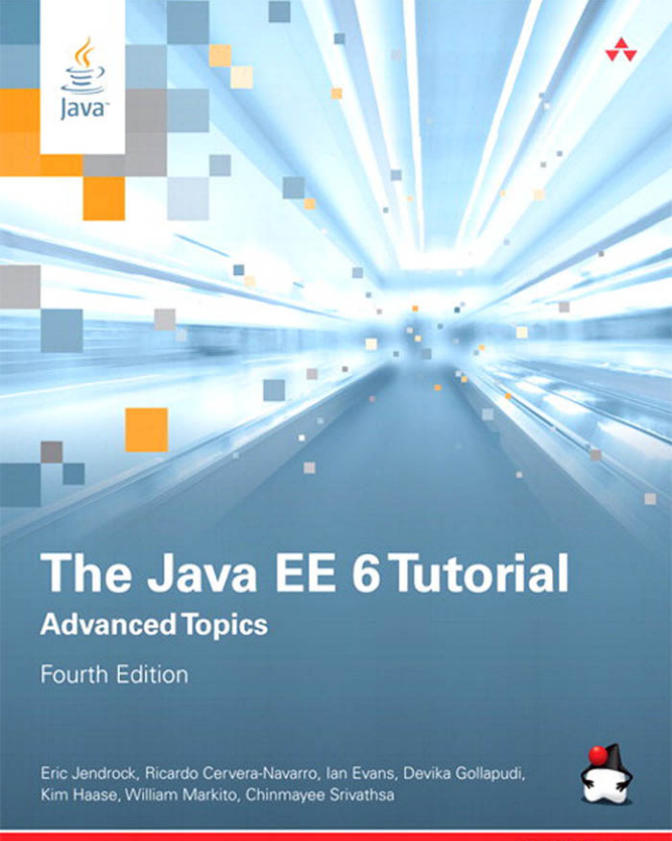

The Java EE 6 Tutorial

Advanced Topics

Fourth Edition

Eric Jendrock, Ricardo Cervera-Navarro, Ian Evans, Devika Gollapudi,
Kim Haase, William Markito, Chinmayee Srivathsa

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The Java EE 6 Tutorial

Advanced Topics

Fourth Edition

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Contents

Preface xxi

Part I Introduction 1

1 Overview 3
Java EE 6 Platform Highlights 4
Java EE Application Model 5
Distributed Multitiered Applications 6
Security 7
Java EE Components 8
Java EE Clients 8
Web Components 10
Business Components 11
Enterprise Information System Tier 12
Java EE Containers 13
Container Services 13
Container Types 14
Web Services Support 15
XML 15
SOAP Transport Protocol 16
WSDL Standard Format 16
Java EE Application Assembly and Deployment 17
Packaging Applications 17
Development Roles 19
Java EE Product Provider 19
Tool Provider 19
Application Component Provider 20

Application Assembler 20
Application Deployer and Administrator 21
Java EE 6 APIs 21
Enterprise JavaBeans Technology 25
Java Servlet Technology 26
JavaServer Faces Technology 26
JavaServer Pages Technology 27
JavaServer Pages Standard Tag Library 28
Java Persistence API 28
Java Transaction API 28
Java API for RESTful Web Services 29
Managed Beans 29
Contexts and Dependency Injection for the Java EE Platform (JSR 299) 29
Dependency Injection for Java (JSR 330) 29
Bean Validation 30
Java Message Service API 30
Java EE Connector Architecture 30
JavaMail API 31
Java Authorization Contract for Containers 31
Java Authentication Service Provider Interface for Containers 31
Java EE 6 APIs in the Java Platform, Standard Edition 6 and 7 32
Java Database Connectivity API 32
Java Naming and Directory Interface API 32
JavaBeans Activation Framework 33
Java API for XML Processing 33
Java Architecture for XML Binding 33
SOAP with Attachments API for Java 34
Java API for XML Web Services 34
Java Authentication and Authorization Service 34
GlassFish Server Tools 35

2 Using the Tutorial Examples 37
Required Software 37
Java Platform, Standard Edition 37
Java EE 6 Software Development Kit 38

Java EE 6 Tutorial Component 38
NetBeans IDE 39
Apache Ant 40
Starting and Stopping the GlassFish Server 41
▼ To Start the GlassFish Server Using NetBeans IDE 42
Starting the Administration Console 42
▼ To Start the Administration Console Using NetBeans IDE 42
Starting and Stopping the Java DB Server 43
▼ To Start the Database Server Using NetBeans IDE 43
Building the Examples 43
Tutorial Example Directory Structure 44
Getting the Latest Updates to the Tutorial 45
▼ To Update the Tutorial through the Update Center 45
Debugging Java EE Applications 45
Using the Server Log 45
Using a Debugger 46

Part II The Web Tier 47

3 JavaServer Faces Technology: Advanced Concepts 49
The Lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces Application 50
Overview of the JavaServer Faces Lifecycle 50
Restore View Phase 53
Apply Request Values Phase 53
Process Validations Phase 54
Update Model Values Phase 55
Invoke Application Phase 55
Render Response Phase 55
Partial Processing and Partial Rendering 56
The Lifecycle of a Facelets Application 56
User Interface Component Model 57
User Interface Component Classes 58
Component Rendering Model 60
Conversion Model 61
Event and Listener Model 61

Validation Model 63
Navigation Model 64

4 Using Ajax with JavaServer Faces Technology 69
Overview of Ajax 70
Using Ajax Functionality with JavaServer Faces Technology 70
Using Ajax with Facelets 71
Using the `f:ajax` Tag 71
Sending an Ajax Request 73
Using the `event` Attribute 74
Using the `execute` Attribute 74
Using the `immediate` Attribute 75
Using the `listener` Attribute 75
Monitoring Events on the Client 75
Handling Errors 76
Receiving an Ajax Response 77
Ajax Request Lifecycle 78
Grouping of Components 78
Loading JavaScript as a Resource 79
Using JavaScript API in a Facelets Application 80
Using the `@ResourceDependency` Annotation in a Bean Class 81
The `ajaxguessnumber` Example Application 81
The `ajaxguessnumber` Source Files 81
Running the `ajaxguessnumber` Example 83
Further Information about Ajax in JavaServer Faces Technology 85

5 Composite Components: Advanced Topics and Example 87
Attributes of a Composite Component 87
Invoking a Managed Bean 88
Validating Composite Component Values 89
The `compositecomponentlogin` Example Application 89
The Composite Component File 89
The Using Page 90
The Managed Bean 91
Running the `compositecomponentlogin` Example 92

6 Creating Custom UI Components and Other Custom Objects 95
Determining Whether You Need a Custom Component or Renderer 97
When to Use a Custom Component 97
When to Use a Custom Renderer 98
Component, Renderer, and Tag Combinations 99
Understanding the Image Map Example 100
Why Use JavaServer Faces Technology to Implement an Image Map? 100
Understanding the Rendered HTML 101
Understanding the Facelets Page 102
Configuring Model Data 103
Summary of the Image Map Application Classes 104
Steps for Creating a Custom Component 105
Creating Custom Component Classes 106
Specifying the Component Family 109
Performing Encoding 109
Performing Decoding 111
Enabling Component Properties to Accept Expressions 112
Saving and Restoring State 113
Delegating Rendering to a Renderer 114
Creating the Renderer Class 115
Identifying the Renderer Type 117
Implementing an Event Listener 117
Implementing Value-Change Listeners 117
Implementing Action Listeners 118
Handling Events for Custom Components 119
Defining the Custom Component Tag in a Tag Library Descriptor 120
Using a Custom Component 121
Creating and Using a Custom Converter 123
Creating a Custom Converter 123
Using a Custom Converter 126
Creating and Using a Custom Validator 128
Implementing the Validator Interface 129
Specifying a Custom Tag 131
Using a Custom Validator 132
Binding Component Values and Instances to Managed Bean Properties 133
Binding a Component Value to a Property 134

Binding a Component Value to an Implicit Object 136
Binding a Component Instance to a Bean Property 137
Binding Converters, Listeners, and Validators to Managed Bean Properties 138

7 Configuring JavaServer Faces Applications 141
Using Annotations to Configure Managed Beans 142
Using Managed Bean Scopes 143
Application Configuration Resource File 144
Ordering of Application Configuration Resource Files 145
Configuring Managed Beans 146
Using the `managed-bean` Element 147
Initializing Properties Using the `managed-property` Element 150
Initializing Maps and Lists 155
Registering Application Messages 155
Using `FacesMessage` to Create a Message 157
Referencing Error Messages 157
Using Default Validators 159
Registering a Custom Validator 159
Registering a Custom Converter 160
Configuring Navigation Rules 161
▼ To Configure a Navigation Rule 163
Implicit Navigation Rules 164
Registering a Custom Renderer with a Render Kit 165
Registering a Custom Component 167
Basic Requirements of a JavaServer Faces Application 168
Configuring an Application with a Web Deployment Descriptor 169
Configuring Project Stage 172
Including the Classes, Pages, and Other Resources 173

8 Uploading Files with Java Servlet Technology 175
The `@MultipartConfig` Annotation 175
The `getParts` and `getPart` Methods 176
The `fileupload` Example Application 177
Architecture of the `fileupload` Example Application 177
Running the `fileupload` Example 180

9 Internationalizing and Localizing Web Applications 183
Java Platform Localization Classes 183
Providing Localized Messages and Labels 184
Establishing the Locale 185
Setting the Resource Bundle 185
Retrieving Localized Messages 186
Date and Number Formatting 187
Character Sets and Encodings 188
Character Sets 188
Character Encoding 188

Part III Web Services 191

10 JAX-RS: Advanced Topics and Example 193
Annotations for Field and Bean Properties of Resource Classes 193
Extracting Path Parameters 194
Extracting Query Parameters 195
Extracting Form Data 195
Extracting the Java Type of a Request or Response 196
Subresources and Runtime Resource Resolution 197
Subresource Methods 197
Subresource Locators 197
Integrating JAX-RS with EJB Technology and CDI 198
Conditional HTTP Requests 199
Runtime Content Negotiation 200
Using JAX-RS With JAXB 202
Using Java Objects to Model Your Data 204
Starting from an Existing XML Schema Definition 206
Using JSON with JAX-RS and JAXB 208
The `customer` Example Application 209
Overview of the `customer` Example Application 209
The `Customer` and `Address` Entity Classes 209
The `CustomerService` Class 212
The `CustomerClientXML` and `CustomerClientJSON` Classes 214
Modifying the Example to Generate Entity Classes from an Existing Schema . . . 216

Running the customer Example 219

Part IV Enterprise Beans 225

11 A Message-Driven Bean Example 227
Overview of the simplemessage Example 227
The simplemessage Application Client 228
The Message-Driven Bean Class 229
The onMessage Method 230
Running the simplemessage Example 231
Administered Objects for the simplemessage Example 231
▼ To Run the simplemessage Application Using NetBeans IDE 232
▼ To Run the simplemessage Application Using Ant 232
Removing the Administered Objects for the simplemessage Example 233

12 Using the Embedded Enterprise Bean Container 235
Overview of the Embedded Enterprise Bean Container 235
Developing Embeddable Enterprise Bean Applications 236
Running Embedded Applications 236
Creating the Enterprise Bean Container 237
Looking Up Session Bean References 238
Shutting Down the Enterprise Bean Container 238
The standalone Example Application 239
▼ To Run the standalone Example Application 240

13 Using Asynchronous Method Invocation in Session Beans 241
Asynchronous Method Invocation 241
Creating an Asynchronous Business Method 242
Calling Asynchronous Methods from Enterprise Bean Clients 243
The async Example Application 244
Architecture of the async Example Application 244
Running the async Example 245

Part V Contexts and Dependency Injection for the Java EE Platform 249

14 Contexts and Dependency Injection for the Java EE Platform: Advanced Topics ... 251

Using Alternatives in CDI Applications 251

Using Specialization 253

Using Producer Methods, Producer Fields, and Disposer Methods in CDI Applications 254

Using Producer Methods 254

Using Producer Fields to Generate Resources 255

Using a Disposer Method 256

Using Predefined Beans in CDI Applications 256

Using Events in CDI Applications 257

Defining Events 257

Using Observer Methods to Handle Events 258

Firing Events 259

Using Interceptors in CDI Applications 260

Using Decorators in CDI Applications 262

Using Stereotypes in CDI Applications 263

15 Running the Advanced Contexts and Dependency Injection Examples 265

The `encoder` Example: Using Alternatives 265

The `Coder` Interface and Implementations 266

The `encoder` Facelets Page and Managed Bean 266

Running the `encoder` Example 268

The `producermethods` Example: Using a Producer Method To Choose a Bean Implementation 271

Components of the `producermethods` Example 271

Running the `producermethods` Example 272

The `producerfields` Example: Using Producer Fields to Generate Resources 273

The Producer Field for the `producerfields` Example 274

The `producerfields` Entity and Session Bean 275

The `producerfields` Facelets Pages and Managed Bean 276

Running the `producerfields` Example 278

The `billpayment` Example: Using Events and Interceptors 280

The `PaymentEvent` Event Class 280

The `PaymentHandler` Event Listener 281
The `billpayment` Facelets Pages and Managed Bean 281
The `LoggedInterceptor` Interceptor Class 284
Running the `billpayment` Example 285
The `decorators` Example: Decorating a Bean 286
Components of the `decorators` Example 286
Running the `decorators` Example 287

Part VI Persistence 291

16 Creating and Using String-Based Criteria Queries 293
Overview of String-Based Criteria API Queries 293
Creating String-Based Queries 294
Executing String-Based Queries 295

17 Controlling Concurrent Access to Entity Data with Locking 297
Overview of Entity Locking and Concurrency 297
Using Optimistic Locking 298
Lock Modes 299
Setting the Lock Mode 300
Using Pessimistic Locking 301

18 Using a Second-Level Cache with Java Persistence API Applications 303
Overview of the Second-Level Cache 303
Controlling Whether Entities May Be Cached 304
Specifying the Cache Mode Settings to Improve Performance 305
Setting the Cache Retrieval and Store Modes 306
Controlling the Second-Level Cache Programmatically 307

Part VII Security 309

19 Java EE Security: Advanced Topics 311
Working with Digital Certificates 311

Creating a Server Certificate 312
Adding Users to the Certificate Realm 314
Using a Different Server Certificate with the GlassFish Server 315
Authentication Mechanisms....316
Client Authentication 316
Mutual Authentication 317
Using Form-Based Login in JavaServer Faces Web Applications 321
Using `j_security_check` in JavaServer Faces Forms 321
Using a Managed Bean for Authentication in JavaServer Faces Applications 322
Using the JDBC Realm for User Authentication 324
▼ To Configure a JDBC Authentication Realm 324
Securing HTTP Resources 328
Securing Application Clients 331
Using Login Modules 331
Using Programmatic Login 332
Securing Enterprise Information Systems Applications ... .332
Container-Managed Sign-On 333
Component-Managed Sign-On 333
Configuring Resource Adapter Security 334
▼ To Map an Application Principal to EIS Principals 335
Configuring Security Using Deployment Descriptors 336
Specifying Security for Basic Authentication in the Deployment Descriptor 336
Specifying Non-Default Principal-to-Role Mapping in the Deployment Descriptor 337
Further Information about Security 337

Part VIII Java EE Supporting Technologies ... .339

20 Java Message Service Concepts 341
Overview of the JMS API 341
What Is Messaging? 341
What Is the JMS API? 342
When Can You Use the JMS API? 343
How Does the JMS API Work with the Java EE Platform? 344
Basic JMS API Concepts 345

JMS API Architecture 345
Messaging Domains 346
Message Consumption 348
The JMS API Programming Model 348
JMS Administered Objects 349
JMS Connections 351
JMS Sessions 352
JMS Message Producers 352
JMS Message Consumers 353
JMS Messages 355
JMS Queue Browsers 358
JMS Exception Handling 358
Creating Robust JMS Applications 359
Using Basic Reliability Mechanisms 359
Using Advanced Reliability Mechanisms 364
Using the JMS API in Java EE Applications 368
Using `@Resource` Annotations in Enterprise Bean or Web Components 369
Using Session Beans to Produce and to Synchronously Receive Messages 369
Using Message-Driven Beans to Receive Messages Asynchronously 370
Managing Distributed Transactions 373
Using the JMS API with Application Clients and Web Components 375
Further Information about JMS 376

21 Java Message Service Examples 377
Writing Simple JMS Applications 378
A Simple Example of Synchronous Message Receives 378
A Simple Example of Asynchronous Message Consumption 388
A Simple Example of Browsing Messages in a Queue 394
Running JMS Clients on Multiple Systems 398
Undeploying and Cleaning the Simple JMS Examples 405
Writing Robust JMS Applications 406
A Message Acknowledgment Example 406
A Durable Subscription Example 409
A Local Transaction Example 411
An Application That Uses the JMS API with a Session Bean 416

Writing the Application Components for the `clientsessionmdb` Example 417
Creating Resources for the `clientsessionmdb` Example 419
Running the `clientsessionmdb` Example 419
An Application That Uses the JMS API with an Entity 421
Overview of the `clientmdbentity` Example Application 422
Writing the Application Components for the `clientmdbentity` Example 423
Creating Resources for the `clientmdbentity` Example 426
Running the `clientmdbentity` Example 426
An Application Example That Consumes Messages from a Remote Server 429
Overview of the `consumeremote` Example Modules 430
Writing the Module Components for the `consumeremote` Example 431
Creating Resources for the `consumeremote` Example 431
Using Two Application Servers for the `consumeremote` Example 431
Running the `consumeremote` Example 432
An Application Example That Deploys a Message-Driven Bean on Two Servers 436
Overview of the `sendremote` Example Modules 436
Writing the Module Components for the `sendremote` Example 438
Creating Resources for the `sendremote` Example 439
▼ To Enable Deployment on the Remote System 440
▼ To Use Two Application Servers for the `sendremote` Example 440
Running the `sendremote` Example 441
▼ To Disable Deployment on the Remote System 446

22 Bean Validation: Advanced Topics 449
Creating Custom Constraints 449
Using the Built-In Constraints to Make a New Constraint 449
Customizing Validator Messages 450
The `ValidationMessages` Resource Bundle 450
Grouping Constraints 451
Customizing Group Validation Order 451

23 Using Java EE Interceptors 453
Overview of Interceptors 453
Interceptor Classes 454
Interceptor Lifecycle 454

Interceptors and CDI 455
Using Interceptors 455
Intercepting Method Invocations 456
Intercepting Lifecycle Callback Events 457
Intercepting Timeout Events 458
The `interceptor` Example Application 460
Running the `interceptor` Example 460

24 The Resource Adapter Example 463
The Resource Adapter 463
The Message-Driven Bean 464
The Web Application 464
Running the `mailconnector` Example 465
▼ Before You Deploy the `mailconnector` Example 465
▼ To Build, Package, and Deploy the `mailconnector` Example Using NetBeans IDE 465
▼ To Build, Package, and Deploy the `mailconnector` Example Using Ant 466
▼ To Run the `mailconnector` Example 466

Part IX Case Studies 469

25 Duke's Bookstore Case Study Example 471
Design and Architecture of Duke's Bookstore 471
The Duke's Bookstore Interface 472
The `Book` Java Persistence API Entity 472
Enterprise Beans Used in Duke's Bookstore 473
Facelets Pages and Managed Beans Used in Duke's Bookstore 473
Custom Components and Other Custom Objects Used in Duke's Bookstore 475
Properties Files Used in Duke's Bookstore 476
Deployment Descriptors Used in Duke's Bookstore 477
Running the Duke's Bookstore Case Study Application 477
▼ To Build and Deploy Duke's Bookstore Using NetBeans IDE 477
▼ To Build and Deploy Duke's Bookstore Using Ant 478
▼ To Run Duke's Bookstore 478

26 Duke's Tutoring Case Study Example 479
Design and Architecture of Duke's Tutoring 479
Main Interface 481
Java Persistence API Entities Used in the Main Interface 481
Enterprise Beans Used in the Main Interface 482
Facelets Files Used in the Main Interface 483
Helper Classes Used in the Main Interface 484
Properties Files 484
Deployment Descriptors Used in Duke's Tutoring 485
Administration Interface 486
Enterprise Beans Used in the Administration Interface 486
Facelets Files Used in the Administration Interface 486
Running the Duke's Tutoring Case Study Application 487
Setting Up GlassFish Server 487
Running Duke's Tutoring 488

27 Duke's Forest Case Study Example 491
Design and Architecture of Duke's Forest 492
The `events` Project 494
The `entities` Project 495
The `dukes-payment` Project 497
The `dukes-resources` Project 498
The Duke's Store Project 498
The Duke's Shipment Project 503
Building and Deploying the Duke's Forest Case Study Application 506
Prerequisite Task 506
▼ To Build and Deploy the Duke's Forest Application Using NetBeans IDE 507
▼ To Build and Deploy the Duke's Forest Application Using Ant 508
Running the Duke's Forest Application 509
▼ To Register as a Duke's Store Customer 509
▼ To Purchase Products 509
▼ To Approve Shipment of a Product 510
▼ To Create a New Product 510

Index 513

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Preface

This tutorial is the second volume of a guide to developing enterprise applications for the Java Platform, Enterprise Edition 6 (Java EE 6) using GlassFish Server Open Source Edition.

Oracle GlassFish Server, a Java EE compatible application server, is based on GlassFish Server Open Source Edition, the leading open-source and open-community platform for building and deploying next-generation applications and services. GlassFish Server Open Source Edition, developed by the GlassFish project open-source community at `http://glassfish.java.net/`, is the first compatible implementation of the Java EE 6 platform specification. This lightweight, flexible, and open-source application server enables organizations not only to leverage the new capabilities introduced within the Java EE 6 specification, but also to add to their existing capabilities through a faster and more streamlined development and deployment cycle. Oracle GlassFish Server, the product version, and GlassFish Server Open Source Edition, the open-source version, are hereafter referred to as GlassFish Server.

Before You Read This Book

Before proceeding with this book, you should be familiar with Volume One of this tutorial, *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts*. Both volumes assume that you have a good knowledge of the Java programming language. A good way to get to that point is to read the Java Tutorials, available at `http://docs.oracle.com/javase/`.

Related Documentation

The GlassFish Server documentation set describes deployment planning and system installation. To obtain documentation for GlassFish Server Open Source Edition, go to `http://glassfish.java.net/docs/`. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Oracle GlassFish Server product documentation is `http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E26576_01/index.htm`.

Javadoc tool reference documentation for packages that are provided with GlassFish Server is available as follows.

- The API specification for version 6 of Java EE is located at `http://docs.oracle.com/javaee/6/api/`.
- The API specification for GlassFish Server, including Java EE 6 platform packages and nonplatform packages that are specific to the GlassFish Server product, is located at `http://glassfish.java.net/nonav/docs/v3/api/`.

Additionally, the Java EE Specifications at `http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javaee/tech/index.html` might be useful.

For information about creating enterprise applications in the NetBeans Integrated Development Environment (IDE), see `http://www.netbeans.org/kb/`.

For information about the Java DB database for use with the GlassFish Server, see `http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javadb/overview/index.html`.

The GlassFish Samples project is a collection of sample applications that demonstrate a broad range of Java EE technologies. The GlassFish Samples are bundled with the Java EE Software Development Kit (SDK) and are also available from the GlassFish Samples project page at `http://glassfish-samples.java.net/`.

Typographic Conventions

Table P–1 describes the typographic changes that are used in this book.

TABLE P–1 Typographic Conventions

Typeface	Meaning	Example
`AaBbCc123`	The names of commands, files, and directories, and onscreen computer output	Edit your `.login` file. Use `ls -a` to list all files. `machine_name% you have mail.`
`AaBbCc123`	What you type, contrasted with onscreen computer output	`machine_name%` **`su`** `Password:`
AaBbCc123	A placeholder to be replaced with a real name or value	The command to remove a file is `rm` *filename*.
AaBbCc123	Book titles, new terms, and terms to be emphasized (note that some emphasized items appear bold online)	Read Chapter 6 in the *User's Guide*. A *cache* is a copy that is stored locally. Do *not* save the file.

Default Paths and File Names

Table P–2 describes the default paths and file names that are used in this book.

TABLE P–2 Default Paths and File Names

Placeholder	Description	Default Value
as-install	Represents the base installation directory for the GlassFish Server or the SDK of which the GlassFish Server is a part.	Installations on the Solaris operating system, Linux operating system, and Mac operating system: *user's-home-directory*`/glassfish3/glassfish` Windows, all installations: *SystemDrive*`:\glassfish3\glassfish`
as-install-parent	Represents the parent of the base installation directory for GlassFish Server.	Installations on the Solaris operating system, Linux operating system, and Mac operating system: *user's-home-directory*`/glassfish3` Windows, all installations: *SystemDrive*`:\glassfish3`
tut-install	Represents the base installation directory for the *Java EE Tutorial* after you install the GlassFish Server or the SDK and run the Update Tool.	*as-install*`/docs/javaee-tutorial`
domain-root-dir	Represents the directory in which a domain is created by default.	*as-install*`/domains/`
domain-dir	Represents the directory in which a domain's configuration is stored.	*domain-root-dir*`/`*domain-name*

Third-Party Web Site References

Third-party URLs are referenced in this document and provide additional, related information.

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The JavaServer Faces technology chapters benefited greatly from suggestions by Manfred Riem as well as by the spec leads.

The EJB technology, Java Persistence API, and Criteria API chapters were written with extensive input from the EJB and Persistence teams, including Marina Vatkina and Mitesh Meswani.

We'd like to thank Sivakumar Thyagarajan for his reviews of the CDI chapters and Tim Quinn for assistance with the application client container. Thanks also to the NetBeans engineering and documentation teams, particularly Petr Jiricka, John Jullion-Ceccarelli, and Troy Giunipero, for their help in enabling NetBeans IDE support for the code examples.

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We also thank Jordan Douglas and Dawn Tyler for developing and updating the illustrations. Sheila Cepero helped smooth our path in many ways. Steve Cogorno provided invaluable help with our tools.

Finally, we would like to express our profound appreciation to Greg Doench, John Fuller, Elizabeth Ryan, Steve Freedkin, and the production team at Addison-Wesley for graciously seeing our manuscript to publication.

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◆ ◆ ◆ CHAPTER 3

JavaServer Faces Technology: Advanced Concepts

The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts introduces JavaServer Faces technology and Facelets, the preferred presentation layer for the Java EE platform. This chapter and the following chapters introduce advanced concepts in this area.

- This chapter describes the JavaServer Faces lifecycle in detail. Some of the complex JavaServer Faces applications use the well-defined lifecycle phases to customize application behavior.
- Chapter 4, "Using Ajax with JavaServer Faces Technology," introduces Ajax concepts and the use of Ajax in JavaServer Faces applications.
- Chapter 5, "Composite Components: Advanced Topics and Example," introduces advanced features of composite components.
- Chapter 6, "Creating Custom UI Components and Other Custom Objects," describes the process of creating new components, renderers, converters, listeners, and validators from scratch.
- Chapter 7, "Configuring JavaServer Faces Applications," introduces the process of creating and deploying JavaServer Faces applications, the use of various configuration files, and the deployment structure.

The following topics are addressed here:

- "The Lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces Application" on page 50
- "Partial Processing and Partial Rendering" on page 56
- "The Lifecycle of a Facelets Application" on page 56
- "User Interface Component Model" on page 57

The Lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces Application

The lifecycle of an application refers to the various stages of processing of that application, from its initiation to its conclusion. All applications have lifecycles. During a web application lifecycle, common tasks such as the following are performed:

- Handling incoming requests
- Decoding parameters
- Modifying and saving state
- Rendering web pages to the browser

The JavaServer Faces web application framework manages lifecycle phases automatically for simple applications or allows you to manage them manually for more complex applications as required.

JavaServer Faces applications that use advanced features may require interaction with the lifecycle at certain phases. For example, Ajax applications use partial processing features of the lifecycle. A clearer understanding of the lifecycle phases is key to creating well-designed components.

A simplified view of the JavaServer faces lifecycle, consisting of the two main phases of a JavaServer Faces web application, is introduced in "The Lifecycle of the hello Application" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts*. This section examines the JavaServer Faces lifecycle in more detail.

Overview of the JavaServer Faces Lifecycle

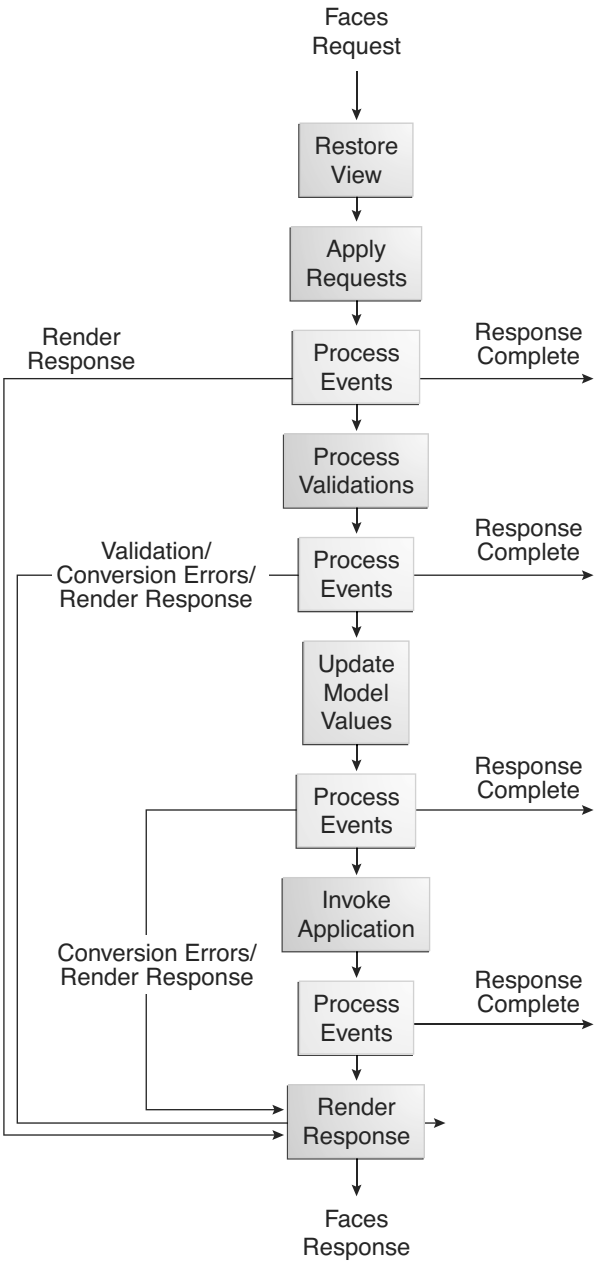
The lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces application begins when the client makes an HTTP request for a page and ends when the server responds with the page, translated to HTML.

The lifecycle can be divided into two main phases, *execute* and *render*. The execute phase is further divided into subphases to support the sophisticated component tree. This structure requires that component data be converted and validated, component events be handled, and component data be propagated to beans in an orderly fashion.

A JavaServer Faces page is represented by a tree of components, called a *view*. During the lifecycle, the JavaServer Faces implementation must build the view while considering the state saved from a previous submission of the page. When the client requests a page, the JavaServer Faces implementation performs several tasks, such as validating the data input of components in the view and converting input data to types specified on the server side.

The JavaServer Faces implementation performs all these tasks as a series of steps in the JavaServer Faces request-response lifecycle. Figure 3–1 illustrates these steps.

FIGURE 3–1 JavaServer Faces Standard Request-Response Lifecycle



The request-response lifecycle handles two kinds of requests: initial requests and postbacks. An *initial request* occurs when a user makes a request for a page for the first time. A *postback request* occurs when a user submits the form contained on a page that was previously loaded into the browser as a result of executing an initial request.

When the lifecycle handles an initial request, it executes only the Restore View and Render Response phases, because there is no user input or action to process. Conversely, when the lifecycle handles a postback, it executes all of the phases.

Usually, the first request for a JavaServer Faces page comes in from a client, as a result of clicking a link or button component on a JavaServer Faces page. To render a response that is another JavaServer Faces page, the application creates a new view and stores it in the `javax.faces.context.FacesContext` instance, which represents all of the information associated with processing an incoming request and creating a response. The application then acquires object references needed by the view and calls the `FacesContext.renderResponse` method, which forces immediate rendering of the view by skipping to the Render Response phase of the lifecycle, as is shown by the arrows labelled Render Response in the diagram.

Sometimes, an application might need to redirect to a different web application resource, such as a web service, or generate a response that does not contain JavaServer Faces components. In these situations, the developer must skip the Render Response phase by calling the `FacesContext.responseComplete` method. This situation is also shown in the diagram, with the arrows labelled Response Complete.

The most common situation is that a JavaServer Faces component submits a request for another JavaServer Faces page. In this case, the JavaServer Faces implementation handles the request and automatically goes through the phases in the lifecycle to perform any necessary conversions, validations, and model updates, and to generate the response.

There is one exception to the lifecycle described in this section. When a component's `immediate` attribute is set to `true`, the validation, conversion, and events associated with these components are processed during the Apply Request Values phase rather than in a later phase.

The details of the lifecycle explained in the following sections are primarily intended for developers who need to know information such as when validations, conversions, and events are usually handled and ways to change how and when they are handled. For more information on each of the lifecycle phases, download the latest JavaServer Faces Specification documentation from `http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=314`.

The JavaServer Faces application lifecycle execute phase contains the following subphases:

- "Restore View Phase" on page 53
- "Apply Request Values Phase" on page 53

- "Process Validations Phase" on page 54
- "Update Model Values Phase" on page 55
- "Invoke Application Phase" on page 55
- "Render Response Phase" on page 55

Restore View Phase

When a request for a JavaServer Faces page is made, usually by an action such as when a link or a button component is clicked, the JavaServer Faces implementation begins the Restore View phase.

During this phase, the JavaServer Faces implementation builds the view of the page, wires event handlers and validators to components in the view, and saves the view in the `FacesContext` instance, which contains all the information needed to process a single request. All the application's components, event handlers, converters, and validators have access to the `FacesContext` instance.

If the request for the page is an initial request, the JavaServer Faces implementation creates an empty view during this phase and the lifecycle advances to the Render Response phase, during which the empty view is populated with the components referenced by the tags in the page.

If the request for the page is a postback, a view corresponding to this page already exists in the `FacesContext` instance. During this phase, the JavaServer Faces implementation restores the view by using the state information saved on the client or the server.

Apply Request Values Phase

After the component tree is restored during a postback request, each component in the tree extracts its new value from the request parameters by using its `decode` (`processDecodes()`) method. The value is then stored locally on each component.

If any `decode` methods or event listeners have called the `renderResponse` method on the current `FacesContext` instance, the JavaServer Faces implementation skips to the Render Response phase.

If any events have been queued during this phase, the JavaServer Faces implementation broadcasts the events to interested listeners.

If some components on the page have their `immediate` attributes (see "The immediate Attribute" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts*) set to `true`, then the validations, conversions, and events associated with these components will be processed during this phase. If any conversion fails, an error message associated with the component is

generated and queued on `FacesContext`. This message will be displayed during the Render Response phase, along with any validation errors resulting from the Process Validations phase.

At this point, if the application needs to redirect to a different web application resource or generate a response that does not contain any JavaServer Faces components, it can call the `FacesContext.responseComplete` method.

At the end of this phase, the components are set to their new values, and messages and events have been queued.

If the current request is identified as a partial request, the partial context is retrieved from the `FacesContext`, and the partial processing method is applied.

Process Validations Phase

During this phase, the JavaServer Faces implementation processes all validators registered on the components in the tree, by using its `validate` (`processValidators`) method. It examines the component attributes that specify the rules for the validation and compares these rules to the local value stored for the component. The JavaServer Faces implementation also completes conversions for input components that do not have the `immediate` attribute set to true.

If the local value is invalid, or if any conversion fails, the JavaServer Faces implementation adds an error message to the `FacesContext` instance, and the lifecycle advances directly to the Render Response phase so that the page is rendered again with the error messages displayed. If there were conversion errors from the Apply Request Values phase, the messages for these errors are also displayed.

If any `validate` methods or event listeners have called the `renderResponse` method on the current `FacesContext`, the JavaServer Faces implementation skips to the Render Response phase.

At this point, if the application needs to redirect to a different web application resource or generate a response that does not contain any JavaServer Faces components, it can call the `FacesContext.responseComplete` method.

If events have been queued during this phase, the JavaServer Faces implementation broadcasts them to interested listeners.

If the current request is identified as a partial request, the partial context is retrieved from the `Faces Context`, and the partial processing method is applied.

Update Model Values Phase

After the JavaServer Faces implementation determines that the data is valid, it traverses the component tree and sets the corresponding server-side object properties to the components' local values. The JavaServer Faces implementation updates only the bean properties pointed at by an input component's value attribute. If the local data cannot be converted to the types specified by the bean properties, the lifecycle advances directly to the Render Response phase so that the page is re-rendered with errors displayed. This is similar to what happens with validation errors.

If any `updateModels` methods or any listeners have called the `renderResponse` method on the current `FacesContext` instance, the JavaServer Faces implementation skips to the Render Response phase.

At this point, if the application needs to redirect to a different web application resource or generate a response that does not contain any JavaServer Faces components, it can call the `FacesContext.responseComplete` method.

If any events have been queued during this phase, the JavaServer Faces implementation broadcasts them to interested listeners.

If the current request is identified as a partial request, the partial context is retrieved from the `FacesContext`, and the partial processing method is applied.

Invoke Application Phase

During this phase, the JavaServer Faces implementation handles any application-level events, such as submitting a form or linking to another page.

At this point, if the application needs to redirect to a different web application resource or generate a response that does not contain any JavaServer Faces components, it can call the `FacesContext.responseComplete` method.

If the view being processed was reconstructed from state information from a previous request and if a component has fired an event, these events are broadcast to interested listeners.

Finally, the JavaServer Faces implementation transfers control to the Render Response phase.

Render Response Phase

During this phase, JavaServer Faces builds the view and delegates authority to the appropriate resource for rendering the pages.

If this is an initial request, the components that are represented on the page will be added to the component tree. If this is not an initial request, the components are already added to the tree, so they need not be added again.

If the request is a postback and errors were encountered during the Apply Request Values phase, Process Validations phase, or Update Model Values phase, the original page is rendered again during this phase. If the pages contain `h:message` or `h:messages` tags, any queued error messages are displayed on the page.

After the content of the view is rendered, the state of the response is saved so that subsequent requests can access it. The saved state is available to the Restore View phase.

Partial Processing and Partial Rendering

The JavaServer Faces lifecycle spans all of the execute and render processes of an application. It is also possible to process and render only parts of an application, such as a single component. For example, the JavaServer Faces Ajax framework can generate requests containing information on which particular component may be processed and which particular component may be rendered back to the client.

Once such a partial request enters the JavaServer Faces lifecycle, the information is identified and processed by a `javax.faces.context.PartialViewContext` object. The JavaServer Faces lifecycle is still aware of such Ajax requests and modifies the component tree accordingly.

The execute and render attributes of the `f:ajax` tag are used to identify which components may be executed and rendered. For more information on these attributes, see Chapter 4, "Using Ajax with JavaServer Faces Technology."

The Lifecycle of a Facelets Application

The JavaServer Faces specification defines the lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces application. For more information on this lifecycle, see "The Lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces Application" on page 50. The following steps describe that process as applied to a Facelets-based application.

1. When a client, such as a browser, makes a new request to a page that is created using Facelets, a new component tree or `javax.faces.component.UIViewRoot` is created and placed in the `FacesContext`.
2. The `UIViewRoot` is applied to the Facelets, and the view is populated with components for rendering.
3. The newly built view is rendered back as a response to the client.

4. On rendering, the state of this view is stored for the next request. The state of input components and form data is stored.
5. The client may interact with the view and request another view or change from the JavaServer Faces application. At this time the saved view is restored from the stored state.
6. The restored view is once again passed through the JavaServer Faces lifecycle, which eventually will either generate a new view or re-render the current view if there were no validation problems and no action was triggered.
7. If the same view is requested, the stored view is rendered once again.
8. If a new view is requested, then the process described in Step 2 is continued.
9. The new view is then rendered back as a response to the client.

User Interface Component Model

In addition to the lifecycle description, an overview of JavaServer Faces architecture provides better understanding of the technology.

JavaServer Faces components are the building blocks of a JavaServer Faces view. A component can be a user interface (UI) component or a non-UI component.

JavaServer Faces UI components are configurable, reusable elements that compose the user interfaces of JavaServer Faces applications. A component can be simple, such as a button, or can be compound, such as a table, composed of multiple components.

JavaServer Faces technology provides a rich, flexible component architecture that includes the following:

- A set of `javax.faces.component.UIComponent` classes for specifying the state and behavior of UI components
- A rendering model that defines how to render the components in various ways
- A conversion model that defines how to register data converters onto a component
- An event and listener model that defines how to handle component events
- A validation model that defines how to register validators onto a component
- A navigation model that defines page navigation and the sequence in which pages are loaded

This section briefly describes each of these pieces of the component architecture.

User Interface Component Classes

JavaServer Faces technology provides a set of UI component classes and associated behavioral interfaces that specify all the UI component functionality, such as holding component state, maintaining a reference to objects, and driving event handling and rendering for a set of standard components.

The component classes are completely extensible, allowing component writers to create their own custom components. See Chapter 6, "Creating Custom UI Components and Other Custom Objects," for more information.

The abstract base class for all components is `javax.faces.component.UIComponent`. JavaServer Faces UI component classes extend the `UIComponentBase` class (a subclass of `UIComponent`), which defines the default state and behavior of a component. The following set of component classes is included with JavaServer Faces technology:

- `UIColumn`: Represents a single column of data in a `UIData` component.
- `UICommand`: Represents a control that fires actions when activated.
- `UIData`: Represents a data binding to a collection of data represented by a `javax.faces.model.DataModel` instance.
- `UIForm`: Represents an input form to be presented to the user. Its child components represent (among other things) the input fields to be included when the form is submitted. This component is analogous to the `form` tag in HTML.
- `UIGraphic`: Displays an image.
- `UIInput`: Takes data input from a user. This class is a subclass of `UIOutput`.
- `UIMessage`: Displays a localized error message.
- `UIMessages`: Displays a set of localized error messages.
- `UIOutcomeTarget`: Displays a hyperlink in the form of a link or a button.
- `UIOutput`: Displays data output on a page.
- `UIPanel`: Manages the layout of its child components.
- `UIParameter`: Represents substitution parameters.
- `UISelectBoolean`: Allows a user to set a `boolean` value on a control by selecting or deselecting it. This class is a subclass of the `UIInput` class.
- `UISelectItem`: Represents a single item in a set of items.
- `UISelectItems`: Represents an entire set of items.
- `UISelectMany`: Allows a user to select multiple items from a group of items. This class is a subclass of the `UIInput` class.
- `UISelectOne`: Allows a user to select one item from a group of items. This class is a subclass of the `UIInput` class.

- `UIViewParameter`: Represents the query parameters in a request. This class is a subclass of the `UIInput` class.
- `UIViewRoot`: Represents the root of the component tree.

In addition to extending `UIComponentBase`, the component classes also implement one or more *behavioral interfaces*, each of which defines certain behavior for a set of components whose classes implement the interface.

These behavioral interfaces, all defined in the `javax.faces.component` package unless otherwise stated, are as follows:

- `ActionSource`: Indicates that the component can fire an action event. This interface is intended for use with components based on JavaServer Faces technology 1.1_01 and earlier versions. This interface is deprecated in JavaServer Faces 2.
- `ActionSource2`: Extends `ActionSource`, and therefore provides the same functionality. However, it allows components to use the Expression Language (EL) when they are referencing methods that handle action events.
- `EditableValueHolder`: Extends `ValueHolder` and specifies additional features for editable components, such as validation and emitting value-change events.
- `NamingContainer`: Mandates that each component rooted at this component have a unique ID.
- `StateHolder`: Denotes that a component has state that must be saved between requests.
- `ValueHolder`: Indicates that the component maintains a local value as well as the option of accessing data in the model tier.
- `javax.faces.event.SystemEventListenerHolder`: Maintains a list of `javax.faces.event.SystemEventListener` instances for each type of `javax.faces.event.SystemEvent` defined by that class.
- `javax.faces.component.behavior.ClientBehaviorHolder`: Adds the ability to attach `javax.faces.component.behavior.ClientBehavior` instances such as a reusable script.

`UICommand` implements `ActionSource2` and `StateHolder`. `UIOutput` and component classes that extend `UIOutput` implement `StateHolder` and `ValueHolder`. `UIInput` and component classes that extend `UIInput` implement `EditableValueHolder`, `StateHolder`, and `ValueHolder`. `UIComponentBase` implements `StateHolder`.

Only component writers will need to use the component classes and behavioral interfaces directly. Page authors and application developers will use a standard component by including a tag that represents it on a page. Most of the components can be rendered in different ways on a page. For example, a `UICommand` component can be rendered as a button or a hyperlink.

The next section explains how the rendering model works and how page authors can choose to render the components by selecting the appropriate tags.

Component Rendering Model

The JavaServer Faces component architecture is designed such that the functionality of the components is defined by the component classes, whereas the component rendering can be defined by a separate renderer class. This design has several benefits, including the following:

- Component writers can define the behavior of a component once but create multiple renderers, each of which defines a different way to render the component to the same client or to different clients.
- Page authors and application developers can change the appearance of a component on the page by selecting the tag that represents the appropriate combination of component and renderer.

A *render kit* defines how component classes map to component tags that are appropriate for a particular client. The JavaServer Faces implementation includes a standard HTML render kit for rendering to an HTML client.

The render kit defines a set of `javax.faces.render.Renderer` classes for each component that it supports. Each `Renderer` class defines a different way to render the particular component to the output defined by the render kit. For example, a `UISelectOne` component has three different renderers. One of them renders the component as a set of radio buttons. Another renders the component as a combo box. The third one renders the component as a list box. Similarly, a `UICommand` component can be rendered as a button or a hyperlink, using the `h:commandButton` or `h:commandLink` tag. The `command` part of each tag corresponds to the `UICommand` class, specifying the functionality, which is to fire an action. The `Button` or `Link` part of each tag corresponds to a separate `Renderer` class that defines how the component appears on the page.

Each custom tag defined in the standard HTML render kit is composed of the component functionality (defined in the `UIComponent` class) and the rendering attributes (defined by the `Renderer` class).

The section "Adding Components to a Page Using HTML Tags" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts* lists all supported component tags and illustrates how to use the tags in an example.

The JavaServer Faces implementation provides a custom tag library for rendering components in HTML.

Conversion Model

A JavaServer Faces application can optionally associate a component with server-side object data. This object is a JavaBeans component, such as a managed bean. An application gets and sets the object data for a component by calling the appropriate object properties for that component.

When a component is bound to an object, the application has two views of the component's data:

- The model view, in which data is represented as data types, such as `int` or `long`.
- The presentation view, in which data is represented in a manner that can be read or modified by the user. For example, a `java.util.Date` might be represented as a text string in the format `mm/dd/yy` or as a set of three text strings.

The JavaServer Faces implementation automatically converts component data between these two views when the bean property associated with the component is of one of the types supported by the component's data. For example, if a `UISelectBoolean` component is associated with a bean property of type `java.lang.Boolean`, the JavaServer Faces implementation will automatically convert the component's data from `String` to `Boolean`. In addition, some component data must be bound to properties of a particular type. For example, a `UISelectBoolean` component must be bound to a property of type `boolean` or `java.lang.Boolean`.

Sometimes you might want to convert a component's data to a type other than a standard type, or you might want to convert the format of the data. To facilitate this, JavaServer Faces technology allows you to register a `javax.faces.convert.Converter` implementation on `UIOutput` components and components whose classes subclass `UIOutput`. If you register the `Converter` implementation on a component, the `Converter` implementation converts the component's data between the two views.

You can either use the standard converters supplied with the JavaServer Faces implementation or create your own custom converter. Custom converter creation is covered in Chapter 6, "Creating Custom UI Components and Other Custom Objects."

Event and Listener Model

The JavaServer Faces event and listener model is similar to the JavaBeans event model in that it has strongly typed event classes and listener interfaces that an application can use to handle events generated by components.

The JavaServer Faces specification defines three types of events: application events, system events, and data-model events.

Application events are tied to a particular application and are generated by a `UIComponent`. They represent the standard events available in previous versions of JavaServer Faces technology.

An event object identifies the component that generated the event and stores information about the event. To be notified of an event, an application must provide an implementation of the listener class and must register it on the component that generates the event. When the user activates a component, such as by clicking a button, an event is fired. This causes the JavaServer Faces implementation to invoke the listener method that processes the event.

JavaServer Faces supports two kinds of application events: action events and value-change events.

An *action event* (class `javax.faces.event.ActionEvent`) occurs when the user activates a component that implements `javax.faces.component.ActionSource`. These components include buttons and hyperlinks.

A *value-change event* (class `javax.faces.event.ValueChangeEvent`) occurs when the user changes the value of a component represented by `UIInput` or one of its subclasses. An example is selecting a check box, an action that results in the component's value changing to `true`. The component types that can generate these types of events are the `UIInput`, `UISelectOne`, `UISelectMany`, and `UISelectBoolean` components. Value-change events are fired only if no validation errors are detected.

Depending on the value of the `immediate` property (see "The immediate Attribute" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts*) of the component emitting the event, action events can be processed during the invoke application phase or the apply request values phase, and value-change events can be processed during the process validations phase or the apply request values phase.

System events are generated by an `Object` rather than a `UIComponent`. They are generated during the execution of an application at predefined times. They are applicable to the entire application rather than to a specific component.

A *data-model event* occurs when a new row of a `UIData` component is selected.

There are two ways to cause your application to react to action events or value-change events that are emitted by a standard component:

- Implement an event listener class to handle the event and register the listener on the component by nesting either an `f:valueChangeListener` tag or an `f:actionListener` tag inside the component tag.
- Implement a method of a managed bean to handle the event and refer to the method with a method expression from the appropriate attribute of the component's tag.

See "Implementing an Event Listener" on page 117 for information on how to implement an event listener. See "Registering Listeners on Components" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts* for information on how to register the listener on a component.

See "Writing a Method to Handle an Action Event" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts* and "Writing a Method to Handle a Value-Change Event" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts* for information on how to implement managed bean methods that handle these events.

See "Referencing a Managed Bean Method" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts* for information on how to refer to the managed bean method from the component tag.

When emitting events from custom components, you must implement the appropriate event class and manually queue the event on the component in addition to implementing an event listener class or a managed bean method that handles the event. "Handling Events for Custom Components" on page 119 explains how to do this.

Validation Model

JavaServer Faces technology supports a mechanism for validating the local data of editable components (such as text fields). This validation occurs before the corresponding model data is updated to match the local value.

Like the conversion model, the validation model defines a set of standard classes for performing common data validation checks. The JavaServer Faces core tag library also defines a set of tags that correspond to the standard `javax.faces.validator.Validator` implementations. See "Using the Standard Validators" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts* for a list of all the standard validation classes and corresponding tags.

Most of the tags have a set of attributes for configuring the validator's properties, such as the minimum and maximum allowable values for the component's data. The page author registers the validator on a component by nesting the validator's tag within the component's tag.

In addition to validators that are registered on the component, you can declare a default validator which is registered on all `UIInput` components in the application. For more information on default validators, see "Using Default Validators" on page 159.

The validation model also allows you to create your own custom validator and corresponding tag to perform custom validation. The validation model provides two ways to implement custom validation:

- Implement a `Validator` interface that performs the validation.
- Implement a managed bean method that performs the validation.

If you are implementing a `Validator` interface, you must also:

- Register the `Validator` implementation with the application.
- Create a custom tag or use an `f:validator` tag to register the validator on the component.

In the previously described standard validation model, the validator is defined for each input component on a page. The Bean Validation model allows the validator to be applied to all fields in a page. See "Using Bean Validation" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts* and Chapter 22, "Bean Validation: Advanced Topics," for more information on Bean Validation.

Navigation Model

The JavaServer Faces navigation model makes it easy to define page navigation and to handle any additional processing that is needed to choose the sequence in which pages are loaded.

In JavaServer Faces technology, *navigation* is a set of rules for choosing the next page or view to be displayed after an application action, such as when a button or hyperlink is clicked.

Navigation can be implicit or user-defined. Implicit navigation comes into play when user-defined navigation rules are not available. For more information on implicit navigation, see "Implicit Navigation Rules" on page 164.

User-defined navigation rules are declared in zero or more application configuration resource files, such as `faces-config.xml`, by using a set of XML elements. The default structure of a navigation rule is as follows:

```
<navigation-rule>
    <description></description
    <from-view-id></from-view-id>
    <navigation-case>
        <from-action></from-action>
        <from-outcome></from-outcome>
        <if></if>
        <to-view-id></to-view-id>
    </navigation-case>
</navigation-rule>
```

User-defined navigation is handled as follows:

- Define the rules in the application configuration resource file.
- Refer to an outcome `String` from the button or hyperlink component's `action` attribute. This outcome `String` is used by the JavaServer Faces implementation to select the navigation rule.

Here is an example navigation rule:

```
<navigation-rule>
    <from-view-id>/greeting.xhtml</from-view-id>
    <navigation-case>
        <from-outcome>success</from-outcome>
        <to-view-id>/response.xhtml</to-view-id>
    </navigation-case>
</navigation-rule>
```

This rule states that when a command component (such as an `h:commandButton` or an `h:commandLink`) on `greeting.xhtml` is activated, the application will navigate from the `greeting.xhtml` page to the `response.xhtml` page if the outcome referenced by the button component's tag is `success`. Here is the `h:commandButton` tag from `greeting.xhtml` that specifies a logical outcome of success:

```
<h:commandButton id="submit" action="success"
         value="Submit" />
```

As the example demonstrates, each `navigation-rule` element defines how to get from one page (specified in the `from-view-id` element) to the other pages of the application. The `navigation-rule` elements can contain any number of `navigation-case` elements, each of which defines the page to open next (defined by `to-view-id`) based on a logical outcome (defined by `from-outcome`) .

In more complicated applications, the logical outcome can also come from the return value of an *action method* in a managed bean. This method performs some processing to determine the outcome. For example, the method can check whether the password the user entered on the page matches the one on file. If it does, the method might return `success`; otherwise, it might return `failure`. An outcome of `failure` might result in the logon page being reloaded. An outcome of `success` might cause the page displaying the user's credit card activity to open. If you want the outcome to be returned by a method on a bean, you must refer to the method using a method expression, with the `action` attribute, as shown by this example:

```
<h:commandButton id="submit"
     action="#{userNumberBean.getOrderStatus}" value="Submit" />
```

When the user clicks the button represented by this tag, the corresponding component generates an action event. This event is handled by the default

`javax.faces.event.ActionListener` instance, which calls the action method referenced by the component that triggered the event. The action method returns a logical outcome to the action listener.

The listener passes the logical outcome and a reference to the action method that produced the outcome to the default `javax.faces.application.NavigationHandler`. The `NavigationHandler` selects the page to display next by matching the outcome or the action method reference against the navigation rules in the application configuration resource file by the following process:

1. The `NavigationHandler` selects the navigation rule that matches the page currently displayed.
2. It matches the outcome or the action method reference that it received from the default `javax.faces.event.ActionListener` with those defined by the navigation cases.
3. It tries to match both the method reference and the outcome against the same navigation case.
4. If the previous step fails, the navigation handler attempts to match the outcome.
5. Finally, the navigation handler attempts to match the action method reference if the previous two attempts failed.
6. If no navigation case is matched, it displays the same view again.

When the `NavigationHandler` achieves a match, the render response phase begins. During this phase, the page selected by the `NavigationHandler` will be rendered.

The Duke's Tutoring case study example application uses navigation rules in the business methods that handle creating, editing, and deleting the users of the application. For example, the form for creating a student has the following `h:commandButton` tag:

```
<h:commandButton id="submit"
                 action="#{adminBean.createStudent(studentManager.newStudent)}"
                 value="#{bundle['action.submit']}"/>
```

The action event calls the `dukestutoring.ejb.AdminBean.createStudent` method:

```
public String createStudent(Student student) {
    em.persist(student);
    return "createdStudent";
}
```

The return value of `createdStudent` has a corresponding navigation case in the `faces-config.xml` configuration file:

```
<navigation-rule>
    <from-view-id>/admin/student/createStudent.xhtml</from-view-id>
```

```
    <navigation-case>
        <from-outcome>createdStudent</from-outcome>
        <to-view-id>/admin/index.xhtml</to-view-id>
    </navigation-case>
</navigation-rule>
```

After the student is created, the user is returned to the Administration index page.

For more information on how to define navigation rules, see "Configuring Navigation Rules" on page 161.

For more information on how to implement action methods to handle navigation, see "Writing a Method to Handle an Action Event" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts*.

For more information on how to reference outcomes or action methods from component tags, see "Referencing a Method That Performs Navigation" in *The Java EE 6 Tutorial: Basic Concepts*.

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Index

Numbers and Symbols

@Alternative annotation, 251–253
@ApplicationScoped annotation, 143
@AroundInvoke annotation, 454
@AroundTimeout annotation, 454
@Asynchronous annotation, 242
@Context annotation, 193–196
@CookieParam annotation, 193–196
@CustomScoped annotation, 143
@Decorator annotation, 262–263
@Delegate annotation, 262–263
@Disposes annotation, 256
@FormParam annotation, 193–196
@GroupSequence annotation, 451–452
@HeaderParam annotation, 193–196
@ManagedBean annotation, 142–143
@MatrixParam annotation, 193–196
@MessageDriven annotation, 419
@MultipartConfig annotation, 175–176
@NoneScoped annotation, 143
@Observes annotation, 258–259
@PathParam annotation, 193–196
@PostConstruct annotation, 454
  session beans using JMS, 418
@PreDestroy annotation, 454
  session beans using JMS, 418
@Produces annotation, 254–256
@QueryParam annotation, 193–196
@RequestScoped annotation, 143
@Resource annotation
  JMS resources, 228, 350, 351
@ResourceDependency annotation, 81
@SessionScoped annotation, 143
@ViewScoped annotation, 143

A

acknowledge method, 360
acknowledging messages, *See* message acknowledgment
action events, 61–63, 65, 117–119
  ActionEvent class, 117, 118
  actionListener attribute, 102
  ActionListener implementation, 117, 118–119
  f:actionListener tag, 98
  processAction(ActionEvent) method, 118
action method, 65
administered objects, 345, 349–351
  See also connection factories, destinations
  creating and removing, 381–383
Administration Console, 35
  starting, 42–43
Ajax
  error handling, 76–77
  event attribute of f:ajax tag, 74
  example, 81–85
  execute attribute of f:ajax tag, 74–75
  grouping components, 78–79
  immediate attribute of f:ajax tag, 75
  listener attribute of f:ajax tag, 75
  loading JavaScript resource library, 79–81
  monitoring events, 75–76

Ajax *(Continued)*
onerror attribute of f:ajax tag, 76–77
onevent attribute of f:ajax tag, 75–76
overview, 70
receiving responses, 77–78
render attribute of f:ajax tag, 77–78
request lifecycle, 78
sending requests, 73–75
using JavaScript API directly, 80–81
using with Facelets, 71–73
using with JavaServer Faces technology, 69–85
alternatives
CDI, 251–253
example, 265–270
annotations, 3
interceptor metadata, 454
JAX-RS, 193–196
Ant tool, 40–41
appclient tool, 35
applet container, 15
applets, 9, 10
application client container, 15
application clients, 8–9
securing, 331–332
application clients, JMS
building, 383, 386, 390
examples, 228, 378–405
packaging, 392
running, 384–386, 386–388, 390–392, 392–393
running on multiple systems, 398–405
asadmin tool, 35
asynchronous message consumption, 348
See also message-driven beans
JMS client example, 388–393
asynchronous method invocation
calling asynchronous business methods, 243–244
cancelling, 243–244
checking status, 244
creating asynchronous business methods, 242
example, 244–248
java.util.concurrent.Future<V> interface, 241
retrieving results, 243
session beans, 241–248
authentication
certificate-based mutual, 317
client, 316, 319
mutual, 317–321
user name/password-based mutual, 318
AUTO_ACKNOWLEDGE mode, 360
auto commit, 28

B

bean-managed transactions, 374
Bean Validation, 30
advanced, 449–452
custom constraints, 449–450
groups, 451–452
localization, 450
messages, 450
ordering, 451–452
resource bundles, 450
bundles, *See* resource bundles
BytesMessage interface, 357

C

CallbackHandler interface, 331
capture-schema tool, 35
CDI, *See* Contexts and Dependency Injection (CDI) for the Java EE platform
certificate authorities, 312
certificates
client, 320–321
digital, 311–316
server, 315–316
server, generating, 312–314
using for authentication, 314
character encodings, 188–189
character sets, 188
CLIENT_ACKNOWLEDGE mode, 360
client certificates, generating, 320–321
client ID, for durable subscriptions, 364
clients
authenticating, 316, 319

securing, 331–332
commit method (JMS), 366–368
component binding, 133, 137–138
binding attribute, 133, 137
component-managed sign-on, 332, 333
component rendering model, 57, 60
decode method, 53, 111, 119, 124
decoding, 99, 106
delegated implementation, 99
direct implementation, 99
encode method, 125
encodeBegin method, 109
encodeChildren method, 109
encodeEnd method, 109, 115
encoding, 99, 106
HTML render kit, 120, 165
render kit, 60
Renderer class, 60
Renderer implementation, 165
RenderKit class, 60
RenderKit implementation, 165
component tag attributes
action attribute, 103
actionListener attribute, 102
alt attribute, 102
binding attribute, 133, 137
converter attribute, 126
immediate attribute, 103
rendered attribute, 137
value attribute, 103, 133, 134–136
var attribute, 187
component tags, 60, 62
h:graphicImage tag, 102
composite components
advanced features, 87–93
attributes, 87–88
default attribute, 87
example, 89–93
f:validateBean tag, 89
f:validateRegex tag, 89
f:validateRequired tag, 89
invoking managed beans, 88
method-signature attribute, 88
name attribute, 87
required attribute, 87
type attribute, 88
validating values, 89
concurrent access to entity data, 297–299
conditional HTTP requests, JAX-RS, 199–200
configuring JavaServer Faces applications
Application class, 145
application configuration resource files, 144–146
configuring managed beans, 142–143, 146–155
configuring navigation rules
See configuring navigation rules
error message registration, 128
faces-config.xml files, 162
including the classes, pages, and other resources, 173
javax.faces.application.CONFIG_FILES context parameter, 144
registering custom converters, 160
registering custom renderers, 165–167
registering custom UI components, 167–168
registering custom validators, 159–160
registering messages, 155–158
specifying where UI component state is saved, 114
value binding, 134–136
configuring managed beans, 103, 146–155
configuring navigation rules, 64, 161–164
from-action element, 162
from-view-id element, 162
navigation-case element, 162, 163
navigation-rule element, 162
to-view-id element, 162
connection factories, 350
creating, 231, 381–382
injecting resources, 228, 350
specifying for remote servers, 400–401
Connection interface (JMS), 351
ConnectionFactory interface (JMS), 350
connections, JMS
introduction, 351
managing in enterprise bean applications, 370
connectors, *See* Java EE Connector architecture
container-managed sign-on, 332, 333

containers, 13–15
See also EJB container
application client, 15
configurable services, 13
nonconfigurable services, 13
services, 13
web, 14
Contexts and Dependency Injection (CDI) for the Java EE platform, 29
advanced topics, 251–264
alternatives, 251–253
converting managed beans to JAX-RS root resource classes, 199
decorators, 262–263
disposer methods, 256
events, 257–260
examples, 265–289
integrating with JAX-RS, 198–199
interceptors, 260–262
observer methods, 258–259
producer fields, 254–256
producer methods, 254–256
specialization, 253
stereotypes, 263–264
conversion model, 57, 61
See also converters
`converter` attribute, 126
`Converter` implementations, 61, 126
`Converter` interface, 124
converting data between model and presentation, 61
model view, 124
presentation view, 124
converter tags, `f:converter` tag, 126
converters, 53, 57
custom converters, 61, 126–127
standard, 61
converting data, *See* conversion model
`createBrowser` method, 394
criteria queries, string-based, 293–295
cryptography, public-key, 312
custom converters
binding to managed bean properties, 138–139
creating, 123–127
`getAsObject(FacesContext, UIComponent, String)` method, 124
`getAsObject` method, 124
`getAsString(FacesContext, UIComponent, Object)` method, 124
`getAsString` method, 125
registering, 160
using, 126–127
custom objects
See also custom renderers, custom tags, custom UI components, custom validators
custom converters, 126–127
using, 121–123
using custom components, renderers and tags together, 99–100
custom renderers
creating the `Renderer` class, 115–116
determining necessity of, 98–99
performing decoding, 111–112
performing encoding, 109–111
registering with a render kit, 165–167
custom tags, 64, 99–100
`getRendererType` method, 117
identifying the renderer type, 115
specifying, 131
tag library descriptor, 105, 131
custom UI components
creating, 95–139
creating component classes, 106–114
custom objects, 121
delegating rendering, 114–117
determining necessity of, 97–98
handling events emitted by, 119–120
`queueEvent` method, 111
registering
See registering custom UI components
`restoreState(FacesContext, Object)` method, 113–114
`saveState(FacesContext)` method, 113–114
saving state, 113–114
steps for creating, 105–106
custom validators, 128–133
binding to managed bean properties, 138–139
custom validator tags, 131

f:validator tag, 128, 131
implementing the Validator interface, 129–131
registering, 159–160
using, 132–133
validate method, 129
Validator implementation, 129, 131
Validator interface, 128

D

data encryption, 316
databases, EIS tier, 6
debugging, Java EE applications, 45–46
decorators
CDI, 262–263
example, 286–289
delivery modes, 361–362
JMSDeliveryMode message header field, 356
DeliveryMode interface, 361–362
Dependency Injection for Java (JSR 330), 29–30
deployer roles, 21
deployment descriptors, 17
Java EE, 18
runtime, 18
web application, 168
Destination interface, 350–351
destinations, 350–351
See also queues, temporary destinations, topics
creating, 231, 381–382
injecting resources, 228, 350
JMSDestination message header field, 356
temporary, 363, 424, 438–439
development roles, 19–21
application assemblers, 20
application client developers, 20
application component providers, 20
application deployers and administrators, 21
enterprise bean developers, 20
Java EE product providers, 19
tool providers, 19
web component developers, 20
digital signatures, 312
disposer methods, CDI, 256
domains, 41
downloading, GlassFish Server, 38
DUPS_OK_ACKNOWLEDGE mode, 361
durable subscriptions, 364–366
examples, 409–410, 416–421

E

eager attribute, managed beans, 143
EAR files, 17
EIS tier, 12
security, 332–336
EJB container, 14
See also embedded enterprise bean container
message-driven beans, 370–372
onMessage method, invoking, 230–231
EL, method-binding expressions, 65
embedded enterprise bean container
See also EJB container, enterprise beans
creating, 237–238
developing applications, 236
examples, 239–240
initializing enterprise bean modules, 237–238
overview, 235
running applications, 236
session bean references, 238
shutting down, 238
enterprise applications, 3
enterprise beans, 11, 25–26
See also embedded enterprise bean container
converting to JAX-RS root resource classes, 198–199
finding, 238
implementor of business logic, 11
integrating with JAX-RS, 198–199
interceptors, 453–461
testing, 239–240
Enterprise Information Systems, *See* EIS tier
entities, controlling caching, 304–305
entity data
lock modes, 299–302
optimistic locking, 297, 298–299
pessimistic locking, 298, 301–302
event and listener model, 57, 61–63

event and listener model *(Continued)*
See also action events
binding listeners to managed bean properties, 138–139
`Event` class, 62
event handlers, 53, 105
event listeners, 53, 54, 55
handling events of custom UI components, 119–120
implementing event listeners, 117–119
`Listener` class, 62
`queueEvent` method, 111
events
CDI, 257–260
example, 280–286
examples, 37–46
Ajax, 81–85
asynchronous method invocation, session beans, 244–248
building, 43
CDI, 265–289
composite components, 89–93
connectors, 463–467
directory structure, 44
Duke's Bookstore case study, 471–478
Duke's Forest case study, 491–511
Duke's Tutoring case study, 479–489
embedded enterprise bean container, 239–240
file upload using servlets, 177–181
interceptors, 460–461
Java EE Connector architecture, 463–467
JAX-RS, 209–223
JMS asynchronous message consumption, 388–393
JMS durable subscriptions, 409–410
JMS local transactions, 411–416
JMS message acknowledgment, 406–408
JMS message-driven beans, 227–233
JMS on multiple systems, 398–405, 429–436, 436–447
JMS queue browsing, 394–398
JMS synchronous message consumption, 378–388
JMS with entities, 421–429
JMS with session beans, 416–421
message-driven beans, 227–233
required software, 37–41
resource adapters, 463–467
exceptions, JMS, 358
expiration of JMS messages, 362–363
`JMSExpiration` message header field, 356

F

Facelets
`f:ajax` tag, 71–73
using Ajax with, 71–73
Facelets applications
lifecycle, 56–57
using JavaScript in, 80–81
`faces-config.xml` file, 144–146
`FacesContext` class, 52, 123
Apply Request Values phase, 53
custom converters, 124
performing encoding, 110
Process Validations phase, 54
Update Model Values phase, 55
`Validator` interface, 129
form parameters, JAX-RS, 195–196

G

`getPart` method, 176–177
`getParts` method, 176–177
`getRollbackOnly` method, 374
GlassFish Server
downloading, 38
enabling debugging, 46
installation tips, 38
server log, 45–46
starting, 41–42
stopping, 41
tools, 35–36

H

handling events, *See* event and listener model
HTTP, over SSL, 316
HTTPS, 312

I

implicit objects, 136–137
  binding component values to, 136–137
`InitialContext` interface, 32
initializing properties with the `managed-property` element
  initializing `Array` and `List` properties, 153
  initializing managed-bean properties, 153–155
  initializing `Map` properties, 152–153
  initializing maps and lists, 155
  referencing a context initialization parameter, 151–152
interceptors, 453–461
  CDI, 260–262
  classes, 454
  example, 460–461
  example (CDI), 280–286
  lifecycle, 454
  using, 455–459
internationalization, 183–189
internationalizing JavaServer Faces applications
  `f:loadBundle` tag, 187
  using the `FacesMessage` class to create a message, 157
ISO 8859 character encoding, 188

J

JAAS, 34, 331–332
  login modules, 332
JACC, 31
JAF, 33
JAR files, 17
JASPIC, 31
Java API for XML Binding (JAXB), 33
  using with JAX-RS, 202–208
Java API for XML Processing (JAXP), 33
Java API for XML Web Services, *See* JAX-WS
Java Authentication and Authorization Service, *See* JAAS
Java Authentication Service Provider Interface for Containers (JASPIC), 31
Java Authorization Contract for Containers, *See* JACC
Java BluePrints, 44
Java Database Connectivity API, *See* JDBC API
Java DB, 35
  starting, 43
  stopping, 43
Java EE applications, 6–12
  debugging, 45–46
  running on more than one system, 429–436, 436–447
  tiers, 6–12
Java EE clients, 8–9
  See also application clients
  web clients, 8
Java EE components, 8
Java EE Connector architecture, 30
  example, 463–467
Java EE modules, 17, 18
  application client modules, 19
  EJB modules, 18
  resource adapter modules, 19
  web modules, 18
Java EE platform
  APIs, 21–31
  JMS and, 344
  overview, 4–5
Java EE security model, 13
Java EE servers, 14
Java EE transaction model, 13
Java Message Service (JMS) API, *See* JMS
Java Naming and Directory Interface API, 32–33
  See also JNDI
Java Persistence API, 28
Java Servlet technology, 26
  See also servlets
Java Transaction API, 28
JavaBeans Activation Framework (JAF), 33
JavaBeans components, 9

JavaMail API, 31
example, 463–467
JavaServer Faces applications
configuring
See configuring JavaServer Faces applications
JavaServer Faces core tag library
`f:actionListener` tag, 98
`f:ajax` tag, 71–73
`f:converter` tag, 126
`f:validator` tag, 64, 128
custom validator tags, 131
JavaServer Faces standard HTML render kit library, 60, 165
`html_basic` TLD, 120
JavaServer Faces standard HTML tag library, *See* component tags
JavaServer Faces standard UI components, 58, 95
`UIComponent` component, 125
JavaServer Faces technology, 10, 26–27
See also component rendering model, component tags, conversion model, event and listener model, `FacesContext` class, JavaServer Faces standard UI components, lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces application, UI component behavioral interfaces, UI component classes, validation model
composite components, 87–93
`FacesServlet` class, 169
partial processing, 56
partial rendering, 56
partial state saving, 107, 113–114
using Ajax with, 69–85
JavaServer Pages Standard Tag Library, *See* JSTL
JAX-RS, 29
accessing XML documents, 202–208
advanced features, 193–223
annotations, 193–196
conditional HTTP requests, 199–200
converting CDI managed beans to root resource classes, 199
converting enterprise beans to root resource classes, 198–199
examples, 209–223
extracting Java type of request or response, 196
form parameters, 195–196
integrating with CDI, 198–199
integrating with EJB technology, 198–199
path parameters, 194–195
query parameters, 195
request headers, 193–196
resource class methods, 197–198
runtime content negotiation, 200–202
runtime resource resolution, 197–198
static content negotiation, 200–202
subresource locators, 197
subresource methods, 197
subresources, 197–198
URI, 193–196
using JSON representations, 208
using with JAXB, 202–208
JAX-WS, 34
JAXB, 33
examples, 209–223
generating Java entity classes from XML schema, 206–207
generating XML schema from Java classes, 204–205
Java entity classes, 204–205
returning Java entity classes in JAX-RS resources, 204–205
schema generator, 204–205
using with JAX-RS, 202–208
with JSON, 208
`xjc` schema compiler tool, 206–207
`JAXBElement`, in JAX-RS resource methods, 206–207
JAXP, 33
JDBC API, 32
JMS, 30
achieving reliability and performance, 359–368
administered objects, 349–351
application client examples, 378–405
architecture, 345
basic concepts, 345–348
definition, 342
examples, 227–233, 377–447
introduction, 341–344
Java EE platform, 344, 368–375

messaging domains, 346–348
programming model, 348–358
JMSCorrelationID message header field, 356
JMSDeliveryMode message header field, 356
JMSDestination message header field, 356
JMSException class, 358
JMSExpiration message header field, 356
JMSMessageID message header field, 356
JMSPriority message header field, 356
JMSRedelivered message header field, 356
JMSReplyTo message header field, 356
JMSTimestamp message header field, 356
JMSType message header field, 356
JNDI, 32–33
data source naming subcontexts, 33
enterprise bean naming subcontexts, 33
environment naming contexts, 33
jms naming subcontext, 350
namespace for JMS administered objects, 349–351
naming contexts, 32
naming environments, 32
naming subcontexts, 32
jsf.js file, 79–81
JSON, with JAXB and JAX-RS, 208
JSTL, 28
JTA, 28
JUnit, 239–240

K

key pairs, 312
keystores, 311–316
managing, 312
keytool utility, 312

L

lifecycle callback events, intercepting, 457–458
lifecycle of a JavaServer Faces application, 50–56
action and value-change event processing, 62
Apply Request Values phase, 53, 111
custom converters, 124, 125
getRendererType method (Render Response phase), 117
immediate attribute, 103
Invoke Application phase, 55
performing encoding (Render Response phase), 109
Process Validations phase, 54
Render Response phase, 55–56
renderResponse method, 52, 53, 54, 55
responseComplete method, 52, 54, 55
Restore View phase, 53
saving state, 114
Update Model Values phase, 55
updateModels method, 55
Validator interface, 130
views, 53
local transactions, 366–368
localization, 183–189
Bean Validation, 450
log, server, 45–46
login modules, 331–332

M

managed bean creation facility, 146–155
managed bean declarations, 103
key-class element, 152
list-entries element, 150
managed-bean element, 147–150, 154
managed-bean-name element, 149
managed-property element, 150–155
map-entries element, 150, 152
map-entry element, 152
null-value elements, 150
value element, 150
managed bean properties, 133
managed beans
See also value binding
composite components, 88
configuring in JavaServer Faces technology, 142–143
conversion model, 61
custom component alternative, 98
event and listener model, 62

managed beans *(Continued)*
loading JavaScript, 81
Managed Beans specification, 29
`MapMessage` interface, 357
message acknowledgment, 360–361
bean-managed transactions, 375
message-driven beans, 371
message bodies, 357
message consumers, 353–355
message consumption, 348
asynchronous, 348, 388–393
synchronous, 348, 378–388
message-driven beans, 25
coding, 229–231, 419, 424–425, 439
examples, 227–233, 416–421, 421–429, 429–436, 436–447
introduction, 370–372
`onMessage` method, 230–231
requirements, 229–231
message headers, 356
message IDs, `JMSMessageID` message header field, 356
`Message` interface, 357
message listeners, 354–355
examples, 389, 424, 438–439
message producers, 352–353
message properties, 356
message selectors, 355
`MessageConsumer` interface, 353–355
`MessageListener` interface, 354–355
`MessageProducer` interface, 352–353
messages
integrity, 316
queueing messages, 155
using the `FacesMessage` class to create a message, 157
messages, JMS
body formats, 357
browsing, 358
definition, 345
delivery modes, 361–362
expiration, 362–363
headers, 356
introduction, 355–357
persistence, 361–362
priority levels, 362
properties, 356
messaging, definition, 341–342
messaging domains, 346–348
common interfaces, 347–348
point-to-point, 346–347
publish/subscribe, 347
method binding
method-binding expressions, 65, 163
method expressions, 112
method expressions, 62
method invocations, intercepting, 456–457
mutual authentication, 317–321

N

naming contexts, 32
naming environments, 32
navigation model, 64–67
`action` attribute, 103
action methods, 161
configuring navigation rules, 161–164
logical outcome, 161
`NavigationHandler` class, 66
NetBeans IDE, 39–40
`NON_PERSISTENT` delivery mode, 361

O

`ObjectMessage` interface, 357
objects, administered, 349–351
creating and removing, 381–383
observer methods, CDI, 258–259
`onMessage` method
introduction, 354–355
message-driven beans, 230–231, 371

P

`package-appclient` tool, 35
`Part` interface (Servlet), 176

path parameters, JAX-RS, 194–195
persistence
  concurrent access to entity data, 297–302
  JMS example, 421–429
  JMS messages, 361–362
  locking strategies, 297–302
  second-level cache, 303–308
  string-based criteria queries, 293–295
PERSISTENT delivery mode, 361
point-to-point messaging domain, 346–347
  See also queues
POJOs, 4
priority levels, for messages, 362
  JMSPriority message header field, 356
producer fields
  CDI, 254–256
  example, 273–280
producer methods
  CDI, 254–256
  example, 271–273
programming model, JMS, 348–358
providers, JMS, 345
public key certificates, 316
public-key cryptography, 312
publish/subscribe messaging domain
  See also topics
  durable subscriptions, 364–366
  introduction, 347

Q

query parameters, JAX-RS, 195
Queue interface, 350–351
QueueBrowser interface, 358
  JMS client example, 394–398
queues, 350–351
  browsing, 358, 394–398
  creating, 350–351, 381–382
  injecting resources, 228
  temporary, 363, 424

R

realms, certificate, 314
recover method, 361
redelivery of messages, 360, 361
  JMSRedelivered message header field, 356
registering custom converters, 160
  converter element, 160
registering custom renderers, 165–167
  render-kit element, 165
  renderer element, 165
registering custom UI components, 105, 167–168
  component element, 167
registering custom validators, 159–160
  validator element, 159
registering messages, 155–158
  resource-bundle element, 156
reliability, JMS
  advanced mechanisms, 364–368
  basic mechanisms, 359–363
  durable subscriptions, 364–366
  local transactions, 366–368
  message acknowledgment, 360–361
  message expiration, 362–363
  message persistence, 361–362
  message priority levels, 362
  temporary destinations, 363
Remote Method Invocation (RMI), and
  messaging, 341–342
request headers, JAX-RS, 193–196
Request objects, JAX-RS, 201
request/reply mechanism
  JMSCorrelationID message header field, 356
  JMSReplyTo message header field, 356
  temporary destinations and, 363
requests, retrieving a locale, 185
Required transaction attribute, 375
resource adapters, 30
  example, 463–467
  security, 334–335
resource bundles, 183
  Bean Validation, 450
resources, JMS, 370
RESTful web services, 29
rollback method (JMS), 366–368

S

SAAJ, 34
schemagen, JAXB, 204–205
`schemagen` tool, 35
scopes, using in JavaServer Faces technology, 143
security
  application clients, 331–332
  callback handlers, 331
  component-managed sign-on, 333
  container-managed sign-on, 333
  EIS applications, 332–336
  JAAS login modules, 332
  login forms, 331
  login modules, 331–332
  programmatic login, 332
  resource adapters, 334–335
`send` method, 352–353
server authentication, 316
server certificates, 311–316
server log, 45–46
servers, Java EE
  deploying on more than one, 429–436, 436–447
  running JMS clients on more than one, 398–405
servlets, 10
  uploading files with, 175–181
session beans, 25
  See also asynchronous method invocation
  examples, 416–421
`Session` interface, 352
sessions, JMS, 352
  managing in enterprise bean applications, 370
`setRollbackOnly` method, 374
sign-on
  component-managed, 332, 333
  container-managed, 332, 333
SOAP messages, 16, 34
SOAP with Attachments API for Java (SAAJ), 34
specialization, CDI, 253
SQL, 32
SSL, 316
standard converters, 61
standard validators, 63
stereotypes, CDI, 263–264
`StreamMessage` interface, 357
string-based criteria queries, 293–295
subresources, JAX-RS, 197–198
subscription names, for durable subscribers, 364
synchronous message consumption, 348
  JMS client example, 378–388

T

temporary JMS destinations, 363
  examples, 424, 438–439
testing
  enterprise beans, 239–240
  unit, 239–240
`TextMessage` interface, 357
timeout events, intercepting, 458–459
timestamps, for messages, `JMSTimestamp` message header field, 356
`Topic` interface, 350–351
topics, 350–351
  creating, 350–351, 381–382
  durable subscriptions, 364–366
  temporary, 363, 438–439
transactions
  bean-managed, 374
  container-managed, 373
  distributed, 373–375
  examples, 411–416
  JMS and enterprise bean applications, 370
  local, 366–368
  `Required` attribute, 375
truststores, 311–316
  managing, 312

U

UI component behavioral interfaces, 59
  `ActionSource` interface, 59, 62, 106, 117
  `ActionSource2` interface, 59, 106
  `ClientBehaviorHolder` interface, 59
  `ConvertibleValueHolder` interface, 59
  `EditableValueHolder` interface, 59, 107

NamingContainer interface, 59, 107
StateHelper interface, 107, 112, 113–114
StateHolder interface, 59, 107, 113–114
SystemEventListenerHolder interface, 59
ValueHolder interface, 59, 107
UI component classes, 58, 60, 97
See also custom UI components
javax.faces.component package, 106
UIColumn class, 58
UICommand class, 58, 60
UIComponent class, 57, 60
UIComponentBase class, 58, 106, 109
UIData class, 58
UIForm class, 58
UIGraphic class, 58
UIInput class, 58, 62
UIMessage class, 58
UIMessages class, 58
UIOutput class, 58, 61
UIPanel class, 58
UIParameter class, 58
UISelectBoolean class, 58
UISelectItem class, 58
UISelectItems class, 58
UISelectMany class, 58
UISelectOne class, 58, 60
UIViewRoot class, 59
Unicode character set, 188
US-ASCII character set, 188
UserTransaction interface, message-driven beans, 374
UTF-8 character encoding, 189

V

validating input, *See* validation model
validation
customizing, 449–450
groups, 451–452
localization, 450
messages, 450
ordering, 451–452
validation model, 57, 63–64
See also validators
Validator implementation, 63, 132
Validator interface, 64
custom validator tags, 131
implementing, 129
Validator implementation classes, 63
validator tags
composite components, 89
f:validator tag, 64, 131
validators, 53, 57
custom validators, 132–133
default, 159
value binding
component instances to bean properties
See component binding
component values and instances to managed bean properties, 133–138
component values to implicit objects, 136–137
component values to managed bean properties, 134–136
value attribute, 103, 133, 134–136
value-binding expressions, 134
value expressions, 112, 137
value-change events, 62, 117
f:valueChangeListener tag, 98
processValueChange(ValueChangeEvent) method, 117
ValueChangeEvent class, 117
ValueChangeListener class, 117
ValueChangeListener implementation, 117
Variant class, JAX-RS, 201

W

W3C, 33
WAR files, 17
web applications
establishing the locale, 185
internationalizing and localizing, 183
parsing and formatting localized dates and numbers, 187
providing localized messages, 184
retrieving localized messages, 186
setting the resource bundle, 186
web clients, 8

web components, 10
applets bundled with, 10
JMS and, 375
types, 10
utility classes bundled with, 10
web container, 14
web modules, 18
web services, 15–16
`web.xml` file, 168
WSDL, 16
`wsgen` tool, 36
`wsimport` tool, 36

X

`xjc` schema compiler tool, JAXB, 206–207
`xjc` tool, 35
XML, 15–16