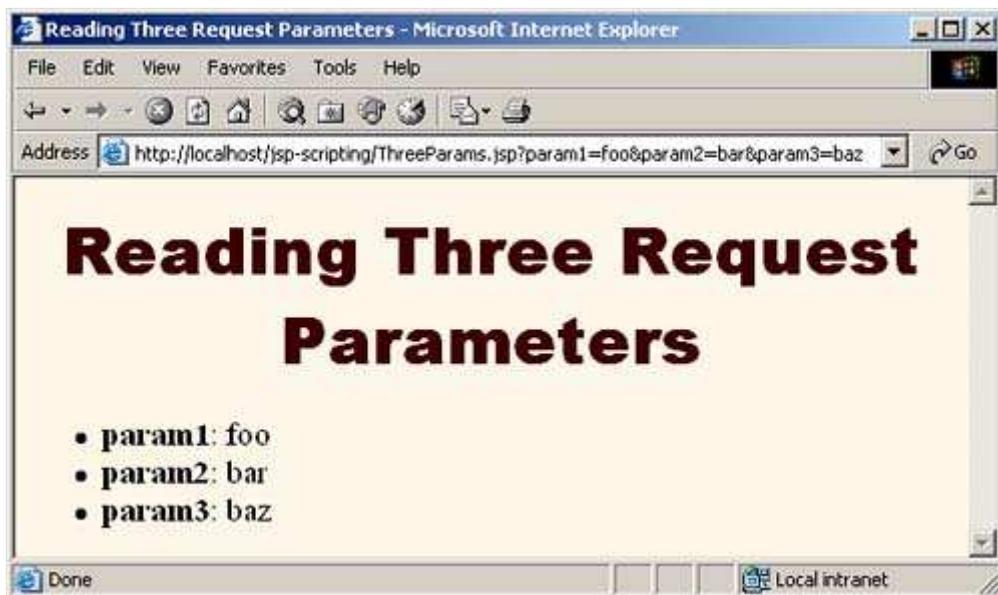


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11.6 Comparing Servlets to JSP Pages

In [Section 4.3](#), we presented an example of a servlet that outputs the values of three designated form parameters. The code for that servlet is repeated here in [Listing 11.4](#). [Listing 11.5 \(Figure 11-4\)](#) shows a version rewritten in JSP, using JSP expressions to access the form parameters. The JSP version is clearly superior: shorter, simpler, and easier to maintain.

Figure 11-4. Result of `ThreeParams.jsp`.



Now, this is not to say that all servlets will convert to JSP so cleanly. JSP works best when the *structure* of the HTML page is fixed but the *values* at various places need to be computed dynamically. If the structure of the page is dynamic, JSP is less beneficial. Sometimes servlets are better in such a case. And, of course, if the page consists of binary data or has little static content, servlets are clearly superior. Furthermore, sometimes the answer is neither servlets nor JSP alone, but rather a combination of the two. For details, see [Chapter 15](#) (Integrating Servlets and JSP: The Model View Controller (MVC) Architecture).

Listing 11.4 `ThreeParams.java`

```
package coreservlets;

import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;

public class ThreeParams extends HttpServlet {
    public void doGet(HttpServletRequest request,
                      HttpServletResponse response)
        throws ServletException, IOException {
        response.setContentType("text/html");
        PrintWriter out = response.getWriter();
        String title = "Reading Three Request Parameters";
        String docType =
            "<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 " +
            "Transitional//EN\">\n";
        out.println(docType +
                    "<HTML>\n" +
                    "<HEAD><TITLE>" + title + "</TITLE></HEAD>\n" +
                    "<BODY>\n" +
                    "<UL>\n" +
                    "<LI>• param1: " + request.getParameter("param1") +
                    "<LI>• param2: " + request.getParameter("param2") +
                    "<LI>• param3: " + request.getParameter("param3") +
                    "</UL>\n" +
                    "</BODY>";
    }
}
```

```

    " <BODY BGCOLOR=\"#FDF5E6\">\n" +
    "<H1 ALIGN=\"CENTER\">" + title + "</H1>\n" +
    "<UL>\n" +
    "  <LI><B>param1</B>: "
    + request.getParameter("param1") + "\n" +
    "  <LI><B>param2</B>: "
    + request.getParameter("param2") + "\n" +
    "  <LI><B>param3</B>: "
    + request.getParameter("param3") + "\n" +
    "</UL>\n" +
    "</BODY></HTML>" );
}
}

```

Listing 11.5 ThreeParams.jsp

```

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>Reading Three Request Parameters</TITLE>
<LINK REL=stylesheet
      HREF="JSP-Styles.css"
      TYPE="text/css">
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<H1>Reading Three Request Parameters</H1>
<UL>
  <LI><B>param1</B>: <%= request.getParameter("param1") %>
  <LI><B>param2</B>: <%= request.getParameter("param2") %>
  <LI><B>param3</B>: <%= request.getParameter("param3") %>
</UL>
</BODY></HTML>

```

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