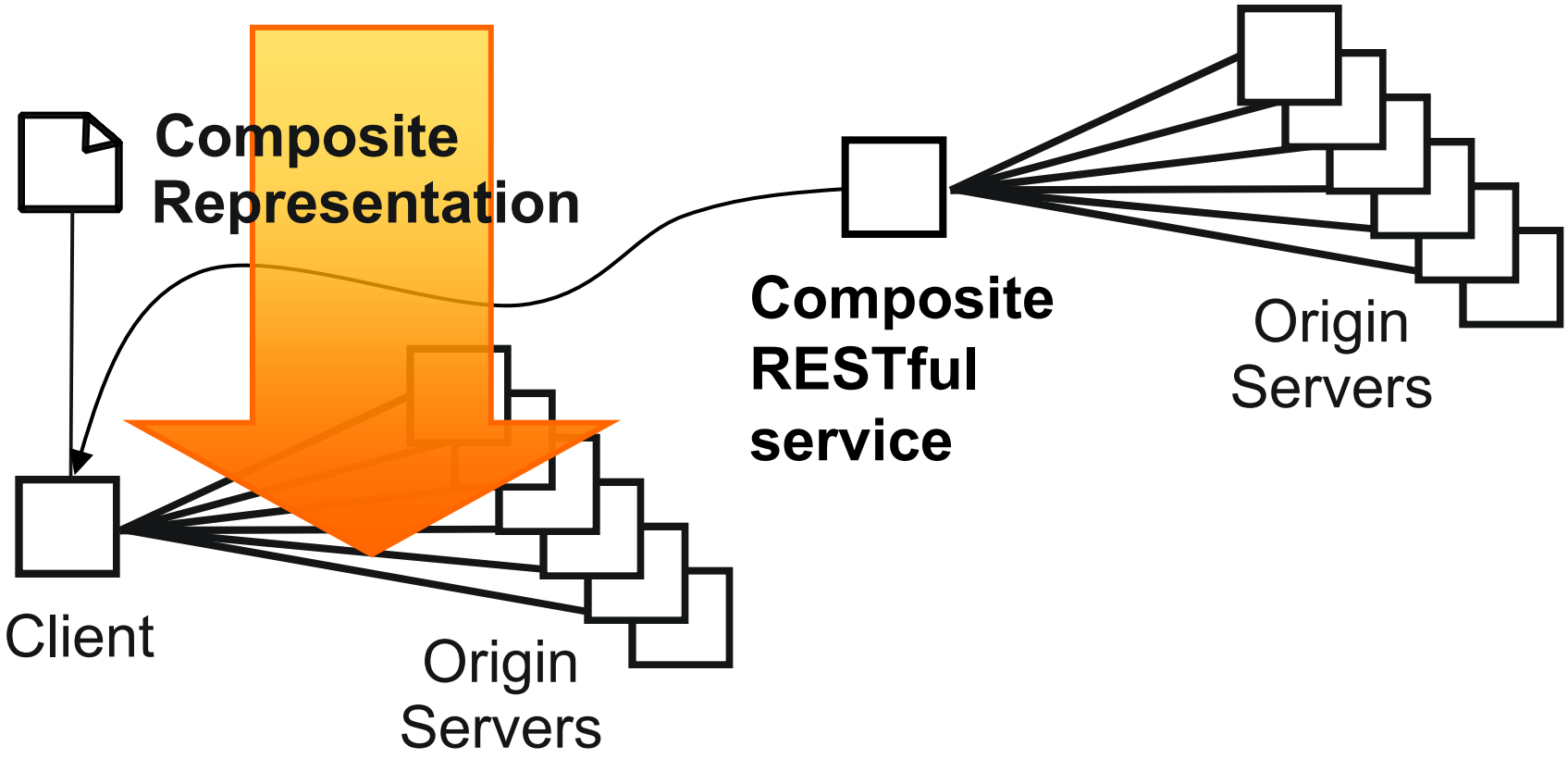
- UI vs. API Composition



- Reusable services vs. Reusable Widgets

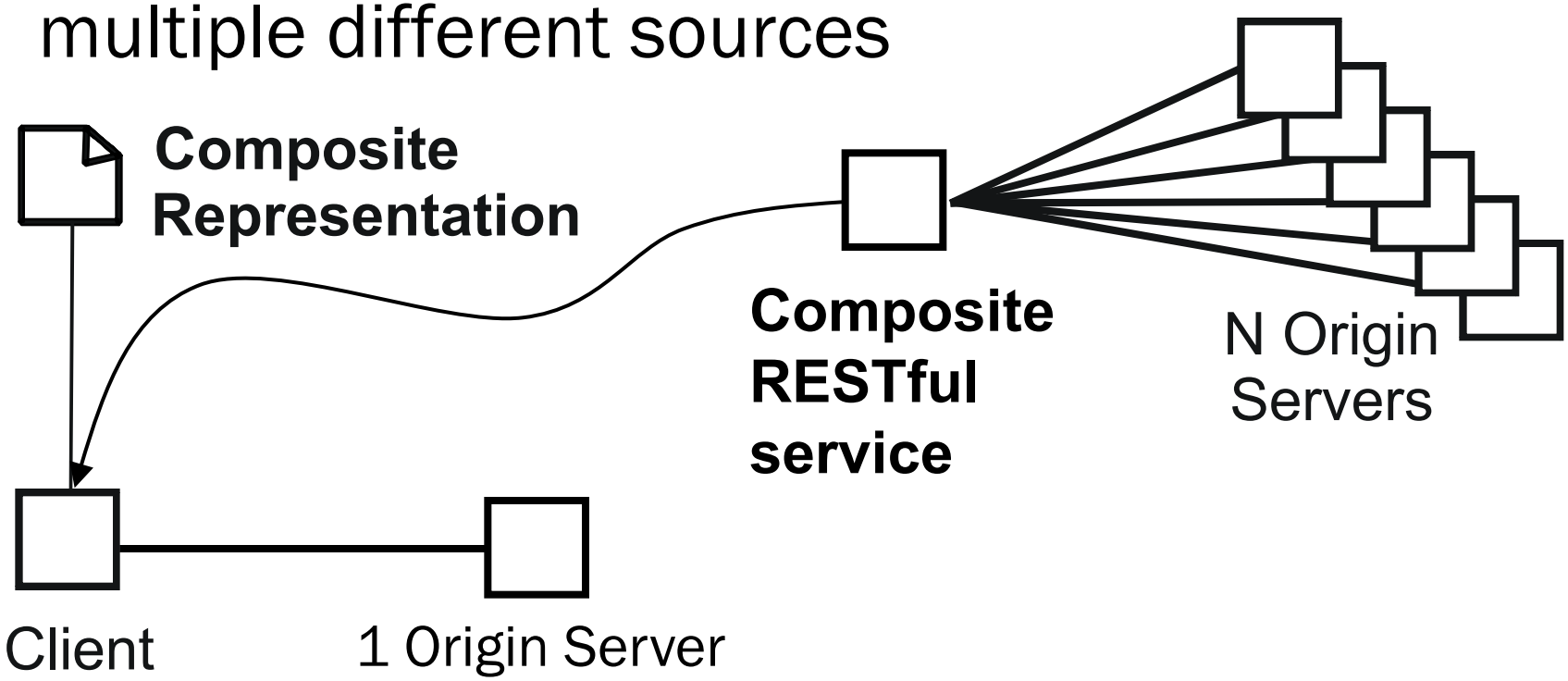
Single-Origin Sandbox

- Can you always do this from a web browser?

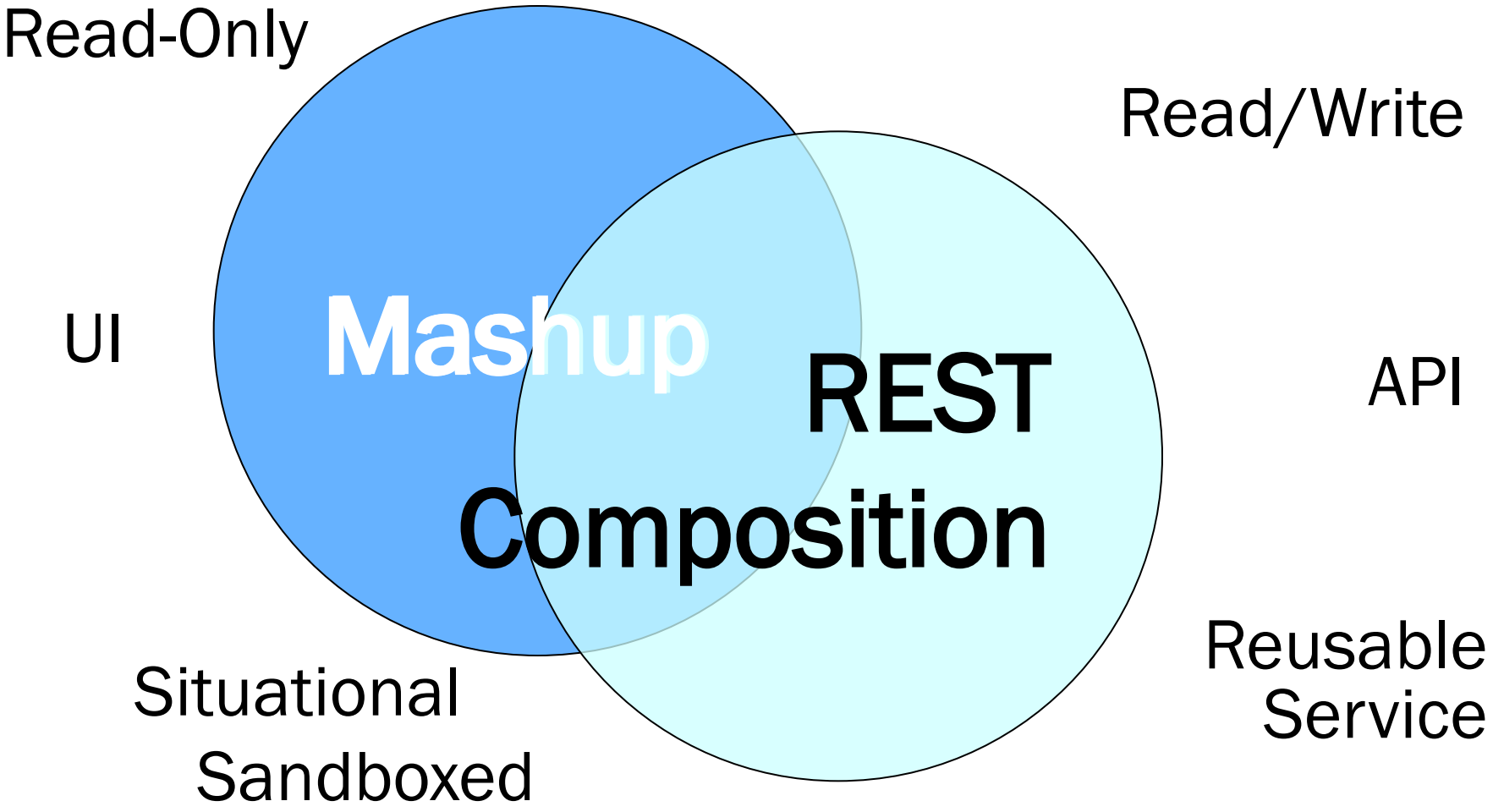


Single-Origin Sandbox

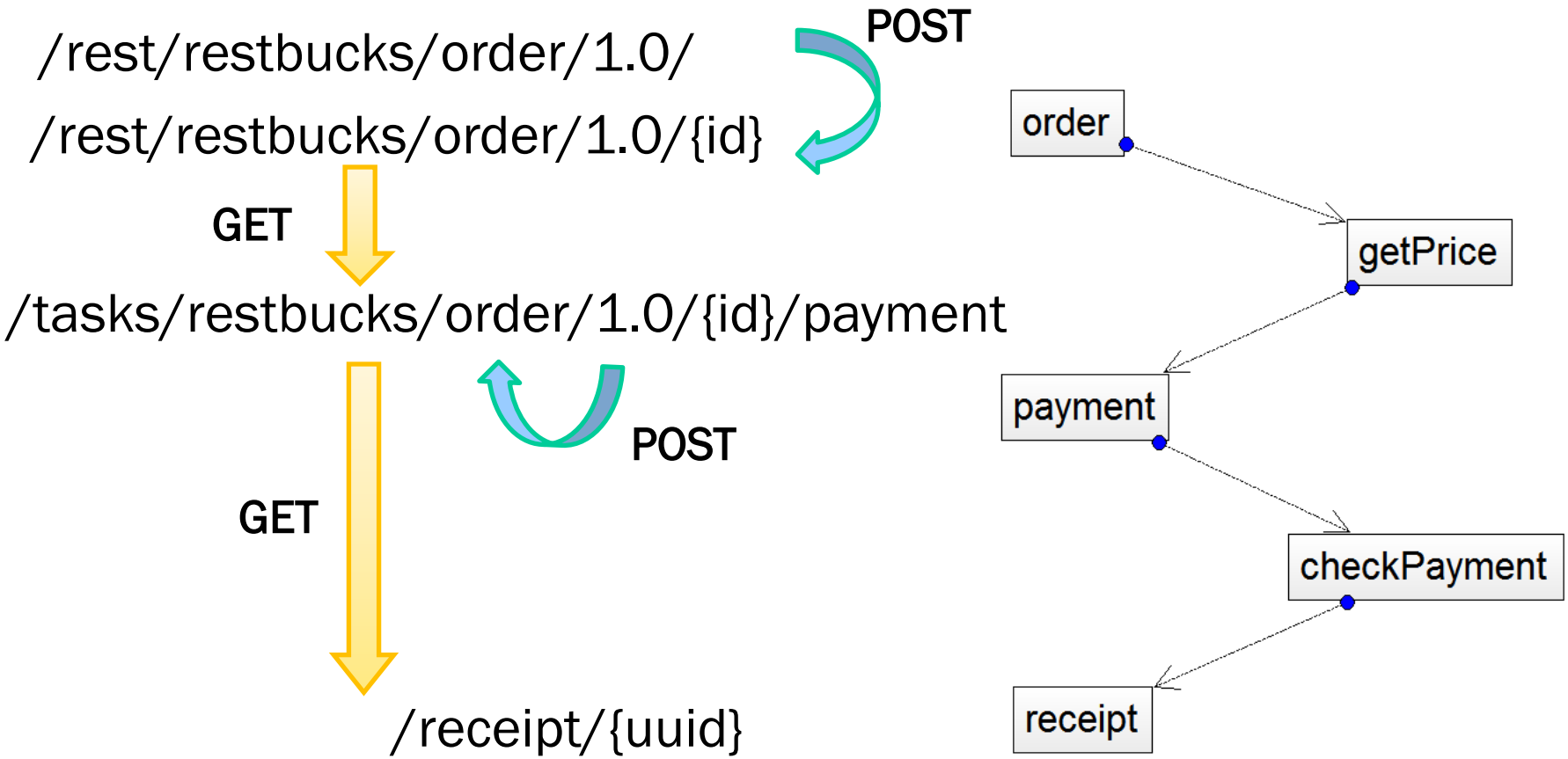
- Security Policies on the client may not always allow it to aggregate data from multiple different sources



Complementary



TinyRESTBucks Example



Instantiating a process

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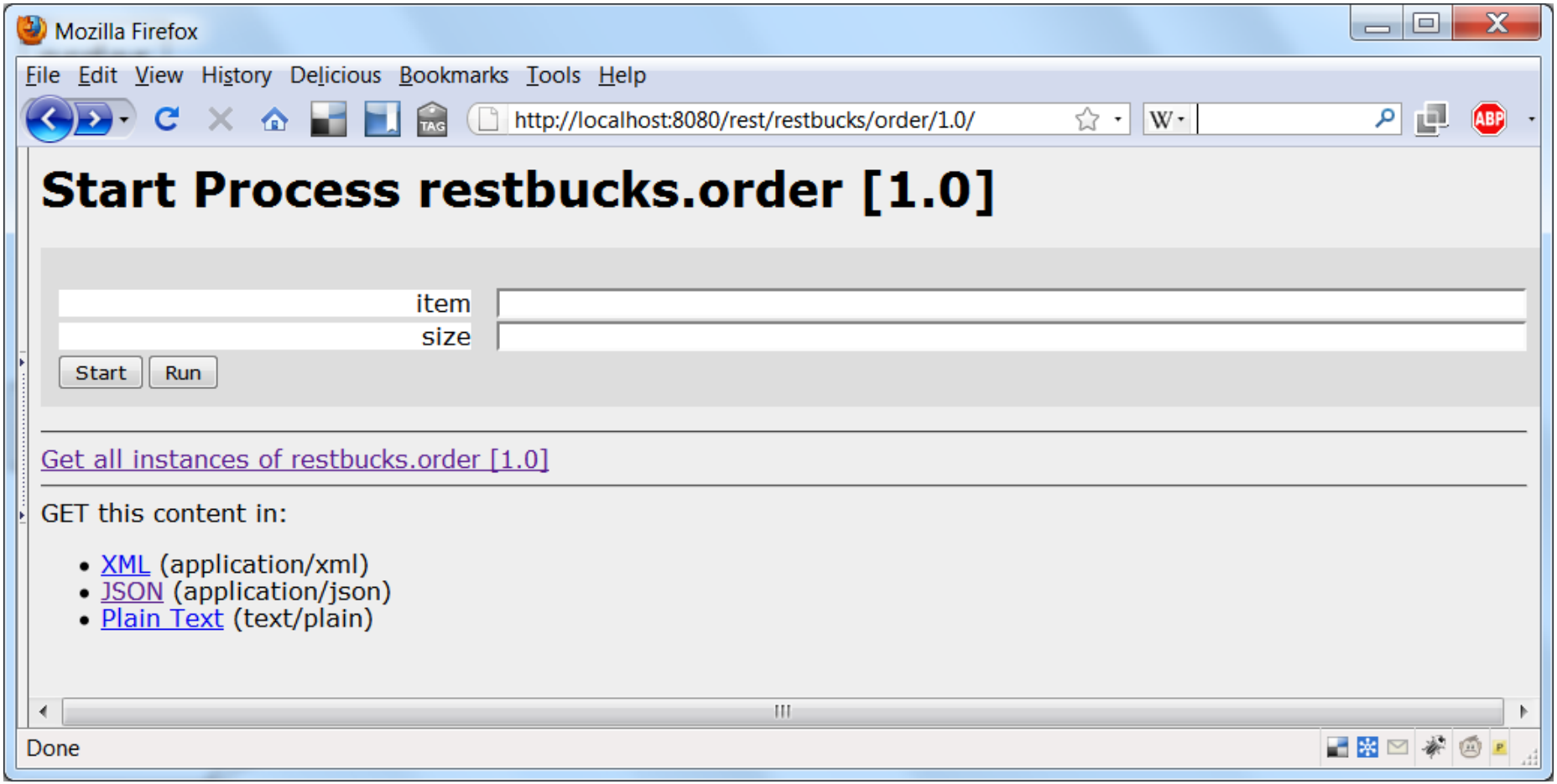
GET /rest/restbucks/order/1.0/



Interacting with a task

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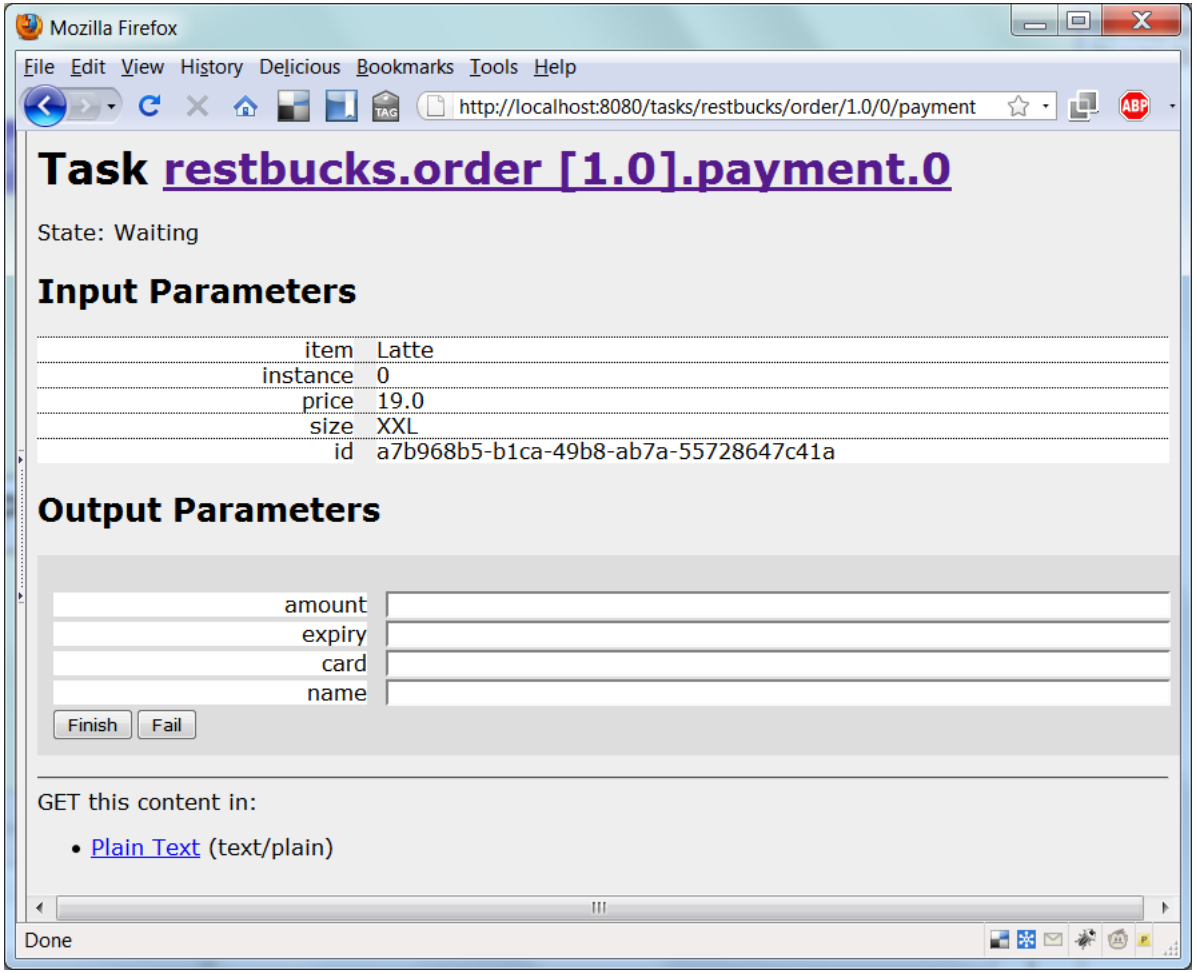
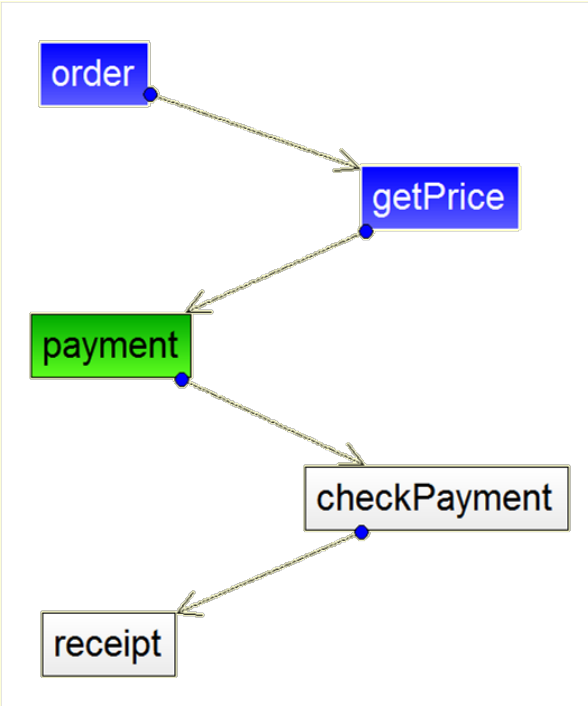
GET /rest/restbucks/order/1.0/0/payment





Interacting with a task

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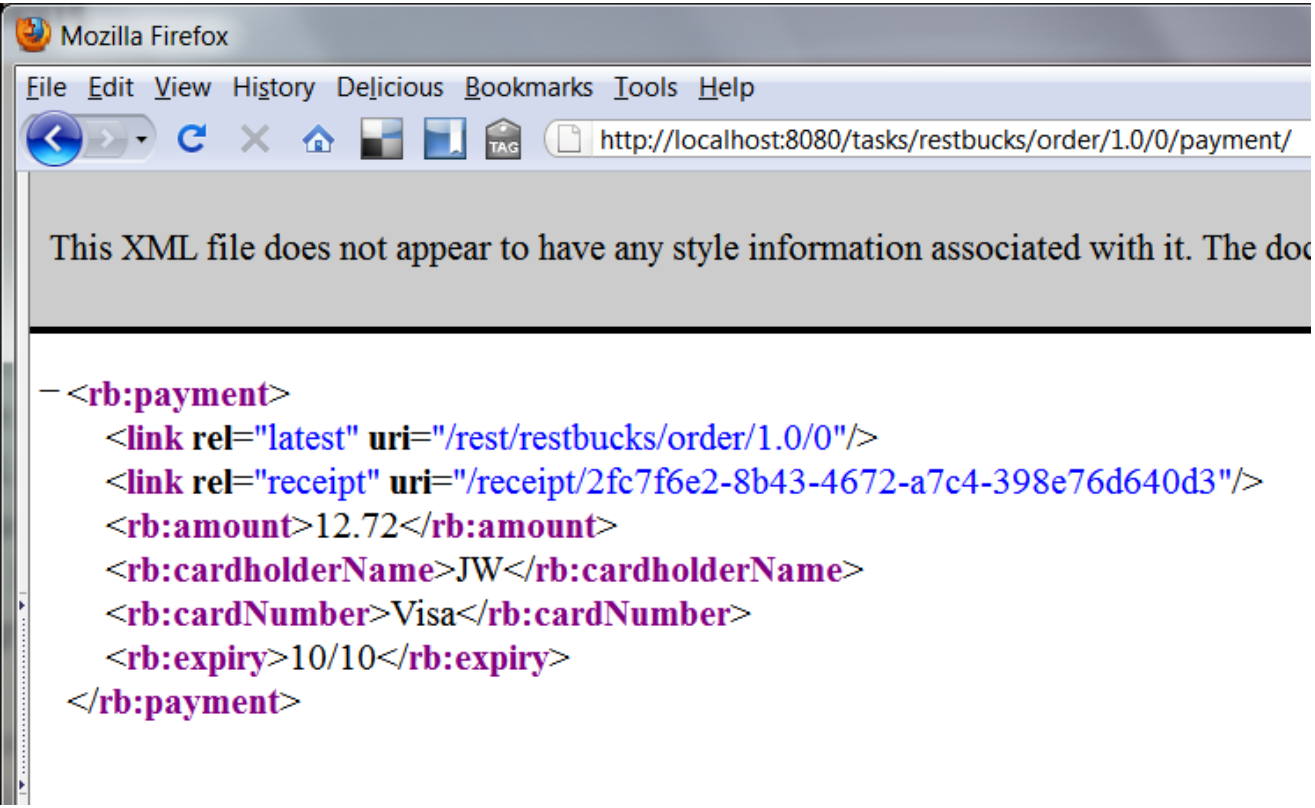
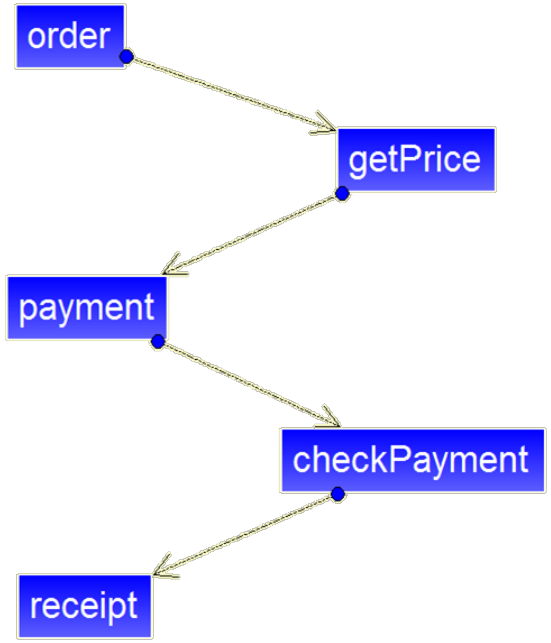
POST /rest/restbucks/order/1.0/0/payment





Interacting with a resource

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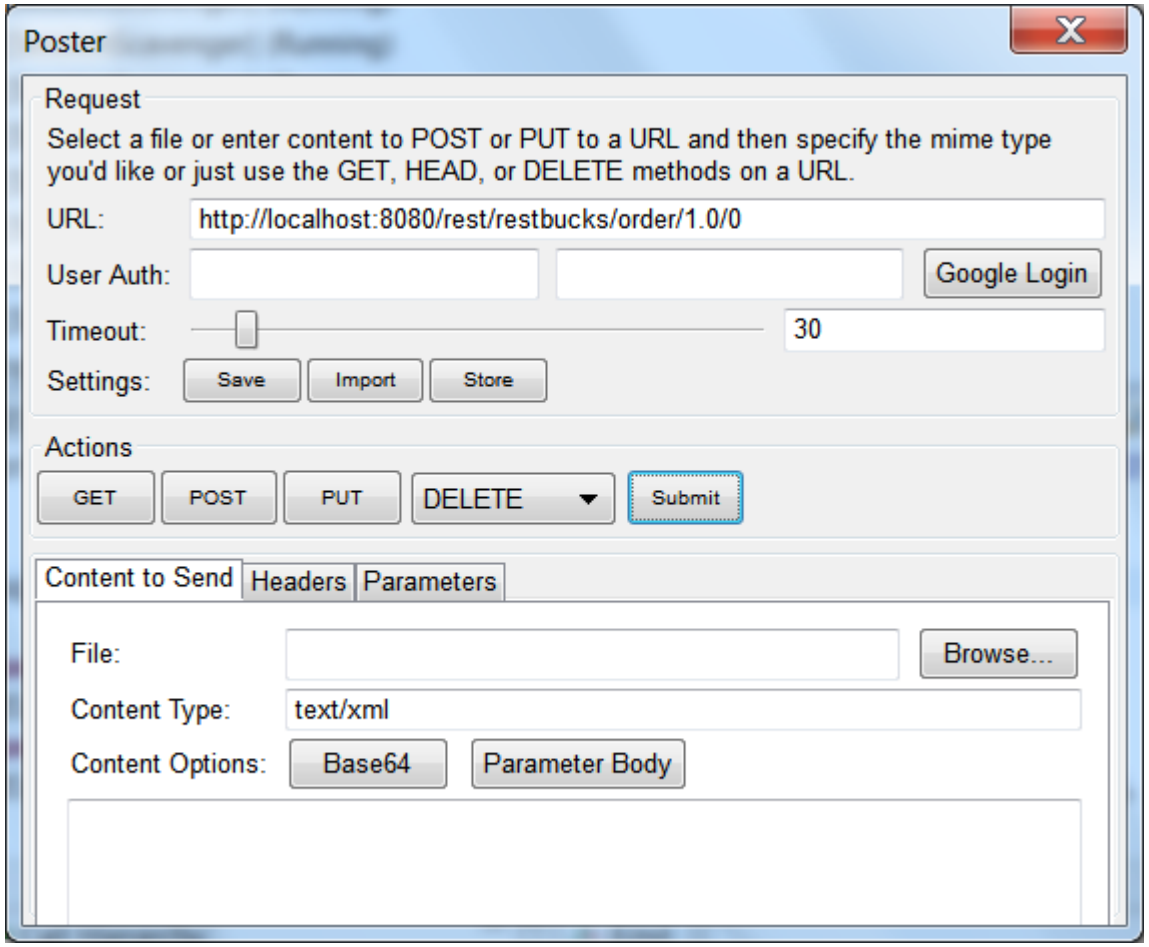
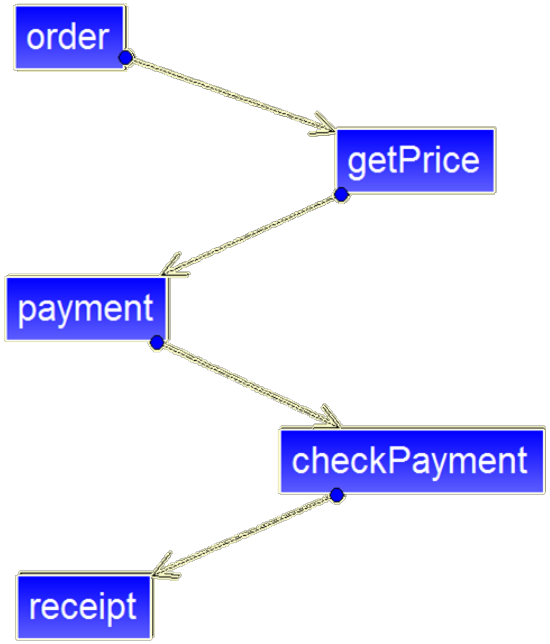
GET /receipt/2fc7f6e2-8b43-4672-a7c4...

Interacting with a resource

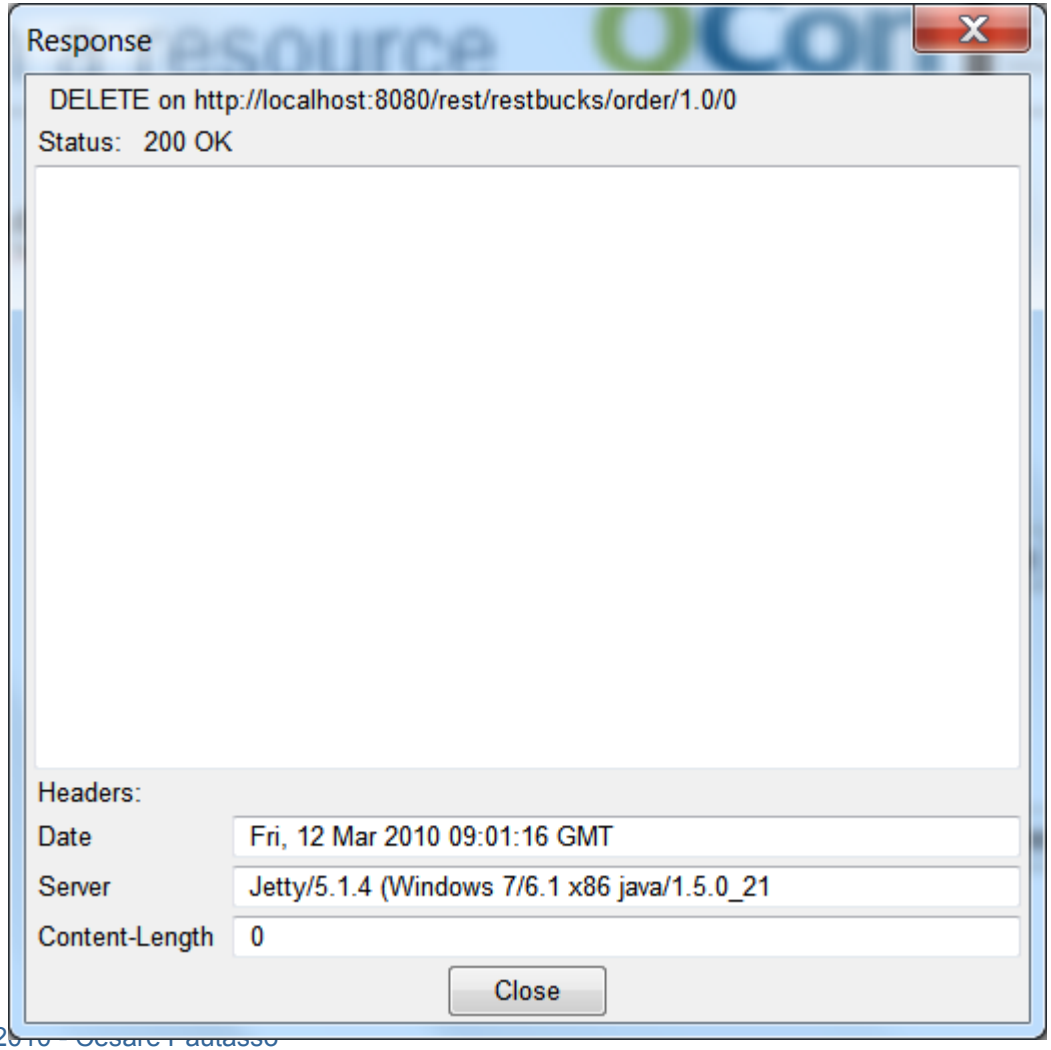
DELETE /rest/restbucks/order/1.0/0

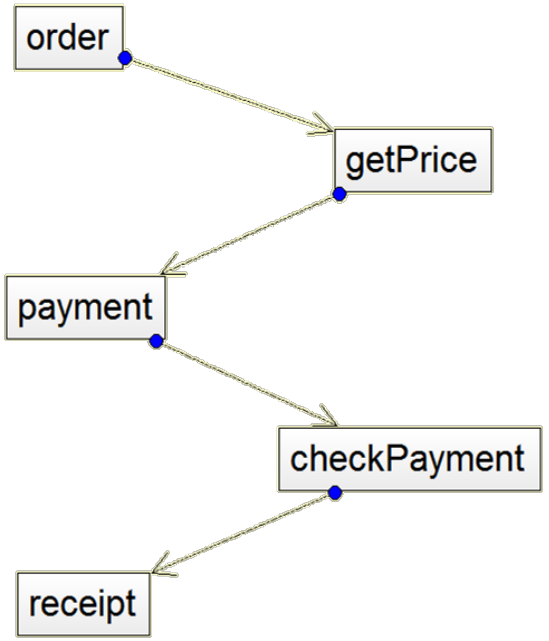




Deleting a process resource

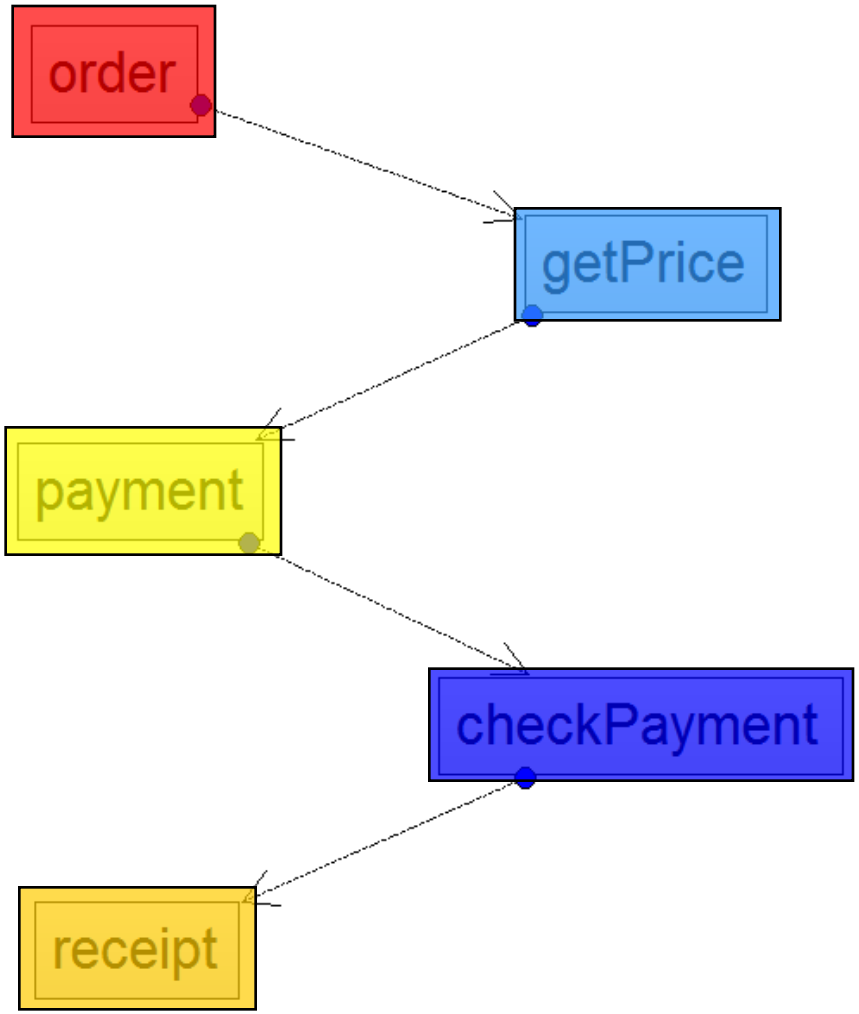
DELETE /rest/restbucks/order/1.0/0



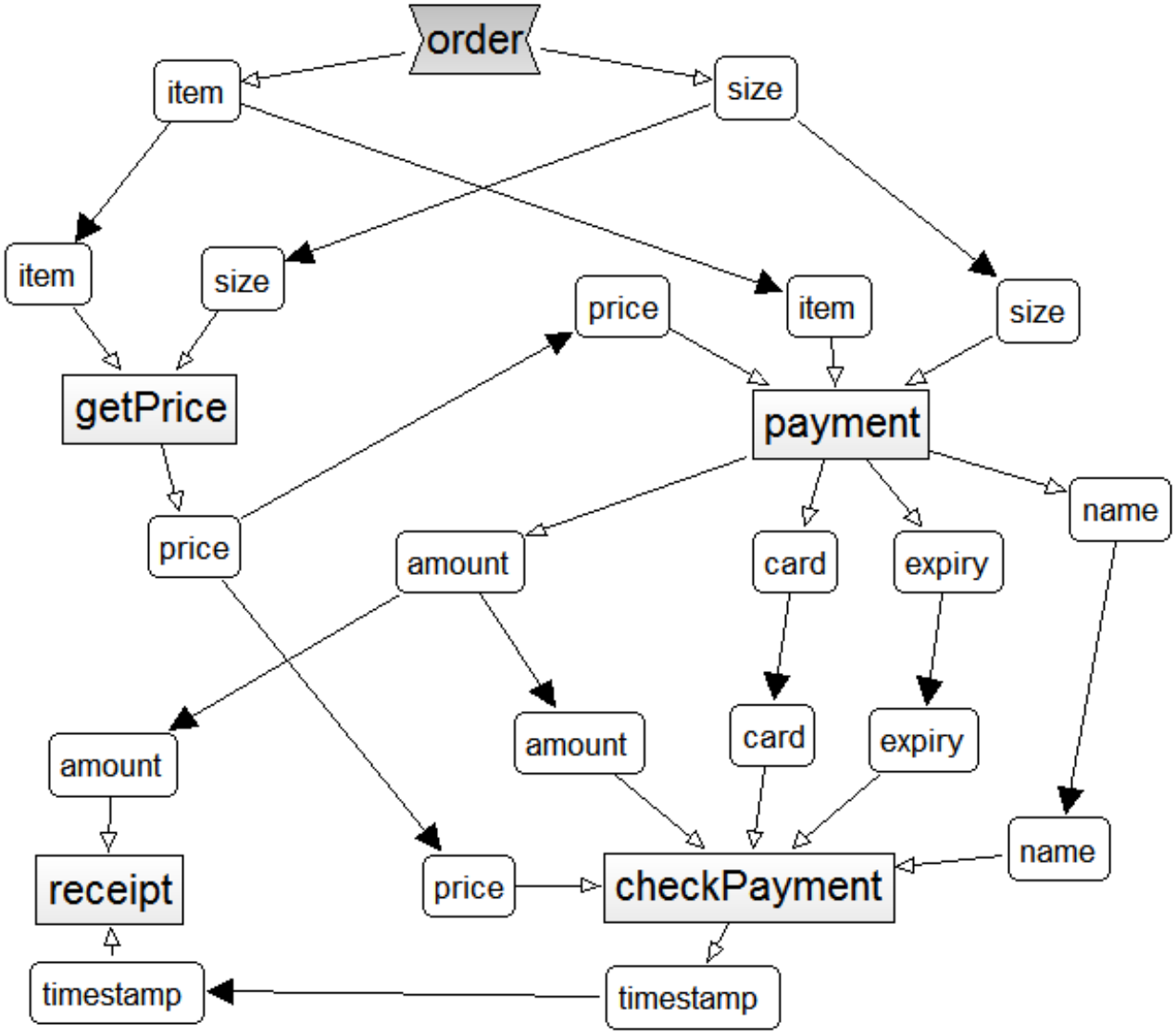


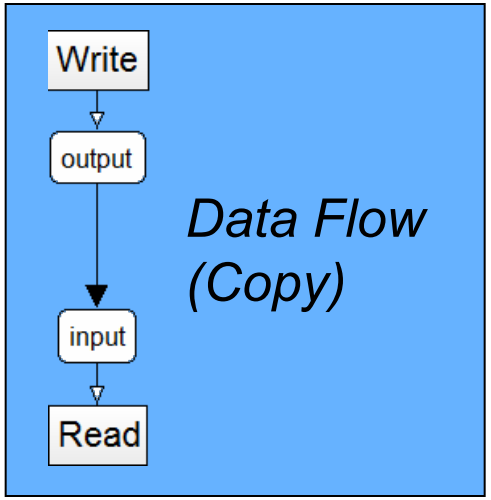
Service Bindings

- SQL
- WS-*
- REST
- REST.URI
- REST.TASK



Data Flow





Conclusions

- RESTful HTTP is good enough to interact **without any extension** with process execution engines and their processes and tasks published as resources
- RESTful Web service composition is different than mashups, but both can be built using BPM
- If done right, BPM can be a great modeling tool for Hypermedia-centric service design **(and implementation!)**
- GET http://www.jopera.org/

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Self-References

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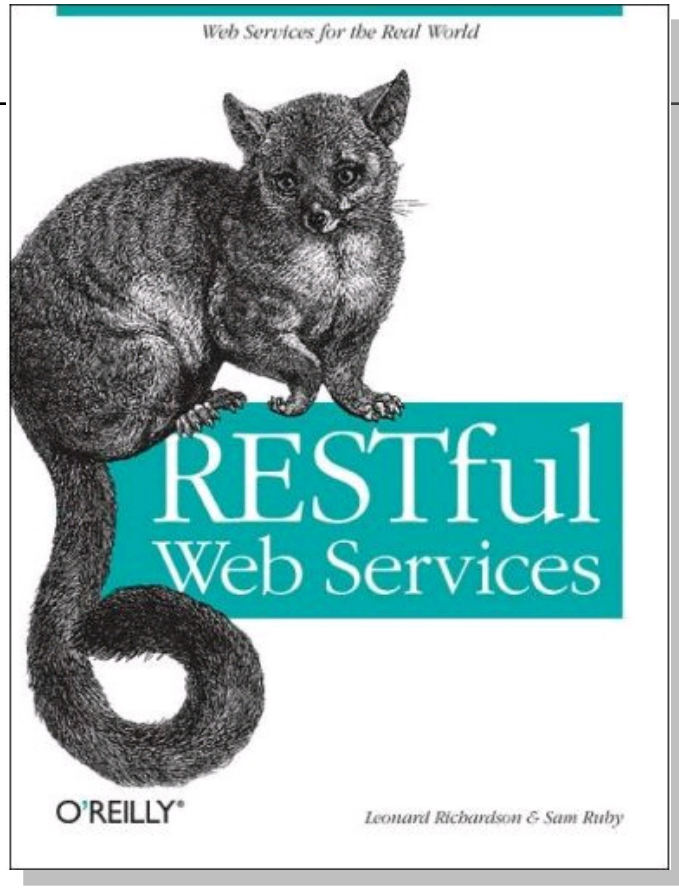

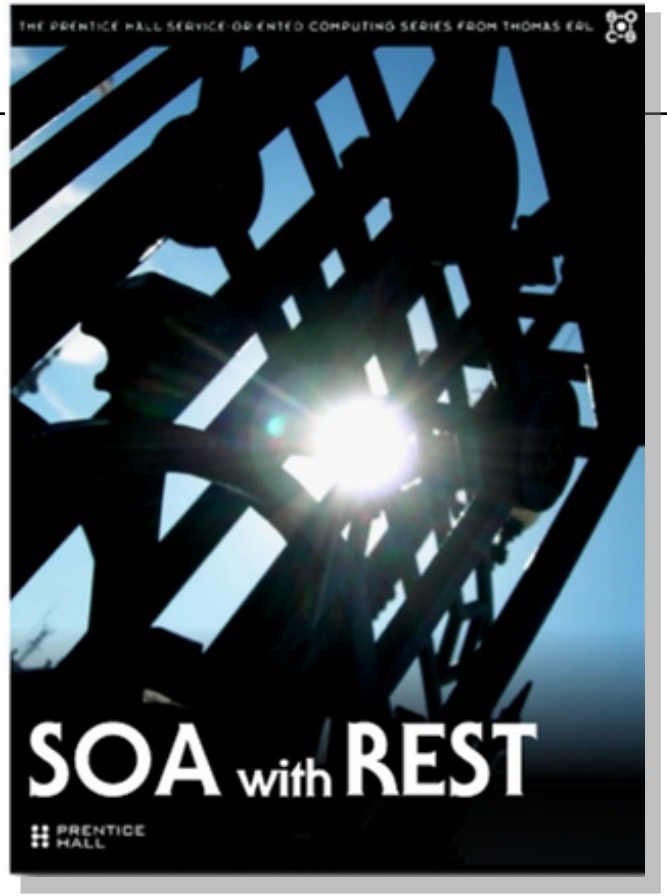

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