

What is a Servlet ?

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1. A servlet is a Java program which lives on the server.
2. Inside the server, the execution of a servlet is handled by **SERVLET CONTAINER** / **SERVLET ENGINE** which is generally supplied as a part of Java web servers.
3. Some popular examples of Java based web servers are:
  - a) Apache Tomcat
  - b) Websphere
  - c) Web Logic
  - d) Glassfish
  - e) JBoss
4. A servlet always executes whenever a request arrives from the browser.

Why do we need a Servlet ?

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1. A servlet is needed to remove the drawback of static technology like HTML.
2. We know that HTML is a designing language i.e. it can help us design, content or UI or a webpage like a registration or login form.
3. But HTML has no idea how the data inputted by the user will be stored in the data base(Registration page) or how the data inputted by the user will be compared with data present in data base(Login page).
4. This is done using servlet.

What servlet can do ?

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1. A servlet can fetch the data sent by an HTML page.
2. A servlet can process this data and if the need arises can also communicate with databases (Using JDBC) and pull the required data from the DB.
3. A servlet can also generate HTML based output which will be passed back to Servlet Container which will further hand it over to Web Server and finally the Web Server will return it as a response to browser.

