

GovDelivery Web Services

GovDelivery provides an ever-expanding set of Web services that allow our clients to fully integrate the GovDelivery Email and Digital Subscription Management platform functions into their own applications. Based on SOAP, functions in the API allow programs written in many different languages to interact with GovDelivery. The following four 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 a file that contains all the information GovDelivery needs to send a bulletin (if content isn't specified in the file, the "default" value for the field will be used, if it's available), and passes it to GovDelivery to send through our robust mail-sending framework. Features of this web service include:

- Choose recipient groups
- Include 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, which our clients can modify and resend.

Synchronize Subscription Tree

With the synchronized subscription tree Web service, our clients can create, modify, delete, and move categories, sub-categories and items, which enables our clients to present subscription items to subscribers in the most logical and effective way.

Get Subscription Tree

Our clients use Get Subscription Tree Web service retrieve a copy of their 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 GovDelivery 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 if you are interested in these or other web services.

- Synchronize subscriber list (Reconcile a client's list of email addresses with addresses stored by GovDelivery)
- Create and update user profile (The client captures subscriber information and passes it to GovDelivery using Web service)
- Retrieve reports (Retrieve important reporting data from GovDelivery to augment data stored in the client's system)

Note: Other integration options are also available, including Email commands that enable our client to use Listserv-like functions, such as create a subscriber, by identifying an action in the subject line; 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.