

Groove Web Services: 2.5 Features and Capabilities

Groove Web Services (GWS) provide access to Groove tools and objects through SOAP interfaces. Groove Workspace 2.5 ships with SOAP interfaces to a number of architectural components. It also provides infrastructure and interfaces that make it possible for 3rd party developers to expose their custom Groove tools as a Web service.

If you are just starting to learn about Groove Web Services, we recommend you read the documentation provided in the Groove Developer Kit for Web Services (GDK-WS). If you are familiar with the concept and potential use cases for GWS, and you are looking for a list of GWS-specific features in Groove 2.5, then you've come to the right place.

For convenience we group GWS features into three buckets: 1) Workspace Web services, 2) Groove Web Services Access Point, and 3) GDK for Web services.

Workspace Web services

Workspace Web services are the SOAP interfaces exposed by the Groove client. Interfaces, and the actions available on those interfaces, in Groove 2.5 are represented in the table below.

	Create	Read	Update	Delete
Accounts		✓		
Identities		✓		
Shared spaces		✓		
Tools		✓		
Contacts		✓		
Members		✓		
Awareness		✓		
Files	✓	✓	✓	✓
Discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calendar	✓	✓	✓	✓

In addition to the SOAP interfaces (i.e. the Web services) themselves, there is other client side infrastructure, such as:

- SOAP message dispatcher to handle message routing to and from Workspace Web services
- Local HTTP/SOAP server to support localhost integration with other desktop applications
- Navigate to Groove URL feature to allow instantiation of the native Groove application UI (e.g. Groove IM window or the Groove transceiver) from another process
- Interfaces that support the ability for 3rd party developers to expose their custom Groove tools as a Web service

Groove Web Services Access Point

The Groove Web Services Access Point is a server that routes Web services calls from remote applications on other devices to the Workspace Web services provider (i.e. the targeted Groove client). *In Groove 2.5, remote Web services are available as a technology preview only*, intended to allow developers to learn the capabilities of remote Web services and to start developing prototypes. This preview release of remote Web services has no security framework in place. Please read the Developing Groove Web Services tech note in the GDK-WS for the conditions under which it is appropriate to use remote GWS in Groove 2.5.

The Groove Web Services Access Point consists of the following features in Groove 2.5:

- SOAP gateway translates SOAP/HTTP from a remote application to SOAP over Groove's transport protocols and enqueues messages for the Groove client at the relay server
- Groove Name Service (GNS) provides a programming convenience to developers that allows them to register an alias and associate it with the Groove URL of the targeted Workspace Web service

Groove Developer Kit for Web Services

The Groove Developer Kit for Web Services (GDK-WS) provides the tools and instruction for developers on how to make use of Groove Web Services in 2.5. It contains the following:

- Web Services Description Language (WSDL) files
- XML specification program guide
- Tech notes:
 - What is Groove Web Services?
 - How to program to Groove Web Services?
- Release Notes
- Sample clients – Winform, Perl
- GNS registration utility
- Registry setting for turning remote GWS "on"

Post-2.5 GWS Feature Priorities (themes)

Workspace Web services

- Create, Read, Update, Delete actions on all interfaces
- Query capability
- Workspace UI framework for exposing Web services
- More SOAP interfaces, e.g. chat, invitations, notifications
- Support remote GWS security
- GWS from the Enterprise Integration Server
- Enterprise Management Server integration

Groove Web Services Access Point

- Web services security framework:
- Device identification
- User authentication
- Message integrity
- GWS replication across multiple servers
- Admin capabilities and admin guide
- Server product or hosted service

GDK for Web services

- Expanded interfaces specification guide
- More documentation
- More sample code