

XML Web Services for RPG Programmers

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Preface

This training manual is my effort to find the best way to approach the subject given the typical environment an RPG programmer lives in on a day to day basis. I have lived through the trial and error research of XML web services and documented the ensuing best practices for you here so, you don't have to.

This training manual is not meant to exhaust every possible definition found in the XML web services space. Instead it will give you a roughly three day approach to learning everything an RPG programmer on the System i needs to know to successfully implement web services. I have formulated it down to such a small amount of time based on my experiences with, hundreds of organizations, programmers and projects relating to XML web services over the past six years. I have found there is an "easy" path to web services by putting all of the right pieces in the right places. That's the intent of this manual – explain in more common RPG terminology what is required to communicate via XML with a variety of applications around the world.

Prerequisites and Things to Note

Programming Knowledge

To benefit from this System i training course the reader must have a general understanding of the RPG language and how to call RPG sub-procedures, including language features up to V5R1.

Workstation Requirements

- A Windows PC
- Internet Explorer 5.5 or greater, or FireFox 1.5 or greater.
- A 5250 emulator of your choice. My preferred is TN5250j which is a free download at <http://tn5250j.sourceforge.net>.

System i Requirements

The RPG web service API's included with this manual (see next section) were compiled down to V5R1 which is the lowest OS level you will need to execute the labs and implement web services on your System i.

Note: The terms "IBM i", "System i", "iSeries", "AS/400" are synonymous with each other.

RPG-XML Suite

The labs in this text use a tool known as RPG-XML Suite, that runs natively on the System i . RPG-XML Suite is referenced in this training manual to create an abstracted environment that allows you to focus on what's important to easily meet real-world business requirements without the need for low-level coding. It is a very usable set of tools that was developed over time from real-world business needs. Because I am a primary developer of RPG-XML Suite, you will find that the toolsets available in the solution follow the same paradigm as this training module. As a purchaser of this training manual you are entitled to an evaluation version of this product for your company's exclusive use as you learn about XML web services from RPG. If, after you master web

services, you choose not to utilize the toolset available in RPG-XML Suite there are several alternatives that can be pieced together with additional low-level coding on your part to provide similar results. Those alternatives can be found in Appendix D at the end of this manual.

Contact The Author

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