Standalone vs Web Application (JAR & WAR)

A standalone application runs independently without a browser. It is executed directly by the OS or runtime (JVM).

Examples include Spring Boot JAR microservices, batch jobs, and system services.

A web application runs on a web/application server and is accessed via a browser using HTTP/HTTPS.

Examples include e-commerce websites, banking portals, and dashboards.

JAR:

- Runs independently
- No external app server required
- Common for microservices

WAR:

- Requires Tomcat/JBoss/WebLogic
- Common in legacy enterprise apps

Modern systems use frontend web apps + backend standalone JAR microservices.