# Web and Middleware JBoss Training at Hewlett Packard - Intro to JBoss JAVA application server

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I and my TEAM *Web and Middleware Implementation Team @Hewlett Packard* are assigned an online training to follow on topic of **JBoss Application server**.It is my first online training of this kind where a number of people are streamed a video from a trainer who explains in real time concepts of *__JBoss__* - *A Community Drive open source middleware (Application Server)*, since some time JBoss is known under a new name (*WildFly*).



In short what is **JBoss**? - It is an application server similar to *Apache Tomcat*  -an *open source software implementation of the Java Servlet and JavaServer Pages technologies.*



In case you wonder about **what is Middleware** it is a *buzzword well established in Corporate world referring to all kind of servers in the middle between Servers on pure OS and hardware Level and end*

*client. Middleware includes all kind of Web and Application servers* like **Apache, JBoss, Tomcat, Adobe's WebLogic Webserver, IBM WebSphere application server** etc..

What this means is JBOSS is very similar to Tomcat but it is designed to run interpret through (Java Virtual Machine), higher scale of Java Applications and then return content to a a web browser. In other words if you need to have a Webserver with support for Java VM. JBoss is one of the open source technologies available which can be a substitute for Tomcat. In Fact **Jboss** itself started as a fork of **Tomcat** and n owadays, Jboss has an implementation of Tomcat embedded into itself. Jboss is mainly developed and supported by Redhat. It has 3 major releases used in IT Companies. *Jboss 5, JBoss 6 and JBoss 7*. In most production server systems running some kind of *Java servlets* currently still Jboss ver. 5 and Jboss v. 6 is used. Just like Tomcat, the server is messy in its structure. But if we have to compare Tomcat with Jboss then JBoss is at least 100 times more messy and hard to configure tune than Tomcat. Actually after getting to know *JBoss 6* I would not advice anyone to use this Application server. Its too complex and all configuration and performance tuning is done through hundred of XML so it is like a hell for the usual System Administrator who likes clearness and simplicity. JBoss has a Web configuration interface which in *version 7* is a bit advanced and easier to configure and get to know the server compared to previous versions. But same web interface for older releases is lousy and not nice. Just like *Tomcat*, *JBoss* supports clustering, here is full list of all features it supports:

- Full clustering support for both traditional J2EE applications and EJB 3.0 POJO applications
- Automatic discovery. Nodes in cluster find each other with no additional configuration.
- Cluster-wide replicated JNDI context
- Failover and load-balancing for JNDI, RMI and all EJB types
- Stateful Session Bean state replication
- HTTP Session replication
- High Availability JMS
- Farming. Distributed deployment of JBoss components. Deploying on one node deploys on all nodes.

Looks like *JBoss* is among the few Application Servers supporting deployment of Java JSP, *WAR Archive files*, *SAR Archives*, *JMS* (Java Message Service), *JNDI* (Java Naming and Directory Interface). Jboss supports load balancing between clustered nodes, supports SOAP, Java servlet faces and Java MQ (*Messaging Queue*). JBoss can be installed on GNU / Linux, FreeBSD and Windows. So far from what I've learned for JBOSS I prefer not to use it and don't recommend this Application server to anyone. Its too complex and doesn't worth the effort to learn. Proprietary products like **WebLogic** and **Webspehere** are in light years better.