ITWP 2600 – Written Exercise Chapter 9

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In about 200 words, outline the difference between the Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and the Representational State Transfer (REST) principle as they are used in the creation of Web services. In your answer, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Simple Object Access Protocol was the first widely used approach to web services. It is a message passing protocol that works to send data between applications. SOAP uses XML to format messages along with WS-Security standards to keep things secure. SOAP is considered to be a slower method due to its strict security standards and reliance on XML which leads to slower performance. It's a more complex setup to configure. Representational State Transfer has a simpler structure and is more widely used due to it being faster and easier to implement. More than half of all web services today use REST. Similar to SOAP, REST transfers data from one application to another and also uses XML or XHTML. You would expect to see SOAP used in large enterprises that require more security while REST would be a better fit for things like mobile applications.

Sources:

Electronic Commerce by Gary Schneider

https://toxigon.com/soap-vs-rest-whats-the-difference?

https://apidog.com/articles/difference-between-rest-and-soap