Web Services:
The Next Big Thing

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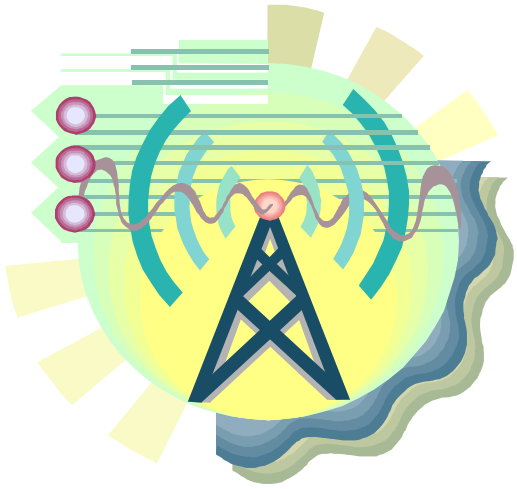

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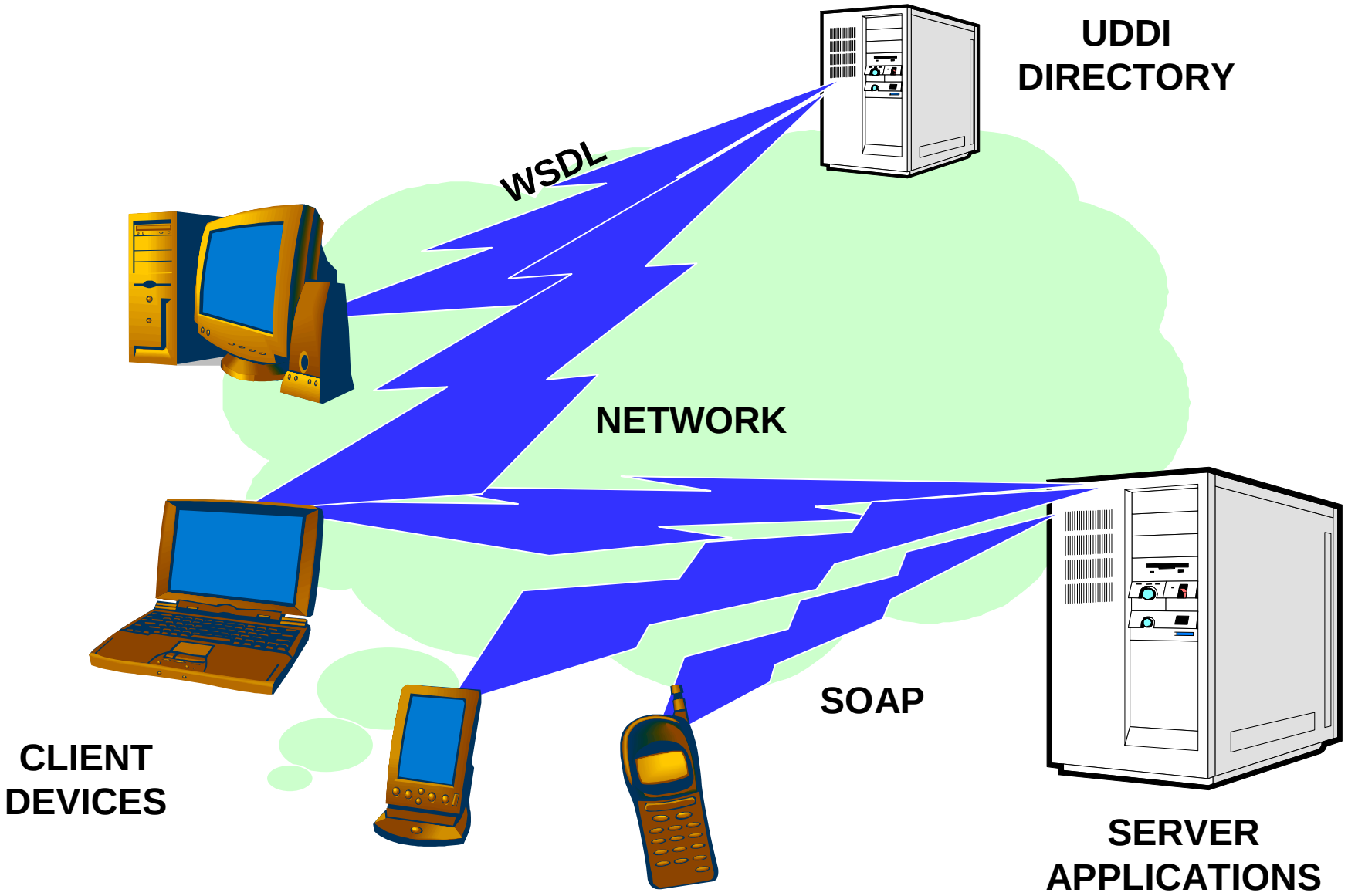
Agenda

- Defining Web Services
- Key Benefits and Opportunities
- Key Challenges and Risks
- Customer and Vendor Perspectives
- Discussing Open Group’s Role in Web Services

Defining Web Services

- Web Services can be defined as standard application programming interfaces which leverage Internet and Worldwide Web protocols to expose application functions for remote execution
- In other words, they are another form of distributed computing…

Web Services Architecture



Key Benefits and Opportunities

- Enabling Heterogeneity
- Federation across the Value Chain
- Application to Application Integration

Enabling Heterogeneity

- By leveraging web protocols, a high degree of interoperability is provided across platforms:
  - Hardware
  - Operating System
  - Applications Component Model
  - Applications Execution Environment

Federation across the Value Chain

- Web services promote inter-organizational communications and collaboration
- Web-based protocols such as HTTP can pass through firewalls more readily than conventional remote procedure calls
- Organizations can exchange information more readily

Application to Application Integration

- Web Services enable application to application communications
- A big step toward the Semantic Web concept

Key Challenges and Risks

- Interoperability
- Security
- Performance and Scalability
- Immature Standards

Interoperability

- Despite the interoperability provided by the basic web services standards, there are still areas where problems will be encountered
- Web services specify the interfaces but not necessarily the behavior of the application functions accessed

Security

- As with other Internet and Worldwide Web applications, web services will be subject to malicious attacks
- Current Web service standards do not provide enterprise-class security
- Intranet-based web services applications will provide some degree of protection

Performance & Scalability

- The SOAP protocol running on top of transports such as HTTP is not a high performance mechanism
- Other integration techniques can provide the performance needed for applications which require “heavy lifting”

Immature Standards

- Web Services Standards such as UDDI, WSDL, and SOAP are early, immature, and incomplete.
- Conventional Web Standards such as XML, HTML are more mature and robust
- Will vendors comply to Web Services standards?
- How can they differentiate and add value without breaking interoperability?

The Great Thing About Standards Is That There Are So Many To Pick From…

How Can Open Group Contribute to the Evolution of Web Services?

- Architectural Coherance (TOGAF, In³)
- Customer Requirements
  - definition and validation
- Sponsoring Technology Development
- Conformance Testing
- Certification and Branding

Summary

- Web Services represent the next step in the evolution of distributed computing techniques
- Web Services are very early in their development, and therefore, there are risks that must be managed
- The use of standards as a basis for procurement of software has never been more important
- The Open Group can play a role.

Steps of Action

- Bird’s of a Feather session
- July Meeting in Boston
- Other…