

Nate Lieby  
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## Final Proposal: A Beginner's Guide to Servlets

For my final project in Technical Writing 185, I plan on writing a technical document concerning servlet technology. The document will be focused towards people that are familiar with java, but unfamiliar with web technologies. The guide will be a complete article, but might work well as a section of a book on java and web technologies.

The Beginner's Guide to Servlets will have two main parts: an overview of servlets and a walkthrough of actually coding a servlet. The overview will cover a brief history of servlets, the technologies involved with running a servlet, and what servlets can be used for. The technical side of the paper will cover the run-time environment, servlet interfaces, request and response objects, and persistent data. Both of these major headings will be broken down into subsections based on the categories I mentioned above.

The benefits of this project will be twofold: naïve users will be able to understand what a servlet is, and how to create them, and I will further my knowledge of java-based web technologies.

I believe that servlets will be a good subject to do my final presentation on for a few reasons. The first reason is that I'm interested in web technologies and have a basic understanding of how servlets work. I'd like to increase the depth to which I understand servlets and believe that researching and writing a technical paper on the subject will help a lot. I also believe that will be a good decision because while it is a complex theory, the implementation is straightforward enough that my finished product will be more theoretical discussion and explanation and fewer lines of actual code. I also believe that it is important for students to learn what java has to offer beyond its academic uses. Many students view java as something of a pseudo code language without realizing the power that it holds in a web-based arena. This paper will help people that are familiar with the syntax and a little of the theory to uncover some of the great potential that java has.

### Audience Analysis:

The audience that I am writing to is students that have learned about programming in java, but have little or no exposure to the web technologies that sun offers with the JDK. The Naïve user would be a student who has never heard of a servlet, and will need to be taught about server-side processing from the ground up. The beginning user is someone who has some sort of fuzzy understanding about what they do, but would like a deeper knowledge of the technology and code behind them.





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## Outline:

### 1. Introduction:

1. Background (.5 page)
2. Implementation (.5 page)

### 2. Background:

-  1. Older technologies: (1 page)
  - a. CGI
  - b. Perl
-  2. What is a servlet? (2 pages)
-  3. What are servlets used for? (1 page)
-  4. What runs servlets? (1 page)

### 3. Implementation:

1. The methods:
  1. Introduction (1 page)
  2. Request objects (1 page)
  3. Response objects (1 page)
2. Advanced servlet properties
  1. Introduction (1 page)
  2. Persistent data (1 page)
  3. Session Tracking (1 page)
  4. Servlet Context (1 page)
3. Deployment:
  1. Server (1 page)
  2. Calling the servlet (1 page)

### 4. Conclusion: (1 page)