

10.2 Benefits of JSP

JSP pages are translated into servlets. So, fundamentally, any task JSP pages can perform could also be accomplished by servlets. However, this underlying equivalence does not mean that servlets and JSP pages are equally appropriate in all scenarios. The issue is not the power of the technology, it is the convenience, productivity, and maintainability of one or the other. After all, anything you can do on a particular computer platform in the Java programming language you could also do in assembly language. But it still matters which you choose.

JSP provides the following benefits over servlets alone:

- **It is easier to write and maintain the HTML.** Your static code is ordinary HTML: no extra backslashes, no double quotes, and no lurking Java syntax.
- **You can use standard Web-site development tools.** For example, we use Macromedia Dreamweaver for most of the JSP pages in the book. Even HTML tools that know nothing about JSP can be used because they simply ignore the JSP tags.
- **You can divide up your development team.** The Java programmers can work on the dynamic code. The Web developers can concentrate on the presentation layer. On large projects, this division is very important. Depending on the size of your team and the complexity of your project, you can enforce a weaker or stronger separation between the static HTML and the dynamic content.

Now, this discussion is not to say that you should stop using servlets and use only JSP instead. By no means. Almost all projects will use both. For some requests in your project, you will use servlets. For others, you will use JSP. For still others, you will combine them with the MVC architecture ([Chapter 15](#)). You want the appropriate tool for the job, and servlets, by themselves, do not complete your toolkit.