**Tomcat History**

(Catalina's) Apache Tomcat is a widely used implementation of the Java Servlet Specification, which has been developed as an open-source project by the Apache Software Foundation since 1999, when the project source was donated to the ASF by Sun Microsystems.

Tomcat is actually composed of a number of components, including a Tomcat JSP engine and a variety of different connectors, but its core component is called Catalina. Catalina provides Tomcat's actual implementation of the servlet specification; when you start up your Tomcat server, you're actually starting Catalina.

How Did Catalina Get Its Name?

There's nothing like an Apache product name to raise an eyebrow - the Apache volunteers have a knack for turning out oddly named technologies that's only rivaled by Ubuntu's "adjective-animal" naming format. The name "Catalina," according to Craig McClanahan, who designed the original architecture of the servlet container, can be attributed to three things: his love for Catalina Island (despite never having visited it), his cat's habit of hanging around the computer while he was writing the code, and the consideration, at an early stage of development, of building Tomcat on a server framework called Avalon, which is the name of a town on Catalina island. The Avalon framework was eventually abandoned, but the name stuck, and the rest is history