

MEAN Stack Apps Explained for Java Developers

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This article presents a brief description of **What a MEAN Stack Web/Mobile Application is**. Coming from Java background, I thought it best to present an analogy for Java developers to get a quick understanding of MEAN Web/Mobile Application development. Please feel free to comment/suggest if I missed to mention one or more important points. Also, sorry for the typos.

Following are the key points described later in this article:

- What is a MEAN Web/Mobile Application?
- A Web Application Stack in General
- Sample Web Application using JEE (Spring/Hibernate) Framework
- A MEAN Stack Web/Mobile Application

What is a MEAN Web/Mobile Application?

A MEAN Stack based web/mobile application makes use of following technologies:

You may note that we are not required to use middleware technologies such as JEE or .NET to process user request/response. It is all about Javascript. In following text, I shall briefly explain the skeleton of any Web application with examples and show analogy with MEAN Stack.

A Web Application Stack in General

A web application framework is required to fulfil some of the following key objectives:

- One or more user interfaces for end users to interact
- One or more web servers to handle user request/response
- A Web framework to process user request/response
- One or more databases to store the data

Following are key components of any web application framework in general:

- UI
- Web Server
- Web application framework
- Database

Sample Web Application Using JEE (Spring/Hibernate) Framework

In Java web application, following are key components and related technologies:

- **UI:** This is taken care using HTML/CSS with JSP embedded tags to render dynamic data.

- **Web/Application Server:** The web server handles user requests and sends back the response after being processed using one or more services/components. Example of such app server is Tomcat server.
- **Web Framework:** There is a web framework to process the user requests/response. This is where a framework such as Spring, Struts and other popular Java web frameworks fit in.
- **Database:** There are different databases that one could use. For example, MySQL, Oracle, SQL Server etc.

Following diagram represents a JEE based web app.

Java Web App Framework

A MEAN Stack Web/Mobile Application

A MEAN Web/Mobile app looks like following:

- **UI:** This is taken care using [AngularJS](#).
- **Web Server:** This is based on [NodeJS](#).
- **Web Framework:** This is based on [ExpressJS](#). Mongoose is used to connect to MongoDB database.
- **Database:** The database is [MongoDB](#).

Following diagram represents MEAN Stack App:

MEAN App Framework

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Topics:

mean,mongo,mongo db,java,javascript,nodejs

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