

JSTL (JSP Standard Tag Library)





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Revision History

- 11/01/2003: version 1: created by Sang Shin
- Things to do
 - speaker notes need to be polished
 - there are still some topics that are not covered yet

Agenda

- What is and Why JSTL?
- JSTL Functional areas
 - Core tags
 - Database Access tags
 - XML tags
 - Quick review on XPath
 - Internationalization and Text Formatting tags
 - EL (Expression Language) functions tags



What is & Why JSTL?



What is JSTL?

- Standard set of tag libraries
- Encapsulates core functionality common to many JSP applications
 - iteration and conditionals
 - XML
 - database access
 - internationalized formatting
- Likely to evolve to add more commonly used tags in future versions

Why JSTL?

- You don't have to write them yourself
- You learn and use a single standard set of tag libraries that are already provided by compliant Java EE platforms
- Vendors are likely to provide more optimized implementation
- Portability of your applications are enabled

JSTL Tag Libraries

- Core (prefix: c)
 - Variable support, Flow control, URL management
- XML (prefix: x)
 - Core, Flow control, Transformation
- Internationalization (i18n) (prefix: fmt)
 - Locale, Message formatting, Number and date formatting
- Database (prefix: sql)
 - SQL query and update
- Functions (prefix: fn)
 - Collection length, String manipulation

Declaration of JSTL Tag Libraries

Core

- <%@ taglib prefix="c" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" %>
- XML
 - <%@ taglib prefix="x" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/xml" %>
- Internationalization (i18n)
 - <\@ taglib prefix="fmt" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/fmt" \%>
- Database (SQL)
 - <%@ taglib prefix="sql" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/sql" %>
- Functions
 - <%@ taglib prefix="fn" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/functions" %>



Core Tags (Core Actions)



Core Tags Types (page 1)

- Variable support
 - <c:set>
 - <c:remove>
- Conditional
 - <c:if>
 - <c:choose>
 - <c:when>
 - <c:otherwise>
- Iteration
 - <c:forEach>
 - <c:forTokens>

Core Tags Types (page 2)

- URL management
 - <c:import>
 - <c:param>
 - <c:redirect>
 - <c:param>
 - <c:url>
 - <c:param>
- General purpose
 - <c:out>
 - <c:catch>

Variable Support, <c:set>

- Sets the value of an EL variable or the property of an EL variable via "var" attribute
 - in any of the JSP scopes via "scope" attribute
 - page, request, session, application
- If the variable does not already exist, it gets created and saved (in the scope object)
- Variable can be set in 2 different ways
 - <c:set var="foo" scope="session" value="..."/>
 - example: <c:set var="bookld" value="\${param.BookID}"/>
 - <c:set var="foo">value to be set</c:set>

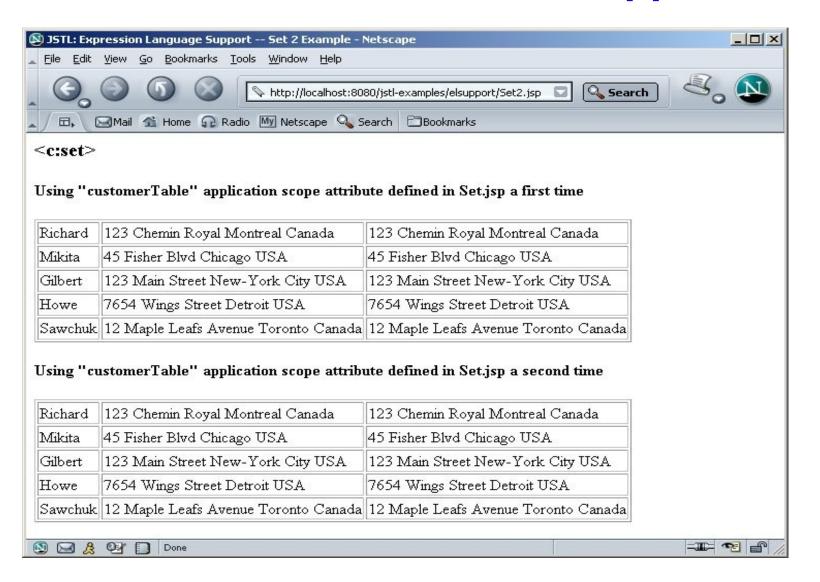
Example: <c:set> definition quoted from ./elsupport/Set.jsp

```
<c:set var="customerTable" scope="application">
<c:forEach var="customer" items="${customers}">
  ${customer.lastName}
 <c:out value="${customer.address}" default="no address
  specified"/>
 <c:out value="${customer.address}">
 <font color="red">no address specified</font>
</c:out>
   The content between <c:set> and /c:set
 </c:forEach>
                      is saved as ${customerTable}.
</c:set>
```

Example: How a predefined Variable "customerTable" is used: ./elsupport/Set2.jsp

- <h4>Using "customerTable" application scope attribute defined in Set.jsp a first time</h4>
- <c:out value="\${customerTable}" escapeXml="false"/>
- <h4>Using "customerTable" application scope attribute defined in Set.jsp a second time</h4>
- <c:out value="\${customerTable}" escapeXml="false" />

Example: How a predefined Variable "customerTable" is used: ./elsupport/Set2.jsp



Variable Support <c:remove>

- Remove an EL variable
 - <c:remove var="cart" scope="session"/>

Conditional Tags

- Flow control tags eliminate the need for scriptlets
 - Without conditional tags, a page author must generally resort to using scriptlets in JSP page
- <c:if test="..">
 - Conditional execution of its body according to value of a test attribute
- <c:choose>
 - Performs conditional block execution by the embedded <c:when> and <c:otherwise> sub tags
 - Works like if-then-else

Example: <c:if test="...">, ./conditionals/lf.jsp

```
<c:forEach var="customer" items="${customers}">
  <c:if test="${customer.address.country == 'USA'}">
    ${customer}<br>
  </c:if>
</c:forEach>
```

Only the customers whose "address.country" property value is "USA" are displayed through <c:forEach> loop.

Example: <c:choose>, <c:when>./conditionals/Choose.jsp

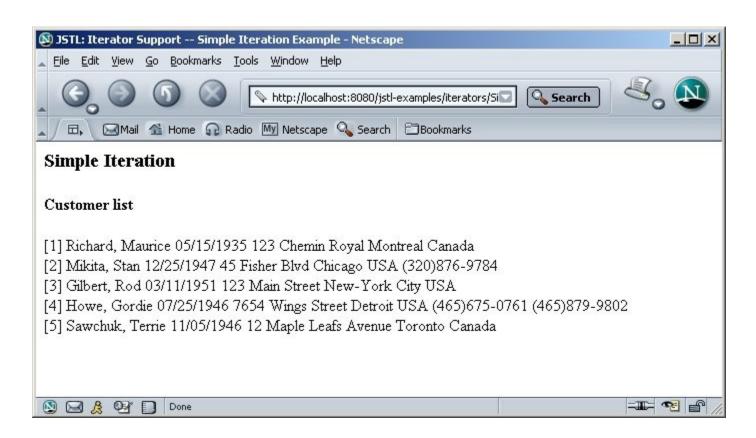
```
<c:forEach var="customer" items="${customers}">
 <c:choose>
  <c:when test="${customer.address.country == 'USA'}">
   <font color="blue">
  </c:when>
  <c:when test="${customer.address.country == 'Canada'}">
   <font color="red">
  </c:when>
  <c:otherwise>
   <font color="green">
  </c:otherwise>
 </c:choose>
 ${customer}</font><br>
</c:forEach>
```

Iterator Tag: <c:forEach>

- Allows you to iterate over a collection of objects
 - items: represent the collection of objects
 - var: current item
 - varStatus: iteration status
 - begin, end, step: range and interval
- Collection types
 - java.util.Collection
 - java.util.Map
 - value of var attribute should be of type java.util.Map.Entry

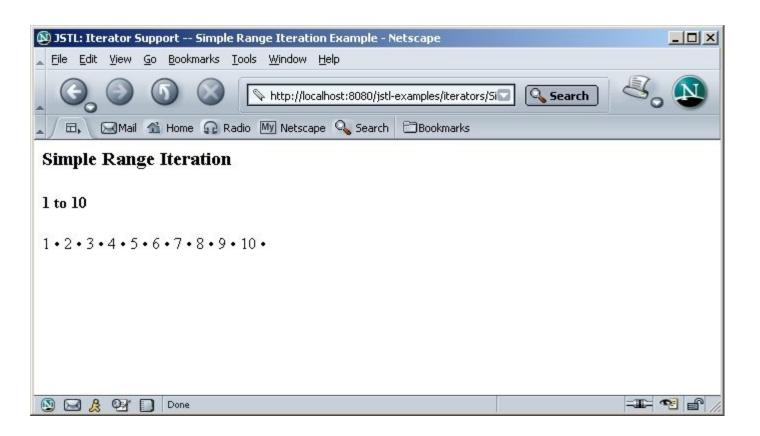
Example: <c:forEach> quoted from ./iterators/Simple.jsp

<c:forEach var="customer" items="\${customers}"> \${customer}
</c:forEach>



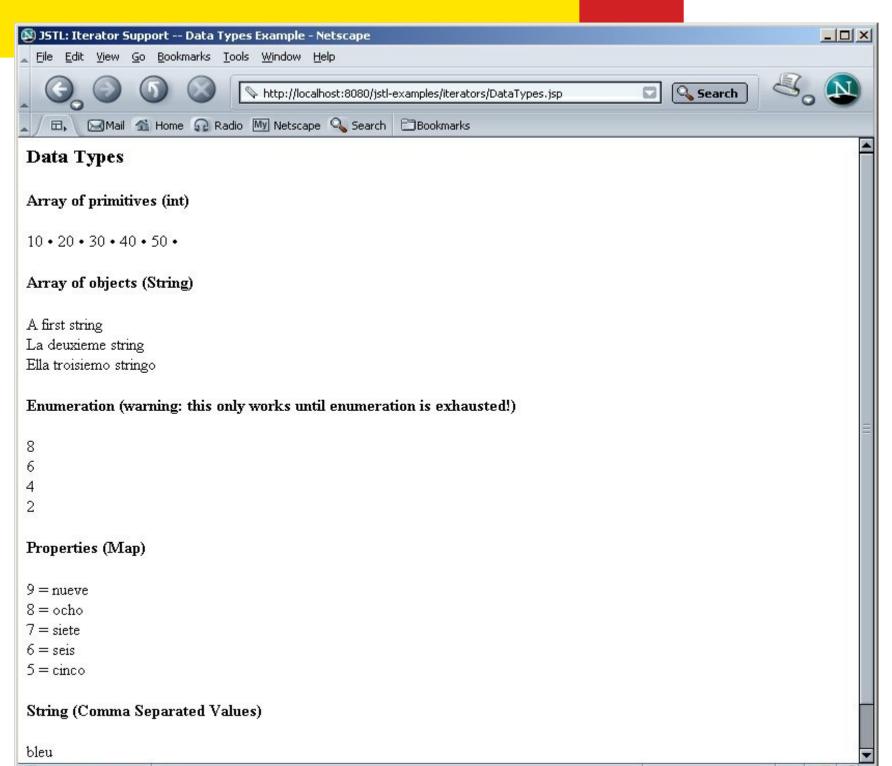
Example: <c:forEach>, Range quoted from ./iterators/SimpleRange.jsp

<c:forEach var="i" begin="1" end="10"> \${i} • </c:forEach>



Example: <c:forEach>, Data types quoted from ./iterators/DataTypes.jsp

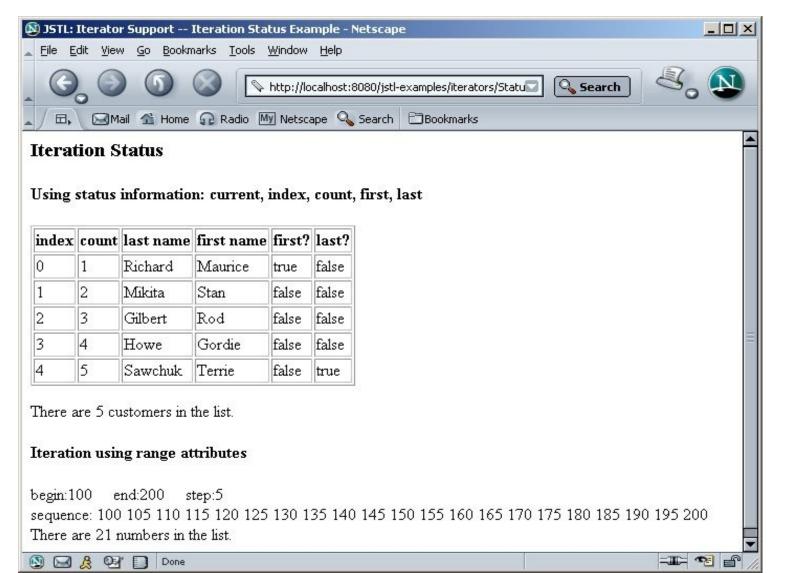
```
<c:forEach var="i" items="${intArray}">
 <c:out value="${i}"/> •
</c:forFach>
<c:forEach var="string" items="${stringArray}">
 <c:out value="${string}"/><br>
</c:forEach>
<c:forEach var="item" items="${enumeration}" begin="2" end="10" step="2">
 <c:out value="${item}"/><br>
</c:forFach>
<c:forEach var="prop" items="${numberMap}" begin="1" end="5">
 <c:out value="${prop.key}"/> = <c:out value="${prop.value}"/><br>
</c:forFach>
<c:forEach var="token" items="bleu,blanc,rouge">
 <c:out value="${token}"/><br>
</c:forEach>
```



Example: <c:forEach>, Iteration status quoted from ./iterators/Status.jsp

```
<c:forEach var="customer" items="${customers}" varStatus="status">
  <c:out value="${status.index}"/>
   <c:out value="${status.count}"/>
   <c:out value="${status.current.lastName}"/>
   <c:out value="${status.current.firstName}"/>
   <c:out value="${status.first}"/>
   <c:out value="${status.last}"/>
  ...
</c:forEach>
<c:forEach var="i" begin="100" end="200" step="5" varStatus="status">
 <c:if test="${status.first}">
  begin:<c:out value="${status.begin}">begin</c:out>
   end:<c:out value="${status.end}">end</c:out>
  step:<c:out value="${status.step}">step</c:out><br>
  sequence:
 </c:if> ...
</c:forFach>
```

Example: <c:forEach>, Iteration status quoted from ./iterators/Status.jsp



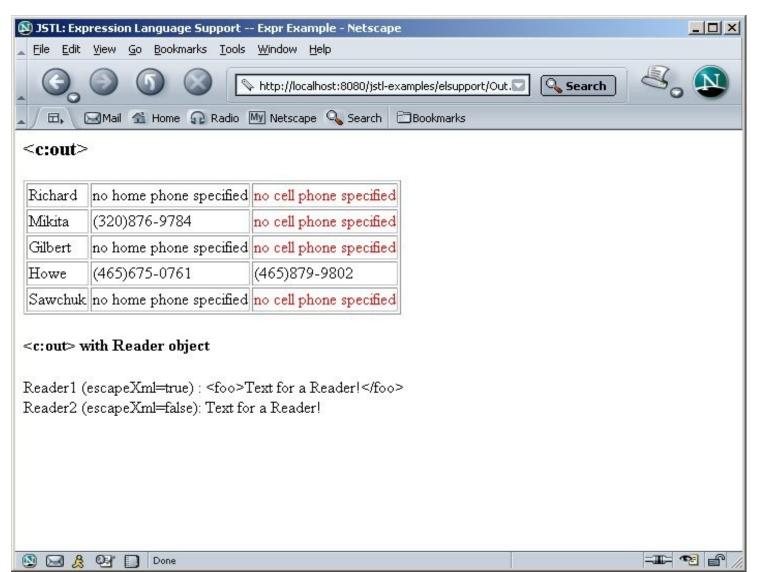
Example: <c:forToken>

```
<c:forTokens var="token" items="one,two,three" delims=",">
<c:out value="${token}"/>
</c:forTokens>
```

Example: <c:out> quoted from /elsupport/Out.jsp

```
<c:forEach var="customer" items="${customers}">
  <c:out value="${customer.lastName}"/>
   <c:out value="${customer.phoneHome}" default="no
  home phone specified"/>
  <c:out value="${customer.phoneCell}" escapeXml="false">
    <font color="red">no cell phone specified</font>
   </c:out>
   </c:forEach>
```

Example: <c:out> quoted from /elsupport/Out.jsp



URL Import: <c:import>

- More generic way to access URL-based resources (than <jsp:include>)
 - Absolute URL: for accessing resources outside of Web application
 - Relative URL: for accessing resources inside of the same Web application
- More efficient (than <jsp:include>)
 - No buffering
- <c:param> tag can be used to specify parameters (like <jsp:param>)

Example: <c:import> Absolute URL quoted from /import/Absolute.jsp

```
<br/>
<br/>
<ex:escapeHtml>
    <c:import url="http://www.cnn.com/cnn.rss"/>
</ex:escapeHtml>
</blockquote>
```

Example: <c:import> with <c:param>

```
<c:import url="header.jsp">
     <c:param name="pageTitle" value="newInstance.com"/>
     <c:param name="pageSlogan" value=" " />
</c:import>
```

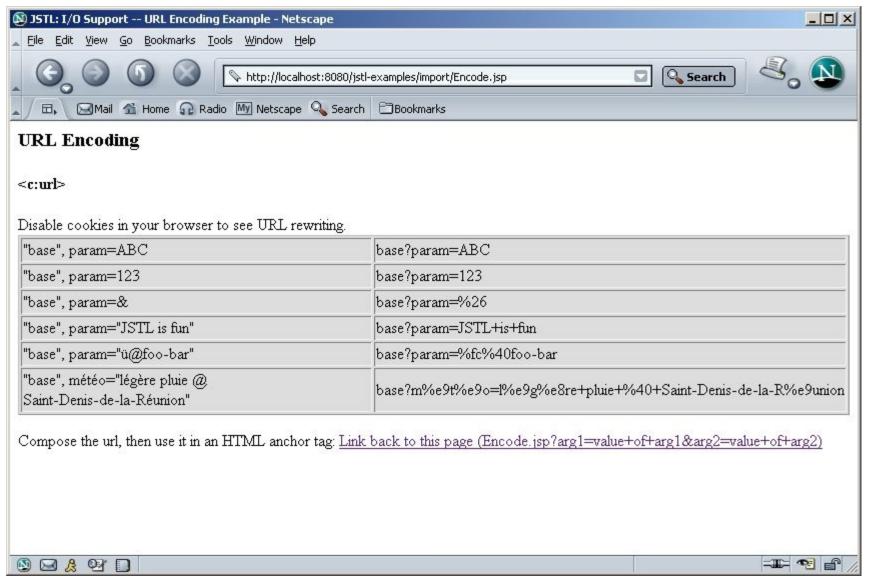
URL Rewriting: <c:url>

- Used for URL rewriting
 - All the URL's that are returned from a JSP page (to a browser) have session ID if Cookie is disabled on the browser
- Can take param subtags for including parameters in the returned URL

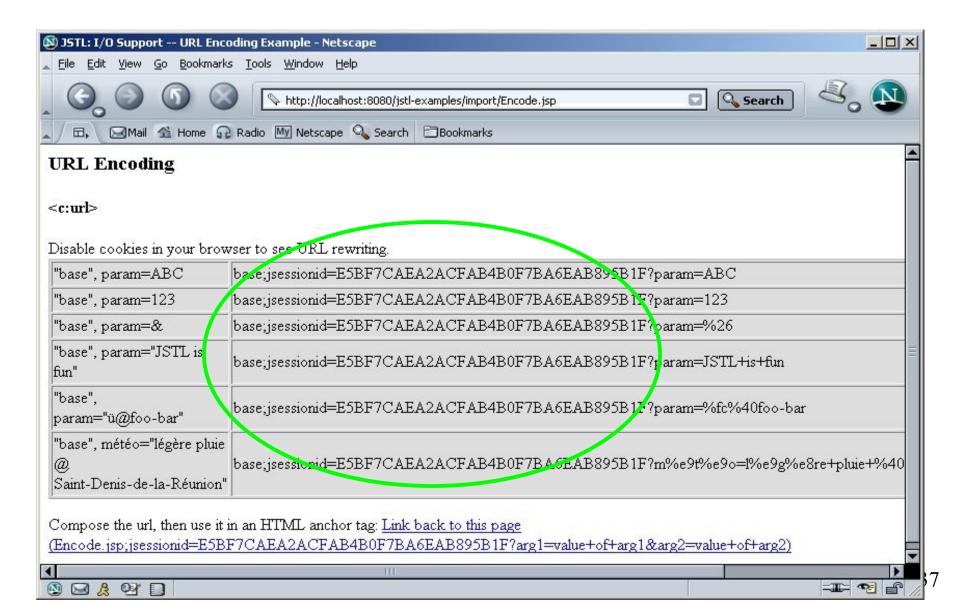
Example: <c:url>

```
"base", param=ABC
<c:url value="base">
   <c:param name="param" value="ABC"/>
  </c:url>
"base", param=123
<c:url value="base">
    <c:param name="param" value="123"/>
   </c:url>
```

Example: <c:url> - Cookie enabled quoted from /import/Encode.jsp



Example: <c:url> - Cookie disabled



Redirection: <c:redirect>

- Sends an HTTP redirect to the client
- Takes <c:param> subtags for including parameters in the returned URL

<c:out>

- Evaluates an expression and outputs the result of the evaluation to the current JspWriter object
- If the result of the evaluation is a java.io.Reader object, data is first read from the Reader object and then written into the current JspWriter object
 - improved performance
- Syntax
 - <c:out value="value" [escapeXml="{true|false}"]</p> [default="defaultValue"] />
 - If escapeXml is true, escape character conversion₃₉

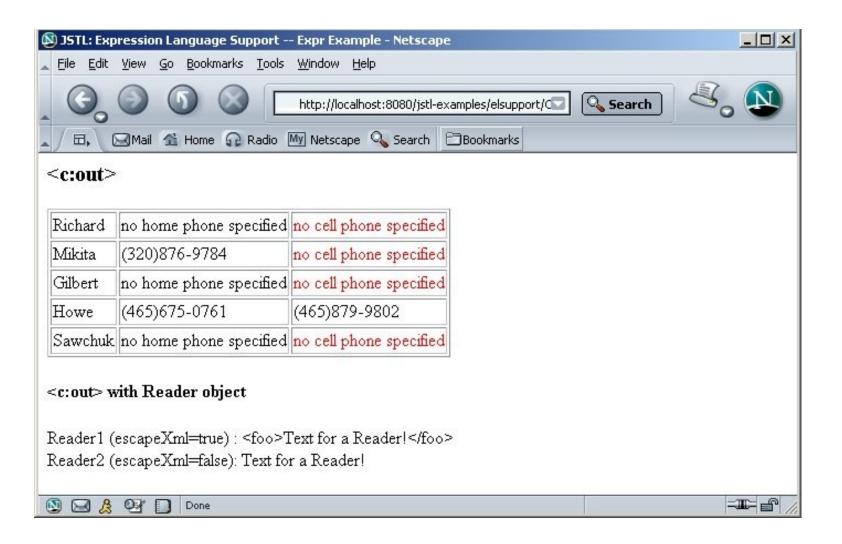
Example: <c:out> quoted from /elsupport/Out.jsp

```
<c:forEach var="customer" items="${customers}">
  <c:out value="${customer.lastName}"/>
   <c:out value="${customer.phoneHome}" default="no
  home phone specified"/>
  <c:out value="${customer.phoneCell}" escapeXml="false">
    <font color="red">no cell phone specified</font>
   </c:out>
   </c:forEach>
```

Example: <c:out> quoted from /elsupport/Out.jsp

```
<h4><c:out> with Reader object</h4>
<%
java.io.Reader reader1 = new java.io.StringReader("<foo>Text for
  a Reader!</foo>");
pageContext.setAttribute("myReader1", reader1);
java.io.Reader reader2 = new java.io.StringReader("<foo>Text for
  a Reader!</foo>");
pageContext.setAttribute("myReader2", reader2);
%>
Reader1 (escapeXml=true) : <c:out value="${myReader1}"/><br>
Reader2 (escapeXml=false): <c:out value="${myReader2}"
  escapeXml="false"/><br>
```

Example: <c:out> quoted from /elsupport/Out.jsp

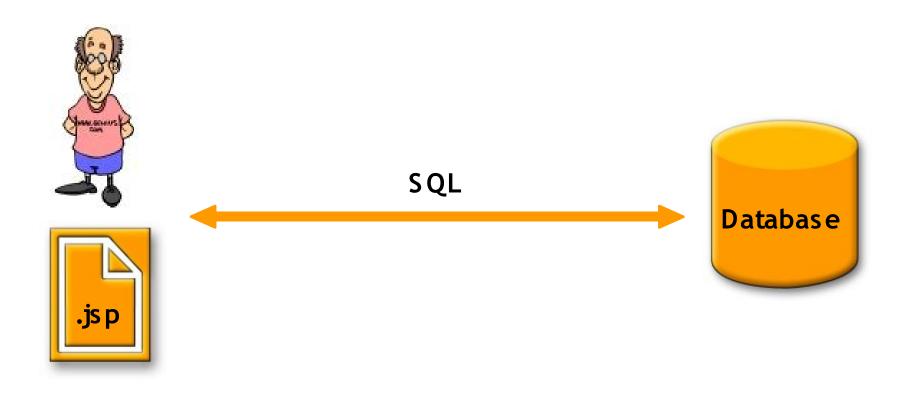




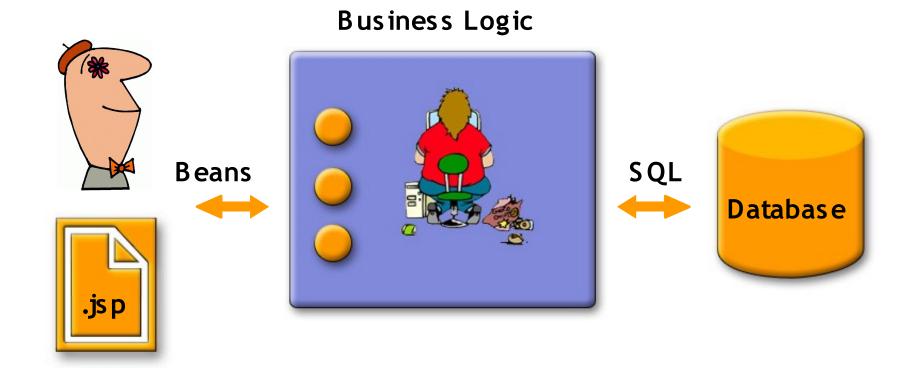
Database Access Tags (SQL Tags)



RAD/Prototyping/Simple Apps



MVC Architecture



SQL Tags





Query the database <sql:query>

Easy access to result set
Result
ResultSupport

Update the database

<sql:update>

<sql:transaction>



DataSource

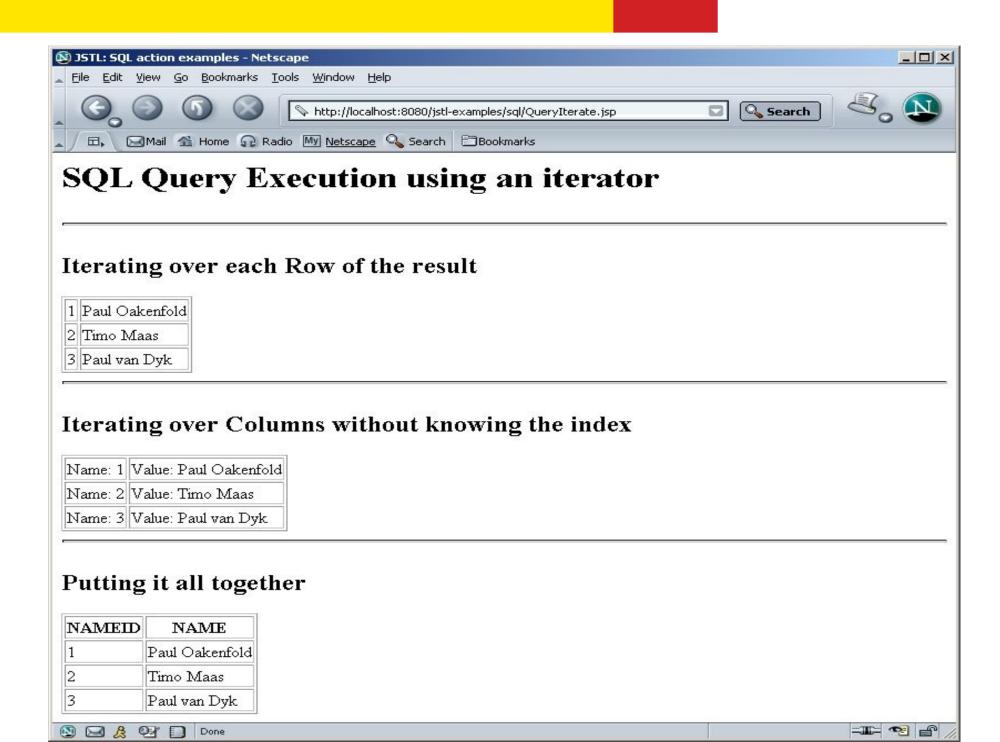
- All DB actions operate on a DataSource
- Different ways to access a DataSource
 - Object provided by application logic
 - Object provided by <sql:dataSource> action
 <sql:dataSource var="dataSource"
 driver="org.gjt.mm.mysql.Driver"
 url="jdbc:..."/>
 <sql:query dataSource="\${dataSource}" .../>

Example: <sql:setDataSource> for setting a table using PointBase

```
<sql:setDataSource
var="example"
driver="com.pointbase.jdbc.jdbcUniversalDriver"
url="jdbc:pointbase:server://localhost:1092/jstlsample;create=true"
/>
```

Example: <sql:transaction> & <sql:update> from /sql/QueryDirect.jsp

```
<sql:transaction dataSource="${example}">
 <sql:update var="newTable">
  create table mytable (
   nameid int primary key,
   name varchar(80)
 </sql:update>
 <sql:update var="updateCount">
  INSERT INTO mytable VALUES (1,'Paul Oakenfold')
 </sql:update>
 <sql:update var="updateCount">
  INSERT INTO mytable VALUES (2,'Timo Maas')
 </sql:update>
 <sql:query var="deejays">
  SELECT * FROM mytable
 </sql:query>
</sql:transaction>
```





XML Tags

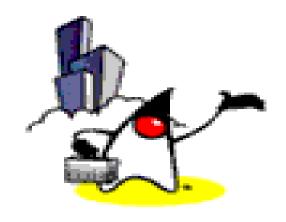


XML Tags

- Flow control
 - <x:choose>, <x:when>, <x:if>, <x:otherwise>
- Iteration
 - <x:forEach>
- General purpose
 - <x:out>
 - <x:set>
- Parsing and Transformation
 - <x:parse>
 - <x:transform> with <x:param> subtags

XML Tags

- Used to access information stored in XML document
- Access description is specified in XPath expression as a value of select attribute
 - <x:set var="d" select="\$a//d"/>
 - <x:out select="\$d/e"/>
- Flow control, Iteration, General purpose XML tags work similarly as corresponding tags in Core tags



Quick XPath Review (Start)

Example XML Document

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<games>
 <country id="Luxembourg">
  <athlete>
   <name>Lux 1</name>
   <sport>swimming</sport>
   <age>23</age>
   <gender>M</gender>
  </athlete>
 </country>
 <country id="Denmark">
  <athlete>
   <name>Den 1</name>
   <sport>cycling</sport>
   <age>18</age>
   <gender>F</gender>
  </athlete>
  <athlete>
   <name>Den 2</name>
   <sport>sailing</sport>
   <age>27</age>
   <gender>M</gender>
  </athlete>
 </country>
</games>
```

What is XPath?

- XPath is an Expression Language for referencing particular parts of XML document
- XPath expression uses a tree model to represent a XML document
 - XPath expression /games/country/athlete evaluates to a node-set that contains all nodes corresponding to the athletes of all countries in the games XML document

XPath Expression Result Data Types: 4 Data Types

- Node set
 - Type we will spend most time with
- Boolean
- Number
- String

Node Set, Location Path, Location Step, Predicate

- A node-set is a collection of zero or more nodes from XML document
- A node-set is a return type from location path expression
- A location path expression is composed of location steps
- A Location step can be qualified with a predicate
 - /games/country/athlete[sport="sailing"]
 - /games/country[@id="Demark"]/athlete

Examples of Node Set

- /games/country/athlete
 - all athlete elements which has country parent element which in turn has games parent element
- /games/country[1]/athlete[2]
 - the 2nd athlete element under 1st country element
- /games/country/athlete[sport="sailing"]
 - all athlete elements whose child element sport has string-value sailing
- /games/country[@id="Demark"]/athlete
 - all athlete elements whose parent element country has id attribute value Denmark

Examples of Node Set

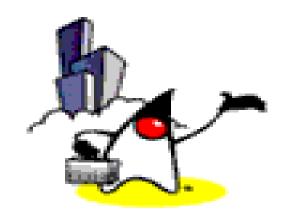
- /games/country/*
 - all child elements under /games/country
- /games/country//sport
 - all sport elements in a subtree that begins with /games/country

XPath Type Coercion (Conversion)

- XPath specification defines rules on how node-set, boolean, number, string are to be converted to each other
- Node-set is converted to
 - boolean: true if note-set is not empty, false otherwise
 - string: the string value of the first node in the nodeset
 - the reason why <x:out select="\$doc//sport"/> results in "swimming"
 - number: node-set is first coerced to a string, which is then coerced to a number

XPath Functions

- XPath expression can contain functions
- Example
 - count(node-set): returns number of nodes in a node-set
 - count(/games/country) returns 2 since there are 2 country nodes in the node-set
 - id(object): selects a node with the specified id
 - last(): returns size of the current node-set
 - string functions
 - string substring(/games/country, 1, 3)
 - boolean functions
 - boolean not(/games/country)



Quick XPath Review (End)

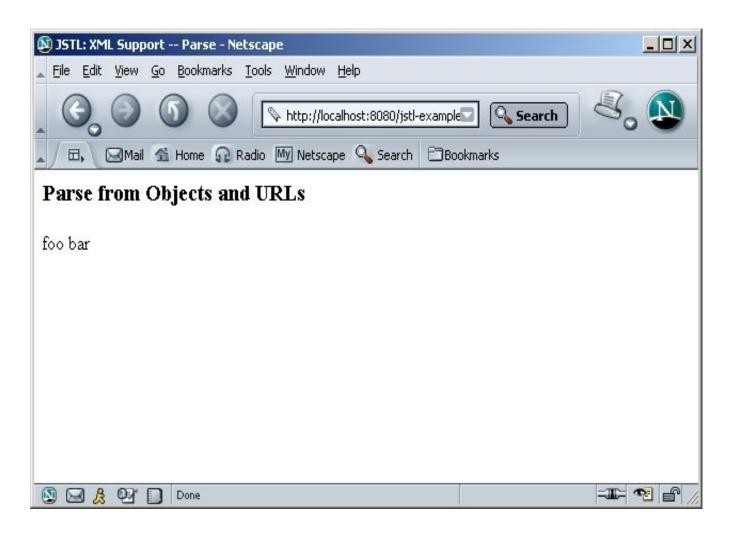
<x:parse>

Parse XML document into a scoped variable

Example: <x:parse> from /xml/Parse.jsp

```
<c:set var="xmlText">
 <a>>
    <b>
       <c>
         foo
       </c>
    </b>
    <d>
         bar
    </d>
 </a>
</c:set>
<x:parse var="a" doc="${xmlText}" />
<x:out select="$a//c"/>
<x:out select="$a/a/d"/>
```

Example: <x:parse> from /xml/Parse.jsp



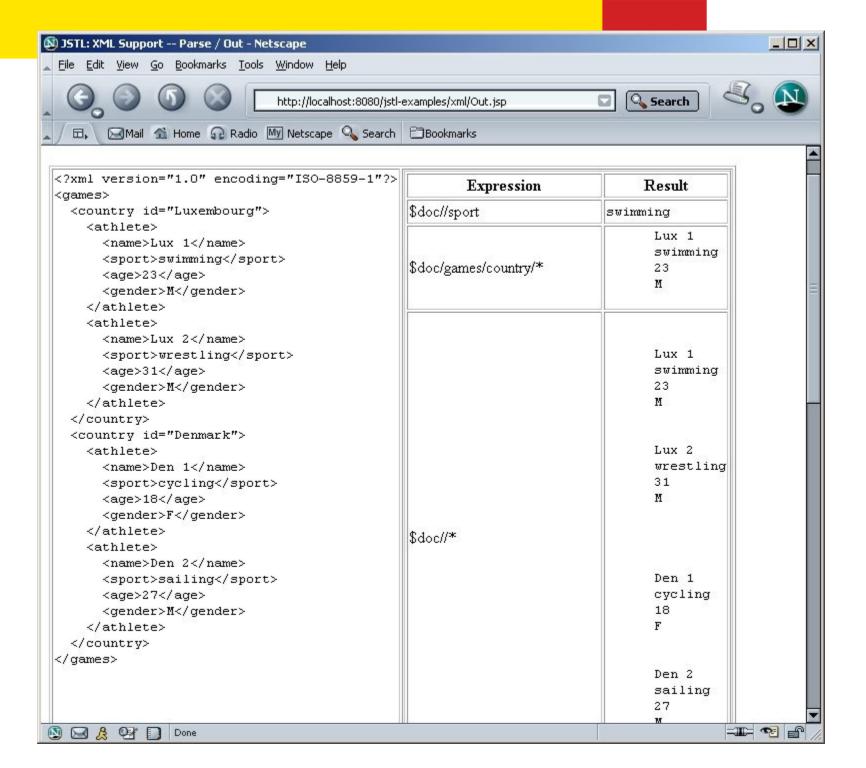
<x:out>

- Works like <c:out> tag
- <x:out> tag converts node-set type to a String type
 - the string value of the first node in the node-set
 - The string value of an element is the concatenation of all descendent text nodes, no matter how deep

```
    Example element
    String value
    athlete>
    name>Lux 1
    sport>swimming
    age>23
    qender>M
    athlete>
    String value
    Lux 1
    swimming
    23
    Agender>M
    Athlete>
```

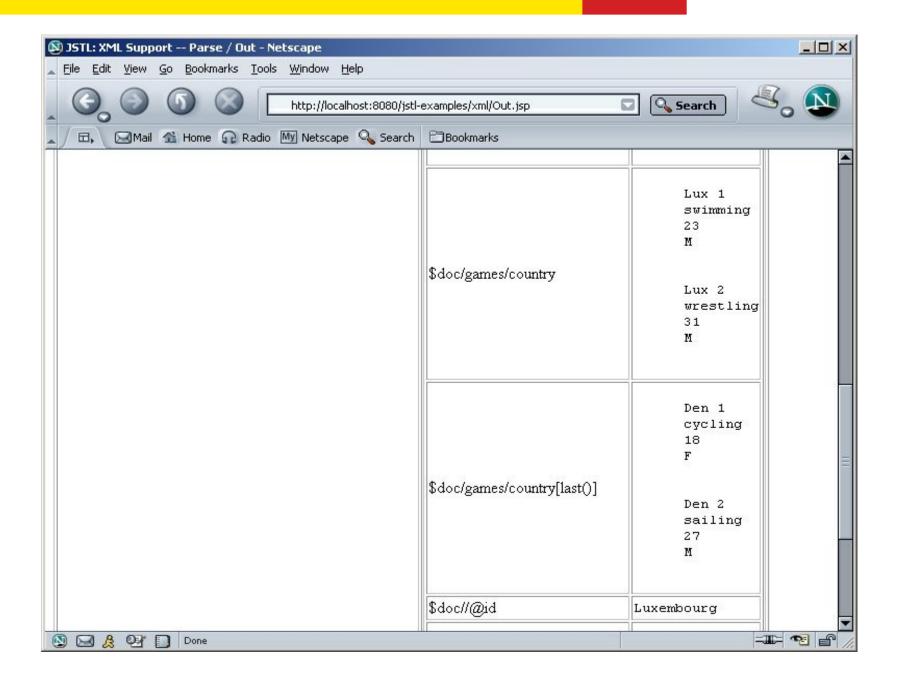
Example: <x:out> from /xml/Out.jsp

```
$doc//sport
<x:out select="$doc//sport"/>
$doc/games/country/*
<x:out select="$doc/games/country/*"/>
$\doc//*
<x:out select="$doc//*"/>
$doc/games/country
<x:out select="$doc/games/country"/>
```

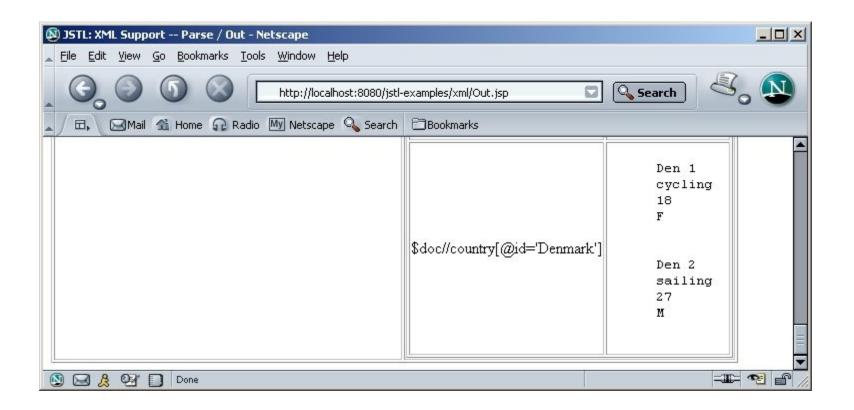


Example: <x:out> from /xml/Out.jsp

```
$\doc/games/country[last()]
  <x:out select="$doc/games/country[last()]"/>
  $doc//@id
  <x:out select="$doc//@id"/>
 $doc//country[@id='Denmark']
  <x:out select="$doc//country[@id='Denmark']"/>
```



Example: <x:out> from /xml/Out.jsp



Access to built-in scope variables in XPath expression

- \$foo
- \$param:
- \$header:
- \$cookie:
- \$initParam:
- \$pageScope:
- \$requestScope:
- \$sessionScope:
- \$applicationScope:

Example: Access to built-in scope variables

- \$sessionScope:profile
 - The session-scoped EL variable named profile
- \$initParam:mycom.productId
 - The String value of the mycom.productId context parameter



EL Functions



EL Functions in JSTL 1.1

- <fn:length> Length of collection of string
- <fn:toUpperCase>, <fn:toLowerCase> Change the capitalization of a string
- <fn:substring>, <fn:substringBefore>, <fn:substringAfter>
 Get a subset of a string
- <fn:trim> Trim a string
- <fn:replace> Replace characters in a string
- <fn:indexOf>, <fn:startsWith>, <fn:endsWith contains>,
 <fn:containsIgnoreCase> Check if a string contains another string
- <fn:split>, <fn:join> Split a string into an array,and join a collection into a string
- <fn:escapeXml> Escape XML characters in the string

Example: EL Functions

```
<%-- truncate name to 30 chars and display it in uppercase --%>
${fn:toUpperCase(fn:substring(name, 0, 30))}
<%-- Display the text value prior to the first '*' character --%>
${fn:substringBefore(text, '*')}
<%-- Scoped variable "name" may contain whitespaces at the
beginning or end. Trim it first, otherwise we end up with +'s in the URL
--%>
<c:url var="myUrl" value="${base}/cust/${fn:trim(name)}"/>
<%-- Display the text in between brackets --%>
${fn:substring(text, fn:indexOf(text, '(')+1, fn:indexOf(text, ')'))}
<%-- Display the name if it contains the search string --%>
<c:if test="${fn:containsIgnoreCase(name, searchString)}">
  Found name: ${name}
</c:if>
<%-- Display the last 10 characters of the text value --%>
${fn:substring(text, fn:length(text)-10)}
<%-- Display text value with bullets instead of '-' --%>
                                                                       77
${fn:replace(text, '-', '•')}
```

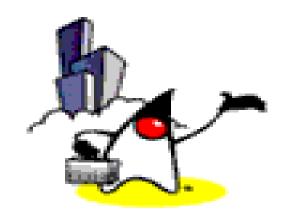


Internationalization (i18n) & Text Formatting Tags



I18N and Formatting Tags

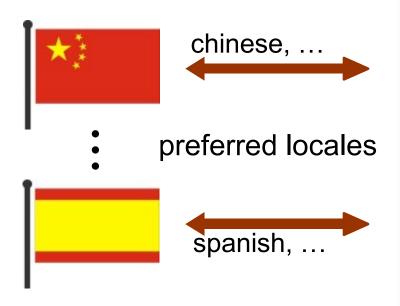
- Setting locale
 - <fmt:setLocale>
 - <fmt:requestEncoding>
- Messaging
 - <fmt:bundle>
 - <fmt:message> with <fmt:param> subtag
 - <fmt:setBundle>
- Number and Date formatting
 - <fmt:formatNumber>, <fmt:parseNumber>
 - <fmt:formatDate>, <fmt:parseDate>
 - <fmt:setTimeZone>, <fmt:timeZone >



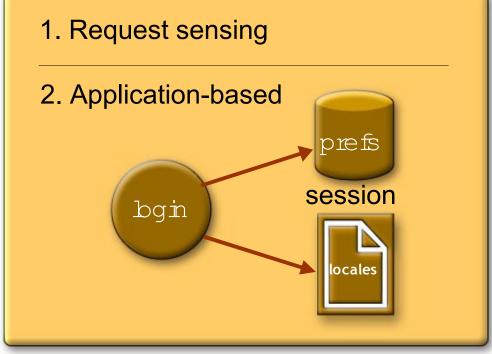
Quick I18N Review (Start)

How Locale Is Set in Web app

Worldwide Users



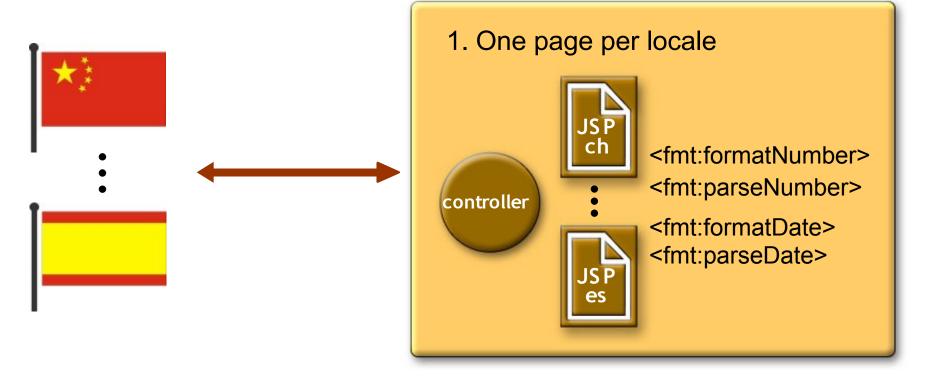
Web Application



I18N Architecture: Option 1

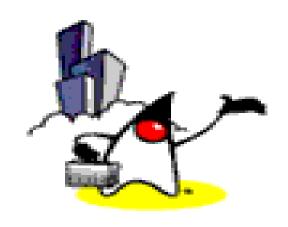
Worldwide Users

Web Application



I18N Architecture: Option 2

Worldwide Users Web Application 2. One page for all locales Resource Bundles <fmt:message key="...">



Quick I18N Review (End)

Setting Locales

- <fmt:setLocale>
 - Override client-specified locale for a page
- <fmt:requestEncoding>
 - Set the request's character encoding, in order to be able to correctly decode request parameter values whose encoding is different from ISO-8859-1

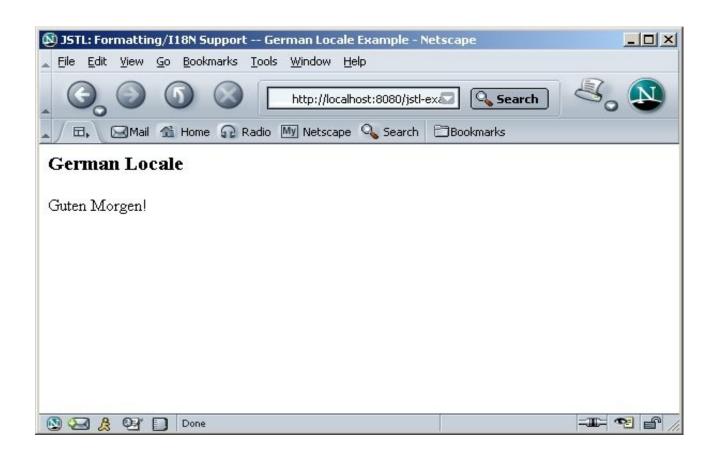
Messaging Tags

- <fmt:bundle>
 - specify a resource bundle for a page
- <fmt:message key="..">
 - used to output localized strings
 - <fmt:param> subtag provides a single argument (for parametric replacement) to the compound message or pattern in its parent message tag

Example: quoted from ./fmt/GermanLocale.jsp

```
<fmt:setLocale value="de"/>
<fmt:bundle
   basename="org.apache.taglibs.standard.examples.i18n.R
   esources">
<fmt:message>
   greetingMorning
</fmt:message>
</fmt:bundle>
```

Example: <fmt:setLocale>



http://localhost:8080/webapps-jstl/format/GermanLocale.jsp

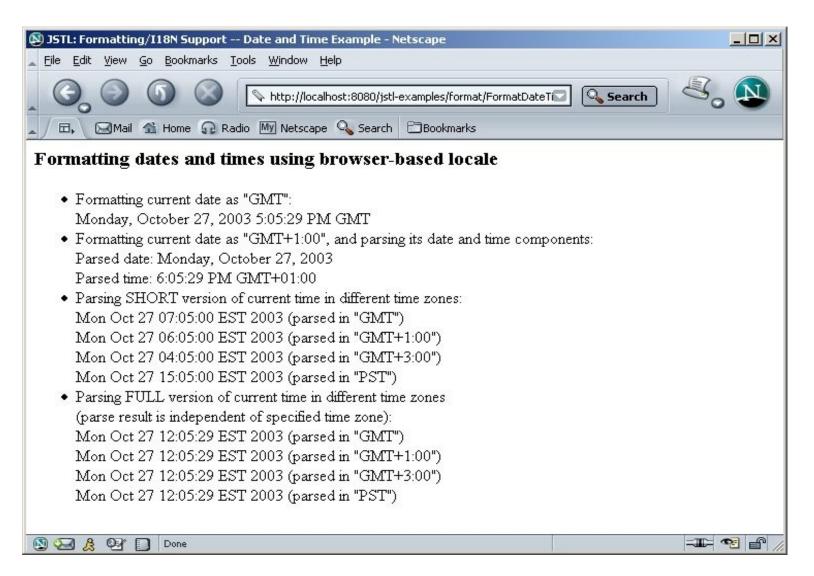
Formatting Tags

- <fmt:formatNumber>, <fmt:formatDate>
 - used to output localized numbers and dates
- <fmt:parseNumber>, <fmt:parseDate>
 - used to parse localized numbers and dates
- <fmt:setTimeZone>, <fmt:timeZone >
 - used to set and get timezone

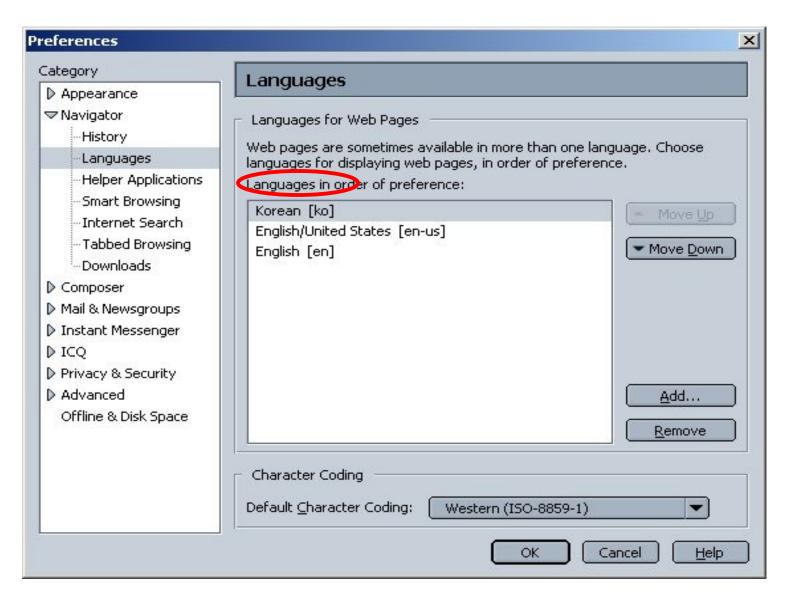
Example: quoted from ./format/FormatDateTime.jsp

```
<jsp:useBean id="now" class="java.util.Date" />
<fmt'setLocale value="en-US" />
<l
Formatting current date as "GMT":<br>
 <fmt:timeZone value="GMT">
 <fmt:formatDate value="${now}" type="both" dateStyle="full" timeStyle="full"/>
 </fmt:timeZone>
Formatting current date as "GMT+1:00", and parsing
   its date and time components:<br>
 <fmt:timeZone value="GMT+1:00">
 <fmt:formatDate value="${now}" type="both" dateStyle="full"</pre>
           timeStyle="full" var="formatted"/>
 <fmt:parseDate value="${formatted}" type="both" dateStyle="full"</pre>
           timeStyle="full" timeZone="PST" var="parsedDateTime"/>
 Parsed date: <fmt:formatDate value="${parsedDateTime}" type="date"
                   dateStyle="full"/><br>
 Parsed time: <fmt:formatDate value="${parsedDateTime}" type="time"
                   timeStyle="full"/>
 </fmt:timeZone>
```

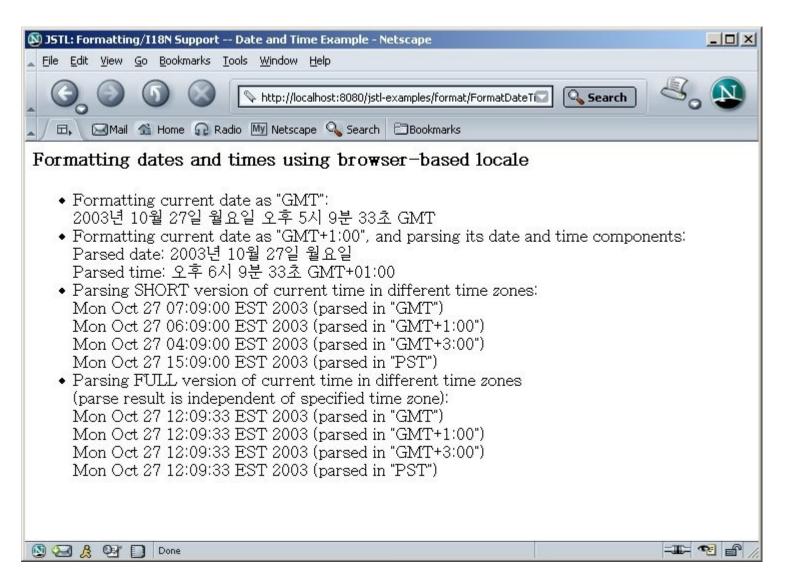
Example: using browser locale en-us quoted from ./format/FormatDateTime.jsp



Change Browser Locale preference to Korean



Example: using browser locale ko quoted from ./format/FormatDateTime.jsp





Passion!

