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# 06: ♦ MVC0, MVC1, MVC2, MVP, MVVM, and MVW web design patterns Java examples

Posted on [November 25, 2014](#) by [Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai](#) — No

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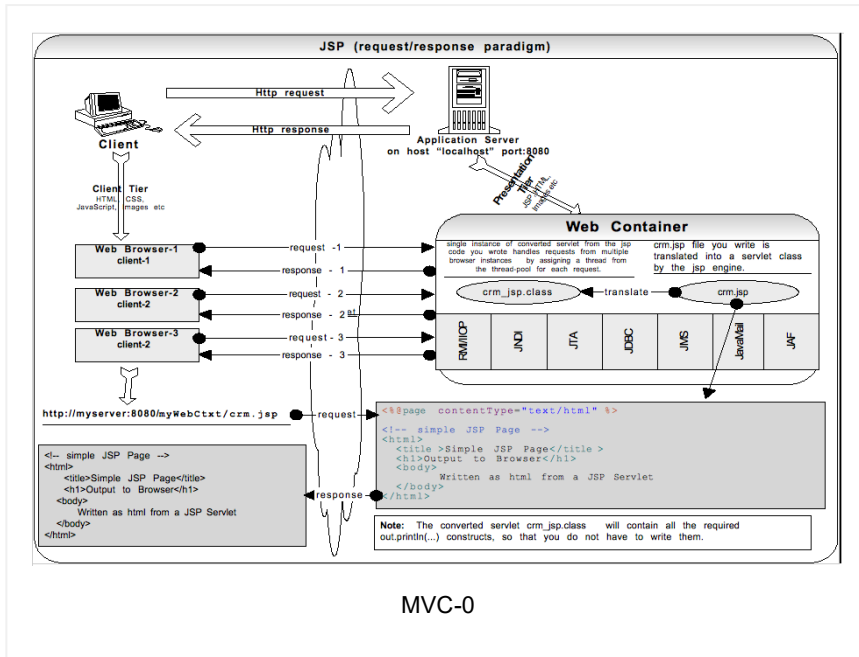
**Q1.** What's wrong with Servlets? What is a JSP? What is it used for? What do you know about model 0 (aka **MVC0**), model 1 (aka **MVC1**) and model 2 (aka **MVC2**) patterns? In "model 2" architecture, if you set a request attribute in your JSP, would you be able to access it in your subsequent request within your servlet code? How do you prevent multiple submits due to repeated "refresh button" clicks? What do you understand by the term JSP translation phase or compilation phase?

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**A1.** Writing **out.println (...)** statements using servlet is cumbersome and hard to maintain, especially if you need to send a long HTML page with little dynamic code content. Worse still, every single change requires recompilation of your Servlet.



**Q2.** Did JSPs make servlets obsolete?

**A2.** No. JSPs did not make Servlets obsolete. Both Servlets and JSPs are complementary technologies. You can look at the JSP technology from an HTML designer's perspective as an extension to HTML with embedded dynamic content and from a Java developer's as an extension of the Java Servlet technology. JSP is commonly used as the presentation layer for combining HTML and Java code. While Java Servlet technology is capable of generating HTML with `out.println("<html>..... </html>")` statements, where "out" is a `PrintWriter`. This process of embedding HTML code with escape characters is cumbersome and hard to maintain. The JSP technology solves this by providing a level of abstraction so that the developer can use custom tags and action elements, which can speed up Web development and are easier to maintain.

**Q3.** What is a model 0 pattern (i.e. model-less pattern) and why is it not recommended? What is a model-2 or MVC architecture?

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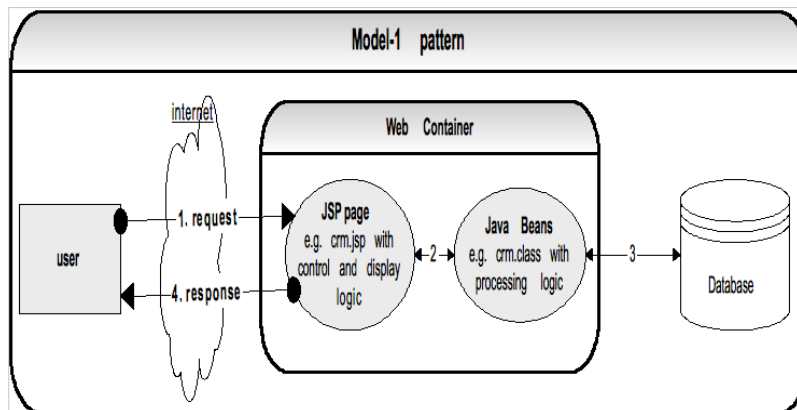
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## A3.

**Problem:** The example shown above is based on a model 0 (MVC0) pattern. The model 0 pattern is fine for a very basic Jsp page as shown above. But real web applications would have business logic, data access logic etc, which would make the above code hard to read, difficult to maintain, difficult to refactor, and untestable. It is also not recommended to embed business logic and data access logic in a JSP page since it is protocol dependent (i.e. HTTP protocol) and makes it unable to be reused elsewhere like a wireless application using a WAP protocol, a standalone XML based messaging application etc.

**Solution:** You can refactor the processing code containing business logic and data access logic into Java classes, which adhered to certain standards. This approach provides better testability, reuse and reduced the size of the JSP pages. This is known as the “model 1” pattern where JSPs retain the responsibility of a controller, and view renderer with display logic but delegates the business processing to java classes known as Java Beans. The Java Beans are Java classes, which adhere to following items:

- 1) Implement java.io.Serializable or java.io.Externalizable interface.
- 2) Provide a no-arguments constructor.
- 3) Private properties must have corresponding getXXX/setXXX methods.



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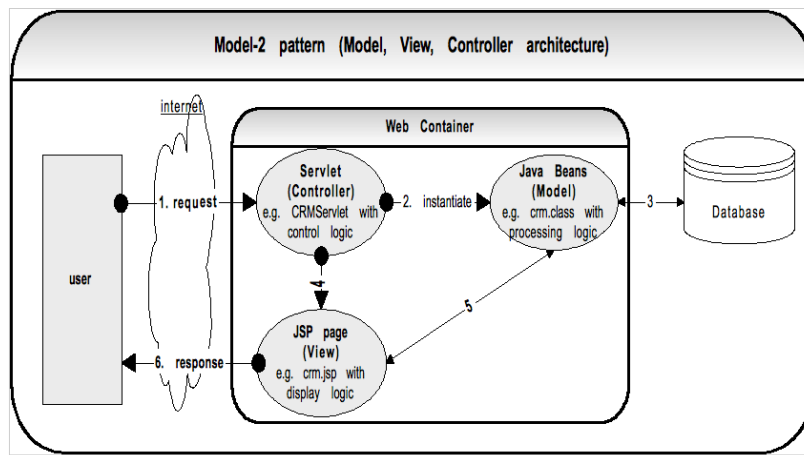
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The above model provides a great improvement from the **model 0** or **model-less pattern**, but there are still some problems and limitations.

**Problem:** In the **model 1** architecture the JSP page is alone responsible for processing the incoming request and replying back to the user. This architecture may be suitable for simple applications, but complex applications will end up with significant amount of Java code embedded within your JSP page, especially when there is significant amount of data processing to be performed. This is a problem not only for java developers due to design ugliness but also a problem for web designers when you have large amount of Java code in your JSP pages. In many cases, the page receiving the request is not the page, which renders the response as an HTML output because decisions need to be made based on the submitted data to determine the most appropriate page to be displayed. This would require your pages to be redirected (ie. `sendRedirect (...)`) or forwarded to each other resulting in a messy flow of control and design ugliness for the application. So, why should you use a JSP page as a controller, which is mainly designed to be used as a template?

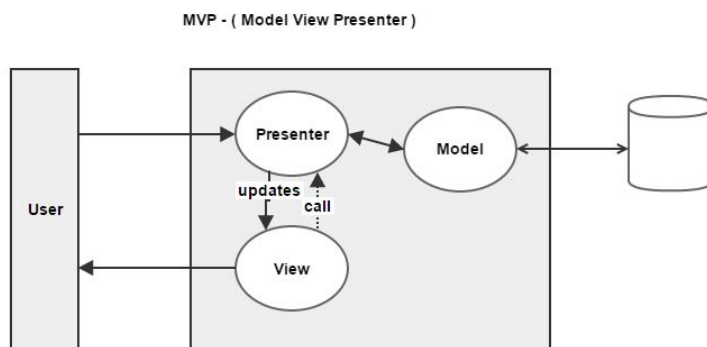
**Solution:** You can use the **Model 2** architecture (MVC – Model, View, Controller architecture), which is a hybrid approach for serving dynamic content, since it combines the use of both Servlets and JSPs. It takes advantage of the predominant strengths of both technologies where a Servlet is the target for submitting a request and performing flow-control tasks and using JSPs to generate the presentation layer. As shown in the diagram below, the servlet acts as the controller and is responsible for request processing and the creation of any beans or objects used by the JSP as well as deciding, which JSP page to forward or redirect the request to (i.e. flow control) depending on the data submitted by the user. The JSP page is responsible for retrieving any objects or beans that may have been previously created by the servlet, and as a template for rendering the view as a response to be sent to the user as an HTML.



MVC-2

**Q4.** What is an MVP architecture, and how does it differ from MVC?

**A4.** MVP stands for “**Model View Presenter**”. MVP is derived from MVC, where a “Presenter” assumes the role of a middle man, and a view is responsible for handing the UI events like button click, etc which used to be the controller’s job in MVC. The “Model” in MVP is strictly a domain model.



MVP

Presenter will have a 2 way communication with the view (i.e. Presenter <---> View) whereas in MVC a controller has one way communication with the view (i.e. Controller → View). The presenter takes care of the user tasks by communicating with the view by talking to an interface implemented by the view. At times, a view communicates with the presenter by directly calling functions on an instance of the presenter. There will be a single presenter for each view, whereas in

MVC a single controller will manage multiple views. This means that the Controller and the Views are more 'tightly coupled'.

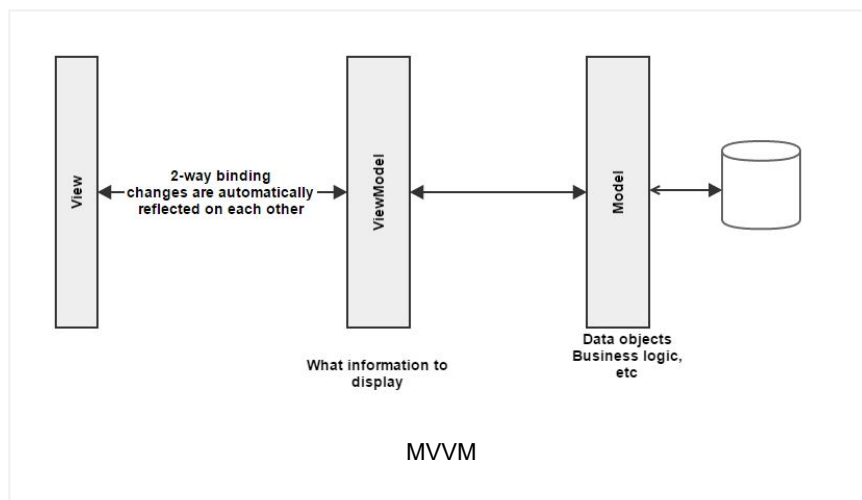
Now a days, JavaScript based Web frameworks like Backbone.js, AngularJS, Ember.JS, Knockout, etc are popular and they make use of the MVW (**M**odel **V**iew **W**hatever) design patterns. "Whatever" means whatever works for you like MVC, MVP, MVVM (**M**odel **V**iew **V**iew**M**odel), etc.

The main goal with MVP is decoupling of different aspects in the code. A JavaScript based MVP architecture will have:

- 1) EventHandling = **Presenter**
- 2) DOM Manipulation = **View**
- 3) AJAX calls = **Model**

**Q5.** What is an MVVM architecture, and how does it differ from MVP?

**A5.** MVVM stands for **M**odel View **V**iew**M**odel. Popular JavaScript based frameworks like angularjs and knockoutjs use this pattern with so called 2 way binding.



The ViewModel will have 2 way communication with the view, which means the fields in a view model usually match up more closely with the view than with the model. There will be a single ViewModel for each view.

View binds directly to the ViewModel. Because of the binding, changes in the view are automatically reflected in the ViewModel and changes in the ViewModel are automatically reflected in the view.

So, don't get too bogged down with all these different patterns, and implement **"Whatever"** works for you with **MVW**. The key is to separate concerns without tightly coupling them. Your goal is not to make an MVP, MVVM, or MVC system. Your goal is to separate the view, the model, and the logic that governs both of them. Knowing the semantics help you in job interviews and understanding the frameworks a bit better.

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