Consuming

Web Services from RPG using HTTPAPI

Presented by

Scott Klement

http://www.scottklement.com

© 2004-2009, Scott Klement

"There are 10 types of people in the world. Those who understand binary, and those who don't."

Why Web Services?



A web service provides the ability to call a program (or procedure) over the Web.

- How is this different from the Web applications I see all the time?
- Couldn't I just automate those?
- · What good is a Web service?

I'll answer these questions, but first some background . . .

Web Applications



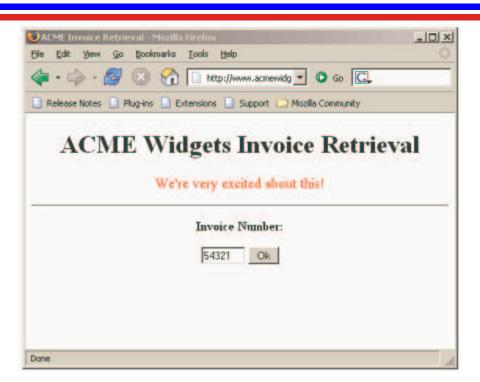
In a typical web application...

- A Web browser displays a web page containing input fields
- The user types some data or makes some selections
- The browser sends the data to a web server which then passes it on to a program
- After processing, the program spits out a new web page for the browser to display

3

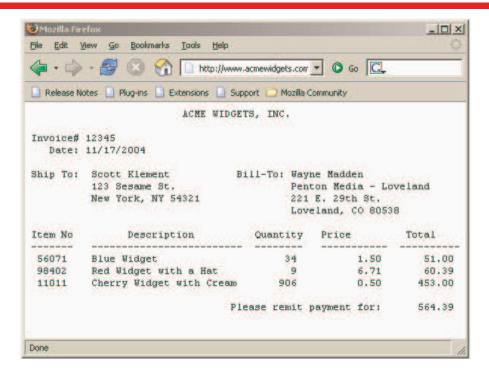
Web Enabled Invoice





Web Enabled Invoice





5

An idea is born



Eureka! Our company could save time!

- Automatically download the invoice in a program.
- Read the invoice from the download file, get the invoice number as a substring of the 3rd line
- Get the date as a substring of the 4th line
- Get the addresses from lines 6-9

Problem: The data is intended for people to read. Not a computer program!

- Data could be moved, images inserted, colors added
- Every vendor's invoice would be complex & different

Need to Know "What"



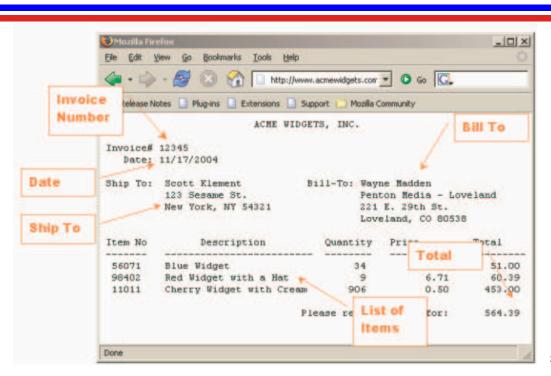
What you want to know is *what* things are, rather than:

- Where they sit on a page.
- What they look like

The vendor needs to send data that's "marked up."

7

"Marked Up" Data



\$ K

8

"Marked Up" Data with XML

```
<invoice>
 <remitto>
    <company>Acme Widgets, Inc</company>
 </remitto>
 <shipto>
   <name>Scott Klement</name>
    <address>
      <addrline1>123 Sesame St.</addrline1>
      <city>New York</city>
     <state>NY</state>
      <postalCode>54321</postalCode>
    </address>
 </shipto>
 <billto>
   <name>Wayne Madden</name>
    <company>Penton Media - Loveland</company>
      <addrline1>221 E. 29th St.</addrline1>
     <city>Loveland</city>
     <state>CO</state>
```

<postalCode>80538</postalCode>

</address>

g

"Marked Up" Data with XML

```
<itemlist>
   <item>
     <itemno>56071</itemno>
     <description>Blue Widget</description>
     <quantity>34</quantity>
      <price>1.50</price>
     <linetotal>51.00</linetotal>
   </item>
     <itemno>98402</itemno>
     <description>Red Widget with a Hat</description>
     <quantity>9</quantity>
      <price>6.71</price>
     <linetotal>60.39</linetotal>
   </item>
   <item>
      <itemno>11011</itemno>
     <description>Cherry Widget</description>
     <quantity>906</quantity>
     <price>0.50</price>
     <linetotal>453.00</linetotal>
   </item>
 </itemlist>
 <total>564.39</total>
</invoice>
```

10

What is a Web Service?



A "program call" (or subprocedure call) that works over the Web.

- Very similar in concept to the CALL command.
 - CALL PGM(EXCHRATE) PARM('us' 'euro' &DOLLARS &EUROS)
- Runs over the Web, so can call programs on other computers anywhere in the world.
- Works on intranets as well

Imagine what you can do....

11

Imagine these scenarios...



Imagine some scenarios:

- You're writing a program that generates price quotes. Your quotes are in US dollars. Your customer is in Germany. You can call a program that's located out on the Internet somewhere to get the current exchange rate for the Euro.
- You're accepting credit cards for payment. After your customer keys a credit card number into your application, you call a program on your bank's computer to get the purchase approved instantly.
- You've accepted an order from a customer, and want to ship the goods via UPS. You can call a program running on UPS's computer system and have it calculate the cost of the shipment while you wait.
- Later, you can track that same shipment by calling a tracking program on UPS's system. You can have up-to-the-minute information about where the package is.

These are not just dreams of the future. They are a reality today with Web services.

Examples of Web Services



United Parcel Service (UPS) provides web services for:

- Verifying Package Delivery
- · Viewing the signature that was put on a package
- · Package Time-in-Transit
- Calculating Rates and Services
- Obtaining correct shipping information (zip codes, etc.)
- FedEx provides web services as well.
- United States Postal Service
- Amazon.com
- Validate Credit Cards
- · Get Stock Quotes
- Check the Weather

13

How do they work?



A "program call" over the Web.

- You make an XML document that specifies the program (or "operation") to call, as well as it's input parameters.
- You use the HTTP protocol (the one your browser uses to download web pages) to send that XML document to a Web server.
- The Web server runs a program on it's side, and outputs a new XML document containing the output parameters.

SOAP and WSDL

Although there's a few different ways of calling web services today, things are becoming more and more standardized. The industry is standardizing on a technology called SOAP.

SOAP = Simple Object Access Protocol

SOAP is an XML language that describes the parameters that you pass to the programs that you call. When calling a Web service, there are two SOAP documents -- an input document that you send to the program you're calling, and an output document that gets sent back to you.

The format of a SOAP message can be determined from another XML document called a WSDL (pronounced "wiz-dull") document.

WSDL = Web Services Description Language

A WSDL document will describe the different "programs you can call" (or "operations" you can perform), as well as the parameters that need to be passed to those operations.

15

WSDL

```
<definitions>
                                              <types> = the data types that
                                                  the web service uses.
    <types>
       definition of types.....
    </types>
                                               <message> = the messages
                                               that are sent to and received
    <message>
                                                  from the web service.
       definition of a message....
    </message>
                                               <portType> = the operations
    <portType>
                                             (or, "programs/procedures" you
       definition of a port.....
                                               can call for this web service.
    </portType>
    <br/>
<br/>
ding>
                                                 <br/>binding> = the network
       definition of a binding ....
                                                     protocol used.
    </binding>
    <service>
                                                <service> = a grouping of
       a logical grouping of ports...
                                                ports. (Much like a service
    </service>
                                               program contains a group of
                                                    subprocedures.)
</definitions>
```

SOAP



Here's the skeleton of a SOAP message:

Sample SOAP Documents



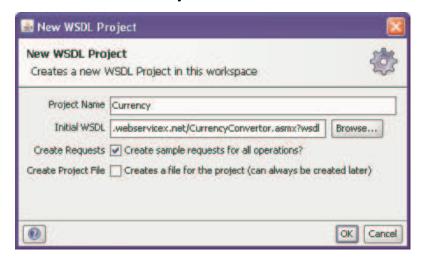
I've removed the namespace and encoding information to keep this example clear and simple. (In a real program, you'd need those to be included as well.)

SoapUI (1/2)



SoapUI is an open source (free of charge) program that you can use to get the SOAP messages you'll need from a WDSL document. http://www.soapui.org

Click File / New WSDL Project



PROJECT NAME

can be any name – use something you'll remember.

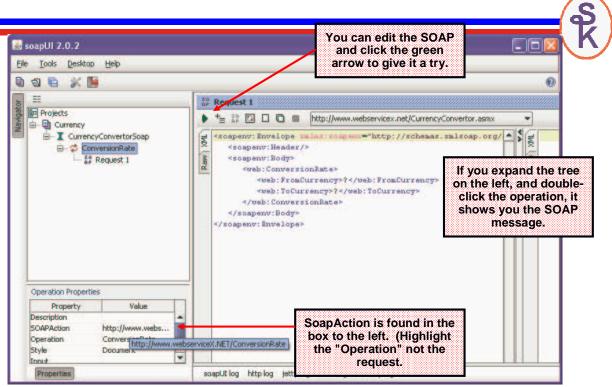
INITIAL WSDL

can be either a URL on the web, or a file on your hard drive.

You can use "Browse" to navigate via a standard Windows file dialog.

19





HTTPAPI



Now that you know the XML data that needs to be sent and received, you need a method of sending that data to the server, and getting it back.

Normally when we use the Web, we use a Web browser. The browser connects to a web server, issues our request, downloads the result and displays it on the screen.

When making a program-to-program call, however, a browser isn't the right tool. Instead, you need a tool that knows how to send and receive data from a Web server that can be integrated right into your RPG programs.

That's what HTTPAPI is for!

- HTTPAPI is a free (open source) tool to act like an HTTP client (the role usually played by the browser.)
- HTTPAPI was originally written by me (Scott Klement) to assist with a project that I had back in 2001.
- Since I thought it might be useful to others, I made it free and available to everyone.

http://www.scottklement.com/httpapi/

21

More about HTTPAPI



How did HTTPAPI come about?

- I needed a way to automate downloading ACS updates from the United States Postal Service
- A friend needed a way to track packages with UPS from his RPG software
- Since many people seemed to need this type of application, I decided to make it publicly available under an Open Source license

Currency Exchange Example

I've shown you the sample WSDL and SOAP documents for XMethod.net's "Currency Exchange" demonstration web service.

Over the next several slides, we'll look at an RPG example that uses HTTPAPI to consume this Currency Exchange Service.

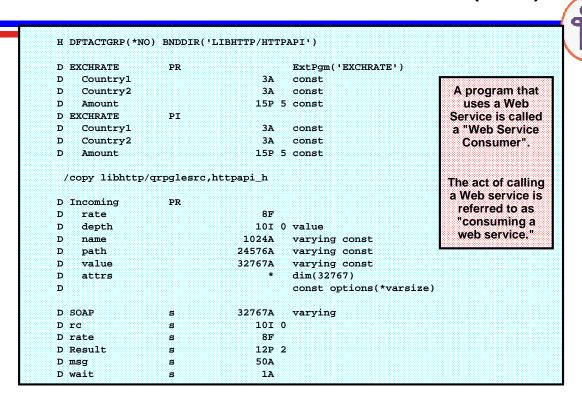
This type of program is often referred to as a *Web Service Consumer*.

In business, a customer that utilizes your product is referred to as a "consumer". For example, if my company makes sausage, and you buy one from the grocery store and eat it, you're the "end consumer."

This is analogous to a program that uses a web service. When the service is used, it's referred to as "consuming" the service. Therefore, a program that utilizes a Web service is a Web Service Consumer.

23

Web Service Consumer (1/4)



Web Service Consumer (2/4)

```
/free
                      SOAP =
Constructing the
                       '<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1" standalone="no"?>'
SOAP message is
                            xmlns:SOAP="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope/"'
 done with a big
                      + *
                            xmlns:tns="http://www.webserviceX.NET/">'
EVAL statement.
                      +'<SOAP:Body>'
                      +' <tns:ConversionRate>'
                              <tns:FromCurrency>'+ %trim(Country1) +'</tns:FromCurrency>'
                              <tns:ToCurrency>'+ %trim(Country2) + '</tns:ToCurrency>'
                          </tns:ConversionRate>'
                      +'</SOAP:Body>'
                      +'</SOAP:Envelope>';
                      rc = http_url_post_xml(
                                  'http://www.webservicex.net/CurrencyConvertor.asmx'
                                        : %addr(SOAP) + 2
                                        : %len(SOAP)
          This routine tells
                                                                     As HTTPAPI receives the XML
                                         : *NULL
          HTTPAPI to send
                                                                   document, it'll call the INCOMING
                                         : %paddr(Incoming)
                                                                      subpocedure for every XML
             the SOAP
                                         : %addr(rate)
                                                                      element, passing the "rate"
            message to a
                                         : HTTP TIMEOUT
                                                                       variable as a parameter.
          Web server, and
                                         : HTTP_USERAGENT
          to parse the XML
                                         : 'text/xml'
             response.
                                         : 'http://www.webserviceX.NET/ConversionRate');
```

Web Service Consumer (3/4)

```
if (rc <> 1);
If an error occurs,
                          msg = http_error();
  ask HTTPAPI
what the error is.
                          Result = %dech(Amount * rate: 12: 2);
                          msg = 'Result = ' + %char(Result);
                       endif:
                       dsply msg ' ' wait;
                                                     Display the error
                                                     or result on the
                       *inlr = *on;
                                                         screen.
                      /end-free
                     P Incoming
                     D Incoming
                     D
                                                         8F
                         rate
                                                        10I 0 value
                     D
                         depth
 This is called for
                         name
                                                     1024A varying const
every XML element
                         path
                                                    24576A
                                                              varying const
 in the response.
                     D
                         value
                                                    32767A
                                                              varying const
When the element is
                     D
                         attrs
                                                              dim(32767)
a "Conversion Rate
                                                              const options(*varsize)
 Result" element.
save the value, since
                      /free
 it's the exchange
                          if (name = 'ConversionRateResult');
 rate we're looking
                             rate = %float(value);
       forl
                          endif:
                      /end-free
                                        E
```

Web Service Consumer (4/4)



Here's a sample of the output from calling the preceding program:

Command Entry

Request level:

Bottom

Type command, press Enter.

F3=Exit F4=Prompt F9=Retrieve F10=Include detailed messages F11=Display full F12=Cancel F13=Information Assistant F24=More keys

What Just Happened?



HTTPAPI does not know how to create an XML document, but it does know how to parse one.

In the previous example:

- The SOAP document was created in a variable using a big EVAL statement.
- The variable that contained the SOAP document was passed to HTTPAPI and HTTPAPI sent it to the Web site.
- The subprocedure we called (http_url_post_xml) utilizes HTTPAPI's built-in XML parser to parse the result as it comes over the wire.
- As each XML element is received, the Incoming() subprocedure is called.
- When that subprocedure finds a **<ConversionRateResult>** element, it saves the element's value to the "rate" variable.
- When http_url_post_xml() has completed, the rate variable is set.
 You can multiply the input currency amount by the rate to get the output currency amount.

No! Let Me Parse It!



If you don't want to use HTTPAPI's XML parser, you can call the http_url_post() API instead of http_url_post_xml().

In that situation, the result will be saved to a stream file in the IFS, and you can use another XML parser instead of the one in HTTPAPI.

For example, you may want to use RPG's built in support for XML in V5R4 to parse the document rather than let HTTPAPI do it. (XML-SAX op-code)

Is /FREE required?

In my examples so far, i've used free format RPG. It's not required, however, you can use fixed format if you prefer. Just use EVAL or CALLP statements.

```
C
                     eval
                               SOAP = '<?xml version="1.0">'
                                     + '<SOAP-ENV:Envelope . .
C
     . . . and so on . . .
                     callp
                               http_url_post_xml(
C
                                 'http://www.webservicex.net/' +
C
                                    'CurrencyConvertor.asmx'
c
c
                               : %addr(SOAP) + 2
C
                               : %len(SOAP)
C
                               : *NULL
C
                               : %paddr(Incoming)
                               : %addr(rate)
C
c
                               : HTTP TIMEOUT
C
                               : HTTP_USERAGENT
C
                               : 'text/xml'
                               : 'http://www.webserviceX.NET/' +
c
c
                                       ConversionRate')
```

Handling Errors with HTTP API

Most of the HTTPAPI routines return 1 when successful

- Although this allows you to detect when something has failed, it only tells you that something failed, not what failed
- The http_error() routine can tell you an error number, a message, or both
- The following is the prototype for the http_error() API

```
D http_error PR 80A
D peErrorNo 10I 0 options(*nopass)
```

The human-readable message is particularly useful for letting the user know what's going on.

```
if ( rc <> 1 );
    msg = http_error();
    // you can now print this message on the screen,
    // or pass it back to a calling program,
    // or whatever you like.
endif;
```

Handling Errors, continued...

The error number is useful when the program anticipates and tries to handle certain errors.

```
if ( rc <> 1 );
                                           These are constants
   http_error(errnum);
                                            that are defined in
                                            HTTPAPI_H (and
                                          included with HTTPAPI)
    select:
    when errnum = HTTP NOTREG;
      // app needs to be registered with DCM
      exsr RegisterApp;
   when errnum = HTTP NDAUTH;
      // site requires a userid/password
      exsr RequestAuth;
    other;
      msg = http error();
    endsl;
endif;
```

WSDL2RPG

Instead of SoapUI, you might consider using WSDL2RPG – another open source project, this one from Thomas Raddatz. You give WSDL2RPG the URL or IFS path of a WSDL file, and it generates the RPG code to call HTTPAPI.

WSDL2RPG URL('/home/klemscot/CurrencyConvertor.wsdl')
SRCFILE(LIBSCK/QRPGLESRC)
SRCMBR(CURRCONV)

Then compile CURRCONV as a module, and call it with the appropriate parameters.

- Code is still beta, needs more work.
- The RPG it generates often needs to be tweaked before it'll compile.
- The code it generates is much more complex than what you'd use if you generated it yourself, or used SoapUI
- Can only do SOAP (not POX or REST)

But don't be afraid to help with the project! It'll be really nice when it's perfected! http://www.tools400.de/English/Freeware/WSDL2RPG/wsdl2rpg.html

33

About SSL with HTTPAPI



The next example (UPS package tracking) requires that you connect using SSL. (This is even more important when working with a bank!)

HTTPAPI supports SSL when you specify "https:" instead of "http:" at the beginning of the URL.

It uses the SSL routines in the operating system, therefore you must have all of the required software installed. IBM requires the following:

- Digital Certificate Manager (option 34 of IBM i, 57xx-SS1)
- TCP/IP Connectivity Utilities for iSeries (57xx-TC1)
- IBM HTTP Server for iSeries (57xx-DG1)
- IBM Developer Kit for Java (57xx-JV1)
- IBM Cryptographic Access Provider (5722-AC3) (pre-V5R4 only)

Because of (historical) import/export laws, 5722-AC3 is not shipped with i. However, it's a no-charge item. You just have to order it separately from your business partner. It is included automatically in V5R4 and later as 57xx-NAE

34

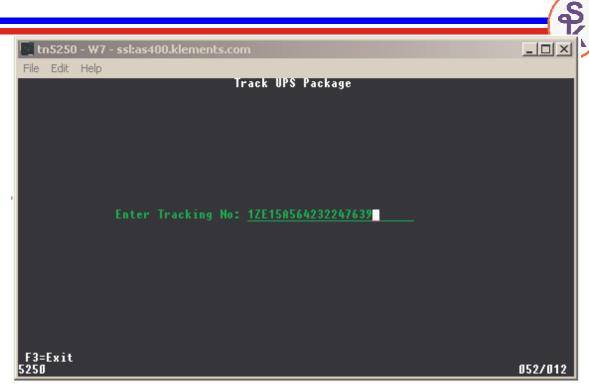
UPS Example (slide 1 of 11)

This demonstrates the "UPS Tracking Tool" that's part of UPS OnLine Tools. There are a few differences between this and the previous example:

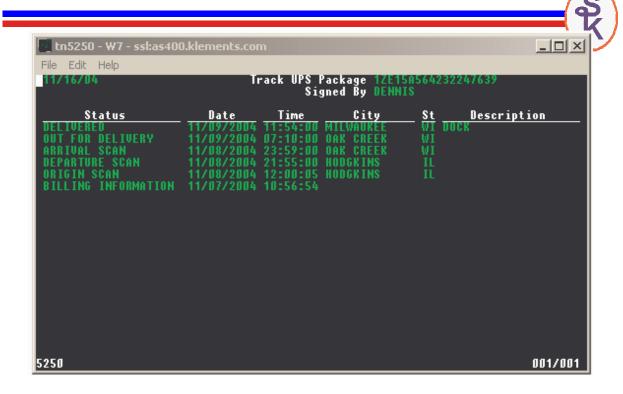
- You have to register with UPS to use their services (but it's free)
- You'll be given an access key, and you'll need to send it with each request.
- UPS requires SSL to access their web site.
- UPS does not use SOAP or WSDL for their Web services but does use XML. Some folks call this "Plain Old XML" (POX).
- Instead of WSDL, they provide you with documentation that explains the format of the XML messages.
- That document will be available from their web site after you've signed up as a developer.

35

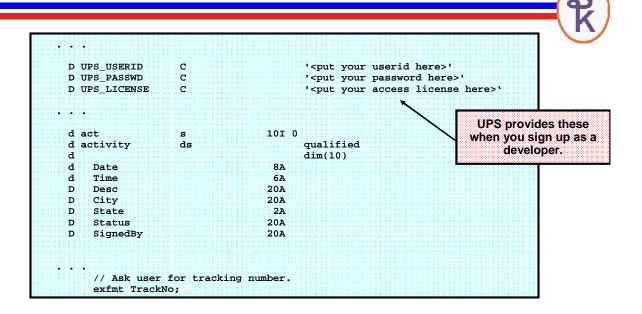
UPS Example (slide 2 of 11)



UPS Example (slide 3 of 11)



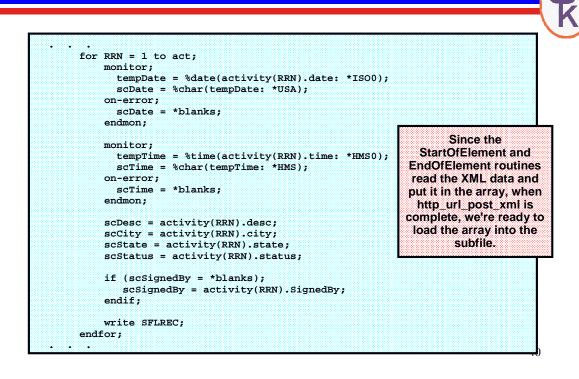
UPS Example (slide 4 of 11)



UPS Example (slide 5 of 11)

```
'<?xml version="1.0"?>'
  '<AccessRequest xml:lang="en-US">'
     '<AccessLicenseNumber>' + UPS_LICENSE + '</AccessLicenseNumber>' +
     '<UserId>' + UPS_USERID + '</UserId>'
     '<Password>' + UPS_PASSWD + '</Password>'
  '</AccessRequest>'
  '<?xml version="1.0"?>'
  '<TrackRequest xml:lang="en-US">'
     '<Request>'
        '<TransactionReference>'
           '<CustomerContext>Example 1</CustomerContext>'
           '<XpciVersion>1.0001</XpciVersion>'
        '</TransactionReference>'
        '<RequestAction>Track</RequestAction>'
        '<RequestOption>activity</RequestOption>'
     '</Request>'
     '<TrackingNumber>' + TrackingNo + '</TrackingNumber>'
  '</TrackRequest>'
rc = http_url_post_xml('https://wwwcie.ups.com/ups.app/xml/Track'
                      : %addr(postData) + 2
                      : %len(postData)
                      : %paddr(StartOfElement)
                                                         The StartOfElement
                      : %paddr(EndOfElement)
                                                           and EndOfElement
                      : *NULL );
                                                        routines are called while
if (rc <> 1);
                                                        http_url_post_xml is
  msg = http_error();
   // REPORT ERROR TO USER
                                                                running
endif;
```

UPS Example (slide 6 of 11)



UPS Example (slide 7 of 11)

```
<?xml version="1.0" ?>
<TrackResponse>
 <Shipment>
                                                                    This is what the
    <Package>
      <Activity>
                                                                 response from UPS will
        <ActivityLocation>
                                                                       look like.
          <Address>
            <Citv>MILWAUKEE</Citv>
            <StateProvinceCode>WI</StateProvinceCode>
            <PostalCode>53207</PostalCode>
            <CountryCode>US</CountryCode>
                                                                  HTTPAPI will call the
          </Address>
                                                                   StartOfElement
          <Code>AI</Code>
                                                                  procedure for every
          <Description>DOCK</Description>
                                                                  "start" XML element.
          <SignedForByName>DENNIS</SignedForByName>
        </ActivityLocation>
        <Status>
          <StatusType>
            <Code>D</Code>
                                                                  HTTPAPI will call the
            <Description>DELIVERED</Description>
                                                                    EndOfElement
          </StatusType>
                                                                  procedure for every
          <StatusCode>
            <Code>KB</Code>
                                                                 "end" XML element. At
          </StatusCode>
                                                                 that time, it'll also pass
        </Status>
                                                                       the value.
       <Date>20041109</Date>
       <Time>115400</Time>
     </Activity>
```

UPS Example (slide 8 of 11)

```
<Activity>
        <ActivityLocation>
          <Address>
            <City>OAK CREEK</City>
            <StateProvinceCode>WI</StateProvinceCode>
            <CountryCode>US</CountryCode>
          </Address>
        </ActivityLocation>
        <Status>
          <StatusType>
            <Code>T</Code>
            <Description>OUT FOR DELIVERY</Description>
          </StatusType>
          <StatusCode>
            <Code>DS</Code>
          </StatusCode>
        </Status>
        <Date>20041109
        <Time>071000</Time>
      </Activity>
    </Package>
  </Shipment>
</TrackResponse>
```

There are additional <activity> sections and other XML that I omitted because it was too long for the presentation. $_{42}$

UPS Example (slide 9 of 11)



```
P StartOfElement B
D StartOfElement PI
   UserData
                                       value
D
                                10I 0 value
ת
    depth
D
   name
                              1024A
                                       varying const
    path
                                       varying const
    attrs
                                       dim(32767)
                                       const options(*varsize)
 /free
   if path = '/TrackResponse/Shipment/Package' and name='Activity';
      act = act + 1;
   endif;
 /end-free
                  E
```

This is called during http_url_post_xml() for each start element that UPS sends. It's used to advance to the next array entry when a new package record is received.

43

UPS Example (slide 10 of 11)

```
P EndOfElement
                                                           This is called for each
D EndOfElement
                                                          ending value. We use it
    UserData
D
                                        value
                                 10I 0 value
D
    depth
                                                            to save the returned
                               1024A
D
    name
                                        varying const
                                                           package information
D
    path
                              24576A
                                        varying const
                                                               into an array.
                                        varying const
D
    value
                              32767A
D
                                        dim(32767)
    attrs
                                        const options(*varsize)
 /free
  select;
  when path = '/TrackResponse/Shipment/Package/Activity';
      select;
      when name = 'Date';
        activity(act).Date = value;
      when name = 'Time':
        activity(act).Time = value;
      endsl:
  when path = '/TrackResponse/Shipment/Package/Activity' +
                '/ActivityLocation';
                                                              Remember, this is
      select;
                                                                  called by
      when name = 'Description';
                                                           http_url_post_xml,
        activity(act).Desc = value;
                                                            so it'll run before the
      when name = 'SignedForByName';
                                                            code that loads this
        activity(act).SignedBy = value;
                                                            array into the subfile!
      endsl;
```

UPS Example (slide 11 of 11)

```
'/TrackResponse/Shipment/Package/Activity' +
              '/ActivityLocation/Address';
    select:
    when name = 'City';
       activity(act).City = value;
     when name = 'StateProvinceCode';
      activity(act).State = value;
     endsl:
when path = '/TrackResponse/Shipment/Package/Activity' +
              '/Status/StatusType';
         name = 'Description';
         activity(act).Status = value;
     endif;
endsl;
/end-free
                 E
```

45

For More Information



You can download HTTPAPI from Scott's Web site:

http://www.scottklement.com/httpapi/

Most of the documentation for HTTPAPI is in the source code itself.

- Read the comments in the HTTPAPI H member
- Sample programs called EXAMPLE1 EXAMPLE20

The best place to get help for *HTTPAPI* is in the mailing list. There's a link to sign up for this list on Scott's site.

Info about Web Services:

- Web Services: The Next Big Thing by Scott N. Gerard http://www.systeminetwork.com/Article.cfm?ID=11607
- Will Web Services Serve You? by Aaron Bartell
 http://www.systeminetwork.com/Article.cfm?ID=19651
- W3 Consortium

http://www.w3.org and http://www.w3schools.com

For More Information



Web Service info, continued...

- Consuming Web Services with HTTPAPI and SoapUI by Scott Klement http://systeminetwork.com/article/rpg-consuming-web-services-httpapi-and-soapui
- Report the Weather On Your Sign-on Screen by Scott Klement http://systeminetwork.com/article/report-weather-your-sign-screen
- Call a Web Service with WSDL2RPG

http://systeminetwork.com/article/call-web-service-wdsl2rpg

- SOAP Message Generator (automatically converts WSDL to SOAP):
 - http://www.soapclient.com/soapmsg.html
- WebServiceX.net (Many demo web services)
 - http://www.WebServiceX.net
- XMethods.net (More useful web services)
 - http://www.xmethods.net
- UPS OnLine Tools
 - http://www.ups.com/e_comm_access/gettools_index
- SoapUI (Open Source (free) program for testing/analyzing web services and converting WSDL to SOAP)

http://www.soapui.org

47

This Presentation



You can download a PDF copy of this presentation from:

http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/

Thank you!