

Gomba - Java RESTful web services

by Flavio Tordini

1. What is it?

Gomba is a collection of Java servlets that allow developers to quickly build [RESTful web services](#). Gomba acts as an interface between relational databases and the Web.

2. Features

- Read from and write to a RDBMS using HTTP and XML.
- Render SQL resultsets to XML.
- Customizable XML output using XSLT.
- Build dynamic SQL using JSP and JSTL.
- Support for BLOB and CLOB SQL data types.
- Multipart form request handling.
- RESTful transactions.
- RESTful error handling using XML responses.
- Works with any database that supports JDBC (MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, etc.)

3. Simple

Simple web services can be created by just editing the Web Application Deployment Descriptor (`web.xml`). User knowledge requirements are SQL, [HTTP](#) and being able to run a [Servlet container](#). Gomba fits nicely into the Servlet framework, so any previous knowledge of the Servlet API, [JSP](#), [JSTL](#) and [XSLT](#) will be helpful.

4. Lightweight

The basic idea is that Gomba **streams** data and never holds large buffers in memory. This is accomplished by using the [SAX API](#) to generate and transform XML and Java IO streams to transfer data around.

By design Gomba does not feature a cache, leaving that kind of work to a dedicated HTTP cache (proxy) such as [Apache mod cache](#) or [Squid](#) or to an in-process Java cache such as [OSCache](#).

5. Secure

Gomba always uses prepared statements so it is impossible for a client to modify the SQL by passing in single quotes and other tricks.

6. Open Source

Gomba is Open Source software, and you are welcome to modify it and redistribute it under certain conditions. See the [Legal](#) page for details. Here's a list of tools used by Gomba:

- [Apache Jakarta Commons BeanUtils](#) is used to perform conversions from strings to other Java types.
- [Apache Jakarta Commons FileUpload](#) is used to read multipart requests.
- [Apache Jakarta Taglibs JSP Standard Tag Library implementation](#). JSTL can be optionally used to dynamically generate SQL statements.

7. Status

Gomba is ready for production and is actively maintained. Gomba is currently used to build middle-tier services for [Kataweb](#) and [Repubblica.it](#).