

Building an Online Entry Form with WebAF™ (and a Little Java)

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ABSTRACT

The AppDev Studio® software suite from SAS® is a comprehensive set of tools for developing web applications. This paper is intended as a quick introduction to WebAF, the SAS IDE (Integrated Development Environment) for building dynamic web content based on SAS data. Once an initial system configuration has been established, it is possible to provide dynamic access to SAS datasets in real-time for thin clients that do not have any SAS software available. This is accomplished using the JavaServer Pages technology from Sun Microsystems, along with some server-side SAS resources.

INTRODUCTION

Obviously, there is far more material than could be covered in a single conference paper, but the general steps in the procedure can be summarized as follows:

1. Start a SAS job spawner on a SAS/Connect server
2. Start a Tomcat session on a web server
3. Create a web application base directory on the server
4. Register a connection to the spawner
5. Create a new WebAF project
6. Add JSP content to the project
7. Stir well and serve.

The following example is based on an online examination application that was developed to demonstrate how to build an entry form using WebAF. Hopefully, the examples provided will give a sense of how easy it can be to create complex web forms using SAS (and a little Java).

Before starting WebAF, it is important to perform several preliminary housekeeping tasks, summarized as steps 1-3 in the list above. Explaining what these do and why they are necessary can be a little complicated.

STEP 1: REMOTE DATA SERVICES

SAS supports several different ways to access data on a remote server, including SAS/SHARE, SAS/CONNECT and SAS/IOM. The latter two rely on a server program called a *Remote Host Spawner*. The spawner program listens for TCP connections to the host, just like a web server but on a different port (by default, 2323). The following example describes starting the SAS Connect Spawner, but the principles are the same for IOM.

Starting the spawner is handled differently on Windows and UNIX. On Windows servers, the spawner program is stored in the SAS root directory. Just run `spawner.exe` from a command window, or if AppDev Studio has been installed on the server you can use the handy SAS menu selection under Version 8 **Start>Programs>AppDev Studio>Services>SAS V8>Start SAS Connect Spawner**. (The other choices are **Start SAS IOM Spawner** and **Start SAS Share Data Server**.) Under Windows 2000 and XP it is possible to install the spawner as a service, so that it will run as a background process whenever the server is started. For a complete list of the available startup options, see *Starting and Stopping SAS/Connect* in the SAS System Help contents under *Help on SAS Software Products>SAS/Connect Software*.

On UNIX, the spawner program is installed by default under the SAS root directory in `utilities/bin/sastcpd` and can be started with the following command:

```
sastcpd -service spawner -shell &
```

The `sastcpd` program runs by default as a daemon, so it is not necessary to use `nohup`. Again, if you want it to restart when the server reboots, install the script under the `init.d` directory. In either case, the job spawner must be running in order to allow remote connections to the SAS data on the server.

STEP 2: THE TOMCAT JAVA SERVLET ENGINE

In order to make use of JavaServer Pages, it is necessary first to understand how *servlets* work. Servlets are the server-side equivalent of Java client-side *applets*. Servlets are like applets (and JavaScript) in that they can only be run from within a web browser; there is no `main` method as with Java console applications. Servlets require both a web server and a *servlet engine*. The function of this engine is to load the servlet `.class` file into the *Java Virtual Machine (JVM)* running on the server. (For more information about Java servlets, see <http://java.sun.com/products/servlet>.)

The most widely available servlet engine is *Tomcat* from the Apache Software Foundation's Jakarta Project (see <http://jakarta.apache.org/tomcat>). This engine is included in AppDev Studio and must be started before any JavaServer Pages can be viewed. Note that Tomcat is used *instead of* your regular web browser. SAS actually supplies two versions of the Tomcat engine, one for development and the other for production use. In the configuration shown in the following examples, the development engine is started on port 8082 instead of port 80, as would be the case for the Apache or IIS web servers.

In order to start the SAS-supplied servlet engine, AppDev Studio must be installed on the web server. If the web server is not a Windows-based platform, an appropriate UNIX servlet engine can be used instead. The details of this are beyond the scope of this paper, but are discussed in the references listed at the end. For the sake of this discussion, it will be assumed that the default AppDev Studio engine is available.

To start the servlet engine, select **Start>Programs>AppDev Studio>Services>Start Java Web Server**. On a properly configured system, this will result in a command window that displays the ongoing status of the server. It is also possible to start the servlet engine from within the WebAF development environment, as shall be seen.

STEP 3: WEB APPLICATION BASE DIRECTORY

SAS WebAF, like Microsoft's Visual Studio and many other development environments, depends on the concept of a software *Project*. This is simply a collection of files relating to some specific application. SAS uses a specific project directory containing a project file with the extension `.afx` to keep track of this collection. The default directory will be something like the following:

```
C:\AppDevStudio\WebAF\Projects\MyProject.
```

In addition to the project directory, however, WebAF will put all of your JSP, servlets and any other web application components in a project-specific *Web application base directory*. Basically, you have two choices here: the default directory and the one SAS recommends. The default value is to use the same folder as the `.afx` project file. This is the directory that is used by one of the SAS supplied servlet engines. The other engine uses a sub-folder of the AppDev Studio `webapps` directory, for example

```
C:\AppDevStudio\WebAppDev\webapps\MyProject.
```

That is, each project has two associated directories: the *Project* folder, including the information that AppDev Studio needs to manage the project, and the *Web application base directory*, which contains the actual project files.

If you decide to use this recommended approach, you have a little preliminary work to do first. The SAS web application *templates* directory

C:\AppDevStudio\WebAppDev\templates

contains a couple of web application “starter” directories, called `empty` and `sasads`. Of course `empty` is not really empty. It has the following structure:

- `empty\WEB-INF`
- `empty\META-INF`
- `empty\WEB-INF\classes`
- `empty\WEB-INF\lib`

along with a few cleverly structured files that assume you have used the default layout as recommended in the previous section.

The `sasads` directory has a similar organization, but also includes a folder called `sasads\assets` that contains a bunch of handy images in GIF format. The `sasads` folder is used to access the SAS custom tag library. For example it contains the tag library descriptor file `sasads.tld`. (WebAF uses Java *custom tags* as controls when building pages; see the references at the end of the paper for more details about tag libraries.)

In order to create a SAS web application base directory, you need to copy one of these two folders (you can’t go wrong using `sasads`) into `webapps`. Now rename it, using the same name as your project. Assuming you want to call your project `examples`, the new directory will be something like

C:\AppDevStudio\WebAppDev\webapps\examples

Be sure to create this folder first, before you create the project!

STEP 4. REGISTERING CONNECTIONS

Open the SAS WebAF development environment by clicking on **Start>Programs>AppDev Studio>webAF**. The first step to using remote data services is to register one or more connections to a SAS job spawner. From the WebAF main menu, select **Tools>Register Connections**. (You don’t need to have a project open; a connection can apply to any WebAF project.) Something like the following list of “Persisted Connections” should appear:

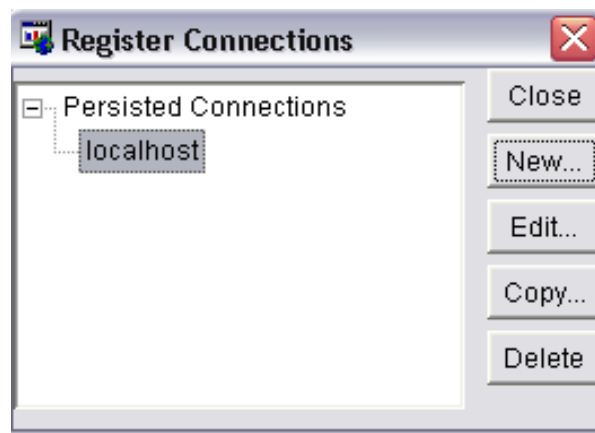


Figure 1. Register Connections

When you start WebAF for the first time, you will only see one connection: the default one. To create another connection, click on **New**. This will display the **New Connection** window below:

Figure 2. Create New Connection

For this example, check the box marked **SAS server and web server are same machine**, that is, the spawner is running on the local host. Obviously, it is possible to connect to a remote host using the Connection Wizard, but for the sake of simplicity we will assume that the data are on the local system.

Fill in a valid user name and password to connect to the host. That's it; the wizard will do the rest.

Click on the **Test** tab, and then on **Check Connection**. The system will attempt to connect to localhost, that is, to itself. The connection test window displays the following message:

```
Threaded connection test starting...

SAS session instantiation information

Prompt      Timeout  Response
-----
Hello>      120     sas -dmr -comamid tcp -noterminal -cleanup
PORT=       60     // Connection to SAS established at this point

Host: localhost
```

```

Port: 2323

Intransients differing from the default

Property          Default          Modified
-----
debugTelnetConnectClient      true
initialStatement
isAppletCodebaseRelative false      true
logTrap                     false      true
persistedName                <Custom Connection> localhost
serverArchitecture           PC

Connection failed:
java.lang.Exception: Connect.C75.ex.txt: Cannot connect to telnet session.
com.sas.net.connect.TelnetClientException: Connection refused: no further
information
Connection refused: no further information
java.net.ConnectException: Connection refused: no further information.

>>> Connection expecting Connect Spawner; you may need to start it.

```

Figure 3. Failed Connection to local host

Oops! You forgot to start the spawner (see Step 1 above). Do so, and you should see the following message.

```

Threaded connection test starting...
Telnet session established on Sat Jan 24 15:24:00 PST 2004

Telnet client: com.sas.net.connect.SASTelnetClient

Host: ETHELRED
Port: 2323

Looking for message from host containing one of the following

    Hello>

Received: Hello>

Sent: sas -dmr -comamid tcp -noterminal -cleanup

Looking for message from host containing one of the following

    SESSION ESTABLISHED

Received:
SESSION ESTABLISHED

NOTE: Copyright (c) 1999-2001 by SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA.
NOTE: SAS (r) Proprietary Software Release 8.2 (TS2M0)
NOTE: This session is executing on the WIN_PRO platform.

NOTE: SAS initialization used:
      real time          0.68 seconds
      cpu time           0.16 seconds

1      %put RemoteSASInfoStart &SYSVER RemoteSASInfoEnd;
RemoteSASInfoStart 8.2 RemoteSASInfoEnd

NOTE: PROCEDURE PRINTTO used:

```

```

real time          0.00 seconds
cpu time           0.00 seconds

NOTE: SAS Server: Authorization commencing...
NOTE: SAS Server: Client LOGON
NOTE: NEW task=3 factory=8387 oid=8425 class=sashelp.prdauth.userinfo.class
NOTE: NEW task=3 factory=8387 oid=8505 class=SASHELP.RSASMOD.SRVINFO.CLASS
NOTE: Ofactory : _term
NOTE: TERM task=3 factory=8387 oid=8505
NOTE: TERM task=3 factory=8387 oid=8425
NOTE: SAS Server: Client LOGOFF
NOTE: Stopping task taskid=3 curtask=1

Success!!

```

Figure 4. Successful Connection to local host

You now have a connection to your local system. To create a connection to a remote PC just change the value in the **Host Name** text box from "localhost" to the name of your remote system and supply a valid user ID and password. The way TCP works, as long as both ends of the connection are talking over the same port number, one end can be on the same system as the other end (the "local" host) or on a computer in Australia (assuming you are not in Australia when you're reading this).

STEP 5. CREATING A JSP PROJECT

Now you are ready to actually create the web application. First, however, as noted above it is necessary to create a new project to hold the JSP project. In WebAF, select **File>New**. From the **Projects** tab, select **JavaServer Pages Project**. You should see something like the resulting screen:

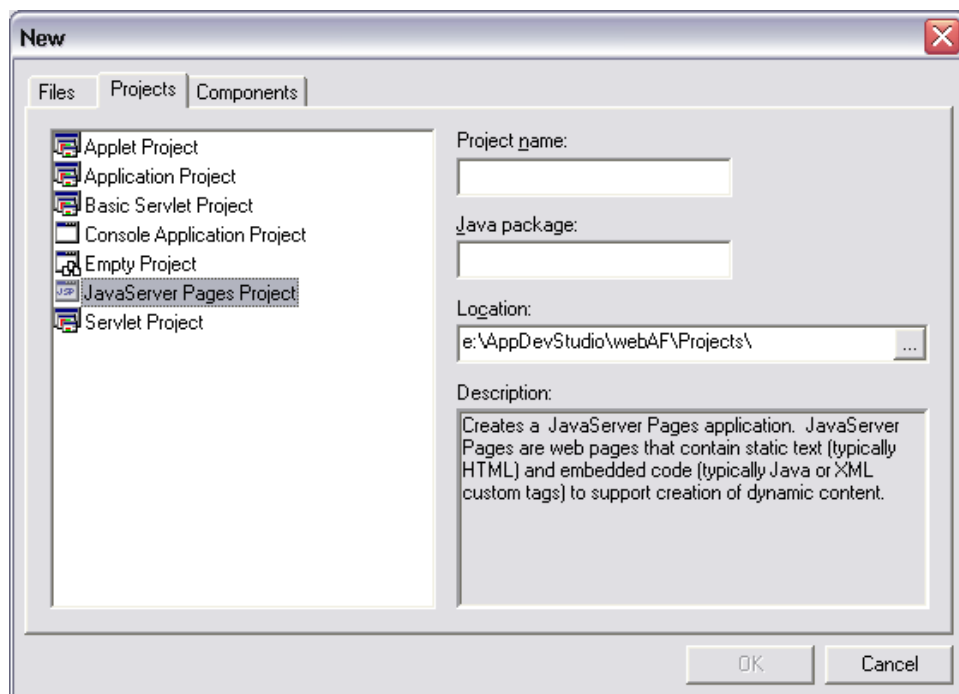


Figure 5. Creating a New JSP project

Three text input boxes show up: **Project name**, **Java package** and **Location**. The only one of these that you have to specify is the project name—in this case *Examples*. Leave the second text box blank. The result is that the Project Wizard does not create a hierarchy of directories to store Java class files (see the WebAF Help Topic “Assigning a Package Name” for more details). The Location field will automatically fill in with the default AppDev Studio Project directory name; again, this is probably what you want to do.

Selecting **OK** should result in a screen that looks something like the following example:

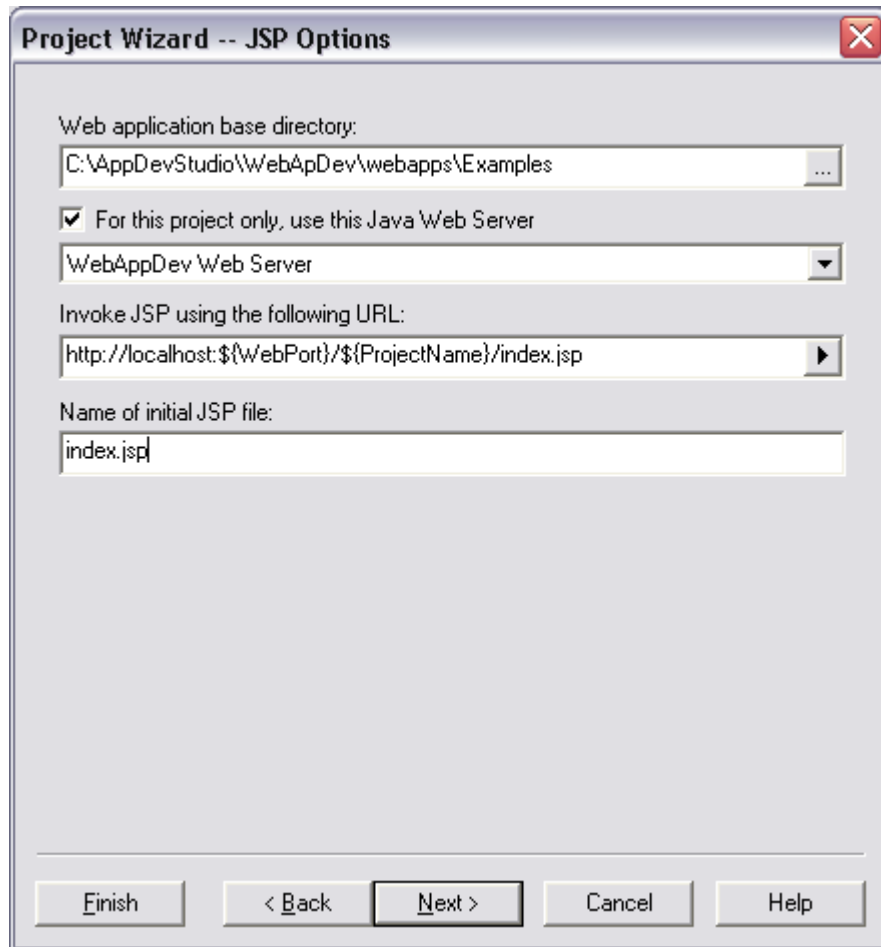
The image shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "Project Wizard -- JSP Options". It has a standard Windows window frame with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog contains several fields and controls: a text box for "Web application base directory:" containing the path "C:\AppDevStudio\WebAppDev\webapps\Examples" with a browse button (...); a checked checkbox labeled "For this project only, use this Java Web Server"; a dropdown menu showing "WebAppDev Web Server"; a text box for "Invoke JSP using the following URL:" containing the URL "http://localhost:\${WebPort}/\${ProjectName}/index.jsp" with a selection arrow; and a text box for "Name of initial JSP file:" containing "index.jsp". At the bottom, there are five buttons: "Finish", "< Back", "Next >", "Cancel", and "Help".

Figure 6. Project Wizard JSP Options

The **Web application base directory** is specified as described in the discussion above. The default value is the project location from **Figure 5**. You need to change this value to the new folder you created by copying and renaming the template:

```
C:\AppDevStudio\WebAppdev\webapps\Examples.
```

Checking the box labeled **For this project only, use this Java web Server** offers two choices: the *Default Web server* and the *WebAppDev Web Server*. In this example the second choice is selected. As we saw in Step 2, be sure this server is started before you try to run any applications from within WebAF.

The third text box, **Invoke JSP using the following URL**, also requires some additional explanation. The string `http://localhost:${WebPort}/${ProjectName}/index.jsp` is comprised of a series of environment variables of the form `${varname}`. The selection arrow at the right hand side of the

text brings up a list additional of field values that can be automatically inserted into the text. In this case, the generated URL is

```
http://localhost:8082/Examples/index.jsp
```

requesting the page `index.jsp` from the *WebAppDev Web Server*.

The full pathname to this page is

```
C:\AppDevStudio\WebAppdev\webapps\Examples\index.jsp
```

Unlike most Windows commands, however, URLs are *case sensitive*. Unless you are sure that the true pathnames agree completely with the constructed ones, it is almost certainly better not to use the environment values in the URL string, but instead just hard-code the actual path to the web application directory.

The fourth text box is the name of the initial JSP page in the new project; the default is `index.jsp`, which is probably what you want to call it.

If all of the parameters have been specified as illustrated, selecting **Next** should result in the following confirmation page. Press **Finish** to create the project.

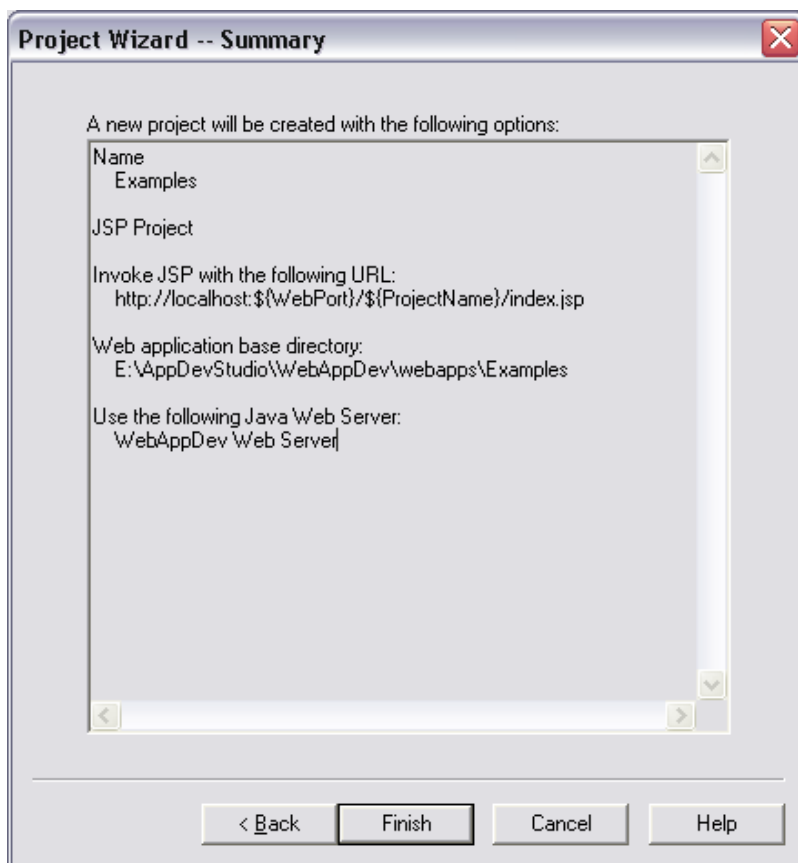


Figure 7. Project Wizard Summary

STEP 6. CREATING A NEW JAVASERVER PAGE

WebAF will automatically open a new JavaServer Page. Or a new JSP page can be readily constructed in WebAF by simply dropping widgets onto the page. To create a new page in an open project, just select **File>New** from the main menu.

The rest of this discussion is based on the finished `index.jsp` page shown in **Figure 8** below. Each of the components will be discussed in turn, but it is useful to view the entire page at once in order to understand where the process is leading.

```
<%@taglib uri="http://www.sas.com/taglib/sasads" prefix="sasads"%>
<%@page import="com.sas.collection.StringCollection" %>

<sasads:Connection id="connection1" scope="session"
    initialStatement="libname EXAMS 'e:\\exams';" />
<sasads:DataSet id="dataSet1" connection="connection1"
    dataSet="EXAMS.TESTS" />
<%
    // Get unique test names and codes from data set,
    // add collections to page context
    pageContext.setAttribute ("codes",
        new StringCollection(dataSet1.getFormattedColumn(1)));
    pageContext.setAttribute ("labels",
        new StringCollection(dataSet1.getFormattedColumn(2)));
%>

<%-- begin HTML --%>
<html>
<head>
    <title>JSP Examples</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1 style="color: blue; text-align: center">On-line Exam Demo</h1>

<sasads:Form method="get" action="page1.jsp" style="text-align: center;">
    <sasads:Choicebox id="test" prolog="<strong>Select Test: /strong>"
        model="codes" descriptionModel="labels" />
    <sasads:PushButton text="Begin" /></p>
</sasads:Form>

</body>
</html>
```

Figure 8. JSP Example: Using DataSetInterface to Populate a Listbox Control

The JSP/Servlet window should open with a new blank page. Note that the first line says:

```
<%@taglib uri="http://www.sas.com/taglib/sasads" prefix="sasads"%>
```

This is the link to the `sasads` tag library, which as we will see below is used by WebAF to create form elements. Note that the `uri` (Uniform Resource Identifier) looks a lot like an HTML anchor tag. However, you do not need to be connected to the internet in order to display a page containing this tag; the local Java web server understands this reference not as a link, but instead as an identifier. This is just the *name* of the `sasads` resource, not its location.

ADDING A CONNECTION OBJECT

For the online examination example the first JavaServer Page prompts the student to select a test from the ones available. This list is stored as a SAS dataset on the server; see the Appendices for the sample data tables. The JavaServer Page will use the connection created by the Wizard in Step 4 above.

Selecting the **SAS** tab in the WebAF IDE brings up a set of 9 controls. Dropping a **Connection** control on the **Source** page results in the following generated tag:

```
<sasads:Connection id="connection1" scope="session" />
```

Note the `sasads` namespace; the Java code for this control is available from the template library copied in Step 3 above. This default template has to be modified for the specific connection required. If you know the attribute values for the connection you can just type them into the source window. It is probably easier however to modify the connection properties from the **Components** tab of the **Project Navigator** window.

Right click on the selected component in the left window (here `sasads:Connection - connection1`) and a menu appears that can be used to start the **Customizer** or change component properties individually. In general, if a component customizer is available it supports editing of the available component properties. The Customizer brings up a connection editor. In either case—editing the properties directly or using the Customizer-- the JSP code in the **Source** tab is rewritten with the new attributes.

In this example you also need to add an **initialStatement** attribute allocating a **libname** on the local host.

```
initialStatement="libname EXAMS 'e:\\exams';" />
```

Note that two slashes are required; since the interface uses the backslash character as an escape, `\\` gets translated into `\` when it is passed to SAS. Also, use single quotes around the libname directory, since the attribute itself is enclosed in double quotes.

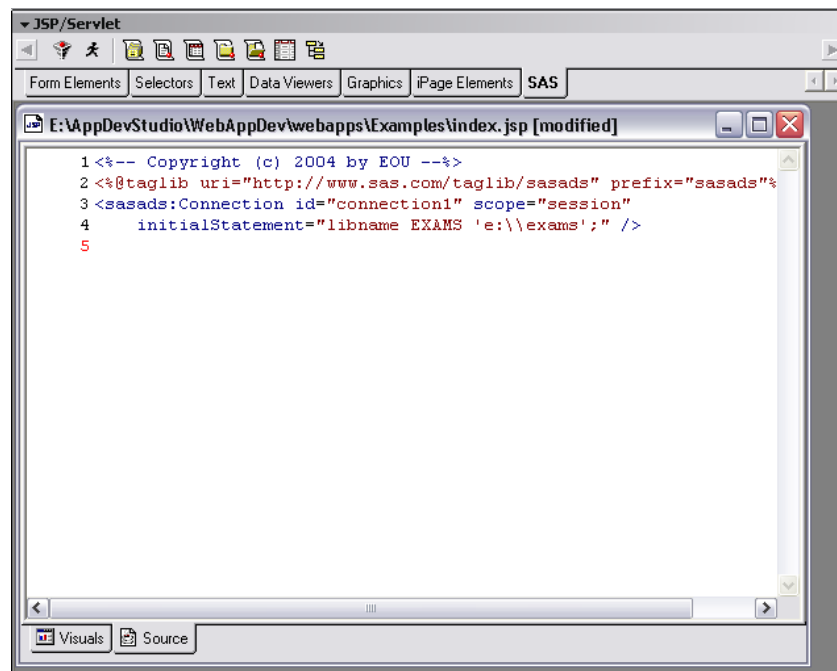
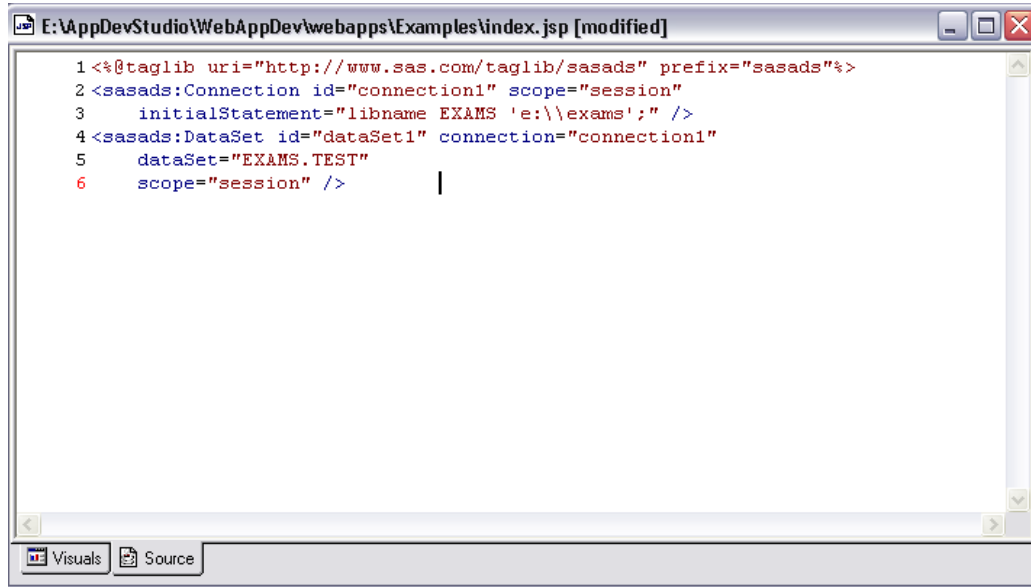


Figure 9. Modifying a Connection

ADDING A DATASET OBJECT

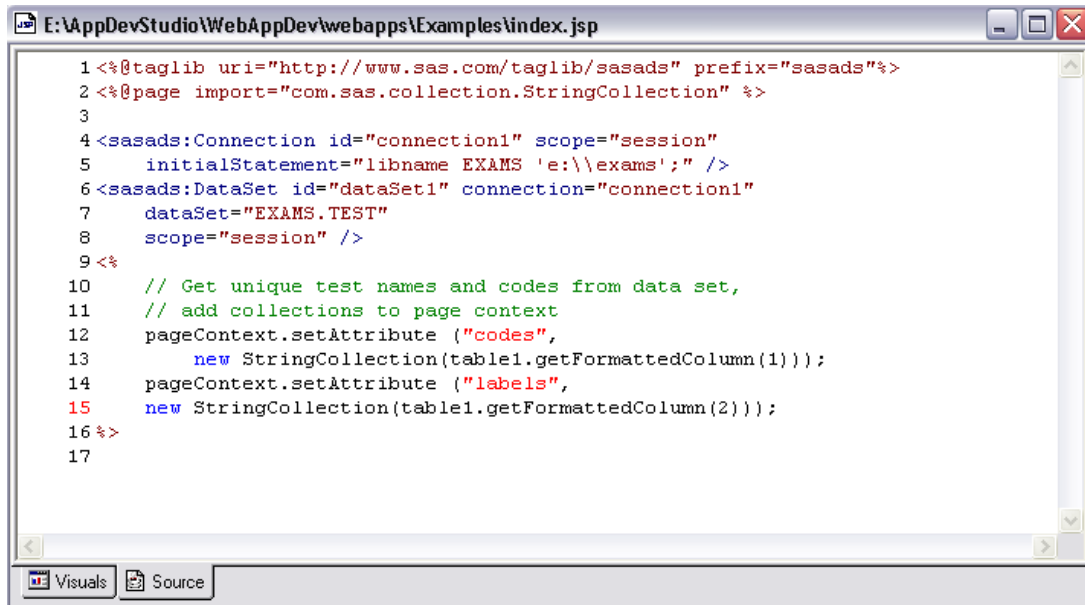
Once the connection has been instantiated, the **DataSetInterface** control must be added to reference the specific **EXAMS.TESTS** table. After dropping the control on the page, the code illustrated in **Figure 10** is inserted. Modify the `dataSet` attribute of the control to point to the SAS data required-- in this case **EXAMS.TEXT**.



```
E:\AppDevStudio\WebAppDev\webapps\Examples\index.jsp [modified]
1 <%@taglib uri="http://www.sas.com/taglib/sasads" prefix="sasads"%>
2 <sasads:Connection id="connection1" scope="session"
3   initialState="libname EXAMS 'e:\\exams';" />
4 <sasads:DataSet id="dataSet1" connection="connection1"
5   dataSet="EXAMS.TEST"
6   scope="session" />
```

Figure 10. Adding a DataSetInterface

As **Figure 11** shows, in order to populate the page, it is necessary to include a short Java *scriptlet* to set the page attributes.



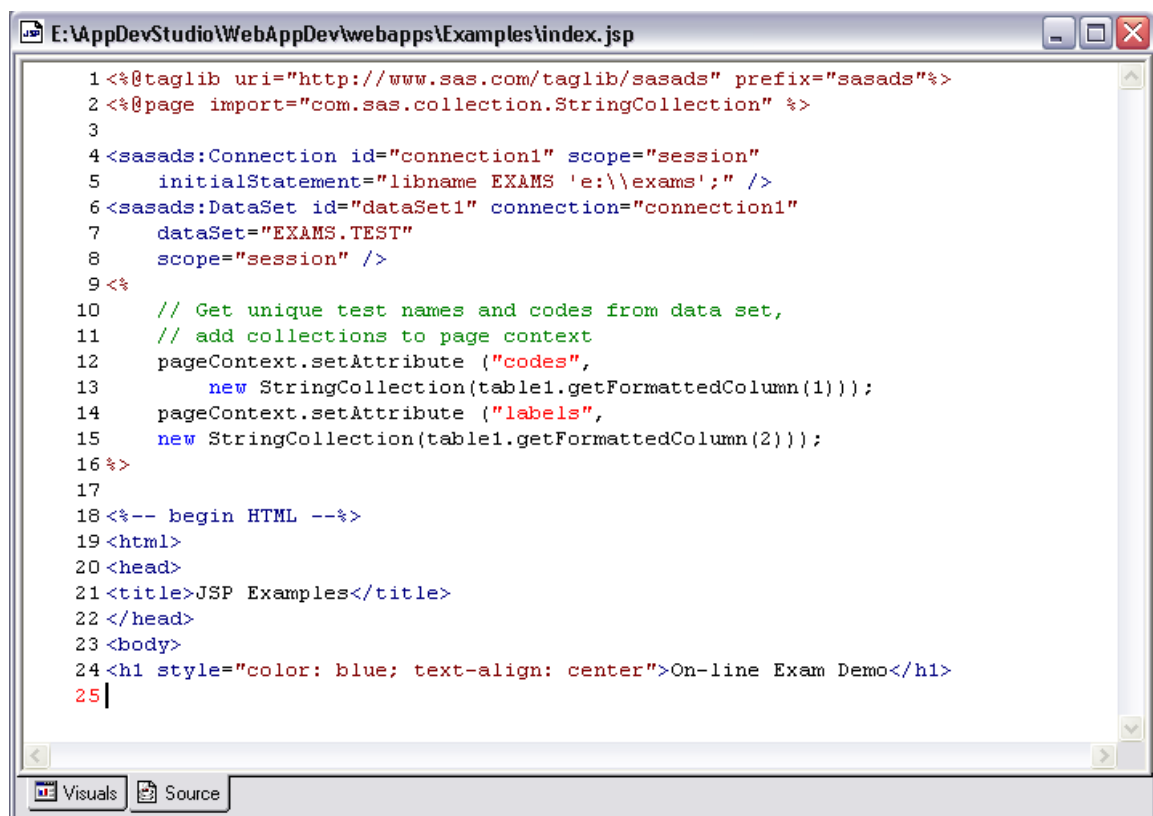
```
E:\AppDevStudio\WebAppDev\webapps\Examples\index.jsp
1 <%@taglib uri="http://www.sas.com/taglib/sasads" prefix="sasads"%>
2 <%@page import="com.sas.collection.StringCollection" %>
3
4 <sasads:Connection id="connection1" scope="session"
5   initialState="libname EXAMS 'e:\\exams';" />
6 <sasads:DataSet id="dataSet1" connection="connection1"
7   dataSet="EXAMS.TEST"
8   scope="session" />
9 <%
10 // Get unique test names and codes from data set,
11 // add collections to page context
12 pageContext.setAttribute ("codes",
13   new StringCollection(table1.getFormattedColumn(1)));
14 pageContext.setAttribute ("labels",
15   new StringCollection(table1.getFormattedColumn(2)));
16 %>
17
```

Figure 11. Set Page Attributes with Java Scriptlet

Note that in the **EXAMS.TEST** data set, the first column is the test number and column 2 is the name of the test. The data are passed to the page context as Java `StringCollection` objects. (Depending on the version of AppDev Studio you use, it may be necessary to include the page import directive shown above at line 2 in order for the compiled Java code to work correctly.) This is the only part of this page that cannot be constructed automatically by dropping controls on the page. In this instance, the records are provided by the `getFormattedColumn()` method of the `dataSet` class. As might be expected, there are also methods to `getFormattedRows()` and other table components. The data for the first variable is added to the page as a collection called `codes` while the second variable is added as the collection `labels`. These two collections are used below on the HTML form.

HTML STATIC TEXT

A JavaServer Page is just an HTML page with some special tags added. **Figure 12** shows the static web page code. Note that an inline CSS (Cascading Style Sheet) `style` tag is used to format the heading.



```
1 <%@taglib uri="http://www.sas.com/taglib/sasads" prefix="sasads"%>
2 <%@page import="com.sas.collection.StringCollection" %>
3
4 <sasads:Connection id="connection1" scope="session"
5   initialState="libname EXAMS 'e:\\exams';" />
6 <sasads:DataSet id="dataSet1" connection="connection1"
7   dataSet="EXAMS.TEST"
8   scope="session" />
9 <%
10   // Get unique test names and codes from data set,
11   // add collections to page context
12   pageContext.setAttribute ("codes",
13     new StringCollection(table1.getFormattedColumn(1)));
14   pageContext.setAttribute ("labels",
15     new StringCollection(table1.getFormattedColumn(2)));
16 %>
17
18 <!-- begin HTML --%>
19 <html>
20 <head>
21 <title>JSP Examples</title>
22 </head>
23 <body>
24 <h1 style="color: blue; text-align: center">On-line Exam Demo</h1>
25 |
```

Figure 12. Static HTML Text

ADDING A FORM

In order to display dynamic data in HTML, a form element is usually required. SAS has supplied a custom tag to support this action. The form control is available from the **Form** elements tab of the IDE, as are the **Choicebox** and **PushButton** tags. These are just standard HTML elements, with the expected functions.

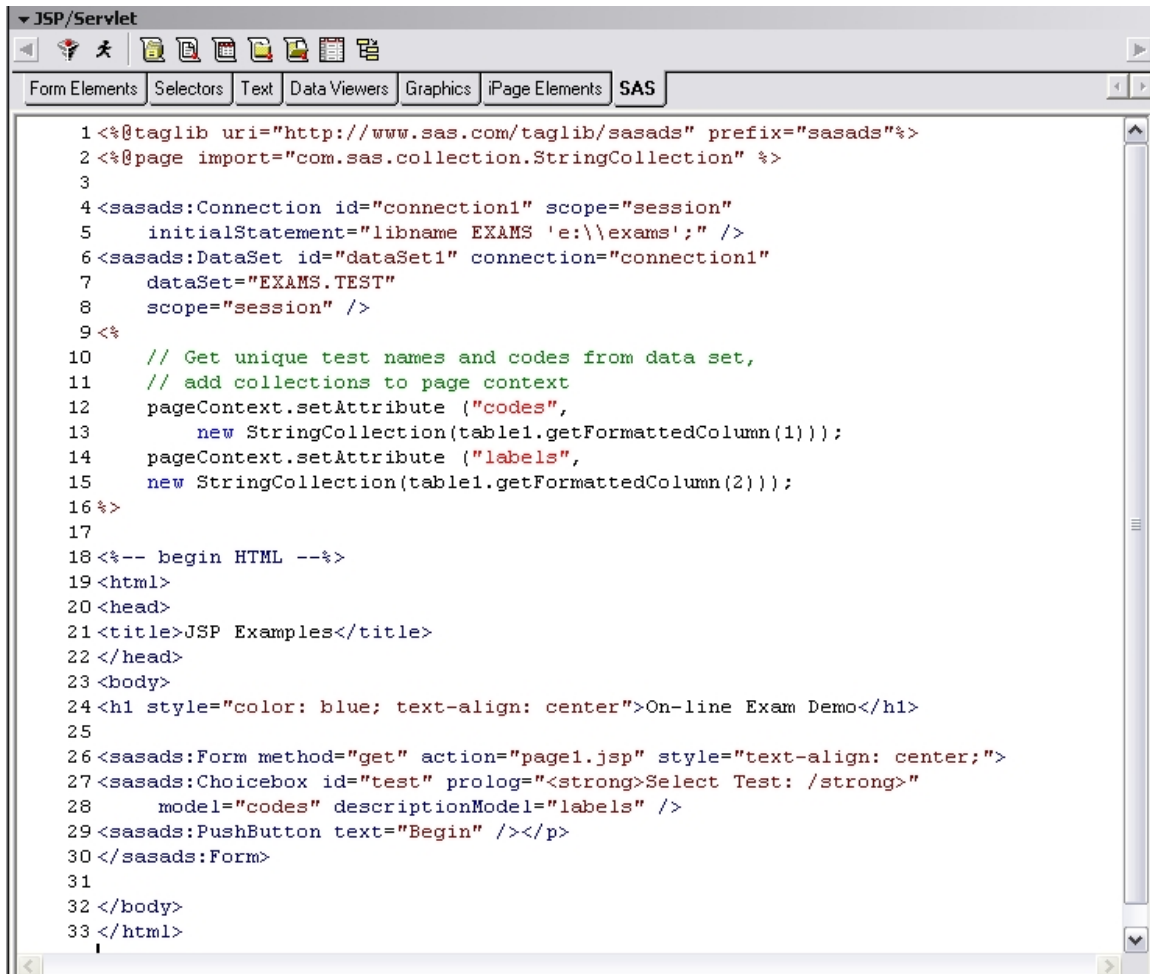


Figure 13. HTML Form Element

The form `get` method calls the next JavaServer Page, `page1.jsp`. (If you want to suppress the parameter display you can of course use `post` instead of `get`.) Note that the **choicebox** control uses `codes` as the **model** and `labels` as the **descriptionModel** attribute values. These are the collections defined by the Java scriptlet. The code model is the set of test numbers (submitted as form parameters) while the description model is the list of test names that will appear in the choice box. Pressing the **PushButton** submits the page and invokes the form action.

This completes the page construction. The other three pages of this application, `page1.jsp`, `page2.jsp` and `finish.jsp` are attached in the Appendices for the interested. It is to be hoped that this discussion has provided enough information in order to be able to puzzle out how these pages were constructed and why they work.

STEP 7. PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

There are three different ways to start the development version of the Tomcat servlet engine from within WebAF:

1. From the main WebAF menu, select **Tools>Service>Start Java Web Server**;
2. Press the **F5** function key; or
3. Click the **Go** button on the toolbar.

Whichever method is chosen, a window appears at the bottom of the display with something like the following text.

```
Starting tomcat. Check logs/tomcat.log for error messages
2003-06-16 07:13:15 - ContextManager: Adding context Ctx( /examples )
2003-06-16 07:13:15 - ContextManager: Adding context Ctx( )
2003-06-16 07:13:15 - ContextManager: Adding context Ctx( /ServletExample )
2003-06-16 07:13:15 - ContextManager: Adding context Ctx( /ThesisDemo )
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - ContextManager: JspClassDebugInfo: Enabling inclusion of
class debugging information in JSP servlets for context "/examples".
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - path="/examples" :jsp: init
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - Scratch dir for the JSP engine is:
D:\AppDevStudio\WebAppDev\work\localhost_8082\Fexamples
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - IMPORTANT: Do not modify the generated servlets
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - ContextManager: JspClassDebugInfo: Enabling inclusion of
class debugging information in JSP servlets for context "".
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - path="" :jsp: init
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - ContextManager: JspClassDebugInfo: Enabling inclusion of
class debugging information in JSP servlets for context "/ServletExample".
2003-06-16 07:13:16 - path="/ServletExample" :jsp: init
2003-06-16 07:13:17 - ContextManager: JspClassDebugInfo: Enabling inclusion of
class debugging information in JSP servlets for context "/ThesisDemo".
2003-06-16 07:13:17 - path="/ThesisDemo" :jsp: init
2003-06-16 07:13:17 - PoolTcpConnector: Starting HttpConnectionHandler on 8082
2003-06-16 07:13:17 - PoolTcpConnector: Starting Ajp12ConnectionHandler on
8083
```

Figure 14. Java Web Server Messages

Note that the Java web server is started on port 8082. (Do not forget to start the *SAS Job Spawner* as well!) Selecting the **Execute in Browser** button from the WebAF tool bar should result in the page shown in Figure 15.

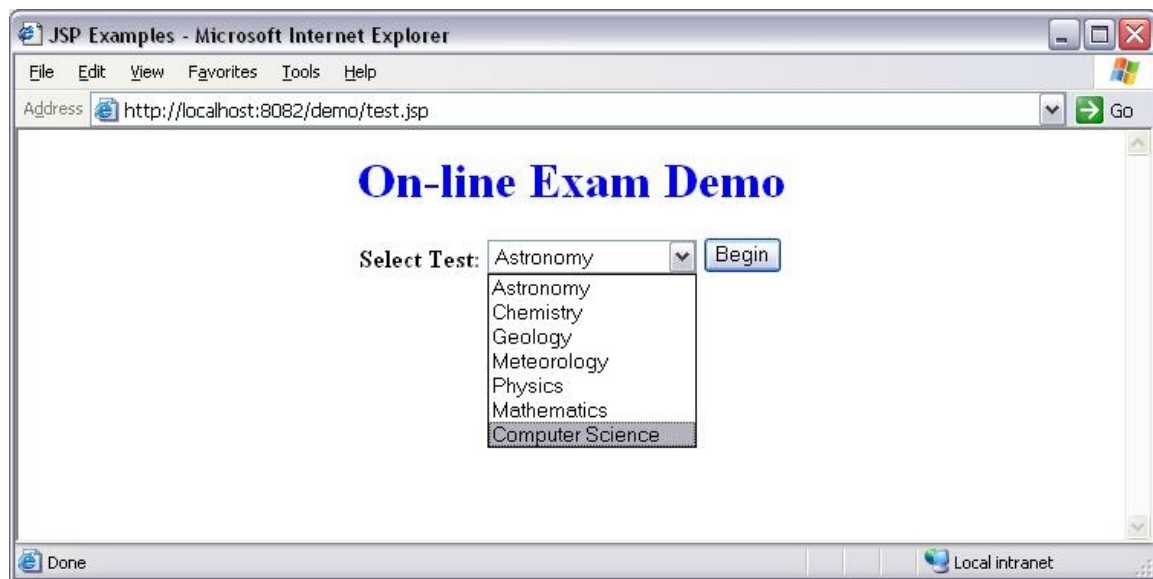


Figure 15. Output: Using DataSetInterface to Populate a List Box

Clicking the **Begin** button on the form passes the test number of the desired exam subject as a parameter to **page1.jsp**, which selects the appropriate questions from another table in the same SAS data library (see Appendix II for the code for this and following pages).

CONCLUSION

As should be obvious from this brief introduction, AppDev Studio is an extremely powerful and flexible collection of tools for web development. It also has a lot of moving parts, and new functionality is being added on an ongoing basis. The goal of this paper is to try to put all of the pieces together in a systematic overview, so that both novice and experienced web programmers can find the information and examples they need to get started using these tools effectively.

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- Scott E. Chapal. Using WebAF for Data Entry and Editing in an Integrated Conservation Monitoring Data Management System. Paper 24-26. *Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Annual SAS® Users Group International Conference*. Cary, NC: SAS Institute Inc., 2001.
- Martijn Busselen. Building a Management Reporting Tool Using SAS, Java and WebAF. 2001 SUGA Paper. (<http://www.suga.aust.com>).
- Clare Nicklin. A Successful Implementation of a Complicated Web Based Application through WebAF and SAS Integration Technologies. Views 2003 Conference. (<http://www.amadeus.co.uk>).

SAS RESOURCES

- SAS AppDev Studio Developer's Site: WebAF. <http://support.sas.com/rnd/appdev/WebAF>.
- AppDev Studio™ - A Roadmap. A SAS White Paper.
<http://support.sas.com/documentation/whitepaper/downloads/100084.pdf>

AND LAST (BUT NOT LEAST)

- Frederick Pratter. *Web Development with SAS by Example*. SAS Publishing, Cary NC. 2003.

APPENDIX I – SAMPLE DATA SETS

EXAMS

tnum	tname
1	Astronomy
2	Chemistry
3	Geology
4	Meteorology
5	Physics
6	Mathematics
7	Computer Science

QUESTIONS

tnum	qnum	Qtext	qanswer
1	1	The sun sets in the East every morning.	F
1	2	Which of the following statements is correct?	C
1	3	Light travels at approximately 3×10^8 k/s. The mean distance from the Earth to the Sun is about 1.5×10^8 k. About how long does light take to reach us from the sun?	B

ANSWERS

tnum	qnum	avalue	Atext
1	1	F	False
1	1	T	True
1	2	A	The Earth goes around the Sun.
1	2	B	The Sun goes around the Earth.
1	2	C	The Earth and the Sun both revolve about a common point.
1	2	D	Apollo drives his golden chariot across the sky each day.
1	3	A	8 seconds
1	3	B	8 minutes
1	3	C	8 hours
1	3	D	8 days

APPENDIX II – More JavaServer Pages

page1.jsp – Display the next question

```
<%-- page1.jsp --%>
<%@taglib uri="http://www.sas.com/taglib/sasads" prefix="sasads"%>
<%@page import="com.sas.collection.StringCollection" %>

<sasads:Connection id="conn" scope="session"
    initialState="libname EXAMS 'd:\\exams';"/>
<sasads:DataSet id="table1" connection="conn"
    dataSet="EXAMS.TESTS" />
<sasads:DataSet id="table2" connection="conn"
    dataSet="EXAMS.QUESTIONS" />
<sasads:DataSet id="table3" connection="conn"
    dataSet="EXAMS.ANSWERS" />

<%
    // get parameters from URL
    String tnum = request.getParameter("test");
    String qparm = request.getParameter("question");
    int qindex = qparm != null ? Integer.parseInt(qparm) : 0;

    // get test name
    table1.setWhere("tnum eq " + tnum);
    String tname = table1.getFormattedCell(1,2);

    // select questions for this test
    table2.setWhere("tnum eq " + tnum);
    String[] qnum = table2.getFormattedColumn(2);
    String[] qtext = table2.getFormattedColumn(3);

    // select answers for this question
    table3.setWhere
        ("tnum eq " + tnum + " and qnum eq " + qnum[qindex]);
    pageContext.setAttribute("answer_codes",
        new StringCollection(table3.getFormattedColumn(3)));
    pageContext.setAttribute("answers",
        new StringCollection(table3.getFormattedColumn(4)));
%>

<%-- begin HTML code --%>
<html>
<head><title>On-line Exam Demo: page1.jsp</title></head>
<body>
<h1 style="color: blue; text-align: center">
    On-line Exam: <%= tname %></h1>
<blockquote>
<sasads:Form action="page2.jsp" method="get">
    <sasads:Hidden id="test" text="<%= tnum %>" />
    <sasads:Hidden id="question" text="<%= qnum[qindex] %>" />

    <%-- display question --%>
    (<%= qnum[qindex] %>) <%= qtext[qindex] %>:

    <blockquote>
        <sasads:Radio id="answer"
            model="answer_codes" descriptionModel="answers" />
    </blockquote>
    <center>
        <sasads:PushButton text="Submit"/>
    </center>
</sasads:Form>
</blockquote>
</body>
</html>
```

page2.jsp – display the correct answer

```
<%-- page2.jsp --%>
<%@taglib uri="http://www.sas.com/taglib/sasads" prefix="sasads"%>
<%@ page import="com.sas.collection.StringCollection" %>

<sasads:Connection id="conn" scope="session"
    initialState="libname EXAMS 'd:\\exams';"/>
<sasads:DataSet id="table1" connection="conn"
    dataSet="EXAMS.TESTS" />
<sasads:DataSet id="table2" connection="conn"
    dataSet="EXAMS.QUESTIONS" />
<sasads:DataSet id="table3" connection="conn"
    dataSet="EXAMS.ANSWERS" />
<%
    // get parameters from URL
    String tnum = request.getParameter("test");
    String qnum = request.getParameter("question");
    String answer = request.getParameter("answer");

    // get test name
    table1.setWhere("tnum eq " + tnum);
    String tname = table1.getFormattedCell(1,2);

    // select questions for this test
    table2.setWhere("tnum eq " + tnum);
    String[] qtext = table2.getFormattedColumn(3);
    String[] qanswer = table2.getFormattedColumn(4);

    // test for end of exam
    int qindex = Integer.parseInt(qnum);
    String nextpage = (qindex-- < qtext.length) ? "page1.jsp" : "finish.jsp";

    // select answers for this question
    table3.setWhere
        ("tnum eq " + tnum + " and qnum eq " + qnum);

    String[] avalues = table3.getFormattedColumn(3);
    pageContext.setAttribute("answer_codes",
        new StringCollection(avales));

    String[] answers = table3.getFormattedColumn(4);
    pageContext.setAttribute("answers",
        new StringCollection(answers));

    // look up the right answer
    String correct_answer = new String();
    for (int i=0; i<answers.length; i++)
        if (qanswer[qindex].equals(avales[i]))
        {
            correct_answer = answers[i];
            break;
        }
    // specify correct answer, compute score
    String reply = new String();
    if (answer.equals(qanswer[qindex]))
    {
        reply = "That's right!";

        // compute test score, store as session value
        String s = (String) session.getValue("score");
        int score = (s == null) ? 0 : Integer.parseInt(s);
        session.setAttribute("score", String.valueOf(++score));
    }
    else
    {
        reply = "Sorry. The correct answer is: " + correct_answer;
    }
%>
```

```

<%-- begin HTML code --%>
<html>
<head>
    <title>On-line Exam Demo: page2.jsp</title>
</head>
<body>

<h1 style="color: blue; text-align: center">
    On-line Exam: <%= tname %></h1>

<blockquote>
<sasads:Form action="<%= nextpage %>">

<sasads:Hidden id="test" text="<%= tnum %>" />
<sasads:Hidden id="question" text="<%= qnum %>" />

<%-- display question --%>
(<%= qnum %>) <%= qtext[qindex] %>:

<blockquote>
<sasads:Radio model="answer_codes" descriptionModel="answers"
    selectedItem="<%= answer %>" />

<%-- display correct answer --%>
<p><%= reply %></p>

</blockquote>
<center><sasads:PushButton text="Next Question"/></center>

</sasads:Form>
</blockquote>

</body>
</html>

```

finish.jsp – try again?

```

<%-- finish.jsp --%>
<html>
<head>
    <title>On-line Exam Demo: finish.jsp</title>
</head>
<body>
<h1 style="color: blue; text-align: center">
    On-line Exam Demo</h1>
<center><strong>Your score:
    <%= session.getAttribute("score") %> correct out of
    <%= request.getParameter("question") %> questions.
</strong></center>
<%
    // re-initialize test score
    session.invalidate();
%>
</body>
</html>

```