

12.4 The session Attribute

The `session` attribute controls whether the page participates in HTTP sessions. Use of this attribute takes one of the following two forms.

```
<%@ page session="true" %> <!-- Default --%>
<%@ page session="false" %>
```

A value of `true` (the default) signifies that the predefined variable `session` (of type `HttpSession`) should be bound to the existing session if one exists; otherwise, a new session should be created and bound to `session`. A value of `false` means that no sessions will be automatically created and that attempts to access the variable `session` will result in errors at the time the JSP page is translated into a servlet.

Using `session="false"` may save significant amounts of server memory on high-traffic sites. However, note that using `session="false"` does not *disable* session tracking—it merely prevents the JSP page from creating *new* sessions for users who don't have them already. So, since sessions are *user specific*, not *page specific*, it doesn't do any good to turn off session tracking for one page unless you also turn it off for related pages that are likely to be visited in the same client session.