

CS320 Web and Internet Programming Custom Tag Library

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A JSTL Example

```
<%@ page contentType="text/html" %>
<%@ taglib prefix="c" uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" %>

<html><head><title>JSTL Hello</title></head>
<body>

<c:out value="Hello World in JSTL." />

</body>
</html>
```

taglib Directive

◆ URI

- A unique identifier for the tag library
- NOT a real URL

◆ Prefix

- A short name for the tag library
- Could be an arbitrary name

HelloTaglib.jsp

```
<%@ page contentType="text/html" %>
<%@ taglib prefix="cs320"
uri="http://www.calstatela.edu/cs320/stu31" %>

<html><head><title>Hello Taglib</title></head>
<body>

The sum of 1 and 12 is: <cs320:add op1="1" op2="12" />

</body>
</html>
```

NOTE: make sure your taglib uri is unique, e.g. have stu## somewhere in the uri.

AddTag.java ...

```
package cs320.stu31;

import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.jsp.*;
import javax.servlet.jsp.tagext.*;

public class AddTag extends SimpleTagSupport {

    int op1, op2;

    public AddTag()
    {
        op1 = op2 = 0;
    }
}
```

... AddTag.java

```
public void setOp1( int i )
{
    op1 = i;
}

public void setOp2( int i )
{
    op2 = i;
}

public void doTag() throws IOException
{
    JspWriter out = getJspContext().getOut();
    out.print( op1+op2 );
}

} // end of class AddTag
```

cs320.tld

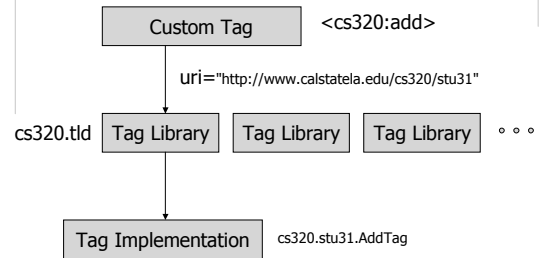
◆ <taglib>

- n <uri>
- n <tag>
- w <attribute>

◆ More information about TLDs

- n *Appendix JSP.C, JSP 2.0 Specification*
- n *Chapter 15, J2EE 1.4 Tutorial*

From Tags to Their Implementations



Deploy Custom Tag Libraries

◆ Compile tag handler classes

- n Include jsp-api.jar in the classpath
- n On CS server:
/home/tomcat/tomcat/common/lib/jsp-api.jar

◆ Class files and JSP files

- n in their rightful places

◆ TLD files – *must have .tld suffix*

- n WAR or unpackaged: WEB-INF or its subdirectories, *except* WEB-INF/classes and WEB-INF/lib
- n JAR: META-INF or its subdirectories

More About Deploying TLDs

- ◆ Tomcat must be restarted to recognize a new TLD, even if the context is reloadable
- ◆ Changes to TLDs will be automatically reloaded, if the context is reloadable
- ◆ *Please place a dummy TLD under your WEB-INF directory on the CS server by Thursday*
 - n *Make sure you have a unique URI*

More Tag Lib Examples

◆ A tag that accesses implicit objects

- n <cs320:log>

◆ A tag with body content

- n <cs320:cap>

◆ Repeat tag

- n <http://cs.calstatela.edu:8080/jsp-examples/>
- n page context attribute page scope variable

◆ EL functions

◆ Tag files

A Closer Look at SimpleTagSupport

◆ <http://jakarta.apache.org/tomcat/tomcat-5.0-doc/jspapi/index.html>

◆ doTag() – to be overridden

◆ getJspContext() – access implicit objects

◆ getJspBody() – access body content

getJspContext()

- ◆ JspContext
 - getOut()
 - access to scoped attributes (variables)
- ◆ *In servlet/JSP environment, JspContext can be cast to PageContext*
- ◆ PageContext
 - access to request, response, session, servlet context ...

<cs320:log>

- ◆ Log the ip and timestamp of a HTTP request
 - LogTag.java
 - LogTag.jsp

getJspBody()

- ◆ JspFragment
 - invoke(java.io.Writer out) ??

<cs320:cap>

- ◆ Capitalize the body content of the tag
 - e.g. <cs320:cap>shout</cs320:cap> ↗ SHOUT

cs320.tld:

```
<tag>
  <name>cap</name>
  <tagclass>cs320.stu31.CapTag</tagclass>
  <bodycontent>scriptless</bodycontent>
</tag>
```

EL Functions

- ◆ Just like the *fn* library in JSTL
- ◆ Any static methods can be used as EL functions
- ◆ EL function in TLD
 - <function>
 - <name>
 - <function-class>
 - <function-signature>

<cs320:leet>

```
{cs320:leet("fear my mad programming skills")}
```



```
ph34r my m4d pr0gr4mming zki11z!
```

- ◆ cs320.stu31.LeeTalk
 - String leet(String)

Tag Files

- ◆ A way to create a custom tag without writing Java code
- ◆ Tag files – *must have .tag suffix*
 - WAR or unpackaged: WEB-INF/tags or its subdirectories
 - JAR: META-INF/tags or its subdirectories
- ◆ Tag file in TLD
 - <tag-file>
 - <name>sometag</name>
 - <path>/WEB-INF/tags/sometag.tag</path>

<cs320:greeting>

```
<cs320:greeting name="cysun">Hello</cs320:greeting>
```



Hello, cysun!

- ◆ greeting.tag
 - Just a JSP file
 - No *page* directive
 - tag directives

Custom Tags vs. Bean

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Custom tags are for the <i>web tier</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Access to HTTP objects<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ request, response, context ...▫ Good for tasks related to presentation▫ One scope<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ page | <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Beans are for the <i>business tier</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ No access to HTTP objects<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ Plain Old Java Object (POJO)▫ Good for tasks related to processing▫ Four scopes<ul style="list-style-type: none">▫ good for sharing data |
|--|---|

Even More Tag Lib Examples

- ◆ JSTL Source code from <http://jakarta.apache.org/>