Clubware Limited

Web Services Guide (High Level)

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Purpose of Document

This document is created to provide a very high level understanding of the Clubware Web Services to a non-technical reader. It is not intended for software developers.

Clubware Support

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What is a Web Service?

Many organisations use multiple software systems to run their business. Different software systems often need to exchange information with each other. Web service is a method of communication that allows two software systems running on electronic devices (such as web browsers, smart phones and tablets) to exchange data over the Internet.

Clubware Web Services

From version 4.0 onwards, Clubware has the ability to securely expose the data stored in its database using the web services technology. Clubware uses the Web API form of web services which is a secure, fast and easy way to make its data available to any software applications developed by third party companies such as a gym website, accounting software, application that runs smartphones and tablets, access control system etc.

An API is an interface. You use interfaces all the time. For example, buttons in an elevator are an interface and an accelerator pedal in a car is an interface. A web API is an interface with URLs as the controls. When using a Web API, you try to access a URL (web address) through your device (also known as a request), and a web server somewhere makes a bunch of complicated decisions based on that and sends you back some content (also known as a response) that can be used to create some meaningful content on your device.

Why Use Clubware Web Services?

If you are using more than one software system other than Clubware to run your business, you may wish to integrate these with each other so that you can access data in one software from the other. The Clubware Web API allows the data in Clubware to be accessed by other software systems.

Web services technology allows a developer to integrate other software systems with Clubware without going through the complex business logic and database structure of Clubware. The developer can make certain requests (defined in a more technical Clubware Web Service Specification document) to get the data required directly through the Internet and use it in another software system.

Clubware needs to be configured to know about the other systems that need access to its web services. Therefore, the integration is secure, controlled by Clubware and is done in agreement with the third party software system.

How to Access Clubware Web Services?

If you would like to access the information available from Clubware using the Clubware Web API, you would need to make software changes to your current system. A software developer (or a software company) with Web API programming knowledge can help you create custom software applications to extract data from the Clubware Web API. For instance, if you have a website for your business and you want to access Clubware information from there, you will need to make certain changes to your website. You should contact your website development company to check if they have the skills to make the technical changes to your website to meet your business requirements. They might already have software developers with the appropriate skills or help you hire the required skilled developer(s) on a temporary basis. If that is not an option, you can contact any software development company to get them to make changes to your website.

Further Information

Not all the information from Clubware is accessible using the Clubware Web API. Some can be directly created or updated in Clubware from a third party software system while others can only be extracted for view only purposes. A more technical web service specifications document is also available. A software developer with appropriate skills will need the technical document in order to a create software system that can access and use the information available through the Clubware Web API.

For further information, contact Clubware Support and speak our friendly staff. They can help you understand the Clubware Web Services and provide you with the more technical specifications document if required.



Clubware Web API Diagram

