

# Web container

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A **web container** (also known as a servlet container;<sup>[1]</sup> and compare "webtainer"<sup>[2]</sup>) is the component of a web server that interacts with Java servlets. A web container is responsible for managing the lifecycle of servlets, mapping a URL to a particular servlet and ensuring that the URL requester has the correct access-rights.

A web container handles requests to servlets, JavaServer Pages (JSP) files, and other types of files that include server-side code. The Web container creates servlet instances, loads and unloads servlets, creates and manages request and response objects, and performs other servlet-management tasks.

A web container implements the web component contract of the Java EE architecture, specifying a runtime environment for web components that includes security, concurrency, lifecycle management, transaction, deployment, and other services.

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## List of Servlet containers

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The following is a list of applications which implement the Java Servlet specification from Sun Microsystems, divided depending on whether they are directly sold or not.

### Open source Web containers

- Apache Tomcat (formerly Jakarta Tomcat) is an open source web container available under the Apache Software License.
  - Apache Tomcat 6 and above are operable as general application container (prior versions were web containers only)
- Apache Geronimo is a full Java EE 6 implementation by Apache Software Foundation.
- Enhydra, from Lutris Technologies.
- GlassFish from Oracle (an application server, but includes a web container).
- Jetty, from the Eclipse Foundation. Also supports SPDY and WebSocket protocols.
- Jaminid contains a higher abstraction than servlets.
- Payara is another application server, derived from Glassfish.
- Winstone supports specification v2.5 as of 0.9, has a focus on minimal configuration and the ability to strip the container down to only what you need.
- Tiny Java Web Server (TJWS) 2.5 [1] (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/tjws>), small footprint, modular design.
- Virgo from Eclipse Foundation provides modular, OSGi based web containers implemented using embedded Tomcat and Jetty. Virgo is available under the Eclipse Public License.
- WildFly (formerly JBoss Application Server) is a full Java EE implementation by Red Hat, division JBoss.

## Commercial Web containers

- iPlanet Web Server, from Oracle.
- JBoss Enterprise Application Platform from Red Hat, division JBoss is subscription-based/open-source Java EE-based application server.
- JRun, from Adobe Systems (formerly developed by Allaire Corporation).
- WebLogic Application Server, from Oracle Corporation (formerly developed by BEA Systems).
- Orion Application Server, from IronFlare.
- Resin Pro, from Caucho Technology.
- ServletExec, from New Atlanta Communications.
- IBM WebSphere Application Server.
- SAP NetWeaver.
- tc Server, from SpringSource Inc.

## References

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1. Pilgrim, Peter A. (2013). "The lifecycle of Java Servlets". *Java EE 7 Developer Handbook* ([https://books.google.com/books?id=rY\\_1AAAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books?id=rY_1AAAAQBAJ)) . Professional expertise distilled. Packt Publishing Ltd. ISBN 9781849687959. Retrieved 2016-06-16. "Java Servlets are governed by a web container (a Servlet container)."
2. Puthal, B (2009). "J2EE Framework for project development" (<http://www.slideshare.net/bputhal/j2-eee-sides>) . Retrieved 2016-06-15. "The types of components within J2EE environment are [...] JSP or servlet as web components running inside webtainer [...]"

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