**ServletContext**

This is an interface that contains all the set of methods that a servlet uses to communicate with its servlet container. It includes the MIME type of a file, dispatch requests, write to a log file, and more. To further understand this, it is important to note that there is only one context per web application, which is a collection of servlets and content, per Java Virtual Machine.

If a web application’s deployment descriptor is marked “distributed”, one context instance for each virtual machine will be created. In a situation like this, using an external resource like a database is a solution to its inability for the context to be used as a location to share global information.

The ServletContext object is contained within the ServletConfig object, which the Web server provides the servlet when the servlet is initialized. The ServletContext object is created by the web container at the time of deployment of the project. This object can be used to get configuration information from the web.xml file. The ServletContext is handy because it is easy to maintain by providing the information that is shared to the servlet available from the web.xml file. This removes the need to modify the actual servlet.

The uses of the ServletContext object include: provide an interface between the container and servlet, get configuration information from the web.xml file, set, get, or remove attributes from the web.xml file, and provide inter-application communication.

*Commonly used methods of ServletContext Interface:*

1. public String getInitParameter(String name) - returns the parameter value for the specified parameter name
2. public Enumeration getInitParameterNames() - returns the names of the context’s initialization parameters
3. public void setAttribute(String name, Object object) - sets the given object in the application scope
4. public Object getAttribute(String name) - returns the attribute for the specified name
5. public Enumeration getInitParameterNames() - returns the names of the context’s initialization parameters as an Enumeration of String objects.
6. public void removeAttribute(String name) - removes the attribute with the given name from the servlet context

*Methods in getting the Object of the ServletContext Interface*

1. getServletContext() method of ServletConfig interface returns the object of ServletContext.
2. getServletContext() method of GenericServlet class returns the object of GenericServlet class returns the object of ServletContext