Overview

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This manual contains reference information about all of the configuration directives that can be included in a `conf/server.xml` file to configure the behavior of the Tomcat 7 Servlet/JSP container. It does not attempt to describe which configuration directives should be used to perform specific tasks - for that, see the various *HOW-TO* documents on the main index page.

Tomcat configuration files are formatted as schemaless XML; elements and attributes are case-sensitive. Apache Ant-style variable substitution is supported; a system property with the name `propname` may be used in a configuration file using the syntax `${propname}`. All system properties are available including those set using the `-D` syntax, those automatically made available by the JVM and those configured in the `$CATALINA_BASE/conf/catalina.properties` file.

The configuration element descriptions are organized into the following major categories:

- **Top Level Elements** - `<Server>` is the root element of the entire configuration file, while `<Service>` represents a group of Connectors that is associated with an Engine.
- **Connectors** - Represent the interface between external clients sending requests to (and receiving responses from) a particular Service.
- **Containers** - Represent components whose function is to process incoming requests, and create the corresponding responses. An Engine handles all requests for a Service, a Host handles all requests for a particular virtual host, and a Context handles all requests for a specific web application.
- **Nested Components** - Represent elements that can be nested inside the element for a Container. Some elements can be nested inside any Container, while others can only be nested inside a Context.

For each element, the corresponding documentation follows this general outline:

- **Introduction** - Overall description of this particular component. There will be a corresponding Java *interface* (in the `org.apache.catalina` package) that is implemented by one or more standard implementations.
- **Attributes** - The set of attributes that are legal for this element. Generally, this will be subdivided into *Common* attributes that are supported by all implementations of the corresponding Java interface, and *Standard Implementation*

- Filter

Other

- System properties

attributes that are specific to a particular Java class that implements this interface. The names of required attributes are **bolded**.

- **Nested Components** - Enumerates which of the *Nested Components* can be legally nested within this element.
- **Special Features** - Describes the configuration of a large variety of special features (specific to each element type) that are supported by the standard implementation of this interface.

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