**CUSTOM TAGS IN JSP**

A custom tag is a user-defined JSP language element. When a JSP page containing a custom tag is translated into a servlet, the tag is converted to operations on an object called a tag handler. The Web container then invokes those operations when the JSP page's servlet is executed.

A JSP tag extension lets you create new tags that you can insert directly into a JavaServer Page. The JSP 2.0 specification introduced the Simple Tag Handlers for writing these custom tags.

To write a custom tag, you can simply extend SimpleTagSupport class and override the doTag() method, where you can place your code to generate content for the tag.

Create "Hello" Tag

Consider you want to define a custom tag named <ex:Hello> and you want to use it in the following fashion without a body −

<ex:Hello />

To create a custom JSP tag, you must first create a Java class that acts as a tag handler. Let us now create the HelloTag class as follows −

package com.tutorialspoint;

import javax.servlet.jsp.tagext.\*;

import javax.servlet.jsp.\*;

import java.io.\*;

public class HelloTag extends SimpleTagSupport {

public void doTag() throws JspException, IOException {

JspWriter out = getJspContext().getOut();

out.println("Hello Custom Tag!");

}

}

The above code has simple coding where the doTag() method takes the current JspContext object using the getJspContext() method and uses it to send "Hello Custom Tag!" to the current JspWriter object

Let us compile the above class and copy it in a directory available in the environment variable CLASSPATH. Finally, create the following tag library file: <Tomcat-Installation-Directory>webapps\ROOT\WEB-INF\custom.tld.

<taglib>

<tlib-version>1.0</tlib-version>

<jsp-version>2.0</jsp-version>

<short-name>Example TLD</short-name>

<tag>

<name>Hello</name>

<tag-class>com.tutorialspoint.HelloTag</tag-class>

<body-content>empty</body-content>

</tag>

</taglib>

Let us now use the above defined custom tag Hello in our JSP program as follows −

<%@ taglib prefix = "ex" uri = "WEB-INF/custom.tld"%>

<html>

<head>

<title>A sample custom tag</title>

</head>

<body>

<ex:Hello/>

</body>

</html>

Call the above JSP and this should produce the following result −

Hello Custom Tag!