

Initialization Parameter

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1. When we develop a Java web application then there are some data elements in our Servlets which might change in future.
2. For example: Suppose in our Servlet, we have to display company's email id. Till now whatever we have learnt on the basis of that we will write:

```
pw.println("You can contact us at scalive4u@gmail.com");
```

3. Although, this will work but suppose in future this email id changes then we will have to do 3 things:
 - a) Re-write(edit) the code of the Servlet.
 - b) Re-compile it.
 - c) Re-deploy it.

All the above task are time consuming and can be easily avoid it using a Server side technique called **initialization parameter**.

What are Initialization Parameter?

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1. Initialization parameter are string values coded inside the **web.xml** file.
2. Then from the body of **init()** or **doGet()/doPost()** we will read this value and use them.
3. The benefit this approach is that in future if these strings change then only **web.xml** needs to be updated.

SYNTAX:

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```
<web-app>
  <servlet>
    .....
    <init-param>
      <param-name> some name</param-name>
      <param-value>some value</param-value>
    </init-param>
  </servlet>
  .....
</web-app>
```

Reading init-param from Servlet

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1. To read init param value from our Servlet we take two steps:

a) Obtain the **ServletConfig** object. This is done by calling the method **getServletConfig()** of our super class **HttpServlet**.

b) The **ServletConfig** object has a method called **getInitParameter()**. This method has following prototype:

public String getInitParameter(String);

The argument passed to this method is **param-name** and it's return value is **param-value**.

Context Parameter

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1. Till now we have discussed **initialization parameter** but a point to remember about them is that they are local to a specific Servlet.

2. This means that in whichever **<servlet>** tag they are created inside **web.xml**, only that Servlet is able to access them.

3. But in many cases we may want these parameters to be accesible to multiple Servlets and this is possible using **context parameter**.

What is Context-Parameter ?

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1. Context parameters are global declaration given inside web.xml.
2. They are coded in the tag **<web-app>** and so are available to every Servlet in an application.
3. The tag used for them is called **<context-param>** having two child tags:
 - a) **<param-name>**
 - b) **<param-value>**
4. To read the values of **<context-param>** we require **ServletContext** object which can be obtained by calling the method **getServletContext()** belonging to our super class **HttpServlet**.
5. The ServletContext object provides a method called **getInitParameter()** having the following prototype:

public String getInitParameter(String);

The argument passed to this method is **param-name** and it's return value is **param-value**.