

Difference Between Spring MVC, Spring Boot MVC & Spring Boot Web

A clean, structured, and complete explanation.



1. What is Spring MVC?

Spring MVC is a **web framework** inside the Spring Framework (NOT Spring Boot).



What it provides

- MVC architecture
- Controllers
- Views (JSP/Thymeleaf)
- DispatcherServlet



What you must configure manually

- Add dependencies (JARs)
- Configure `web.xml`
- Register `DispatcherServlet`
- Setup ViewResolver
- Setup DataSource
- Deploy WAR file to external Tomcat



External Tomcat, deployed as a **WAR**.

Summary

Spring MVC = Manual configuration + External Server + WAR deployment



2. What is Spring Boot MVC?

Spring Boot MVC = Spring MVC + **Spring Boot automation**.



What Spring Boot adds

- Auto-configured DispatcherServlet
- Embedded Tomcat
- Auto dependency management
- No `web.xml`
- Auto ViewResolver

- Component scanning

Server

Embedded Tomcat (runs inside the app).

Deployment

Run as **JAR**, not WAR.

Summary

Spring Boot MVC = Spring MVC + Auto Configuration + Embedded Server



3. What is Spring Boot Web?

Spring Boot Web is a **starter module** that includes everything required for: - Spring MVC - REST API development - Embedded server - JSON support

Dependency

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

What it includes internally

- Spring MVC
- Embedded Tomcat
- Jackson (JSON converter)
- DispatcherServlet

Summary

Spring Boot Web = Spring Boot MVC + REST + full web stack



4. Spring MVC vs Spring Boot MVC (Comparison Table)

Feature	Spring MVC	Spring Boot MVC
Server	External Tomcat	Embedded Tomcat
Deployment	WAR	JAR
Config	Manual	Auto
ViewResolver	Manual	Auto

Feature	Spring MVC	Spring Boot MVC
JSON	Manual	Auto (Jackson)
web.xml	Required	Not needed
Starter dependency	Many JARs	spring-boot-starter-web



5. Spring Boot Web vs Spring Boot MVC

💡 They are basically the same thing.

Why? Both are activated by the same dependency:

spring-boot-starter-web

Spring Boot Web Includes:

- Spring MVC
- REST support
- DispatcherServlet
- Embedded Tomcat

So: - **Spring Boot MVC** is MVC architecture using Spring Boot. - **Spring Boot Web** is the module that provides Spring MVC + REST.

⭐ There is no internal difference.



6. Even Simpler Summary

Term	Meaning
Spring MVC	Old, manual, uses external Tomcat
Spring Boot MVC	Spring MVC + Boot automation + Embedded Tomcat
Spring Boot Web	Boot MVC + REST support (same dependency)



7. Ultra Simple Final Summary

- **Spring MVC** = Manual / XML / external server
- **Spring Boot MVC** = Auto-configured MVC with embedded server
- **Spring Boot Web** = The full web stack (MVC + REST)

They are NOT competing technologies — Spring Boot simply makes MVC development easier.