Chapter 39 Web Services

Objectives

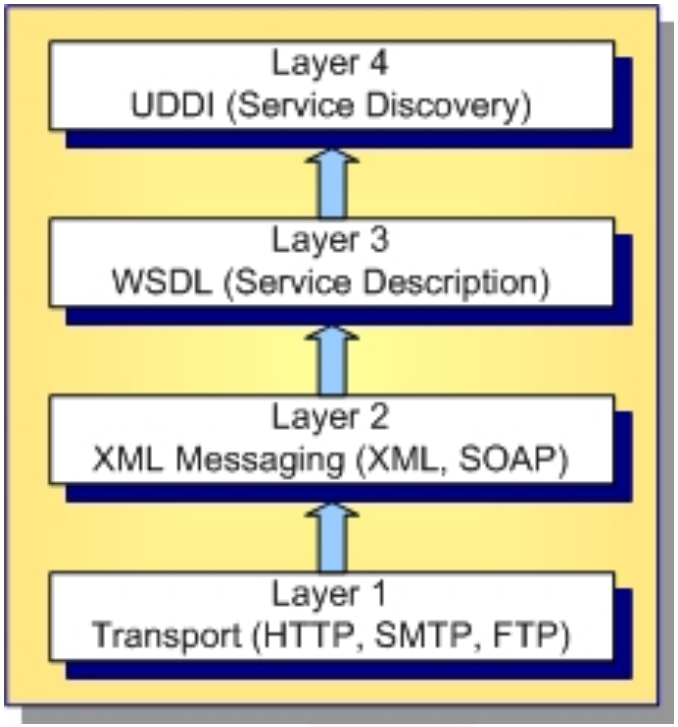
- To describe what a Web service is (§39.1).
- To create a Web service class (§39.2).
- To publish and test a Web service (§39.3).
- To create a Web service client reference (§39.4).
- To explain the role of WSDL (§39.4).
- To pass object type of arguments in a Web service (§39.5).
- To discover how a client communicates with a Web service (§39.5).
- To describe what are SOAP request and SOAP response (§39.5).
- To track a session in Web services (§39.6).

What is a Web Service?

Web service is a technology that enables programs (on different devices) to communicate through HTTP on the Internet. Web services enable a program on one system to invoke a method in an object on another system. You can develop and use Web services using any languages on any platform. Web services are simple and easy to develop.

Web services protocol stack

- Layer 4:
  - UDDI or URI: centralises services into a common registry such that network Web services can publish their location and description, and makes it easy to discover what services are available on the network.
- Layer 3:
  - used for describing the public interface to a specific Web service. The WSDL interface format is typically used for this purpose.
- Layer 2:
  - Messaging Protocol: responsible for encoding messages in a common XML format so that they can be understood at either end of a network connection. Currently, this area includes such protocols as XML-RPC, WS-Addressing, and SOAP.
- Layer 1:
  - Transport Protocol: responsible for transporting messages between network applications and includes protocols such as HTTP, SMTP, FTP, as well as the more recent Blocks Extensible Exchange Protocol (BEEP).

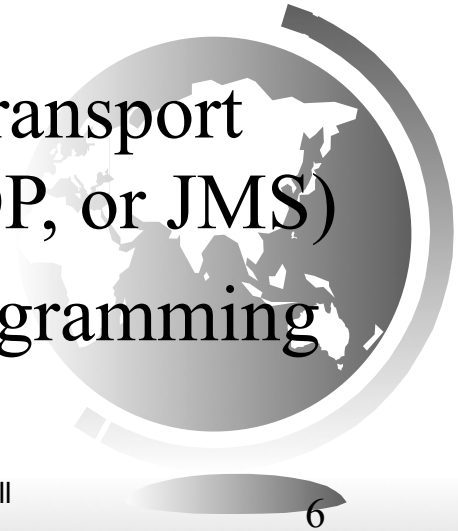


What is SOAP?

Web services run on the Web using HTTP. There are several APIs for Web services. A popular standard is the *Simple Object Access Protocol* (SOAP), which is based on XML. The computer on which a Web service resides is referred to as a *server*. The server needs to make the service available to the client, known as *publishing a Web service*. Using a Web service from a client is known as *consuming a Web service*.

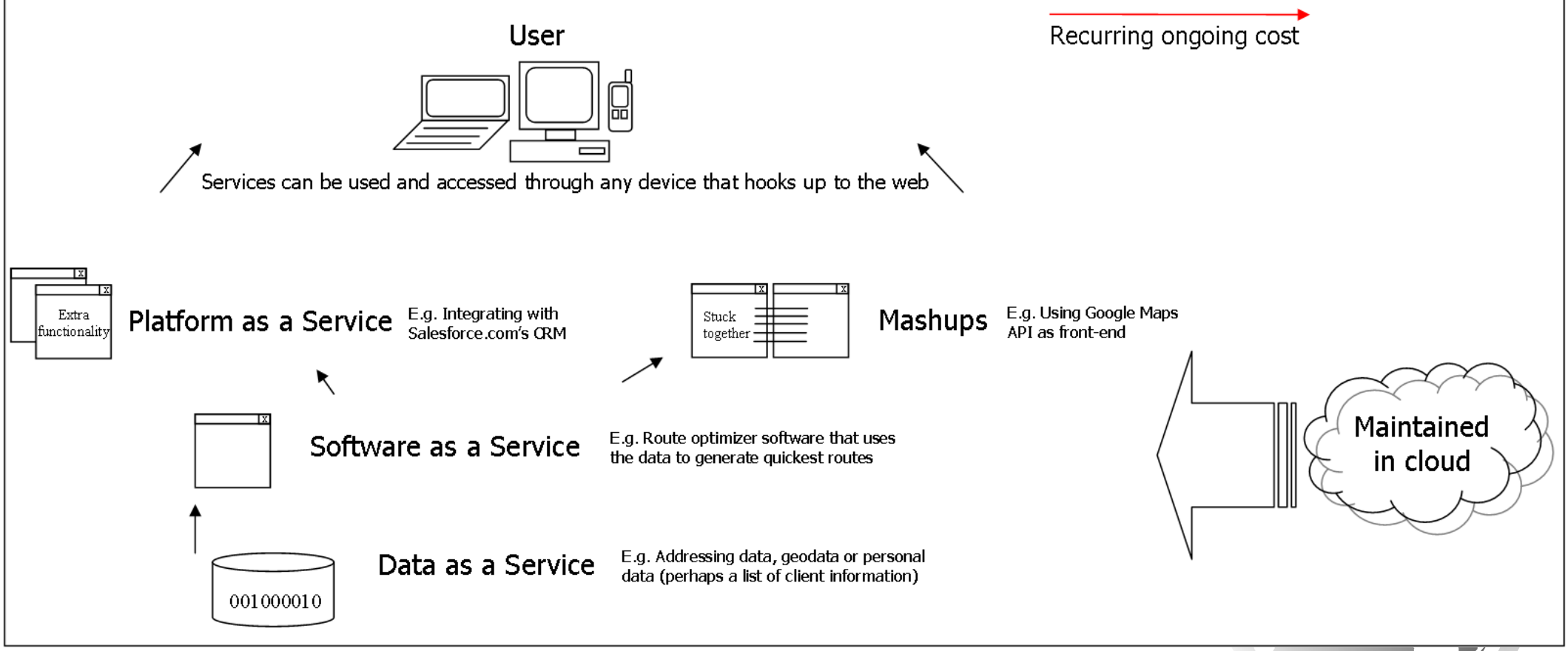
SOAP

- SOAP evolved as a successor of XML-RPC, though it borrows its transport and interaction neutrality and the envelope/header/body from elsewhere (probably from WDDX)
- SOAP has three major characteristics:
  1. extensibility (security and WS-routing are among the extensions under development)
  2. neutrality (SOAP can operate over any transport protocol such as HTTP, SMTP, TCP, UDP, or JMS)
  3. independence (SOAP allows for any programming model)



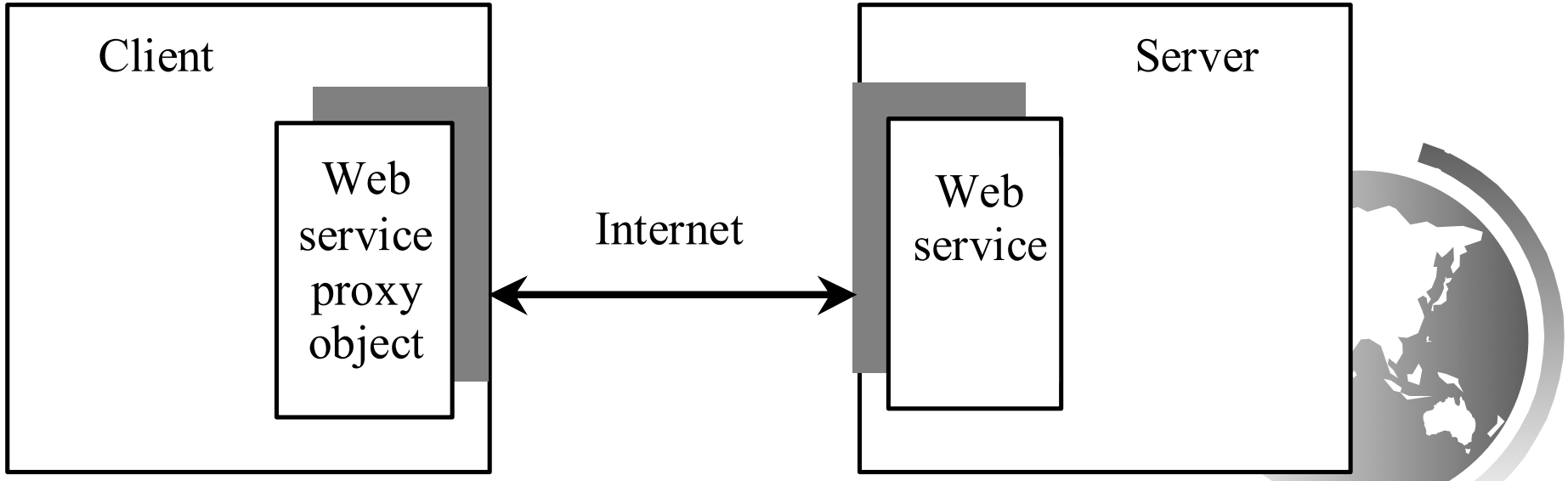
Service-Oriented Architecture

A completely service-oriented model



How does a client communicate with a Web service

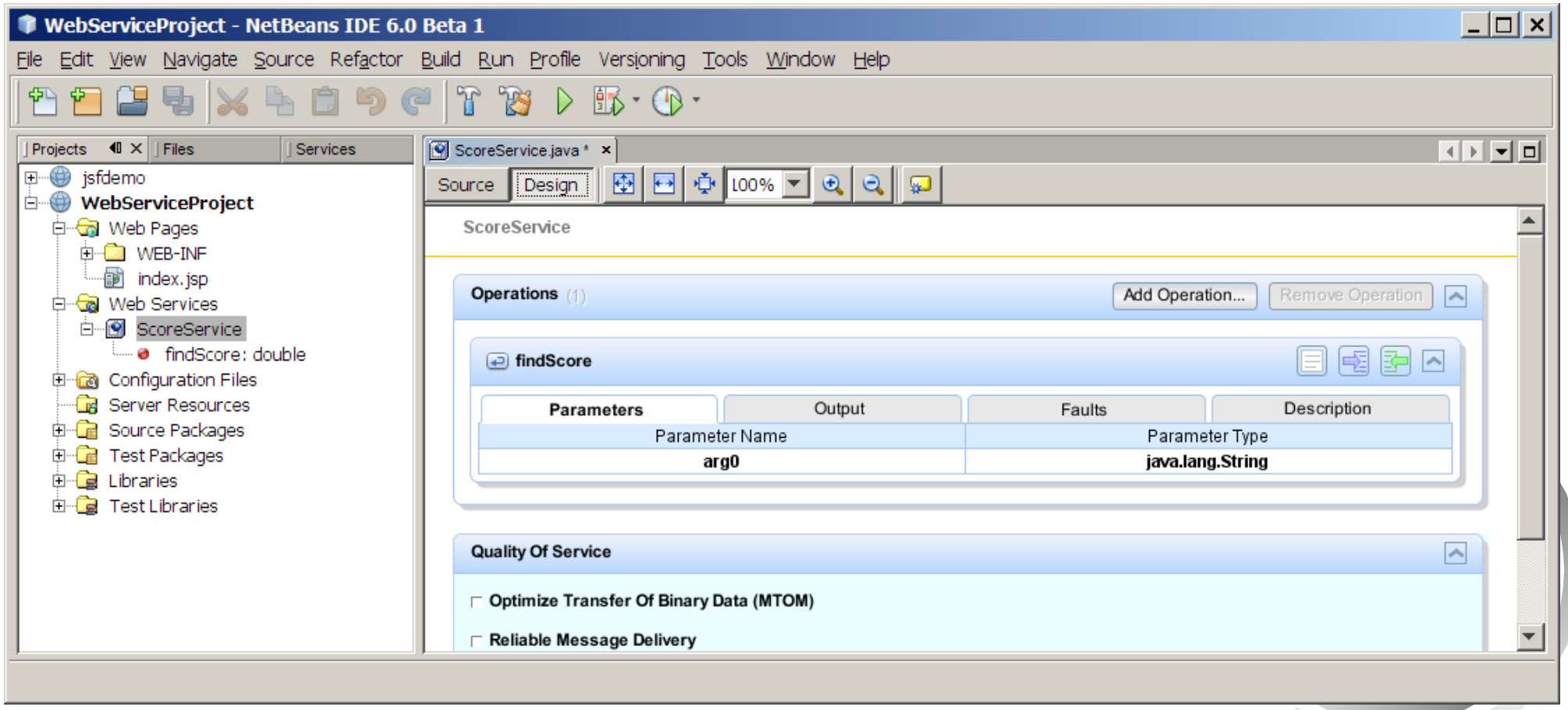
A client interacts with a Web service through a *proxy object*. The proxy object facilitates the communication between the client and the Web service. The client passes arguments to invoke methods on the proxy object. The proxy object sends the request to the server and receives the result back from the server, as shown in Figure 39.1.



Creating Web Services Using NetBeans

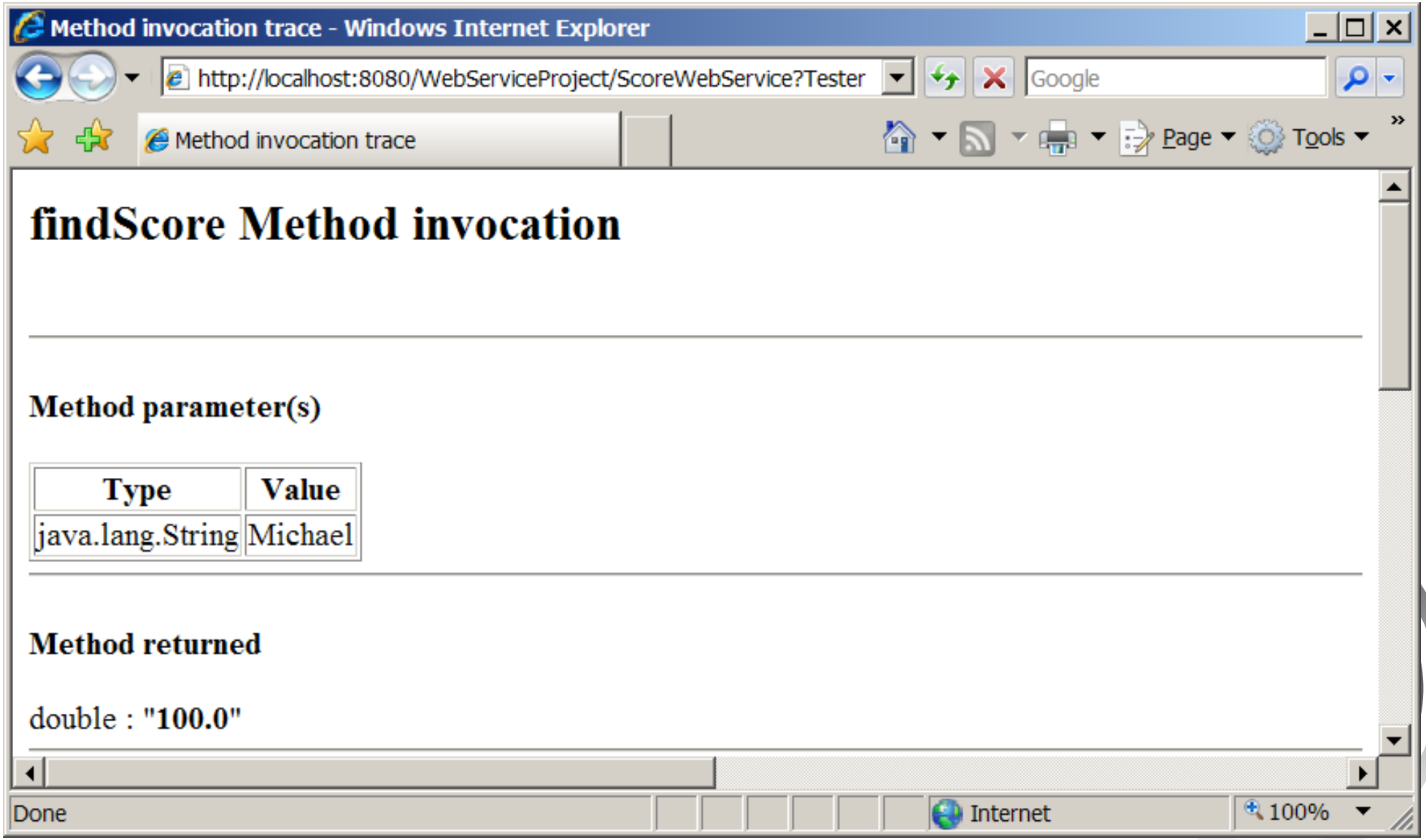
Create a Web project, Create a Web service, deploy Web service

For Detailed steps, follow the chapter on the website.



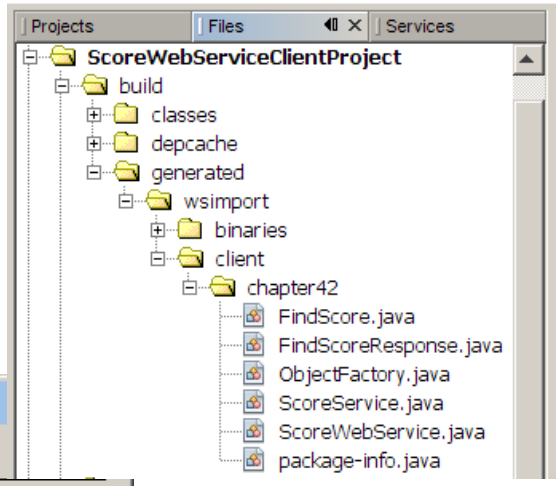
Testing Web Services

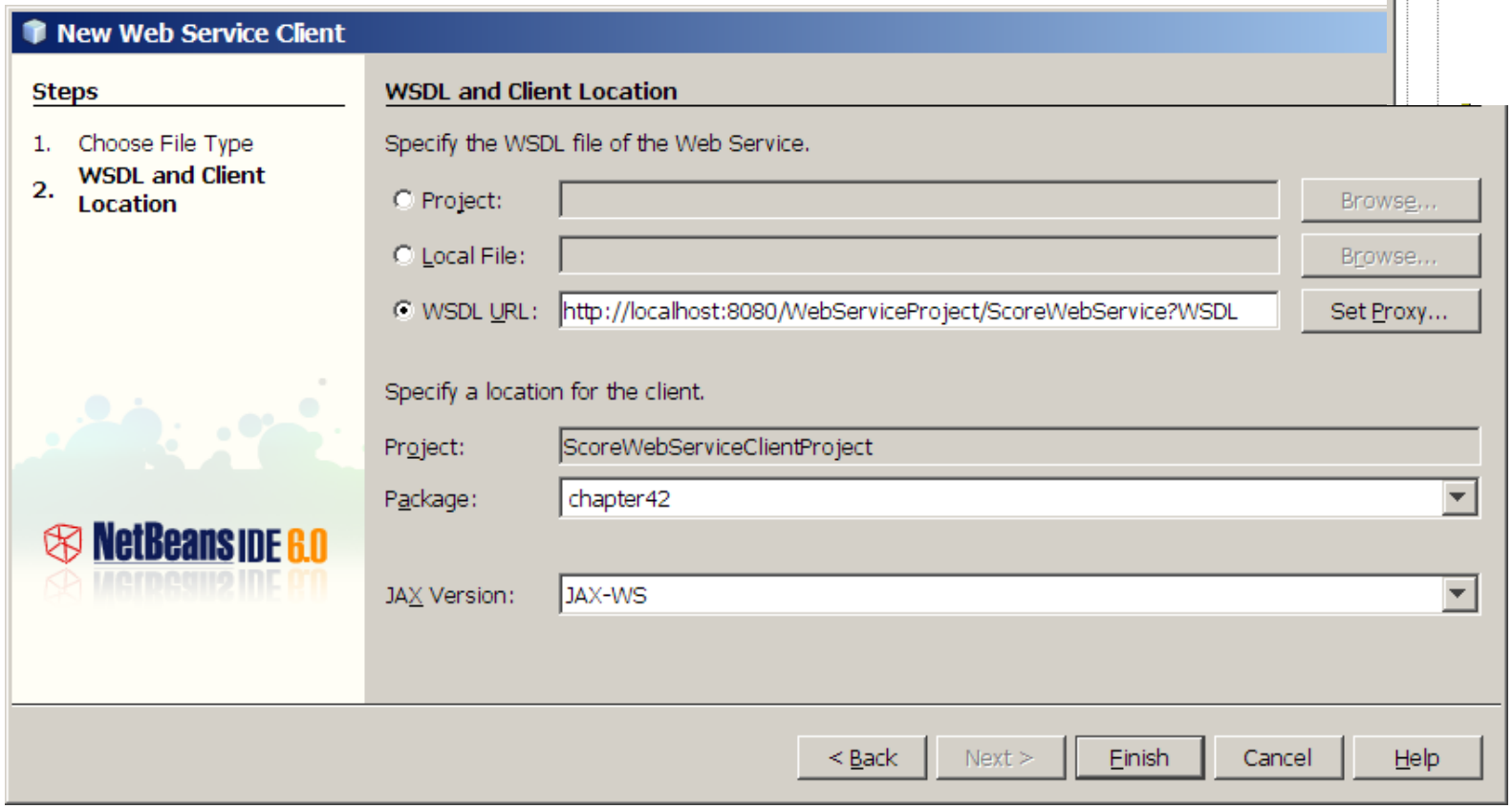
Testing Web Services



Consuming Web Services

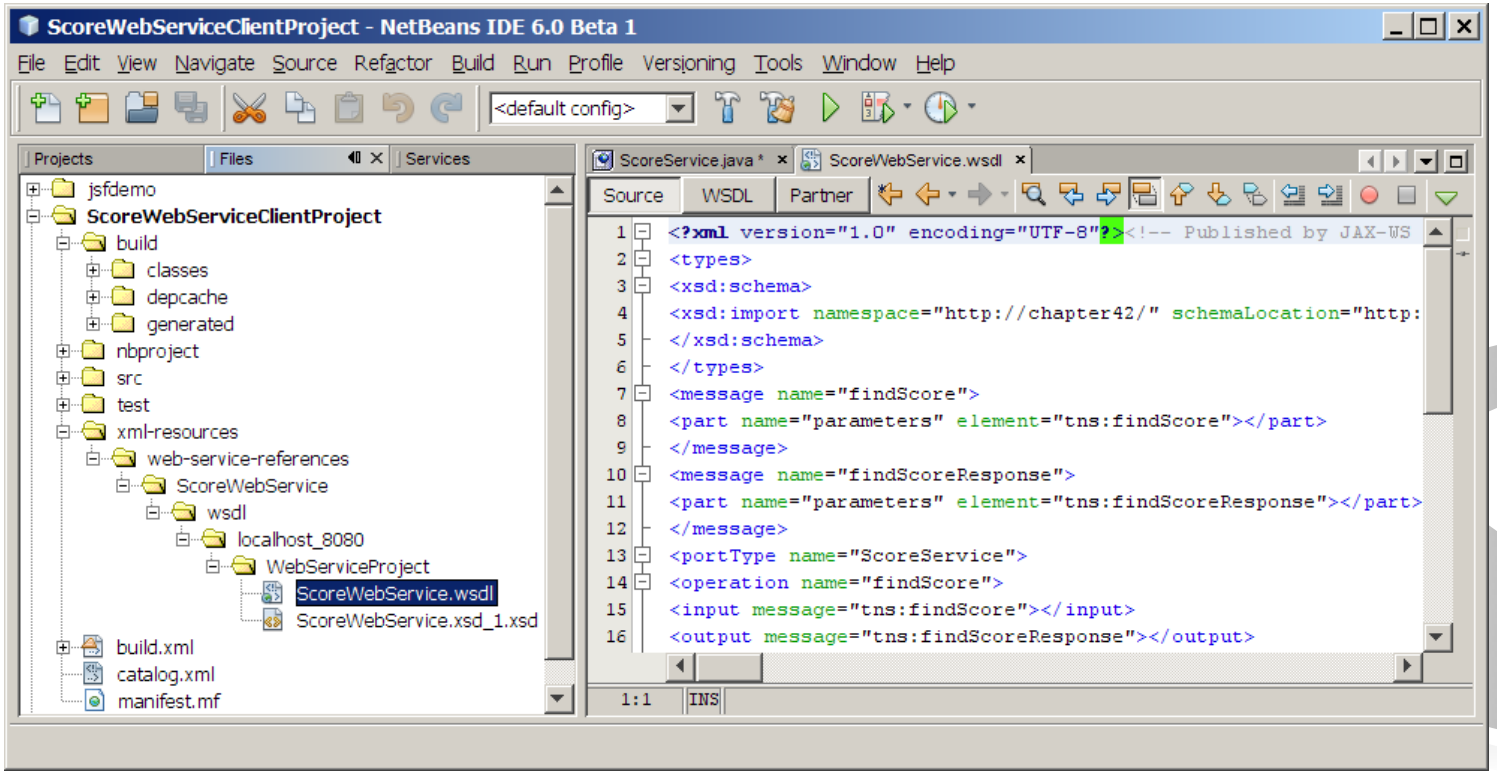
Creating a Web service client



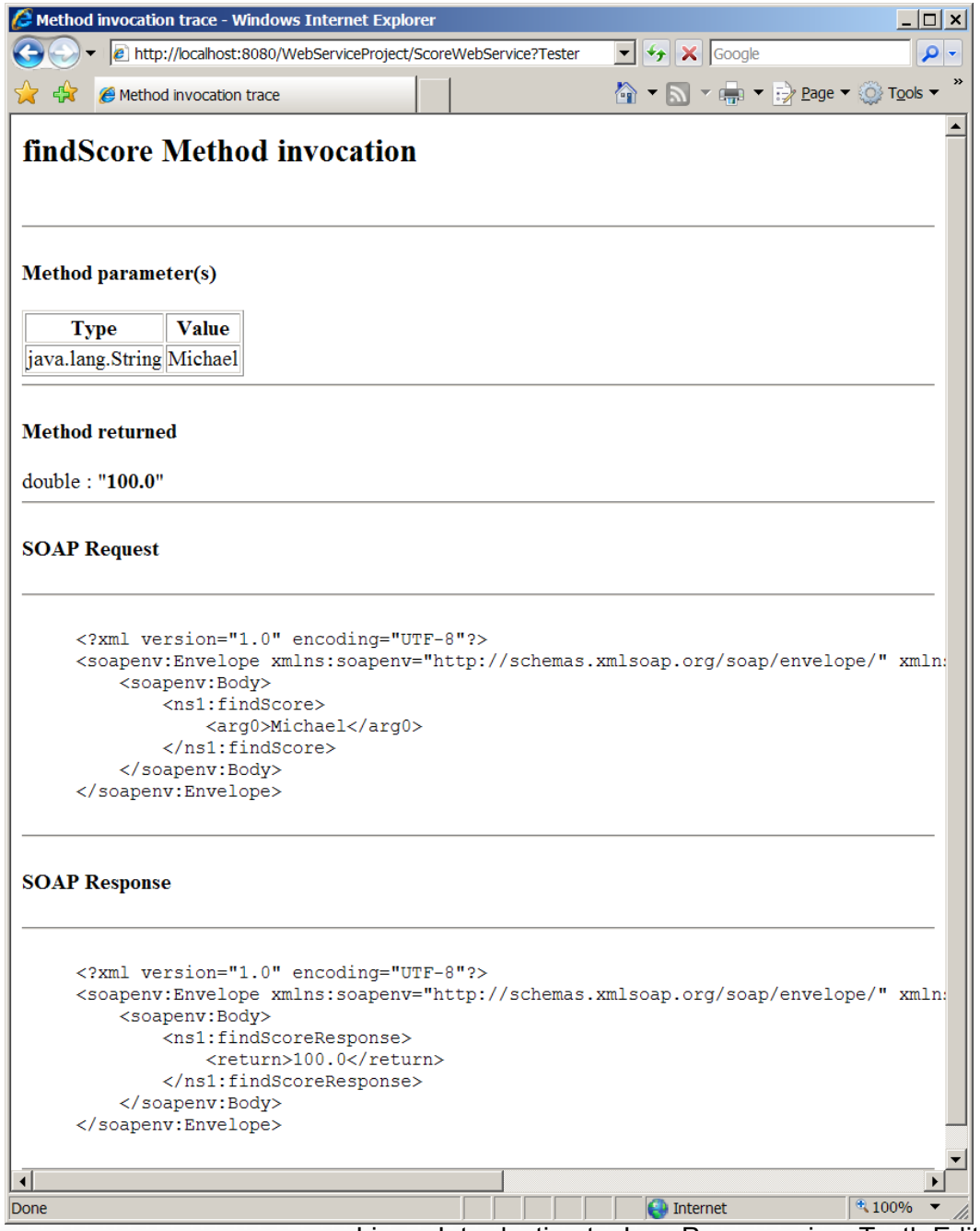


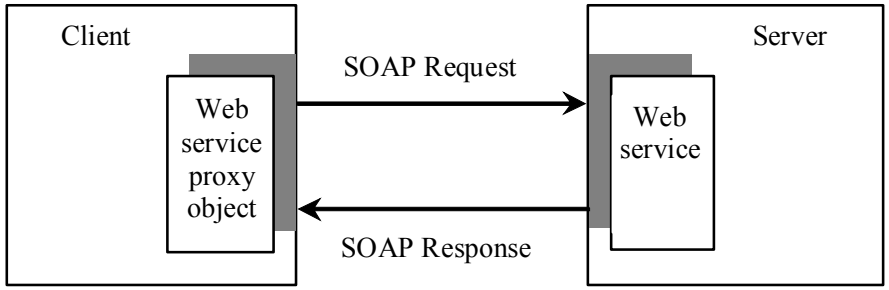
What is WSDL?

When you created a Web service reference, you entered a WSDL URL, as shown in Figure 39.6. A .wsdl file is created under the xm-resources folder, as shown in Figure 39.8. So *what is WSDL*? WSDL stands for *Web Service Description Language*. A .wsdl file is an XML file that describes the available Web service to the client, i.e., the remote methods, their parameters, and return value types, etc.



Passing and Returning Arguments





XML serialization/deserialization

Can you pass an argument of any type between a client and a Web service? No. SOAP only supports primitive types, wrapper types, arrays, String, Date, Time, List, and several other types. It also supports certain custom classes. An object that is sent to or from a server is serialized into XML. The process of serializing/deserialization objects, called *XML serialization/deserialization*, is performed automatically. For a custom class to be used with Web methods, the class must meet the following requirements:

- The class must have a no-arg constructor.
- Instance variables that should be serialized must have public get and set methods. The classes of these variables must be supported by SOAP.

Web Service Session Tracking

§37.8.3, "Session Tracking Using the Servlet API," introduced session tracking for servlets using the javax.servlet.http.HttpSession interface. You can use HttpSession to implement session tracking for Web services. To demonstrate this, consider an example that generates random True/False questions for the client and grades the answers on these questions for the client.