

Initializing Servlets

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I've been going through Sun's J2EE tutorial, and I realize that its goal is to show as many examples as possible, which leads to the following question:

What is the relationship of the ServletContextListener and the contextInitialized/contextDestroyed events to the servlet's init() and destroy() methods? Is it a purely 1:1 relationship? I.e. every time a contextInitialized event gets set to the listener, exactly one call to the servlet's init() method can be expected?

If so, what are the considerations for using one or the other mechanism to initialize context-global data?

In my case, I want to open a file that is available for any servlet thread to write to, and close it when the servlet is destroyed. Can't I do that in the init() and destroy() methods?

scott

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