

Can a single Apache server handle both Tomcat and PHP?

Yes you can do that. Essentially you have to run the Apache (+ PHP) server on one port and the Tomcat server on a different port.

- You can expose the 2nd port to the outside world, and have your URLs use either port 80 for Apache / PHP or (say) 8080 for the Java server. This is simple, but you may find that upstream firewalls prevent a remote web browser from connecting to any port other than 80.
- You can configure your Apache server as a reverse proxy for the Java server. So for instance, the Apache server might recognize that <http://site.com/javaapp/foo.html> is for the Java server, and relay requests for that URL to <http://localhost:8080/javaapp/foo.html>.

There is a whole chapter of the Apache documentation about configuring forward and reverse proxies using mod_proxy.

1) Most web hosting sites offer **some** provision for JSP/Servlets (e.g. Tomcat). Even the least expensive web site hosting services. So looking for another provider isn't necessarily a bad idea.

2) Java code can't talk directly to PHP code, and PHP code can't directly talk to Java code.

3) HOWEVER: the same web server can be configured to run both PHP/Apache and Tomcat. For example:

- <http://robjames.name/2010/01/29/configure-apache-to-run-tomcat-and-php-2/>

4) The same **server** can **easily** support both PHP/Apache and Tomcat as separate **services**. In other words, the same host (e.g. www.myserver.com) can easily run Apache/PHP (e.g. <http://www.myserver.com:80>) and Tomcat (e.g. <http://www.myserver.com:8080>) concurrently. This is a very common configuration.

5) Do **not** look at any "translators". Even if you find a tool that claims to be able to do it, converting from PHP to Java, or Java to PHP, is probably going to me more trouble than it's worth.

6) Unless there's a **lot** of code, I wouldn't really consider Web services (or Ajax) either.

7) Just find a provider who supports Apache/PHP, Tomcat and your database of choice; create the "main page" on whichever one you feel most comfortable with, and modify your PHP and your JSP pages to rely on CSS to insure both have a consistent look and feel.

This approach is the easiest ... and it **might** just be all you need!