

Five common methods of a servlet

```
public void init() throws ServletException

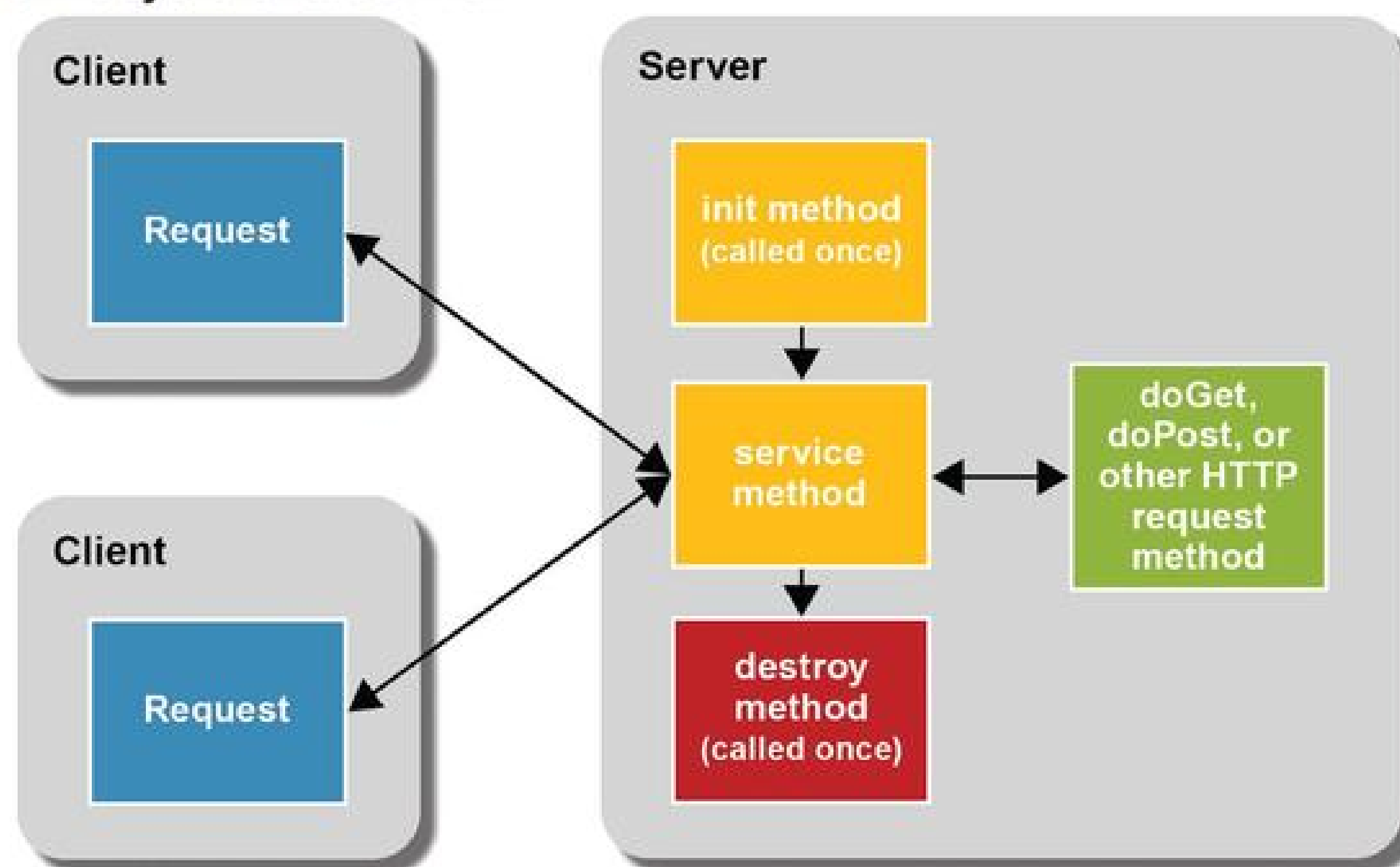
public void service(HttpServletRequest request,
                    HttpServletResponse response) throws IOException, ServletException

public void doGet(HttpServletRequest request,
                  HttpServletResponse response) throws IOException, ServletException

public void doPost(HttpServletRequest request,
                   HttpServletResponse response) throws IOException, ServletException

public void destroy()
```

The lifecycle of a servlet



Description

- A server loads and initializes the servlet by calling the init method.
- The servlet handles each browser request by calling the service method. This method then calls another method to handle the specific HTTP request type.
- The server removes the servlet by calling the destroy method. This occurs either when the servlet has been idle for some time or when the server is shut down.

Notes

- All the methods shown above are located in the abstract `HttpServlet` class. As a result, you can override these methods in your own servlets.
- It's generally considered a bad practice to override the service method. Instead, you should override a method like `doGet` or `doPost` to handle a specific type of HTTP request.

Figure 5-14 How the methods of a servlet work