How do I add a property to a resource?

In our *How do I create a resource?* article, we demonstrated three basic methods. The second method uses the *GetObject* service. It is capable of automatically creating a resource object along with related properties similar to how the GetDatabaseItem service works. However, the *GetObject* service doesn't have to create the entire resource object. When full automation is not practical, the developer will need a way to **add a property** to an empty (or partially created) resource object. This article will show how this is done.

It is important to understand that the *GetObject* service returns a handle to a JSON object. This is useful because it can be shared with other services (referred to as *companion* services) that use a handle to update a resource object. The **AddProperty** service will be used to add a simple name/value pair to the resource object like so:

```
objResource     = HTTP_Resource_Services('GetObject')
If Error_Services('NoError') then
    HTTP_Resource_Services('AddProperty', objResource, 'firstName', 'William')
    HTTP_Resource_Services('AddProperty', objResource, 'lastName', 'Hudson')
    // Serialize the JSON object.
    jsonResource    = HTTP_Resource_Services('GetSerializedResource', objResource)
end
```

In the above code, the *GetObject* service is called without any arguments. This simply returns a handle to an empty resource object. It doesn't have to be completely empty, but for the sake of a simple demonstration we'll start with an empty resource object and use the *AddProperty* service to add two properties: *firstName* and *lastName*. The values are hardcoded, although production code will most likely draw from a database row or other digital source. We finish by calling the *GetSerializedResource* service so that we get a stringified JSON object that we can inspect or use in our API. Here is what our resource object looks like:

```
{
    "firstName":"William",
    "lastName":"Hudson"
}
```

Another service that might add a little more convenience is **AddProperties**. It's a wrapper around the *AddProperty* service that allows the developer to pass in an @FM delimited list of property names and values into a single call. For example:

```
objResource     = HTTP_Resource_Services('GetObject')
If Error_Services('NoError') then
    PropertyNames   = 'firstName' : @FM : 'lastName'
    PropertyValues  = 'William'   : @FM : 'Hudson'
    HTTP_Resource_Services('AddProperties', objResource, PropertyNames, PropertyValues)
    // Serialize the JSON object.
    jsonResource    = HTTP_Resource_Services('GetSerializedResource', objResource)
end
```

Developers will need to decide if the *AddProperties* service provides enough convenience in lieu of multiple *AddProperty* calls. One possible beneficial use case is when the values are already stored in an @FM delimited array (such as a database row).