12.5 The isELIgnored Attribute

The `isELIgnored` attribute controls whether the JSP 2.0 Expression Language (EL) is ignored (`true`) or evaluated normally (`false`). This attribute is new in JSP 2.0; it is illegal to use it in a server that supports only JSP 1.2 or earlier. The default value of the attribute depends on the version of `web.xml` you use for your Web application. If your `web.xml` specifies servlets 2.3 (corresponding to JSP 1.2) or earlier, the default is `true` (but it is still legal to change the default—you are permitted to use this attribute in a JSP-2.0-compliant server regardless of the `web.xml` version). If your `web.xml` specifies servlets 2.4 (corresponding to JSP 2.0) or later, the default is `false`. Use of this attribute takes one of the following two forms.

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

JSP 2.0 introduced a concise expression language for accessing request parameters, cookies, HTTP headers, bean properties and `Collection` elements from within a JSP page. For details, see Chapter 16 (Simplifying Access to Java Code: The JSP 2.0 Expression Language). Expressions in the JSP EL take the form `${expression}`. Normally, these expressions are convenient. However, what would happen if you had a JSP 1.2 page that, just by happenstance, contained a string of the form `${...}`? In JSP 2.0, this could cause problems. Using `isELIgnored="true"` prevents these problems.