

JSF2 What Happens When Session Timeout?

Question: Consider the following scenario. I am clicking the submit **button** of a JSF form, after the session has timed **out(expired)**. The browser displays some exception message.

"view context could not be restored" ...

What I want to **do** is, to automatically redirect to the homepage of the website after the session has expired. What **is** the mechanism to **do** this? any help would be much appreciated. Thanks.

To handle the exception whenever the user invokes a **POST** request on a page **while** the HTTP session has been expired, add an `<error-page>` to the `web.xml` which catches the JSF **ViewExpiredException** and shows the home page.

```
1 <error-page>
2   <exception-type>javax.faces.application.ViewExpiredException</exception-type>
3   <location>/home.xhtml</location>
4 </error-page>
```

To avoid the exception by redirecting to the home page immediately when the HTTP session has been expired, add a HTML meta refresh tag to the `<head>/<h:head>` which goes to the home page when the session has been timed out.

```
1 <meta http-equiv="refresh" content="#{session.maxInactiveInterval};url=home.xhtml" />
```

(the `HttpSession#setMaxInactiveInterval()` returns the session timeout **in** seconds)

I would however display some informal message to the enduser that the enduser ended **in** the home page because the session has been expired so that it's clear to the enduser why the website behaved like that. You could achieve **this** by adding a request parameter to the home URL like so `home.xhtml?reason=expired` and then intercept on that like so:

```
1 <h:outputText value="Your session has been expired" rendered="#{param.reason == 'expired'}" />
```