How to assign several fields as a primary key of an entity (using JPA) [duplicate]

Asked 8 years, 9 months ago Modified 8 years, 9 months ago Viewed 14k times

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JPA composite primary key [duplicate] (2 answers)

Closed 8 years ago.

One can assign a primary key for its class by using @Id annotation in JPA. My question is what if one doesn't want to have an auto generated key in his tables and use fields (maybe more than one) as a primary key.

Let's say we have a person table with SSN, NATIONALITY and NAME. SSN is defined as the number a person is identified by in his country. Thus, we might have two persons with the same number in two different countries. The primary key for this table can be SSN+NATIONALITY. Is there any way to map these two fields using JPA and map it to an object? or the only way it to create an auto generated id and use @Id annotation

```
CREATE TABLE PERSON (
     SSN   INT,
     NATIONALITY VARCHAR,
     NAME VARCHAR
  )
```

java jpa orm

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asked Jun 5, 2013 at 18:23

sheidaei

9,252 19 61 84

Thanks for your feedback @femtoRgon. I leave it to the community to decide if it is a duplicate or not. However, reading the article you've linked, I have noticed it is about generating DDL files rather the basic question of how to annotate a composite key. – sheidaei Jun 5, 2013 at 18:49

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```
@Entity @IdClass(PersonId.class)
public class Person {
    @Id int ssn;
    @Id String nationality;
     ....
}
```

For entity with multiple key, JPA requires defining a special ID class. This class should be attached to the entity class using the @IdClass annotation.

```
class PersonId {
    int ssn;
    String nationality;
}
```

The ID class reflects the primary key fields and its objects can represent primary key values

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edited Jun 5, 2013 at 18:58

answered Jun 5, 2013 at 18:34

michal
1,791 1 12 11

1 The second option is to use `@EmbeddedId` - see Oracle TopLink Docs for some examples. – Jens Birger Hahn Jun 5, 2013 at 18:39

Thanks @michal. So if I got it correctly the first class will do the job? The second class that you have mentioned is for the case there weren't any composite key, right? – sheidaei Jun 5, 2013 at 18:52

The first class 'Person' represents entity. PersonId specifies a composite primary key class that is mapped to multiple fields or properties of the entity. – michal Jun 5, 2013 at 19:02