Web Technology

Web Clients and Web Servers

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February 16, 2011



Web clients

- Send a HTTP request message to web server
- Process the HTTP response message from the web server
- User agents directly used by human users
- Software robots crawl web collecting information



Basic functions of browser

Browser areas

- Menu bar
- Tool bar (within it, location bar)
- Client area document displayed
- Status bar

Basic functions of browser

Basic functions (Scheme URL)

- Create HTTP request message
- DNS Host name \rightarrow IP address of server
- TCP connection with server
- Send HTTP request message
- Process document in the HTTP response message

Status message	Meaning
Resolving	Looking up DNS with host name, waiting for IP address
Connecting	Creating TCP connection with server
Waiting	Sent HTTP request to server, waiting
	for HTTP response
Transferring data	Started receiving HTTP response, not
	yet completed
Done	Received HTTP response completely,
	further processing may be needed
	before display

- TCP connection with server machine based on port, deliver it to server
- Document processing
 - text/html render
 - font parameters, layout parameters

URL

Scheme	://	Host:Port	Path	?	Query string	#	Fragment
Scheme	://	Authority	Request-URI		#	Fragment	

Example: http://www.example.org:8080 /a/b/c.html ? t=win # here

Additional functionality

- Automatic URL completion
- Script execution
- Event handling
- Management of form
- Secure communication
- Plug-in execution

Cache control

Cache:

A repository for copies of information that originate elsewhere

- Automatically cache on the client computer copies of the resources returned by the server
- Improves system performance

- Quicker display
- Reduced network traffic
- Reduced load on the server

Cache control — Invalid information

- Resource in the server is modified
- Cached copy becomes old invalid
- Ask the server whether or not the client's copy is valid
- Send HTTP request using HEAD method
- Server returns the status line and the header fields
 - ★ Last-modified ★ Expires
 - **★** ETag
- Little network traffic

Features

- File → Save Page As
- Edit \rightarrow Find
- View → Page Style
- View → Page Source
- History
- Bookmarks

Features

Edit \rightarrow Preferences

Customize browser behavior

• Content → Languages

Preferred languages in order of preference

Content → Fonts and Colors

Character encoding

- Advanced → Offline storage (Cache)
- Main \rightarrow Add-ons \rightarrow Themes



Server features

- Accept HTTP request from web clients
- Return requested resources in the HTTP response

Web browser

Web server

- Send a HTTP request to web server
- Accept HTTP request from web clients
- Process the HTTP response
 from the web server

Return requested resources in the HTTP response

Server salient features

- Multiple concurrent threads (subtasks)
 - Server can (should?) handle multiple requests concurrently
 - One server copy (subtask) per client
- Virtual hosts

- Several Host names = one IP address (one computer)
- Host header determines virtual host
- Each virtual host has separately configured software
- Server side scripting
 - On receiving a request, response body is generated by executing programs
 - Support for executing programs

Sever features

- Open TCP connection to one or more ports
- Spawn one thread to handle this connection
- Establish TCP connection with the client, receive an HTTP request
- Host header field → Virtual host
- Map the Request-URI to a resource on the server
- Create a HTTP response

- Resource
 - File → body contains the requested file
 - Program → run the program with the request body as the input data and put the output data in the response body
- Log IP address of the request, status of the response
- Connection = keep-alive, thread monitors the connection, until
 - Client sends another request, or
 - Initiates a connection close

Server history

Web servers

Apache

- IIS

Servlet container

- Web servers call a *Servlet container* to run server side Java programs (*servlets*)
- Servlet container provides
 - JVM
 - Communication between the servlet and web server

Tomcat

- Servlet container
- Standalone web server
- Runs non-Java programs also!
- Configure web server

Server configuration and tuning

- Configuration parameters
 - External communication
 - Internal processing
- Tomcat
 - Coyote HTTP/1.1 communication
 - Catalina Servlet container

External communication parameters

- IP addresses and ports used
- Optimal number of threads
- Max number of threads
- Max number of TCP connection requests in the queue
- After serving a request, how long to wait before closing the TCP connection if another request is not received

Tuning parameters

- Adjust parameters for performance *Tuning*
- Interplay and trade-off
 - Max # of threads ↑ ⇒ memory, CPU ⇒ slower response
 - Max # of threads $\downarrow \Rightarrow$ clients refused connection
 - Simulate before "going alive" load generation and stress test

Internal processing parameters

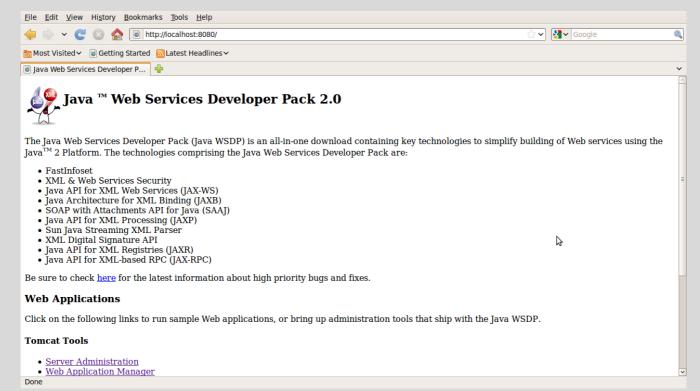
- Client machines allowed
- Virtual hosts listening on a port
- Logging
- Request-URI → server's file system
- Resources password-protected?
- Resources cached in server's memory?

Components of service

- Connector
- Host
- Logger
- Realm
- Valve

Edit, Save, Commit, Restart

JWSDP

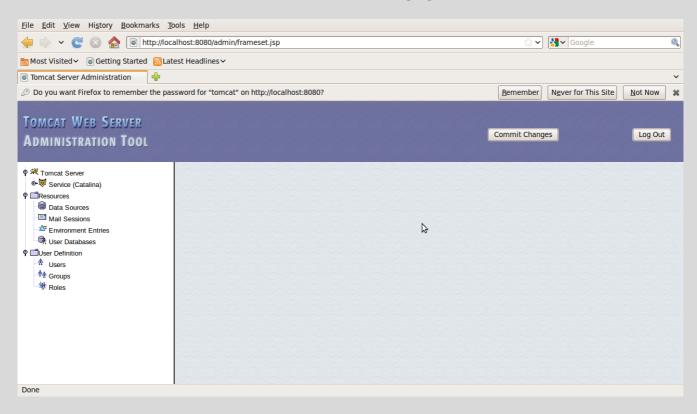


Login

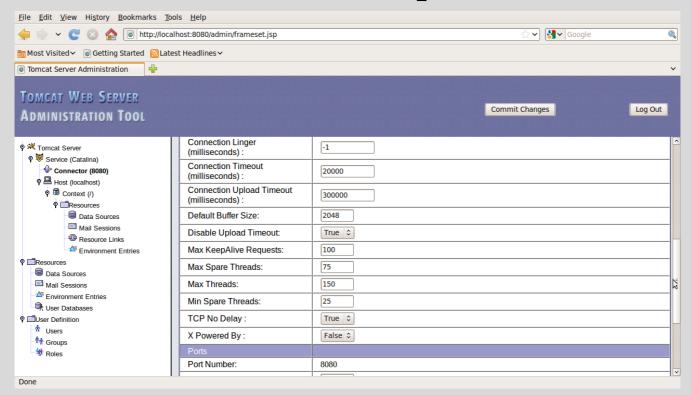


Done

Admin Tool



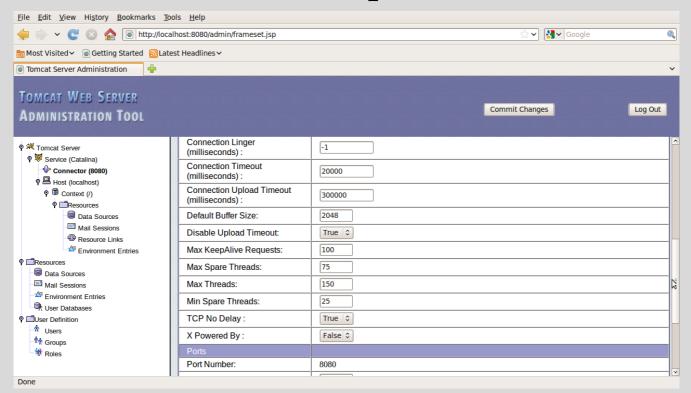
Connector component



Connector component

- Accept count TCP connectionqueue length
- Connection timeout
- IP address
- Port number
- Min spare threads
- Max threads
- Max spare threads

Host component



Host component — Virtual hosts

- URLs with fully qualified domain name
- localhost \rightarrow DNS \rightarrow IP address 127.0.0.1, web server on the local machine
 - From local machine web browser requests localhost
 - From any machine web browser requests port 8080 (Service's Connector)
- New Host Items

Host → Context component

• Web applications: Collection of programs and files — provide a function to web users

Description			
Virtual host = FQ domain name or			
localhost			
Directory containing web applica-			
tion for the virtual host			
Should the web application be ini-			
tialized when the server starts?			

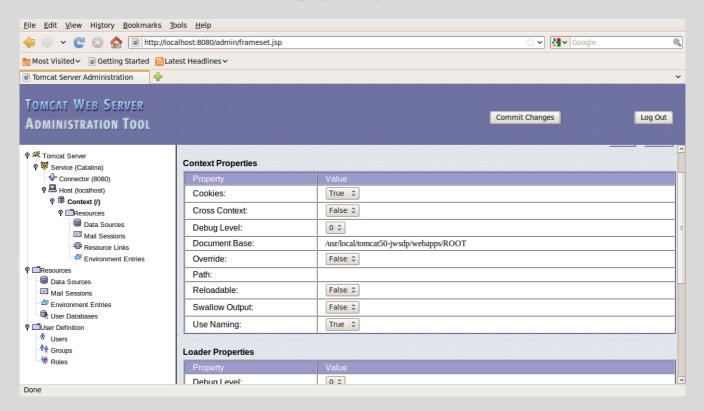
Auto deploy

Web applications added while the server is running — should they be initialized?

Host directory — Application Base

- Absolute pathname
- Relative pathname
 - Relative to Tomcat's directory
 - Advantages

Context



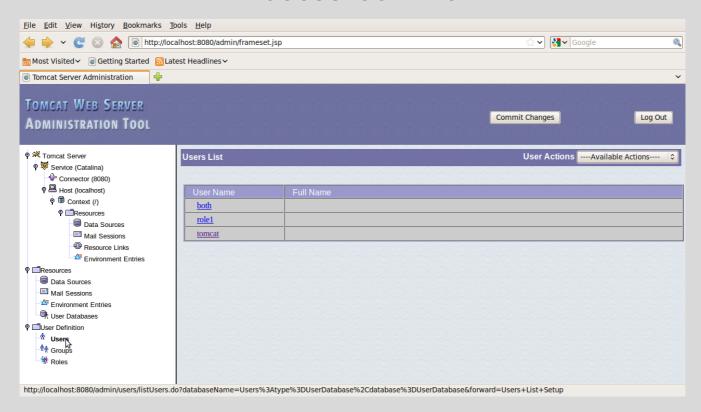
Context directory — Document Base

- Absolute pathname
- Relative pathname
 - Relative to Application Base

Logging

- Record of server activity
- *Access log*: information about every HTTP request
- Message log: debugging information, by web applications

Access control



Access control

