

# XLST Processing with Java

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## **Agenda**

- XSLT Overview
- Understanding XPath notation
- Processing elements in XSLT templates
- XSLT installation and setup
- An XSL Transformer
- Example:
  - Document Editor
  - XSLT custom tag

## **Extensible Stylesheet Language Transformations**

- XSLT applies user-defined transformations to an XML document
  - Transformed output can be:
    - · HTML, XML, WML, etc.
- XSLT Versions
  - XSLT 1.0 (Nov 1999)
  - XSLT 2.0 (Nov 2002)
    - Namespace addition
  - Official Website for XSLT
    - http://www.w3.org/Style/XSL/

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## Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL)

- XSL is a language for expressing stylesheets
  - XSLT
    - Transformation of XML document
    - http://www.w3.org/TR/xslt
  - XPath
    - An expression language used by XSLT to locate elements and/or attributes within an XML document
    - http://www.w3.org/TR/xpath
  - XSL-FO (Formatting Objects)
    - Specifies the formatting properties for rendering the document
    - http://www.w3.org/TR/XSL/XSL-FO/

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# XSLT Advantages and Disadvantages

### Advantages

- Easy to merge XML data into a presentation
- More resilient to changes in the details of the XML documents than low-level DOM and SAX
- Database queries can be retuned in XML
  - Insensitive to column order

#### Disadvantages

- Memory intensive and suffers a performance penalty
- Difficult to implement complicated business rules
- Have to learn a new language
- Can't change the value of variables (requires recursion)

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### **XSLT Parsers**

#### Apache Xalan

- http://xml.apache.org/xalan/
- Oracle
  - http://technet.oracle.com/tech/xml/
- Saxon
  - http://saxon.sourceforge.net/
  - Written by Michael Kay
- Microsoft's XML Parser 4.0 (MSXML)
  - http://www.microsoft.com/xml/

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# XSLT Installation and Setup (JDK 1.4)

- All the necessary classes are included with JDK 1.4
  - See javax.xml.transform package
- For XSLT with JDK 1.3 see following viewgraphs

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# XSLT Installation and Setup (JDK 1.3)

- 1. Download a XSLT compliant parser
  - XSLT parsers at http://www.xmlsoftware.com/xslt/
  - Recommend Apache Xalan-J 2.4.1 parser at http://xml.apache.org/xalan-j/
    - Xalan-Java implementation is bundled in xalan.jar
    - Xalan also requires xml-apis.jar

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# XSLT Installation and Setup (JDK 1.3, continued)

#### 2. Download a SAX 2-compliant parser

- Java-based XML parsers at http://www.xml.com/pub/rg/Java\_Parsers
- Recommend Apache Xerces-J 2.2.x parser at http://xml.apache.org/xerces-j/
- Note that Xerces-J 2.2.0 is bundled with the Xalan-J 2.4.1 download
  - Xerces-Java implementation is bundled in xercesImpl.jar
  - Xerces also requires xml-apis.jar

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## XSLT Installation and Setup (continued)

## 3. Download the Java API for XML Processing (JAXP)

- JAXP defines TrAX, a small layer on top of SAX and DOM which supports specifying transformers through system properties versus hard coded values
- See http://java.sun.com/xml/
- Note that TrAX is incorporated in Xalan-J

#### 4. Bookmark the Java XSLT API

 Xalan-Java API is located at http://xml.apache.org/xalan-j/ apidocs/

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## XSLT Installation and Setup (continued)

5. Set your CLASSPATH to include the XSLT and XML parser classes

```
set CLASSPATH=xalan_install_dir\xalan.jar;
    xalan_install_dir\xercesImpl.jar;
    xalan_install_dir\xml-apis.jar;%CLASSPATH%

or
    setenv CLASSPATH xalan_install_dir/xalan.jar:
    xalan_install_dir/xercesImpl.jar:
    xalan_install_dir/xml-apis.jar:$CLASSPATH
```

 For Web deployment, place xalan.jar, xmlapis.jar, and xercesImpl.jar in your WEB-INF/lib directory

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### **XSL Transformations**

- Use
  - XPath to identify (select) parts of an XML document
  - XSLT templates to apply transformations
- Requires
  - Well formed XML document
  - XSL document (style sheet) that contains formatting and transformation templates
  - XSLT parser to perform the transformation

### Simple XSLT Example

- The following example illustrates transforming an XML document into an HMTL TABLE
  - Input
    - Style sheet (XSL): table.xsl
    - XML document: acronym.xml
  - Output
    - HTML document: acronym.html

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### XSLT Stylesheet: table.xsl

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<xsl:stylesheet version="1.0"</pre>
  xmlns:xsl="http://www.w3.org/1999/XSL/Transform">
  <xsl:output method="html" />
  <xsl:template match="/">
    <TABLE CELLPADDING="3" BORDER="1" ALIGN="CENTER">
      <!-- Build table header, by selecting the
           name of each element in the first ROW.
      <TR><TH></TH>
          <xsl:for-each select="ROWSET/ROW[1]/*">
            <TH><xsl:value-of select="name()" /></TH>
          </xsl:for-each>
      <!-- Apply template to build table rows -->
      <xsl:apply-templates select="ROWSET" />
    </TABLE>
  </xsl:template>
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```

# XSLT Stylesheet: table.xsl (continues)

## XML Document: acronyms.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<ROWSET>
  <ROW>
    <acronym>Dom</acronym>
   <DESCRIPTION>Document Object Model
  </ROW>
  <ROW>
   <acronym>Jaxp</acronym>
    <DESCRIPTION>Java AIP for XML Parsing</DESCRIPTION>
  </ROW>
  <ROW>
   <acronym>sax</acronym>
   <DESCRIPTION>Simple API for XML</DESCRIPTION>
  </ROW>
  <ROW>
    <acronym>trax</acronym>
   <DESCRIPTION>Transformation API for XML</DESCRIPTION>
  </ROW>
  <ROW>
    <acronym>xslt</acronym>
    <DESCRIPTION>XSL Transformation/DESCRIPTION>
  </ROW>
</rowset>
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```

## Transforming the XML Document

#### Use Xalan command-line interface

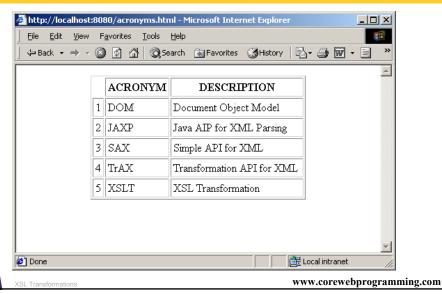
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### **Transformation Result**

```
<TABLE ALIGN="CENTER" BORDER="1" CELLPADDING="3">
<TH></TH><TH>ACRONYM</TH><TH>DESCRIPTION</TH>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>1</TD>CTD>DOM&nbsp;</TD>Coument Object Model&nbsp;</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>2</TD>JAXP&nbsp;</TD>Java AIP for XML Parsing&nbsp;</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>3</TD><TD>SAX&nbsp;</TD><TD>Simple API for XML&nbsp;</TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>4</TD><TD>TrAX&nbsp;</TD><TD>Transformation API for
  XML </TD>
</TR>
<TR>
<TD>5</TD><TD>XSLT&nbsp;</TD><TD>XSL Transformation&nbsp;</TD>
</TABLE>
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```

# Transformation Result (continued)



### **Understanding XPath**

- · XPath is an expression language to:
  - Identify parts (location paths) of the input document
    - Commonly used in match and select attributes in XSLT elements

```
<xsl:template match="/name/first" >
    ...
</xsl:template>
```

- Test boolean conditions
- Manipulate strings
- Perform numerical calculations

### **Location Paths**

- Location paths are interpreted with respect to a context
  - Or simply, the node in the tree from which the expression is evaluated
- The evaluated expression represents a set of nodes matching the condition
  - Possibly the empty set if no matches occur
- A location path consists of one or more location steps separated by / or //
- Paths can be relative or absolute

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## **Simple Location Paths**

- Matching the root node
  - A leading / indicates the root node

```
<xsl:template match="/" >
  <!-- Matches the root node. -->
</xsl:template>
```

- Matching all children
  - Use the \* wildcard to select all element nodes in the current context

```
<xsl:template match="*" >
  <!-- Matches all children nodes. -->
</xsl:template>
```

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# Simple Location Paths (continued)

#### Matching an element

- Use / to separate elements when referring to a child
- Use // to indicate that zero or more elements may occur between the slashes

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### **Matching with Predicates**

### Matching a specific element

- Use [...] as a predicate filter to select a particular context node
- The predicate is evaluated as a boolean expression; if the condition is true, then the node is selected

## Matching with Predicates (continued)

### Matching a specific attribute

 Use the @ sign followed by the attribute name to select a particular node

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### **XSLT Stylesheet Elements**

- Matching and selection templates
  - xsl:template
  - xsl:apply-templates
  - xsl:value-of
- Branching elements
  - xsl:for-each
  - xsl:if
  - xsl:choose

### **XSLT template Element**

- xsl:template match="xpath"
  - Defines a template rule for producing output
  - Applied only to nodes which match the pattern
  - Invoked by using <xsl:apply-templates>

### **XSLT apply-templates Element**

- xsl:apply-templates
  - Applies matching templates to the children of the context node

### **XSLT** value-of Element

- xsl:value-of select="expression"
  - Evaluates the expression as a string and sends the result to the output
  - Applied only to the first match
  - ". " selects the text value of the current node

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# XSLT value-of Element (continued)

Example

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### **XSLT for-each Element**

- xsl:for-each select="expression"
  - Processes each node selected by the XPath expression

```
<book>
    <author>Larry Brown</author>
    <author>Marty Hall</author>
</book>

<xsl:template match="book">
    <!-- Selects each author name. -->
    <xsl:for-each select="author">
         <b<:xsl:value-of select="." /></b>
         </xsl:template>
```

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### **XSLT if Element**

- xsl:if test="expression"
  - Evaluates the expression to a boolean and if true, applies the template body
  - XSLT has no if-else construct (use choose)

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### **XSLT choose Element**

- \* xsl:choose
  - Select any number of alternatives
  - Instruction to use in place of if-else or switch construct found in other programming languages

```
<xsl:choose>
  <xsl:when test="not(text())">
     Missing value!
  </xsl:when>
  <xsl:otherwise>
     <xsl:value-of select="." />
  </xsl:otherwise>
</xsl:choose>
```

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### **XSLT output Element**

- xsl:output
  - Controls the format of the stylesheet output
  - Useful attributes:

```
method= "[html|xml|text]"
indent="[yes|no]"
version="version"
doctype-public="specification"
encoding="encoding"
standalone="[yes|no]"
```

Example

```
<xsl:output method="html"
doctype-public="-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN"/>
```

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## **Steps for Translating a Document**

- 1. Tell the system which parser to use
- 2. Establish a factory in which to create transformations
- 3. Create a transformer for a particular style sheet
- 4. Invoke the transformer to process the document

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## **Step 1: Specifying a Transformer**

- 1. Approaches to specify a transformer
  - Set a system property for javax.xml.transform.Transformer-Factory
  - Specify the parser in jre dir/lib/jaxp.properties
  - Through the J2EE Services API and the class specified in META-INF/services/ javax.xml.transform.Transformer-Factory
  - Use system-dependant default parser (check documentation)

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## **Specifying a Transformer, Example**

#### The following example:

 Permits the user to specify the transformer through the command line -D option

```
java -Djavax.xml.transform.TransformerFactory=
  weblogic.apache.xalan.processor.TransformerFactoryImpl ...
```

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# **Step 2: Creating a Transformer Factory**

Establish a factory in which to create transformations

```
TransformerFactory factory =
   new TransformerFactory.newInstance();
```

May create multiple transformers from the same factory

### **Step 3: Creating a Transformer**

Create a transformer for a particular style sheet

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### **Step 4: Invoke the Transformer**

Invoke the transformer to process the document

```
Source xml = new StreamSource(xmlStream);
Result result = new StreamResult(outputStream);
transformer.transform(xml, result);
```

- Create a StreamSource from a File, Reader, InputStream or URI reference (String)
- Create a StreamResult from a File, Writer, OutputStream or URI reference (String)

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### A Simple XSL Transformer

- Creates an XSL transformer for processing an XML and XSL document
  - Provides multiple overloaded process methods for handling different input and output streams

```
public class XslTransformer {
   private TransformerFactory factory;

// Use system defaults for transformer.
   public XslTransformer() {
     factory = TransformerFactory.newInstance();
   }
   ...
```

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## A Simple XSL Transformer

```
For transforming an XML documents as a String StringReader
   residing in memory, not on disk. The output document could
   easily be handled as a String (StringWriter) or as a
   JSPWriter in a JavaServer page.
public void process (Reader xmlFile, Reader xslFile,
                    Writer output)
              throws TransformerException {
  process(new StreamSource(xmlFile),
          new StreamSource(xslFile),
          new StreamResult(output));
   For transforming an XML and XSL document as Files,
   placing the result in a Writer.
public void process (File xmlFile, File xslFile,
                    Writer output)
              throws TransformerException {
  process (new StreamSource (xmlFile),
          new StreamSource(xslFile)
          new StreamResult(output));
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```

# Simple XSL Transformer (continued)

## **Example 1: XSLT Document Editor**

#### Objective

Provide a graphical interface for editing XML and XSL documents, and to view the transformed result

#### Approach

- Use a Swing JTabbedPane with three tabs (XML, XSL, XSLT) to present each of the three corresponding documents
- Each document is represented by a JEditorPane
  - XML and XSL panes are editable
- Selecting the XSLT tab performs the transformation

### **Example 1: XsltEditor**

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
import javax.swing.*;
import javax.swing.event.*;
import java.io.*;
import javax.xml.transform.*;
import cwp.XslTransformer;
public class XsltEditor extends JFrame
                         implements ChangeListener {
  private static final int XML = 0;
  private static final int XSL = 1;
  private static final int XSLT = 2;
  private Action openAction, saveAction, exitAction;
  private JTabbedPane tabbedPane;
  private DocumentPane[] documents;
  private XslTransformer transformer;
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```

# Example 1: XsltEditor (continued)

```
/** Checks to see which tabbed pane was selected by the
 * user. If the XML and XSL panes hold a document, then
    selecting the XSLT tab will perform the transformation.
public void stateChanged(ChangeEvent event) {
  int index = tabbedPane.getSelectedIndex();
  switch (index) {
    case XSLT: if (documents[XML].isLoaded() &&
                    documents[XSL].isLoaded()) {
                  doTransform();
                }
    case XML:
                updateMenuAndTitle(index);
    case XSL:
                break;
    default:
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```

# Example 1: XsItEditor (continued)

## **Example 1: DocumentPane**

```
public class DocumentPane extends JEditorPane {
  public static final String TEXT = "text/plain";
  public static final String HTML = "text/html";
  private boolean loaded = false;
  private String filename = "";
  /** Set the current page displayed in the editor pane,
    replacing the existing document.
  public void setPage(URL url) {
    loaded = false;
    try {
      super.setPage(url);
      File file = new File(getPage().toString());
      setFilename(file.getName());
      loaded = true;
    } catch (IOException ioe) {
      System.err.println("Unable to set page: " + url);
  }
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```

# Example 1: DocumentPane (continued)

```
public void setText(String text) {
    super.setText(text);
    setFilename("");
    loaded = true;
}

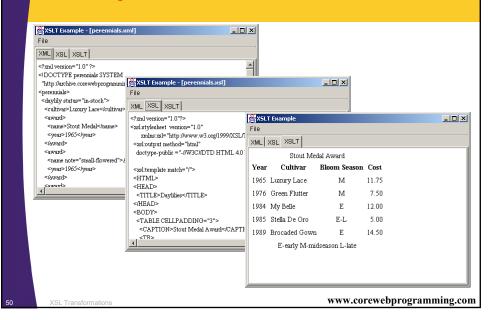
public void loadFile(String filename) {
    try {
        File file = new File(filename);
        setPage(file.toURL());
    } catch (IOException mue) {
        System.err.println("Unable to load file: " + filename);
    }
}

public boolean isLoaded() {
    return(loaded);
}
...

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```

## **Example 1: XsltEditor, Result**



### **Example 2: XSLT Custom Tag**

### Objective

 Develop a JSP custom tag to transform an XML document and create an HTML table

#### Problem

 THEAD, TBODY, and TFOOT elements supported by Internet Explorer, but not by Netscape 4.x

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## **Example 2: XSLT Custom Tag** (continued)

#### Approach

- Use different stylesheet for Internet Explorer and Netscape
- Determine the browser type based on the User-Agent HTTP header
- Provide both stylesheets in custom tag

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## **Example 2: Custom Tag Specification, Xsltransform.tld**

```
<tag>
   <name>xsltransform</name>
   <tagclass>cwp.tags.XslTransformTag</tagclass>
     <attribute>
     <name>xml</name>
     <required>yes</required>
   </attribute>
   <attribute>
     <name>xslie</name>
     <required>false</required>
   </attribute>
   <attribute>
     <name>xslns</name>
     <required>true</required>
   </attribute>
</tag>
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```

## **Example 2: XslTransformTag**

```
public class XslTransformTag extends TagSupport {
   private static final int IE = 1;
   private static final int NS = 2;

public int doStartTag() throws JspException {
    ServletContext context = pageContext.getServletContext();
    HttpServletRequest request =
        (HttpServletRequest) pageContext.getRequest();

   File xslFile = null;
   if ((browserType(request) == IE) &&
        (getXslie() != null)) {
        xslFile = new File(path + getXslie());
   } else {
        xslFile = new File(path + getXslns());
   }
   File xmlFile = new File(path + getXml());
   ...
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```

# **Example 2: XslTransformTag** (continued)

```
// doStartTag
try {
    JspWriter out = pageContext.getOut();
    XslTransformer transformer = new XslTransformer();
    transformer.process(xmlFile, xslFile, out);
}
catch(TransformerException tx) {
    context.log("XslTransformTag: " + tx.getMessage());
}
return(SKIP_BODY);
```

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}

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## Example 2: XslTransformTag (continued)

```
// Determine the browser type based on the User-Agent
// HTTP request header.

private int browserType(HttpServletRequest request) {
  int type = NS;
  String userAgent = request.getHeader("User-Agent");
  if ((userAgent != null) &&
        (userAgent.indexOf("IE") >= 0)) {
    type = IE;
  }
  return(type);
}
```

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}

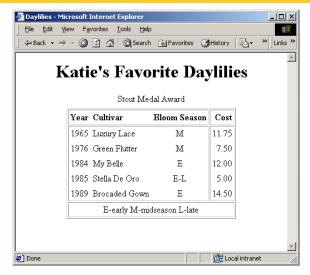
## **Example 2: Daylilies.jsp**

## **Example 2: perennials-ie.xsl**

```
<xsl:template match="/">
 <TABLE CELLPADDING="3" RULES="GROUPS" ALIGN="CENTER">
   <CAPTION>Stout Medal Award</CAPTION>
    <COLGROUP>
      <COL ALIGN="CENTER"/>
      <COL ALIGN="LEFT"/>
      <COL ALIGN="CENTER"/>
      <COL ALIGN="RIGHT"/>
   </COLGROUP>
      <TR><TH>Year</TH><TH>Cultivar</TH><TH>Bloom Season</TH>
          <TH>Cost</TH></TR>
   </THEAD>
      <xsl:apply-templates</pre>
       select="/perennials/daylily[award/name='Stout Medal']"/>
   </TBODY>
   <TFOOT>
     <TR><TD COLSPAN="4">E-early M-midseason L-late</TD></TR>
 </TABLE>
</xsl:template>
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```

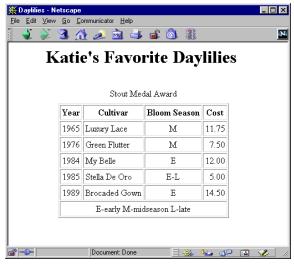
### **Example 2: perennials-ns.xsl**

## **XSLT Custom Tag, Result**



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### **XSLT Custom Tag, Result**



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## **Summary**

- XSLT specifies how to transform XML into HTML, XML, or other document formats
- XPath pattern selects a set of nodes for processing
- Control conditional processing through XSLT templates (elements)
- Apache Xalan-J in a popular XLST compliant transformer
  - InputSource document is typically a File or String (StringReader)
  - Result document typically sent to a File or JspWriter in a servlet



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