



DOTS Name Validation

Developer's Guide

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Introduction

DOTS Name Validation is an XML web service that provides information about a person's name. With DOTS Name Validation users can validate names, verify name accuracy, fix unordered names and return gender information.

Web Service Structure

Web services provide a standard interface to encapsulate tricky business logic. They allow simple integration of applications via the web. Service Objects has followed web services best practices and come up with some of its own standards to ensure that its web services are as easy to integrate, and as accessible as possible.

The host path, or physical location of the web service is here:

<http://trial.serviceobjects.com/nw/NameWizard.asmx>

The location of the WSDL, or Web Service Definition Language document, is here:

<http://trial.serviceobjects.com/nw/NameWizard.asmx?WSDL>

(This is also accessible via the "Service Definition" link on the web service page.)

The WSDL is an XML document that defines the interaction web service, meaning its inputs, outputs, operations, and the like. Most likely, you will have another tool read this WSDL and make the operations available to you in your application via some type of proxy class. Whenever your utilities or IDE asks for a WSDL path, you can provide this one.

Every web service has *operations* that it offers to subscribers. These operations, also called methods, contain different functionality and return different outputs. DOTS Name Validation has the following operations:

GetNameInfo – Uses the provided name to return information such as gender, name origin, and validity results.

GetNameInfo_V2 - Uses the provided name to return information such as gender, name origin, validity results, and possible related names.

GetOrderedName – Given two names, this service determines which is the likely first name, and which is the likely last name.

Request Types

DOTS Name Validation is a public XML web service that supports SOAP(1.1 and 1.2), POST, and GET request methods. A request type is just the type of web (HTTP) request used to interact with our web services.

GET - All of the input data is in the query string appended to the URL. The response is simple XML.

POST - The input parameters are in the body of the request instead of the query string. The response is simple XML.

SOAP - The input parameters are in an XML SOAP message contained within the body of the request. The response is an XML SOAP message.

Analysis of Request Types

GET is the easiest method to implement by hand because you just set up the URL and query string. It is also easy to debug because you can test the URL + query string in a web browser and see the output.

POST is probably the best method to implement by hand because you do not have to know the specifics of SOAP, and is a little cleaner than passing input parameters in the query string via GET.

SOAP is the best method if you are using a platform that supports SOAP. In many programming environments you can call the service's WSDL file (<http://trial.serviceobjects.com/nw/NameWizard.aspx?WSDL>) to create a proxy class to help you interact with the web service. In this case you only have to create an instance of the proxy and use its methods. This completely abstracts the programmer from any complications like sending/receiving web requests/responses as well as any XML parsing. This is typically available in newer environments like PHP version 5, ColdFusion version 7, .NET, etc. Older languages like PHP version 4 and ColdFusion version 5 will require the use of GET or POST.

XML Parsing

If you are not using an environment that provides a proxy class for you to use, then you will have to parse XML. If you do have a proxy, then it uses an XML parser behind the scenes for you. Although XML parsing can be done without a parser, most programming environments provide easy access to several standard ones. **We strongly recommend that you take advantage of an XML parser.** These parsers may take a few more minutes to integrate if the developer is not familiar with them, but will give your application an added level of security against improper parsing. Without them it is very difficult, even for skilled programmers to write robust code that can handle all cases of XML properly. Because we have very consistent XML you could get away without this extra precaution, but we suggest you use an XML parser anyway to ensure your application is of the highest quality.

Operation Definitions

This section defines the input, output and behavior of the operations in DOTS Name Validation.

GetNameInfo

Uses the provided name to return information such as gender, name origin, and validity results.

GetNameInfo - Inputs

Name	Type	Description
Name	String	The name to validate.
LicenseKey	String	Your license key to use the service. Sign up for a free trial key at www.serviceobjects.com .

GetNameInfo - Outputs

If no errors are encountered a NameInfo element will be returned with the following information. If there is an error, an Error object will be returned (explained in next section).

Name	Type	Description
First Name	String	The parsed first name.
First Name Corrected	String	The corrected first name.
Middle Name	String	The parsed middle name.
Last Name	String	The parsed last name.
Prefix	String	The parsed out prefix.
Suffix	String	The parsed out suffix.
Gender	String	The gender returned from the supplied name input.
First Name Origin	String	The base origin of the first name e.g. Old-English.
First Name Found	Boolean	Boolean value returned from first name exists.
Last Name Found	Boolean	Boolean value returned from last name exists.
Possible Vulgarly	Boolean	Boolean value returned from possible vulgar match.
Possible Celebrity	Boolean	Boolean value returned from possible celebrity match.
Possible Bogus	Boolean	Boolean value returned from possible bogus match.
Status	String	Output of results from name validation operation.

GetNameInfo_V2

Uses the provided name to return information such as gender, name origin, and validity results. GetNameInfo_V2 also returns proper cased names and possible related names.

GetNameInfo_V2 - Inputs

Name	Type	Description
Name	String	The name to validate.
LicenseKey	String	Your license key to use the service. Sign up for a free trial key at www.serviceobjects.com .

GetNameInfo_V2 – Outputs

If no errors are encountered a NameInfo element will be returned with the following information. If there is an error, an Error object will be returned (explained in next section).

Name	Type	Description
First Name	String	The parsed first name.
Middle Name	String	The parsed middle name.
Last Name	String	The parsed last name.
First Name Alt	String	The parsed first name alt.
Middle Name Alt	String	The parsed middle name alt.
Last Name Alt	String	The parsed last name alt.
Prefix	String	The parsed out prefix.
Suffix	String	The parsed out suffix.
Gender	String	The gender returned from the supplied name input.
Gender Alt	String	The possible alternate gender returned.
First Name Origin	String	The base origin of the first name e.g. Old-English.
First Name Found	Boolean	Boolean value returned from first name exists.
Last Name Found	Boolean	Boolean value returned from last name exists.
First Name Alt Found	Boolean	Boolean value returned from first name alt found.
Last Name Alt Found	Boolean	Boolean value returned from last name alt found.
Related Names	String	Possible related names to first name.
Possible Vulgarity	Boolean	Boolean value returned from possible vulgar match.
Possible Celebrity	Boolean	Boolean value returned from possible celebrity match.
Possible Bogus	Boolean	Boolean value returned from possible bogus match.
Possible Garbage	Boolean	Boolean value returned from possible garbage name.
Status	String	Output of results from name validation operation. ("No Last Name") If only first name is passed as input.

GetOrderedName

Given two names, this service determines which is the likely first name, and which is the likely last name.

GetOrderedName - Inputs

Name	Type	Description
Name	String	The names to order (e.g Last Name First Name)
LicenseKey	String	Your license key to use the service. Sign up for a free trial key at www.serviceobjects.com .

GetOrderedName - Outputs

If no errors are encountered a OrderedInfo element will be returned with the following information. If there is an error, an Error object will be returned (explained in next section).

Name	Type	Description
First Name	String	The ordered first name.
Last Name	String	The ordered last name.
First Name Found	String	Value if first name found.
Last Name Found	String	Value if last name found.

Errors

Generally, an error is anything that happens during a run of DOTS Name Validation that causes the service to fail. If an error occurs, an XML error message, similar to the one below, will result instead of the NameInfo output described above:

Example:

```
<Error>
  <Type>Authorization</Type>
  <TypeCode>1</TypeCode>
  <Desc>Your license key does not work on this service.</Desc>
  <DescCode>8</DescCode>
</Error>
```

Error Types

DescCode	Desc
1	Input can not be less than zero length.
2	Service Objects Exception.
3	Service Objects Database Error.
4	Unhandled error. Please contact customer service.
5	Service Objects Internal Error.
6	Service Objects Network Error.
7	This license key has expired.
8	Your license key does not work on this service.

Conclusion

Service Objects is pleased to offer you a free trial of DOTS Name Validation.

Sign up today for a free trial at:

<http://www.serviceobjects.com/products/product-directory?wsid=25>

Technical questions or concerns can be directed to support@serviceobjects.com.

If you are interested in purchasing DOTS Name Validation, please contact:

sales@serviceobjects.com.

We welcome your feedback! Please do not hesitate to let us know what you think of our web services, documentation, or customer support.

www.serviceobjects.com

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