

Welcome files not working

Do welcome files need to exist?

By default, yes, welcome files do need to exist. But Jetty can be configured to allow dispatching to welcome files which are servlets.

The welcome file mechanism allows a request to `/some/directory/` to be served by the contents of a file like `/some/directory/index.html`. If there is a servlet mapped to handle the welcome file, it will be called. So if `index.jsp` is configured as a welcome file, then a request to `/some/directory/` will be passed to the `JspServlet` mapped at `*.jsp` to handle the `/some/directory/index.jsp` file.

From Jetty 6.1.16 onwards, the `DefaultServlet` can dispatch to welcome files which are servlets, even if the files don't exist. However, in order to allow directory listing when the servlet mapping matches, but would point to a nonexistent resource, by default this ability is disabled.

The options related to viewing directories and welcome files are as follows:

- `JspServlet` enabled, `index.jsp` in welcome file list; this is the default set up in `webdefault.xml`
- `DefaultServlet`'s `dirAllowed` init-param, if true, allows directory listings when the request matches no resources or servlets. Default in `webdefault.xml` is `true`
- `DefaultServlet`'s `welcomeServlets` init-param, if true, allows for dispatching to welcome files which are servlets even with no accompanying static resource. Default in `webdefault.xml` is `false`.

Assuming `JspServlet` is called for requests to any file `*.jsp`, and `dirAllowed` is true, then the behavior is as follows:

	welcomeServlets option, with no existing index.jsp
true	404s, because it matches against <code>*.jsp</code> in the servlet mapping and dispatches to <code>index.jsp</code>
false (default)	directory listing, because it doesn't try to dispatch to the JSP servlet

In older versions of Jetty, the file **MUST** exist for the welcome file mechanism to work. Even if `index.do` is defined as a welcome file, then a request to `/some/directory/` will not be passed to a servlet handling `*.do` for `some/directory/index.do` unless the file exists.

Welcome files are not prioritized in the order on my welcome-file-list

If your `welcome-file-list` is a mix of static resources and servlets, note that static resources will always take priority, in the order listed in the `welcome-file-list`. If no static resources match, then the `welcome-file-list` is checked again for any matching servlet mappings. This is to avoid any issues, such as above, where a `webapp` with no file `index.jsp` will return a 404 if `index.jsp` is in the `welcome-file-list`.

Note that the default `welcome-file-list` contains `index.jsp`.

How do I work around the need for welcome files to exist, in older

versions of Jetty?

If you want an index to be served by a servlet, then I suggest you use a filter to do the redirection. See the [Welcome Filter.java](#) for an example.

Not working with struts actions

In order to use a struts action as a welcome file, you will need to set `redirectWelcome` in [Default Servlet](#) to `true`. The default is for `redirectWelcome` to be `false`, which means the page will be forwarded to, and the action never called.