The **servlet** lifecycle is **managed by the servlet container**. The lifecycle contains the following steps:

Step 1: Load Servlet Class.

Step 2: Create an Instance of Servlet.

Step 3: Call the servlets **init** method.

Step 4: Call the servlet's **service** method.

Step 5: Call the servlet’s **destroy** method.

**Steps** **1, 2 & 3** are **executed only once** when the **servlet is initially loaded**. By default, the servlet is not loaded until the first request is received for it. You can force the container to load the servlet when the container starts up though.

**Step 4** is **executed multiple times** - **once for every HTTP request** to the servlet. The service method is the main method of handling the requests to the server. This method determines the type of the request (POST, GET, etc) and acts accordingly, by calling the specified methods like doPost() and doGet().

**Step 5** is executed when the **servlet container unloads servlet**.