

# JSON-B: Java™ API for JSON Binding

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**Specification: JSR-367 Java API for JSON Binding**

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

This specification defines binding API between Java objects and JSON [1] documents. Readers are assumed to be familiar with JSON; for more information about JSON, see:

- Architectural Styles and the Design of Network-based Software Architectures[2]
- The REST Wiki[3]
- JSON on Wikipedia[4]

### 1.1 Status

This is an early draft; this specification is not yet complete. A list of open issues can be found at:

[http://java.net/jira/browse/JSONB\\_SPEC](http://java.net/jira/browse/JSONB_SPEC)

The corresponding Javadocs can be found online at:

<http://jsonb-spec.java.net/>

The reference implementation will be obtainable from:

<http://eclipselink.org/>

The expert group is seeking feedback from the community on any aspect of this specification. Please send comments to:

[users@jsonb-spec.java.net](mailto:users@jsonb-spec.java.net)

### 1.2 Goals

The goals of the API are as follows:

**JSON** Support binding (serialization and deserialization) for all RFC 7159-compatible JSON documents.

**Relationships to JSON Related specifications** JSON-related specifications will be surveyed to determine their relationship to JSON-Binding.

**Consistency** Maintain consistency with JAXB (Java API for XML Binding) and other Java EE and SE APIs where appropriate.

**Convention** Define default mapping of Java classes and instances to JSON document counterparts.

**Customization** Allow customization of the default mapping definition.

**Ease Of Use** Default use of the APIs should not require prior knowledge of the JSON document format and specification.

**Partial Mapping** In many use cases, only a subset of JSON Document is required to be mapped to a Java object instance.

**Integration** Define or enable integration with following Java EE technology standards:

- JSR 374 - Java API for JSON Processing (JSON-P) 1.1
- JSR 349 - Bean Validation (BV) 1.1
- JSR 370 - Java™API for RESTful Web Services (JAX-RS) 2.1

## 1.3 Non-Goals

The following are non-goals:

**Preserving equivalence (Round-trip)** The specification recommends, but does not require equivalence of content for deserialized and serialized JSON documents.

**JSON Schema** Generation of JSON Schema from Java classes, as well as validation based on JSON schema.

**JEP 198 Lightweight JSON API Support** Support and integration with Lightweight JSON API as defined within JEP 198 is out of scope of this specification. Will be reconsidered in future specification revisions.

## 1.4 Conventions

The keywords ‘MUST’, ‘MUST NOT’, ‘REQUIRED’, ‘SHALL’, ‘SHALL NOT’, ‘SHOULD’, ‘SHOULD NOT’, ‘RECOMMENDED’, ‘MAY’, and ‘OPTIONAL’ in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119[5].

Java code and sample data fragments are formatted as shown in figure 1.1:

URIs of the general form ‘http://example.org/...’ and ‘http://example.com/...’ represent application or context-dependent URIs.

All parts of this specification are normative, with the exception of examples, notes and sections explicitly marked as ‘Non-Normative’. Non-normative notes are formatted as shown below.

**Note:** *This is a note.*

Figure 1.1: Example Java Code

```
1 package com.example.hello;
2
3 public class Hello {
4     public static void main(String args[]) {
5         System.out.println("Hello World");
6     }
7 }
```

## 1.5 Terminology

**Data binding** Process which defines the representation of information in a JSON document as an object instance, and vice versa.

**Deserialization** Process of reading a JSON document and constructing a tree of content objects, where each object corresponds to part of JSON document, thus the content tree reflects the document's content.

**Serialization** Inverse process to deserialization. Process of traversing content object tree and writing a JSON document that reflects the tree's content.

## 1.6 Expert Group Members

This specification is being developed as part of JSR 367 under the Java Community Process. It is the result of the collaborative work of the members of the JSR 367 Expert Group. The following are the present expert group members:

- Martin Grebac (Oracle)
- Martin Vojtek (Oracle, Datlowe)
- Hendrik Saly (Individual Member)
- Gregor Zurowski (Individual Member)
- Inderjeet Singh (Individual Member)
- Eugen Cepoi (Individual Member)
- Przemyslaw Bielicki (Individual Member)
- Kyung Koo Yoon (TmaxSoft, Inc.)
- Otavio Santana (Individual Member)
- Rick Curtis (IBM)
- Alexander Salvanos (Individual Member)
- Romain Manni-Bucau (Tomitribe)

## 1.7 Acknowledgements

During the course of this JSR we received many excellent suggestions. Special thanks to Heather VanCura and David Delabassee for feedback and help with evangelizing the specification, and John Clingan for

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During the course of this JSR we also received many excellent suggestions on the JSR's java.net project mailing lists. Thanks in particular to Olena Syrota, Oleg Tsal-Tsalko and whole JUG UA for their contributions.

The following individuals have also made invaluable technical contributions: ... .

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## Chapter 2

# Runtime API

The JSON-B runtime API provides access to serialization and deserialization operations for manipulating JSON documents and mapped JSON-B classes and instances. The full specification of the binding framework is available in the javadoc for the `javax.json.bind` package accompanied with this specification.

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# Chapter 3

## Default Mapping

This section defines the default binding (representation) of Java components and classes to JSON documents. The default binding defined here can be further customized as specified in Chapter 4 - Customizing Mapping.

### 3.1 General

JSON Binding implementations ('implementations' in further text) **MUST** support binding of JSON documents as defined in RFC 7159 JSON Grammar [1]. Serialized JSON output **MUST** conform to the RFC 7159 JSON Grammar [1] and be encoded in UTF-8 encoding as defined in Section 8.1 (Character Encoding) of RFC 7159 [1]. [JSB-3.1-1] Implementations **MUST** support deserialization of documents conforming to RFC 7159 JSON Grammar [1]. [JSB-3.1-2] In addition, implementations **SHOULD NOT** allow deserialization of RFC 7159 [1] non-conforming text (e.g. unsupported encoding, ...) and report error in such cases. [JSB-3.1-3] Detection of UTF encoding of a deserialized document **MUST** follow the encoding process defined in the Section 3 (Encoding) of RFC 4627 [6]. [JSB-3.1-4] Implementations **SHOULD** ignore the presence of an UTF byte order mark (BOM) and not treat it as an error.[JSB-3.1-5]

### 3.2 Errors

Implementations **SHOULD NOT** allow deserialization of RFC 7159 [1] non-conforming text (e.g. unsupported encoding, ...) and report an error in such case. [JSB-3.2-1] Implementations **SHOULD** also report an error during a deserialization operation, if it is not possible to represent a JSON document value with the expected Java type. [JSB-3.2-2]

### 3.3 Basic Java Types

Implementations **MUST** support binding of the following basic Java classes and their corresponding primitive types: [JSB-3.3-1]

- java.lang.String
- java.lang.Character
- java.lang.Byte

- `java.lang.Short`
- `java.lang.Integer`
- `java.lang.Long`
- `java.lang.Float`
- `java.lang.Double`
- `java.lang.Boolean`

### 3.3.1 `java.lang.String`, `Character`

Instances of type `java.lang.String` and `java.lang.Character` are serialized to JSON String values as defined within RFC 7159 Section 7 (Strings) [1] in UTF-8 encoding without a byte order mark. [JSB-3.3.1-1] Implementations SHOULD support deserialization of JSON text in other (than UTF-8) UTF encodings into `java.lang.String` instances. [JSB-3.3.1-2]

### 3.3.2 `java.lang.Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double`

Serialization of type `java.lang.Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float` or `Double` (and their corresponding primitive types) to a JSON Number MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for the corresponding type's `toString()` method [JSB-3.3.2-1]. Deserialization of a JSON value into `java.lang.Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float` or `Double` instance (or their corresponding primitive types) MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for the corresponding `parse$Type` method, such as `java.lang.Byte.parseByte()` for `Byte`. [JSB-3.3.2-2]

### 3.3.3 `java.lang.Boolean`

Serialization of type `java.lang.Boolean` and its corresponding boolean primitive type to a JSON value MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for `java.lang.Boolean.toString()` method [JSB-3.3.3-1]. Deserialization of a JSON value into `java.lang.Boolean` instance or boolean primitive type MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for `java.lang.Boolean.parseBoolean()` method. [JSB-3.3.3-2]

### 3.3.4 `java.lang.Number`

Serialization of `java.lang.Number` instances (if their more concrete type is not defined elsewhere in this chapter) to a JSON string MUST retrieve double value from `java.lang.Number.doubleValue()` method and convert it to a JSON Number as defined in subsection 3.3.2 `java.lang.Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double`. [JSB-3.3.4-1]. Deserialization of a JSON value into `java.lang.Number` type MUST return an instance of `java.math.BigDecimal` by using conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for constructor of `java.math.BigDecimal` with `java.lang.String` argument. [JSB-3.3.4-2]

## 3.4 Specific Standard Java SE Types

Implementations MUST support binding of the following standard Java SE classes: [JSB-3.4-1]

- `java.math.BigInteger`
- `java.math.BigDecimal`
- `java.net.URL`
- `java.net.URI`
- `java.util.Optional`
- `java.util.OptionalInt`
- `java.util.OptionalLong`
- `java.util.OptionalDouble`

### 3.4.1 `java.math.BigInteger`, `BigDecimal`

Serialization of type `java.math.BigInteger` or `BigDecimal` to a JSON Number MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for the corresponding type's `toString()` method [JSB-3.4.1-1]. Deserialization of a JSON value into `java.math.BigInteger` or `BigDecimal` instance MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for the constructor of `java.math.BigInteger` or `BigDecimal` with `java.lang.String` argument. [JSB-3.4.1-2]

### 3.4.2 `java.net.URL`, `URI`

Serialization of type `java.net.URL` or `URI` to a JSON String MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for the corresponding type's `toString()` method [JSB-3.4.2-1]. Deserialization of a JSON value into `java.net.URL` or `URI` instance MUST follow the conversion process defined in the javadoc specification for the constructor of `java.net.URL` or `URI` with `java.lang.String` argument. [JSB-3.4.2-2]

### 3.4.3 `java.util.Optional`, `OptionalInt`, `OptionalLong`, `OptionalDouble`

Non-empty instances of type `java.util.Optional`, `OptionalInt`, `OptionalLong`, `OptionalDouble` are serialized to a JSON value by retrieving their contained instance and converting it to JSON value based on its type and corresponding mapping definitions within this chapter. [JSB-3.4.3-1] Empty optional instances serialized as object instance properties are ignored during serialization. [JSB-3.4.3-2] Empty optional instances serialized as JSON array elements are serialized as null values [JSB-3.4.3-3]. Deserialization into `Optional`, `OptionalInt`, `OptionalLong`, `OptionalDouble` returns empty optional value for properties which are not present in JSON document or contain a null value. [JSB-3.4.3-4] Otherwise any non-empty `Optional`, `OptionalInt`, `OptionalLong`, `OptionalDouble` value is deserialized based on mappings defined in this chapter. [JSB-3.4.3-5]

Instances of type `java.util.Optional<T>` are serialized to a JSON value as JSON objects when T alone would be serialized as JSON object. When T would be serialized as a JSON value (e.g. `java.lang.String`, `java.lang.Integer`), an instance of `java.util.Optional<T>` is serialized as a JSON value (without curly brackets). [JSB-3.4.3-6]

Deserialization of a JSON value into `java.util.Optional<T>` MUST be supported if deserialization of a JSON value into instance of T is supported. [JSB-3.4.3-7]

## 3.5 Dates

Implementations MUST support binding of the following standard Java date/time classes: [JSB-3.5-1]

- `java.util.Date`
- `java.util.Calendar`
- `java.util.GregorianCalendar`
- `java.util.TimeZone`
- `java.util.SimpleTimeZone`
- `java.time.Instant`
- `java.time.Duration`
- `java.time.Period`
- `java.time.LocalDate`
- `java.time.LocalDateTime`
- `java.time.ZonedDateTime`
- `java.time.ZoneId`
- `java.time.ZoneOffset`
- `java.time.OffsetDateTime`
- `java.time.OffsetTime`

If not specified otherwise in this section, GMT standard time zone and offset specified from UTC Greenwich is used. [JSB-3.5-2] If not specified otherwise, the date time format for serialization and deserialization is ISO 8601 without offset, as specified in `java.time.format.DateTimeFormatter.ISO_DATE`. [JSB-3.5-3] Implementations MUST report an error if the datetime string in a JSON document does not correspond to the expected datetime format. [JSB-3.5-4]

### 3.5.1 `java.util.Date`, `Calendar`, `GregorianCalendar`

The serialization format of `java.util.Date`, `Calendar`, `GregorianCalendar` instances with no time information is `ISO_DATE`. [JSB-3.5.1-1]. If time information is present, the format is `ISO_DATE_TIME` [JSB-3.5.1-2].

Implementations MUST support deserialization of both `ISO_DATE` and `ISO_DATE_TIME` into `java.util.Date`, `Calendar`, `GregorianCalendar` instances. [JSB-3.5.1-3]

### 3.5.2 `java.util.TimeZone`, `SimpleTimeZone`

Implementations MUST support deserialization of any time zone format specified in `java.util.TimeZone` into a field or property of type `java.util.TimeZone`, `SimpleTimeZone`. [JSB-3.5.2-1] Implementations MUST report an error for deprecated three-letter time zone IDs as specified in `java.util.Timezone`. [JSB-3.5.2-2] The serialization format of `java.util.TimeZone` and `SimpleTimeZone` is `NormalizedCustomID` as specified in `java.util.TimeZone`. [JSB-3.5.2-3]

### 3.5.3 `java.time.*`

The serialization output for a `java.time.Instant` instance MUST be in a `ISO_INSTANT` format, as specified in `java.time.format.DateTimeFormatter`. [JSB-3.5.3-1] Implementations MUST support the deserialization of an `ISO_INSTANT` formatted JSON string to a `java.time.Instant` instance. [JSB-3.5.3-2]

For other `java.time.*` classes, the following mapping table maps Java types to their corresponding formats: [JSB-3.5.3-3]

Java Type	Format
<code>java.time.Instant</code>	ISO_INSTANT
<code>java.time.LocalDate</code>	ISO_LOCAL_DATE
<code>java.time.LocalTime</code>	ISO_LOCAL_TIME
<code>java.time.LocalDateTime</code>	ISO_LOCAL_DATE_TIME
<code>java.time.ZonedDateTime</code>	ISO_ZONED_DATE_TIME
<code>java.time.OffsetDateTime</code>	ISO_OFFSET_DATE_TIME
<code>java.time.OffsetTime</code>	ISO_OFFSET_TIME

Implementations MUST support the deserialization of any time zone ID format specified in `java.time.ZoneId` into a field or property of type `java.time.ZoneId`. [JSB-3.5.3-4] The serialization format of `java.time.ZoneId` is the normalized zone ID as specified in `java.time.ZoneId`. [JSB-3.5.3-5]

Implementations MUST support the deserialization of any time zone ID format specified in `java.time.ZoneOffset` into a field or property of type `java.time.ZoneOffset`. [JSB-3.5.3-6] The serialization format of `java.time.ZoneOffset` is the normalized zone ID as specified in `java.time.ZoneOffset`. [JSB-3.5.3-7]

Implementations MUST support the deserialization of any duration format specified in `java.time.Duration` into a field or property of type `java.time.Duration`. [JSB-3.5.3-8] This is super-set of ISO 8601 duration format. The serialization format of `java.time.Duration` is the ISO 8601 seconds based representation, such as `PT8H6M12.345S`. [JSB-3.5.3-9]

Implementations MUST support the deserialization of any period format specified in `java.time.Period` into a field or property of type `java.time.Period`. [JSB-3.5.3-10] This is a super-set of ISO 8601 period format. The serialization format of `java.time.Period` is ISO 8601 period representation. [JSB-3.5.3-11] A zero-length period is represented as zero days `'P0D'`. [JSB-3.5.3-12]

## 3.6 Untyped mapping

For an unspecified output type of a deserialization operation, as well as where output type is specified as `Object.class`, implementations MUST deserialize a JSON document using Java runtime types specified in table below: [JSB-3.6-1]

JSON value	Java type
object	<code>java.util.Map&lt;String, Object&gt;</code>
array	<code>java.util.List&lt;Object&gt;</code>
string	<code>java.lang.String</code>
number	<code>java.lang.Integer</code> — <code>Long</code> — <code>java.math.BigDecimal</code>
true, false	<code>java.lang.Boolean</code>
null	null

JSON object values are deserialized into an implementation of `java.util.Map<String, Object>` with a predictable iteration order.[JSB-3.6-2]

JSON number values are deserialized into the smallest of types `Integer`, `Long`, `BigDecimal` that can hold the value represented by number without loss of value or precision.[JSB-3.6-3]

## 3.7 Java Class

Any instance passed to a deserialization operation must have a public or protected no-argument constructor. Implementations **SHOULD** throw an error if this condition is not met. [JSB-3.7-1] This limitation does not apply to serialization operations, as well as to classes which specify explicit instantiation methods as described in section 4.6 Custom instantiation [JSB-3.7-2]

### 3.7.1 Scope and Field access strategy

For a deserialization operation of a Java property, if a matching public setter method exists, the method is called to set the value of the property. If a matching setter method with private, protected, or defaulted to package-only access exists, then this field is ignored. If no matching setter method exists and the field is public, then direct field assignment is used. [JSB-3.7.1-1]

For a serialization operation, if a matching public getter method exists, the method is called to obtain the value of the property. If a matching getter method with private, protected, or defaulted to package-only access exists, then this field is ignored. If no matching getter method exists and the field is public, then the value is obtained directly from the field. [JSB-3.7.1-2]

JSON Binding implementations **MUST NOT** deserialize into transient, final or static fields and **MUST** ignore name/value pairs corresponding to such fields. [JSB-3.7.1-3]

Implementations **MUST** support serialization of final fields. [JSB-3.7.1-4] Transient and static fields **MUST** be ignored during serialization operation. [JSB-3.7.1-5]

If a JSON document contains a name/value pair not corresponding to field or setter method, then this name/value pair **MUST** be ignored. [JSB-3.7.1-6]

Public getter/setter methods without a corresponding field **MUST** be supported. When only public getter/setter method without corresponding field is present in the class, the getter method is called to obtain the value to serialize, and the setter method is called during deserialization operation. [JSB-3.7.1-7]

### 3.7.2 Nested Classes

Implementations **MUST** support the binding of public and protected nested classes. [JSB-3.7.2-1] For deserialization operations, both nested and encapsulating classes **MUST** fulfill the same instantiation requirements as specified in subsection 3.7.1 Scope and Field access strategy. [JSB-3.7.2-2]

### 3.7.3 Static Nested Classes

Implementations **MUST** support the binding of public and protected static nested classes. [JSB-3.7.3-1] For deserialization operations, the nested class **MUST** fulfill the same instantiation requirements as specified in subsection 3.7.1 Scope and Field access strategy. [JSB-3.7.3-2]

### 3.7.4 Anonymous Classes

Deserialization into anonymous classes is not supported. Serialization of anonymous classes is supported by default object mapping. [JSB-3.7.2-1]

## 3.8 Polymorphic Types

Deserialization into polymorphic types is not supported by default mapping. [JSB-3.8-1]

## 3.9 Enum

Serialization of an Enum instance to a JSON String value MUST follow the conversion process defined in javadoc specification for their toString method [JSB-3.9-1]. Deserialization of a JSON value into an enum instance MUST be done by calling the enum's valueOf(String) method. [JSB-3.9-2]

## 3.10 Interfaces

Implementations MUST support the deserialization of specific interfaces defined in section 3.11 Collections, and subsection 3.3.4 java.lang.Number. [JSB-3.10-1] Deserialization to other interfaces is not supported and implementations SHOULD report error in such case. [JSB-3.10-2] If a class property is defined with an interface and not concrete type, then the mapping for a serialized property is resolved based on its runtime type.[JSB-3.10-3]

## 3.11 Collections

Implementations MUST support the binding of the following collection interfaces, classes and their implementations. [JSB-3.11-1] Implementations of these interfaces must provide an accessible default constructor. JSON Binding implementations MUST report a deserialization error if a default constructor is not present or is not in accessible scope. [JSB-3.11-2]

- java.util.Collection
- java.util.Map
- java.util.Set
- java.util.HashSet
- java.util.NavigableSet
- java.util.SortedSet
- java.util.TreeSet
- java.util.LinkedHashSet
- java.util.TreeHashSet
- java.util.HashMap
- java.util.NavigableMap
- java.util.SortedMap
- java.util.TreeMap
- java.util.LinkedHashMap
- java.util.TreeHashMap

- java.util.List
- java.util.ArrayList
- java.util.LinkedList
- java.util.Deque
- java.util.ArrayDeque
- java.util.Queue
- java.util.PriorityQueue
- java.util.EnumSet
- java.util.EnumMap

## 3.12 Arrays

JSON Binding implementations **MUST** support the binding of Java arrays of all supported Java types from this chapter into/from JSON array structures as defined in Section 5 of RFC 7159 [1]. [JSB-3.12-1] Arrays of primitive types and multi-dimensional arrays **MUST** be supported. [JSB-3.6-2]

## 3.13 Attribute order

Declared fields **MUST** be serialized in lexicographical order into the resulting JSON document. In case of inheritance, declared fields of super class **MUST** be serialized before declared fields of child class. [JSB-3.13-1]

When deserializing a JSON document, declared fields **MUST** be set in the order of attributes present in the JSON document. [JSB-3.13-2]

## 3.14 Null value handling

### 3.14.1 Null Java field

The result of serializing a java field with a null value is the absence of the property in the resulting JSON document. [JSB-3.14.1-1] The deserialization operation of a property absent in JSON document **MUST** not set the value of the field, the setter (if available) **MUST** not be called, and thus original value of the field **MUST** be preserved. [JSB-3.14.1-2]

The deserialization operation of a property with a null value in a JSON document **MUST** set the value of the field to null value (or call setter with null value if setter is present). [JSB-3.14.1-3]

### 3.14.2 Null Array Values

The result of deserialization n-ary array represented in JSON document is n-ary Java array. [JSB-3.14.2-1]. Null value in JSON array is represented by null value in Java array. [JSB-3.14.2-2] Serialization operation on Java array with null value at index i **MUST** output null value at index i of the array in resulting JSON document. [JSB-3.14.2-3]



## 3.15 Names and identifiers

According to RFC 7159 Section 7 [1], every Java identifier name can be transformed using identity function into a valid JSON String. Identity function **MUST** be used for transforming Java identifier names into Strings in JSON document. [JSB-3.15-1] For deserialization operations defined in section 3.6 Untyped mapping section, identity function is used to transform JSON name strings into Java String instances in the resulting map `Map<String, Object>`. [JSB-3.15-2] If a Java identifier with corresponding name does not exist or is not accessible, the implementations **MUST** report error. [JSB-3.15-3] Naming and error reporting strategies can be further customized in chapter 4 Customizing Mapping.

## 3.16 Big numbers

JSON Binding implementation **MUST** serialize numbers that express greater magnitude or precision than an IEEE 754 double precision number as strings. [JSB-3.16-1]

## 3.17 Generics

JSON Binding implementations **MUST** support binding of generic types. [JSB-3.17-1] Due to type erasure, there are situations when it is not possible to obtain generic type information.

There are two ways for JSON Binding implementations to obtain generic type information. If there is a class file available (in the following text referred as static type information), it is possible to obtain generic type information (effectively generic type declaration) from Signature attribute (if this information is present). [JSB-3.17-2] The second option is to provide generic type information at runtime. To provide generic type information at runtime, an argument of `java.lang.reflect.Type` **MUST** be passed to `Jsonb::toJson` or to `Jsonb::fromJson` method. [JSB-3.17-3]

### 3.17.1 Type resolution algorithm

There are several levels of information JSON Binding implementations may obtain about the type of field/class/interface: [JSB-3.17.1-1]

1. runtime type provided via `java.lang.reflect.Type` parameter passed to `Jsonb::toJson` or `Jsonb::fromJson` method
2. static type provided in class file (effectively stored in Signature attribute)
3. raw type
4. no information about the type

If there is no information about the type, JSON Binding implementation **MUST** treat this type as `java.lang.Object`. [JSB-3.17.1-2] If only raw type of given field/class/interface is known, then the type **MUST** be treated like raw type. [JSB-3.17.1-3] For example, if the only available information is that given field/class/interface is of type `java.util.ArrayList`, then the type **MUST** be treated as `java.util.ArrayList<Object>`.

JSON Binding implementations MUST use the most specific type derived from the information available. [JSB-3.17.1-4]

Let's consider situation when there is only a static type information of a given field/class/interface known, and there is no runtime type information available. Let  $\text{GenericClass} < T_1, \dots, T_n >$  be part of generic type declaration, where  $\text{GenericClass}$  is name of the generic type and  $T_1, \dots, T_n$  are type parameters. For every  $T_i$ , where  $i$  in  $1, \dots, n$ , there are 3 possible options: [JSB-3.17.1-5]

1.  $T_i$  is concrete parameter type
2.  $T_i$  is bounded parameter type
3.  $T_i$  is wildcard parameter type without bounds

In case 1, the most specific parameter type MUST be given concrete parameter type  $T_i$ . [JSB-3.17.1-6]

For bounded parameter type, let's use bounds  $B_1, \dots, B_m$ . If  $m = 1$ , then the most specific parameter type MUST be derived from the given bound  $B_1$ . [JSB-3.17.1-7] If  $B_1$  is class or interface, the most specific parameter type MUST be the class or interface. [JSB-3.17.1-8] Otherwise, the most specific parameter type SHOULD be `java.lang.Object`. [JSB-3.17.1-9]

If multiple bounds are specified, the first step is to resolve every bound separately. Let's define result of such resolution as  $S_1, \dots, S_m$  specific parameter types. If  $S_1, \dots, S_m$  are `java.lang.Object`, then the bounded parameter type  $T_i$  MUST be `java.lang.Object`. [JSB-3.17.1-10] If there is exactly one  $S_k$ , where  $1 \leq k \leq m$  is different than `java.lang.Object`, then the most specific parameter type for this bounded parameter type  $T_i$  MUST be  $S_k$ . [JSB-3.17.1-11] If there exists  $S_{k1}, S_{k2}$ , where  $1 \leq k1 \leq k2 \leq m$ , then the most specific parameter type is  $S_{k1}$ . [JSB-3.17.1-12]

For wildcard parameter type without bounds, the most specific parameter type MUST be `java.lang.Object`. [JSB-3.17.1-13]

Any unresolved type parameter MUST be treated as `java.lang.Object`. [JSB-3.17.1-14]

If runtime type is provided via `java.lang.reflect.Type` parameter passed to `Jsonb::toJson` or `Jsonb::fromJson` method, than that runtime type overrides static type declaration wherever applicable. [JSB-3.17.1-15]

There are situations when it is necessary to use combination of runtime and static type information.

Figure 3.1: Example Type resolution

```

1 public class MyGenericType<T,U> {
2     public T field1;
3     public U field2;
4 }
```

To resolve type of `field1`, runtime type of `MyGenericType` and static type of `field1` is required.

### 3.18 Must-Ignore policy

When JSON Binding implementation during deserialization encounters key in key/value pair that it does not recognize, it should treat the rest of the JSON document as if the element simply did not appear, and in particular, the implementation MUST NOT treat this as an error condition. [JSB-3.18-1]

## 3.19 Uniqueness of properties

JSON Binding implementations **MUST NOT** produce JSON documents with members with duplicate names. In this context, "duplicate" means that the names, after processing any escaped characters, are identical sequences of Unicode characters. [JSB-3.19-1]

When non-unique property (after override and rename) is found, implementation **MUST** throw an exception. This doesn't apply for customized user serialization behavior implemented with the usage of `JsonbAdapter` mechanism. [JSB-3.19-2]

## 3.20 JSON Processing integration

JSON Binding implementations **MUST** support binding of the following JSON Processing types. [JSB-3.20-1]

- `javax.json.JsonObject`
- `javax.json.JsonArray`
- `javax.json.JsonStructure`
- `javax.json.JsonValue`
- `javax.json.JsonPointer`
- `javax.json.JsonString`
- `javax.json.JsonNumber`

Serialization of supported `javax.json.*` objects/interfaces/fields **MUST** have the same result as serialization these objects with `javax.json.JsonWriter`. [JSB-3.20-2] Deserialization into supported `javax.json.*` objects/interfaces/fields **MUST** have the same result as deserialization into such objects with `javax.json.JsonReader`. [JSB-3.20-3]

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# Chapter 4

## Customizing Mapping

This section defines several ways how to customize the default behavior. The default behavior can be customized annotating a given field, JavaBean property, type or package, or by providing an implementation of particular strategy, e.g. `PropertyOrderStrategy`. JSON Binding provider **MUST** support these customization options. [JSB-4-1]

### 4.1 Customizing Property Names

There are two standard ways how to customize serialization of field (or JavaBean property) to JSON document. The same applies to deserialization. The first way is to annotate field (or JavaBean property) with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` annotation. The second option is to set `javax.json.bind.config.PropertyNamingPolicy`.

#### 4.1.1 `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbTransient`

JSON Binding implementations **MUST NOT** serialize fields, JavaBean properties or types annotated with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbTransient`. When placed on a class, indicates that the class shouldn't be mapped to JSON by itself. Properties on such class will be mapped to JSON along with its derived classes, as if the class is inlined. [JSB-4.1.1-1]

`JsonbTransient` annotation is mutually exclusive with all other JSON Binding defined annotations. If this condition is not met, JSON Binding implementation **MUST** throw `JsonbException`. [JSB-4.1.1-2]

#### 4.1.2 `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty`

According to default mapping 3.15, property names are serialized unchanged to JSON document (identity transformation). To provide custom name for given field (or JavaBean property), `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` may be used. `JsonbProperty` annotation may be specified on field, getter or setter method. If specified on field, custom name is used both for serialization and deserialization. If `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` is specified on getter method, it is used only for serialization. If `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` is specified on setter method, it is used only for deserialization. It is possible to specify different values for getter and setter method for `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` annotation. In such case the different custom name will be used for serialization and deserialization. [JSB-4.1.2-1]

### 4.1.3 `javax.json.bind.config.PropertyNamingStrategy`

To customize name translation of properties, JSON Binding provides `javax.json.bind.config.PropertyNamingStrategy` interface.

Interface `javax.json.bind.config.PropertyNamingStrategy` provides the most common property naming strategies.

- `IDENTITY`
- `LOWER_CASE_WITH_DASHES`
- `LOWER_CASE_WITH_UNDERSCORES`
- `UPPER_CAMEL_CASE`
- `UPPER_CAMEL_CASE_WITH_SPACES`
- `CASE_INSENSITIVE`

The detailed description of property naming strategies can be found in javadoc.

The way to set custom property naming strategy is to use `javax.json.bind.JsonbConfig::withPropertyNamingStrategy` method. [JSB-4.1.2-1]

### 4.1.4 Property names resolution

Property name resolution consists of two phases:

1. Standard override mechanism
2. Applying property name resolution, which involves the value of `@JsonbProperty`

If duplicate name is found exception **MUST** be thrown. The definition of duplicate (non-unique) property can be found in 3.19. [JSB-4.1.4-1]

## 4.2 Customizing Property Order

To customize the order of serialized properties, JSON Binding provides `javax.json.bind.config.PropertyOrderStrategy` class.

Class `javax.json.bind.config.PropertyOrderStrategy` provides the most common property order strategies.

- `LEXICOGRAPHICAL`
- `ANY`
- `REVERSE`

The detailed description of property order strategies can be found in javadoc.

The way to set custom property order strategy is to use `javax.json.bind.JsonbConfig::withPropertyOrderStrategy` method. [JSB-4.2-2]

To customize the order of serialized properties only for one specific type, JSON Binding provides `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbPropertyOrder` annotation. Order specified by `JsonbPropertyOrder` annotation overrides order specified by `PropertyOrderStrategy`. [JSB-4.2-3]

The order is applied to already renamed properties as stated in 4.1.

## 4.3 Customizing Null Handling

There are three ways how to change default null handling. The first option is to annotate type or package with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbNillable` annotation. The second option is to annotate field or `JavaBean` property with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` and to set `nillable` parameter to `true`. The third option is to set config wide configuration via `JsonbConfig::withNullValues` method.

If annotations (`JsonbNillable` or `JsonbProperty`) on different level apply to the same field (or `JavaBean` property) or if there is config wide configuration and some annotation (`JsonbNillable` or `JsonbProperty`) which apply to the same field (or `JavaBean` property), the annotation with the smallest scope applies. For example, if there is type level `JsonbNillable` annotation applied to some class with field which is annotated with `JsonbProperty` annotation with `nillable = false`, then `JsonbProperty` annotation overrides `JsonbNillable` annotation.

### 4.3.1 `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbNillable`

To customize the result of serializing field (or `JavaBean` property) with null value, JSON Binding provides `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbNillable` and `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` annotations.

When given object (type or package) is annotated with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbNillable` annotation, the result of null value will be presence of associated property in JSON document with explicit null value. [JSB-4.3.1-1]

The same behavior as `JsonbNillable`, but only at field, parameter and method (`JavaBean` property) level is provided by `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbProperty` annotation with its `nillable` parameter. [JSB-4.3.1-2]

JSON Binding implementations **MUST** implement override of annotations according to target of the annotation (`FIELD`, `PARAMETER`, `METHOD`, `TYPE`, `PACKAGE`). Type level annotation overrides behavior set at the package level. Method, parameter or field level annotation overrides behavior set at the type level. [JSB-4.3.1-3]

### 4.3.2 Global null handling configuration

Null handling behavior can be customized via `javax.json.bind.JsonbConfig::withNullValues` method.

The way to enforce serialization of null values, is to call method `javax.json.bind.JsonbConfig::withNullValues` with parameter `true`.

The way to skip serialization of null values is to call method `javax.json.bind.JsonbConfig::withNullValues` with parameter `false`. [JSB-4.3.2-1]

## 4.4 I-JSON support

I-JSON (short for "Internet JSON") is a restricted profile of JSON designed to maximize interoperability and increase confidence that software can process it successfully with predictable results. The profile is defined in [1].

JSON Binding provides full support for I-JSON standard. Without any configuration, JSON Binding produces JSON documents which are compliant with I-JSON with three exceptions.

- JSON Binding does not restrict the serialization of top-level JSON texts that are neither objects nor arrays. The restriction should happen at application level.
- JSON Binding does not serialize binary data with base64url encoding.
- JSON Binding does not enforce additional restrictions on dates/times/duration.

These exceptions refer only to recommended areas of I-JSON.

To enforce strict compliance of serialized JSON documents, JSON Binding implementations **MUST** implement configuration option "jsonb.i-json.strict-ser-compliance". [JSB-4.4-1]

The way to enable strict compliance of serialized JSON documents, is to call method `JsonbConfig::withStrictIJSONSerializationCompliance` with parameter `true`.

### 4.4.1 Strict date serialization

Uppercase rather than lowercase letters **MUST** be used. [JSB-4.4.1-1] The timezone **MUST** always be included and optional trailing seconds **MUST** be included even when their value is "00". [JSB-4.4.1-2]

JSON Binding implementations **MUST** serialize `java.util.Date`, `java.util.Calendar`, `java.util.GregorianCalendar`, `java.time.LocalDate`, `java.time.LocalDateTime` and `java.time.Instant` in the same format as `java.time.ZonedDateTime`. [JSB-4.4.1-3]

The result of serialization of duration must conform to the "duration" production in Appendix A of RFC 3339, with the same additional restrictions. [JSB-4.4.1-4]

## 4.5 Simple values

Using `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbValue` annotation, a class can be mapped to a simple value. Class can contain at most one mapped property or field that is annotated with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbValue`, otherwise `JsonbException` **MUST** be thrown. [JSB-4.5-1]

Annotation `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbValue` indicates that result of the annotated non-void method or field or constructor parameter will be used as the single value to representing the instance. In case of non-void method annotated with `JsonbValue` annotation, `JsonbException` **MUST** be thrown. [JSB-4.5-2]

## 4.6 Custom instantiation

In many scenarios instantiation with the use of default constructor is not enough. To support these scenarios, JSON Binding provides `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbCreator` annotation.



At most one `JsonbCreator` annotation can be used to annotate custom constructor or static void factory method in a class, otherwise `JsonbException` MUST be thrown. [JSB-4.6-1]

Factory method annotated with `JsonbCreator` annotation should return instance of particular class this annotation is used for, otherwise `JsonbException` MUST be thrown. [JSB-4.6-2]

Parameters of constructor/factory method annotated with `JsonbCreator` will be mapped from JSON fields with the same name. The name of a parameter can be changed annotating given parameter with `JsonbProperty` annotation. When a JSON field is not mappable to a parameter with the same name, `JsonbException` MUST be thrown. [JSB-4.6-3]

## 4.7 Custom visibility

To customize scope and field access strategy as specified in section 3.7.1, it is possible to specify `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbVisibility` annotation or to override default behavior globally calling `JsonbConfig::withPropertyVisibilityStrategy` method with given custom property visibility strategy. [JSB-4.7-1]

## 4.8 Custom mapping

To provide custom mapping for specific java type, it is necessary to implement `javax.json.bind.adapter.JsonbAdapter` interface. [JSB-4.8-1]

There are two ways how to register custom `JsonbAdapter`. Using `JsonbConfig::withAdapters` method or annotating specific field or `JavaBean` property with `JsonbTypeAdapter` annotation. [JSB-4.8-2]

`JsonbAdapter` registered via `JsonbConfig::withAdapters` is visible to all serialize/deserialize operations performed with given `JsonbConfig`. `JsonbAdapter` registered with annotation is visible to serialize/deserialize operation used only for given field/`JavaBean` property annotated. [JSB-4.8-3]

## 4.9 Custom date format

To specify custom date format, it is necessary to annotate given annotation target with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbDateFormat` annotation. [JSB-4.9-1] `JsonbDateFormat` annotation can be applied to the following targets:

- field
- method
- type
- parameter
- package

Annotation applied to more specific target overrides the same annotation applied to target with wider scope. For example, annotation applied to type target will override the same annotation applied to package target. [JSB-4.9-2]

## 4.10 Custom number format

To specify custom number format, it is necessary to annotate given annotation target with `javax.json.bind.annotation.JsonbNumberFormat` annotation. [JSB-4.10-1] `JsonbNumberFormat` annotation can be applied to the following targets:

- field
- method
- type
- parameter
- package

Annotation applied to more specific target overrides the same annotation applied to target with wider scope. For example, annotation applied to type target will override the same annotation applied to package target. [JSB-4.10-2]

## 4.11 Custom binary data handling

To customize encoding of binary data, JSON Binding provides `javax.json.bind.config.BinaryDataStrategy` class.

Class `javax.json.bind.config.BinaryDataStrategy` provides the most common binary data encodings.

- `BYTE`
- `BASE_64`
- `BASE_64_URL`

The detailed description of binary encoding strategies can be found in javadoc.

The way to set custom binary data handling strategy is to use `javax.json.bind.JsonbConfig::withBinaryDataStrategy` method. [JSB-4.11-1]

# Appendix A

## Change Log

### A.1 Changes Since 1.0 Early Draft

- Section 3.7: Clarified default constructor is not needed in case of JsonbCreator.
- Chapters 4 and 3: Synchronized vocabulary to serialization and deserialization.

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