Core Servlets and JavaServer Pages / 2e
Volume 1: Core Technologies
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JSP
Intro and Overview

Agenda

- Understanding the need for JSP
- Evaluating the benefits of JSP
- Comparing JSP to other technologies
- Avoiding JSP misconceptions
- Understanding the JSP lifecycle
- Installing JSP pages
- Looking at JSP in the real world

The Need for JSP

With servlets, it is easy to

- Read form data
- Read HTTP request headers
- Set HTTP status codes and response headers
- Use cookies and session tracking
- Share data among servlets
- Remember data between requests
- Get fun, high-paying jobs

But, it sure is a pain to

- Use those println statements to generate HTML
- Maintain that HTML

The JSP Framework

• Idea:

- Use regular HTML for most of page
- Mark servlet code with special tags
- Entire JSP page gets translated into a servlet (once), and servlet is what actually gets invoked (for each request)

Example:

Benefits of JSP

- Although JSP technically can't do anything servlets can't do, JSP makes it easier to:
 - Write HTML
 - Read and maintain the HTML
- JSP makes it possible to:
 - Use standard HTML tools such as Macromedia DreamWeaver or Adobe GoLive.
 - Have different members of your team do the HTML layout than do the Java programming
- JSP encourages you to
 - Separate the (Java) code that creates the content from the (HTML) code that presents it

Advantages of JSP Over Competing Technologies

Versus ASP or ColdFusion

- Better language for dynamic part
- Portable to multiple servers and operating systems

Versus PHP

- Better language for dynamic part
- Better tool support

Versus pure servlets

- More convenient to create HTML
- Can use standard tools (e.g., DreamWeaver)
- Divide and conquer
- JSP programmers still need to know servlet programming

Advantages of JSP (Continued)

- Versus Velocity or WebMacro
 - Standard
- Versus client-side JavaScript (in browser)
 - Capabilities mostly do not overlap with JSP, but
 - You control server, not client
 - Richer language
- Versus server-side JavaScript (e.g., LiveWire, BroadVision)
 - Richer language
- Versus static HTML
 - Dynamic features
 - Adding dynamic features no longer "all or nothing" decision

Setting Up Your Environment

- Set your CLASSPATH. Not.
- Compile your code. Not.
- Use packages to avoid name conflicts. Not.
- Put JSP page in special directory. Not.
 - install_dir\webapps\ROOT\ (HTML and JSP -- Tomcat)
 install_dir\servers\default\default-app (JRun)
- Use special URLs to invoke JSP page. Not.
 - Use same URLs as for HTML pages (except for file extensions)
- Caveats
 - Previous rules about CLASSPATH, install dirs, etc., still apply to regular Java classes used by a JSP page

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<TITLE>JSP Expressions</TITLE>
<META NAME="keywords"</pre>
      CONTENT="JSP, expressions, JavaServer Pages">
<META NAME="description"</pre>
      CONTENT="A quick example of JSP expressions.">
<LINK REL=STYLESHEET
      HREF="JSP-Styles.css"
      TYPE="text/css">
</HEAD>
```

Example (Continued)

Example: Result

If location was

C:\jakarta-tomcat-xx\webapps\ROOT\jsp-scripting\Expressions.jsp

- URL would be
 - http://localhost/jsp-scripting/Expressions.jsp

JSP Expressions

- Current time: Mon Oct 31 15:49:45 EST 2005
- Server: Apache Tomcat/5.5.9
- Session ID: 0388502C8442AE5A21D2512DEA09C4A4
- The testParam form parameter: null

Translation/Request Time Confusion

What happens at page translation time?

JSP constructs get translated into servlet code.

What happens at request time?

Servlet code gets executed. No interpretation of JSP occurs at request time. The original JSP page is totally ignored at request time; only the servlet that resulted from it is used.

When does page translation occur?

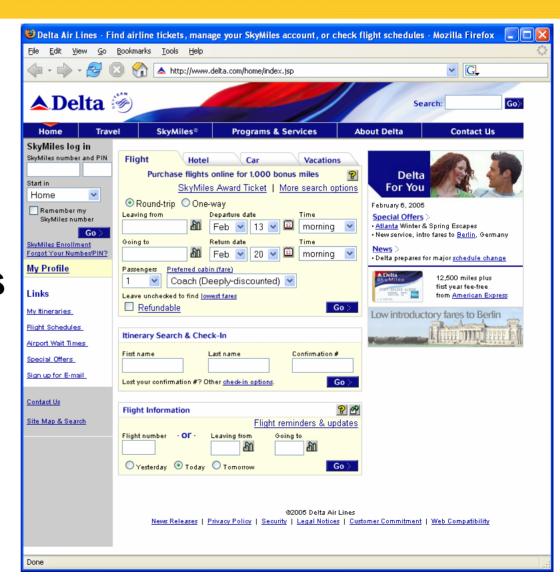
- Typically, the first time JSP page is accessed after it is modified. This should never happen to real user (developers should test all JSP pages they install).
- Page translation does *not* occur for each request.

The JSP Lifecycle

	Page first written	Request #1	Request #2	Server restarted	Request #3	Request #4	Page modified	Request #5	Request #6
JSP page translated into servlet		Yes	No		No	No		Yes	No
Servlet compiled		Yes	No		No	No		Yes	No
Servlet instantiated and loaded into server's memory		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
init (or equivalent) called		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
doGet (or equivalent) called		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes

JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Airlines

- Delta Airlines
- United Airlines
- AirTran
- American Airlines
- British Airways
- KLM
- Air China
- Saudi Arabian Airlines
- Iceland Air



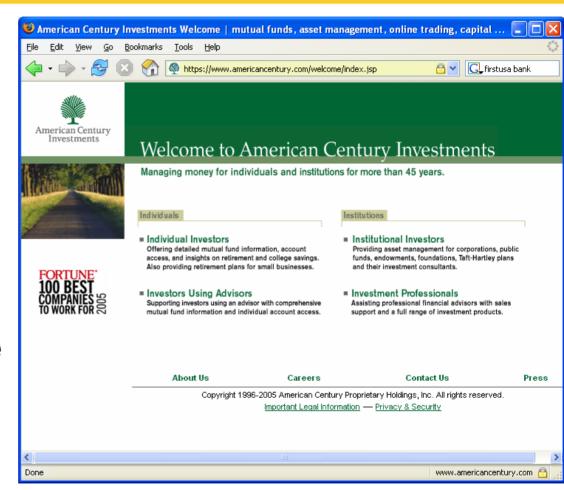
JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Travel Sites

- Travelocity.com
- Orbitz.com
- HotWire.com
- Hotels.com



JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Financial Services

- American Century
- Vanguard
- Fidelity
- NY Stock Exchange
- First USA Bank
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- Banco Popular de Puerto Rico
- Bank of America
- China Construction Bank



JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Retail

- Sears.com
- Walmart.com
- SamsClub.com
- Macys.com
- Ilbean.com
- Kohls.com
- Ikea.com
- REI.com
- Longaberger.com



JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Entertainment

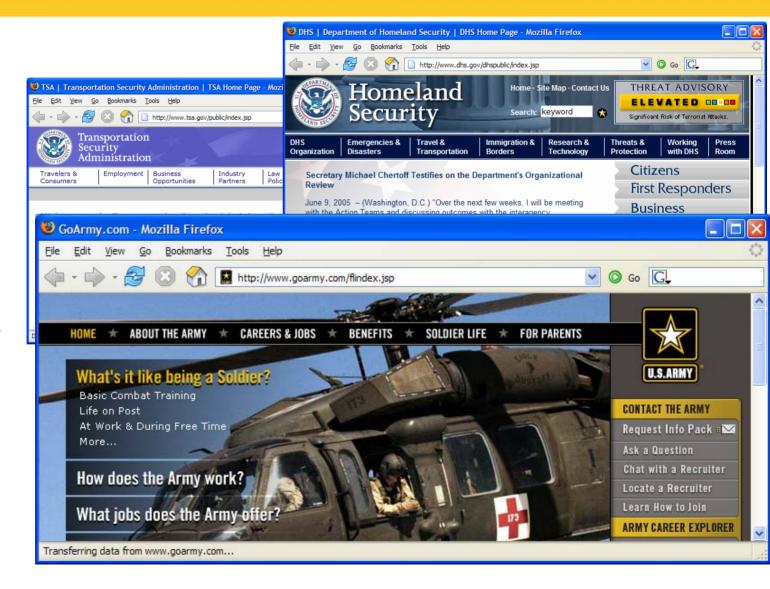
WarnerBrothers.
 com

- Billboard.com
- E! (eonline.com)
- PBS.org



JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Military and Federal Government

- DHS
- TSA
- FAA
- CIA
- NSA
- GSA
- IRS
- Army
- Navy



JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Sports

- Baltimore Orioles
- Major League Baseball (mlb.com)
- NHL.com
- Nascar.com
- The Sports Authority
- Dicks Sporting Goods



JSP/Servlets in the Real World: Search/Portals

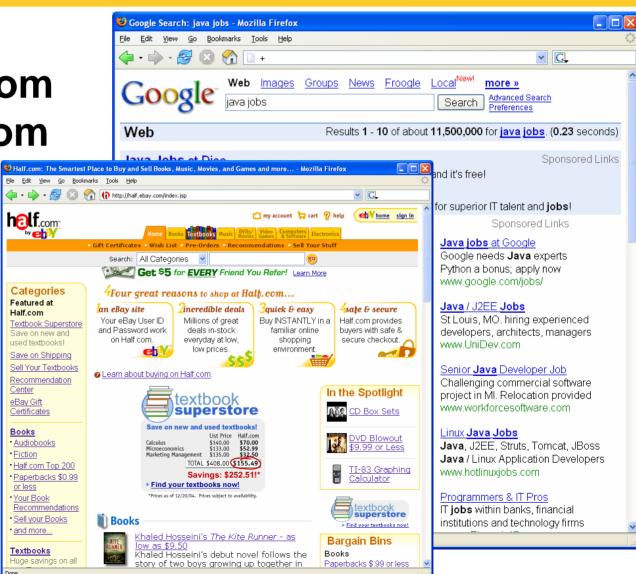
Google

Half.ebay.com

netscape.com

excite.com

dice.com



Summary

- JSP makes it easier to create and maintain HTML, while still providing full access to servlet code
- JSP pages get translated into servlets
 - It is the servlets that run at request time
 - Client does not see anything JSP-related
- You still need to understand servlets
 - Understanding how JSP really works
 - Servlet code called from JSP
 - Knowing when servlets are better than JSP
 - Mixing servlets and JSP
- Other technologies use similar approach, but aren't as portable and don't let you use Java for the "real code"