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10.11: J2EE

If you have been using Java for a while, you probably have seen the initials J2EE. The initials stand for Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition, which is a superset of the standard JDK. It contains tools and libraries for developing, deploying, and managing multi-tier server-centric applications. Its notable components include:

- Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB)
- Java servlets
- Java Server Pages (JSP)

EJB has component architecture for the development and deployment of distributed, enterprise-level applications. It simplifies the development of middleware applications and provides automatic support for transactions, security, database connectivity, and more.

Servlets allow dynamic page generation and input processing from a browser client. Servlet architecture eases the construction of Web applications. And, because it has only one process running and handles multiple requests with multiple threads, it has fast performance. Compare this with the Common Gateway Interface (CGI), in which each request spawns a new process.

Java Server Pages are essentially Java servlets at a higher level. JSP code is parsed by the JSP engine and converted into servlet code. When a Web server with a JSP engine sees .jsp instead of .html, it knows that a JSP page is requested.

J2EE's other components include

- Java Naming and Directory Interface API
- JDBC API
- JavaMail API
- Java Transaction API
- Java Message Service
- Java API for XML-Based RPC (JAX-RPC)
- J2EE Connector Architecture
- J2EE Management Model
- J2EE Deployment API Java Management Extensions (JMX)