

Some important points about HttpServlet class

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1. The class HttpServlet has inherited the class GenericServlet and has overridden service() method also.
2. From the service() method, the HttpServlet calls a particular doXXX() method depending on type of request. For example if the incoming request is a "GET" request then the doGet() method gets executed and if it is a "POST" request then the doPost() method gets executed.
3. So when we inherit HttpServlet class, we should never override service() method rather we should override either doGet() or doPost() methods.
4. These doXXX() methods are 7 in number and are based upon the names of commands of Http protocol but as a web application developer we generally have to deal with only two types of Http requests which are "GET" or "POST" and hence we are advised to override only doGet() or doPost() and not all 7 doXXX() methods.
5. A very important point to understand is that the class HttpServlet has been declared as abstract class even though it does not contain any abstract method.
6. This is because the developers of JEE wanted to force us to inherit HttpServlet class and this could be only possible if that class is made abstract.

7. Another reason of making HttpServlet abstract is that the JEE team also wanted to restrict the container from instantiating (creating object) HttpServlet class and this also is only possible if it is made abstract.

8. Moreover all the doXXX() methods have a default body given by the HttpServlet class which is HTTP-405 error message (method not implemented). Since, this output is useless for a developer so we should always properly override doGet() or doPost() methods to avoid such outputs.