

BCA part II
Paper-XVI(New course)
Topic: JSP
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Introduction

JSP technology is used to create web application just like Servlet technology. It can be thought of as an extension to Servlet because it provides more functionality than servlet such as expression language, JSTL, etc.

A JSP page consists of HTML tags and JSP tags. The JSP pages are easier to maintain than Servlet because we can separate designing and development. It provides some additional features such as Expression Language, Custom Tags, etc.

Advantages of JSP over Servlet

There are many advantages of JSP over the Servlet. They are as follows:

1) Extension to Servlet

JSP technology is the extension to Servlet technology. We can use all the features of the Servlet in JSP. In addition to, we can use implicit objects, predefined tags, expression language and Custom tags in JSP, that makes JSP development easy.

2) Easy to maintain

JSP can be easily managed because we can easily separate our business logic with presentation logic. In Servlet technology, we mix our business logic with the presentation logic.

3) Fast Development: No need to recompile and redeploy

If JSP page is modified, we don't need to recompile and redeploy the project. The Servlet code needs to be updated and recompiled if we have to change the look and feel of the application.

4) Less code than Servlet

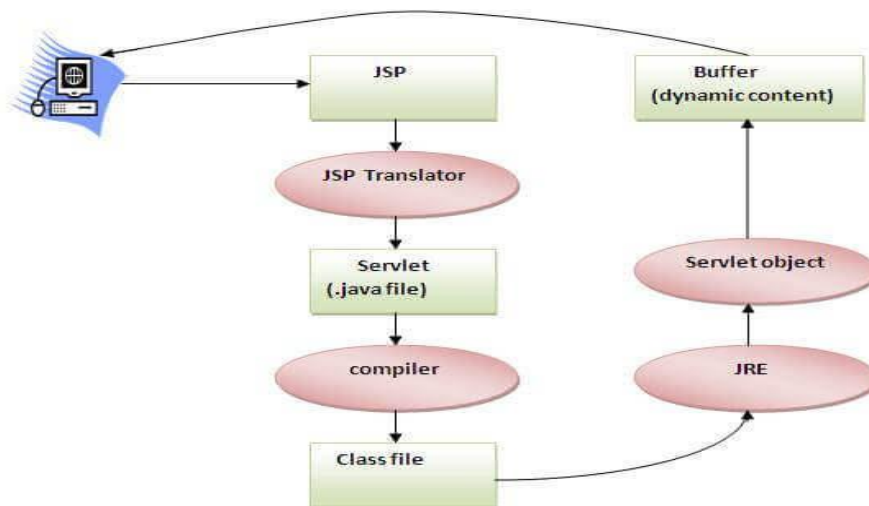
In JSP, we can use many tags such as action tags, JSTL, custom tags, etc. that reduces the code. Moreover, we can use EL, implicit objects, etc.

The Lifecycle of a JSP Page

The JSP pages follow these phases:

- Translation of JSP Page
- Compilation of JSP Page
- Classloading (the classloader loads class file)
- Instantiation (Object of the Generated Servlet is created).
- Initialization (the container invokes `jspInit()` method).
- Request processing (the container invokes `_jspService()` method).
- Destroy (the container invokes `jspDestroy()` method).

Note: `jspInit()`, `_jspService()` and `jspDestroy()` are the life cycle methods of JSP.



As depicted in the above diagram, JSP page is translated into Servlet by the help of JSP translator. The JSP translator is a part of the web server which is responsible for translating the JSP page into Servlet. After that, Servlet page is compiled by the compiler and gets converted into the class file. Moreover, all the processes that happen in Servlet are performed on JSP later like initialization, committing response to the browser and destroy.

Creating a simple JSP Page

To create the first JSP page, write some HTML code as given below, and save it by .jsp extension. We have saved this file as `index.jsp`. Put it in a folder and paste the folder in the web-apps directory in apache tomcat to run the JSP page.

index.jsp

Let's see the simple example of JSP where we are using the scriptlet tag to put Java code in the JSP page. We will learn scriptlet tag later.

1. `<html>`
2. `<body>`
3. `<% out.print(2*5); %>`
4. `</body>`
5. `</html>`

It will print **10** on the browser.

How to run a simple JSP Page?

Follow the following steps to execute this JSP page:

- Start the server
- Put the JSP file in a folder and deploy on the server
- Visit the browser by the URL `http://localhost:portno/contextRoot/jspfile`, for example, `http://localhost:8888/myapplication/index.jsp`

No, there is no need of directory structure if you don't have class files or TLD files. For example, put JSP files in a folder directly and deploy that folder. It will be running fine. However, if you are using Bean class, Servlet or TLD file, the directory structure is required.

The directory structure of JSP page is same as Servlet. We contain the JSP page outside the WEB-INF folder or in any directory.

