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CSD430

M10 – Creating Custom Tags Paper

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Creating Custom Tags

# Introduction

JSP Tags refer to elements that either declare variables and methods, write expressions or calling other pages. For example, to declare a method or define a variable the tag syntax would be: *<%! variable declaration here%>*. Custom Tags in JSP are user made custom elements that perform specific tasks. Overall custom tags make JSP pages more modular, cleaner, and easier to understand however they can introduce complexity if misused.

# Advantages

One advantage of Custom Tags as mentioned previously is that it allows the code to be reusable. When developers encounter repetitive patterns across multiple JSP pages, such as displaying formatted dates, rendering menus, or handling authentication messages, these tasks can be encapsulated in a single custom tag. This approach avoids duplicating code, making maintenance easier and updates more efficient. Instead of editing many JSP pages, a developer can modify the behavior in one place by changing the custom tag implementation. This can save time and money by being able to reuse the same components.

# Disadvantages

Though it has its advantages, Custom JSP tags has its disadvantages as well.

# Developing a Custom tag

There are several steps needed in order to create a Custom JSP Tag, and the first thing that is needed is a Tag Handler. A Tag Handler is a Java Class that is used to implement the logic for the tag. Essentially it is a container-managed object that is created by a JSP container at runtime. It is basically an instruction manual that defines what the tag is to do. The second needed element is an XML file that describes the tag and maps it to the Java Class, this is called a TLD or a Tag Library Descriptor.

# Example Code

# My Opinion & Conclusion

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