

Web ontwikkeling 3

Les 1: No Scriptlets

AGENDA

- Expression language
- JSP actions



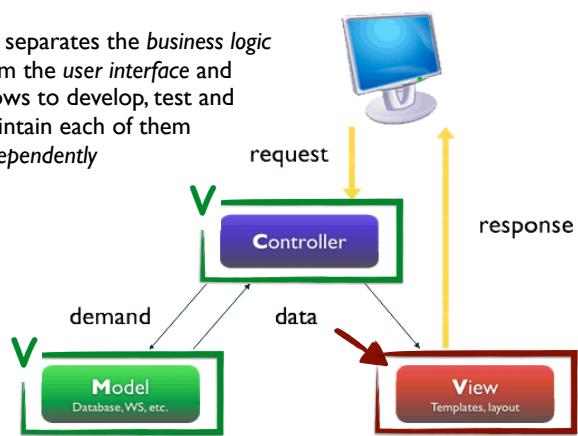
EXAM QUESTIONS...

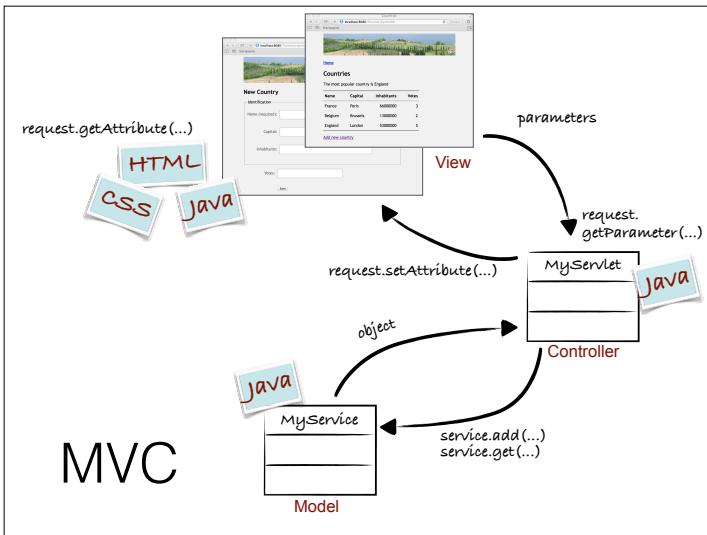


- What is the advantage of using expression language instead of JSP scriptlets and JSP expressions?
- What is the difference between the . operator and the []?
- What does JSTL stand for?
- Name the 6 language constructs of JSP
- Is JSTL used in the View, Model or Controller?
- When is a Java class a JavaBean?
- ...

MVC

... separates the *business logic* from the *user interface* and allows to develop, test and maintain each of them *independently*





Recap workflow:

- parameters can be passed with HTTP request
- servlet reads them with `request.getParameter()`
- model is called to add or get an object
- model can return object(s)
- objects can be passed to view with `request.setAttribute()`
- objects can be read with `request.getAttribute()`

Technologies used:

- controller: Java
- model: Java
- view: Java, css, html

SCRIPTLESS PAGES



Problem:

- designers should be able to create view
- good designers or not necessarily good programmers (and vice versa)

Solution: avoid Java in view

JSP 2.0: EXPRESSION LANGUAGE

The diagram shows a JSP code snippet and a cartoon character. The code snippet is:

```
<td>
<%= ((Country) request.getAttribute("country")).getName()%>
</td>
```

Annotations on the code include:

- "no cast!" above the code
- "\${country.name}" highlighted in a box with arrows pointing to it from the text "property" and "JSP knows: this must be an attribute".
- "PUBLIC ???" above the cartoon character's head.

A cartoon character with a shocked expression is shown, looking upwards. The text "JSP knows: this must be an attribute" is written below the character.

JSP scripts and expressions are replaced by expression language
Easier:

- JSP assumes you are asking for an attribute —> no `request.getAttribute()`
- JSP can find out what type you're talking about —> no cast
- JSP expects a property after the dot —> no get-method

Does this mean we should make our properties public?

JAVABEAN

The diagram shows Java code for a `Country` class and a coffee bean.

```
public class Country {
    private String name;
    public Country() { }
    public String getName() { return name; }
    public void setName(String name) { this.name = name; }
}
```

Annotations on the code include:

- "public no-arg constructor" pointing to the constructor definition.
- "getter and setter define a property" pointing to the `getName()` and `setName()` methods.

No, as long as we use the JavaBean conventions:

- getters and setters define a property (public getter to be able to read the property, public setter to modify it)
- a default constructor should be present (no arguments)

. OPERATOR

- Syntax:

```
 ${attribute.property}  
 ${attribute.property.propertyOfProperty}
```

- Only for **Javabean** or **Map**

EXAMPLES . OPERATOR

```
private Country country = new Country("Belgium", "Brussels", 13000000, 5); ...  
${country.votes}  
  
private Address address = new Address("Herestraat", 49, "Leuven";  
private Person customer = new Person("Bert", address; ...  
${customer.address.street}  
  
private Map<String, Country> countries = new HashMap<String, Country>(); ...  
countries.put(country.getName(), country);  
${countries.Belgium.capital}  
  
private List<Country> countries = new ArrayList<Country>();  
countries.add(country.getName(), country);  
→ not possible
```

[] OPERATOR

- Syntax:

```
 ${attribute["property"]}  
 ${attribute[0]}
```

- For **Javabean, Map, Array, List, ...**

EXAMPLES [] OPERATOR

```
private Country country = new Country("Belgium", "Brussels", 13000000, 5);  
...  
${country["votes"]}  
  
private Address address = new Address("Herestraat", 49, "Leuven";  
private Person customer = new Person("Bert", address; ...  
  
${customer["address"]["street"]}  
  
private Map<String, Country> countries = new HashMap<String, Country>();...  
countries.put(country.getName(), country);  
  
${countries["Belgium"]["capital"]}  
  
private List<Country> countries = new ArrayList<Country>();  
countries.add(country.getName(), country);  
  
${countries[0]}
```

WHAT IF ...



I want to show a parameter and not an attribute ?

READ PARAMETER

<http://localhost:8080/Tourism/Controller?votes=3>

```
<td>
    ${param.votes}
</td>
```

parameter name

JSP knows:
this is probably not an attribute
I should look for a parameter

A screenshot of a JSP code snippet. It shows a table cell containing the expression `\${param.votes}`. A red arrow points from the text "parameter name" to the `\${param.` part of the expression. Another red arrow points from the text "JSP knows:" to the first line of explanatory text below the code.

WHAT IF ...



I want to be sure my project does not contain scriptlets ?

DISABLE SCRIPTLETS

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<web-app version="2.5" xmlns="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee http://
    java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee/web-app_2_5.xsd">

  <jsp-config>
    <jsp-property-group>
      <url-pattern>*.jsp</url-pattern>
      <scripting-invalid>true</scripting-invalid>
    </jsp-property-group>
  </jsp-config>

  <welcome-file-list>
    <welcome-file>index.html</welcome-file>
  </welcome-file-list>
</web-app>
```

If you want to be sure that all script lets are replaced, you can disable them in your web.xml

HTTP Status 500 - /countryForm.jsp (line: 20, column: 5)
Scripting elements (<%!, <jsp:declaration, <%=, <jsp:expression, <%, <jsp:scriptlet) are disallowed here.

Type Exception report

message /countryForm.jsp (line: 20, column: 5) Scripting elements (<%!, <jsp:declaration, <%=, <jsp:expression, <%, <jsp:scriptlet) are disallowed here.

description The server encountered an internal error that prevented it from fulfilling this request.

exception

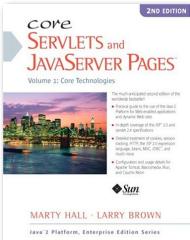
```
org.apache.jasper.JasperException: /countryForm.jsp (line: 20, column: 5) Scripting elements ( &lt;%!, &lt;jsp:declaration, &lt;%=, &lt;jsp:expression, &lt;%, &lt;jsp:scriptlet ) are disallowed here.
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.DefaultErrorHandler.jspError(DefaultErrorHandler.java:42)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.ErrorDispatcher.dispatch(ErrorDispatcher.java:443)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.ErrorDispatcher.jspError(ErrorDispatcher.java:89)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Validator$ValidateVisitor.visit(Validator.java:721)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Node$Scriptlet.accept(Node.java:932)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Node$Node.visit(Node.java:2375)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Node$Visitor.visitBody(Node.java:2427)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Node$Visitor.visit(Node.java:2433)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Node$Root.accept(Node.java:474)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Node$Nodes.visit(Node.java:2375)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Validator.validateExDirectives(Validator.java:1817)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Compiler.generateJava(Compiler.java:217)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Compiler.compile(Compiler.java:373)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Compiler.compile(Compiler.java:353)
	org.apache.jasper.compiler.Compiler.compile(Compiler.java:340)
	org.apache.jasper.JspCompilationContext.compile(JspCompilationContext.java:657)
	org.apache.jasper.servlet.JspServletWrapper.service(JspServletWrapper.java:357)
	org.apache.jasper.servlet.JspServlet.serviceJspFile(JspServlet.java:390)
	org.apache.jasper.servlet.JspServlet.service(JspServlet.java:394)
```

Evaluating Expressions Conditionally

Escaping Special Characters

EL Operators

EL functions



el-ignored
scripting-invalid

WARNING
DESIGN



There is much more you can do with expression language. This does not mean you have to use all these possibilities: they might lead to bad design. Remember: your view should contain any other than presentation logic!

REFACTOR

Assignment: refactor this, using expression language.

```
<fieldset>
<legend>Identification</legend>
<p class="form-group ${nameClass}">
  <label class="control-label" for="name">Name (required): </label>
  <input id="name" name="name" type="text"
    value="${request.getParameter("name") != null ? request.getParameter("name") : ""}">
</p>
<p class="form-group ${capitalClass}">
  <label class="control-label" for="capital">Capital: </label>
  <input id="capital" type="text" name="capital"
    value="${request.getParameter("capital") != null ?
      request.getParameter("capital") : ""}">
</p>
<p class="form-group ${inhabitantsClass}">
  <label class="control-label" for="inhabitants">Inhabitants:</label>
  <input id="inhabitants" name="inhabitants" type="text"
    value="${request.getParameter("inhabitants") != null ?
      request.getParameter("inhabitants") : ""}">
</p>
</fieldset>
```



RESULT



```
<fieldset>
<legend>Identification</legend>
<p class="form-group ${nameClass}">
  <label class="control-label" for="name">Name (required): </label>
  <input id="name" name="name" type="text" value="${param.name}">
</p>
<p class="form-group ${capitalClass}">
  <label class="control-label" for="capital">Capital: </label>
  <input id="capital" type="text" name="capital" value="${param.capital}">
</p>
<p class="form-group ${inhabitantsClass}">
  <label class="control-label" for="inhabitants">Inhabitants:</label>
  <input id="inhabitants" name="inhabitants" type="text" value="${param.inhabitants}">
</p>
</fieldset>
```

REMARK



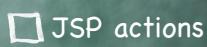
```
<fieldset>
  <legend>Identification</legend>
  <p class="form-group ${nameClass}">
    <label class="control-label" for="name">Name (required): </label>
    <input id="name" name="name" type="text" value="${country.name}">
  </p>
  <p class="form-group ${capitalClass}">
    <label class="control-label" for="capital">Capital: </label>
    <input id="capital" type="text" name="capital" value="${country.capital}">
  </p>
  <p class="form-group ${inhabitantsClass}">
    <label class="control-label" for="inhabitants">Inhabitants:</label>
    <input id="inhabitants" name="inhabitants" type="text" value="${country.inhabitants}">
  </p>
</fieldset>
```

you could also pass country as an attribute

AGENDA



Expression language



SCRIPTLESS PAGES

```
<% List<Country> countries = (List)request.getAttribute("countries"); %>
<table id="overview">
<thead>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Inhabitants</th>
</thead>
<tbody>
<% for (Country c : countries) { %>
<tr>
<td><a href="Controller?action=Edit&id=<%=c.getId()%>"><%=c.getName()%></a></td>
<td><%=c.getNumberOfInhabitants()%></td>
</tr>
<% } %>
</tbody>
```

JSP Actions !

Example country overview: some parts we can refactor with expression language, but other parts we can't. Expression language is not enough. That's why there is something else called JSP Actions.

JSP ACTIONS

components of a 'tag library'

- = predefined XML tags

- Categories:

- standard



JSP actions are tags you can use next to the normal html tags. They offer you extra functionality, without using too much Java in your pages.

STANDARD ACTIONS

1

STANDARD ACTIONS

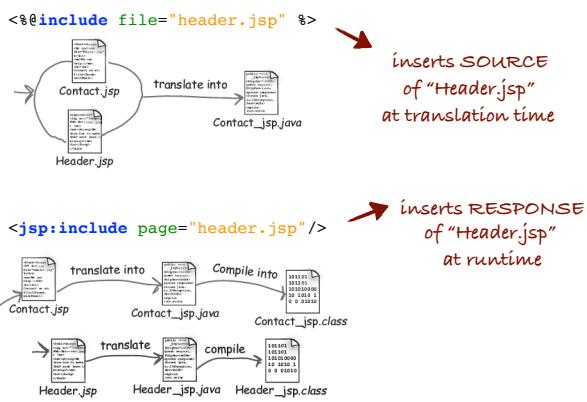
- defined in JSP itself
- begin with default **jsp:** prefix

<jsp:include>	Includes the response from a servlet or JSP page during the request processing phase
<jsp:param>	Adds a parameter value to a request handed off to another servlet
<jsp:plugin>	Generates HTML that contains the appropriate browser-dependent elements (OBJECT or EMBED) needed to execute an applet with the Java Plug-in software

STANDARD ACTIONS

```
<jsp:include page="header.jsp"/>  
  
<jsp:include page="header.jsp">  
  <jsp:param name="title" value="Countries" />  
</jsp:include>  
  
<jsp:plugin type="applet" code="Molecule.class" codebase="/html">  
  <jsp:params>  
    <jsp:param name="molecule" value="molecules/benzene.mol" />  
  </jsp:params>  
  <jsp:fallback>  
    <p>Unable to load applet</p>  
  </jsp:fallback>  
</jsp:plugin>
```

INCLUDE



DRY

```
<body>
  <%@include file="header.jspf" %>

  <main id="container">
    <p>
      <a href="index.html">Home</a>
    </p>
    <h1>New Country</h1>
    <article> ...
  </main>

</body>
```

The code shows two separate sections of JSP code. The first section is enclosed in a dashed box and includes the header.jspf file. The second section is also enclosed in a dashed box and contains a main container with a paragraph and an h1 tag. A red circle highlights the h1 tag, and a red question mark is placed next to it.

DRY

```
<body>
  <%@include file="header.jspf" %>

  <main id="container">
    <jsp:include page="title.jsp">
      <jsp:param name="title" value="Countries" />
    </jsp:include>
    <article> ...
  </main>

<main id="container">
  <jsp:include page="title.jsp">
    <jsp:param name="title" value="New Country" />
  </jsp:include>
  <article> ...
</main>
```

The code shows two sections of JSP code. The first section includes title.jsp with a param value of "Countries". The second section includes title.jsp with a param value of "New Country". Both sections are enclosed in dashed boxes. A red circle highlights the value "Countries" in the first param tag, and another red circle highlights the value "New Country" in the second param tag. The file title.jsp is shown at the bottom right.

title.jsp

STANDARD

<jsp:useBean>	Makes a JavaBeans component available in a page
<jsp:getProperty>	Gets a property value from a JavaBeans component and adds it to the response <i>Replaced by Expression Language, ...</i>
<jsp:setProperty>	Sets a property value for a JavaBeans component
<jsp:forward>	Fowards the processing of a request to servlet or JSP page

CUSTOM ACTIONS



CUSTOM ACTIONS

- user-defined JSP language element
- NOT defined in JSP itself → include !
- Example: **JSP Standard Tag Library**

Custom actions are located in extra libraries. You will have to include them in your build path, and you will have to reference them from your JSP page.

JSTL

- **JSP Standard Tag Library** !
- Bundels recurring functionality:
 - iteration
 - choice
 - ...

ITERATION

```
<c:forEach var="country" items="${countries}">
  <tr>
    <td>${country.name}</td>
    ...
  </tr>
</c:forEach>
```

CHOICE: IF

```
<c:if test="${country.numberInhabitants > 1000000}">
  ...
</c:if>
```

CHOICE: IF ELSE

```
<c:choose>
  <c:when test="${country.numberInhabitants > 1000000}">
    ...
  </c:when>
  <c:when test="${country.numberInhabitants > 50000000}">
    ...
  </c:when>
  <c:otherwise>
    ...
  </c:otherwise>
</c:choose>
```

USE LIBRARIES

Add in WEB-INF/lib:

jstl-1.2.jar

JSP page:

```
<%@taglib prefix="c" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" %>
```

LIBRARIES

- Core: <http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core>
- XML: <http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/xml>
- Internationalization:
<http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/fmt>
- SQL: <http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/sql>
- Functions:
<http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/functions>

In this course, you will be using the Core library.

YOUR OWN ACTIONS



SUMMARY JSP

Scriptlet:	<% List<Country> countries = (List)request.getAttribute("countries"); %>
Expression:	<%= country.getName() %>
Directive:	<%@ include file="header.jsp" %>
Declaration:	<%! int counter = 0; %>
EL:	\${ country.name }
Action:	<jsp:include page="header.jsp"/>

Assignment: refactor this, using expression language and JSP actions.

REFACTOR



```
<h1>Countries</h1>
<% Country mostPopularCountry = (Country) request.getAttribute("popular");
if (mostPopularCountry != null) { %>
    <p>The most popular country is <b><%= mostPopularCountry.getName() %></b></p>
<% } %>
<% Collection<Country> countries = (Collection<Country>) request.getAttribute("countries");
if (countries != null) { %>
<table id="overview">
    <tr>
        <th>Name</th>
        <th>Capital</th>
        <th class="getal">Inhabitants</th>
        <th class="getal">Votes</th>
    </tr>
    <% for (Country country : countries) { %>
        <tr>
            <td><%= country.getName() %></td>
            <td><%= country.getCapital() %></td>
            <td class="getal"><%= country.getNumberInhabitants() %></td>
            <td class="getal"><%= country.getVotes() %></td>
        </tr>
    <% } %>
</table>
<% } %>
```

RESULT

```
<%@ page language="java" contentType="text/html; charset=UTF-8"
pageEncoding="UTF-8"%>
<%@taglib prefix="c" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" %>
```

```
...
<h1>Countries</h1>
<p> The most popular country is ${popular.name} </p>
<table id="overview">
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th class="number">Inhabitants</th>
<th class="number">Votes</th>
</tr>
<c:forEach var="country" items="${countries}">
<tr>
<td>${country.name}</td>
<td>${country.capital}</td>
<td class="number">${country.numberInhabitants}</td>
<td class="number">${country.votes}</td>
</tr>
</c:forEach>
</table>
```



AGENDA

- ☒ Expression language
- ☒ JSP actions

