

Why must you have a default constructor in your `@Configuration` annotated class?

`@Configuration` classes must have a default/no-arg constructor and may not use `@Autowired` constructor parameters. Any nested configuration classes must be static.

The reason is that spring uses CGLIB to proxy `@Configuration` classes and there is limitation in Spring, that classes proxied with CGLIB prior to version 4 are required to have default no-args constructor.

Prior to Spring 4, CGLIB-based proxy classes require a default constructor. And this is not the limitation of CGLIB library, but Spring itself. Fortunately, as of Spring 4 this is no longer an issue. CGLIB-based proxy classes no longer require a default constructor.