

Spring MVC hidden value example

By mkyong (<http://www.mkyong.com/author/mkyong/>) | August 10, 2010 | Updated : August 29, 2012 | Viewed : 125,105 times +450 pv/w

In Spring MVC, you can use `<form:hidden />` to render a HTML hidden value field. For example,

```
<form:hidden path="secretValue" />
```

It will render the following HTML code

```
<input id="secretValue" name="secretValue" type="hidden" value="I'm hidden value"/>
```

P.S Assume “secretValue” property contains value “I’m hidden value”.

In this tutorial, we show you how to use Spring’s form tag “`<form:hidden />`” to **render a HTML hidden value**.

1. Controller

A `SimpleFormController` to handle the form hidden value, and initialize the hidden value with “I’m hidden value, hehe”.

File : `HiddenController.java`

```
package com.mkyong.customer.controller;

import javax.servlet.http.HttpServletRequest;
import javax.servlet.http.HttpServletResponse;
import org.springframework.validation.BindException;
import org.springframework.web.servlet.ModelAndView;
import org.springframework.web.servlet.mvc.SimpleFormController;
import com.mkyong.customer.model.Customer;

public class HiddenController extends SimpleFormController{

    public HiddenController(){
        setCommandClass(Customer.class);
        setCommandName("customerForm");
    }

    @Override
    protected Object formBackingObject(HttpServletRequest request)
        throws Exception {
        Customer cust = new Customer();
        cust.setSecretValue("I'm hidden value, hehe");
        return cust;
    }

    @Override
    protected ModelAndView onSubmit(HttpServletRequest request,
        HttpServletResponse response, Object command, BindException errors)
        throws Exception {
        Customer customer = (Customer)command;
        return new ModelAndView("CustomerSuccess", "customer", customer);
    }
}
```

2. Model

A Customer object to store the form hidden value.

File : Customer.java

```
package com.mkyong.customer.model;

public class Customer{
    String secretValue;
    //getter and setter methods
}
```

3. View

A JSP page to use the Spring's form tag "**<form:hidden />**" to render a HTML hidden value.

File : CustomerForm.jsp

```
<%@ taglib prefix="form" uri="http://www.springframework.org/tags/form"%>
<html>
<body>
    <h2>Spring's form hidden example</h2>

    <form:form method="POST" commandName="customerForm">
        <table>
            <tr>
                <td>Hidden value (view source to see it) :</td>
                <td><form:hidden path="secretValue" /></td>
            </tr>
            <tr>
                <td><input type="submit" /></td>
            </tr>
        </table>
    </form:form>

</body>
</html>
```

If the form is submitted, render the successful page and display the submitted hidden value.

File : CustomerSuccess.jsp

```
<html>
<body>
    <h2>Spring's form hidden value example</h2>

    Hidden value : ${customer.secretValue}
    <br />
</body>
</html>
```

4. Spring Bean Configuration

Link it all ~

```
<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
    class="org.springframework.web.servlet.mvc.support.ControllerClassNameHandlerMapping" />

  <bean class="com.mkyong.customer.controller.HiddenController">
    <property name="formView" value="CustomerForm" />
    <property name="successView" value="CustomerSuccess" />
  </bean>

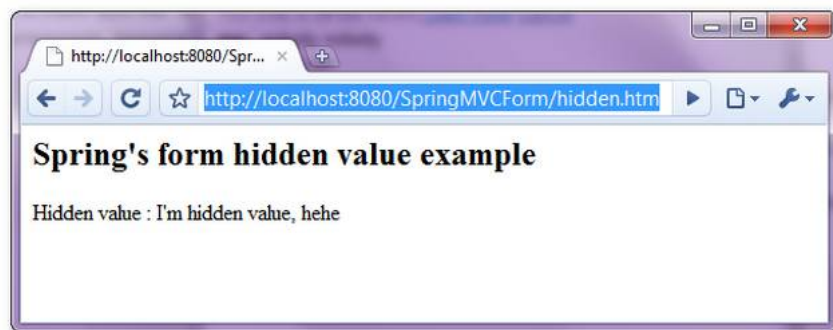
  <bean id="viewResolver"
    class="org.springframework.web.servlet.view.InternalResourceViewResolver">
    <property name="prefix">
      <value>/WEB-INF/pages/</value>
    </property>
    <property name="suffix">
      <value>.jsp</value>
    </property>
  </bean>
</beans>
```

5. Demo

Access the page – <http://localhost:8080/SpringMVCForm/hidden.htm>



If the form is submitted successfully, just display the submitted hidden value.



Download Source Code

Download it – SpringMVCForm-HiddenValue-Example.zip (<http://www.mkyong.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/SpringMVCForm-HiddenValue-Example.zip>) (8KB)

Tags : [hidden value \(http://www.mkyong.com/tag/hidden-value/\)](http://www.mkyong.com/tag/hidden-value/) [spring mvc \(http://www.mkyong.com/tag/spring-mvc/\)](http://www.mkyong.com/tag/spring-mvc/)

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mkyong

Founder of Mkyong.com (<http://mkyong.com>), love Java and open source stuff. Follow him on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/mkyong>), or befriend him on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/java.tutorial>) or Google Plus (<https://plus.google.com/110948163568945735692?rel=author>). If you like my tutorials, consider make a donation to these charities (<http://www.mkyong.com/blog/donate-to-charity/>).

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thedrunk13

Guest

how to get hidden values from multiple hidden values that are generated at runtime?
i need to create a form on the fly, then submit all these values as 1. with a servlet i would loop through the form items and populate the object, creating a new object with each loop. if this the best way with spring?




0



REPLY

🕒 10 months 16 days ago



INDUS

Guest

Thanks a lot!
when I try to print the form object in formBackingObject() it return null. Am i missing anything.
@Override
protected Object formBackingObject(HttpServletRequest request)
throws Exception {



Object o = super.formBackingObject(request);

Customer customerForm = (Customer)o;
System.out.println("titleName " + customerForm.getTitleName());


customerForm.setSecretValue("I'm hidden value, hehe");

return customerForm;

}



0



REPLY

🕒 1 year 3 months ago



Guest

Tahseen Haque

thanks so much!!!



🕒 2 years 1 month ago



Guest

AJ

I have a model with array list of custom object (List) and I am not able to use this property of model inside tag. My application behaves wierdly. Is there any way to use such a property inside form tag?



🕒 2 years 6 months ago



Guest

Vinod

The question is how to avoid malicious user from manipulating the existing value at run time. For example: cust.setSecretValue("http://www.bbc.com"); and in customersuccess.jsp as mentioned we have Hidden value : \${customer.secretValue}. So when the application runs it displays as http://www.bbc.com (http://www.bbc.com). But a malicious user may right click on the page and change it to something like http://www.google.com (http://www.google.com). Clearly the target url can be manipulated to forward to any other url. Is there a way we can ensure security on it.



🕒 3 years 1 month ago



Guest

Rady

```
<bean class="com.mkyong.customer.controller.HiddenController">
    <property name="formView" value="CustomerForm" />
    <property name="successView" value="CustomerSuccess" />
</bean>
```

We should use getSuccessView() get get what defined in xml file.

```
@Override
protected ModelAndView onSubmit(HttpServletRequest request,
    HttpServletResponse response, Object command, BindException errors)
    throws Exception {

    Customer customer = (Customer)command;
    return new ModelAndView(getSuccessView(), "customer", customer);

}
```



🕒 4 years 9 months ago



Guest

Manas

Thanks for such a nice post



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Spring MVC form handling example

(<http://www.mkyong.com/spring-mvc/spring-mvc-form-handling-example/>) [...] form tags to render the textbox, password, textarea, checkbox, radio button, select option and hidden value field. And all the submitted form values will be handle by the SimpleFormController. Additionally, [...]



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