

# STRUTS 2 - THE AJAX TAGS

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/struts\\_2/struts\\_ajax\\_tags.htm](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/struts_2/struts_ajax_tags.htm)

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Struts uses the DOJO framework for the AJAX tag implementation. First of all, to proceed with this example, you need to add `struts2-doj-plugin-2.2.3.jar` to your classpath. You can get this file from the lib folder of your struts2 download `C:\struts - 2.2.3 - all\struts - 2.2.3\lib\struts2 - dojo - plugin - 2.2.3.jar`

For this exercise, let us modify **HelloWorld.jsp** as follows:

```
<%@ page contentType="text/html; charset=UTF-8"%>
<%@ taglib prefix="s" uri="/struts-tags"%>
<%@ taglib prefix="sx" uri="/struts-doj-plugin-2.2.3"%>
<html>
<head>
<title>Hello World</title>
<s:head />
<sx:head />
</head>
<body>
  <s:form>
    <sx:autocomplete label="Favourite Colour"
      list="{ 'red', 'green', 'blue' }" />
    <br />
    <sx:datepicker name="deliverydate" label="Delivery Date"
      displayFormat="dd/MM/yyyy" />
    <br />
    <s:url />
    <sx:div href="%{#url}" delay="2000">
      Initial Content
    </sx:div>
    <br />
    <sx:tabbedpanel >
      <sx:div label="Tab 1">Tab 1</sx:div>
      <sx:div label="Tab 2">Tab 2</sx:div>
    </sx:tabbedpanel>
  </s:form>
</body>
</html>
```

When we run the above example, we get the following output:

Let us now go through this example one step at a time.

First thing to notice is the addition of a new tag library with the prefix `sx`. This `struts - dojo - tags` is the tag library specifically created for the ajax integration.

Then inside the HTML head we call the `sx:head`. This initializes the dojo framework and makes it ready for all AJAX invocations within the page. This step is important - your ajax calls will not work without the `sx:head` being initialized.

First we have the `autocomplete` tag. The `autocomplete` tag looks pretty much like a select box. It is populated with the values red, green and blue. But the difference between a select box and this one is that it auto completes. That is, if you start typing in gr, it will fill it with "green". Other than that this tag is very much similar to the `s:select` tag which we covered earlier.

Next, we have a date time picker. This tag creates an input field with a button next to it. When the button is pressed, a popup date time picker is displayed. When the user selects a date, the date is filled into the input text in the format that is specified in the tag attribute. In our example, we have specified `dd/MM/yyyy` as the format for the date.

Next we create a url tag to the `system.action` file which we created in the earlier exercises. It doesn't have to be the `system.action` - it could be any action file that you created earlier. Then we have a div with the hyperlink set to the url and delay set to 2 seconds. What happens when you run this is, the "Initial Content" will be displayed for 2 seconds, then the div's content will be replaced

with the contents from the **hello.action** execution.

Finally we have a simple tab panel with two tabs. The tabs are divs themselves with the labels Tab 1 and Tab2.

It should be worth noting that the AJAX tag integration in Struts is still a work in progress and the maturity of this integration is slowly increasing with every release.

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