## Why use Glassfish instead of Apache? What's it strengths and weaknesses?

Asked 16 years, 2 months ago Modified 11 years ago Viewed 62k times



**62** 



Sorry for my ignorance here, but when I hear the word webserver, I immediately imagine Apache, although I know people use Microsoft's IIS too. However since I've been hanging out here at Stackoverflow I've noticed lots of people use Glassfish.



43)

Which made me wonder, why would I want to use Glassfish (in the sense that I'm interested, but I don't really understand why it might make my life easier). From what I read it's Sun's open-source derivate of Apache's Tomcat, thus I imagine it's a good (or great) quality product. But since I don't know its strengths and weaknesses, I don't know when it would be wise to choose Glassfish over another server. Could anyone elaborate?

glassfish

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edited Aug 8, 2013 at 13:40

demongolem

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1 Do you need a Web Server or a Servlet Container?

- Shimi Bandiel Oct 6, 2008 at 7:52

I'm thinking about WebServer primarily. – Robert Gould Oct 6, 2008 at 7:56

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GlassFish is an Application Server which can also be used as a Web Server (Http Server).

**73** 



A web Server means: Handling HTTP requests (usually from browsers).



A Servlet Container (e.g. Tomcat) means: It can handle servlets & JSP.



An Application Server (e.g. GlassFish) means: It can manage Java EE applications (usually both servlet/JSP and EJBs).

You should use GlassFish for Java EE enterprise applications.



answered Oct 6, 2008 at 7:53



- 1 That would mean Glassfish is what one could call a leanmean Java Server, less general purpose than Apache, but more focused and optimized for Java Servlets?
  - Robert Gould Oct 6, 2008 at 7:57

Yep, although Glassfish also has a very good HTTP handling framework. – Shimi Bandiel Oct 6, 2008 at 7:59

14 "lean-mean" is not exactly what describes a full Java EE server. – Thorbjørn Ravn Andersen Dec 19, 2011 at 13:03

@ShimiBandiel: Excellent description and breakdown. Thank you. :) – Chiramisu May 23, 2012 at 3:22

I an newbee here. Cant we use apache for Java applications ? – bubble Sep 3, 2013 at 13:54



6



The need for a seperate Web server is mostly needed in a production environment. You would normally find a Application server to be suffice most of your development needs. A web server is capable of holding larger number of active sessions and connections, thus providing the necessary balance without performance costs.





Stick to a simple web server if you are only working with servlets/jsps. It is also to be noted that in a netbeans environment, glassfish has better support than other App

servers. In the context of eclipse though, WSAD and JBoss seem to the preferred options.

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edited Jan 19, 2012 at 15:21



**11.9k** • 10 • 78 • 102

answered Oct 6, 2008 at 8:54





Glassfish will soon release the modular kernel.

3





This means that the containers you need start up and shutdown as you need them. I.e no EAR deployed, EJB container won;t start up. This seems to have made it very good for development as it can start and stop *very* quickly. This takes it a lot closer to development environments like Rails (where redeployment is a massive part of your development)

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edited Jan 19, 2012 at 15:21



Nifle

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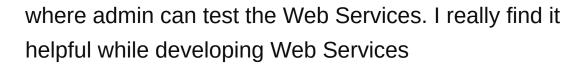
answered Oct 6, 2008 at 9:16



Andrew Harmel-Law **7.879** • 12 • 45 • 56



I have used GlassFish server for developing Web Services. It provides a very interactive Admin Console 2





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answered Nov 22, 2013 at 15:06



