

JSP - THE TAGLIB DIRECTIVE

The JavaServer Pages API allows you to define custom JSP tags that look like HTML or XML tags and a tag library is a set of user-defined tags that implement custom behavior.

The **taglib** directive declares that your JSP page uses a set of custom tags, identifies the location of the library, and provides a means for identifying the custom tags in your JSP page.

The taglib directive follows the following syntax:

```
<%@ taglib uri="uri" prefix="prefixOfTag" >
```

Where the **uri** attribute value resolves to a location the container understands and the **prefix** attribute informs a container what bits of markup are custom actions.

You can write XML equivalent of the above syntax as follows:

```
<jsp:directive.taglib uri="uri" prefix="prefixOfTag" />
```

When you use a custom tag, it is typically of the form `<prefix:tagname>`. The prefix is the same as the prefix you specify in the taglib directive, and the tagname is the name of a tag implemented in the tag library

Example:

For example, suppose the **custlib** tag library contains a tag called **hello**. If you wanted to use the hello tag with a prefix of **mytag**, your tag would be `<mytag:hello>` and it will be used in your JSP file as follows:

```
<%@ taglib uri="http://www.example.com/custlib" prefix="mytag" %>
<html>
<body>
<mytag:hello/>
</body>
</html>
```

We would be able to call another piece of code using `<mytag:hello>`. We will see how to develop our custom tags and how to use them in [JSP - Custom Tags](#) tutorial.