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Plug-in Mechanism



What is a Plug-in?

- Any Java class that you want to initialize when Struts application starts up and destroy when the application shuts down.
 - Any Java class that implements org.apache.struts.action.Plugin interface

```
public interface PlugIn {  
    public void init(ActionServlet servlet, ApplicationConfig config)  
        throws ServletException;  
    public void destroy();  
}
```

Why Plug-in?

- Before Struts 1.1 (in Struts 1.0), you had to subclass `ActionServlet` to initialize application resources at startup time.
- With plugin mechanism (in Struts 1.1), you create Plugin classes and configure them.
- Generic mechanism
 - Struts framework itself uses plugin mechanism for supporting Validator and Tiles



How do you configure Plug-in's?

- Must be declared in struts-config.xml via <plug-in> element : e.g.,

```
<plug-in className="org.apache.struts.plugins.ModuleConfigVerifier"/>
```

```
<plug-in className="org.apache.struts.webapp.example.memory.MemoryDatabasePlugIn">  
    <set-property property="pathname" value="/WEB-INF/database.xml"/>  
</plug-in>
```

```
<plug-in className="org.apache.struts.validator.ValidatorPlugIn">  
    <set-property property="pathnames" value="/WEB-INF/validator-rules.xml,  
    /WEB-INF/validation.xml"/>  
</plug-in>
```


How do Plug-in's get called?

- During startup of a Struts application, ActionServlet calls init() method of each Plug-in configured.
- Plug-ins are called in the order they are configured in struts-config.xml file.



Plug-in Mechanism



Thank you!

