



ServletConfig & ServletContext

Agenda

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ServletConfig and ServletContext

Objectives

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- Use ServletConfig and ServletContext object in web applications
- Create web applications that implement Servlet Chaining

ServletConfig and ServletContext

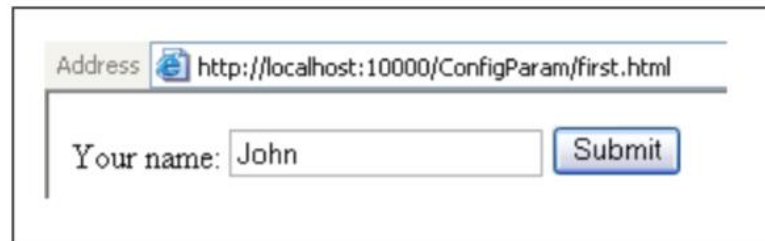



ServletConfig interface

- Provided to a servlet upon initialization by the web container
- Simple read only interface to configuration details
 - String getInitParameter(String name)
 - Enumeration getInitParameterNames()
 - String getServletName ()
- Can also access ServletContext

Demo for using ServletConfig

- Consider an html form “first.html” which accepts the user name



Address  http://localhost:10000/ConfigParam/first.html

Your name:

- A servlet “Second.java” takes in this parameter and displays it on the web page



Address  http://localhost:10000/ConfigParam/Second?name=John

Welcome to www.simple.com

Hello! John

Where did this
value come from?

Demo for using ServletConfig (Contd.).

- Let us take a look at Second.java servlet code

```
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;

public class Second extends HttpServlet {

    String homeName;
    ServletConfig config;

    public void init() { //get the initialization parameters
        //Returns this servlet's ServletConfig object
        config = getServletConfig();

        /*Returns a String containing the value of the named initialization
        parameter,
        or null if the parameter does not exist. */
        homeName = config.getInitParameter("homeName");
    }
}
```

Demo for using ServletConfig (Contd.).

```
public void doGet(HttpServletRequest req, HttpServletResponse res)
    throws ServletException, IOException {
    res.setContentType("text/html");
    PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();

    String uname = req.getParameter("name");

    out.println("<h2>" + homeName + "</h2>");
    out.println("<hr>");
    out.println("Hello!  " + uname);
}
}
```


Demo for using ServletConfig (Contd.).

Web.xml

```
<web-app>
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>Second</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>Second</servlet-class>
    <init-param>
      <param-name>homeName</param-name>
      <param-value>Welcome to www.simple.com</param-value>
    </init-param>
  </servlet>
  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>Second</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>/Second</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
</web-app>
```

The init parameter values are configured in the web.xml deployment descriptor file

Database Example for using ServletConfig

- The init() method can also be used to perform set up operation such as setting up a database connection

```
public class DBConfigParamServlet extends HttpServlet {
    Connection con;
    PreparedStatement st;
    Statement stmt;
    ResultSet rs;
    ServletConfig config;
    public void init() {
        config = getServletConfig(); //Returns this servlet's ServletConfig object
        String driver = config.getInitParameter("driverName");
        String url = config.getInitParameter("urlName");
        try {
            Class.forName(driver);
            con = DriverManager.getConnection(url, "scott", "tiger");
            System.out.println("Connected by using init parameters..");
        } catch (Exception e) {    System.out.println("Error in connection..");    }
    }
    .....doGet()...{} }
```

Database Example for using ... (Contd.).

```
<web-app>
  <servlet>
    <servlet-name>DBConfigParamServlet</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>DBConfigParamServlet</servlet-class>
    <init-param>
      <param-name>driverName</param-name>
      <param-value>sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver</param-value>
    </init-param>
    <init-param>
      <param-name>urlName</param-name>
      <param-value>Jdbc:Odbc:vdsn2</param-value>
    </init-param>
  </servlet>
  <servlet-mapping>
    <servlet-name>DBConfigParamServlet</servlet-name>
    <url-pattern>/booksconfig.show</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
</web-app>
```

Discussion

- *What is the advantage of setting up a database connection by reading init parameter values?*



ServletContext interface

- Allows a servlet to communicate with the servlet container
- Access container-managed resources, dispatch requests, write to logs
- Defines a set of methods that a servlet uses to communicate with its servlet container
For example, to get the MIME type of a file, dispatch requests, or write to a log file
- There is one context per "web application" per Java Virtual Machine
- ServletContext object is contained within ServletConfig object, which the servlet container provides the servlet when the servlet is initialized

Servlet Context Methods

- Resources such as index.html can be accessed through web server or by servlet
 - Servlet uses *request.getContextPath()* to identify its context path, for example: /app
 - Servlet uses *getResource()* and *getResourceAsStream(request.getContextPath() + "/index.html")*
- To retrieve context-wide initialization parameters, servlet uses *getInitParameter()* and *getInitParameterNames()*
- To access a range of information about the local environment, shared with other servlets in same servlet context, servlet uses *getAttribute()*, *setAttribute()*, *removeAttribute()*, *getAttributeNames()*

Demo for using ServletContext

- Use of ServletContext for web application initialization: Suppose there is a need to include a contact email of webmaster or an admin on few web pages of a website
- In the web.xml:

```
<servlet>
    <servlet-name>ContextParamServlet</servlet-name>
    <servlet-class>ContextParamServlet</servlet-class>
</servlet>
<context-param>
    <param-name>Email</param-name>
    <param-value>webmaster@simple.com</param-value>
</context-param>
```

- In the servlet code:

```
ServletContext context = getServletContext();
out.println(context.getInitParameter("Email"));
```

Checkpoint

- *In which tag is the `<context-param>` tag defined in web.xml file?*



Servlet Chaining



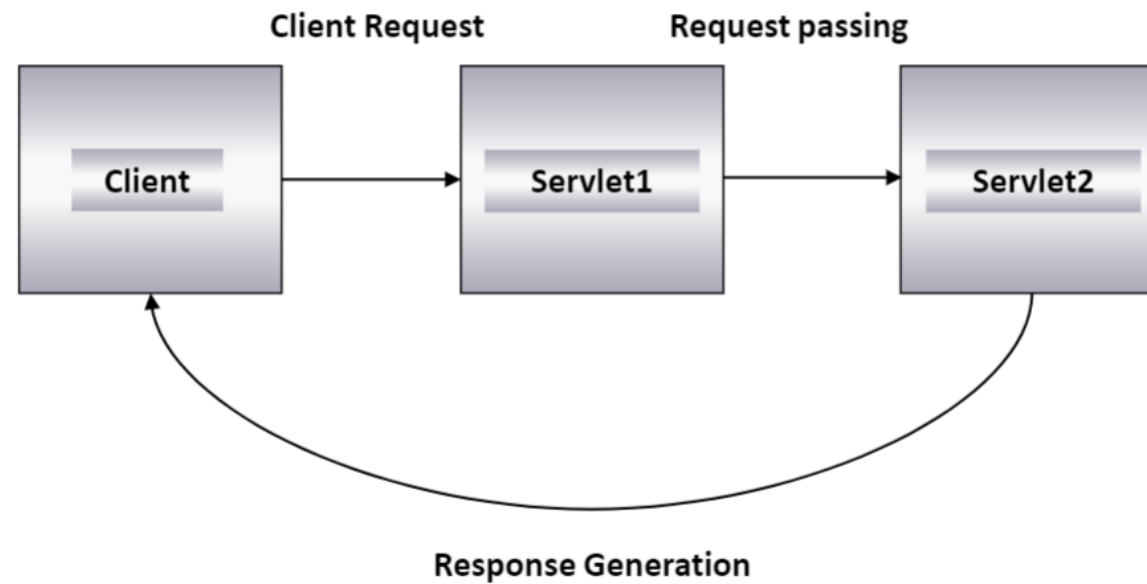
Servlet Chaining: RequestDispatcher Interface

- Used in order to FORWARD or INCLUDE a request from one servlet to another
- Servlet/JSP the RequestDispatcher interface provides two methods.
 1. RequestDispatcher.forward(request,response)
 2. RequestDispatcher.include(request,response)
- Both these methods take ServletRequest and ServletResponse object as an argument

Servlet Chaining: forward (request,response)

```
ServletContext ctx=getServletContext();  
RequestDispatcher  
    dis=ctx.getRequestDispatcher("/servlet/AnotherServlet");  
dis.forward(request,response);
```

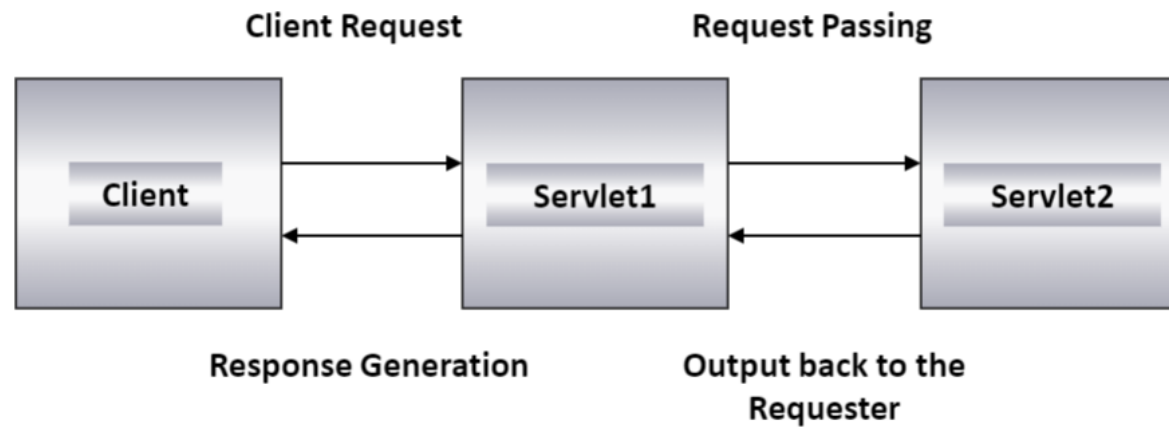
Servlet Chaining: forward (request, response)



Servlet Chaining: include (request, response)

```
ServletContext ctx=getServletContext();  
RequestDispatcher  
    dis=ctx.getRequestDispatcher("/servlet/AnotherServlet");  
dis.include(request,response);
```

Servlet Chaining: include (request, response)



Demo for Servlet Chaining

- This example demonstrates chaining in servlets where output of the first servlet act as a input to the second servlet.
 - *first.html* – a form containing a text field and a submit button
 - *FirstServlet.java* - accepts user name and forwards it to SecondServlet
 - *SecondServlet.java* - Extracts the username value which is set in FirstServlet

Summary

In this module, you were able to:

- Use ServletConfig and ServletContext object in web applications
- Create web applications that implement Servlet Chaining
- Develop web applications that use Cookies
- Implement Session tracking in web applications

References

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3. JavaTPoint (2012). ServletConfig Interface. Retrieved April 26, 2012, from, <http://www.javatpoint.com/sonoojaiswal/servletconfig>



Thank You