

Spring Boot terminology explained

give me the deep and detailed explaination of Terminology in spring boot so that i can able to understand it well and do not have any type of doubt in this.

so give me the deep and detailed explanation

Below is a **deep, structured, and beginner-to-advanced explanation of Spring Boot terminology**, written very clearly, with real meaning, why it exists, and how everything connects internally.

I'll explain things the way a **backend developer should think**, not just definitions.

Spring Boot Terminology — Deep & Clear Explanation

Goal: After this, you should *not just remember terms*, but **visualize how Spring Boot actually works internally**.

1 What is Spring Boot?

Spring Boot is a framework built **on top of the Spring Framework**.

♦ Why Spring Boot Exists?

Before Spring Boot:

- Too much XML
- Manual configuration
- Server setup pain
- Dependency conflicts

Spring Boot **solves these problems** by providing:

- Auto configuration

- Embedded servers
- Production-ready defaults

👉 Spring Boot = Spring + Auto Setup + Less Configuration

2 Spring vs Spring Boot (Conceptual Difference)

Aspect	Spring	Spring Boot
Configuration	Mostly manual	Mostly automatic
Server	External (Tomcat setup)	Embedded
Startup	Slow & complex	Fast & simple
Focus	Flexibility	Productivity

3 @SpringBootApplication (Most Important Annotation)

java

```
@SpringBootApplication
public class MyApp {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SpringApplication.run(MyApp.class, args);
    }
}
```

♦ What does it actually do?

It is NOT one annotation, but a combination of three:

java

```
@SpringBootConfiguration
@EnableAutoConfiguration
@ComponentScan
```

4 @ComponentScan

- ◆ What it means

Spring **searches for classes** annotated with:

- `@Component`
- `@Service`
- `@Repository`
- `@Controller`
- `@RestController`

inside the **base package**.

📌 If your main class is in:

```
com.app.main
```

Spring scans:

```
com.app.main.*
```

✖ Anything outside → NOT detected

5 Beans (Heart of Spring)

- ◆ What is a Bean?

A **Bean** is:

An object **created, managed, and destroyed by Spring**

```
java
```

```
@Component  
class UserService {}
```

→ Spring creates **ONE instance by default** (Singleton)

◆ Why Beans?

Because Spring:

- Manages lifecycle
- Injects dependencies
- Controls object creation

You **never use** `new` for business objects.

6 IoC (Inversion of Control)

◆ Traditional Way

java

```
Car car = new Car();
```

◆ Spring Way

java

```
@Autowired
```

```
Car car;
```

⟳ Control is inverted

Spring decides **when & how** objects are created.

👉 This is **IoC**

7 Dependency Injection (DI)

◆ What is DI?

Spring **injects required objects** automatically.

Types of DI:

1. Constructor Injection ✓ (Best)
2. Setter Injection
3. Field Injection ✗ (Avoid in production)

◆ Constructor Injection Example

java

```
@Service
class OrderService {
    private final PaymentService paymentService;

    public OrderService(PaymentService paymentService) {
        this.paymentService = paymentService;
    }
}
```

- ✓ Testable
 - ✓ Immutable
 - ✓ Recommended by Spring
-

8 @Component vs @Service vs @Repository

Annotation	Purpose
@Component	Generic bean
@Service	Business logic
@Repository	Database layer

- ♦ Why separate annotations?

They add **semantic meaning** and special behavior.

Example:

- `@Repository` handles **database exceptions**
 - `@Service` defines **business rules**
-

9 Application Context

- ♦ What is it?

The **Spring container** that:

- Holds all beans

- Manages lifecycle
- Injects dependencies

java

ApplicationContext

Think of it as:

🧠 Spring's brain

10 Auto Configuration (Spring Boot Magic)

Spring Boot Auto Configuration

- ◆ What happens internally?

If Spring Boot sees:

text

spring-boot-starter-web

Then it:

- Configures Tomcat
- Sets DispatcherServlet
- Enables MVC
- Maps JSON converters

📌 Based on classpath detection

11 Starters

- ◆ What is a Starter?

A collection of dependencies for a purpose.

Examples:

- spring-boot-starter-web
- spring-boot-starter-data-jpa

- `spring-boot-starter-security`

- ➔ No version conflict
 - ➔ Pre-tested combinations
-

1 2 Embedded Server

Spring Boot ships with:

- Embedded **Tomcat** (default)
- Jetty
- Undertow

◆ Why Embedded?

- No external server installation
- Run as JAR
- Cloud & Docker friendly

```
bash
```

```
java -jar app.jar
```

1 3 application.properties / application.yml

◆ Purpose

External configuration

```
properties
```

```
server.port=8081  
spring.datasource.url=jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/db
```

Spring Boot binds properties to beans automatically.

1 4 Profiles

◆ Why Profiles?

Different environments:

- dev
- test
- prod

properties

spring.profiles.active=dev

You can have:

matlab

application-dev.properties

application-prod.properties

1 | 5 Controllers

- ◆ **@Controller vs @RestController**

Controller	Purpose
@Controller	MVC views
@RestController	REST APIs

`@RestController = @Controller + @ResponseBody`

1 | 6 DispatcherServlet (Request Flow)

Every request goes through:

arduino

Client

↓

DispatcherServlet

↓

Controller

↓

Service

```
↓  
Repository
```

```
↓  
Database
```

DispatcherServlet is the **front controller**.

17 Spring Boot Actuator

Spring Boot Actuator

Provides:

- Health checks
- Metrics
- Application info

Endpoints:

```
bash
```

```
/actuator/health
```

```
/actuator/metrics
```

Used in **production monitoring**

18 Spring Boot Lifecycle

1. Application starts
 2. Context created
 3. Beans instantiated
 4. Dependencies injected
 5. Application ready
-

19 Exception Handling

Global exception handling using:

```
java
```

[@ControllerAdvice](#)

[@ExceptionHandler](#)

Centralized error management.

2 | 0 Spring Boot Architecture (Mental Model)

markdown

Controller → Service → Repository



Dependency Injection



ApplicationContext

Spring Boot:

- Creates objects
 - Wires dependencies
 - Runs server
 - Handles requests
-

✓ Final Summary (Important)

- ✓ Spring Boot removes boilerplate
 - ✓ Everything is bean-driven
 - ✓ IoC + DI are core concepts
 - ✓ Auto configuration saves time
 - ✓ Starters prevent dependency hell
-

If you want, next I can explain:

- 🔥 Spring Boot internals (auto config source code flow)
- 🔥 Real production architecture
- 🔥 Spring Boot interview terminology (Q&A style)
- 🔥 How Spring Boot works step-by-step at runtime

Just tell me 

give me the deep and detailed explanation of `@SpringBootApplication` in spring boot so that i can able to understand it well and do not have any type of doubt in this. so give me the deep and detailed explanation

Below is a **very deep, crystal-clear, zero-confusion explanation of `@SpringBootApplication`**, written the way a **backend engineer should understand it**, not just memorize it.

I'll explain **what it is, why it exists, what happens internally, how Spring Boot uses it at runtime, and common mistakes**.

⭐ `@SpringBootApplication` — Deep & Complete Explanation

If you understand this one annotation properly, you understand **60-70% of Spring Boot architecture**.

1 What exactly is `@SpringBootApplication`?

`@SpringBootApplication` is the **entry point annotation** of a Spring Boot application.

java

```
@SpringBootApplication
public class MyApplication {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        SpringApplication.run(MyApplication.class, args);
    }
}
```

📌 This annotation tells **Spring Boot**:

“This is my main application. Start everything from here.”

2 Is @SpringBootApplication a single annotation?

✗ No

✓ It is a **meta-annotation** (annotation made of other annotations)

Internally it is:

```
java
```

```
@SpringBootConfiguration  
@EnableAutoConfiguration  
@ComponentScan
```

So when you write:

```
java
```

```
@SpringBootApplication
```

Spring Boot **actually executes these three annotations.**

3 Why did Spring Boot combine these 3 annotations?

Before Spring Boot, you had to write:

```
java
```

```
@Configuration  
@EnableAutoConfiguration  
@ComponentScan
```

- Too much boilerplate
- Error-prone
- Not beginner-friendly

Spring Boot introduced **one single annotation** to:

- Reduce configuration
 - Standardize project structure
 - Prevent misconfiguration
-

4 @SpringBootConfiguration (Deep Dive)

What is it?

java

@SpringBootConfiguration

Internally:

java

@Configuration

What does @Configuration mean?

It tells Spring Framework:

“This class contains bean definitions”

Example

java

```
@Bean  
public RestTemplate restTemplate() {  
    return new RestTemplate();  
}
```

📌 Spring:

- Creates this bean
- Manages lifecycle
- Injects where needed

✓ @SpringBootConfiguration = Main configuration class

✓ Only one per application (best practice)

5 @ComponentScan (MOST COMMON CONFUSION)

What does it do?

java

@ComponentScan

It tells Spring:

“Scan packages and find beans”

What beans?

Classes annotated with:

- `@Component`
- `@Service`
- `@Repository`
- `@Controller`
- `@RestController`

📦 Package Scanning Rule (VERY IMPORTANT)

Spring scans:

css

📁 package of **main** class
+ **all** sub-packages

Example:

java

com.app.main.MyApplication

Spring scans:

com.app.main.*

✖ It will NOT scan:

com.app.other.*

This is why main class should be at root package

Manual override (if needed)

```
java
```

```
@ComponentScan(basePackages = "com.app")
```

6 @EnableAutoConfiguration (Spring Boot MAGIC)

This is the **heart of Spring Boot**.

What does it mean?

“Based on what libraries are present, configure everything automatically.”

How Auto Configuration Works (Internals)

Spring Boot:

1. Reads classpath
2. Detects dependencies
3. Applies configuration

Example:

If Spring Boot sees:

```
spring-boot-starter-web
```

It automatically:

- ✓ Configures Tomcat
- ✓ Registers DispatcherServlet
- ✓ Enables Spring MVC
- ✓ Adds JSON converters

 No XML

 No manual config

Where does this logic live?

In:

bash

META-INF/spring.factories

(Spring Boot 3 → `AutoConfiguration.imports`)

These files tell Spring:

“If class X exists → configure feature Y”

7 `SpringApplication.run()` (What actually happens?)

java

`SpringApplication.run(MyApplication.class, args);`

Internally this:

- 1 Creates ApplicationContext
- 2 Loads beans
- 3 Runs auto-configuration
- 4 Starts embedded server
- 5 Application becomes READY

→ This is the **bootstrapping process**

8 `ApplicationContext Creation`

Spring Boot creates:

- `AnnotationConfigApplicationContext` (non-web)
- `ServletWebServerApplicationContext` (web apps)

This context:

- Holds all beans
- Manages dependencies
- Controls lifecycle

Think of it as:

 Central brain of Spring Boot

9 Lifecycle triggered by `@SpringBootApplication`

Once application starts:

1. Component scanning starts
 2. Beans are created
 3. Dependencies injected
 4. Auto configuration runs
 5. Server starts
 6. App is ready to handle requests
-

10 Common Mistakes (VERY IMPORTANT)

Main class in wrong package

```
java  
  
com.app.start  
com.app.controller  not scanned
```

➔ Controllers won't load

Solution:

- Move main class to root
 - Or use `@ComponentScan`
-

Multiple `@SpringBootApplication` classes

- ✓ Only one per application
 - ✗ Multiple causes conflicts
-

1 | 1 Can we replace @SpringBootApplication?

Yes, but NOT recommended.

java

```
@Configuration  
@EnableAutoConfiguration  
@ComponentScan
```

- ✓ Works
 - ✗ Verbose
 - ✗ Easy to mess up
-

1 | 2 Mental Model (VERY IMPORTANT)

Think of `@SpringBootApplication` as:

| ● “START BUTTON” of Spring Boot

It:

- Initializes container
 - Scans code
 - Configures framework
 - Starts server
-

1 | 3 Interview-Ready Explanation (Short)

| `@SpringBootApplication` is a meta-annotation that combines configuration, component scanning, and auto-configuration, allowing Spring Boot to bootstrap and configure the application automatically with minimal developer effort.

1 | 4 Final Summary

- ✓ Entry point of Spring Boot
 - ✓ Combines 3 powerful annotations
 - ✓ Enables auto configuration
 - ✓ Triggers component scanning
 - ✓ Starts embedded server
-

If you want next, I can explain:

- 🔥 AutoConfiguration source code flow
- 🔥 Why Spring Boot startup is faster
- 🔥 Difference between @Configuration and @SpringBootConfiguration
- 🔥 How Spring Boot decides what to auto configure

Just tell me 

give me the deep and detailed explanation of Application Context in spring boot so that i can able to understand it well and do not have any type of doubt in this. so give me the deep and detailed explanation

Below is a **very deep, crystal-clear, no-confusion explanation of ApplicationContext in Spring Boot**, written exactly for someone who wants to **understand Spring internally**, not just pass interviews.

Take your time reading this — after this, **IoC, DI, beans, lifecycle, auto-configuration will all “click” together.**

ApplicationContext in Spring Boot — Deep & Complete Explanation

If Spring Boot is a **human body**,
then **ApplicationContext is the BRAIN** 
It controls **everything**.

1 What is ApplicationContext (in one line)?

ApplicationContext is the **Spring container** that:

- ✓ Creates objects (beans)
- ✓ Manages their lifecycle
- ✓ Injects dependencies
- ✓ Applies configurations
- ✓ Provides application-wide services

It is part of the **Spring Framework** and heavily used by **Spring Boot**.

2 Why do we need ApplicationContext at all?

✗ Without ApplicationContext (Traditional Java)

```
java

Service service = new Service();
Repository repo = new Repository();
service.setRepository(repo);
```

Problems:

- Tight coupling
 - Hard to test
 - No lifecycle control
 - Manual wiring
-

✓ With ApplicationContext (Spring Way)

```
java

@Autowired
Service service;
```

Spring:

- Creates objects
- Injects dependencies
- Manages lifecycle
- Handles configuration

👉 ApplicationContext does ALL of this

3 ApplicationContext vs BeanFactory (Important)

Feature	BeanFactory	ApplicationContext
Bean creation	Lazy	Eager (default)
DI support	Basic	Advanced
Events	✗	✓
AOP	✗	✓
Internationalization	✗	✓

📌 Spring Boot ALWAYS uses ApplicationContext

4 What exactly does ApplicationContext contain?

Think of ApplicationContext as a **container with multiple internal systems**:

It stores:

- Bean definitions
- Bean instances
- Configuration metadata
- Environment properties
- Profiles
- Event listeners

📦 In simple words:

It is a **registry + factory + manager + coordinator**

5 How is ApplicationContext created in Spring Boot?

This happens here 👇

```
java
```

```
SpringApplication.run(MyApplication.class, args);
```

Internally, Spring Boot:

1. Detects application type
 2. Creates proper ApplicationContext
 3. Loads beans
 4. Starts server
-

6 Types of ApplicationContext (VERY IMPORTANT)

Spring Boot chooses automatically:

1 Web Application (Most common)

```
java
```

```
ServletWebServerApplicationContext
```

Used when:

- `spring-boot-starter-web` is present

Handles:

- Controllers
 - DispatcherServlet
 - Embedded Tomcat
-

2 Reactive Application

```
java
```

```
ReactiveWebServerApplicationContext
```

Used when:

- `spring-boot-starter-webflux`
-

3 Non-Web Application

```
java
```

AnnotationConfigApplicationContext

Used for:

- CLI apps
 - Batch jobs
-

7 What is stored inside ApplicationContext?

◆ Bean Definitions (Blueprint)

Before creating objects, Spring stores **metadata**:

- Class name
- Scope
- Dependencies
- Init/destroy methods

Example:

```
java
```

```
@Service  
class UserService {}
```

→ Stored as **BeanDefinition**

◆ Bean Instances (Actual Objects)

After definitions:

- Spring creates real objects
 - Stores them in memory
 - Reuses them (singleton)
-

8 Bean Lifecycle inside ApplicationContext (DEEP)

This is critical 🔥

Step-by-step lifecycle:

1. Read class metadata
2. Create bean instance
3. Inject dependencies
4. Call `@PostConstruct`
5. Bean is ready
6. Application runs
7. Call `@PreDestroy` on shutdown

```
java
```

```
@PostConstruct
```

```
void init() {}
```

```
@PreDestroy
```

```
void destroy() {}
```

👉 All controlled by **ApplicationContext**

9 ApplicationContext & Dependency Injection

When Spring sees:

```
java
```

```
@Autowired
```

```
OrderService orderService;
```

It:

1. Searches ApplicationContext
2. Finds matching bean
3. Injects it
4. Throws error if missing

✗ No bean → `NoSuchBeanDefinitionException`

10 Component Scanning & ApplicationContext

Triggered by:

```
java
```

Spring:

- Scans packages
- Registers beans
- Stores them in ApplicationContext

👉 This is why **main class package matters**

1 | 1 ApplicationContext & Auto Configuration

Spring Boot auto configuration **registers beans automatically**.

Example:

- `DataSource`
- `EntityManagerFactory`
- `DispatcherServlet`

All these beans live inside **ApplicationContext**.

1 | 2 ApplicationContext & Profiles

Profiles decide **which beans exist**.

```
java

@Profile("dev")
@Service
class DevService {}
```

If active profile = `prod`

→ Bean NOT created

ApplicationContext:

- Reads profile
 - Loads matching beans only
-

1 | 3 ApplicationContext & Environment

You can access:

```
java  
  
@Autowired  
Environment env;
```

It provides:

- Properties
- Profiles
- System variables

All managed by ApplicationContext.

1 | 4 ApplicationContext & Events

Spring supports **event-driven architecture**.

```
java  
  
ApplicationEventPublisher
```

You can:

- Publish events
- Listen to events

Used for:

- Startup logic
 - Async tasks
 - Notifications
-

1 | 5 ApplicationContext & AOP

Spring AOP uses **proxies**.

ApplicationContext:

- Wraps beans
- Applies interceptors

- Manages transactions

Example:

```
java
```

```
@Transactional
```

→ Managed by context

16 ApplicationContext vs ServletContext (CONFUSION CLEAR)

ApplicationContext	ServletContext
Spring container	Web container
Manages beans	Manages servlets
Framework-level	Server-level

Spring Boot connects both, but they are **different**

17 How ApplicationContext shuts down

On shutdown:

- Calls `@PreDestroy`
- Closes resources
- Stops server

Graceful shutdown = ApplicationContext responsibility

18 How to access ApplicationContext manually (RARE)

```
java
```

```
@Autowired
```

```
ApplicationContext context;
```

You can:

- Fetch beans
- Check environment
- Publish events

✖ Avoid unless absolutely needed

1 9 Mental Model (VERY IMPORTANT)

Think of ApplicationContext as:

 A smart factory + warehouse + manager

- Factory → creates objects
 - Warehouse → stores beans
 - Manager → injects & controls lifecycle
-

2 0 Interview-Ready Definition

ApplicationContext is the central interface of Spring that manages beans, handles dependency injection, maintains lifecycle, applies configurations, and coordinates all components of a Spring Boot application.

✓ Final Summary (No Doubts Left)

- ✓ Core of Spring Boot
 - ✓ Manages all beans
 - ✓ Handles DI & lifecycle
 - ✓ Supports auto configuration
 - ✓ Controls startup & shutdown
-

If you want next, I can explain:

- 🔥 Bean lifecycle with diagram
- 🔥 How ApplicationContext differs from Spring Container
- 🔥 Why singleton scope is default
- 🔥 How Spring resolves circular dependencies

Just tell me 

give me the deep and detailed explanation of DispatcherServlet in spring boot so that i can able to understand it well and do not have any type of doubt in this.

so give me the deep and detailed explanation

Below is a **very deep, step-by-step, zero-confusion explanation of DispatcherServlet**, written so that you **understand how a request actually flows inside Spring Boot**, not just definitions.

If you truly understand **DispatcherServlet**, you understand **how Spring MVC works internally**.

DispatcherServlet in Spring Boot — Deep & Complete Explanation

If ApplicationContext is the brain,
then DispatcherServlet is the traffic police + controller + coordinator 

1 What is DispatcherServlet?

DispatcherServlet is the front controller of Spring MVC.

It is part of the **Spring Framework** and is automatically configured by **Spring Boot**.

One-line definition (perfect clarity)

DispatcherServlet is the **single entry point** for all incoming HTTP requests in a Spring Boot web application.

 **Every HTTP request passes through DispatcherServlet first.**

2 Why do we need DispatcherServlet?

✗ Without DispatcherServlet (Traditional Servlets)

- Each URL mapped to a different servlet
- Duplicate logic
- Hard to maintain
- No central control

✓ With DispatcherServlet

- Single entry point
- Centralized routing
- Unified exception handling
- Easy extension (filters, interceptors, AOP)

👉 This follows the **Front Controller Design Pattern**

3 DispatcherServlet in Spring Boot (Auto-Configured)

In **pure Spring**, you had to manually configure it in `web.xml`.

In **Spring Boot**:

- ✓ No XML
- ✓ No manual registration
- ✓ Auto-configured via `spring-boot-starter-web`

Spring Boot:

- Creates DispatcherServlet bean
 - Registers it with embedded Tomcat
 - Maps it to `/`
-

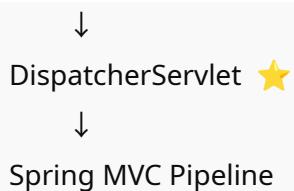
4 Where does DispatcherServlet sit in request flow?

markdown

Client (Browser / Postman)



Embedded Tomcat

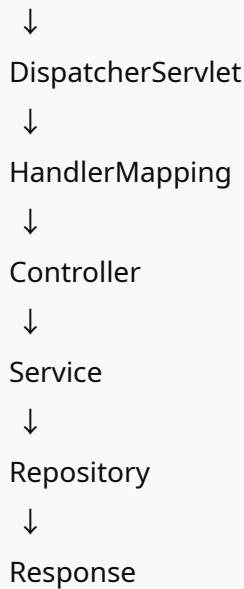


📌 DispatcherServlet is **inside the servlet container**, but **controlled by Spring**.

5 High-Level Request Flow (Bird's-Eye View)

nginx

Request



But this is **just the surface**.

Let's go **inside**.

6 DispatcherServlet Internal Components (VERY IMPORTANT)

DispatcherServlet does **not** do everything itself.

It **coordinates multiple helper components**.

Core collaborators:

1. HandlerMapping
2. HandlerAdapter
3. Controller
4. ViewResolver (for MVC)

5. `HttpMessageConverter` (for REST)

6. `ExceptionResolver`

7 Step-by-Step: What happens when a request comes?

- ◆ **Step 1: Request hits DispatcherServlet**

Example:

```
bash
```

```
GET /users/1
```

Tomcat forwards it to:

```
nginx
```

```
DispatcherServlet
```

- ◆ **Step 2: DispatcherServlet asks HandlerMapping**

“Which controller should handle this request?”

```
java
```

```
@GetMapping("/users/{id}")
public User getUser(@PathVariable Long id) {}
```

HandlerMapping:

- Scans controller mappings
- Matches URL + HTTP method
- Returns the correct controller method

📌 No controller logic yet — just **mapping resolution**

- ◆ **Step 3: DispatcherServlet calls HandlerAdapter**

Why Adapter?

Because Spring supports:

- Controllers
- REST controllers
- Legacy handlers

HandlerAdapter:

“I know how to invoke this handler”

It:

- Resolves method arguments
- Injects path variables
- Injects request body

◆ Step 4: Controller Method Execution

java

```
@GetMapping("/users/{id}")
public User getUser(Long id) {
    return service.findUser(id);
}
```

Controller:

- Contains **NO servlet code**
- Only business delegation

DispatcherServlet stays in control.

◆ Step 5: Return Value Processing

Depends on controller type.

8 REST Controller Flow (@RestController)

java

```
@RestController  
class UserController {  
    @GetMapping("/users/{id}")  
    public User getUser() {}  
}
```

Flow:

1. Controller returns `User`
2. DispatcherServlet uses `HttpMessageConverter`
3. Converts object → JSON
4. Writes response body

📌 No ViewResolver involved

9 MVC Controller Flow (`@Controller`)

java

```
@Controller  
class HomeController {  
    @GetMapping("/home")  
    public String home() {  
        return "index";  
    }  
}
```

Flow:

1. Controller returns view name
 2. DispatcherServlet calls ViewResolver
 3. ViewResolver finds template
 4. Template rendered
 5. HTML returned
-

10 `HttpMessageConverter` (Hidden Hero)

Used when:

- `@ResponseBody`

- `@RestController`

Examples:

- Jackson (JSON)
- XML
- ByteArray

DispatcherServlet:

“Convert Java object to HTTP response”

1 | 1 Exception Handling (VERY IMPORTANT)

If exception occurs:

```
java  
  
throw new RuntimeException();
```

DispatcherServlet:

1. Catches exception
2. Delegates to `ExceptionResolver`
3. Applies `@ExceptionHandler`
4. Applies `@ControllerAdvice`
5. Sends proper response

📌 Centralized error handling

1 | 2 DispatcherServlet & Filters vs Interceptors

◆ Filters (Before DispatcherServlet)

- Servlet level
- Security
- Logging

◆ Interceptors (Inside Spring MVC)

- Before controller
- After controller
- Before response

DispatcherServlet triggers interceptors.

1 3 DispatcherServlet & ApplicationContext

DispatcherServlet:

- Has its own WebApplicationContext
- Linked to main ApplicationContext
- Uses beans from context

💡 Controllers, services, converters — all come from ApplicationContext

1 4 How Spring Boot registers DispatcherServlet

Internally:

- DispatcherServletAutoConfiguration
- Registers as servlet bean
- Maps to /

You can customize:

properties

```
spring.mvc.servlet.path=/api
```

1 5 DispatcherServlet Lifecycle

1. Created at startup
 2. Initialized with context
 3. Ready to handle requests
 4. Delegates every request
 5. Destroyed on shutdown
-

1 6 Why DispatcherServlet is powerful?

- ✓ Single entry point
- ✓ Centralized routing
- ✓ Centralized exception handling

- ✓ Flexible architecture
 - ✓ Framework-level control
-

1 7 Mental Model (NO CONFUSION)

Think of DispatcherServlet as:

- |  An air-traffic controller
 - Incoming requests = planes
 - Controllers = runways
 - DispatcherServlet = decides where planes land
-

1 8 Interview-Ready Explanation

DispatcherServlet is the front controller in Spring MVC that receives all HTTP requests, determines the appropriate handler using handler mappings, invokes the controller via handler adapters, processes the response, and manages exceptions and view resolution.

1 9 Common Mistakes to Avoid

- ✗ Putting business logic in controllers
 - ✗ Bypassing DispatcherServlet
 - ✗ Confusing filters with interceptors
 - ✗ Mixing MVC and REST incorrectly
-

✓ Final Summary (No Doubt Left)

- ✓ Central entry point
 - ✓ Coordinates request handling
 - ✓ Works with handlers, adapters, converters
 - ✓ Auto-configured by Spring Boot
 - ✓ Core of Spring MVC
-

If you want next, I can explain:

- 🔥 HandlerMapping vs HandlerAdapter
- 🔥 Filters vs Interceptors vs AOP
- 🔥 Spring MVC internal class flow
- 🔥 Why DispatcherServlet is thread-safe

Just tell me 

give me the deep and detailed explanation of Servlet Container in spring boot so that i can able to understand it well and do not have any type of doubt in this.

so give me the deep and detailed explanation

Below is a **very deep, structured, zero-confusion explanation of the Servlet Container in Spring Boot**, written so you can **mentally visualize how requests really work from browser → server → Spring → controller**.

After this, DispatcherServlet, embedded Tomcat, filters, threads, ports — everything will click together.

Servlet Container in Spring Boot — Deep & Complete Explanation

If ApplicationContext is the brain 
and DispatcherServlet is the traffic controller 
then the Servlet Container is the entire city infrastructure 
where roads, traffic, security, and execution actually happen.

1 What is a Servlet Container?

A **Servlet Container** (also called **Web Container**) is a **runtime environment** that:

- ✓ Listens on a port (HTTP/HTTPS)
- ✓ Accepts client requests
- ✓ Manages servlets
- ✓ Manages request/response objects
- ✓ Handles threading
- ✓ Controls servlet lifecycle

It is defined by the **Java Servlet Specification**.

Spring **does NOT replace** the servlet container — it **runs inside it**.

2 Examples of Servlet Containers

Common servlet containers used with Spring Boot:

- Apache Tomcat (default)
- Jetty
- Undertow

📌 Spring Boot **embeds** one of these.

3 What does “Embedded Servlet Container” mean?

✗ Old (Traditional Spring)

- Install Tomcat separately
- Deploy WAR file
- Configure server manually

✓ Spring Boot Way

- Servlet container is **inside your application**
- Runs as a **JAR**
- Starts automatically

```
bash
```

```
java -jar app.jar
```

Spring Boot embeds **Tomcat by default**.

4 Role of Servlet Container in Spring Boot

The servlet container is responsible for:

mathematica

Network I/O



HTTP Parsing



Thread Management



Servlet Invocation



Response Writing

Spring only handles application logic

The container handles low-level web concerns

5 Where Servlet Container sits in the architecture

css

Browser / Postman



Servlet Container (Tomcat)



DispatcherServlet



Spring MVC



Controller → Service → Repository

📌 Servlet Container is **below Spring**, not inside it.

6 What exactly happens when a request comes?

Let's go step by step.

- ◆ Step 1: Client sends HTTP request

bash

```
GET /users/1 HTTP/1.1
```

Request arrives at:

makefile

localhost:8080

- ◆ Step 2: Servlet Container accepts request

Tomcat:

- Listens on port 8080
- Accepts TCP connection
- Parses HTTP request
- Creates:
 - HttpServletRequest
 - HttpServletResponse

- ◆ Step 3: Thread Allocation (VERY IMPORTANT)

Servlet container:

- Picks a thread from **thread pool**
- Assigns request to that thread

👉 One request = one thread

This is why:

- Blocking calls matter
- Thread exhaustion can happen

- ◆ Step 4: Servlet Mapping

Servlet container checks:

“Which servlet handles this URL?”

In Spring Boot:

- **DispatcherServlet** is mapped to `/`

So request goes to:

nginx

DispatcherServlet

- ◆ **Step 5: Control moves to Spring**

From this point:

- Spring MVC takes over
- Controller logic runs
- Response is generated

- ◆ **Step 6: Response goes back**

Spring writes data to:

nginx

HttpServletResponse

Servlet container:

- Converts response to HTTP
- Sends it back to client
- Releases thread

7 Servlet Container Responsibilities (Clear Separation)

Servlet Container Spring

HTTP handling Business logic

Threading Dependency Injection

Servlet Container Spring

Request parsing	Controller mapping
Response writing	JSON / View rendering
Servlet lifecycle	Bean lifecycle

👉 Spring depends on the servlet container.

8 Servlet Lifecycle (Important)

Every servlet follows this lifecycle:

1. `init()` → called once
2. `service()` → called per request
3. `destroy()` → called on shutdown

📌 DispatcherServlet is also a servlet, so this applies to it too.

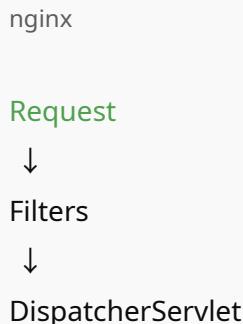
9 Servlet Container & Filters

Filters are **container-level components**.

Examples:

- Security filters
- Logging filters
- CORS filters

Execution order:



Filters run **before** Spring MVC.

10 Servlet Container & Session Management

Servlet container manages:

- HTTP Sessions
- Cookies
- Session IDs

Spring Security builds on top of this.

11 Servlet Container & Thread Model (CRITICAL)

Servlet containers are:

- Multi-threaded
- Thread-per-request

Implications:

- Controllers must be thread-safe
 - No shared mutable state
 - Use stateless services
-

12 Why Spring Boot still needs a Servlet Container?

Because:

- HTTP is low-level
- Socket handling is complex
- Thread management is hard

Spring focuses on:

- Business logic
 - Architecture
 - Developer productivity
-

13 How Spring Boot configures Servlet Container

Spring Boot auto-configures:

- Port (`server.port`)

- Context path
- SSL
- Thread pool

Example:

```
properties
```

```
server.port=9090
```

1 | 4 Can we change the Servlet Container?

YES

Exclude Tomcat:

```
xml
```

```
<exclusion>
<groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
<artifactId>spring-boot-starter-tomcat</artifactId>
</exclusion>
```

Add Jetty or Undertow instead.

1 | 5 Servlet Container vs Application Server

Servlet Container	Application Server
Handles web	Handles enterprise
Lightweight	Heavy
Faster startup	Slower
Used by Spring Boot	Not needed

Spring Boot prefers **lightweight containers**.

16 Common Confusions (Cleared)

- ✗ Servlet Container = Spring
 - ✓ Servlet Container runs Spring

 - ✗ DispatcherServlet = Servlet Container
 - ✓ DispatcherServlet runs **inside** container

 - ✗ Spring Boot replaces Tomcat
 - ✓ Spring Boot embeds Tomcat
-

17 Mental Model (NO CONFUSION)

Think like this:

- 🏢 Servlet Container = Building
 - 🧠 ApplicationContext = Brain inside building
 - 👉 DispatcherServlet = Reception desk
-

18 Interview-Ready Definition

A Servlet Container is a runtime environment that manages HTTP requests, servlet lifecycle, threading, and network communication. In Spring Boot, it is embedded and works underneath the Spring framework to handle web requests.

Final Summary (Everything Clear)

- ✓ Servlet container handles HTTP & threads
 - ✓ Spring Boot embeds Tomcat by default
 - ✓ DispatcherServlet runs inside container
 - ✓ Spring handles business logic, not HTTP
 - ✓ Clear separation of responsibilities
-

If you want next, I can explain:

- 🔥 Thread-per-request model problems
- 🔥 How WebFlux removes servlet container

- 🔥 Filters vs Interceptors vs AOP
- 🔥 Tomcat internals (connector, engine, host)

Just tell me 