When do you need @ResponseBody?

@ResponseBody is required when you want a controller result to be passed to a message converter rather than to a view resolver.

Spring Framework

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org.springframework.web.bind.annotation

Annotation Type ResponseBody

@Target(value={TYPE,METHOD})
 @Retention(value=RUNTIME)
 @Documented
public @interface ResponseBody

Annotation that indicates a method return value should be bound to the web response body. Supported for annotated handler methods in Servlet environments.

As of version 4.0 this annotation can also be added on the type level in which case it is inherited and does not need to be added on the method level.

Since:

3.0

Author:

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See Also:

RequestBody, RestController

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