Java Server Pages (JSP)

Lesson 03: JSP Scripting Elements

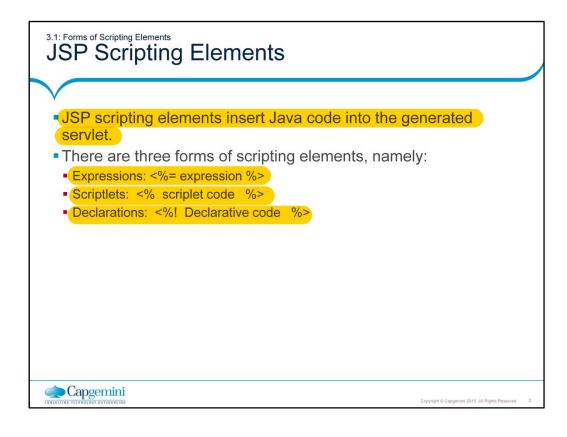
Lesson Objectives

- In this lesson, you will learn about:
 - Forms of Scripting Elements
 - JSP Expressions
 - JSP Scriptlets
 - JSP Declarations
 - JSP Implicit Objects
 - Examples using Scripting Elements





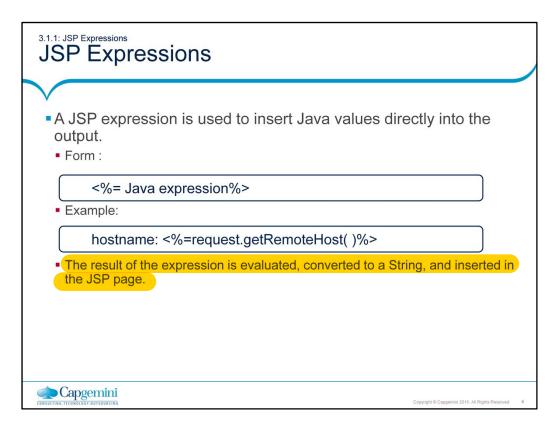
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Forms of Scripting Elements:

JSP Scripting Elements:

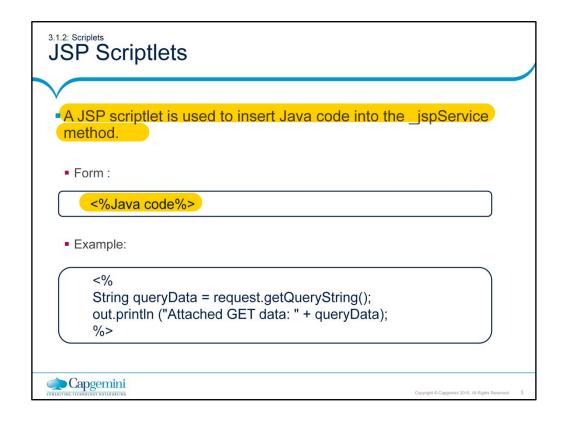
- With JSP scripting elements Java code into the servlet that will be generated from the current JSP page.
- There are three forms of scripting elements:
 - **Expressions** of the form <%= expression %> that are evaluated and inserted into the output.
 - Scriptlets of the form <% code %> that are inserted into the servlet's service method.
 - **Declarations** of the form <%! code %> that are inserted into the body of the servlet class, outside of any existing methods.
- Each of these are described in more detail in the subsequent slides.



Forms of Scripting Elements:

JSP Expressions:

- The JSP expression is evaluated at run-time (when the page is requested), and thus has full access to information about the request. The JSP expression example shown on the above slide will retrieve the remote host information from the pre-defined request object and insert it in the JSP page. The result is in fact stored in the out object and inserted where the expression appears in the JSP page.
- To simplify these expressions, there are a number of predefined variables that can be used. These implicit objects are discussed in more detail later, but for the purpose of expressions, the most important ones are as follows:
 - request: the HttpServletRequest;
 - response: the HttpServletResponse;
 - session: the HttpSession associated with the request (if any); and
 - out: the PrintWriter (a buffered version of type JspWriter) used to send output to the client.
- When using Java as the scripting language, remember that:
 - A semicolon should not be used to end an expression.
 - The expression tag can contain any expression that is valid according to the Java Language Specification.
 - Expressions are evaluated in left-to-right order as they appear in the tag.



Forms of Scripting Elements:

JSP Scriptlets:

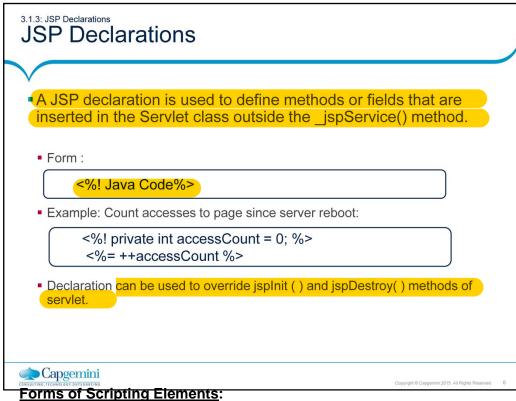
Scriptlets have the following form: <% Java Code %>. Scriptlets are executed when the JSP engine processes the client request. If the scriptlet produces output, then the output is stored in the out object, from which it can be displayed.

Note that code inside a scriptlet gets inserted exactly as written. Any static HTML (template text) before or after a scriptlet gets converted to print statements. This means that scriptlets need not contain complete Java statements, and blocks left open can affect the static HTML situated outside of the scriptlets. For example:

Consider the following JSP fragment, containing mixed template text and scriptlets:

```
<% if (Math.random() < 0.5) { %>
    Have a <B>nice</B> day!
    <% } else { %>
    Have a <B>lousy</B> day!
    <% } %>

if (Math.random() < 0.5) {
    out.println("Have a <B>nice</B> day!");
} else {
    out.println("Have a <B>lousy</B> day!");
}
```



JSP Declarations:

- A JSP declaration lets helps to define methods or fields that are inserted in the servlet class (outside of the service method processing the request).
- It has the following form: <%! Java Code %>
- The example, shown on the slide prints out the number of times the current page has been requested since the server booted (or the servlet class was changed and reloaded). The accessCount variable is now an instance variable that is defined only once within the lifecycle of JSP. If, however, accessCount was part of a scriptlet, then it would have been a local variable whose scope would be the **service()** method!
- The JSP usually runs as multiple "threads" of one single instance. Different threads interfere with **variable access**, because it will be the same variable for all of them. If variables has to be used in JSP, it should be used with "synchronized access", but that hurts the performance. In general, any data should go either in the "session" **object**" or the "**request object**" if passing data between different JSP
- JSP declarations can be used to override jsplnit() and jspDestroy() methods.

```
<%! public void jsplnit() {
    public void jspDestroy(){
    . . . . . . . .
```

3.2: JSP Implicit Objects Implicit Objects

- Let us see some of the implicit objects in JSP:
 - request:
 - It is the HTTPServletRequest associated with the request.
 - response:
 - It is the HTTPServletResponse associated with the response.
 - out
 - It is the Buffered PrintWriter (JSPWriter) used to send output to the client.
 - session:
 - It is the HTTPSession object associated with the session.



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Predefined Variables:

To simplify code in **JSP expressions** and **scriptlets**, JSPs are supplied with eight automatically defined variables, sometimes are called **implicit objects**. The available variables are as follows:

- request: This is the HttpServletRequest associated with the request, and lets to look at the request parameters (via getParameter), the request type (GET, POST, HEAD, and so on), and the incoming HTTP headers (cookies, Referrer, and so on).
- response: This is the HttpServletResponse associated with the response
 to the client. Note that, since the output stream is buffered, it is legal to set
 HTTP status codes and response headers, even though this is not
 permitted in regular Servlets once any output has been sent to the client.
- out: This is the PrintWriter used to send output to the client. However, in order to make the response object useful, this is a buffered version of PrintWriter called JspWriter. Note that we can adjust the buffer size, or even turn buffering off, through use of the buffer attribute of the page directive. In scriptlets, need to refer to out explicitly in case we need to display anything.
- session: This is the HttpSession object associated with the session. As sessions are created automatically, this variable is bound even if there is no incoming session reference. The one exception is that if the session attribute of the page directive is used to turn sessions off. In this case, attempts to reference the session variable cause errors at the time the JSP page is translated into a servlet.

3.2: JSP Implicit Objects Implicit Objects

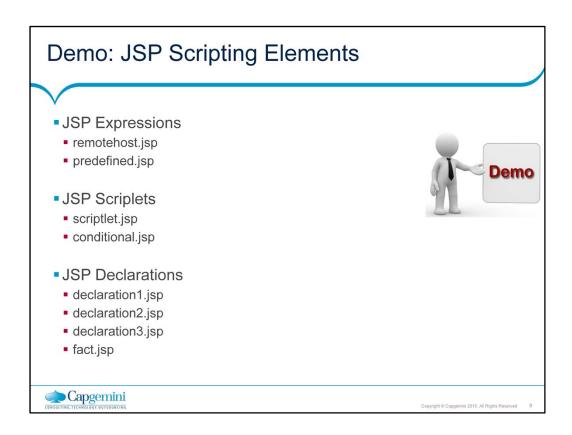
- application:
 - · It is the ServletContext object.
- config:
 - · It is the ServletConfig object.
- pageContext:
 - · It refers to the current page.
- exception:
 - It refers to the java.lang.Exception object that represents the uncaught exception.



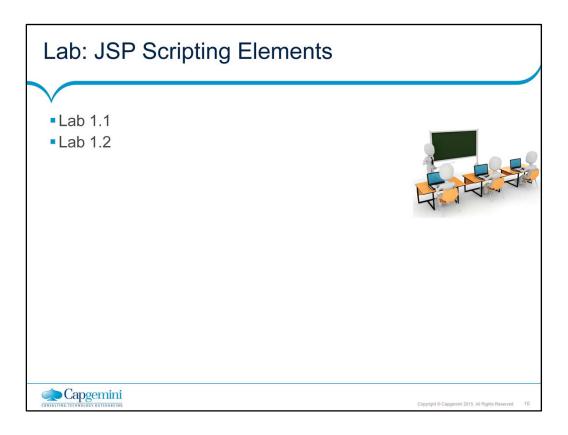
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Predefined Variables:

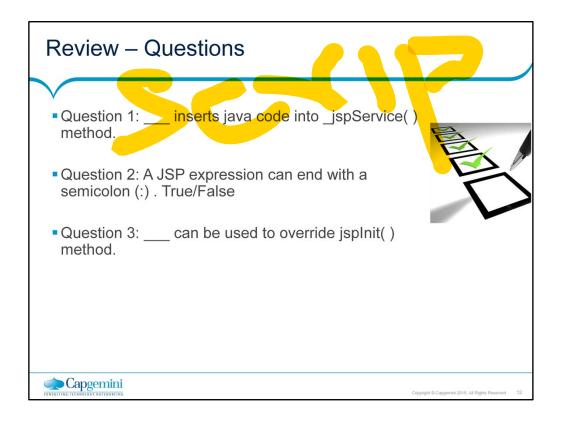
- Application: This is the ServletContext as obtained via the getServletConfig().getContext().
- config: This is the ServletConfig object for this page.
- pageContext: JSP introduced a new class called PageContext to
 encapsulate use of server-specific features like higher performance
 JspWriters. The advantage is that these can be accessed through this class rather than directly, code will still run on "regular" servlet/JSP engines.
- page: This is simply a synonym for this, and is not very useful in Java. It was created as a placeholder for the time when the scripting language could be something other than Java.
- exception: This implicit object applies only to JSP error pages these are pages to which processing is forwarded when an exception is thrown from another JSP page. They must have the page directive isErrorPage attribute set to true. The implicit exception object is a java.lang.Exception instance that represents the uncaught exception that was thrown from another JSP page and that resulted in the current error page being invoked. The exception object is accessible only from the JSP error page instance to which processing was forwarded when the exception was encountered.



Deploy web application **Lesson3-JSPScriptlets** and show demo by executing each of the above JSP pages.



Summary In this lesson, you have learnt the following concepts: JSP Expressions JSP Scriptlets JSP Declarations Predefined Variables Summary



Review – Questions

- Question 4: ____ is a buffered PrintWriter used in JSP to send output to client.
- Question 5: ___ implicit object is used to share data across users of the same web application.





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