

Fetching form data at the backend

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1. If our HTML page contains a form then when the user will submit this form, the browser will send the entire form data inputted by the user to the Server.

2. At the Server end we can access this data using the method **getParameter()** belonging to the object **HttpServletRequest**.

3. The prototype of this method is:

```
public String getParameter(String);
```

a) This method accepts the **name** of input control as argument and returns its value as a **String**.

b) In case the input control is left empty, this method returns empty **String** and if wrong name is passed then it returns **null**.

4. If our form contains **list** control with **multiple** attribute set then we call the method **getParameterValues()**.

5. This is because a scrollable list allows the user to select more than one value but if we use **getParameter()** at the backend to fetch this data then we will get only a single value.

6. So in this case we use the method **getParameterValues()** which belongs to **HttpServletRequest** object and has following prototype:

```
public String[] getParameterValues(String);
```

This method accepts the name of list control as argument and returns a **String array** containing all the values the user has selected