



Bindings for OBIX: WebSocket Bindings Version 1.0

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Related work:

This specification is related to:

- *OBIX Version 1.1*. Edited by Craig Gemmill. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix/v1.1/obix-v1.1.html>.
- *Bindings for OBIX: REST Bindings Version 1.0*. Edited by Craig Gemmill and Markus Jung. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix-rest/v1.0/obix-rest-v1.0.html>.
- *Bindings for OBIX: SOAP Bindings Version 1.0*. Edited by Markus Jung. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix-soap/v1.0/obix-soap-v1.0.html>.
- *Encodings for OBIX: Common Encodings Version 1.0*. Edited by Markus Jung. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix-encodings/v1.0/obix-encodings-v1.0.html>.

Abstract:

This document specifies WebSocket binding for OBIX.

Status:

This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Open Building Information Exchange (oBIX) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the “Latest version” location noted above for possible later revisions of this document. Any other numbered

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1 Introduction

All text is normative unless otherwise labeled.

1.1 Terminology

The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

1.2 Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., “Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels”, BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997. <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>
- [OBIX] *OBIX Version 1.1*. Edited by Craig Gemmill. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix/v1.1/obix-v1.1.html>
- [OBIX Encodings] *Encodings for OBIX: Common Encodings Version 1.0*. Edited by Marcus Jung. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix-encodings/v1.0/obix-encodings-v1.0.html>
- [OBIX REST] *Bindings for OBIX: REST Bindings Version 1.0*. Edited by Craig Gemmill and Markus Jung. Latest version. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix-rest/v1.0/obix-rest-v1.0.html>
- [RFC3986] Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and L. Masinter, “Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax”, STD66, RFC 3986, January 2005. <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt>
- [RFC6455] Fette, I, Melnikov, A, “*The WebSocket Protocol*”, IETF RFC 6455, December 2011. <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc6455.txt>
- [SOA-RM] *Reference Model for Service Oriented Architecture 1.0*, October 2006. OASIS Standard. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/soa-rm/v1.0/soa-rm.pdf>

1.3 Non-Normative References

- [RFC5246] Dierks, T. and E. Rescorla, “The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2”, RFC 5246, August 2008. <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5246.txt>
- [mqtt-v3.1.1] *MQTT Version 3.1.1*. Edited by Andrew Banks and Rahul Gupta. 18 May 2014. OASIS Committee Specification 01. <http://docs.oasis-open.org/mqtt/mqtt/v3.1.1/cs01/mqtt-v3.1.1-cs01.html>. Latest version: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/mqtt/mqtt/v3.1.1/mqtt-v3.1.1.html>.

2 WebSocket Binding

33

34 The WebSocket binding specifies a simple mapping of OBIX requests to WebSocket. After connecting to
35 endpoint URL and switching to the WebSocket protocol (or recognized sub-protocols like MQTT, see
36 chapter 6 in [mqtt31]), OBIX messages can be exchanged continuously.

2.1 Lobby

37

38 The WebSocket binding SHOULD be announced in the Lobby (see section 5.4.3 in [OBIX]) as follows:

39
40

```
<uri name="ws" displayName="WebSocket Binding" val="http://docs.oasis-open.org/obix/obix-  
websocket/v1.0/csprd01/obix-websocket-v1.0-csprd01.html"/>
```

2.2 Requests

41

42 The following table describes the mapping of OBIX request and its WebSocket equivalent. As WebSocket
43 is a message-based protocol it cannot be mapped directly, but as OBIX messages contain naming the
44 messages can be send also using this kind of protocol. For a detailed example of the request flow see
45 section 2.2.4 below.

46

| OBIX Request | WebSocket | Target |
|--------------|---|---|
| Read | After connect use obix:Read messages to read objects and the WatchService functionality to subscribe to objects and receive continuous updates of their state (which is using messages of type obix:Update) | Lobby (single point of WebSocket connection) |
| Write | Send an obix:Write message containing an obj | Any object with an href and writable=true, sent within an open WebSocket connection context |
| Invoke | Send an obix:Invoke message containing op element holding input parameters as children, expecting obix:Response message with corresponding request ID as response. | Any op object with an href (especially Watch), sent within an open WebSocket connection context |
| Delete | If an object has an delete operation defined this operation is used | Any object with delete operation |

47 *Table 2-1. OBIX Request Mapping*

48

2.2.1 Connect request

49

50 The connect URL is the name or IP of the OBIX server prefixed by the WebSocket protocol, i.e. either
51 "ws" or "wss" for a secure connection using TLS. If the server supports multiple encodings a client MAY
52 request the encoding with the "encoding" parameter on connect (e.g. "wss://myhome/?encoding=json"), if
53 not specified the server uses its default encoding (it is recommend to support XML encoding as default).
54 The response send to client upon successful connection MUST be the Lobby object.

55 2.2.2 Request, Response and Update messages

56 To ensure that a request and response in the asynchronous message exchange of WebSocket is bound
57 together, the concept of a request with a defined request ID (denoted as attribute `rid`) is introduced. A
58 response to a request contains that specific request ID so that the client can match the request and
59 response. If the server sends a message without the request and response context, it uses the
60 `obix:Update` type to denote this case.

61 Following are the contract definitions of Read, Write, Invoke, Response and Update:

```
62 <obj href="obix:Read">  
63 </obj>  
64  
65 <obj href="obix:Write">  
66 </obj>  
67  
68 <obj href="obix:Invoke">  
69 </obj>  
70  
71 <obj href="obix:Response">  
72 </obj>  
73  
74 <obj href="obix:Update">  
75 </obj>
```

76 For `obix:Read`, `obix:Write`, `obix:Invoke` and `obix:Response` there is a facet `rid` defined as
77 `xs:int`, which **MUST** be included (e.g. the attribute can have the value `rid="1"` to denote the request ID
78 1). The `obix:Request`, `obix:Response` and `obix:Update` objects **MUST** contain an `obj` or `list`.
79 Here an example for a response object:

```
80 <obj is="obix:Response" rid="1">  
81 <obj href="/device/BrightnessSensor" name="BrightnessSensor" location="Outside"  
82 is="example:Brightness" displayName="Brightness Outside">  
83 <real name="value" val="45.5" unit="obix:units/lux" />  
84 </obj>  
85 </obj>
```

86 2.2.3 Watches

87 As WebSocket follows a message exchange pattern the REST-style messages of OBIX needs to be
88 wrapped. For that, extensive use is made of the "Watch" concept. After a successful connection to the
89 OBIX server, the client can add a "Watch" to subscribe to object changes. This is done using the `make`
90 operation on the `WatchService` object. As long as the WebSocket connection is open, the server **MAY**
91 push unsolicited updates via `obix:Update` messages to the client, as defined in section 12.2 in **[OBIX]**.
92 This ensures that the client has a consistent state with the server.

93 2.2.4 Example Request Flow

94 The request and response flow below shows a non-normative example of WebSocket exchanges in the
95 XML encoding style:

96

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Client | Server |
|--------|--------|

| | |
|--|--|
| <u>Client initiates action on its own timing</u> Connect to WebSocket server: wss://myhome/ | ➔ |
| ← | <u>Server sends message in response to connection from Client</u> Returns the Lobby: <pre><obj is="obix:Lobby"> <ref name="about" href="/about", is="obix:About"/> <op name="batch" in="obix:BatchIn" out="obix:BatchOut"/> <ref name="watchService" href="/watchService" is="obix:WatchService"/> <ref name="device" href="/device" is="example:Device" /> </obj></pre> |

97 Table 2-2. Exchange 1: Client initiates connection with server for subsequent data exchange
98

| Client | Server |
|---|--|
| <u>Client sends message on its own timing</u> Call WatchService.make operation: <pre><obj is="obix:Invoke" rid="1" href="/watchService/make" /></pre> | ➔ |
| ← | <u>Server sends message in response to "watch service" message from Client</u> Returns the Watch (the lease time is not used): <pre><obj is="obix:Response" rid="1"> <obj is="obix:Watch" href="/watch/1"> <reltime name="lease" val="PT0S" /> </obj> </obj></pre> |

99 Table 2-3. Exchange 2: Client sets up a watch service on the server
100

| Client | Server |
|---|--|
| <u>Client sends message on its own timing</u> Call Watch.add operation to add /device/: <pre><obj is="obix:Invoke" rid="2" href="/watch/1/add"> <obj is="obix:WatchIn"> <list name="hrefs"> <uri val="/device" /> </list> </obj> </obj></pre> | ➔ |
| ← | <u>Server sends message in response to "add device" message from Client</u> List devices: <pre><obj is="obix:Response" rid="2"> <list name="device" href="/device" of="obj"> <obj href="/device/bathTemp" name="BathTemperature" location="Bathroom" is="example:Temperature"</pre> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <pre> displayName="Temperature Bathroom"> <abstime name="Timestamp" val="2013-07-24T10:01:15.883+02:00"> </abstime> <real name="ActualValue" val="28.2" unit="obix:units/celsius" displayName="ActualValue"> </real> <bool name="Warm" val="true" displayName="Warm"></bool> </obj> <obj href="/device/bathLight" name="BathLight" location="Bathroom" is="example:Switch" displayName="Light Bathroom"> <abstime name="Timestamp" val="2013-07-14T22:25:31.331+02:00"> </abstime> <bool name="Status" val="false" displayName="Status" writeable="true"> </bool> </obj> </list> </obj> </pre> |
|--|---|

101 Table 2-4. Exchange 3: Client adds default devices to established watch service
102

| Client | Server |
|--|--|
| <i>Client sends message on its own timing</i> | |
| <p>Call Watch.remove operation to remove /device/:</p> <pre> <obj is="obix:Invoke" rid="3" href="/watch/1/remove"> <obj is="obix:WatchIn"> <list name="hrefs"> <uri val="/device/" /> </list> </obj> </obj> </pre> | → |
| X | <p><u>Server does not send out any message upon reception of "watch remove" message from Client</u></p> <p>Removed successfully, no response</p> |

103 Table 2-5. Exchange 4: Client removes established default devices from an established watch service
104

| Client | Server |
|---|--------|
| <i>Client sends message on its own timing</i> | |
| <p>Watch.add /device/bathTemp:</p> <pre> <obj is="obix:Read" rid="4" href="/watch/1/add"> <obj is="obix:WatchIn"> <list name="hrefs"> <uri val="/device/bathTemp" /> </list> </obj> </obj> </pre> | → |

| | |
|--|---|
| <pre></list> </obj> </obj></pre> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">←</p> | <p><u>Server sends message in response to “add device” message from Client</u></p> <p>Send bathTemp information within the WatchOut object:</p> <pre><obj is="obix:Response" rid="4"> <obj is="obix:WatchOut" href="/watch/1"> <list name="values"> <obj href="/device/bathTemp" name="BathTemperature" location="Bathroom" is="example:Temperature" displayName="Temperature Bathroom"> <abstime name="Timestamp" val="2013-07-24T10:01:15.883+02:00"> </abstime> <real name="ActualValue" val="28.2" unit="obix:units/celsius" displayName="ActualValue"></real> <bool name="Warm" val="true" displayName="Warm"></bool> </obj> </list> </obj> </obj></pre> |
| <p><u>Client sends message on its own timing after having received the “device information” message from Server</u></p> <p>Watch.pollChanges</p> <pre><obj is="obix:Invoke" rid="5" href="/watch/1/pollChange"> </obj></pre> | <p style="text-align: center;">→</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">←</p> | <p><u>Server sends message in response to “watch poll changes” message from Client</u></p> <p>Send empty response as the state is current</p> <pre><obj is="obix:Response" rid="5"> </obj></pre> |
| <p><u>Client sends message on its own timing</u></p> <p>To keep the WebSocket session open send an empty WebSocket frame like e.g. ""</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">→</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">X</p> | <p><u>Server does not send out any message upon reception of empty WebSocket messages from Client</u></p> <p>No response, just the session is kept open</p> |

105 Table 2-6. Exchange 5: Client adds first device with ability to watch for changes, but that device has no changes that
106 occur
107

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Client | Server |
|---------------|---------------|

Client sends message on its own timing

Watch.add /device/kitchenTemp:

```
<obj is="obix:Invoke" rid="6" href="/watch/1/add">
  <obj is="obix:WatchIn">
    <list name="hrefs">
      <uri val="/device/kitchenTemp" />
    </list>
  </obj>
</obj>
```



Server sends message in response to "add device" message from Client

Send kitchenTemp containing the current object:

```
<obj is="obix:Response" rid="6">
  <obj is="obix:WatchOut" href="/watch/1">
    <list name="values">
      <obj href="/device/kitchenTemp"
        name="KitchenTemperature"
        location="Kitchen"
        is="example:Temperature"
        displayName="Temperature Kitchen">
        <abstime name="Timestamp"
          val="2013-07-24T10:01:15.883+02:00">
        </abstime>
        <real name="ActualValue" val="26.1"
          unit="obix:units/celsius"
          displayName="ActualValue"></real>
        <bool name="Warm" val="true"
          displayName="Warm"></bool>
      </obj>
    </list>
  </obj>
</obj>
```



A period of two minutes has elapsed during this time slot, in the mean time only the empty frames are sent to keep the WebSocket connection open

Server sends message after 2 minutes from previous message

Send unsolicited update as an update from the temperature sensor was received:

```
<obj is="obix:Update">
  <obj is="obix:WatchOut" href="/watch/1">
    <list name="values">
      <obj href="/device/kitchenTemp"
        name="KitchenTemperature"
        location="Kitchen"
        is="example:Temperature"
        displayName="Temperature Kitchen">
        <abstime name="Timestamp"
          val="2013-07-24T10:03:15.883+02:00">
        </abstime>
        <real name="ActualValue" val="26.2"
          unit="obix:units/celsius"
          displayName="ActualValue"></real>
        <bool name="Warm" val="true"
          displayName="Warm"></bool>
      </obj>
    </list>
  </obj>
```



| | |
|--|--|
| | <pre> </list> </obj> </obj> </pre> |
|--|--|

108 *Table 2-7. Exchange 6: Client adds second device with ability to watch for changes, and that device has changes that*
109 *occur*
110

| Client | Server |
|---|--|
| <i>Client sends message on its own timing</i> | |
| Update bathLight <pre> <obj is="obix:Write" href="/device/bathLight" rid="7"> <bool name="Status" val="true" displayName="Status" writeable="true"></bool> </obj> </pre> | → |
| X | <u>Server does not send out any message upon reception of "update" messages from Client</u> No direct response as not watched |

111 *Table 2-8. Exchange 7: Client attempts to update a device that has not been setup for watching*
112

| Client | Server |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Client sends message on its own timing</i> | |
| Disconnect from wss://myhome/ | → |
| | Server disconnects from Client |

113 *Table 2-9. Exchange 8: Client removes connection from Server*
114

115 2.3 Security

116 Existing standards SHOULD be used when applicable for OBIX WebSocket implementations including:

- 117 • RFC 5246 – The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2, see [RFC5246]

118 2.4 Localization

119 Servers SHOULD localize appropriate data based on the desired locale of the client agent. Localization
120 SHOULD include the `display` and `displayName` attributes. The desired locale of the client SHOULD
121 be determined through authentication. A suggested algorithm is to check if the authenticated user has a
122 preferred locale configured in the server's user database.

123 Localization MAY include auto-conversion of units. For example if the authenticated user has configured
124 a preferred unit system such as English versus Metric, then the server might attempt to convert values
125 with an associated `unit` facet to the desired unit system.

126 3 Conformance

127 An implementation is conformant with this specification if it satisfies all of the MUST and REQUIRED level
128 requirements defined herein for the functions implemented. Normative text within this specification takes
129 precedence over normative outlines, which in turn take precedence over examples.

130 An implementation is a conforming OBIX Server supporting WebSocket if it meets the conditions
131 described in Section 3.1. An implementation is a conforming OBIX Client supporting WebSocket if it
132 meets the conditions described in Section 3.2. An implementation is a conforming OBIX Server
133 supporting WebSocket and a conforming OBIX Client supporting WebSocket if it meets the conditions of
134 both Sections 3.1 and 3.2.

135 3.1 Conditions for conforming OBIX Server supporting WebSocket

- 136 1. An OBIX server supporting WebSocket MUST conform to an OBIX server as defined in **[OBIX]**.
- 137 2. An OBIX server supporting WebSocket MUST accept WebSocket connections and MUST return
138 the Lobby object on successful connection.
- 139 3. An OBIX server supporting WebSocket MUST support the `make` operation of the
140 `obix:WatchService` object.
- 141 4. An OBIX server supporting WebSocket MUST support the `obix:Read`, `obix:Write`,
142 `obix:Invoke`, `obix:Response` and `obix:Update` contracts and return the request id "rid"
143 within the `obix:Response` object.

144 3.2 Conditions for conforming OBIX Client supporting WebSocket

- 145 1. An OBIX client supporting WebSocket must conform to an OBIX client as defined in **[OBIX]**.
- 146 2. A conformant OBIX client supporting WebSocket must support WebSocket connections and the
147 request flow as stated in Section 2.2.
- 148 3. A conformant implementation MUST generate request IDs for each across `obix:Read`,
149 `obix:Write` and `obix:Invoke` message

150 **Appendix A. Acknowledgments**

151 The following individuals have participated in the creation of this specification and are gratefully
152 acknowledged:

153 **Participants:**

154 Gareth Johnson, Tridium Inc.
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Appendix B. Revision History

| Revision | Date | Editor | Changes Made |
|----------|-------------|----------------|---|
| WD01 | 1-Aug-2013 | Matthias Hub | Initial submission |
| WD02 | 8-Aug-2013 | Toby Considine | Moved to standard template, added some normative references |
| WD03 | 13-Aug-2013 | Matthias Hub | Incorporated review comments by Gareth Johnson |
| WD04 | 15-Oct-2013 | Matthias Hub | Incorporated review comments from TC: removed separate watch concept – instead re-using standard watch concept, added definition of Watch properties |
| WD05 | 18-Oct-2013 | Matthias Hub | Incorporated Craig Gemmill input to Watches |
| WD06 | 29-Oct-2013 | Ludo Bertsch | Improved example in Section 2.1.5 |
| WD07 | 30-Oct-2013 | Matthias Hub | Updated Terminology section Added bufferHandling property to the Watch Changed request / response flow style in the example Updated conformance section for different naming and to refer to the core spec |
| WD08 | 18-Nov-2013 | Matthias Hub | Introduced obix:Read, obix:Write and obix:Invoke as message type similar to the SOAP binding Clarified FIFO / LIFO means that messages are dropped Adapted request / response flow style |
| WD09 | 25-Nov-2013 | Matthias Hub | Added definition of obix:Read, obix:Write and obix:Invoke Updated the example flow to use obix:Read, obix:Write and obix:Invoke Using "example" prefix instead of "gateway" |
| WD10 | 16-Dec-2013 | Matthias Hub | Added Lobby definition section Removed duplicate Watches definition as they are moved into core Fixed spelling (OBIX-85) Updated table titles (OBIX-86) |
| WD11 | 26-May-2014 | Matthias Hub | Incorporated comments from the public review: OBIX-103, OBIX-117, OBIX-118, OBIX-119, OBIX-120, OBIX-121, OBIX-184, OBIX-185, OBIX-186 |

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|------|-------------|--------------|---|
| | | | Corrected request operators in examples Added reference to MQTT over WebSocket Smaller formatting changes |
| WD12 | 15-Oct-2014 | Matthias Hub | Changed "names" property to "name" of the list object to match contract definition |

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