



Using the Utilibill Web Service

1 How the Utilibill Web Service Works

1.1 What is a web service?

A web service is a means of data exchange that is platform-independent. It means data exchange is possible between different platforms/applications and different programming languages.

1.2 Definition of Terms

Let us first define terms used in the Utilibill web service.

XML - stands for eXtensible Markup Language. It is a specification for a format designed to store and transport data.

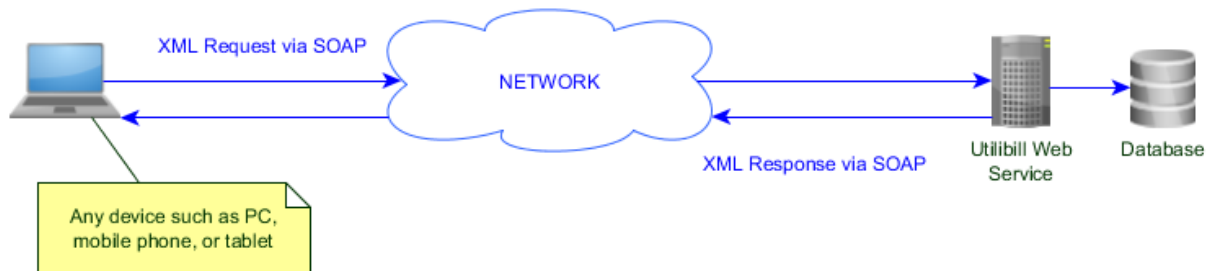
SOAP - stands for Simple Object Access Protocol. It is a format for sending and receiving messages and it is based on XML.

JSON – stands for JavaScript Object Notation. It is an open-standard format that uses human-readable text to transmit data objects consisting of attribute–value pairs. This is the format used for the data that is contained in the response messages.

WSDL - stands for Web Services Description Language. It is used to describe the web services and is written in XML.

1.3 Components of the Utilibill Web Service

The Utilibill Web service provides methods to perform tasks normally done in the UTBR8 web application. It uses SOAP as the communications protocol enabling communication over HTTP. The format/contents of the XML request/response used are defined in the service WSDL.



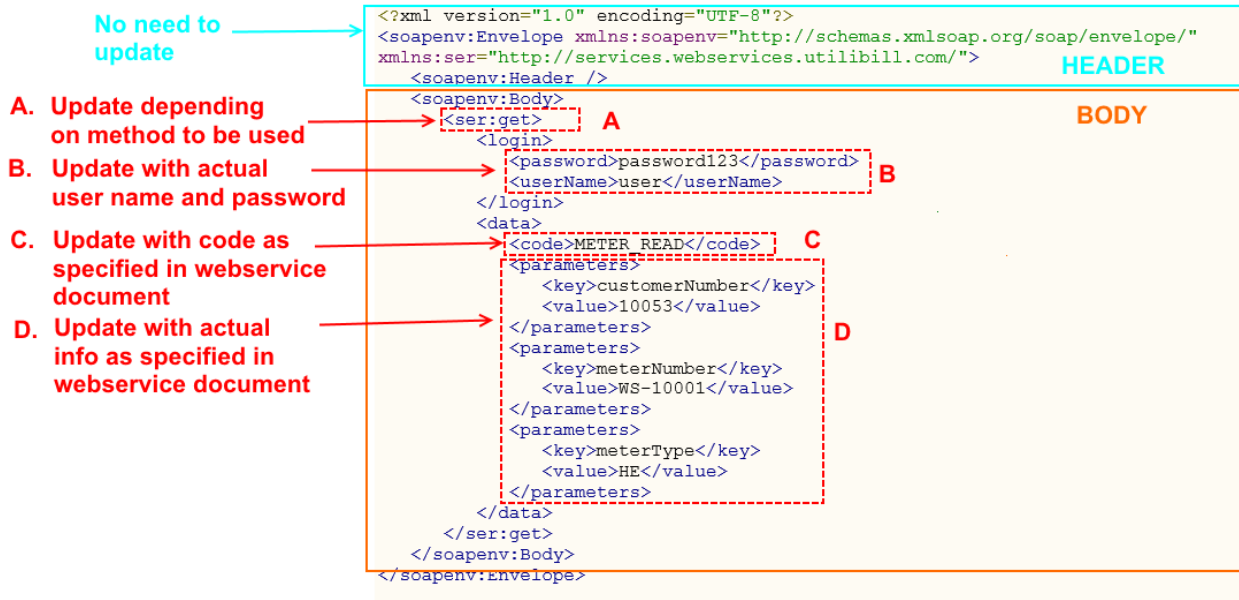
With the web service, users can add/update/cancel customers, add meters, etc.

2 How to Use the Utilibill Web Service

2.1 Formulating Web Service Request

Formulating a request is as simple as filling up the fields in the body of the request.

For example, see an actual sample request for retrieving meter reads.



In the example above, fields that need to be filled up correctly are boxed in red.

2.2 Understanding Web Service Response

Below is a sample response for the request in the previous subchapter. The result data is formatted in JSON.

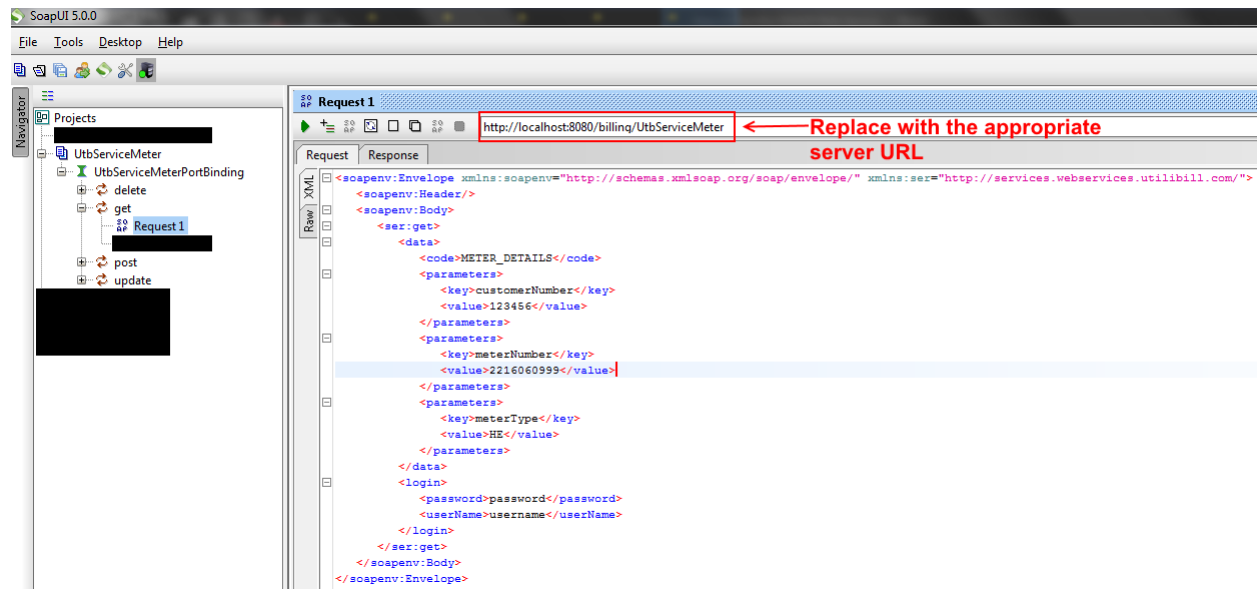


2.3 Using the web service via a custom application

Creating the requests by hand is tedious, thus for convenience it should usually be done via a program. However, such discussion is no longer the in the scope of this document. Please see Resources chapter for links to sites that can help you create a program to create requests and process responses received.

2.4 Testing a web service via SOAP UI

If there is no custom application created yet to send and receive the web service messages, SOAP UI can be used for testing. Take note this is only for testing purpose.



Using SOAP UI steps are not in the scope of this document. Please refer to [SOAP UI web site](#) for specific instructions.

3 Resources

1. [W3Schools XML Services](#)
2. [SOAPUI Tutorial](#)