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# Spring Inject Date Into Bean Property – CustomDateEditor



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Spring example to show you how to inject a "Date" into bean property.

```
package com.mkyong.common;

import java.util.Date;

public class Customer {

    Date date;

    public Date getDate() {
        return date;
    }

    public void setDate(Date date) {
        this.date = date;
    }

    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return "Customer [date=" + date + "]";
    }

}
```

Bean configuration file

```
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
        xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
        xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
        http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans-2.5.xsd">

    <bean id="customer" class="com.mkyong.common.Customer">
        <property name="date" value="2010-01-31" />
    </bean>

</beans>
```

Run it

```
package com.mkyong.common;

import org.springframework.context.ApplicationContext;
import org.springframework.context.support.ClassPathXmlApplicationContext;

public class App {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        ApplicationContext context = new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext(
            "SpringBeans.xml");

        Customer cust = (Customer) context.getBean("customer");
        System.out.println(cust);
    }
}
```

You will encounter follow error messages :

Caused by: org.springframework.beans.TypeMismatchException:

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```
Failed to convert property value of type [java.lang.String] to
required type [java.util.Date] for property 'date';
```

```
nested exception is java.lang.IllegalArgumentException:
Cannot convert value of type [java.lang.String] to
required type [java.util.Date] for property 'date':
no matching editors or conversion strategy found
```

## Solution

In Spring, you can inject a Date via two methods :

### 1. Factory bean

Declare a dateFormat bean, in “customer” bean, reference “dateFormat” bean as a factory bean. The factory method will call `SimpleDateFormat.parse()` to convert String into Date object automatically.

```
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans-2.5.xsd">

<bean id="dateFormat" class="java.text.SimpleDateFormat">
<constructor-arg value="yyyy-MM-dd" />
</bean>

<bean id="customer" class="com.mkyong.common.Customer">
<property name="date">
<bean factory-bean="dateFormat" factory-method="parse">
<constructor-arg value="2010-01-31" />
</bean>
</property>
</bean>

</beans>
```

### 2. CustomDateEditor

Declares a CustomDateEditor class to convert String into `java.util.Date`.

```
<bean id="dateEditor"
class="org.springframework.beans.propertyeditors.CustomDateEditor">

<constructor-arg>
<bean class="java.text.SimpleDateFormat">
<constructor-arg value="yyyy-MM-dd" />
</bean>
</constructor-arg>
<constructor-arg value="true" />
</bean>
```

And declares another “CustomEditorConfigurer”, to make Spring convert bean properties whose type is `java.util.Date`.

```
<bean class="org.springframework.beans.factory.config.CustomEditorConfigurer">
<property name="customEditors">
<map>
<entry key="java.util.Date">
<ref local="dateEditor" />
</entry>
</map>
</property>
</bean>
```

Full example of bean configuration file.

```
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans-2.5.xsd">

<bean id="dateEditor"
```

```

class="org.springframework.beans.propertyeditors.CustomDateEditor">

<constructor-arg>
    <bean class="java.text.SimpleDateFormat">
        <constructor-arg value="yyyy-MM-dd" />
    </bean>
</constructor-arg>
<constructor-arg value="true" />

</bean>

<bean class="org.springframework.beans.factory.config.CustomEditorConfigurer">
    <property name="customEditors">
        <map>
            <entry key="java.util.Date">
                <ref local="dateEditor" />
            </entry>
        </map>
    </property>
</bean>

<bean id="customer" class="com.mkyong.common.Customer">
    <property name="date" value="2010-02-31" />
</bean>

</beans>

```

## Download Source Code

Download It – [Spring-CustomDateEditor-Example.zip](#) (5KB)

## Reference

1. [Spring property editors](#)

Tags : [date](#) [spring](#)



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