

JSON-B: Java™ API for JSON Binding

*Version 1.0 Early Draft
March 9, 2015*

Editors:
Martin Grebac

Comments to: users@jsonb-spec.java.net

*Oracle Corporation
500 Oracle Parkway, Redwood Shores, CA 94065 USA.*

DRAFT

JSR-367 Java API for JSON Binding (“Specification”)
Version: 1.0
Status: Early Draft
Release: March 9, 2015
Copyright 2014 Oracle America, Inc. (“Oracle”)
500 Oracle Parkway, Redwood Shores, California 94065, U.S.A
All rights reserved.

TBD

DRAFT

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Status	1
1.2	Goals	1
1.3	Non-Goals	2
1.4	Conventions	2
1.5	Terminology	3
1.6	Expert Group Members	3
1.7	Acknowledgements	3
2	Runtime API	5
3	Default Mapping	7
3.1	General	7
3.2	Errors	7
3.3	Basic Java Types	7
3.3.1	java.lang.String, Character	8
3.3.2	java.lang.Byte, Short, Integer, Long, Float, Double	8
3.3.3	java.lang.Boolean	8
3.3.4	java.lang.Number	8
3.4	Specific Standard Java SE Types	8
3.4.1	java.math.BigInteger, BigDecimal	9
3.4.2	java.net.URL, URI	9
3.4.3	java.util.Optional, OptionalInt, OptionalLong, OptionalDouble	9
3.5	Untyped mapping	9
3.6	Java Class	10
3.6.1	Default scope	10
3.6.2	Field access strategy	10

3.6.3	Nested Classes	10
3.6.4	Static Nested Classes	10
3.6.5	Anonymous Classes	10
3.7	Enum	10
3.8	Interfaces	10
3.9	Collections	11
3.10	Arrays	12
3.11	Null value handling	12
3.11.1	Null Java field	12
3.11.2	Null Array Values	12
3.12	Names and identifiers	12
4	Customizing Mapping	13
	Bibliography	15

Chapter 1

Introduction

This specification defines binding API between Java objects and JSON [4] 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[7]
- The REST Wiki[8]
- JSON on Wikipedia[5]

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

The corresponding Javadocs can be found online at:

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

The reference implementation will be obtained from:

<http://eclipselink.org/>

The expert group seeks feedback from the community on any aspect of this specification, please send comments to:

users@jsonb-spec.java.net

1.2 Goals

The following are the goals of the API:

JSON Support binding (marshalling and unmarshalling) 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 JavaEE and SE APIs where appropriate.

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

Customization Allow to customize 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 usecases, 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 - JavaTM 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 unmarshalled and marshalled JSON documents.

JSON Schema Generation of JSON Schema from Java classes, as well as validation based on JSON schema is out of scope of this specification.

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[1].

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

Databinding Process which defines representation of information in a JSON document as an object instance, and vice versa.

Unmarshalling 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.

Marshalling Inverse process to unmarshalling. 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)
- 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

During the course of this JSR we received many excellent suggestions on the JSR java.net project mailing lists, thanks in particular to ... for their contributions. The following individuals have also made invaluable technical contributions:

Chapter 2

Runtime API

JSON-B Runtime API provides access to marshalling and unmarshalling operations for manipulating with 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.

DRAFT

Chapter 3

Default Mapping

This section defines the default binding (representation) of Java components and classes within Java programming language 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 [4]. Marshalled JSON output MUST conform to the RFC 7159 JSON Grammar [4] and be encoded in UTF-8 encoding as defined in Section 8.1 (Character Encoding) of RFC 7159 [4]. [JSB-3.1-1] Implementations MUST support unmarshalling of documents conforming to RFC 7159 JSON Grammar [4]. [JSB-3.1-2] In addition, implementations SHOULD NOT allow unmarshalling of RFC 7159 [4] non-conforming text (e.g. unsupported encoding, ...) and report error in such case. [JSB-3.1-3] Detection of UTF encoding of unmarshalled document is done as defined in the Section 3 (Encoding) of RFC 4627 [3]. [JSB-3.1-4] Implementations SHOULD ignore presence of UTF byte order mark (BOM) and not treat it as an error.[JSB-3.1-5]

3.2 Errors

Implementations SHOULD NOT allow unmarshalling of RFC 7159 [4] non-conforming text (e.g. unsupported encoding, ...) and report error in such case. [JSB-3.2-1] Implementation should report error also during unmarshalling operation, if it is not possible to represent JSON document value in 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 marshalled to JSON String values as defined within RFC 7159 Section 7 (Strings) [4] in UTF-8 encoding without byte order mark. [JSB-3.3.1-1] Implementations SHOULD support unmarshaling 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`

Instances of type `java.lang.Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double` and their corresponding primitive types are marshalled to JSON Number with conversion defined in specification for their corresponding `toString` method [JSB-3.3.2-1]. Unmarshalling of JSON value into `java.lang.Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double` instance or corresponding primitive type is done with conversion as defined in the specification for their corresponding `parse$Type` method, such as `java.lang.Byte.parseByte` for `Byte`. [JSB-3.3.2-2]

3.3.3 `java.lang.Boolean`

Instances of type `java.lang.Boolean` and its corresponding boolean primitive type are marshalled to JSON value with conversion defined in specification for `java.lang.Boolean.toString` method [JSB-3.3.3-1]. Unmarshalling of JSON value into `java.lang.Boolean` instance or boolean primitive type is done with conversion as defined in specification for `java.lang.Boolean.parseBoolean` method. [JSB-3.3.3-2]

3.3.4 `java.lang.Number`

Instances of type `java.lang.Number` (if their more concrete type is not defined elsewhere in this chapter) are marshalled to JSON string by retrieving double value returned from `java.lang.Number.doubleValue()` method and converting the value to JSON Number as defined in subsection 3.3.2 `java.lang.Byte`, `Short`, `Integer`, `Long`, `Float`, `Double`. [JSB-3.3.4-1].

Unmarshalling of JSON value into Java type `java.lang.Number` should return instance of `java.math.BigDecimal` by using conversion as defined in the specification for constructor of `java.math.BigDecimal` with `java.lang.String`. [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`

Instances of type `java.math.BigInteger`, `BigDecimal` are marshalled to JSON Number with conversion defined in specification for their `toString` method [JSB-3.4.1-1]. Unmarshalling of JSON value into `java.math.BigInteger`, `BigDecimal` instance is done with conversion as defined in the specification for constructor of `java.math.BigInteger`, `BigDecimal` with `java.lang.String`. [JSB-3.4.1-2]

3.4.2 `java.net.URL, URI`

Instances of type `java.net.URL`, `URI` are marshalled to JSON String value with conversion defined in specification for their `toString` method [JSB-3.4.2-1]. Unmarshalling of JSON value into `java.net.URL`, `URI` instance is done with conversion as defined in the specification for constructor of `java.net.URL`, `URI` with `java.lang.String` input. [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 marshalled to 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 marshalled as object instance properties are ignored in marshalling. [JSB-3.4.3-2] Empty optional instances marshalled as JSON array elements are marshalled as null value [JSB-3.4.3-3]. Unmarshalling into `Optional`, `OptionalInt`, `OptionalLong`, `OptionalDouble` returns empty optional value for properties which are not present in JSON document or contain null value. [JSB-3.4.2-4] Otherwise any non-empty `Optional`, `OptionalInt`, `OptionalLong`, `OptionalDouble` value is constructed of type unmarshalled based on mappings defined in this chapter.[JSB-3.4.2-5]

3.5 Untyped mapping

For unspecified output type of unmarshal operation, as well as where output type is specified as `Object.class`, implementations should unmarshal JSON document using Java runtime types specified in table below: [JSB-3.5-1]

JSON value	Java type
object	java.util.LinkedHashMap <String,Object >
array	java.util.ArrayList <Object >
string	java.lang.String
number	java.math.Integer—Long—BigDecimal
true, false	java.lang.Boolean
null	null

JSON number values are unmarshalled into smallest of types Integer, Long, BigDecimal which can hold the value represented by number without loss of value or precision.[JSB-3.5-2]

3.6 Java Class

TODO - define class marshalling/unmarshalling algorithm.

3.6.1 Default scope

3.6.2 Field access strategy

For unmarshalling operation for a Java property, if a matching setter method exists, the method is called to set the value of the property, otherwise direct field assignment is used. [JSB-3.6.2-1] For marshalling operation, if a matching getter method exists, the method is called to obtain value of the property, otherwise the value is obtained directly from the field. [JSB-3.6.2-2]

3.6.3 Nested Classes

3.6.4 Static Nested Classes

3.6.5 Anonymous Classes

3.7 Enum

Enum instances are marshalled to JSON String value with conversion defined in specification for their toString method [JSB-3.7-1]. Unmarshalling of JSON value into enum instance is done by calling enum's valueOf(String) method. [JSB-3.7-2]

3.8 Interfaces

Implementations MUST support unmarshalling of specific interfaces defined in section 3.9 Collections, and subsection 3.3.4 java.lang.Number. [JSB-3.8-1] Unmarshalling to other interfaces is not supported and implementations SHOULD report error in such case. [JSB-3.8-2] If class property is defined with an interface, and not concrete type, mapping for marshalling the property is resolved based on its runtime type.[JSB-3.8-3]

3.9 Collections

Implementations **MUST** support binding of the following collection interfaces, classes and their implementations. [JSB-3.9-1] Implementations of interfaces below **MUST** provide accessible default constructor.[JSB-3.9-2] JSON Binding implementations **MUST** report unmarshalling error if default constructor is not present or is not in accessible scope. [JSB-3.9-3]

- 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

For interfaces defined above, following table defines default implementation types. Default implementation type for a class, field or property with interface type is the exact type used at runtime to unmarshall JSON values into the field or property. [JSB-3.9-4]

Interface	Default implementation type
java.util.Collection	java.util.ArrayList
java.util.Set	java.util.HashSet
java.util.NavigableSet	java.util.TreeSet
java.util.SortedSet	java.util.TreeSet
java.util.Map	java.util.HashMap
java.util.SortedMap	java.util.TreeMap
java.util.NavigableMap	java.util.TreeMap
java.util.Deque	java.util.ArrayDeque
java.util.Queue	java.util.ArrayDeque

3.10 Arrays

JSON Binding implementations **MUST** support 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 [4]. [JSB-3.10-1] Arrays of primitive types and multi-dimensional arrays **MUST** be supported. [JSB-3.5-2]

3.11 Null value handling

3.11.1 Null Java field

The result of marshalling java field with null value is absence of the property in resulting JSON document. [JSB-3.11.1-1] Unmarshalling operation of a property absent in JSON document **MUST** not set the value of the field, setter (if available) **MUST** not be called, thus original value of the field **MUST** be preserved. [JSB-3.11.1-2]

3.11.2 Null Array Values

The result of unmarshalling n-ary array represented in JSON document is n-ary Java array. [JSB-3.11.2-1]. Null value in JSON array is represented by null values in Java array. [JSB-3.11.2-2] Marshalling 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-3.11.2-3]

3.12 Names and identifiers

According to RFC 7159 Section 7 [4], every Java identifier name can be transformed using identity function into a valid JSON String. Identity function should be used for transforming Java identifier names into name Strings in JSON document. [JSB-3.12-1] For unmarshal operations defined in section 3.5 Untyped mapping section, identity function is used to transform JSON name strings into Java String instances in the resulting map $\text{Map}_i\text{String}$, Object_i . [JSB-3.12-2] Identity function is used also for other unmarshalling operations. [JSB-3.12-3] If a Java identifier with corresponding name does not exist or is not accessible, the implementations **MUST** report error. [JSB-3.12-4] Naming and error reporting strategies can be further customized in chapter 4 Customizing Mapping.

Chapter 4

Customizing Mapping

JSON-B TBD

DRAFT

Bibliography

- [1] Scott Bradner. Key words for use in rfcs to indicate requirement levels. RFC, IETF, March 1997.
- [2] T. Berners-Lee, R. Fielding, and L. Masinter. RFC 3986: Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax. RFC, IETF, January 2005. See <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3986.txt>.
- [3] Douglas Crockford. The application/json media type for javascript object notation (json). RFC, IETF, July 2006.
- [4] Ed. T. Bray. The javascript object notation (json) data interchange format. RFC 2070-1721, IETF, March 2014.
- [5] JSON. Web site, Wikipedia. See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JSON>.
- [6] Representational State Transfer. Web site, Wikipedia. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Representational_State_Transfer.
- [7] R. Fielding. Architectural Styles and the Design of Network-based Software Architectures. Ph.d dissertation, University of California, Irvine, 2000. See <http://roy.gbiv.com/pubs/dissertation/top.htm>.
- [8] REST Wiki. Web site. See <http://rest.blueoxen.net/cgi-bin/wiki.pl>.
- [9] James Gosling, Bill Joy, Guy Steele, and Gilad Bracha. The Java Language Specification - second edition. Book, Sun Microsystems, Inc, 2000. http://java.sun.com/docs/books/jls/second_edition/html/j.title.doc.html.
- [10] Kohsuke Kawaguchi. The Java Architecture for XML Binding (JAXB). JSR, JCP, December 2009. See <http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=222>.
- [11] Rajiv Mordani. Common Annotations for the Java Platform. JSR, JCP, July 2005. See <http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=250>.
- [12] Emmanuel Bernard. Bean Validation 1.1. JSR, JCP, March 2013. See <http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=349>.
- [13] Kin-Man Chung. Java API for JSON Processing. JSR, JCP, 2015. See <http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=374>.
- [14] Marek Potociar Santiago Pericas-Geertsens. Java API for RESTful Web Services. JSR, JCP, 2015. See <http://jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=370>.