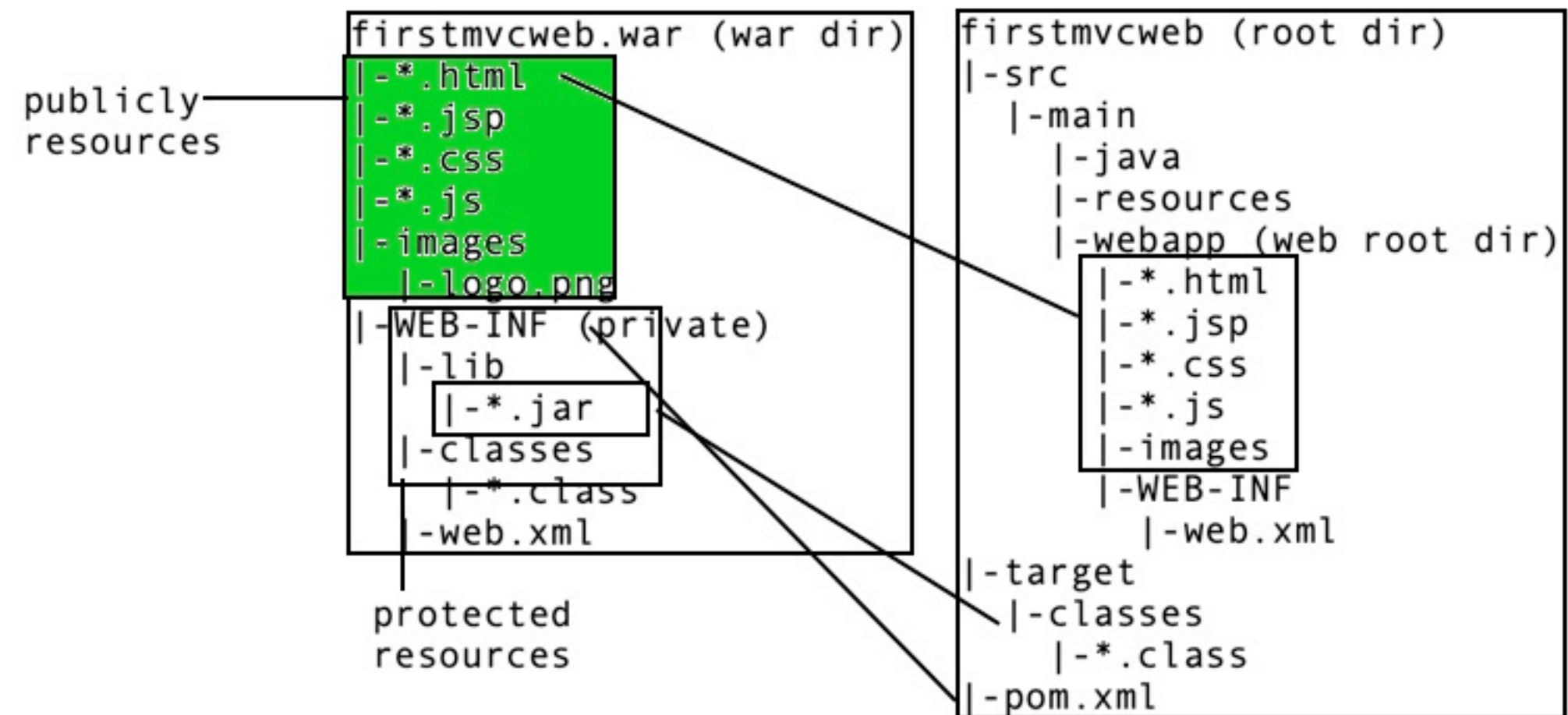All the resources that are directly placed under the root of the war file are public resources, that can be accessible directly by the enduser by pointing to the URI of the resource

For eg.. here under firstmvcweb.war we have logo.png under images directory that can be accessed by the enduser using the below uRI directly

http://ip:port/firstmvcweb/images/logo.png

But all the resources that are under the WEB-INF are protected resources which means the enduser cannot send the request to resource in accessing or downloading directly. upon sending the request for these resources under protected directory the web server executes an appropriate component and the output generated by it will send back to the client if the resource is web application component.

```
                                          firstmvcweb.war (war dir)   firstmvcweb (root dir)
                                          |-*.html                    |-src
                       publicly           |-*.jsp                     |-main
                       resources          |-*.css                         |-java
                                          |-*.js                          |-resources
                                          |-images                        |-webapp (web root dir)
                                            |-logo.png                        |-*.html
                                          |-WEB-INF (private)                 |-*.jsp
                                            |-lib                             |-*.css
                                              |-*.jar                         |-*.js
                                            |-classes                         |-images
                                              |-*.class                     |-WEB-INF
                                            -web.xml                            |-web.xml
                                                                        |-target
                       protected                                        |-classes
                       resources                                            |-*.class
                                                                        |-pom.xml
```

In spring mvc, it recommends us to place all the views under WEB-INF (protected directory) only, by not letting the enduser to directly access them, because there are several reasons behind this.

1. If we make the views directly accessible to the enduser, the enduser will be exposed to the view technology we are using aspart of the application, so that in-future if we switch from jsp as a view technology to themeleaf, again the URI in accessible the resource would change which will impact the enduser.

To hide the view technology let us have all the view components being placed under WEB-INF/ directory only. so that the enduser has to send the request to one of the internal component (like a servlet or controller) in accessing the view using the URI so that he will be abstracted from the underlying view technology

2. There are few views that renders the data only after post processing the request with the output that generated by the processing. If such resources are directly placed under the WEB ROOT (public directory) there is a chance where the enduser might bypass the Servlet/Controller and would directly access that view that results in ugly stacktrace page and spoils the enduser experience in using the application.

To avoid such circumstances, it is adviced to place such views under WEB-INF directory only.