

41. The method as claimed in claim 40, further comprising the step of limiting each authentication identifier to be used in only one communication.

42. The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the step of providing comprises the step of providing the pool of authentication identifiers to the client application through a secured channel.

43. The method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the step of receiving comprises receiving subsequent communication from the client application to the web service containing one of the authentication identifiers through an unsecured channel.

44. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of metering web service usage of the client application.

45. The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the standard protocol for messaging between the client application and the web service is simple object access protocol.

46. The method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the client application is another web service.

47. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of billing the client application.

48. The method as claimed in claim 47, wherein the step of billing comprises the step of billing a client application for the use of a package of bundles assigned to the client application, the bundles comprising one or more methods from a plurality of web services.

49. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of logging and metering the usage of the gateway module by the client application.

50. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of reporting the usage of the gateway module by the client application.

51. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the step of administering the gateway module.

52. The method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

storing information relating to methods of a plurality of web services organized into bundles, each bundle having one or more methods from one or more web services; and

authorizing a client application to access methods in one of the bundles.

53. The method as claimed in claim 52, wherein the step of storing comprises storing at least one bundle having one or more methods from at least two web services.

54. The gateway module as claimed in claim 52, further comprising the step of organizing the bundles into packages.

55. Computer readable media storing the instructions and/or statements for use in the execution in a computer of a method for managing functionality for one or more web services, the method comprising steps of:

receiving communication from a client application over a standard protocol;

processing the communication for a web service; and

delegating the processed communication to the web service.

56. Electronic signals for use in the execution in a computer of a method for managing functionality for one or more web services, the method comprising steps of:

receiving communication from a client application over a standard protocol;

processing the communication for a web service; and

delegating the processed communication to the web service.

57. A computer program product for use in the execution in a computer of a method for managing functionality for one or more web services, the computer program product comprising:

a module for receiving communication from a client application over a standard protocol;

a module for processing the communication for a web service; and

a module for delegating the processed communication the web service.

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