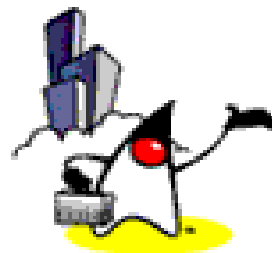# Expression Language

Expression Language

- Based on "SPEL" from JSTL 1.0
  - Simplest Possible Expression Language
- Let you access the property values of a JavaBean in a simpler syntax
  - Example: ${item.price}
- Recognized by JSP container in:
  - Template text
  - Attributes of any standard or custom action
- Support for custom EL functions:
  - Extensible via tag libraries
  - Example: ${fn:allCaps(lastName)}
  - JSTL 1.1 provides 16 standard EL functions

Integrated Expression Language Example

- Using scriptlets:

```
<center>
    <jsp:useBean id="foo" class="FooBean" />
    <%= foo.getBar() %>
</center>
```

- Equivalent, using an EL expression:

```
<center>
    ${foo.bar}
</center>
```

Integrated Expression Language Example

- Using scriptlets:

```
<%  Map m = (Map)pageContext.getAttribute("states" );
    State s = ((State)m.get( "NY" ));
    if( s != null ) {
%>
      <%= s.getCapitol() %>
<%  } %>
```

- Equivalent, using an EL expression:

```
${states["NY"].capitol}
${states["NY"].capitol.name}
```