

# SERVLETS AND JSP COURSE

## JSP DIRECTIVES



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Hello, Ubaldo Acosta greets you again. I hope you're ready to start with this lesson ..

We are going to study the subject of directives in JSP's.

Are you ready? Come on!

## JSP DIRECTIVES

- The directives allow us to control the behavior of a JSP
- With the directives we can specify:
  - ✓ The Java classes that we want to import into a JSP
  - ✓ The MIME type used
  - ✓ Indicate whether the JSP can access the HTTP session
  - ✓ The size of the output buffer
  - ✓ Indicate the JSP error page in case of any Exception
  - ✓ Multi-thread management, among others

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We are going to review next the subject of the directives in the JSP's.

The directives allow us to control the behavior of a JSP, for example the classes that we are going to use inside a JSP and to do the import of Java classes, to specify the MIME type with which we are going to respond to our client.

Also with these directives we can specify if a JSP is going to participate in the concept of sessions, or we can specify the size of the output buffer, specify the JSP of error in case we have any exception within our JSP, or indicate if our JSP will handle the concept of multithreading, among several other features.

Let's see below in more detail several of the directives that we can use in our JSP's.

## ATTRIBUTES IN A JSP DIRECTIVES

- **import :**

```
<%@ page import="package.Class1 , package.ClassN" %>
```

- **contentType:**

```
<%@ page contentType="MIME-Type" %>
```

- **session:**

```
<%@ page session="true" %>
```

- **isELIgnored:**

```
<%@ page isELIgnored="false" %>
```

In this lesson we are going to review the page directive. Some of the attributes that we can indicate in the page directive are:

**Import:** The import attribute within the page directive will allow us to specify which classes are to be imported into our JSP and indirectly to our servlet generated from the request to our JSP. Although we can declare the import anywhere in our JSP, it is advisable to put it at the beginning as a good practice. To specify the classes that we want to import into our JSP, we can use the syntax `<% @ page import = "package.Class1, package.ClassN"%>`. We can detect that it is a directive because we are now using the symbol of @ and then the page name. Later we use the attribute import and indicate the fully qualified name of our classes, that is, we include the package and the name of our class and if we want to specify more than one class to use, we will separate them by comma.

Then we have the contentType attribute `<% @ page contentType = "MIME-Type"%>`. This attribute allows us to specify the type of response to our web client.

**Session:** `<% @page session = "true"%>` We will also be able to indicate by means of this page directive if the JSP will be able to access the session object that was previously created, for example from a JSP or from another servlet. By default a JSP is configured so that we can access the session object, if we want to indicate otherwise we will have to specify false in this directive and if we specify false in this directive what happens is that within our implicit JSP classes we no longer go to have access to our variable.

**Attribute isELIgnored:** `<% @ page isELIgnored = "false"%>` We also have another attribute called isELIgnored which means that if we want to disable the handling of expression language that we are going to review later, we would have to indicate it by means of this directive page indicating in the isELIgnored attribute the value of true.

## ATRIBUTOS EN LAS DIRECTIVAS DE UN JSP CONT

- buffer:**

```
<%@ page buffer="SizeInKB" %>
```

- errorPage:**

```
<%@ page errorPage="URL relative to the error page" %>
```

- isErrorPage:**

```
<%@ page isErrorPage="true" %>
```

- isThreadSafe:**

```
<%@ page isThreadSafe="true" %>
```

- extends:**

```
<%@ page extends="package.ClassName" %>
```

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Buffer attribute: `<% @ page buffer = "sizeInKb"%>` within this same page directive we have access to the buffer attribute. With this buffer attribute we can specify the size in that our JSP buffer can contain and if we reach the size specified in this JSP then we automatically flush the entire flow that we have added to our `printWriter` or our servlet output Depending on the case.

We also have the `errorPage` attributes with the following syntax:

`<% @ page errorPage = "URL relative to the error page"%>` with the `errorPage` attribute let's specify what will be the JSP that will handle the exceptions in case the JSP causes an error, and to configure the JSP that will handle the errors we have to indicate the directive `isErrorPage` with the following syntax:

`<% @ page isErrorPage = "true"%>` indicating that this JSP is the JSP that will handle the errors, by default the JSPs have the value of this directive equal to false because the JSPs are not going to handle the exceptions Automatically but you have to configure them so they can access the stack of errors.

We can also observe the `isThreadSafe` attribute with syntax `<% @ page isThreadSafe = "true"%>` By default the servlet container considers JSP as safe to be accessed by multiple threads, that is, the default value is true. If you want the content of the JSP to be accessed by different threads then this value must be specified as false.

Finally we will mention the `<% @ page extends = "package.ClassName"%>` will allow us to inherit from a class that is specified in that attribute and therefore our JSP will inherit the characteristics of the class that we specify Normally that attribute is Only used if we want to add third-party behavior, although this concept is rarely configured and will only be used if any software in particular requires a solution that we request to extend the classes already created by this vendor.

We will now put into practice some of these attributes using the concept of JSP directives.



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