



# Web Services Coordination (WS-Coordination) Version 1.2

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### Abstract:

The WS-Coordination specification describes an extensible framework for providing protocols that coordinate the actions of distributed applications. Such coordination protocols are used to support a number of applications, including those that need to reach consistent agreement on the outcome of distributed activities.

The framework defined in this specification enables an application service to create a context needed to propagate an activity to other services and to register for coordination protocols. The framework enables existing transaction processing, workflow, and other systems for coordination to hide their proprietary protocols and to operate in a heterogeneous environment.

Additionally this specification describes a definition of the structure of context and the requirements for propagating context between cooperating services.

### Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the WS-TX TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the "Latest Approved Version" location noted above for possible later revisions of this document.

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# 1 Introduction

The current set of Web service specifications (SOAP [SOAP 1.1] [SOAP 1.2] and WSDL [WSDL]) defines protocols for Web service interoperability. Web services increasingly tie together a large number of participants forming large distributed computational units – we refer to these computation units as activities.

The resulting activities are often complex in structure, with complex relationships between their participants. The execution of such activities often takes a long time to complete due to business latencies and user interactions.

This specification defines an extensible framework for coordinating activities using a coordinator and set of coordination protocols. This framework enables participants to reach consistent agreement on the outcome of distributed activities. The coordination protocols that can be defined in this framework can accommodate a wide variety of activities, including protocols for simple short-lived operations and protocols for complex long-lived business activities. For example, WS-AtomicTransaction [WSAT] and WS-BusinessActivity [WSBA] specifications use and build upon this specification.

Note that the use of the coordination framework is not restricted to transaction processing systems; a wide variety of protocols can be defined for distributed applications.

## 1.1 Model

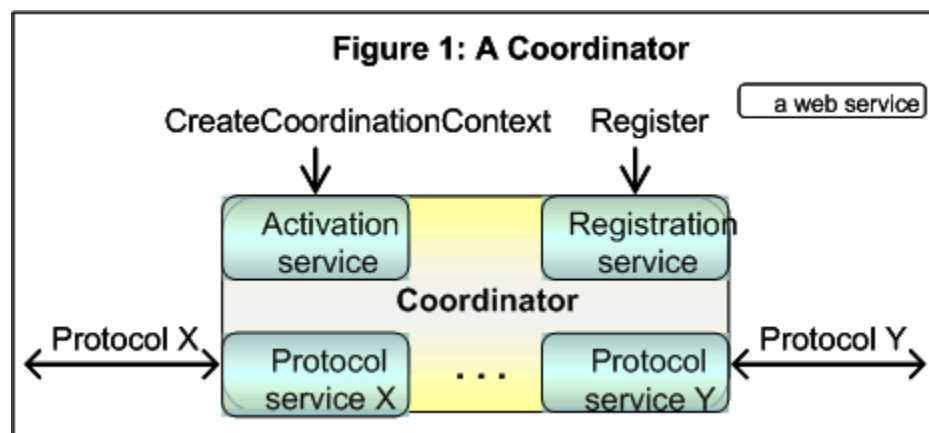
This specification describes a framework for a coordination service (or coordinator) which consists of these component services:

An Activation service with an operation that enables an application to create a coordination instance or context.

A Registration service with an operation that enables an application to register for coordination protocols.

A coordination type-specific set of coordination protocols.

This is illustrated below in Figure 1.



Applications use the Activation service to create the coordination context for an activity. Once a coordination context is acquired by an application, it is then sent by whatever appropriate means to another application.

The context contains the necessary information to register into the activity specifying the coordination behavior that the application will follow.

Additionally, an application that receives a coordination context may use the Registration service of the original application or may use one that is specified by an interposing, trusted coordinator. In this manner an arbitrary collection of Web services may coordinate their joint operation.

## 35 1.2 Composable Architecture

36 By using the XML [**XML**], SOAP [**SOAP 1.1**] [**SOAP 1.2**] and WSDL [**WSDL**] extensibility model, SOAP-  
37 based and WSDL-based specifications are designed to be composed with each other to define a rich  
38 Web services environment. As such, WS-Coordination by itself does not define all the features required  
39 for a complete solution. WS-Coordination is a building block that is used in conjunction with other  
40 specifications and application-specific protocols to accommodate a wide variety of protocols related to the  
41 operation of distributed Web services.

42 The Web service protocols defined in this specification should be used when interoperability is needed  
43 across vendor implementations, trust domains, etc. Thus, the Web service protocols defined in this  
44 specification can be combined with proprietary protocols within the same application.

## 45 1.3 Extensibility

46 The specification provides for extensibility and flexibility along two dimensions. The framework allows for:

- 47 • The publication of new coordination protocols.
- 48 • The selection of a protocol from a coordination type and the definition of extension elements that  
49 can be added to protocols and message flows.

50 Extension elements can be used to exchange application-specific data on top of message flows already  
51 defined in this specification. This addresses the need to exchange such data as transaction isolation  
52 levels or other information related to business-level coordination protocols. The data can be logged for  
53 auditing purposes, or evaluated to ensure that a decision meets certain business-specific constraints.

54 To understand the syntax used in this specification, the reader should be familiar with the WSDL [**WSDL**]  
55 specification, including its HTTP and SOAP binding styles. All WSDL port type definitions provided here  
56 assume the existence of corresponding SOAP and HTTP bindings.

57 Terms introduced in this specification are explained in the body of the specification and summarized in  
58 the glossary.

## 59 1.4 Terminology

60 The uppercase key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD",  
61 "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as  
62 described in [**RFC2119**].

63 This specification uses an informal syntax to describe the XML grammar of the XML fragments below:

- 64 • The syntax appears as an XML instance, but the values indicate the data types instead of values.
- 65 • Element names ending in "... " (such as <element.../> or <element...>) indicate that  
66 elements/attributes irrelevant to the context are being omitted.
- 67 • Attributed names ending in "... " (such as name=...) indicate that the values are specified below.
- 68 • Grammar in bold has not been introduced earlier in the document, or is of particular interest in an  
69 example.
- 70 • <!-- description --> is a placeholder for elements from some "other" namespace (like ##other in  
71 XSD).
- 72 • Characters are appended to elements, attributes, and <!-- descriptions --> as follows: "?" (0 or 1),  
73 "\*" (0 or more), "+" (1 or more). The characters "[" and "]" are used to indicate that contained  
74 items are to be treated as a group with respect to the "?", "\*", or "+" characters.
- 75 • The XML namespace prefixes (defined below) are used to indicate the namespace of the element  
76 being defined.
- 77 • Examples starting with <?xml contain enough information to conform to this specification; others  
78 examples are fragments and require additional information to be specified in order to conform.

## 79 1.5 Namespace

80 The XML namespace [XML-ns] URI that MUST be used by implementations of this specification is:

81 `http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wscoor/2006/06`

### 82 1.5.1 Prefix Namespace

83 The following namespaces are used in this document:

Prefix	Namespace
S11	<a href="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope">http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/soap/envelope</a>
S12	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope">http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope</a>
Wscoor	<a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wscoor/2006/06">http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wscoor/2006/06</a>
Wsa	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2005/08/addressing">http://www.w3.org/2005/08/addressing</a>

## 84 1.6 XSD and WSDL Files

85 Dereferencing the XML namespace defined in Section 1.5 will produce the Resource Directory  
86 Description Language (RDDL) [RDDL] document that describes this namespace, including the XML  
87 schema [XML-Schema1] [XML-Schema2] and WSDL [WSDL] declarations associated with this  
88 specification.

89 SOAP bindings for the WSDL [WSDL], referenced in the RDDL [RDDL] document, MUST use  
90 "document" for the *style* attribute.

91 There should be no inconsistencies found between any of the normative text within this specification, the  
92 normative outlines, the XML Schema definitions, and the WSDL descriptions, and so no general  
93 precedence rule is defined. If an inconsistency is observed then it should be reported as a comment on  
94 the specification as described in the "Status" section above.

## 95 1.7 Coordination Protocol Elements

96 The protocol elements define various extensibility points that allow other child or attribute content.  
97 Additional children and/or attributes MAY be added at the indicated extension points but MUST NOT  
98 contradict the semantics of the parent and/or owner, respectively. If a receiver does not recognize an  
99 extension, the receiver SHOULD ignore the extension.

## 100 1.8 Conformance

101 An implementation is not conformant with this specification if it fails to satisfy one or more of the MUST or  
102 REQUIRED level requirements defined herein. A SOAP Node MUST NOT use elements and attributes of  
103 the declared XML Namespace (listed on the title page) for this specification within SOAP Envelopes  
104 unless it is conformant with this specification.

## 105 1.9 Normative References

- 106 [RDDL] Jonathan Borden, Tim Bray, eds. "Resource Directory Description Language  
107 (RDDL) 2.0", <http://www.openhealth.org/RDDL/20040118/rddl-20040118.html>,  
108 January 2004.
- 109 [RFC2119] S. Bradner, "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels",  
110 <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>, IETF RFC 2119, March 1997.
- 111 [SOAP 1.1] W3C Note, "SOAP: Simple Object Access Protocol 1.1,"  
112 <http://www.w3.org/TR/2000/NOTE-SOAP-20000508>, 08 May 2000.



113	<b>[SOAP 1.2]</b>	W3C Recommendation, "SOAP Version 1.2 Part 1: Messaging Framework (Second Edition)", <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2007/REC-soap12-part1-20070427/">http://www.w3.org/TR/2007/REC-soap12-part1-20070427/</a> , April 2007.
114		
115		
116	<b>[XML]</b>	W3C Recommendation, "Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Fourth Edition)", " <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/REC-xml-20060816">http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/REC-xml-20060816</a> , 16 August 2006.
117		
118	<b>[XML-ns]</b>	W3C Recommendation, "Namespaces in XML 1.0 (Second Edition)", " <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/REC-xml-names-20060816">http://www.w3.org/TR/2006/REC-xml-names-20060816</a> , 16 August 2006.
119		
120	<b>[XML-Schema1]</b>	W3C Recommendation, "XML Schema Part 1: Structures Second Edition," " <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xmlschema-1-20041028">http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xmlschema-1-20041028</a> , 28 October 2004.
121		
122	<b>[XML-Schema2]</b>	W3C Recommendation, "XML Schema Part 2: Datatypes Second Edition," " <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xmlschema-2-20041028">http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/REC-xmlschema-2-20041028</a> , 28 October 2004.
123		
124	<b>[WSADDR]</b>	Web Services Addressing (WS-Addressing) 1.0, W3C Recommendation, " <a href="http://www.w3.org/2005/08/addressing">http://www.w3.org/2005/08/addressing</a> ."
125		
126	<b>[WSDL]</b>	Web Services Description Language (WSDL) 1.1 " <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/NOTE-wsdl-20010315">http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/NOTE-wsdl-20010315</a> ."
127		
128	<b>[WSPOLICY]</b>	W3C Recommendation, Web Services Policy 1.5 – Framework (WS-Policy), " <a href="http://www.w3.org/TR/2007/REC-ws-policy-20070904/">http://www.w3.org/TR/2007/REC-ws-policy-20070904/</a> , September 2007.
129		
130	<b>[WSSec]</b>	OASIS Standard 200401, March 2004, "Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security 1.0 (WS-Security 2004)", " <a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-soap-message-security-1.0.pdf">http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-soap-message-security-1.0.pdf</a> ."
131		
132		
133		OASIS Standard, February 2006, Web Services Security: SOAP Message Security 1.1 (WS-Security 2004), " <a href="http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/16790/wss-v1.1-spec-os-SOAPMessageSecurity.pdf">http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/download.php/16790/wss-v1.1-spec-os-SOAPMessageSecurity.pdf</a> ."
134		
135		
136		
137	<b>[WSSecPolicy]</b>	OASIS Committee Draft 01, WS-SecurityPolicy 1.3, " <a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-securitypolicy/200802">http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-securitypolicy/200802</a> ", July 2008.
138		
139	<b>[WSSecConv]</b>	OASIS Committee Draft 01, WS-SecureConversation 1.4, " <a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-secureconversation/200512">http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-secureconversation/200512</a> ", July 2008.
140		
141	<b>[WSTrust]</b>	OASIS Committee Draft 01, WS-Trust 1.4, " <a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-trust/200802">http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-sx/ws-trust/200802</a> ", June 2008.
142		

## 143 **1.10 Non-normative References**

144		
145	<b>[WSAT]</b>	OASIS Public Review Draft, Web Services Atomic Transaction (WS-AtomicTransaction) 1.2, " <a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsata/2006/06">http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsata/2006/06</a> ", August 2008.
146		
147		
148	<b>[WSBA]</b>	OASIS Public Review Draft, Web Services Business Activity (WS-BusinessActivity) 1.2, " <a href="http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsba/2006/06">http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsba/2006/06</a> ", August 2008.
149		
150		



---

## 2 Coordination Context

151

152 The CoordinationContext is used by applications to pass Coordination information to parties involved in  
153 an activity. CoordinationContext elements are propagated to parties which may need to register  
154 Participants for the activity. Context propagation may be accomplished using application-defined  
155 mechanisms -- e.g. as a header element of a SOAP application message sent to such parties.  
156 (Conveying a context in an application message is commonly referred to as flowing the context.) A  
157 CoordinationContext provides access to a coordination registration service, a coordination type, and  
158 relevant extensions.

159 The following is an example of a CoordinationContext supporting a transaction service:

```
160 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
161 <S11:Envelope xmlns:S11="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope">
162   <S11:Header>
163     . . .
164     <wscoor:CoordinationContext
165       xmlns:wsa="http://www.w3.org/2005/08/addressing"
166       xmlns:wscoor="http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wscoor/2006/06"
167       xmlns:myApp="http://www.example.com/myApp"
168       S11:mustUnderstand="true">
169       <wscoor:Identifier>
170         http://Fabrikaml23.com/SS/1234
171       </wscoor:Identifier>
172       <wscoor:Expires>3000</wscoor:Expires>
173       <wscoor:CoordinationType>
174         http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsat/2006/06
175       </wscoor:CoordinationType>
176       <wscoor:RegistrationService>
177         <wsa:Address>
178           http://Business456.com/mycoordinationsservice/registration
179         </wsa:Address>
180         <wsa:ReferenceParameters>
181           <myApp:BetaMark> ... </myApp:BetaMark>
182           <myApp:EBDCCode> ... </myApp:EBDCCode>
183         </wsa:ReferenceParameters>
184       </wscoor:RegistrationService>
185       <myApp:IsolationLevel>
186         RepeatableRead
187       </myApp:IsolationLevel>
188     </wscoor:CoordinationContext>
189     . . .
190   </S11:Header>
191   </S11:Body>
192   . . .
193 </S11:Body >
194 </S11:Envelope>
195
```

196 When an application propagates an activity using a coordination service, applications **MUST** include a  
197 CoordinationContext in the message.

198 When a context is exchanged as a SOAP header, the mustUnderstand attribute **MUST** be present and its  
199 value **MUST** be true.

---

## 200 3 Coordination Service

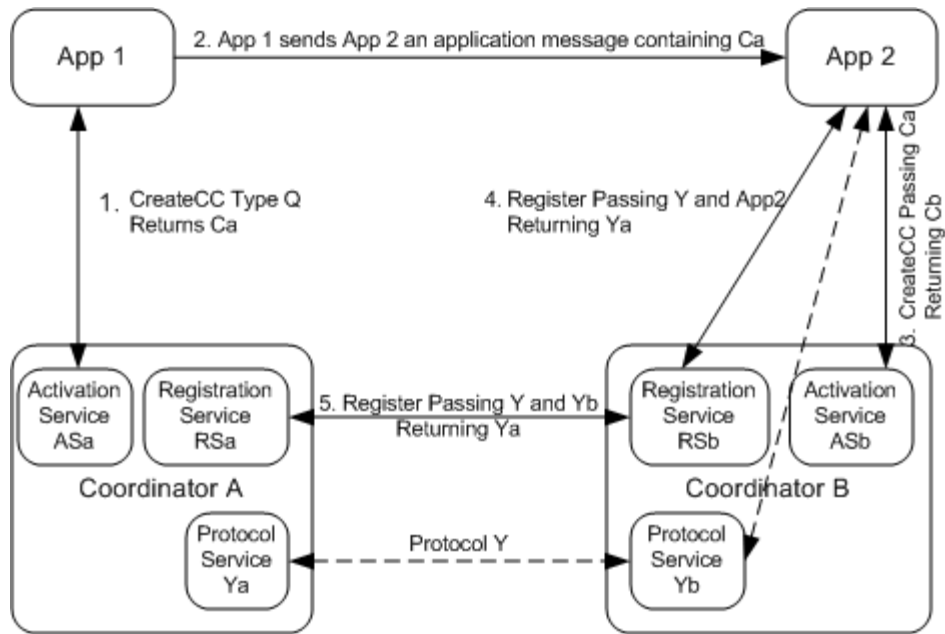
201 The Coordination service (or coordinator) is an aggregation of the following services:

- 202 • Activation service: Defines a CreateCoordinationContext operation that allows a  
203 CoordinationContext to be created. The exact semantics are defined in the specification that  
204 defines the coordination type. The Coordination service MAY support the Activation service.
- 205 • Registration service: Defines a Register operation that allows a Web service to register to  
206 participate in a coordination protocol. The Coordination service MUST support the Registration  
207 service.
- 208 • A set of coordination protocol services for each supported coordination type. These are defined in  
209 the specification that defines the coordination type.

210 Figure 2 illustrates an example of how two application services (App1 and App2) with their own  
211 coordinators (CoordinatorA and CoordinatorB) interact as the activity propagates between them. The  
212 protocol Y and services Ya and Yb are specific to a coordination type, which are not defined in this  
213 specification.

- 214 1. App1 sends a CreateCoordinationContext for coordination type Q, getting back a Context Ca that  
215 contains the activity identifier A1, the coordination type Q and an Endpoint Reference to  
216 CoordinatorA's Registration service RSa.
- 217 2. App1 then sends an application message to App2 containing the Context Ca.
- 218 3. App2 prefers to use CoordinatorB instead of CoordinatorA, so it uses CreateCoordinationContext  
219 with Ca as an input to interpose CoordinatorB. CoordinatorB creates its own CoordinationContext  
220 Cb that contains the same activity identifier and coordination type as Ca but with its own  
221 Registration service RSb.
- 222 4. App2 determines the coordination protocols supported by the coordination type Q and then  
223 Registers for a coordination protocol Y at CoordinatorB, exchanging Endpoint References for  
224 App2 and the protocol service Yb. This forms a logical connection between these Endpoint  
225 References that the protocol Y can use.
- 226 5. This registration causes CoordinatorB to decide to immediately forward the registration onto  
227 CoordinatorA's Registration service RSa, exchanging Endpoint References for Yb and the  
228 protocol service Ya. This forms a logical connection between these Endpoint References that the  
229 protocol Y can use.

230 Figure 2: Two applications with their own coordinators



231

232 It should be noted that in this example several actions are taken that are not required by this specification,  
 233 but which may be defined by the coordination type specification or are implementation or configuration  
 234 choices. Specifications of coordination types and coordination protocols that need to constrain the sub-  
 235 coordination behavior of implementations SHOULD state these requirements in their specification.

### 236 3.1 Activation Service

237 The Activation service creates a new activity and returns its coordination context.

238 An application sends:

239 CreateCoordinationContext

240 The structure and semantics of this message are defined in [Section 3.1.1](#).

241 The activation service returns:

242 CreateCoordinationContextResponse

243 The structure and semantics of this message is defined in [Section 3.1.2](#)

#### 244 3.1.1 CreateCoordinationContext

245 This request is used to create a coordination context that supports a coordination type (i.e., a service that  
 246 provides a set of coordination protocols). This command is required when using a network-accessible  
 247 Activation service in heterogeneous environments that span vendor implementations. To fully understand  
 248 the semantics of this operation it is necessary to read the specification where the coordination type is  
 249 defined (e.g. WS-AtomicTransaction).

250 The following pseudo schema defines this element:

```

251 <CreateCoordinationContext ...>
252   <Expires> ... </Expires>?
253   <CurrentContext> ... </CurrentContext>?
254   <CoordinationType> ... </CoordinationType>
255   ...
256 </CreateCoordinationContext>
257
  
```

258 Expires is an optional element which represents the remaining expiration for the CoordinationContext as  
 259 an unsigned integer in milliseconds to be measured from the point at which the context was first received.

260 /CreateCoordinationContext/CoordinationType  
261 This provides the unique identifier for the desired coordination type for the activity (e.g., a URI to  
262 the Atomic Transaction coordination type).

263 /CreateCoordinationContext/Expires  
264 Optional. The expiration for the returned CoordinationContext expressed as an unsigned integer  
265 in milliseconds.

266 /CreateCoordinationContext/CurrentContext  
267 Optional. If absent, the Activation Service creates a coordination context representing a new,  
268 independent activity. If present, the Activation Service creates a coordination context representing  
269 a new activity which is related to the existing activity identified by the current coordination context  
270 contained in this element. Some examples of potential uses of this type of relationship include  
271 interposed subordinate coordination, protocol bridging and coordinator replication.

272 /CreateCoordinationContext /{any}  
273 Extensibility elements may be used to convey additional information.

274 /CreateCoordinationContext /@{any}  
275 Extensibility attributes may be used to convey additional information.

276 A CreateCoordinationContext message can be as simple as the following example.

```
277 <CreateCoordinationContext>  
278   <CoordinationType>  
279     http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsat/2006/06  
280   </CoordinationType>  
281 </CreateCoordinationContext>
```

### 282 3.1.2 CreateCoordinationContextResponse

283 This returns the CoordinationContext that was created.

284 The following pseudo schema defines this element:

```
285 <CreateCoordinationContextResponse ...>  
286   <CoordinationContext> ... </CoordinationContext>  
287   ...  
288 </CreateCoordinationContextResponse>
```

289 /CreateCoordinationContext/CoordinationContext

290 This is the created coordination context.

291 /CreateCoordinationContext /{any}  
292 Extensibility elements may be used to convey additional information.

293 /CreateCoordinationContext /@{any}  
294 Extensibility attributes may be used to convey additional information.

295 The following example illustrates a response:

```
296 <CreateCoordinationContextResponse>  
297   <CoordinationContext>  
298     <Identifier>  
299       http://Business456.com/tm/context1234  
300     </Identifier>  
301     <CoordinationType>  
302       http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsat/2006/06  
303     </CoordinationType>  
304     <RegistrationService>  
305       <wsa:Address>  
306         http://Business456.com/tm/registration
```

```

307         </wsa:Address>
308         <wsa:ReferenceParameters>
309             <myapp:PrivateInstance>
310                 1234
311             </myapp:PrivateInstance>
312         </wsa:ReferenceParameters>
313     </RegistrationService>
314 </CoordinationContext>
315 </CreateCoordinationContextResponse>

```

### 3.2 Registration Service

Once an application has a coordination context from its chosen coordinator, it can register for the activity. The interface provided to an application registering for an activity and for an interposed coordinator registering for an activity is the same.

The requester sends:

Register

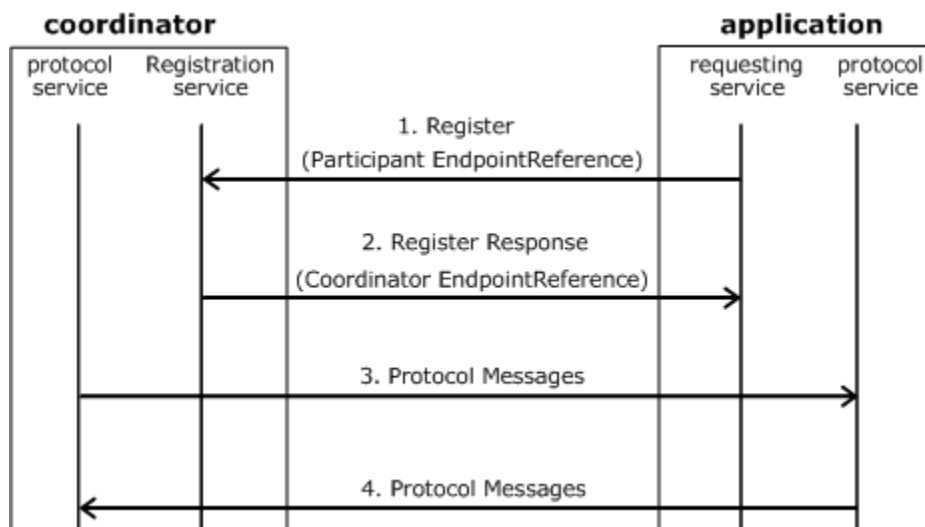
The syntax and semantics of this message are defined in [Section 3.2.1](#).

The coordinator's registration service responds with:

Registration Response

The syntax and semantics of this message are defined in [Section 3.2.2](#).

Figure 3: The usage of Endpoint References during registration



In Figure 3, the coordinator provides the Registration Endpoint Reference in the CoordinationContext during the CreateCoordinationContext operation. The requesting service receives the Registration service Endpoint Reference in the CoordinationContext in an application message.

1.) The Register message targets this Endpoint Reference and includes the participant protocol service Endpoint Reference as a parameter.

2.) The RegisterResponse includes the coordinator's protocol service Endpoint Reference.

3. & 4.) At this point, both sides have the Endpoint References of the other's protocol service, so the protocol messages can target the other side.

These Endpoint References may contain (opaque) wsa:ReferenceParameters to fully qualify the target protocol service endpoint. Endpoint References MUST be interpreted according to the rules defined in WS-Addressing 1.0 Core **[WSADDR]**.

339 A Registration service is not required to detect duplicate Register requests and MAY treat each Register  
340 message as a request to register a distinct participant.

341 A participant MAY send multiple Register requests to a Registration service. For example, it may retry a  
342 Register request following a lost RegisterResponse, or it may fail and restart after registering successfully  
343 but before performing any recoverable work.

344 If a participant sends multiple Register requests for the same activity, the participant MUST be prepared  
345 to correctly handle duplicate protocol messages from the coordinator. One simple strategy for  
346 accomplishing this is for the participant to generate a unique reference parameter for each participant  
347 Endpoint Reference that it provides in a Register request. The manner in which the participant handles  
348 duplicate protocol messages depends on the specific coordination type and coordination protocol.

### 349 3.2.1 Register Message

350 The Register request is used to do the following:

- 351 • Participant selection and registration in a particular Coordination protocol under the current  
352 coordination type supported by the Coordination Service.
- 353 • Exchange Endpoint References. Each side of the coordination protocol (participant and  
354 coordinator) supplies an Endpoint Reference.

355 Participants MAY register for multiple Coordination protocols by issuing multiple Register operations. WS-  
356 Coordination assumes that transport protocols provide for message batching if required.

357 The following pseudo schema defines this element:

```
358 <Register ...>  
359   <ProtocolIdentifier> ... </ProtocolIdentifier>  
360   <ParticipantProtocolService> ... </ParticipantProtocolService>  
361   ...  
362 </Register>
```

363 /Register/ProtocolIdentifier

364 This URI provides the identifier of the coordination protocol selected for registration.

365 /Register/ParticipantProtocolService

366 The Endpoint Reference that the registering participant wants the coordinator to use for the  
367 Coordination protocol (See WS-Addressing [WSADDR]).

368 /Register/{any}

369 Extensibility elements may be used to convey additional information.

370 / Register/@{any}

371 Extensibility attributes may be used to convey additional information.

372 The following is an example registration message:

```
373 <Register>  
374   <ProtocolIdentifier>  
375     http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wsat/2006/06/Volatile2PC  
376   </ProtocolIdentifier>  
377   <ParticipantProtocolService>  
378     <wsa:Address>  
379       http://Adventure456.com/participant2PCservice  
380     </wsa:Address>  
381     <wsa:ReferenceParameters>  
382       <BetaMark> AlphaBetaGamma </BetaMark>  
383     </wsa:ReferenceParameters>  
384   </ParticipantProtocolService>  
385 </Register>
```

### 386 3.2.2 RegistrationResponse Message

387 The response to the registration message contains the coordinator's Endpoint Reference.

388 The following pseudo schema defines this element:

```
389 <RegisterResponse ...>  
390   <CoordinatorProtocolService> ... </CoordinatorProtocolService>  
391   ...  
392 </RegisterResponse>
```

393 /RegisterResponse/CoordinatorProtocolService

394 The Endpoint Reference that the Coordination service wants the registered participant to use for  
395 the Coordination protocol.

396 /RegisterResponse/{any}

397 Extensibility elements may be used to convey additional information.

398 /RegisterResponse /@{any}

399 Extensibility attributes may be used to convey additional information.

400 The following is an example of a RegisterResponse message:

```
401 <RegisterResponse>  
402   <CoordinatorProtocolService>  
403     <wsa:Address>  
404       http://Business456.com/mycoordinationservice/coordinator  
405     </wsa:Address>  
406     <wsa:ReferenceParameters>  
407       <myapp:MarkKey> %%F03CA2B%% </myapp:MarkKey>  
408     </wsa:ReferenceParameters>  
409   </CoordinatorProtocolService>  
410 </RegisterResponse>
```

411 .



---

## 4 Coordination Faults

412

413 WS-Coordination faults MUST include as the [action] property the following fault action URI:

414

```
http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wscoor/2006/06/fault
```

415 The protocol faults defined in this section are generated if the condition stated in the preamble is met.

416 When used by a specification that references this specification, these faults are targeted at a destination

417 endpoint according to the protocol fault handling rules defined for that specification.

418 The definitions of faults in this section use the following properties:

419 [Code] The fault code.

420 [Subcode] The fault subcode.

421 [Reason] A human readable explanation of the fault.

422 [Detail] The detail element. If absent, no detail element is defined for the fault.

423 For SOAP 1.2 **[SOAP 1.2]**, the [Code] property MUST be either "Sender" or "Receiver". These properties

424 are serialized into text XML as follows:

425

SOAP Version	Sender	Receiver
SOAP 1.2	S12:Sender	S12:Receiver

426

427 The properties above bind to a SOAP 1.2 **[SOAP 1.2]** fault as follows:

428

```
<S12:Envelope>
  <S12:Header>
    <wsa:Action>
      http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wscoor/2006/06/fault
    </wsa:Action>
    <!-- Headers elided for clarity. -->
  </S12:Header>
  <S12:Body>
    <S12:Fault>
      <S12:Code>
        <S12:Value>[Code]</S12:Value>
        <S12:Subcode>
          <S12:Value>[Subcode]</S12:Value>
        </S12:Subcode>
      </S12:Code>
      <S12:Reason>
        <S12:Text xml:lang="en">[Reason]</S12:Text>
      </S12:Reason>
      <S12:Detail>
        [Detail]
        ...
      </S12:Detail>
    </S12:Fault>
  </S12:Body>
</S12:Envelope>
```

453 The properties bind to a SOAP 1.1 **[SOAP 1.1]** fault as follows:

454

```
<S11:Envelope>
  <S11:Body>
    <S11:Fault>
      <faultcode>[Subcode]</faultcode>
```

455

456

457

```
458     <faultstring xml:lang="en">[Reason]</faultstring>
459     </S11:Fault>
460     </S11:Body>
461 </S11:Envelope>
```

## 462 **4.1 Invalid State**

463 This fault is sent by either the coordinator or a participant to indicate that the endpoint that generated the  
464 fault has received a message that is not valid for its current state. This is an unrecoverable condition.

465 Properties:

466 [Code] Sender

467 [Subcode] wscor:InvalidState

468 [Reason] The message was invalid for the current state of the activity.

469 [Detail] unspecified

## 470 **4.2 Invalid Protocol**

471 This fault is sent by either the coordinator or a participant to indicate that the endpoint that generated the  
472 fault received a message which is invalid for the protocols supported by the endpoint. This is an  
473 unrecoverable condition.

474 Properties:

475 [Code] Sender

476 [Subcode] wscor:InvalidProtocol

477 [Reason] The protocol is invalid or is not supported by the coordinator.

## 478 **4.3 Invalid Parameters**

479 This fault is sent by either the coordinator or a participant to indicate that the endpoint that generated the  
480 fault received invalid parameters on or within a message. This is an unrecoverable condition.

481 Properties:

482 [Code] Sender

483 [Subcode] wscor:InvalidParameters

484 [Reason] The message contained invalid parameters and could not be processed.

## 485 **4.4 Cannot Create Context**

486 This fault is sent by the Activation Service to the sender of a CreateCoordinationContext to indicate that a  
487 context could not be created.

488 Properties:

489 [Code] Sender

490 [Subcode] wscor:CannotCreateContext

491 [Reason] CoordinationContext could not be created.

492 [Detail] unspecified

## 493 **4.5 Cannot Register Participant**

494 This fault is sent by the Registration Service to the sender of a Register to indicate that the Participant  
495 could not be registered.

496 Properties:  
497 [Code] Sender  
498 [Subcode] wscor:CannotRegisterParticipant  
499 [Reason] Participant could not be registered.  
500 [Detail] unspecified

---

## 5 Security Model

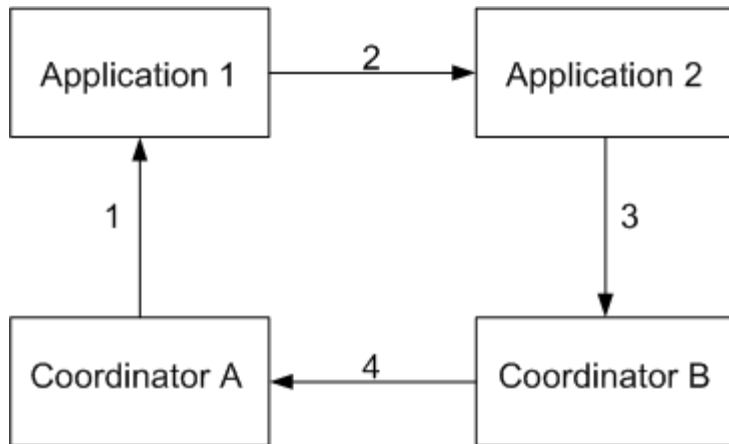
501

502 The primary goals of security with respect to WS-Coordination are to:

- 503 1. ensure only authorized principals can create coordination contexts  
504 2. ensure only authorized principals can register with an activity  
505 3. ensure only legitimate coordination contexts are used to register  
506 4. enable existing security infrastructures to be leveraged  
507 5. allow principal authorization to be based on federated identities

508 These goals build on the general security requirements for integrity, confidentiality, and authentication,  
509 each of which is provided by the foundations built using the Web service security specifications such as  
510 WS-Security **[WSec]** and WS-Trust **[WSTrust]**.

511 The following figure illustrates a fairly common usage scenario:



512

513 In the figure above, step 1 involves the creation and subsequent communication between the creator of  
514 the context and the coordinator A (root). It should be noted that this may be a private or local  
515 communication. Step 2 involves the delegation of the right to register with the activity using the  
516 information from the coordination context and subsequent application messages between two  
517 applications (and may include middleware involvement) which are participants in the activity. Step 3  
518 involves delegation of the right to register with the activity to coordinator B (subordinate) that manages all  
519 access to the activity on behalf of the second, and possibly other parties. Again note that this may also be  
520 a private or local communication. Step 4 involves registration with the coordinator A by the coordinator B  
521 and proof that registration rights were delegated.

522 It should be noted that many different coordination topologies may exist which may leverage different  
523 security technologies, infrastructures, and token formats. Consequently an appropriate security model  
524 must allow for different topologies, usage scenarios, delegation requirements, and security configurations.

525 To achieve these goals, the security model for WS-Coordination leverages the infrastructure provided by  
526 WS-Security **[WSec]**, WS-Trust **[WSTrust]**, WS-Policy **[WSPOLICY]**, and WS-SecureConversation  
527 **[WSecConv]**: Services have policies specifying their requirements and requestors provide claims (either  
528 implicit or explicit) and the requisite proof of those claims.

529 There are a number of different mechanisms which can be used to affect the previously identified goals.  
530 However, this specification RECOMMENDS a simple mechanism, which is described here, for use in  
531 interoperability scenarios.

## 532 5.1 CoordinationContext Creation

533 When a coordination context is created (step 1 above) the message is secured using the mechanisms  
534 described in WS-Security. If the required claims are proven, as described by WS-Policy [WSPOLICY],  
535 then the coordination context is created.

536 A set of claims, bound to the identity of the coordination context's creator, and maintained by the  
537 coordinator, are associated with the creation of the coordination context. The creator of the context MUST  
538 obtain these claims from the coordinator. Before responding with the claims, the coordinator requires  
539 proof of the requestor's identity.

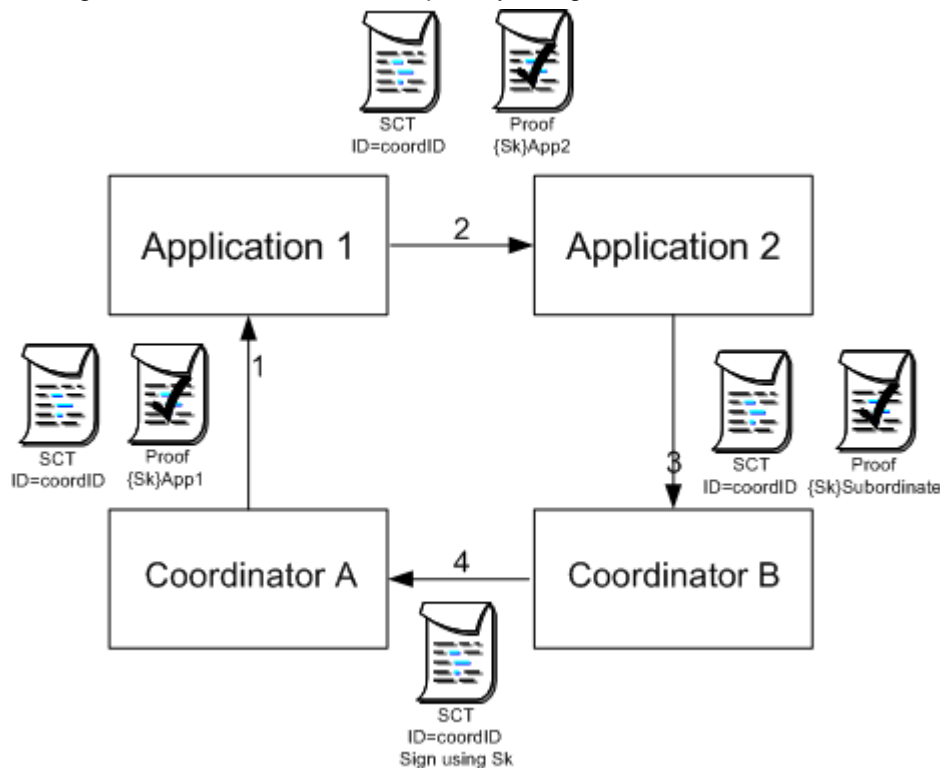
540 Additionally, the coordinator provides a shared secret which is used to indicate authorization to register  
541 with the coordination context by other parties. The secret is communicated using a security token and a  
542 <wst:RequestSecurityTokenResponse> element inside a <wst:IssuedTokens> header. The security  
543 token and hence the secret is scoped to a particular coordination context using the textual value of a  
544 <wscor:Identifier> element in a <wsp:AppliesTo> element in the  
545 <wst:RequestSecurityTokenResponse> using the mechanisms described in WS-Trust [WSTrust]. This  
546 secret may be delegated to other parties as described in the next section.

## 547 5.2 Registration Rights Delegation

548 Secret delegation is performed by propagation of the security token that was created by the root  
549 Coordinator. This involves using the <wst:IssuedTokens> header containing a  
550 <wst:RequestSecurityTokenResponse> element. The entire header SHOULD be encrypted for the new  
551 participant.

552 The participants can then use the shared secret using WS-Security by providing a signature based on the  
553 key/secret to authenticate and authorize the right to register with the activity that created the coordination  
554 context.

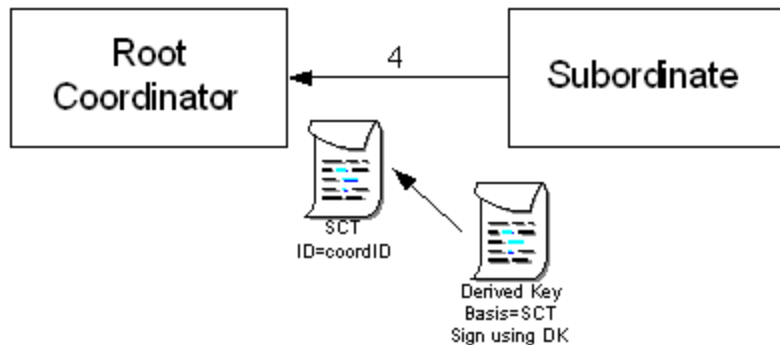
555 The figure below illustrates this simple key delegation model:



556

557 As illustrated in the figure above, the coordinator A, root in this case, (or its delegate) creates a security  
558 context token (cordID) representing the right to register and returns (using the mechanisms defined in  
559 WS-Trust **[WSTrust]**) that token to Application 1 (or its delegate) (defined in WS-SecureConversation  
560 **[WSSecConv]**) and a session key (Sk) encrypted for Application 1 inside of a proof token. This key  
561 allows Application 1 (or its delegate) to prove it is authorized to use the SCT. Application 1 (or its  
562 delegate) decrypts the session key (Sk) and encrypts it for Application 2 its delegate. Application 2 (or its  
563 delegate) performs the same act encrypting the key for the subordinate. Finally, coordinator B,  
564 subordinate in this case, proves its right to the SCT by including a signature using Sk.

565 It is RECOMMENDED by this specification that the key/secret never actually be used to secure a  
566 message. Instead, keys derived from this secret SHOULD be used to secure a message, as described in  
567 WS-SecureConversation **[WSSecConv]**. This technique is used to maximize the strength of the  
568 key/secret as illustrated in the figure below:



569

570

571

## 6 Security Considerations

572 It is strongly RECOMMENDED that the communication between services be secured using the  
573 mechanisms described in WS-Security [WSSec]. In order to properly secure messages, the body and all  
574 relevant headers need to be included in the signature. Specifically, the `<wscoor:CoordinationContext>`  
575 header needs to be signed with the body and other key message headers in order to "bind" the two  
576 together. This will ensure that the coordination context is not tampered. In addition the reference  
577 parameters within an Endpoint Reference may be encrypted to ensure their privacy.

578 In the event that a participant communicates frequently with a coordinator, it is RECOMMENDED that a  
579 security context be established using the mechanisms described in WS-Trust [WSTrust] and WS-  
580 SecureConversation [WSSecConv] allowing for potentially more efficient means of authentication.

581 It is common for communication with coordinators to exchange multiple messages. As a result, the usage  
582 profile is such that it is susceptible to key attacks. For this reason it is strongly RECOMMENDED that the  
583 keys used to secure the channel be changed frequently. This "re-keying" can be effected a number of  
584 ways. The following list outlines four common techniques:

- 585 • Attaching a nonce to each message and using it in a derived key function with the shared secret
- 586 • Using a derived key sequence and switch "generations"
- 587 • Closing and re-establishing a security context
- 588 • Exchanging new secrets between the parties

589 It should be noted that the mechanisms listed above are independent of the Security Context Token  
590 (SCT) and secret returned when the coordination context is created. That is, the keys used to secure the  
591 channel may be independent of the key used to prove the right to register with the coordination context.

592 The security context MAY be re-established using the mechanisms described in WS-Trust [WSTrust] and  
593 WS-SecureConversation [WSSecConv]. Similarly, secrets MAY be exchanged using the mechanisms  
594 described in WS-Trust [WSTrust]. Note, however, that the current shared secret SHOULD NOT be used  
595 to encrypt the new shared secret. Derived keys, the preferred solution from this list, MAY be specified  
596 using the mechanisms described in WS-SecureConversation [WSSecConv].

597 The following list summarizes common classes of attacks that apply to this protocol and identifies the  
598 mechanism to prevent/mitigate the attacks:

- 599 • **Message alteration** – Alteration is prevented by including signatures of the message information  
600 using WS-Security [WSSec].
- 601 • **Message disclosure** – Confidentiality is preserved by encrypting sensitive data using WS-  
602 Security [WSSec].
- 603 • **Key integrity** – Key integrity is maintained by using the strongest algorithms possible (by  
604 comparing secured policies – see WS-Policy [WSPOLICY] and WS-SecurityPolicy  
605 [WSSecPolicy]).
- 606 • **Authentication** – Authentication is established using the mechanisms described in WS-Security  
607 [WSSec] and WS-Trust [WSTrust]. Each message is authenticated using the mechanisms  
608 described in WS-Security [WSSec].
- 609 • **Accountability** – Accountability is a function of the type of and string of the key and algorithms  
610 being used. In many cases, a strong symmetric key provides sufficient accountability. However, in  
611 some environments, strong PKI signatures are required.
- 612 • **Availability** – Many services are subject to a variety of availability attacks. Replay is a common  
613 attack and it is RECOMMENDED that this be addressed as described in the next bullet. Other  
614 attacks, such as network-level denial of service attacks are harder to avoid and are outside the



615 scope of this specification. That said, care should be taken to ensure that minimal processing be  
616 performed prior to any authenticating sequences.

- 617 • **Replay** – Messages may be replayed for a variety of reasons. To detect and eliminate this  
618 attack, mechanisms should be used to identify replayed messages such as the timestamp/nonce  
619 outlined in WS-Security **[WSSec]**. Alternatively, and optionally, other technologies, such as  
620 sequencing, can also be used to prevent replay of application messages.

---

## 621 7 Use of WS-Addressing Headers

622 The protocols defined in WS-Coordination use a “request-response” message exchange pattern. The  
623 messages used in these protocols can be classified into two types:

- 624 • Request messages: **CreateCoordinationContext** and **Register**.
- 625 • Reply messages: **CreateCoordinationContextResponse** and **RegisterResponse** and the  
626 protocol faults defined in [Section 4](#) of this specification.

627 Request messages used in WS-Coordination protocols MUST be constructed in accordance with section  
628 3.3 of WS-Addressing 1.0 Core **[WSADDR]**.

629 Reply and fault messages used in WS-Coordination protocols MUST be constructed in accordance with  
630 section 3.4 of WS-Addressing 1.0 Core **[WSADDR]**.

631 Request and reply messages MUST include as the [action] property an action URI that consists of the  
632 wscor namespace URI concatenated with the "/" character and the element name of the message. For  
633 example:

634 `http://docs.oasis-open.org/ws-tx/wscor/2006/06/Register`

635

---

## 8 Glossary

636 The following definitions are used throughout this specification:

637 **Activation service:** This supports a CreateCoordinationContext operation that is used by participants to  
638 create a CoordinationContext.

639 **CoordinationContext:** Contains the activity identifier, its coordination type that represents the collection  
640 of behaviors supported by the activity and a Registration service Endpoint Reference that participants can  
641 use to register for one or more of the protocols supported by that activity's coordination type.

642 **Coordination protocol:** The definition of the coordination behavior and the messages exchanged  
643 between the coordinator and a participant playing a specific role within a coordination type. WSDL  
644 definitions are provided, along with sequencing rules for the messages. The definition of coordination  
645 protocols are provided in additional specification (e.g., WS-AtomicTransaction).

646 **Coordination type:** A defined set of coordination behaviors, including how the service accepts context  
647 creations and coordination protocol registrations, and drives the coordination protocols associated with  
648 the activity.

649 **Coordination service (or Coordinator):** This service consists of an activation service, a registration  
650 service, and a set of coordination protocol services.

651 **Participant:** A service that is carrying out a computation within the activity. A participant receives the  
652 CoordinationContext and can use it to register for coordination protocols.

653 **Registration service:** This supports a Register operation that is used by participants to register for any of  
654 the coordination protocols supported by a coordination type, such as WS-AtomicTransaction [**WSAT**]  
655 Two-Phase Commit (2PC) or WS-BusinessActivity [**WSBA**]  
656 BusinessAgreementWithCoordinatorCompletion.

657 **Web service:** A Web service is a computational service, accessible via messages of definite,  
658 programming-language-neutral and platform-neutral format, and which has no special presumption that  
659 the results of the computation are used primarily for display by a user-agent.

660

---

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