

Servlet and JSP Review

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MARTY HALL

Jay 2 Platfarm, Exterprise Edit



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For live Ajax & GWT training, see training courses 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.

- Courses developed and taught by Marty Hall
 - Java 6, servlets/JSP (intermediate and advanced), Struts, JSF 1.x, JSF 2.0, Ajax, GWT 2.0 (with GXT), custom mix of topics
- Ajax courses can concentrate on 1 library (jQuery, Prototype/Scriptaculous, Ext-JS, Dojo, Google Closure) or survey several
 Courses developed and taught by coreservlets.com experts (edited by Marty)
 - Spring, Hibernate/JPA, EJB3, SOAP-based and RESTful Web Services
 - Contact hall@coreservlets.com for details

Agenda

- Eclipse and Tomcat setup
- Deploying apps from Eclipse to Tomcat
- Making new apps in Eclipse
- Servlet basics
- Creating forms and reading form data
- JSP scripting
- Using XML syntax for JSP pages
- JSP file inclusion
- MVC

4

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Installing Eclipse

For even more detailed step-by-step instructions, see tutorials on using Eclipse with Tomcat 6 or Tomcat 7 at http://www.coreservlets.com/Apache-Tomcat-Tutorial/

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Installing Eclipse

Overview

Eclipse is a a free open source IDE for Java. Support for Java, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, C++, PHP, and more.

http://eclipse.org/downloads/

Choose "Eclipse IDE for Java EE Developers'

- Need version 3.6 (Helios) for Tomcat 7

Features

- Checks your syntax as you type
- Automatically compiles every time you save file
- Many tools: refactoring. debugging, server integration, templates for common tasks, etc.
 - Low learning curve: beginners can use Eclipse without knowing these

Note: step-by-step Eclipse/Tomcat integration guide at http://www.coreservlets.com/ (click "Apache Tomcat 7" in top left)

Running Eclipse

Unzip the downloaded file

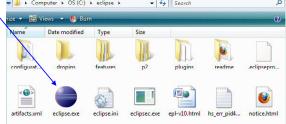
- Call the folder you unzip into "installDir"

Double click eclipse.exe

- From *installDir*/bin

Click on "Workbench" icon

 Next time you bring up Eclipse, it will come up in workbench automatically



Shortcut

- Many developers put Eclipse link on their desktop Eclipse 3.6



 R-click eclipse.exe, Copy, then go to desktop, R-click, and Paste Shortcut (not just Paste!)

Configuring Eclipse

Tell Eclipse about Java version

Window → Preferences → Java →
 Installed JREs → Press "Add", choose
 "Standard VM", navigate to JDK folder (not "bin" subdirectory)

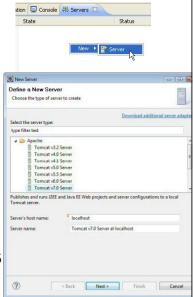
• E.g., C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_21

Tell Eclipse about Tomcat

- Click on Servers tab at bottom.
 R-click in window.
- New, Server, Apache, Tomcat v7.0,
 Next, navigate to folder, Finish.

Suppress serializable warnings

- Window → Preferences → Java →
 Compiler → Errors/Warnings
 - Change "Serializable class without ..." to "Ignore"



Tomcat v7.0 is choice only in Eclipse 3.6 (Helios). If you prefer Tomcat 6, choose Tomcat v6.0 above instead. If you lose the "Servers" tab at the bottom of Eclipse, use Window, Show View, and hunt for "Servers".

8

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Deploying Apps from Eclipse

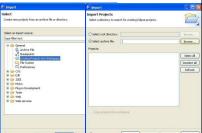
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Download and Import Sample Project

- Get test-app.zip from coreservlets.com
 - Start at Ajax tutorials
 - http://courses.coreservlets.com/ Course-Materials/ajax.html
 - Go to first section (Servlet and JSP Review)
 - Or, start at Apache Tomcat tutorial
 - http://www.coreservlets.com/Apache-Tomcat-Tutorial/
 - Choose Tomcat 7 (recommended) or Tomcat 6 version

Then, download test-app.zip

- Then, import into Eclipse.
 - File, Import, General, Existing Projects, Select archive file.
 Then click Browse and navigate to test-app.zip.



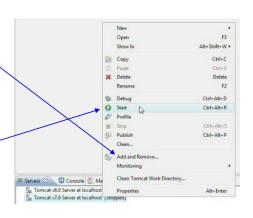
10

Deploying App in Eclipse

- Deploy project
 - Select "Servers" tab at bottom
 - R-click on Tomcat
 - Choose "Add and Remove"
 - Choose project
 - Press "Add"
 - Click "Finish"
- Start Server
 - R-click Tomcat at bottom
 - Start (use "Restart" if Tomcat already running)

Test URL

http://localhost/test-app/ in any Web browser



Testing Deployed App in Eclipse

Start a browser

 Eclipse also has builtin browser, but I prefer to use Firefox or Internet Explorer

Test base URL

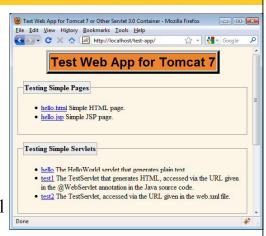
– http://localhost/test-app/

Test Web content

- http://localhost/test-app/hello.html
- http://localhost/test-app/hello.jsp

Test servlets

- http://localhost/test-app/hello
- http://localhost/test-app/test1
- http://localhost/test-app/test2



12

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Making New Apps from Eclipse

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1:

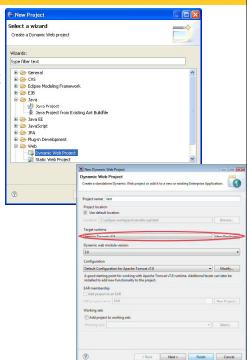
Making Web Apps in Eclipse

Make empty project

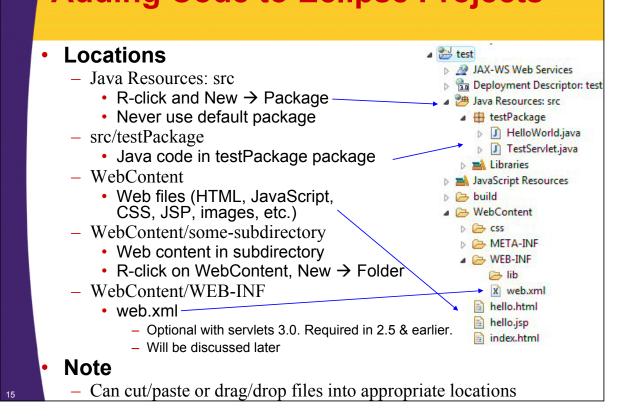
- File → New → Project →
 Web → Dynamic Web Project
- For "Target runtime", choose "Apache Tomcat v7.0"
- Give it a name (e.g., "test")
- Accept all other defaults

Shortcut

If you have made Dynamic Web Project recently in workspace, you can just do File → New → Dynamic Web Project



Adding Code to Eclipse Projects



Testing New App

- Follow same procedure as "deploying app" from previous section
 - Deploy project
 - Select "Servers" tab at bottom
 - R-click on Tomcat
 - · Choose "Add and Remove"
 - Choose project
 - · Press "Add"
 - · Click "Finish"
 - Start Server
 - R-click Tomcat at bottom
 - Restart (use "Start" if Tomcat not already running)
 - Test URL
 - http://localhost/appName/ in any Web browser

16

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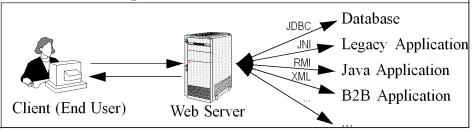


Servlet Basics

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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 or XML or JSON or custom data format
- Send the implicit data to client
 - Status codes and response headers



18

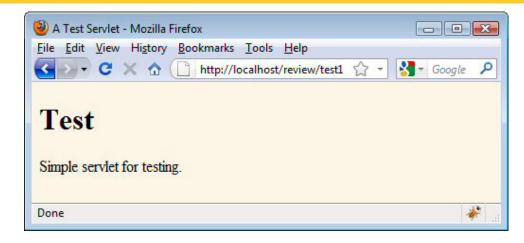
Accessing the Online Documentation

- Servlets and JSP
 - http://docs.coreservlets.com/servlet-3.0-api/
 - Servlets 3.0 and JSP 2.2 (Tomcat 7)
 - http://java.sun.com/products/servlet/2.5/docs/servlet-2_5-mr2/
 - Servlets 2.5 (Tomcat 6)
 - http://java.sun.com/products/jsp/2.1/docs/jsp-2_1-pfd2/
 - JSP 2.1 (Tomcat 6)
- Java 6
 - http://java.sun.com/javase/6/docs/api/
 - Class uses Java 6 and Tomcat 7
- Advice
 - If you have a fast and reliable internet connection, bookmark these addresses
 - If not, download a copy of the APIs onto your local machine and use it

A Sample Servlet (Code)

```
@WebServlet("/test1")
public class TestServlet extends HttpServlet {
  public void doGet(HttpServletRequest request,
                    HttpServletResponse response)
      throws ServletException, IOException {
    response.setContentType("text/html");
    PrintWriter out = response.getWriter();
    out.println
      ("<!DOCTYPE html>\n" +
       <html>\n'' +
       "<head><title>A Test Servlet</title></head>\n" +
       "<body bgcolor=\"#fdf5e6\">\n" +
       <h1>Test</h1>n" +
       "Simple servlet for testing.\n" +
       "</body></html>");
  }
```

A Sample Servlet (Result)



Screenshot assumes project is named "review". Code for this app can be downloaded from the tutorial Web site.

Eclipse users can use the TestServlet code as a basis for their own servlets. Avoid using "New → Servlet" in Eclipse since it results in ugly code.

21

Debugging Servlets

- Use print statements; run server on desktop
- Use Apache Log4J
- Integrated debugger in IDE
 - Right-click in left margin in source to set breakpoint (Eclipse)
 - R-click Tomcat and use "Debug" instead of "Start"
- Look at the HTML source
- Return error pages to the client
 - Plan ahead for missing or malformed data
- Use the log file
 - log("message") or log("message", Throwable)
- Separate the request and response data.
 - Request: see EchoServer at www.coreservlets.com
 - Response: see WebClient at www.coreservlets.com
- Make sure browser is not caching
 - Internet Explorer: use Shift-RELOAD
 - Firefox: use Control-RELOAD
 - Stop and restart the server

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Giving URLs to Servlets

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Tomcat 7 or Other Servlet 3.0 Containers

Give address with @WebServlet

```
@WebServlet("/my-address")
public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet { ... }
```

- Resulting URL
 - http://hostName/appName/my-address

Omit web.xml entirely

- You are permitted to use web.xml even when using
 @WebServlet, but the entire file is completely optional.
 - In earlier versions, you must have a web.xml file even if there were no tags other than the main start and end tags (<web-app ...> and </web-app>).

24

Example: URLs with @WebServlet

```
package coreservlets;
@WebServlet("/test1")
public class TestServlet extends HttpServlet {
  public void doGet(HttpServletRequest request,
                      HttpServletResponse response)
      throws ServletException, IOException {
    response.setContentType("text/html");
    PrintWriter out = response.getWriter();
    out.println
       ("<!DOCTYPE html>\n" +
       ...);
                              A Test Servlet - Mozilla Firefox
                                                              - - X
                              <u>File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help</u>
  }
                              }
                               Test
                               Simple servlet for testing.
                               Done
```

Defining Custom URLs in web.xml (Servlets 2.5 & Earlier)

Java code

```
package myPackage; ...
public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet { ... }
```

- web.xml entry (in <web-app...>...</web-app>)
 - Give name to servlet

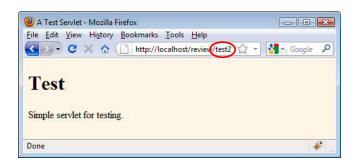
- Resultant URL
 - http://hostname/appName/my-address

26

Defining Custom URLs: Example

```
Don't edit this manually.
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
                                                                    Should match version supported
<web-app version="2.4" </pre>
                                                                    by your server. If your server
                                                                    supports 3.0, can omit web.xml
     ... >
                                                                    totally and use annotations.
  <!-- Use the URL http://hostName/appName/test2 for
         testPackage.TestServlet -->
  <servlet>
                                                            Fully qualified classname.
     <servlet-name>Test/servlet-name>
     <servlet-class>coreservlets.TestServlet</servlet-class>
  </servlet>
                                            Any arbitrary name.
                                            But must be the same both times.
  <servlet-mapping>
     <servlet-name>Test</servlet-name>
     <url-pattern>/test2</url-pattern>
  </servlet-mapping>
                                       The part of the URL that comes after the app (project) name.
                                       Should start with a slash.
</web-app>
```

Defining Custom URLs: Result



Eclipse details

- Name of Eclipse project is "review"
- Servlet is in src/coreservlets/TestServlet.java
- Deployed by right-clicking on Tomcat, Add and Remove Projects, Add, choosing review project, Finish, right-clicking again, Start (or Restart)

28

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Form Data

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Using Form Data

HTML form

- Should have ACTION referring to servlet
 - Use relative URL
 - ACTION="/webAppName/address"
 - ACTION="./address"
- Should have input entries with "name" attributes
- Should be installed under WebContent

Servlet

- Calls request.getParameter with name as given in HTML
- Return value is entry as entered by end user
- Missing values
 - null if no input element of that name was in form
 - Empty string if form submitted with empty textfield

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An HTML Form With Three Parameters

<FORM ACTION="three-params">

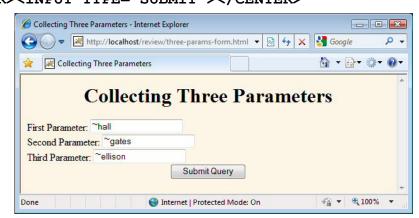
First Parameter: <INPUT TYPE="TEXT" NAME="param1">

Second Parameter: <INPUT TYPE="TEXT" NAME="param2">

Third Parameter: <INPUT TYPE="TEXT" NAME="param3">

<CENTER><INPUT TYPE="SUBMIT"></CENTER>

</FORM>



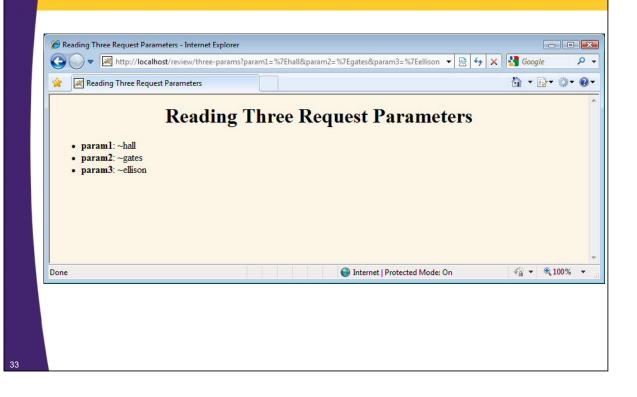
- Project name is "review"
- Form installed in WebContent/three-params-form.html

3

Reading the Three Parameters

```
@WebServlet("three-params")
public class ThreeParams extends HttpServlet {
  public void doGet(HttpServletRequest request,
                    HttpServletResponse response)
      throws ServletException, IOException {
    out.println(docType +
                "<HTML>\n" +
                "<HEAD><TITLE>"+title + "</TITLE></HEAD>\n" +
                "<BODY BGCOLOR=\"\#FDF5E6\">\n" +
                "<H1 ALIGN=\"CENTER\">" + title + "</H1>\n" +
                "<UL>\n" +
                " <LI><B>param1</B>: "
                + request.getParameter("param1") + "\n" +
                " <LI><B>param2</B>: "
                + request.getParameter("param2") + "\n" +
                " <LI><B>param3</B>: "
                + request.getParameter("param3") + "\n" +
                "</UL>\n" +
                "</BODY></HTML>");
  }
```

Reading Three Parameters: Result





JSP Scripting

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Uses of JSP Constructs

Simple Application

- Scripting elements calling servlet code directly
- Scripting elements calling servlet code indirectly (by means of utility classes)
 - Beans
 - Servlet/JSP combo (MVC)
 - MVC with JSP expression language

Complex Application

- **Complex Custom tags**
- Application MVC with beans, custom tags, and a framework like Struts or JSF

JSP Scripting Design Strategy: Limit Java Code in JSP Pages

You have two options

- Put 25 lines of Java code directly in the JSP page
- Put those 25 lines in a separate Java class and put 1 line in the JSP page that invokes it

Why is the second option much better?

- Development. You write the separate class in a Java environment (editor or IDE), not an HTML environment
- Debugging. If you have syntax errors, you see them immediately at compile time. Simple print statements can be seen.
- Testing. You can write a test routine with a loop that does 10,000 tests and reapply it after each change.
- Reuse. You can use the same class from multiple pages.

36

JSP Expressions

Format

− <%= Java Expression %>

Result

- Expression evaluated, converted to String, and placed into HTML page at the place it occurred in JSP page
- That is, expression placed in _jspService inside out.print

Examples

- Current time: <%= new java.util.Date() %>
- Your hostname: <%= request.getRemoteHost() %>

XML-compatible syntax

- <jsp:expression>Java Expression
- You cannot mix versions within a single page. You must use XML for *entire* page if you use jsp:expression.

Predefined Variables

request

The HttpServletRequest (1st argument to service/doGet)

response

The HttpServletResponse (2nd arg to service/doGet)

out

 The Writer (a buffered version of type JspWriter) used to send output to the client

session

 The HttpSession associated with the request (unless disabled with the session attribute of the page directive)

application

 The ServletContext (for sharing data) as obtained via getServletContext().

38

JSP Scriptlets

Format

Result

Code is inserted verbatim into servlet's _jspService

Example

- <% String queryData = request.getQueryString(); %>
 Attached GET data: <%= queryData %>
- <% response.setContentType("text/plain"); %>

XML-compatible syntax

- <jsp:scriptlet>Java Code</jsp:scriptlet>

JSP Declarations

Format

- <%! Java Code %>

Result

 Code is inserted verbatim into servlet's class definition, outside of any existing methods

Examples

- <%! private int someField = 5; %>
- <%! private void someMethod(...) {...} %>

Design consideration

- Fields are clearly useful. For methods, it is usually better to define the method in a separate Java class.

XML-compatible syntax

- <jsp:declaration>Java Code</jsp:declaration>

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JSP Pages with XML Syntax

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Why Two Versions?

- Classic syntax is not XML-compatible
 - _ <%= ... %>, <% ... %>, <%! ... %> are illegal in XML
 - HTML 4 is not XML compatible either
 - So, you cannot use XML editors like XML Spy
- You might use JSP in XML environments
 - To build xhtml pages
 - To build regular XML documents
 - You can use classic syntax to build XML documents, but it is sometimes easier if you are working in XML to start with
 - For Web services
 - For Ajax applications
- So, there is a second syntax
 - Following XML rules

42

XML Syntax for Generating XHTML Files (somefile.jspx)

```
The jsp namespace is required if you
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
                                                                    use jsp:blah commands. You can use
<a href="http://java.sun.com/JSP/Page"></a>
                                                                    other namespaces for other custom tag
                                                                    libraries.
<isp:output
   omit-xml-declaration="true" Needed because of Internet Explorer bug where xhtml pages
                                        that have the XML declaration at the top run in quirks mode.
   doctype-root-element="html"
   doctype-public="-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" > Builds DOCTYPE line.
   doctype-system="http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd" />
<isp:directive.page contentType="text/html"/>
                                                           For JSP pages in XML syntax, default content
<head><title>Some Title</title></head>
                                                            type is text/xml.
<body bgcolor="#fdf5e6">
Body
</body></html>
                                                Normal xhtml content, plus JSP commands that use
                                                jsp:blah syntax, plus JSP custom tag libraries.
```

43

XML Syntax for Generating Regular XML Files (somefile.jspx)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<your-root-element xmlns:jsp="http://java.sun.com/JSP/Page">
    <your-tag1>foo</your-tag1>
    <your-tag2>bar</your-tag2>
<your-root-element>
```

Uses

- When you are sending to client that expects real XML
 - Ajax
 - Web services
 - Custom clients
- Note
 - You can omit the xmlns declaration if you are not using any JSP tags. But then you could just use .xml extension.

44

XML Syntax for Generating HTML 4 Files (somefile.jspx)

Many extra steps required

- Enclose the entire page in jsp:root
- Enclose the HTML in CDATA sections
 - Between <![CDATA[and]]>
 - Because HTML 4 does not obey XML rules
- Usually not worth the bother

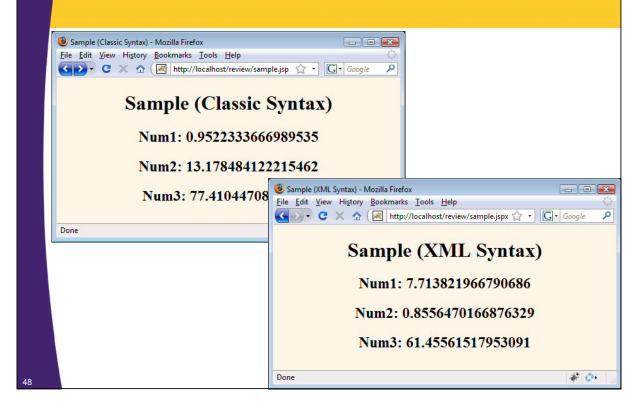
Sample HTML 4 Page: Classic Syntax (sample.jsp)

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD ...">
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Sample (Classic Syntax)</TITLE></HEAD>
<BODY BGCOLOR="#FDF5E6">
<CENTER>
<H1>Sample (Classic Syntax)</H1>
<H2>Num1: <%= Math.random()*10 %></H2>
<% double num2 = Math.random()*100; %>
<H2>Num2: <%= num2 %></H2>
<%! private double num3 = Math.random()*1000; %>
<H2>Num3: <%= num3 %></H2>
</CENTER>
</BODY></HTML>
```

Sample XHTML Page: XML Syntax (sample.jspx)

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<html xmlns:jsp="http://java.sun.com/JSP/Page">
<jsp:output</pre>
     omit-xml-declaration="true"
     doctype-root-element="html"
     doctype-public="-//W3C//DTD ..."
     doctype-system="http://www.w3.org...dtd" />
<jsp:directive.page contentType="text/html"/>
<head><title>Sample (XML Syntax)</title></head>
<body bgcolor="#fdf5e6">
<div align="center">
<h1>Sample (XML Syntax)</h1>
<h2>Num1: <jsp:expression>Math.random()*10</jsp:expression></h2>
<jsp:scriptlet>
double num2 = Math.random()*100;
</jsp:scriptlet>
<h2>Num2: <jsp:expression>num2</jsp:expression></h2>
<jsp:declaration>
private double num3 = Math.random()*1000;
</jsp:declaration>
<h2>Num3: <jsp:expression>num3</jsp:expression></h2>
</div></body></html>
```

Sample Pages: Results



XML Document Generated with XML Syntax

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<some-root-element</pre>
      xmlns:jsp="http://java.sun.com/JSP/Page">
   <some-element-1>Text</some-element-1>
   <some-element-2>
      Number:
      <jsp:expression>Math.random()*10</jsp:expression>
   </some-element-2>
</some-root-element>
                             Http://localhost/review/some-xml-document.jspx - Internet Explorer
                                                                                - - X
                             Google → http://localhost/review/some-xml-document.jspx → ← X Google
                                                                                    0.
                             thttp://localhost/review/some-xml-document.jspx
                                                                           A - D - O - O -
                               <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
                              <some-root-element>
                                <some-element-1>Text</some-element-1>
                                <some-element-2>Number: 2.0677570154952987</some-element-2>
                               </some-root-element>
                                                        €100% ▼
```



jsp:include

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Including Files at Request Time: jsp:include

Format

- <jsp:include page="Relative URL" />

Purpose

- To reuse JSP, HTML, or plain text content
- To permit updates to the included content without changing the main JSP page(s)

Notes

- JSP content cannot affect main page: only *output* of included JSP page is used
- Don't forget that trailing slash
- Relative URLs that starts with slashes are interpreted relative to the Web app, not relative to the server root.
- You are permitted to include files from WEB-INF

jsp:include Example: A News Headline Page (Main Page)

52

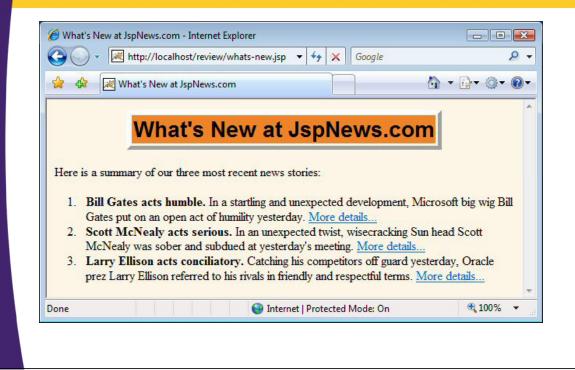
A News Headline Page, Continued (First Included Page)

Bill Gates acts humble. In a startling
and unexpected development, Microsoft big wig
Bill Gates put on an open act of humility
yesterday.

```
<A HREF="http://www.microsoft.com/Never.html">
More details...</A>
```

- Note that the page is *not* a complete HTML document; it has only the tags appropriate to the place that it will be inserted.
 - This style of having servlets or JSP pages build only small pieces of HTML (or other data types) is even more widely used in Ajax programming

A News Headline Page: Result



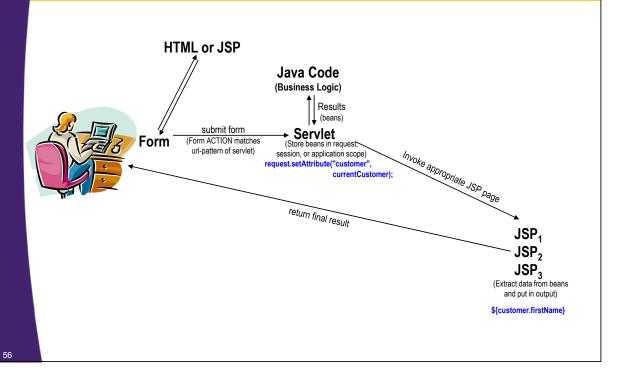
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MVC

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MVC Flow of Control



Simple MVC Example: Request-Scoped Data

- Goal
 - Display a random number to the user
- Type of sharing
 - Each request should result in a new number, so requestbased sharing is appropriate.

Request-Based Sharing: Bean

```
package coreservlets;

public class NumberBean {
   private final double num;

   public NumberBean(double number) {
     this.num = number;
   }

   public double getNumber() {
     return(num);
   }
}
```

The property name in JSP will be "number". The property name is derived from the method name, not from the instance variable name. Also note the lack of a corresponding setter.

58

Request-Based Sharing: Servlet

Request-Based Sharing: Business Logic

```
public class RanUtils {
  public static NumberBean randomNum(String rangeString) {
    double range;
    try {
      range = Double.parseDouble(rangeString);
    } catch(Exception e) {
      range = 10.0;
    }
    return(new NumberBean(Math.random() * range));
  }
  private RanUtils() {} // Uninstantiable class
}
```

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Request-Based Sharing: URL Pattern (web.xml)

The web.xml file is not needed with servlets 3.0, and the downloadable "review" project does not have this file. However, for those who are using containers that support only servlets 2.5 or 2.4, a "review2" app is also online. That app uses web.xml instead of @WebServlet for all of the URL patterns.

Request-Based Sharing: Input Form

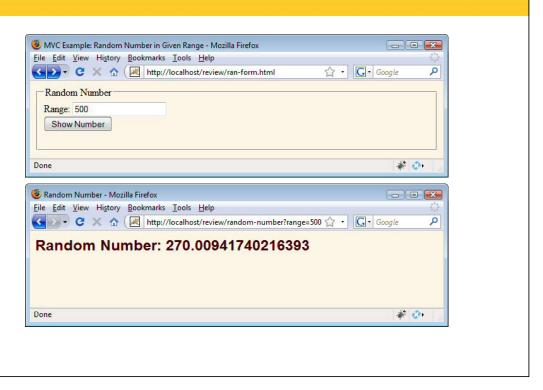
```
<fieldset>
    <legend>Random Number</legend>
        <form action="./random-number">
            Range: <input type="text" name="range"><br/>
            <input type="submit" value="Show Number">
            </form>
        </fieldset>
...
```

62

Request-Based Sharing: Results Page

```
...
<body>
<h2>Random Number: ${randomNum.number}</h2>
</body></html>
```

Request-Based Sharing: Results



Summary

- Set up Java 6, Tomcat, and Eclipse
 - See http://www.coreservlets.com/Apache-Tomcat-Tutorial/
- Give custom URLs to all servlets
 - Servlets 3.0
 - Use @WebServlet annotation
 - Servlets 2.5 and 2.4
 - Use servlet, servlet-mapping, and url-pattern in web.xml
- Forms
 - Use relative URLs for "action".
 - Read parameters with request.getParameter
- JSP Scripting
 - If you use scripting, put most Java code in regular classes
- MVC
 - Very widely applicable approach.
 - Consider using it in many (most?) applications

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Questions?

Customized Java EE Training: http://courses.coreservlets.com/

Servlets, JSP, JSF 2.0, Struts, Ajax, GWT 2.0, Spring, Hibernate, SOAP & RESTful Web Services, Java 6. Developed and taught by well-known author and developer. At public venues or onsite at *your* location.

66