

GovDelivery Web Services

GovDelivery is committed to providing our clients with a robust Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). The GovDelivery API includes an ever-expanding set of Web services that allow you to fully integrate the GovDelivery platform functions into your own applications. Based on SOAP, functions in the API allow programs written in many different languages to interact with GovDelivery. The following four key functions are available via Web services today:

- Send Bulletin
- Get Bulletin
- Synchronize Subscription Tree
- Get Subscription Tree

Web Service Details:

Send Bulletin

The client generates an XML file that contains all the information on the GovDelivery Send Item Bulletin or Send General Bulletin screens (if content isn't specified in the file, the "default" value for the field will be used, if it's available). GovDelivery sends the bulletin. Features of this web service include:

- Choose recipient groups
- Choose message content
- Add attachments
- Manipulate subject and other header information
- Set importance

Get Bulletin

By providing a bulletin ID, GovDelivery can return a copy of the bulletin. Clients use this service to modify and resent an existing bulletin.

Synchronize Subscription Tree

Synchronize subscription tree structure, including items, subcategories, and categories from the client to GovDelivery. With the synchronized subscription tree Web service, you can create, modify, delete, and move categories and items.

Get Subscription Tree

Retrieve a copy of the current subscription tree.

GovDelivery's Web Services Integration Approach

GovDelivery Digital Subscription Management (DSM) implements standard web services advertised by WSDL (web-services definition language). The technical implementation uses standard SOAP calls using HTTP and HTTPS. The Web services are implemented using a library called XFire (<http://xfire.codehaus.org/>). GovDelivery recommends using XFire to any client implementing the web service using Java. However, any Web services framework that is capable of reading WSDL and generating a web services call to the GovDelivery servers will be able to use the services. Therefore, the client's system can be implemented in Java, C, C++, .Net, or any other language with a WSDL generator.

For clients that cannot create calls to WSDL directly, GovDelivery offers a command-line driven client that can accept a properly formatted XML file as input and make the web services call. In this case, the client would need to generate an XML file, execute the GovDelivery program, and read the program's output.

Future Web Service Plans

Additional Web services are in the early stages of development, and others are in the planning stages. To help GovDelivery prioritize the development schedule, please notify GovDelivery of your interest in these or other web services.

- Synchronize subscription list
- Create and update user profile
- Retrieve reports

Note: Other integration options are also available, including Email commands; please contact GovDelivery for additional information.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
Are the Web Services secure?	Yes. Web Services can use HTTP or HTTPS, you can specify the secure protocol in your XML.
Is there more than one option for using Web Services?	Yes. There are three options: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WSDL to X generator: Call classes within code over http using soap.2. Java: Send bulletin using pre-canned proxies. This is the easiest mechanism. If updates are made to the Web services, however, you will need to update your jar file manually.3. GovDelivery's Java-based client; which supports inbound and outbound XML.