



Including Files and Applets in JSP Pages

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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. Contact hall@coreservlets.com for details.

Agenda

- **<jsp:include page="..." />**
 - Using `jsp:include` to include pages at request time
- **<%@ include file="..." %>**
 - Using `<%@ include ... %>` (the include directive) to include files at page translation time
- **Usage**
 - Understanding why `jsp:include` is usually better than the include directive
- **Applets**
 - Using `jsp:plugin` to include applets for the Java Plug-in (rare!)

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Including Pages at Request Time: `jsp:include`

- **Format**
 - `<jsp:include page="Relative address" />`
- **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 start with slashes are interpreted relative to the Web app, not relative to the server root.
 - You are permitted to include files from WEB-INF

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

```
...
<BODY>
<TABLE BORDER=5 ALIGN="CENTER">
  <TR><TH CLASS="TITLE">
    What's New at JspNews.com</TABLE>
<P>
Here is a summary of our three
most recent news stories:
<OL>
  <LI><jsp:include page="/WEB-INF/includes/Item1.jsp" />
  <LI><jsp:include page="/WEB-INF/includes/Item2.jsp" />
  <LI><jsp:include page="/WEB-INF/includes/Item3.jsp" />
</OL>
</BODY></HTML>
```

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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.

More details...

- Note that the page is *not* a complete HTML document; it has only the tags appropriate to the place that it will be inserted

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A News Headline Page: Result



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The `jsp:param` Element: Augmenting Request Parameters

- **Code**

```
<jsp:include page="/fragments/StandardHeading.jsp">
  <jsp:param name="bgColor" value="YELLOW" />
</jsp:include>
```

- **URL**

- <http://host/path/MainPage.jsp?fgColor=RED>

- **Main page**

- fgColor: RED
 - bgColor: null
 - Regardless of whether you check before or after inclusion

- **Included page**

- fgColor: RED
 - bgColor: YELLOW

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Including Files at Page Translation Time: <%@ include ... %>

- **Format**
 - <%@ include file="Relative address" %>
- **Purpose**
 - To reuse JSP content in multiple pages, *where JSP content affects main page*
- **Notes**
 - Servers are not required to detect changes to the included file, and in practice they don't.
 - Thus, you need to change the JSP files whenever the included file changes.
 - You can use OS-specific mechanisms such as the Unix “touch” command, or
 - <%-- Navbar.jsp modified 4/1/09 --%>
 - <%@ include file="Navbar.jsp" %>

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jsp:include vs. <%@ include ... %>

	jsp:include	<%@ include ... %>
Basic syntax	<jsp:include page="..." />	<%@ include file="..." %>
When inclusion occurs	Request time	Page translation time
What is included	Output of page	Contents of file
Number of resulting servlets	Two	One
Can included page set response headers that affect the main page?	No	Yes
Can included page define fields or methods that main page uses?	No	Yes
Does main page need to be updated when included page changes?	No	Yes

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Which Should You Use?

- **Use jsp:include whenever possible**
 - Changes to included page do not require any manual updates
 - Speed difference between jsp:include and the include directive (@include) is insignificant
- **The include directive (<%@ include ...%>) has additional power, however**
 - Main page
 - <%! int accessCount = 0; %>
 - Included page
 - <%@ include file="snippet.jsp" %>
 - <%= accessCount++ %>

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Include Directive Example: Reusable Footers

```
<%@ page import="java.util.Date" %>
<%-- The following become fields in each servlet that
    results from a JSP page that includes this file. --%>
<%
private int accessCount = 0;
private Date accessDate = new Date();
private String accessHost = "<I>No previous access</I>";
%>
<P>
<HR>
This page &copy; 2008
<A HREF="http://www.my-company.com/">my-company.com</A>.
This page has been accessed <%= ++accessCount %>
times since server reboot. It was most recently
accessed from
<%= accessHost %> at <%= accessDate %>.
<% accessHost = request.getRemoteHost(); %>
<% accessDate = new Date(); %>
```

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Reusing Footers: Typical Main Page

```
...
<BODY>
<TABLE BORDER=5 ALIGN="CENTER">
<TR><TH CLASS="TITLE">
    Some Random Page</TABLE>
<P>
Information about our products and services.
<P>
Blah, blah, blah.
<P>
Yadda, yadda, yadda.
<%@ include file="/WEB-INF/includes/ContactSection.jsp" %>
</BODY></HTML>
```

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Reusing Footers: Result



Done

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Understanding jsp:include vs. <%@ include ... %>

- Footer defined the accessCount field (instance variable)
- If main pages used accessCount, they would have to use @include
 - Otherwise accessCount would be undefined
- In this example, the main page did *not* use accessCount
 - So why did we use @include?

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Applets and jsp:plugin

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Why Applets?

- **When UI requirements demand it**
 - When HTML (even with Ajax) cannot support GUI
- **Major drawbacks**
 - Many browsers lack Java support
 - So, your Web page will have severely limited audience
 - Applet programming relatively tedious
- **Alternatives**
 - Consider Flash or even Silverlight instead
 - The fact that you are using Java on the server should not make you any more likely to use Java on the client!
 - jsp:include is very important part of JSP. jsp:plugin is not
 - Skip this entire tutorial section if you do not plan on using applets

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Options for Deploying Applets

- **Support for very old browsers**
 - Develop the applets with JDK 1.1 or even 1.02
 - Works with almost any browser that has Java installed
 - Uses the simple APPLET tag
- **Support for moderately old browsers**
 - Have users install any version of the Java 2 Plug-in, then use Java 2 for the applets.
 - Works with almost any browser
 - Uses ugly OBJECT and EMBED tags
 - This second option simplified by the jsp:plugin tag
- **Support for recent browsers**
 - Have users install version 5 or 6 of the Java Runtime Environment (JRE), then use JDK 1.5/1.6 for the applets.
 - Requires IE 5.5, Netscape 6, or Firefox 2 or later
 - Uses the simple APPLET tag

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Using `jsp:plugin`

- **Simple APPLET-like tag**
 - Expands into the real OBJECT and EMBED tags
- **APPLET Tag**
 - `<APPLET CODE="MyApplet.class" WIDTH=475 HEIGHT=350>`
`</APPLET>`
- **Equivalent `jsp:plugin`**
 - `<jsp:plugin type="applet"`
`code="MyApplet.class"`
`width="475" height="350">`
`</jsp:plugin>`
- **Reminder**
 - JSP element and attribute names are case sensitive
 - All attribute values must be in single or double quotes
 - This is like XML but unlike HTML

`jsp:plugin: Source Code`

```
<jsp:plugin type="applet"
            code="SomeApplet.class"
            width="300" height="200">
</jsp:plugin>
```

jsp:plugin: Resultant HTML

```
<object classid=
    "clsid:8AD9C840-044E-11D1-B3E9-00805F499D93"
    width="300" height="200"
    codebase="http://java.sun.com/products/plugin/1.2.
2/jinst/all-1_2_2-win.cab#Version=1,2,2,0">
    <param name="java_code" value="SomeApplet.class">
    <param name="type" value="application/x-java-applet;">
<COMMENT>
<embed type="application/x-java-applet;" width="300"
    height="200"
    pluginspage="http://java.sun.com/products/plugin/"
    java_code="SomeApplet.class"
>
<noembed>
</COMMENT>
</noembed></embed>
</object>
```

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jsp:plugin: Example (JSP Code)

```
...
<BODY>
<CENTER>
<TABLE BORDER=5>
    <TR><TH CLASS="TITLE">
        Using jsp:plugin</TABLE>
    <P>
        <jsp:plugin type="applet"
            code="PluginApplet.class"
            width="370" height="420">
        </jsp:plugin>
    </CENTER></BODY></HTML>
```

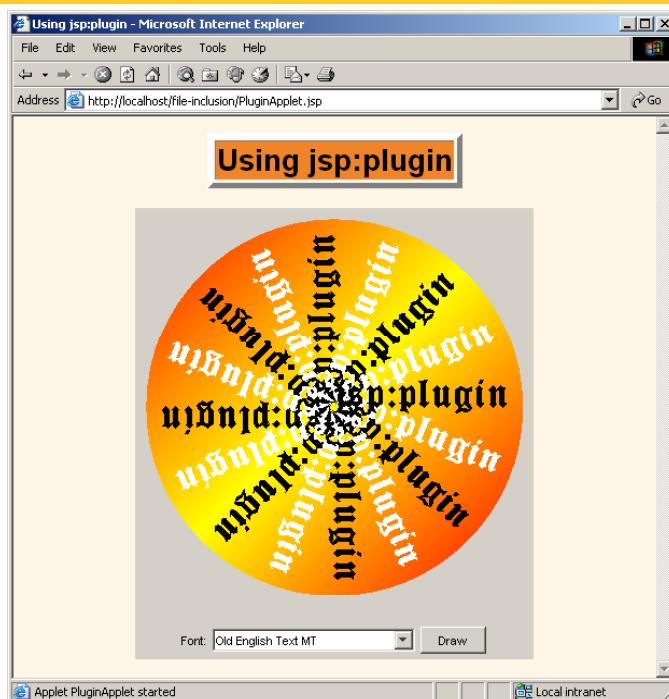
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jsp:plugin: Example (Java Code)

```
import javax.swing.*;  
  
/** An applet that uses Swing and Java 2D  
 * and thus requires the Java Plug-in.  
 */  
  
public class PluginApplet extends JApplet {  
    public void init() {  
        WindowUtilities.setNativeLookAndFeel();  
        setContentPane(new TextPanel());  
    }  
}
```

- Where are .class files installed?

jsp:plugin: Example (Result)



Attributes of the `jsp:plugin` Element

- **type**
 - For applets, this should be "applet".
Use "bean" to embed JavaBeans elements in Web pages.
- **code**
 - Used identically to CODE attribute of APPLET, specifying the top-level applet class file
- **width, height**
 - Used identically to WIDTH, HEIGHT in APPLET
- **codebase**
 - Used identically to CODEBASE attribute of APPLET
- **align**
 - Used identically to ALIGN in APPLET and IMG

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Attributes of the `jsp:plugin` Element (Cont.)

- **hspace, vspace**
 - Used identically to HSPACE, VSPACE in APPLET,
- **archive**
 - Used identically to ARCHIVE attribute of APPLET, specifying a JAR file from which classes and images should be loaded
- **name**
 - Used identically to NAME attribute of APPLET, specifying a name to use for inter-applet communication or for identifying applet to scripting languages like JavaScript.
- **title**
 - Used identically to rarely used TITLE attribute

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Attributes of the **jsp:plugin** Element (Cont.)

- **jreversion**
 - Identifies version of the Java Runtime Environment (JRE) that is required. Default is 1.2.
- **iepluginurl**
 - Designates a URL from which plug-in for Internet Explorer can be downloaded. Users who don't already have the plug-in installed will be prompted to download it from this location. Default value will direct user to Sun site, but for intranet use you might want to direct user to a local copy.
- **nspluginurl**
 - Designates a URL from which plug-in for Netscape can be downloaded. Default value will direct user to Sun site, but for intranet use you might want local copy.

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The **jsp:param** and **jsp:params** Elements

- **PARAM Tags**
 - ```
<APPLET CODE="MyApplet.class"
 WIDTH=475 HEIGHT=350>
 <PARAM NAME="PARAM1" VALUE="VALUE1">
 <PARAM NAME="PARAM2" VALUE="VALUE2">
</APPLET>
```
- **Equivalent jsp:param**
  - ```
<jsp:plugin type="applet"
            code="MyApplet.class"
            width="475" height="350">
    <jsp:params>
        <jsp:param name="PARAM1" value="VALUE1" />
        <jsp:param name="PARAM2" value="VALUE2" />
    </jsp:params>
</jsp:plugin>
```

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The `jsp:fallback` Element

- **APPLET Tag**

- ```
<APPLET CODE="MyApplet.class"
 WIDTH=475 HEIGHT=350>
 Error: this example requires Java.
 </APPLET>
```

- **Equivalent `jsp:plugin` with `jsp:fallback`**

- ```
<jsp:plugin type="applet"
              code="MyApplet.class"
              width="475" height="350">
                <jsp:fallback>
                  <B>Error: this example requires Java.</B>
                </jsp:fallback>
              </jsp:plugin>
```

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Summary

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

- Output of URL inserted into JSP page at request time
 - Cannot contain JSP content that affects entire page
 - Changes to included file do not necessitate changes to pages that use it

- **`<%@ include file="Relative URL" %>`**

- File gets inserted into JSP page prior to page translation
 - Thus, file can contain JSP content that affects entire page (e.g., import statements, declarations)
 - Changes to included file require you to manually update pages that use it

- **`<jsp:plugin ...>`**

- Simplifies writing applets that use the Java Plug-In

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Questions?

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