Service Registry

What is a Service Registry?

In the world of shared services it is not only important to know what is available for use (i.e. catalog of services), but also how to discover and connect to those services. A service registry serves the latter purpose. More precisely, a service registry locates an actively running service and then directly connects the user to it. In the past, a service was typically accessible at only one location (e.g. one well-known server) making secure connections relatively straightforward. Changes in the location of a service could occasionally result in failed connections if not managed and clearly communicated to all users

Service registries were created to act as a central point for registering and keeping track of when services are available and where they are running. Users (primarily systems, applications and developers) of shared services simply query a service registry to complete their connections.

Additional Information

For additional information, contact Steve Newman (newman.steve@epa.gov, (202) 566-2134).

What is the Difference Between a Service Catalog and a Service Registry?

A service catalog contains information <u>about</u> an item such as an API or shared service.

A service registry tracks <u>when/where</u> any given service is actively running.

A service catalog may include information about <u>how</u> to connect and/or utilize a service but does not keep track of which services are active nor where they are running.

For more information on service catalogs refer to the Service Catalog fact sheet.