



An Overview of Servlet & JSP Technology

JSP, Servlet, Struts, JSF, AJAX, & Java 5 Training: <http://courses.coreservlets.com>
J2EE Books from Sun Press: <http://www.coreservlets.com>



For live J2EE training, see training courses on JSP, servlets, Struts, JSF, AJAX, and Java 5 at <http://courses.coreservlets.com/>.



Taught by the author of *Core Servlets and JSP*, *More Servlets and JSP*, and this tutorial. Available at public venues, or customized versions can be held on-site at your organization.
Additional topics available upon request.

Agenda

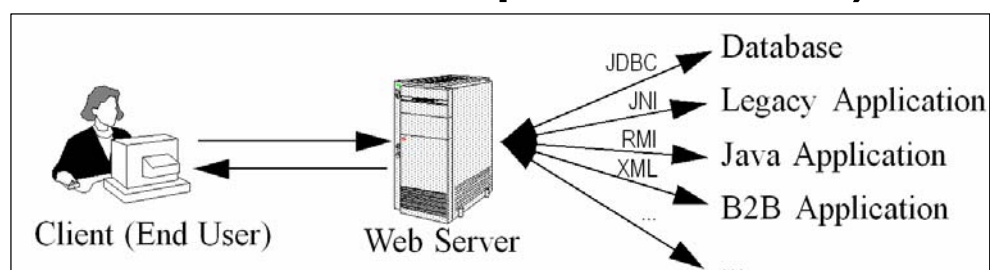
- Understanding the role of servlets
- Building Web pages dynamically
- Evaluating servlets vs. other technologies
- Understanding the role of JSP
- Configuring the server
- Configuring your development environment
- Testing the setup
 - Basic server
 - HTML/JSP
 - Servlets

4

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A Servlet's Job

- Read explicit data sent by client (form data)
- Read implicit data sent by client (request headers)
- Generate the results
- Send the explicit data back to client (HTML)
- Send the implicit data to client (status codes and response headers)



5

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Why Build Web Pages Dynamically?

- **The Web page is based on data submitted by the user**
 - E.g., results page from search engines and order-confirmation pages at on-line stores
- **The Web page is derived from data that changes frequently**
 - E.g., a weather report or news headlines page
- **The Web page uses information from databases or other server-side sources**
 - E.g., an e-commerce site could use a servlet to build a Web page that lists the current price and availability of each item that is for sale.

6

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The Advantages of Servlets Over “Traditional” CGI

- **Efficient**
 - Threads instead of OS processes, one servlet copy
- **Convenient**
 - Lots of high-level utilities
- **Powerful**
 - Sharing data, pooling, persistence
- **Portable**
 - Run on virtually all operating systems and servers
- **Inexpensive**
 - There are plenty of free and low-cost servers
- **Secure**
 - No shell escapes, no buffer overflows
- **Mainstream**
 - See next page

7

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Mainstream

- **Popular:**
 - The single most common use of Java technology
 - The leading technology for medium/large Web applications
- **Supported by:**
 - Apache, Oracle, IBM, Sybase, BEA, Macromedia, Caucho, Sun/iPlanet, New Atlanta, ATG, Fujitsu, Lutris, Silverstream, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), and many others
 - Plugins for IIS and Zeus
- **Runs on:**
 - Windows, Unix/Linux, MacOS, VMS, and IBM mainframe OSs
- **Used for:**
 - Airline companies, hotels, e-commerce sites, search engines, banks, financial sites, etc., etc., etc.



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Extending the Power of Servlets: JavaServer Pages (JSP)

- **Idea:**
 - Use regular HTML for most of page
 - Mark dynamic content with special tags
 - Details in second half of course

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Welcome to Our Store</TITLE></HEAD>
<BODY>
<H1>Welcome to Our Store</H1>
<SMALL>Welcome,
<!-- User name is "New User" for first-time visitors -->
<%= coreservlets.Utils.getUserNameFromCookie(request) %>
To access your account settings, click
<A HREF="Account-Settings.html">here.</A></SMALL>
<P>
Regular HTML for rest of on-line store's Web page
</BODY></HTML>
```

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Server Setup and Configuration

1. Download and install the Java Software Development Kit (SDK)
2. Download a server.
3. Configure the server
4. Set up your development environment
5. Test your setup
6. Establish a simplified deployment method
7. Create custom Web applications

- **For very detailed coverage of these steps for Tomcat 4 and 5, see**

– <http://www.coreservlets.com/Apache-Tomcat-Tutorial/>

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10

Download & Install Java JDK

- **Recommended Java version**
 - Java 5 (aka JDK 1.5)
 - Obtain at <http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.5.0/download.jsp>
 - Get JDK, not just JRE. Don't get J2EE.
 - Set PATH variable as described in Java documentation
- **Minimum supported Java version**
 - Servlets 2.3 and JSP 1.2 (standalone servers).
 - Java 1.2 or later.
 - J2EE 1.3 (which includes servlets 2.3 and JSP 1.2).
 - Java 1.3 or later.
 - Servlets 2.4 and JSP 2.0 (standalone servers).
 - Java 1.3 or later.
 - J2EE 1.4 (which includes servlets 2.4 and JSP 2.0).
 - Java 1.4 or later.

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11

Download a Free Server for Your Desktop

- **Apache Tomcat**
 - <http://jakarta.apache.org/tomcat/>
 - For installation and setup details, see <http://www.coreservlets.com/apache-tomcat-tutorial/>
- **Macromedia JRun**
 - <http://www.macromedia.com/software/jrun/>
- **Caucho Resin**
 - <http://caucho.com/products/resin/>
- **New Atlanta ServletExec**
 - <http://www.newatlanta.com/products/servletexec/>
- **Jetty**
 - <http://jetty.mortbay.org/jetty/>

12

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Configure the Server

- **Identify the JDK installation directory.**
 - For Tomcat: set JAVA_HOME
- **Specify the port.**
 - Change the port from default (usually 8080) to 80
- **Make server-specific customizations.**
 - For Tomcat:
 - Enable servlet reloading
 - Enable the ROOT context
 - Turn on the invoker servlet
 - **These changes already done for class.** To reproduce for home/office setup, see book or refer to <http://www.coreservlets.com/apache-tomcat-tutorial/>

13

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Set Up Your Development Environment

- **Create a development directory**
 - Choose a location in which to develop your servlets, JSP documents, and supporting classes (e.g., C:\Servlets+JSP)
- **Set your CLASSPATH**
 - Tell the compiler about the servlet and JSP JAR file and the location of your development directory.
 - *Setting this variable incorrectly is the single most common cause of problems for beginners.*
- **Make shortcuts to start and stop the server**
 - Make sure it is convenient to start and stop the server.
- **Bookmark or install the servlet and JSP API documentation**
 - You'll refer to this documentation frequently, so keep it handy.

14

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Test Your Setup

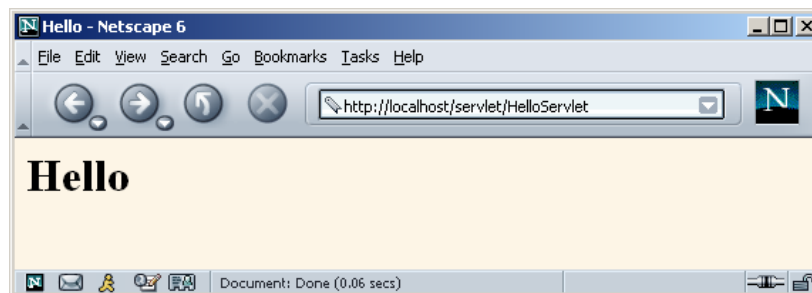
- **Verify your Java installation**
 - Be sure that you get meaningful results for *both* of these:
 - `java -version`
 - `javac -help`
- **Check your basic server configuration**
 - Start server and access the server home page (<http://localhost/>)
 - Access a simple user-defined HTML page
 - Download Hello.html from book's source code archive
 - Put in `install_dir/webapps/ROOT`
 - Access with <http://localhost/Hello.html>
 - Access a simple user-defined JSP page
 - Download Hello.jsp and put in `install_dir/webapps/ROOT`
 - Access with <http://localhost/Hello.jsp>

15

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Test Your Setup (Continued)

- **Compile and deploy a packageless servlet**
 - Download HelloServlet.java from source code archive
 - Place in development directory (e.g., C:\Servlets+JSP)
 - Compile (if errors, check CLASSPATH)
 - Move HelloServlet.class to *install_dir/webapps/ROOT/WEB-INF/classes*
 - Access with <http://localhost/servlet/HelloServlet>

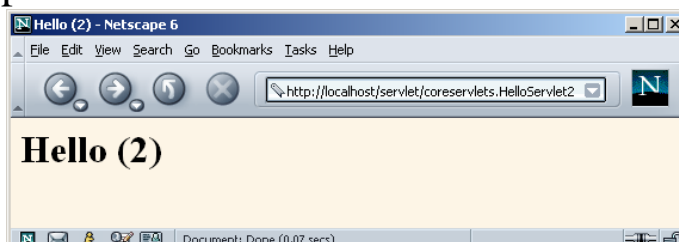


16

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Test Your Setup (Continued)

- **Compile and deploy a packaged servlet**
 - Download HelloServlet2.java from source code archive
 - Place in **coreservlets** subdirectory of development directory (e.g., C:\Servlets+JSP**coreservlets**)
 - Compile (if errors, check CLASSPATH)
 - Move HelloServlet2.class to *install_dir/webapps/ROOT/WEB-INF/classes/coreservlets*
 - Access with <http://localhost/servlet/coreservlets.HelloServlet2>

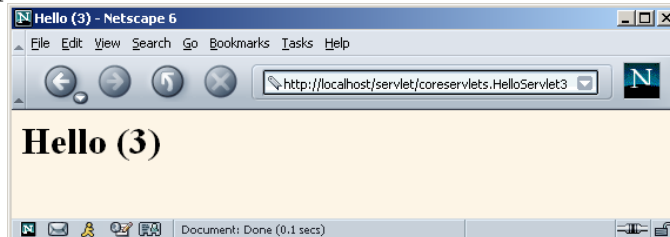


17

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Test Your Setup (Continued)

- **Compile and deploy a packaged servlet that uses a helper class**
 - Download HelloServlet3.java *and* ServletUtilities.java
 - Place in coreservlets subdirectory of development dir
 - Compile (if errors, check CLASSPATH)
 - Move *both* class files to `install_dir/webapps/ROOT/WEB-INF/classes/coreservlets`
 - Access with `http://localhost/servlet/coreservlets.HelloServlet3`



18

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Establish a Simplified Deployment Method

- **Copy to a shortcut or symbolic link**
 - Make shortcut to `install_dir/webapps/ROOT/WEB-INF/classes`
 - For packageless servlets, copy .class file to this shortcut
 - For packaged servlets, copy entire directory to shortcut
 - This is the simplest method for beginners
 - This is the method I will use throughout class
- **Use the -d option of javac**
 - Lets you have source files in one location but automatically place .class files in another location
- **Let your IDE take care of deployment**
- **Use ant or a similar tool**
 - Ant is especially popular when using custom Web apps

19

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Web Applications: A Preview

- **Learning**

- Use default Web application (**ROOT** on Tomcat)
- Use default URLs (`http://.../servlet/ServletName`)
- Advantages
 - Simpler
 - Can test without restarting server or editing `web.xml`

- **Deployment**

- Use a custom Web application (on Tomcat, a directory in `install_dir/webapps` with structure similar to `ROOT`)
- Register custom URLs in `WEB-INF/web.xml`
- Advantages
 - URLs look better
 - Advanced features (init params, security, filters, etc.) depend on your using registered URLs

20

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Making Custom Web Apps

- 1. Make a directory whose structure mirrors the structure of the default Web application.**

- HTML (and, eventually, JSP) documents go in the top-level directory
- The `web.xml` file goes in the `WEB-INF` subdirectory
- Servlets and other classes go either in `WEB-INF/classes` or a subdirectory of `WEB-INF/classes` that matches the package name.
- On Tomcat, entire directory goes in `install_dir/webapps`

- 2. Update your CLASSPATH.**

- Add `webAppDir/WEB-INF/classes` to it.

21

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Making Custom Web Apps

3. Use the directory name in the URL

- All URLs should be of the form
`http://host/webAppDir/...`

4. Use web.xml to assign custom URLs

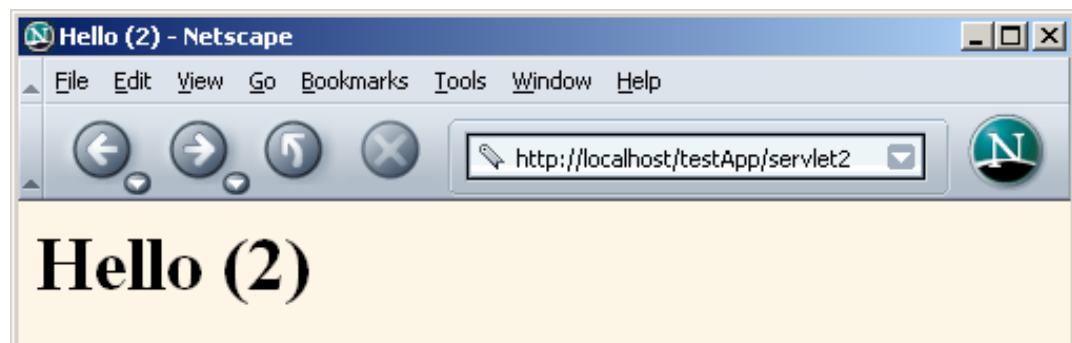
- Use the `servlet` and `servlet-mapping` elements

```
<servlet>
  <servlet-name>Servlet2</servlet-name>
  <servlet-class>
    coreservlets.HelloServlet2
  </servlet-class>
</servlet>
<servlet-mapping>
  <servlet-name>Servlet2</servlet-name>
  <url-pattern>/servlet2</url-pattern>
</servlet-mapping>
```

22

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Making Custom Web Apps



23

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Summary

- **Servlets are efficient, portable, powerful, and widely accepted in industry**
- **Regardless of deployment server, run a free server on your desktop for development**
- **Getting started:**
 - Set your CLASSPATH
 - Servlet JAR file
 - Top of your package hierarchy
 - Put class files in proper location
 - .../WEB-INF/classes
 - Use proper URL, usually `http://host/servlet/ServletName`
- **Download existing servlet first time**
 - Start with HelloServlet from www.coreservlets.com

27

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Questions?

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28