

IBM z/OS Connect EE V3.0

Developing RESTful APIs for Db2 REST Services



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IBM z Systems

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Table of Contents

Overview	3
Connect to a z/OS Connect EE Server.....	4
z/OS Connect EE APIs and Db2	7
<i>Creating Db2 RESTful Services</i>	<i>7</i>
Generating the services for the Db2 REST APIs	17
<i>Generating the Service Archive (SAR) files.....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Deploying the Service Archive (SAR) files</i>	<i>21</i>
Create the Db2 API Project	25
<i>Import the SAR files</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Compose an API for Db2 Rest Services</i>	<i>29</i>
Deploy the API to a z/OS Connect EE Server	38
Test the Db2 APIs	40

Important: On the desktop there is a file named *Developing APIs CopyPaste.txt*. This file contains commands and other text used in this workshop. Locate that file and open it. Use the copy-and-paste function (**Ctrl-C** and **Ctrl-V**) to enter commands or text. It will save time and help avoid typo errors. As a reminder text that appears in this file will be highlighted in yellow.

Overview

Important – You do not need any skills with Db2 to perform this exercise. Even if Db2 is not relevant to your current plans performing this exercise will give additional experience using the API Toolkit with developing APIs.

The objective of these exercises is to gain experience with working with z/OS Connect EE and the API Toolkit. These two products allow the exposure of z/OS resources to JSON clients. More in-depth information about the customization of z/OS Connect EE, z/OS Connect EE security, the use of the API Toolkit and other topics is provided by the 1-day *ZCONNEE – z/OS Connect Workshop*. For information about scheduling this workshop in your area contact your IBM representative.

If you have completed either the developing APIs exercise for MVS Batch or MQ you can start with section *z/OS Connect EE APIs and Db2* on page 7.

General Exercise Information and Guidelines

- ✓ This exercise requires using z/OS user identity *USER1*. The password for this user will be provided by the lab instructor.
- ✓ Any time you have any questions about the use of IBM z/OS Explorer, 3270 screens, features or tools do not hesitate to ask the instructor for assistance.
- ✓ Text in **bold** and highlighted in **yellow** in this document should be available for copying and pasting in a file named *Development APIs CopyPaste* file on the desktop

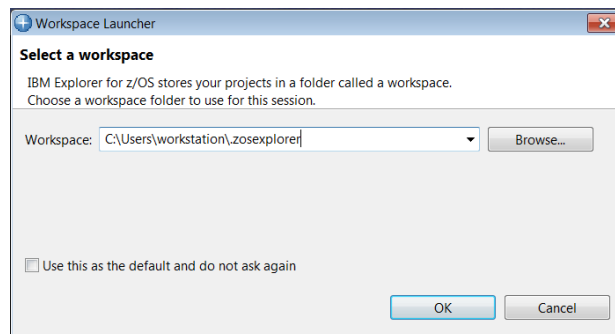
Connect to a z/OS Connect EE Server

Begin by establishing a connection to your z/OS Connect server from IBM z/OS Explorer. If you have performed one of the other exercises in this series of exercises this step may not be required.

Tech-Tip: Windows desktop tools can be opened either by double clicking the icon or by selecting the icon and right mouse button clicking and then selecting the *Open* option.

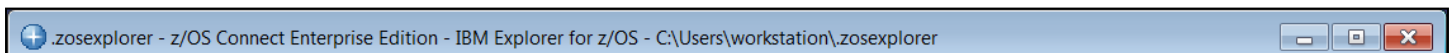
___1. On the workstation desktop, locate the *z/OS Explorer* icon and double click on it to open the Explorer.

___2. You will be prompted for a workspace:



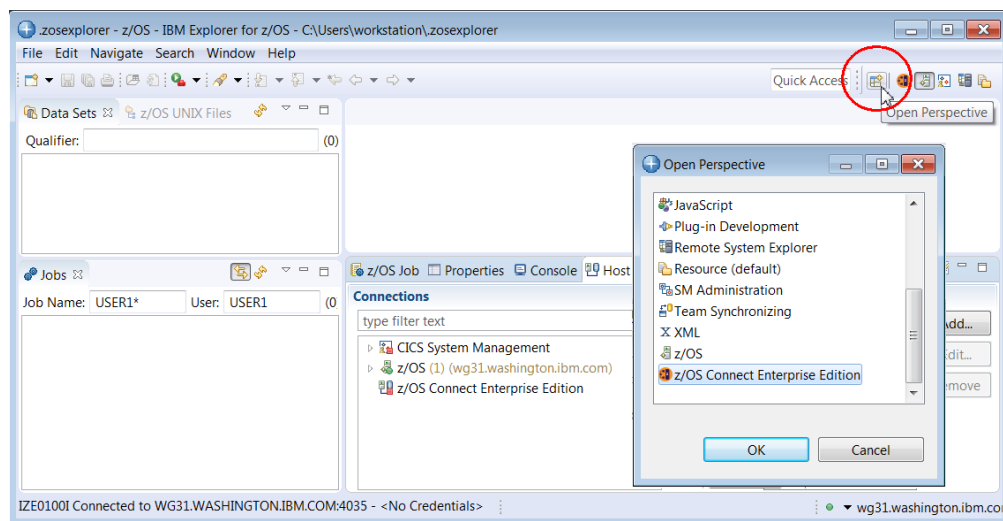
Take the default value by clicking **OK**.

___3. The Explorer should open in the *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition* perspective. Verify this by looking in the upper left corner. You should see:



N.B. If a *Welcome* screen is displayed then click the white X beside *Welcome* to close this view.

___4. If the current perspective is not *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition*, select the *Open Perspective* icon on the top right side to display the list of available perspectives, see below. Select **z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition** and click the **OK** button to switch to this perspective.



5. To add a connection to the z/OS Connect Server select *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition* connection in the *Host connections* tab in the lower view and then click the **Add** button.



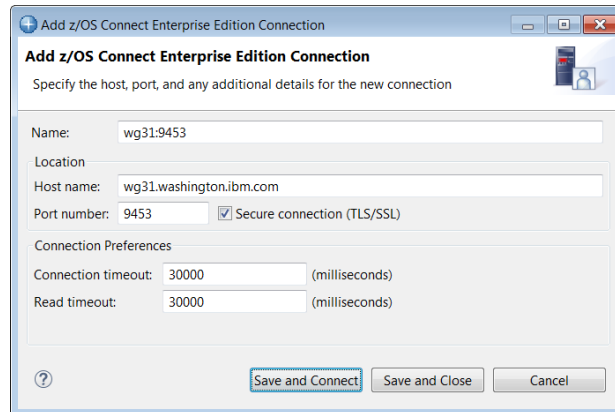
Tech-Tip: Eclipse based development tools like z/OS Explorer; provide a graphical interface consisting of multiple views within a single window.

A view is an area in the window dedicated to providing a specific tool or function. For example, in the window above, *Host Connections* and *Project Explorer* are views that use different areas of the window for displaying information. At bottom on the right there is a single area for displaying the contents of four views stacked together (commonly called a *stacked views*), *z/OS Host Connections*, *Properties*, *Progress* and *Problems*. In a stacked view, the contents of each view can be displayed by clicking on the view tab (the name of the view).

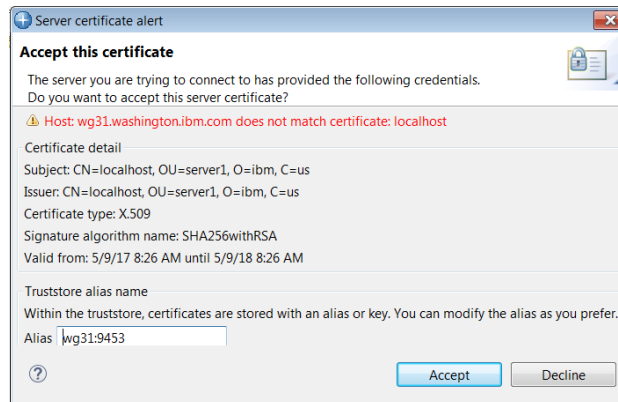
At any time, a specific view can be enlarged to fill the entire window by double clicking in the view's title bar. Double clicking in the view's title bar will be restored the original arrangement. If a z/OS Explorer view is closed or otherwise disappears, the original arrangement can be restored by selecting **Windows → Reset Perspective** in the window's tool bar.

Eclipse based tools also can display multiple views based on the current role of the user. In this context, a window is known as a perspective. The contents (or views) of a perspective are based on the role the user, i.e., developer or administrator.

6. In the pop-up list displayed select *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition* and on the *Add z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition Connection* screen enter **wg31.washington.ibm.com** for the *Host name*, **9453** for the *Port Number*, check the box for *Secure connection (TLS/SSL)* and then click the **Save and Connect** button.



7. On the *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition – User ID* required screen create new credentials for a *User ID* of **Fred** and a *Password or Passphrase* of **fredpwd** (case matters). Remember the server is configured to use basic security. If SAF security had been enabled, then a valid RACF User ID and password will have to be used instead. Click **OK** to continue.
8. Click the **Accept** button on the *Server certificate alert – Accept this certificate* screen. You may be presented with another prompt for a userid and password, enter **Fred** and **fredpwd** again.



9. The status icon beside **wg31:9453** should now be a green circle with a lock. This shows that a secure connection has been established between the z/OS Explorer and the z/OS Connect server. A red box indicates that no connection exists.
10. A connection to the remote z/OS system was previously added. In the *Host Connection* view expand *z/OS Remote System* under *z/OS* and select **wg31.washington.ibm.com**. If the connection is not active the **Connect** button will be enabled. Click the **Connect** button and this will establish a session to the z/OS system. This step is required when submitting job for execution and viewing the output of these jobs later in this exercise.

Summary

The next step is the creation of the service and the composing and deployment of the API and then the testing of the API functions.

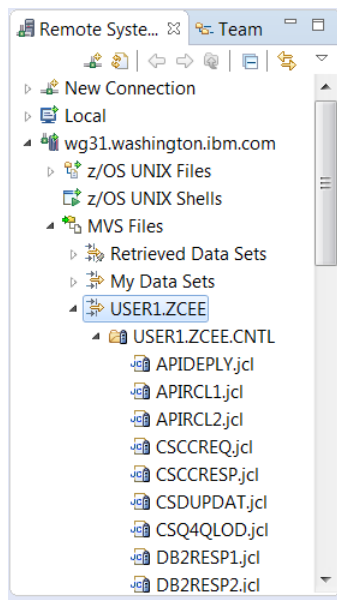
z/OS Connect EE APIs and Db2

Accessing Db2 from z/OS Connect EE differs from the ways in which z/OS Connect EE accesses other z/OS subsystems. The other subsystems are accessed by using standard subsystem interfaces (e.g., WOLA, OTMA, IPIC, JMS, etc.). A z/OS Connect EE server accesses Db2 not as a Db2 client using JDBC but rather as a RESTful client accessing a Db2 Rest Service. This may raise the question as to what value-add does z/OS Connect EE provide if Db2 Rest Services are required for z/OS Connect EE. The answer is that (1) the Rest services support provided by Db2 only supports the POST method with only a few administrative services that support the GET method. There is no support for PUT or DELETE methods normally expected for a robust RESTful API service. Another reason (2) is that the API function of transforming JSON request or response messages, e.g. assigning values or removing fields from the interface is not available when using the Db2 Rest Services directly. Finally, a Swagger document (3) used for integration into API management products or development tools is only available from z/OS Connect EE. If a full function RESTful API with support for the major HTTP methods (POST, PUT, GET and DELETE) and transforming JSON payloads and generating a Swagger document is required then z/OS Connect EE is the solution.

Creating Db2 RESTful Services

RESTful services for Db2 are defined either using a Db2 provided RESTful administrative service(DB2ServiceManager) or by using the Db2 BIND command using an update provided in Db2 PTF UI51748. Only the later technique that will be shown in this exercise.

1. In the IBM z/OS Explorer session switch to the *Remote System Explorer* perspective (see page 4) and expand data set *USER1.ZCEE.CNTL* in the *Remote System view* to display a list of its members.



2. Open member *DB2RESP1* in *USER1.ZCEE.CNTL* and review its contents by selecting the member and right-mouse button clicking and selecting the *Open* option. Submit this job for execution. It should complete with a completion code of 0.

```
//BIND EXEC PGM=IKJEFT01,DYNAMNBR=20
//STEPLIB DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNEXIT,DISP=SHR
// DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNLOAD,DISP=SHR
//SYSTSPRT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSPRINT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSUDUMP DD SYSOUT=*
//DSNSTMT DD *
SELECT * FROM USER1.EMPLOYEE WHERE EMPNO = :EMP
//SYSTSIN DD *
DSN SYSTEM(DSN2)

BIND SERVICE(SYSIBMSERVICE) -
NAME("selectEmployee") -
SQLENCODING(1047) -
DESCRIPTION('Select an employee from table USER1.EMPLOYEE')
/*
```

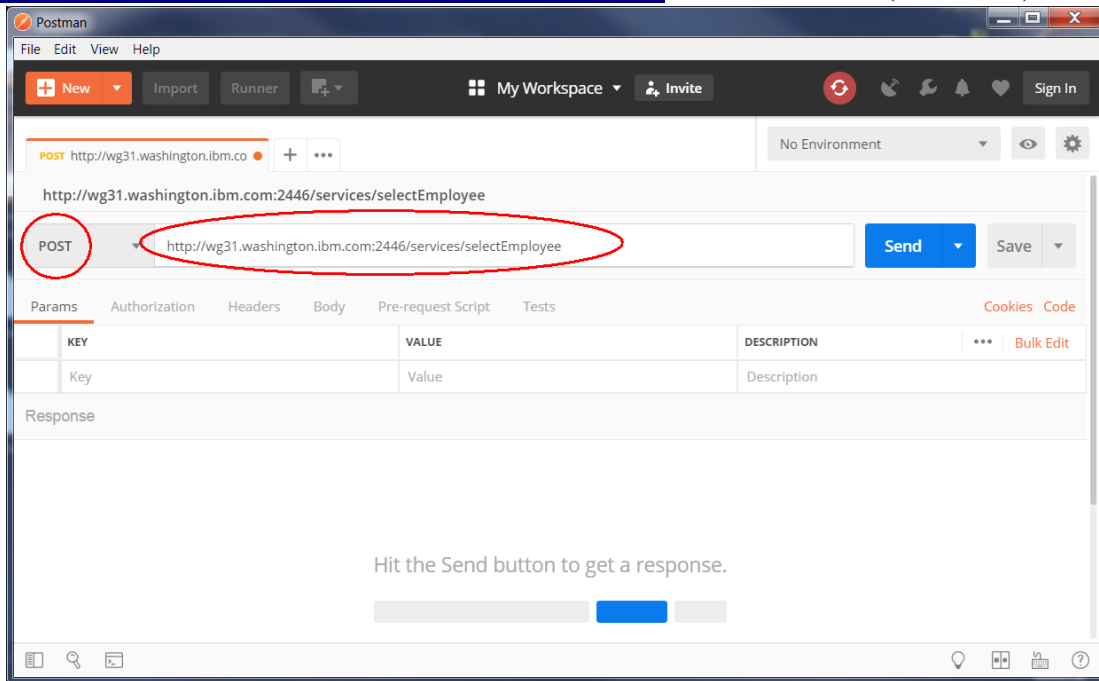
This defines a Db2 Rest Services that select a single row from table *USER1.EMPLOYEE* based on the employee number (column *EMP*).

Tech Tip: The contents of *slqStmt* can be any valid single CALL, DELETE, INSERT, SELECT, TRUNCATE, UPDATE, or WITH SQL statement

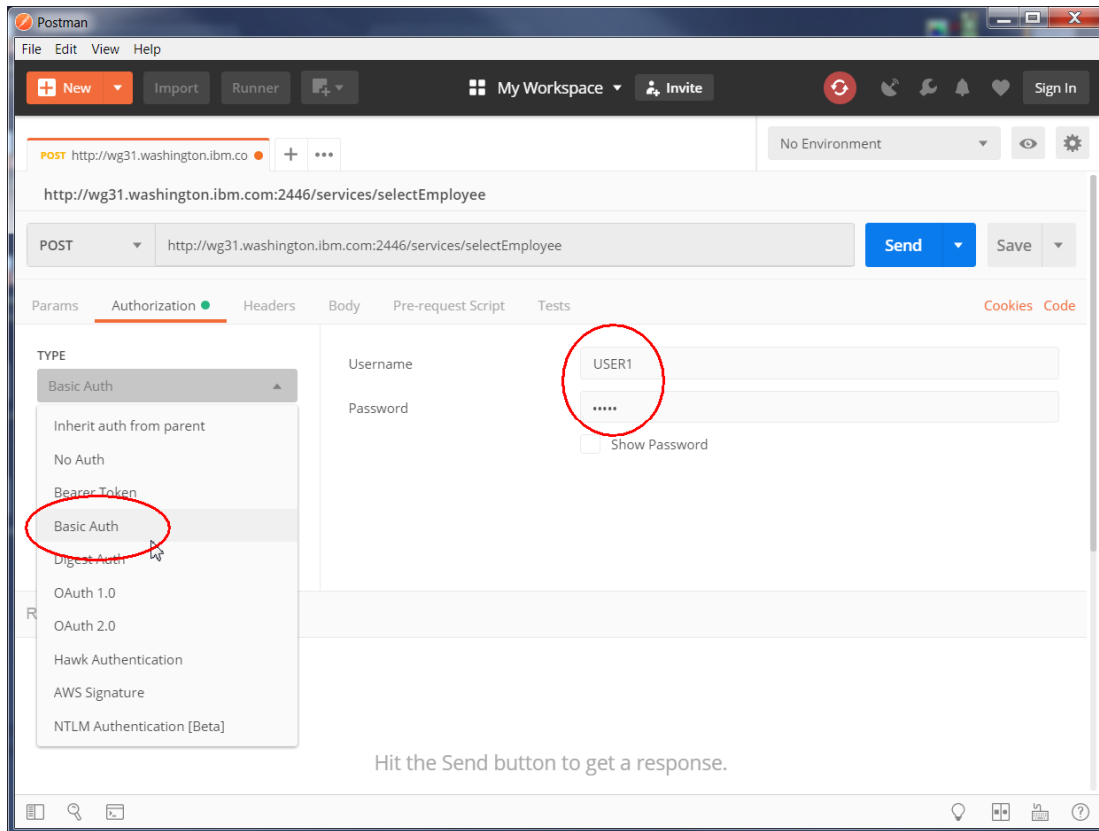
Tech Tip: To submit a job for execution when using the IBM z/OS Explorer select the member and right mouse button click and select the *Submit* option. Or if the member is currently opened simply right mouse button click and select the *Submit* option. Click the **Locate Job** button on the *Job Confirmation* pop-up. This will display the job output in the *Retrieved Job* section under *JES* in the *Remote Systems* view. The job's output can be viewed right mouse button clicking and selecting the *Open* option.

Tech Tip: To delete a service created by using the Db2 BIND command use the Db2 FREE command, e.g. FREE SERVICE("SYSIBMSERVICE"."selectEmployee")

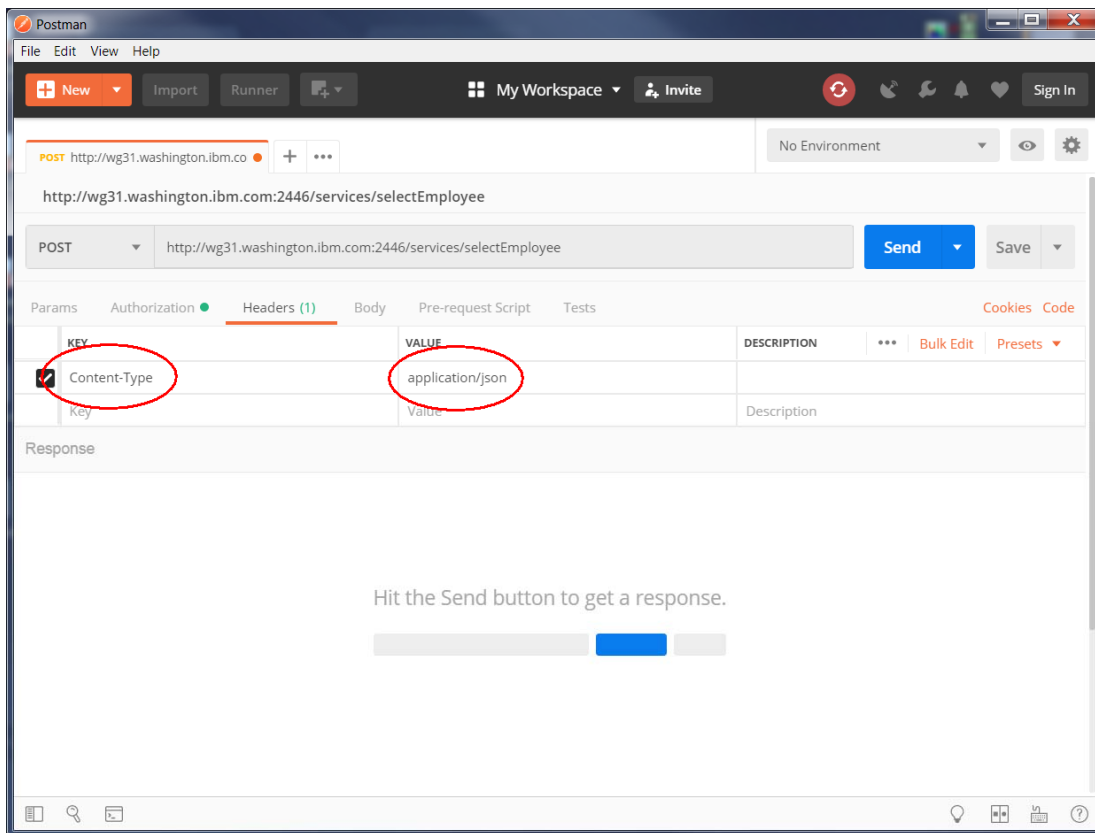
4. Open the *Postman* tool icon on the desktop and if necessary reply to any prompts and close any welcome messages, use the down arrow to select **POST** and enter <http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:2446/services/selectEmployee> in the URL area (see below).



5. No *query* or *path* parameters are required so next select the *Authorization* tab to enter an authorization identity and password. Use the pull down arrow to select *Basic Auth* and enter **USER1** as the *Username* and USER1's password as the *Password*.



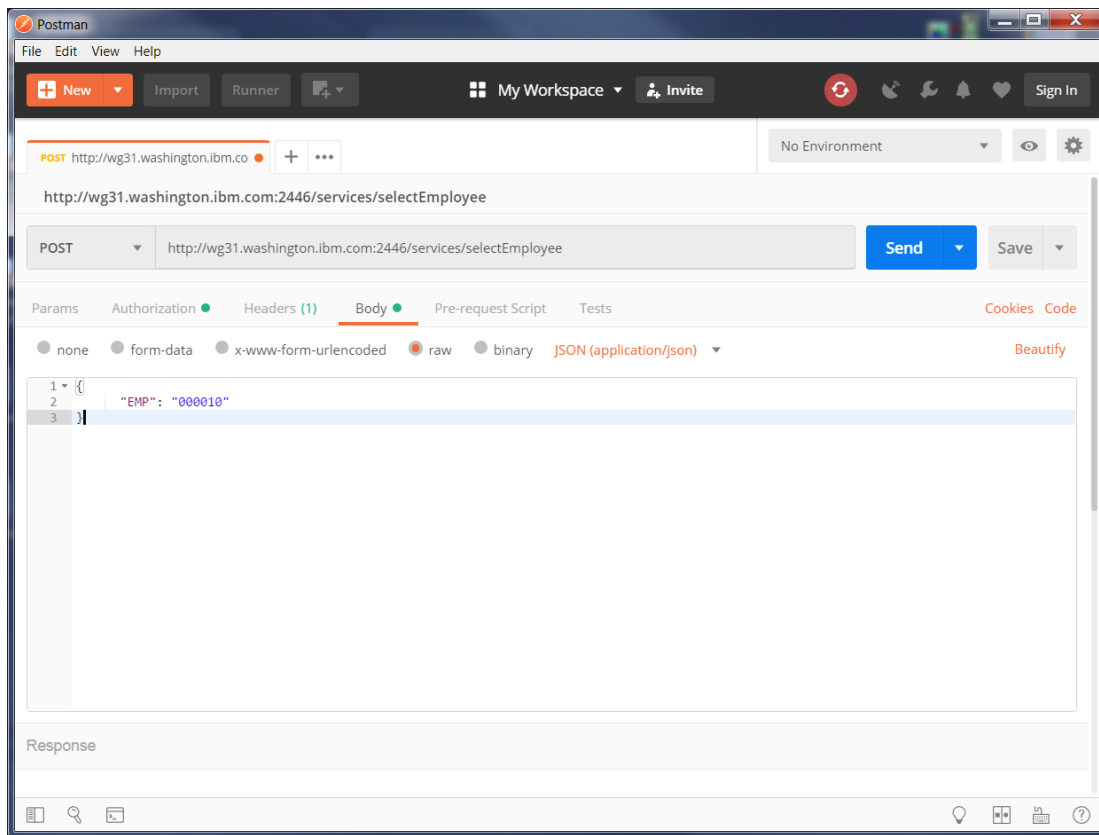
6. Next select the *Headers* tab and under *KEY* use the code assist feature to enter *Content-Type* and under *VALUE* use the code assist feature to enter *application/json*.



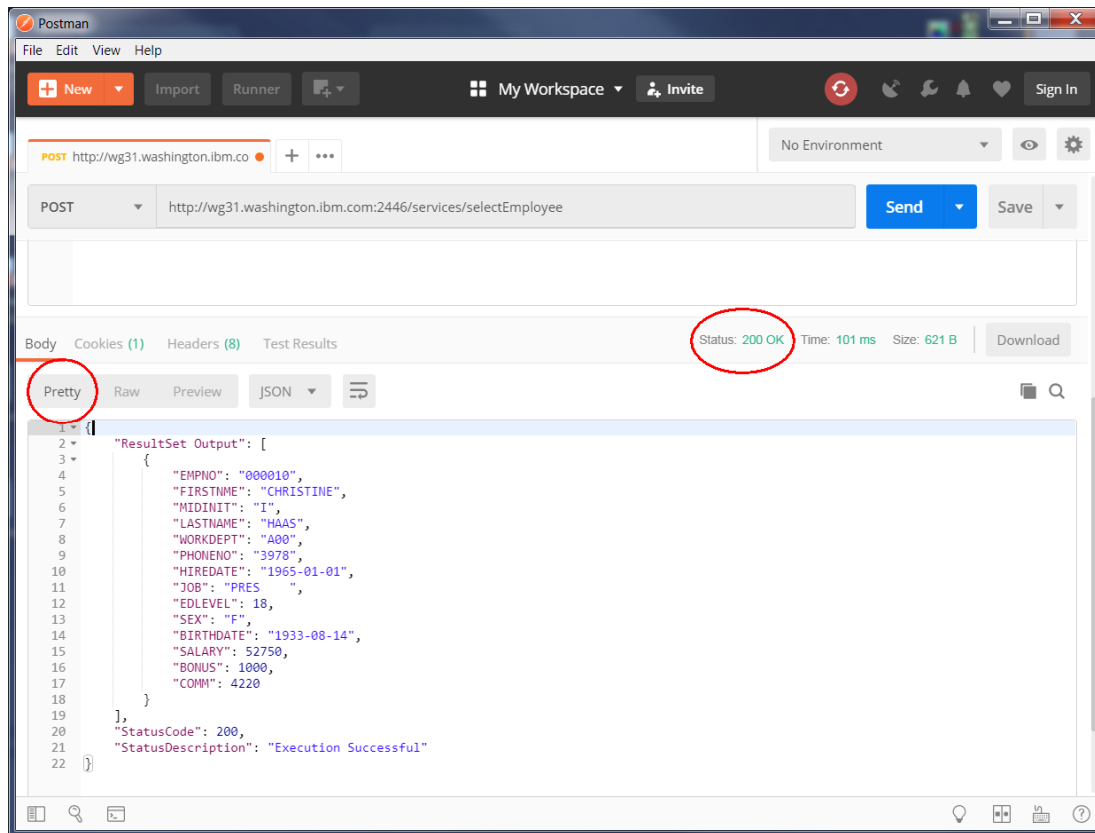
Tech-Tip: Code assist simply means that when text is entered in field, all the valid values for that field that match the typed text will be displayed. You can select the desired value for the field from the list displayed and that value will populate that field.

7. Next select the *Body* tab and select the *raw* radio button and enter the JSON message below in the *Body* area and press the **Send** button.

```
{  
  "EMP": "000010"  
}
```



8. Pressing the **Send** button invokes the API. The Status of request should be *200 OK* and pressing the *Pretty* tab will display the response message in an easy to read format, see below.



9. Open member DB2RESP2 in *USER1.ZCEE*. *CNTL* and review its contents. Submit this job for execution. It should complete with a completion code of 0.

```

//BIND EXEC PGM=IKJEFT01,DYNAMNBR=20
//STEPLIB DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNEXIT,DISP=SHR
// DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNLOAD,DISP=SHR
//SYSTSPRT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSPRINT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSUDUMP DD SYSOUT=*
//DSNSTMT DD *
DELETE FROM USER1.EMPLOYEE WHERE EMPNO = :EMP
//SYSTSIN DD *
DSN SYSTEM(DSN2)

BIND SERVICE(SYSIBMSERVICE) -
  NAME("deleteEmployee") -
  SQLENCODING(1047) -
  DESCRIPTION('Delete an employee from table USER1.EMPLOYEE')
/*

```

This creates a user Db2 Rest Service named *deleteEmployee* that deletes a row from table USER1.EMPLOYEE using the same JSON request message used in Step 6. Optionally test this service by using URL

<http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:2446/services/deleteEmployee>

10. Open member DB2RESP3 in *USER1.ZCEE. CNTL* and review its contents. Submit this job for execution. It should complete with a completion code of 0.

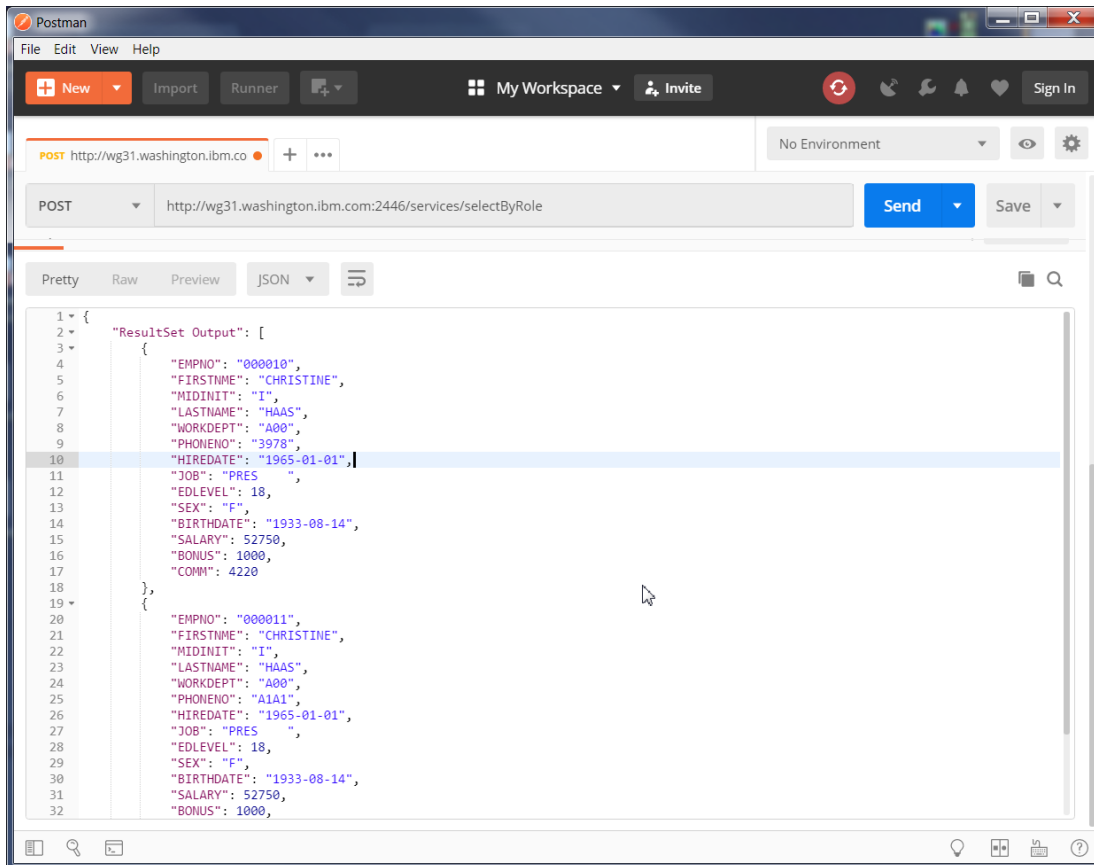
```
//BIND EXEC PGM=IKJEFT01,DYNAMNBR=20
//STEPLIB DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNEXIT,DISP=SHR
// DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNLOAD,DISP=SHR
//SYSTSPRT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSPRINT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSUDUMP DD SYSOUT=*
//DSNSTMT DD *
SELECT * FROM USER1.EMPLOYEE WHERE JOB = :JOB AND WORKDEPT = :WORKDEPT
//SYSTSIN DD *
DSN SYSTEM(DSN2)

BIND SERVICE(SYSIBMSERVICE) -
NAME("selectByRole") -
SQLENCODING(1047) -
DESCRIPTION('Select an employee based on job and department')
/*
```

This creates a user Db2 Rest Service named *selectByRole* that selects rows from table USER1.EMPLOYEE based on the contents of the WORKDEPT and JOB columns.

11. Test this service by using a URL of <http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:2446/services/selectByRole> and a JSON request message of:

```
{  
  "JOB": "PRES",  
  "WORKDEPT": "A00"  
}
```



12. Open member DB2RESP4 in *USER1.ZCEE.CNTL* and review its contents. Submit this job for execution. It should complete with a completion code of 0.

```
//BIND EXEC PGM=IKJEFT01,DYNAMNBR=20
//STEPLIB DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNEXIT,DISP=SHR
// DD DSN=DSN1210.DB2.SDSNLOAD,DISP=SHR
//SYSTSPRT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSPRINT DD SYSOUT=*
//SYSUDUMP DD SYSOUT=*
//DSNSTMT DD *
CALL USER01EMPL_DEPTS_NAT(:WHICHQUERY,:DEPT1,:DEPT2)
//SYSTSIN DD *
DSN SYSTEM(DSN2)
BIND SERVICE(SYSIBMSERVICE) -
NAME("selectByDepartments") -
SQLENCODING(1047) -
DESCRIPTION('select employees by department') /*
```

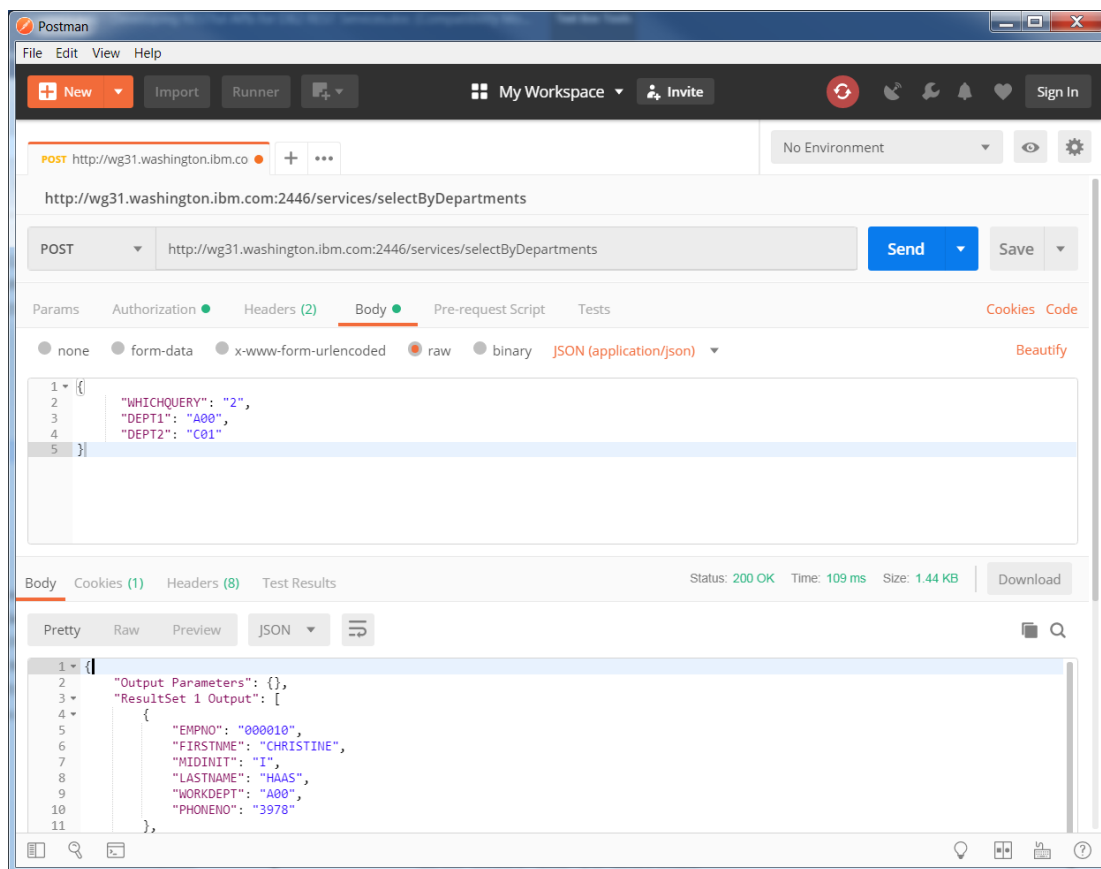
This creates a user Db2 Rest Service named *selectByDepartments* that selects rows from table *USER1.EMPLOYEE* based on the contents of the query type (*WHICHQUERY*) and either a specific department (query type 1) or a range of departments (query type not 1).

```
P1: BEGIN
DECLARE CURSOR1 CURSOR WITH RETURN FOR
    SELECT EMPLOYEE.EMPNO, EMPLOYEE.FIRSTNME, EMPLOYEE.MIDINIT,
    EMPLOYEE.LASTNAME,
    EMPLOYEE.WORKDEPT, EMPLOYEE.PHONENO
    FROM USER1.EMP AS EMPLOYEE
    WHERE EMPLOYEE.WORKDEPT=DEPT1
    ORDER BY EMPLOYEE.EMPNO ASC;
DECLARE CURSOR2 CURSOR WITH RETURN FOR
    SELECT EMPLOYEE.EMPNO, EMPLOYEE.FIRSTNME, EMPLOYEE.MIDINIT,
    EMPLOYEE.LASTNAME,
    EMPLOYEE.WORKDEPT, EMPLOYEE.PHONENO
    FROM USER1.EMP AS EMPLOYEE
    WHERE EMPLOYEE.WORKDEPT>=DEPT1 AND EMPLOYEE.WORKDEPT<=DEPT2
    ORDER BY EMPLOYEE.WORKDEPT ASC, EMPLOYEE.EMPNO ASC;
CASE WHICHQUERY
    WHEN 1 THEN
        OPEN CURSOR1;
    ELSE
        OPEN CURSOR2;
END CASE;
```


13. Test this service by using a URL of <http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:2446/services/selectByDepartments> and a JSON request message of:

```
{
  "WHICHQUERY": "1",
  "DEPT1": "A00",
  "DEPT2": "C01"
}
```

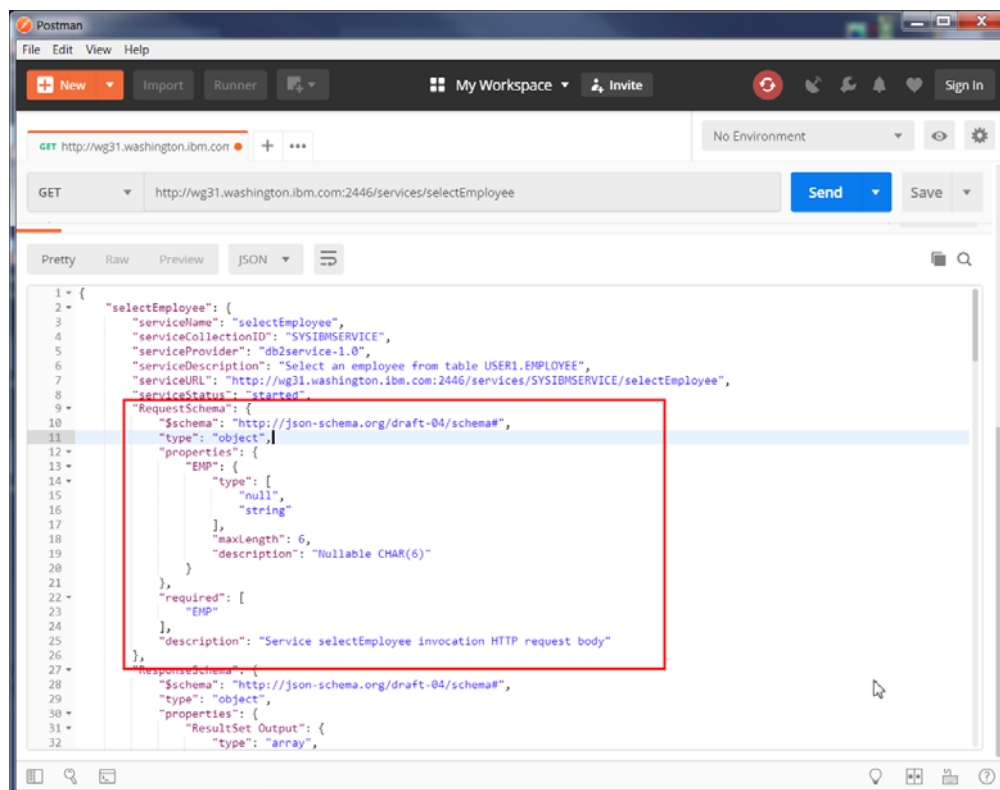
This completes the creation of the Db2 Rest Services that will be used in an API. In the next section, the Service Archives need for working with the API Editor will be created and deployed.



Generating the services for the Db2 REST APIs

The *z/OS Connect EE Build Toolkit* will be used to generate the service archive files (SAR) for these services. The SAR files have already been created for you and reside on your workstations in directory `c:\z\DB2Lab`. Below is an overview of the steps performed to create the SAR file for the *selectEmployee* service.

- First a Db2 Rest Service was used to display the details of the *selectEmployee* services using a **GET** method in the RESTClient plugin for URL <http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:2446/services/selectEmployee>
- This displayed the response message below in the *Response Body (Preview)* tab.



- The JSON schemas in the *RequestSchema* (see above) and *ResponseSchema* sections were saved into two different files, *selectEmployeeRequest.json* and *selectEmployeeResponse.json* respectively. Note that *string* fields contain "**null**", in the *type* property, all occurrences of type "**null**", were removed from the JSON schema files. Below shows the contents of the *selectEmployeeRequest.json* file.

```
{
  "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema#",
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    {
      "EMP":
      {
        "type":
        [
          "string"
          "maxLength": 6,
        ],

        "description": "Nullable CHAR(6)"
      }
    },
    "required":
    [
      "EMP"
    ],
    "description": "Service simpleSelectEMP invocation HTTP request
body"
  }
}
```

- A *z/OS Connect EE Build Toolkit* properties file was created for this service with the contents below:

```
provider=rest
name=selectEmployee
version=1.0
description=Select a row from USER1.EMPLOYEE
requestSchemaFile=selectEmployeeRequest.json
responseSchemaFile=selectEmployeeResponse.json
verb=POST
uri=/services/selectEmployee
connectionRef=db2conn
```

- Finally, the *z/OS Connect EE build toolkit* is invoked to build the service archive file for the REST services by creating a Windows batch file named *selectEmployee.bat* as shown below:

```
c:\z\zconbt\bin\zconbt.bat -p=selectEmployee.properties -f=selectEmployee.sar
```

Generating the Service Archive (SAR) files.

The first step you are required to perform is to generate the service archive (SAR) files using the z/OS Connect EE build toolkit using the artifacts as shown above.

- ___ 1. Open a DOS command prompt by opening the *Command Prompt* icon on the desktop.
- ___ 2. Use the change directory command to go to directory C:\z\DB2Lab, e.g. **cd C:\z\DB2Lab**.
- ___ 3. Generate the *selectEmployee.sar* file by invoking the build toolkit for the *selectEmployee* service by entering command **selectEmployee**.
- ___ 4. Generate the *deleteEmployee.sar* file by invoking the build toolkit for the *deleteEmployee* service by entering command **deleteEmployee**.
- ___ 5. Generate the *selectByRole* file by invoking the build toolkit for the *selectByRole* service by entering command **selectByRole**.
- ___ 6. Generate the *selectByDepartments* file by invoking the build toolkit for the *selectByDepartments* service by entering command **selectByDepartments**.

This is what your DOS session should look like.

```
c:\>cd \z\DB2lab

c:\z\DB2Lab>selectEmployee

c:\z\DB2Lab>c:\z\zconbt\bin\zconbt.bat -p=selectEmployee.properties -f=selectEmployee.sar

BAQB0000I: z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition Build Toolkit Version 1.0
BAQB0001I: Creating service archive from configuration file selectEmployee.properties
BAQB0002I: Successfully created service archive file selectEmployee.sar

c:\z\DB2Lab>deleteEmployee

c:\DB2Lab>c:\z\zconbt\bin\zconbt.bat -p=deleteEmployee.properties -f=deleteEmployee.sar
BAQB0000I: z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition Build Toolkit Version 1.0
BAQB0001I: Creating service archive from configuration file deleteEmployee.properties
BAQB0002I: Successfully created service archive file deleteEmployee.sar

c:\z\DB2Lab>selectByRole

c:\DB2Lab>c:\z\zconbt\bin\zconbt.bat -p=selectByRole.properties -f=selectByRole.sar
BAQB0000I: z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition Build Toolkit Version 1.0
BAQB0001I: Creating service archive from configuration file selectByRole.properties
BAQB0002I: Successfully created service archive file selectByRole.sar

c:\z\DB2Lab>selectByDepartments

c:\z\DB2Lab>c:\z\zconbt\bin\zconbt.bat -p=selectByDepartments.properties -
f=selectByDepartments.sar
BAQB0000I: z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition Build Toolkit Version 1.0
BAQB0001I: Creating service archive from configuration file selectByDepartments.properties
BAQB0002I: Successfully created service archive file selectByDepartments.sar
```

Deploying the Service Archive (SAR) files

Next the Service Archive (SAR) files need to be available to the z/OS Connect EE server. This is done by deploying them to the server's *services* directory. In this case the *services* directory is */var/ats/zosconnect/servers/zceeapir/resources/zosconnect/services*.

1. Open a DOS command session and change to directory C:\z\DB2Lab e.g **cd c:\z\DB2Lab**
2. Deploy the *selectEmployee* service by using the z/OS Connect EE RESTful administrative interface to deploy the service archive file by using the cURL command with a POST method, e.g.

```
curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @selectEmployee.sar  
--header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure  
https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectEmployee
```

```
C:\z\DB2Lab>curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @selectEmployee.sar  
--header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure https://wg31.washington.ibm  
.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectEmployee  
{  
  "zosConnect": {  
    "serviceName": "selectEmployee",  
    "serviceDescription": "Select a row  
    from USER1.EMPLOYEE",  
    "serviceProvider": "IBM_ZOS_CONNECT_SERVICE_REST_CLIENT-1.0",  
    "serviceURL": "https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectE  
mployee",  
    "serviceInvokeURL": "https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/ser  
vices/selectEmployee?action=invoke",  
    "dataXformProvider": "DATA_UNAVAILABLE",  
    "serviceStatus": "Started"  
  },  
  "selectEmployee": {  
    "receiveTimeout": 0,  
    "port": null,  
    "host": null,  
    "httpMethod": "POST",  
    "connectionTimeout": 0,  
    "uri": "/services/selectEmployee"  
  }  
}
```

Tech-Tip: If a REST client tool like cURL or Postman was not available then the SAR file could have been deployed using FTP to upload the file in binary mode to the *services* directory.

Tech-Tip: If a service needs to be redeployed the service must be first stopped and then deleted. The cURL command with a PUT method can be used to stop the service:

```
curl -X PUT --user Fred:fredpwd --insecure  
https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectEmployee?status=stopped
```

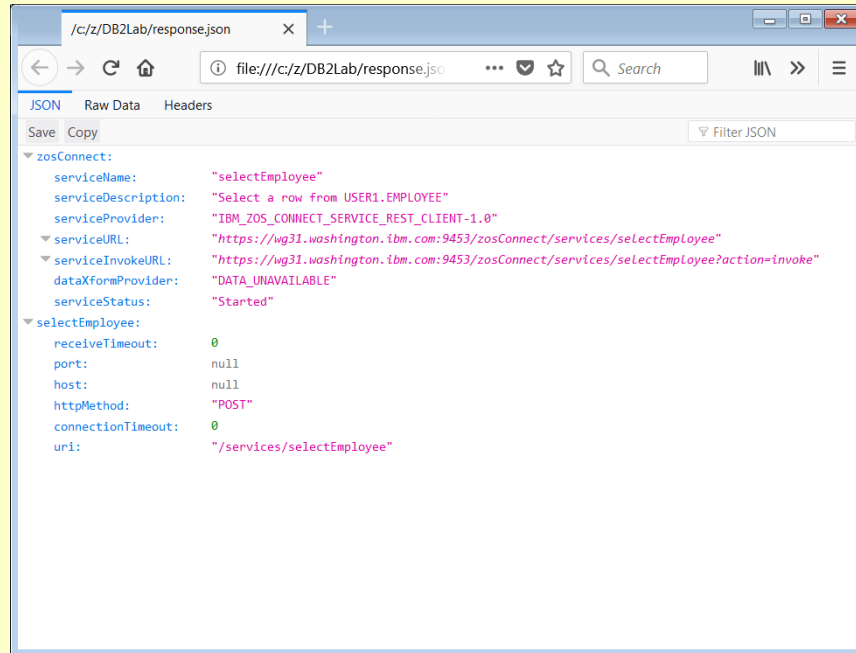
And the cURL command with a DELETE method can be used to delete the service:

```
curl -X DELETE --user Fred:fredpwd --insecure  
https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectEmployee
```

If this is not done the service cannot be redeployed.

Tech-Tip: Another useful cURL directive is `-o response.json`

When this directive is used the JSON response message is written to a file named `response.json` which then can be opened with Firefox and viewed in a more readable format, e.g. command `firefox file:///c:/z/DB2lab/response.json`



3. Deploy the `deleteEmployee` service by using the z/OS Connect EE RESTful administrative interface to deploy the service archive file by using the cURL command with a POST method, e.g.

`curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @deleteEmployee.sar --header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/deleteEmployee`

```

C:\z\DB2Lab>curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @deleteEmployee.sar
--header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure https://wg31.washington.ibm
.com:9453/zosConnect/services/deleteEmployee
{"zosConnect":{"serviceName":"deleteEmployee","serviceDescription":"Delete a row
from USER1.EMPLOYEE","serviceProvider":"IBM_ZOS_CONNECT_SERVICE_REST_CLIENT-1.0
","serviceURL":"https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/deleteE
mployee","serviceInvokeURL":"https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/ser
vices/deleteEmployee?action=invoke","dataXformProvider":"DATA_UNAVAILABLE","serv
iceStatus":"Started"},"deleteEmployee":{"receiveTimeout":0,"port":null,"host":nu
ll,"httpMethod":"POST","connectionTimeout":0,"uri":"/services/deleteEmployee"}}

```

4. Deploy the *selectByRole* service by using the z/OS Connect EE RESTful administrative interface to deploy the service archive file by using the cURL command with a POST method, e.g.

```
curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @selectByRole.sar --header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectByRole
```

```
C:\z\DB2Lab>curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @selectByRole.sar
--header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure https://wg31.washington.ibm
.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectByRole
{"zosConnect":{"serviceName":"selectByRole","serviceDescription":"Select a row f
rom USER1.EMPLOYEE bases on job and workdept","serviceProvider":"IBM_ZOS_CONNECT
_SERVICE_REST_CLIENT-1.0","serviceURL":"https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zos
Connect/services/selectByRole","serviceInvokeURL":"https://wg31.washington.ibm.c
om:9453/zosConnect/services/selectByRole?action=invoke","dataXformProvider":"DAT
A_UNAVAILABLE","serviceStatus":"Started"},"selectByRole":{"receiveTimeout":0,"po
rt":null,"host":null,"httpMethod":"POST","connectionTimeout":0,"uri":"/services/
selectByRole"}}
```

5. Deploy the *selectByDepartments* service by using the z/OS Connect EE RESTful administrative interface to deploy the service archive file by using the cURL command with a POST method, e.g.

```
curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @selectByDepartments.sar --header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectByDepartments
```

```
C:\z\DB2Lab>curl -X POST --user Fred:fredpwd --data-binary @selectByDepartments.sar
--header "Content-Type: application/zip" --insecure https://wg31.washington.ibm
.com:9453/zosConnect/services/selectByDepartments
{"zosConnect":{"serviceName":"selectByDepartments","serviceDescription":"Select
employees by departments","serviceProvider":"IBM_ZOS_CONNECT_SERVICE_REST_CLIENT
-1.0","serviceURL":"https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/services/sel
ectByDepartments","serviceInvokeURL":"https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosCo
nnect/services/selectByDepartments?action=invoke","dataXformProvider":"DATA_UNAV
AILABLE","serviceStatus":"Started"},"selectByDepartments":{"receiveTimeout":0,"p
ort":null,"host":null,"httpMethod":"POST","connectionTimeout":0,"uri":"/services
/selectByDepartments"}}
```

6. The z/OS Connect EE server where the API requester will be installed has the configuration below in its server.xml file.

```
<server description="DB2 Employee">

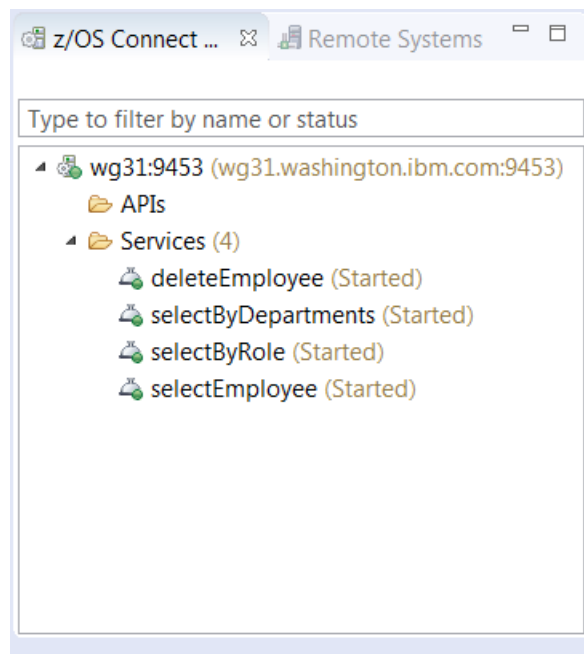
  <zoscconnect_zosConnectServiceRestClientConnection id="db2conn"          1
    host="wg31.washington.ibm.com"
    port="2446"
    basicAuthRef="dsn2Auth" />

  <zoscconnect_zosConnectServiceRestClientBasicAuth id="dsn2Auth"
    userName="USER1"
    password="USER1" />

</server>
```

1. Identifies the system which hosts the DB2 subsystem and port as well as any security information. Note that the ID of this element matches the value *connectionRef* property used when the SAR was generated by the z/OS Connect build toolkit.
2. The target server uses basic authentication, so we are simply provided a user identity and password. The password can be encrypted in the server.xml file or TLS used for security.

7. Expanding the Services folder in the IBM z/OS Explorer shows the 4 DB2 services have been installed and started.

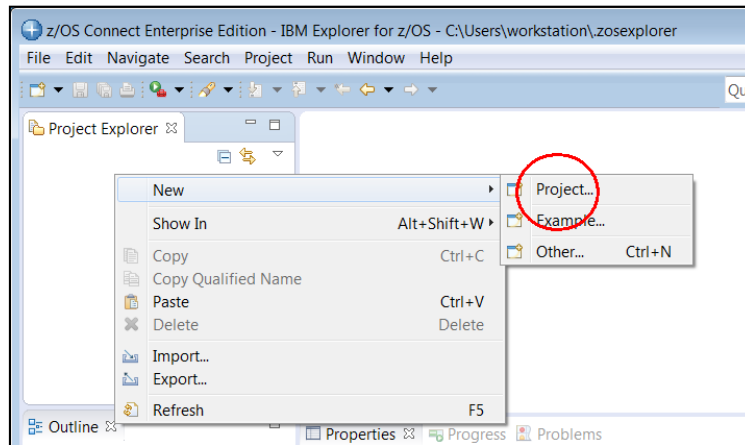


Summary

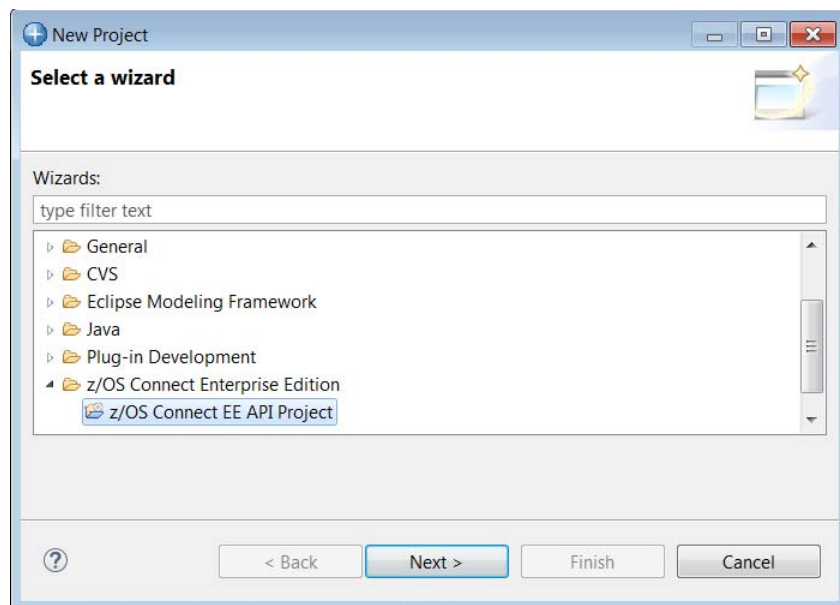
The Swagger document generated by Db2 has been used to define the request and response JSON schema for each of the services. These JSON schema files along with the properties provided in each service's properties files have been used by the z/OS Connect EE build toolkit to generate service archive files for each service

Create the Db2 API Project

1. In the *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition* perspective of the z/OS Explorer create a new API project by clicking the right mouse button and selecting *New* → *Project*:



2. In the *New Project* screen, scroll down and open the *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition* folder and select *z/OS Connect EE API Project* and then click the **Next** button.



3. Enter **DB2API** for the *Project name*. Be sure the *API name* is set to **db2Employee** and the *Base path* is set to **/db2**. Click **Finish** to continue.

New Project
z/OS Connect EE API Project
Create a new z/OS Connect EE API project.

Project name:
DB2API

API name:
db2Employee

Base path:
/db2

Description:

< Back Next > **Finish** Cancel

Important: The values are somewhat arbitrary, but they do relate to later tasks. If you use the values and cases as supplied, then the subsequent commands and the use of subsequent URLs will work seamlessly.

4. You should now see something like the view below. The view may need to be adjusted by dragging the view boundary lines.

db2Employee API

z/OS Connect EE API Editor

Describe your API

Name: db2Employee Description:

Base path: /db2

Version: 1.0.0

Path: /newPath1

Methods

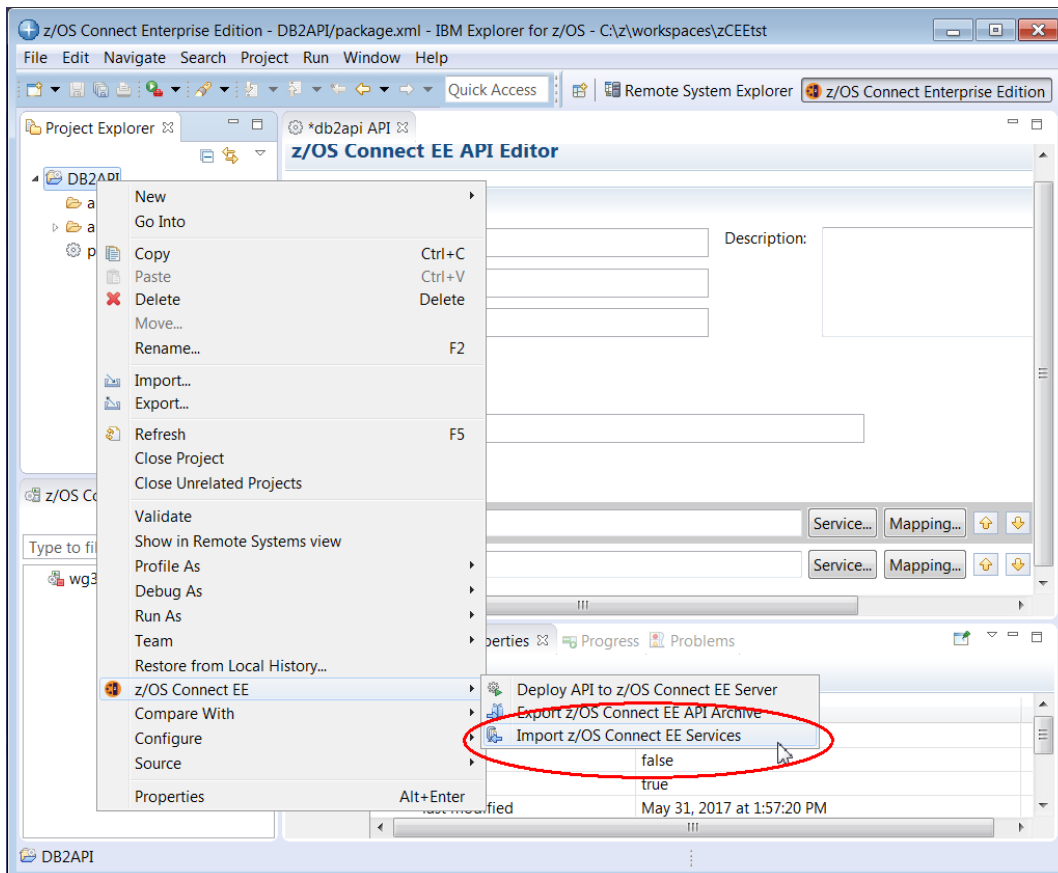
Method	Service...	Mapping...
POST		
GET		
PUT		
DELETE		

Summary

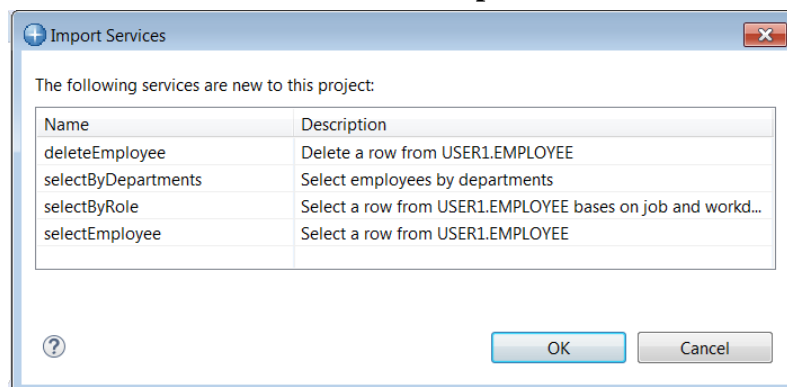
This created the basic framework for the API project in the API editor

Import the SAR files

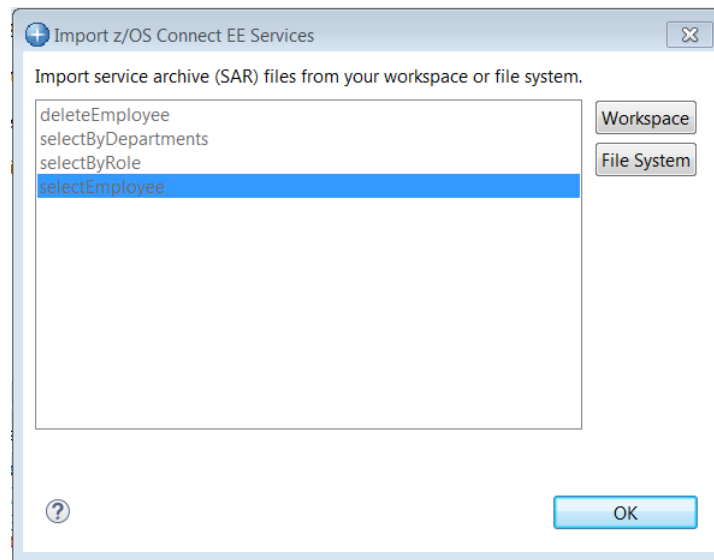
1. In the z/OS Explorer in the *z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition* perspective in the *Project Explorer* view (upper left), right-click on the *DB2API* project, then select *z/OS Connect EE* and then *Import z/OS Connect EE Services* (see below):



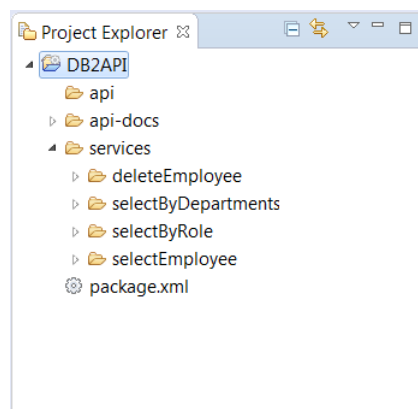
2. In the *Import z/OS Connect EE Services* window click on the **File System** button and navigate to directory *c:\z\DB2Lab*. Select the four SAR files and click on the **Open** button:



3. The four service archive files should appear in the *Import z/OS Connect EE Services* screen. Click the **OK** button to import them into the workspace.



4. In the *Project Explorer* view (upper left), expand the *services* folder to see the the imported service:

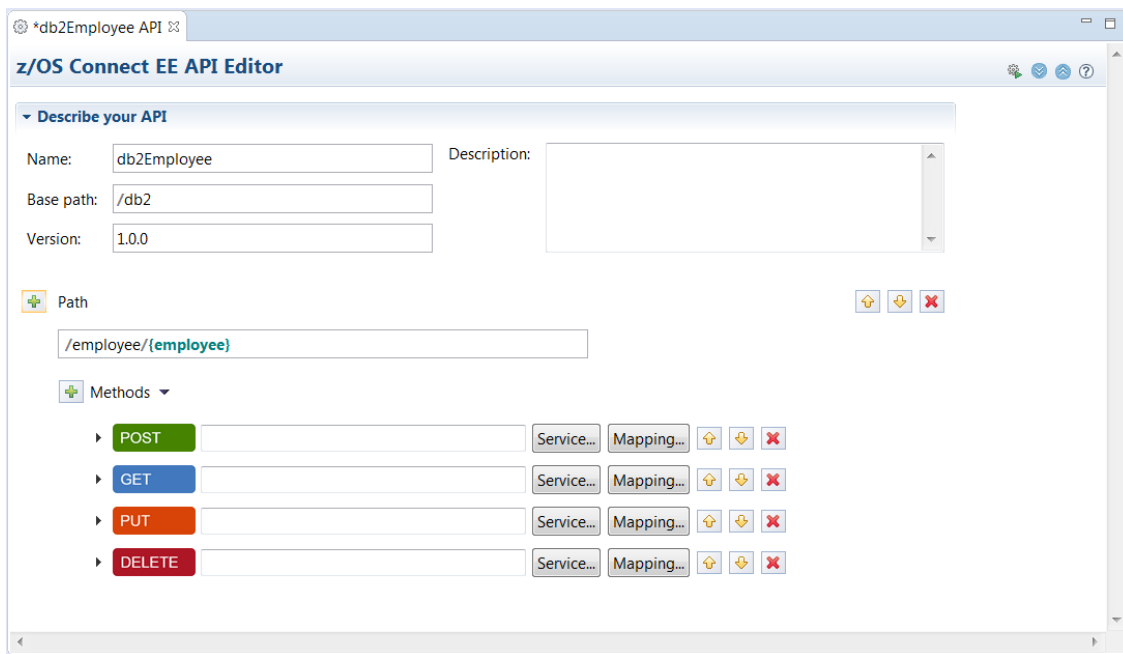


Summary

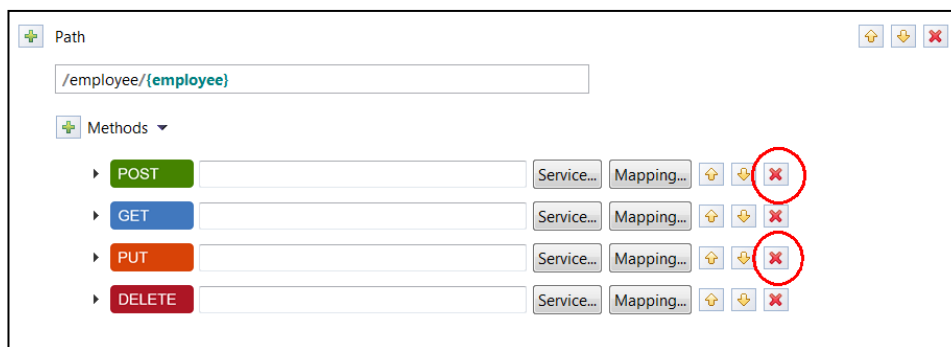
The SAR file created earlier was downloaded and imported into the editor. That provides the editor with information about the underlying services and the JSON schemas.

Compose an API for Db2 Rest Services

___1. Start by entering a Path of **/employee/{employee}** in the z/OS Connect EE API Editor view as shown below:



___2. For the Db2 API when the *employee* path parameter is present the supported HTTP methods will be **GET** and **DELETE**. Remove the **POST** and **PUT** methods by clicking the X icon to the right of each method.



Note: The */employee* path element again is somewhat arbitrary, but is used to distinguish this request from other requests that may be configured in the same API.

The *{employee}* element is a path parameter in the URL that will be used to provide the key of the record for get and delete RESP requests.

The full URL to invoke the methods for this particular path will be

<https://hostname:port/DB2/employee/#####>

where ##### is the employee record of a row in USER1.EMPLOYEE

That should leave you with the **GET** and **DELETE** methods.

Path: /employee/{employee}

Methods:

- GET: Service... Mapping...
- DELETE: Service... Mapping...

- ___3. Click on the **Service** button to the right of the **GET** method. Then select the *selectEmployee* service from the list of service archive files and click **OK**. This will populate the field to the right of the method. Repeat this for the **DELETE** methods selecting the *deleteEmployee* service.

Path: /employee/{employee}

Methods:

- GET: selectEmployee Service... Mapping...
- DELETE: deleteEmployee Service... Mapping...

- ___4. Save the changes so far by using the key sequence **Ctrl-S**.

Tech-Tip: If any change is made in any edit view an asterisk (*) will appear before the name of the artifact in the view tab, e.g. **package.xml*. Changes can be saved at any time by using the **Ctrl-S** key sequence.

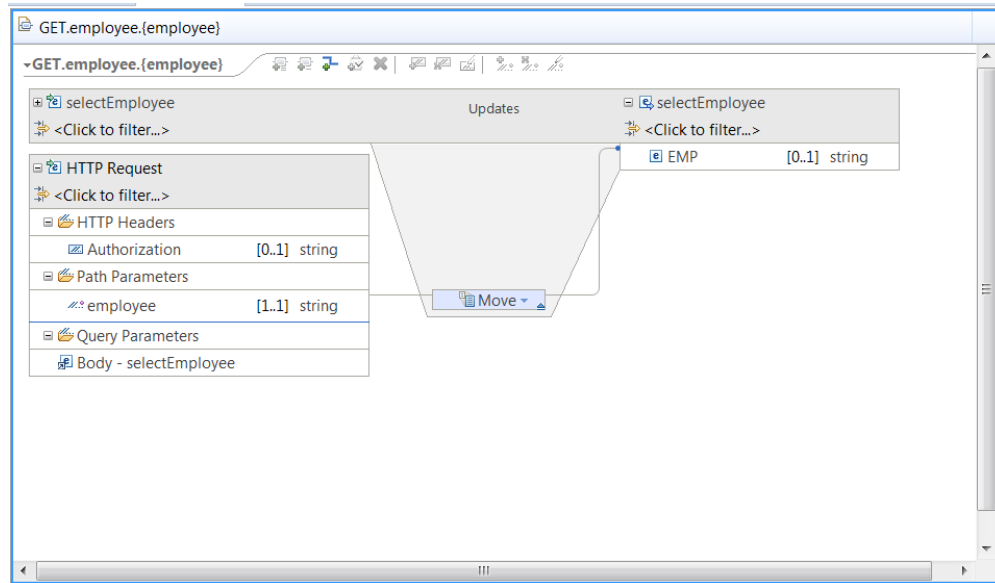
- ___5. Next, click on the **Mapping** button beside the **GET** method and then select *Open Request Mapping*:

Path: /employee/{employee}

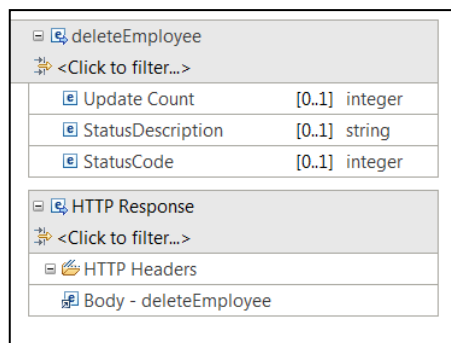
Methods:

- GET: selectEmployee Service... Mapping... (Open Request Mapping)
- DELETE: deleteEmployee Service... Mapping...

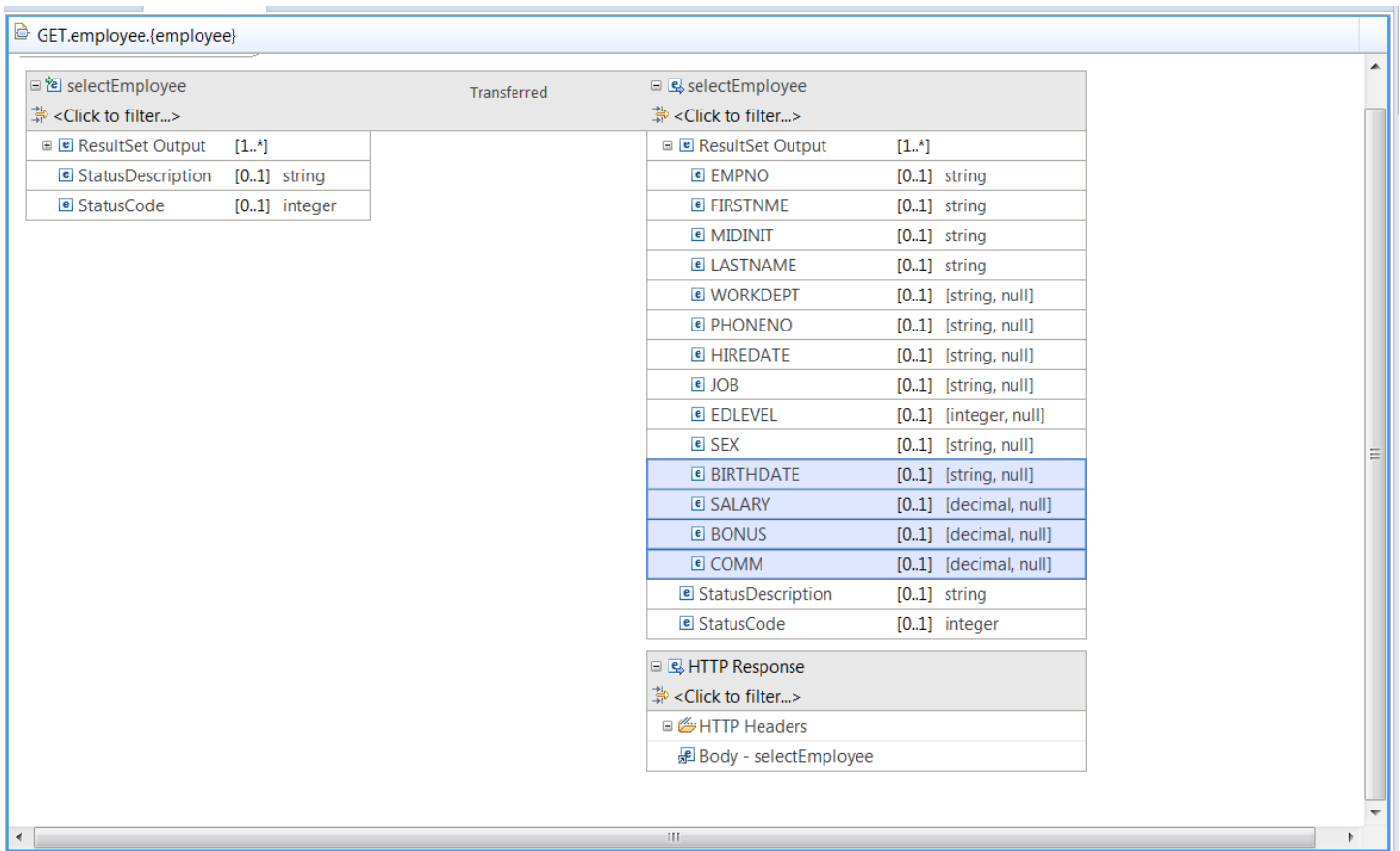
- ___6. In the mapping view that opens, use your mouse to select the *employee* field under *Path Parameter* and drag it over to the *EMP* field on the right hand side. The result is a line that maps a move of the value of *employee* from the URL to the field *EMP*. This means the value of *{employee}* parameter specified in a URL will be moved to the *EMP* field.



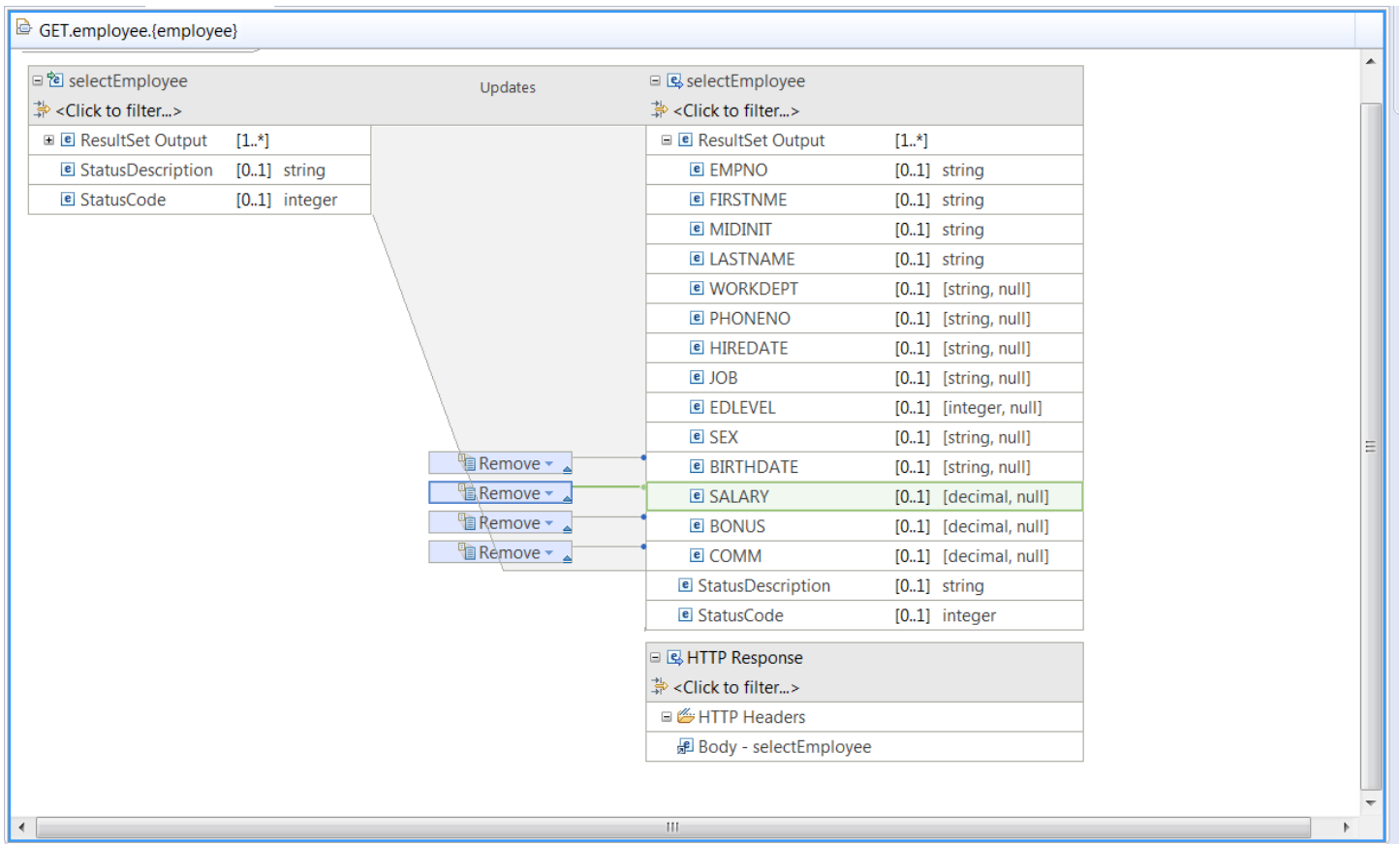
- ___7. Use the **Ctrl-S** key sequence to save all changes and close the *GET.employee.{employee}* view.
- ___8. This same pattern used Steps 5 through 7 are repeated to configure the request mapping for the **DELETE** method.
- ___9. No Response mappings for the GET or DELETE methods are required. If you open the response mapping for the DELETE method, you will see no fields from the deleted row are returned in the response.



- ___10. For the **GET** method the default response mapping will return all columns to the REST client. Some columns, like BIRTHDATE, SALAY, BONUS and COMM should not be exposed. Back on the *z/OS Connect EE API Editor* view click the **Mapping** button beside the **GET** method and select the *Open Response Mapping* option.
- ___11. Use the slider bar to fully expose the *ResultSet Output* structure. Use the left mouse button and draw a dotted line box that fully includes the *BIRTHDATE*, *SALARY*, *BONUS* and *COMM* fields. When you release the button all these fields should be selected (the background should be blue).



- ___12. Right mouse button click on one of the selected fields and select the *Add Remove transform* option to remove all of these fields from the response. The REST client will not see these fields in the response from a **GET** request.



- ___13. Save all changes with the **Ctrl-S** key sequence and close the response view.

14. Next, we want to add a Path for a **GET** method for the *selectByRole* service. The value for the JOB and WORKDEPT columns are to include in the URL so no JSON request message is required. Click the plus icon beside Path on the z/OS Connect EE API Editor view to add another path to the API.

The screenshot shows the 'z/OS Connect EE API Editor' window for a project named '*db2Employee API'. The 'Describe your API' section contains fields for Name (db2Employee), Base path (/db2), and Version (1.0.0). Below this, there is a 'Path' section with a plus icon circled in red, indicating where to click to add a new path. The current path is '/employee/{employee}'. Below the path, there is a 'Methods' section with a dropdown menu. The methods listed are GET (selectEmployee) and DELETE (deleteEmployee). Each method has 'Service...' and 'Mapping...' buttons, and a set of three small icons (up, down, and delete) to its right. At the bottom, there is a 'Path' section with a plus icon, a text field containing '/newPath1', and a 'Methods' section with a dropdown menu. The methods listed are POST, GET, PUT, and DELETE. Each method has 'Service...' and 'Mapping...' buttons, and a set of three small icons (up, down, and delete) to its right.

The result is another full set of methods for the new *PATH*.

___15. Enter a path value of **/roles/{job}?dept** and remove the **POST**, **PUT** and **DELETE** methods.

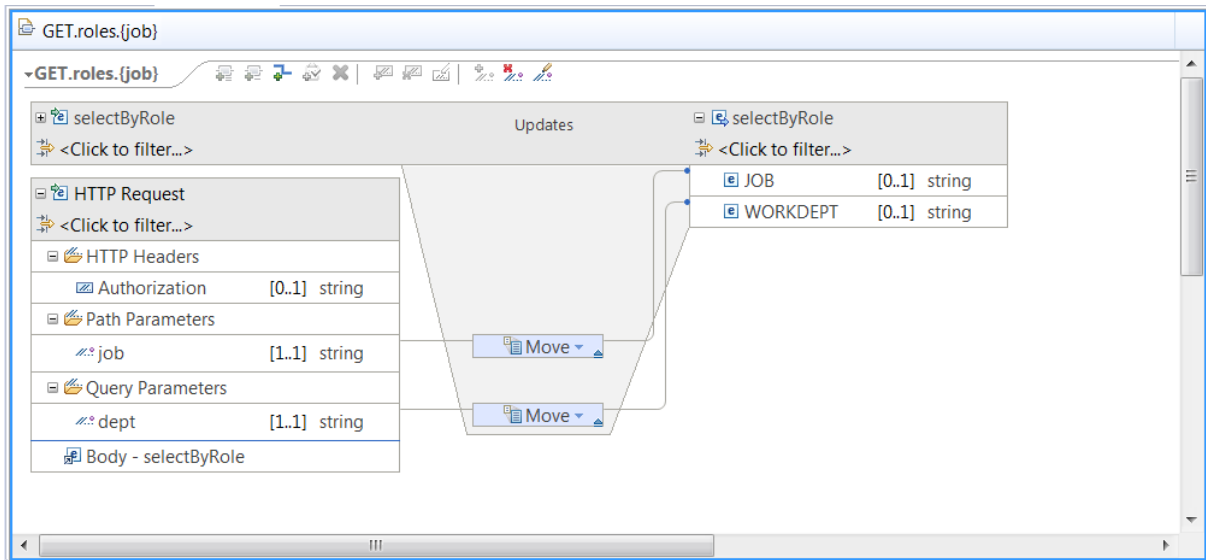
Tech-Tip: Additional *Paths* can be added by clicking the + icon beside *Path* and additional *Methods* can be added by clicking the + icon beside *Methods*.

___16. Click the **Service** button beside **GET** and select the *selectByRole* service:

___17. Save the changes by using the key sequence **Ctrl-S**.

___18. Click on *Mapping* → *Open request mapping*.

- ___19. Use the left mouse button to drag the *job Path Parameters* from the left-hand side to the *JOB* field on the right side. Use the left mouse button to drag the *dept Query Parameter* from the left-hand side to the *WORKDEPT* field on the right-hand side.

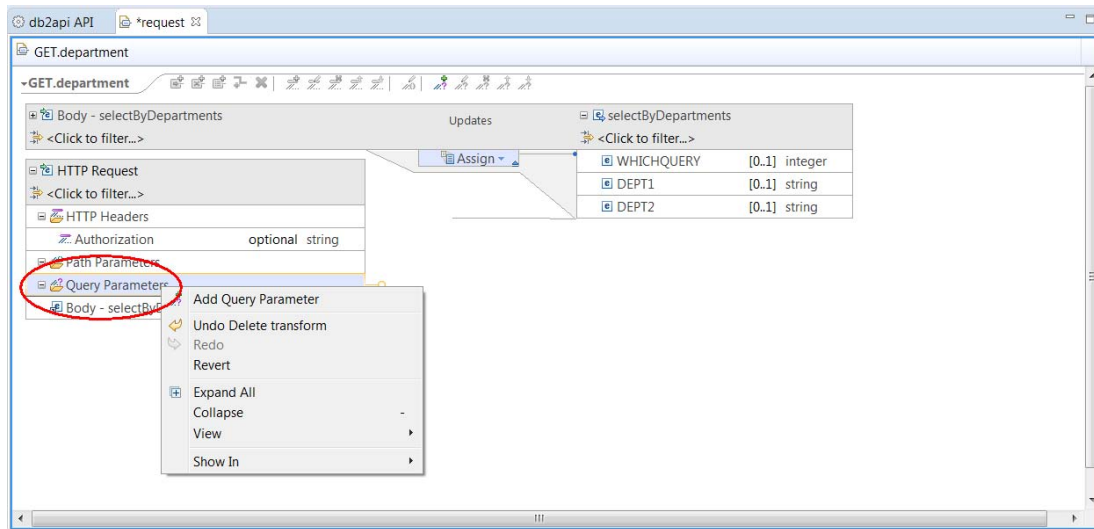


- ___20. Save the the changes using the key sequence **Ctrl-S**.
- ___21. Next, we want to add a Path for a **GET** method for the *selectByDepartment* service. Click the plus icon beside Path on the z/OS Connect EE API Editor view to add another path to the API. Enter **/departments** for the value of *Path* and delete the *POST*, *PUT* and *DELETE* methods.
- ___22. Click on the **Service** button to the right of the **GET** method. Then select the *selectByDepartments* service from the list of service archive files and click **OK**. This will populate the field to the right of the method.

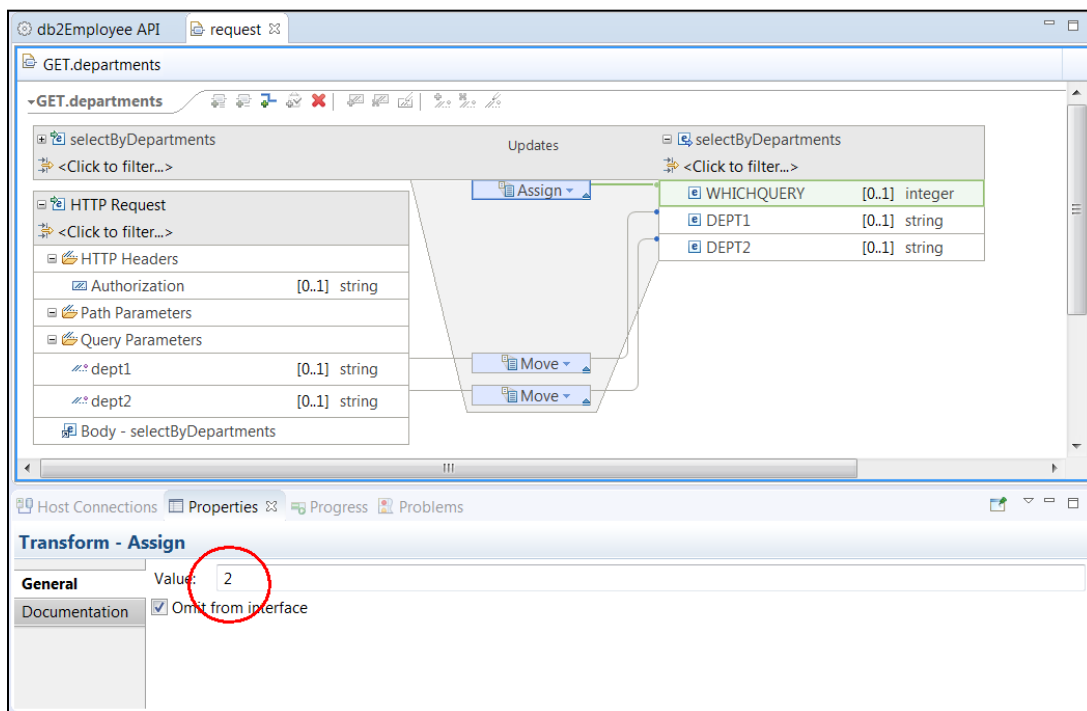


- ___23. Save the changes so far by using the key sequence **Ctrl-S**.

- ___24. Next, click on the **Mapping** button beside the **GET** method and then select *Open Request Mapping*.
- ___25. Select the *WHICHQUERY* field and right button click and select the *Add Assign transform* option. This action opens a *Properties* tab in the lower view. In this tab, a value can be entered which will be used to populate this field when a **GET** method is invoked. Enter **2** in the area beside *Value* in the *Properties* tab.
- ___26. Select *Query Parameters* on the left-hand side and right mouse button click and select *Add Query Parameter*. Add two query parameters, *dept1* and *dept2*.



- ___27. Map query parameter *dept1* to *DEPT1* and *dept2* to *DEPT2*.



- ___28. Close all open *request* or *response* mapping tabs.

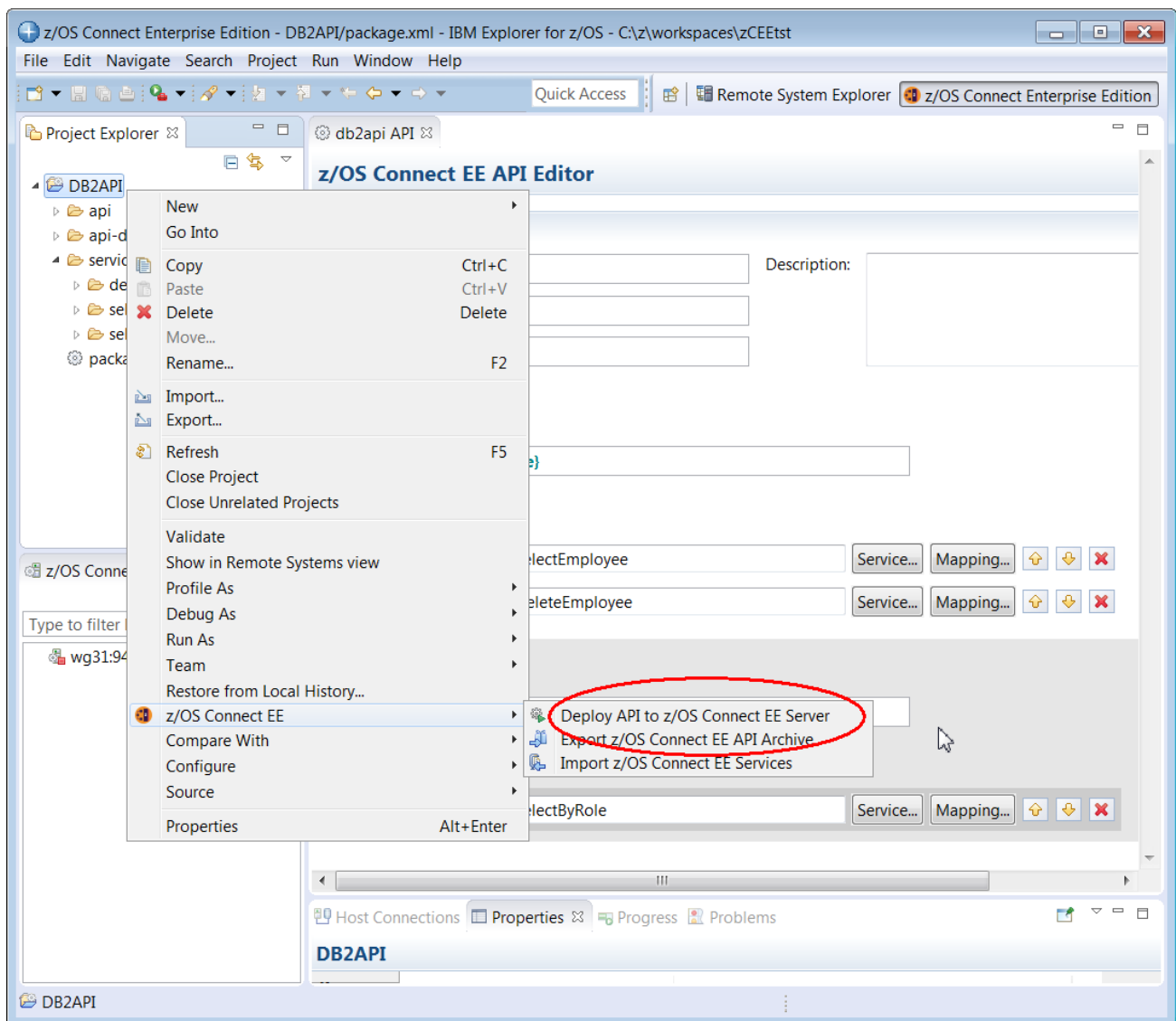
Summary

You created the API, which consists of two paths and the request and response mapping associated with each. That API will now be deployed into z/OS Connect EE V3.0.

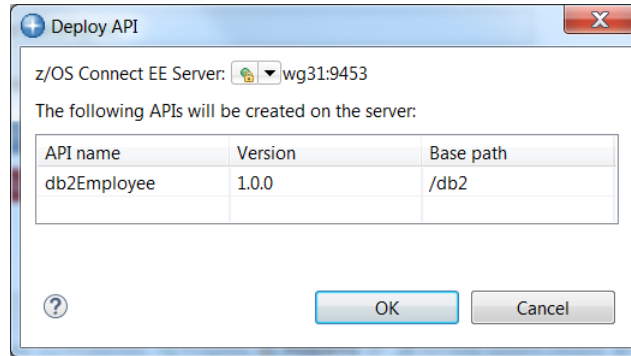
Deploy the API to a z/OS Connect EE Server

Before deploying the API review the configuration required to support this API.

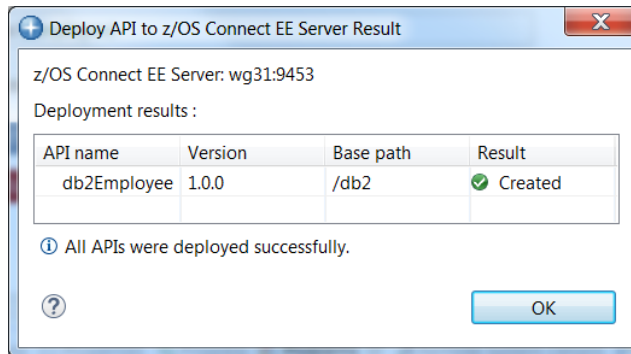
1. In the *Project Explorer* view (upper left), right-mouse click on the *DB2API* folder, then select *z/OS Connect EE* → *Deploy API to z/OS Connect EE Server*.



2. If the z/OS Explorer is connected to only one z/OS Connect server there is only one choice (*wg31:9453*). If z/OS Explorer had multiple connections to z/OS Connect servers then the pull-down arrow would allow a selection to which server to deploy, select *wg31:9453* from the list. Click **OK** on this screen to continue.



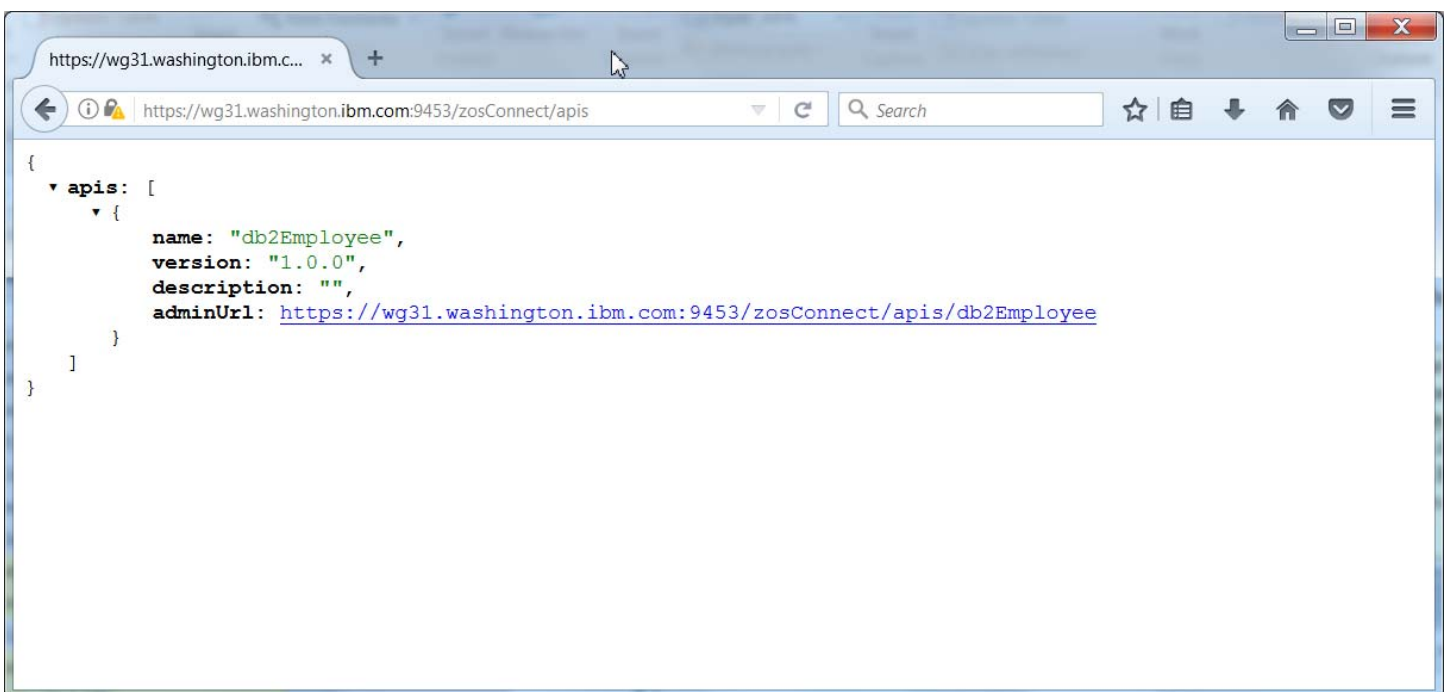
3. The API artifacts will be transferred to z/OS in an API archive (AAR) file and copied into the */var/ats/zosconnect/servers/se/resources/zosconnect/apis* directory.



Test the Db2 APIs

1. Next enter URL <https://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9453/zosConnect/apis> in the Firefox browser and you should see the window below. The *Db2api* API now shows as being available.

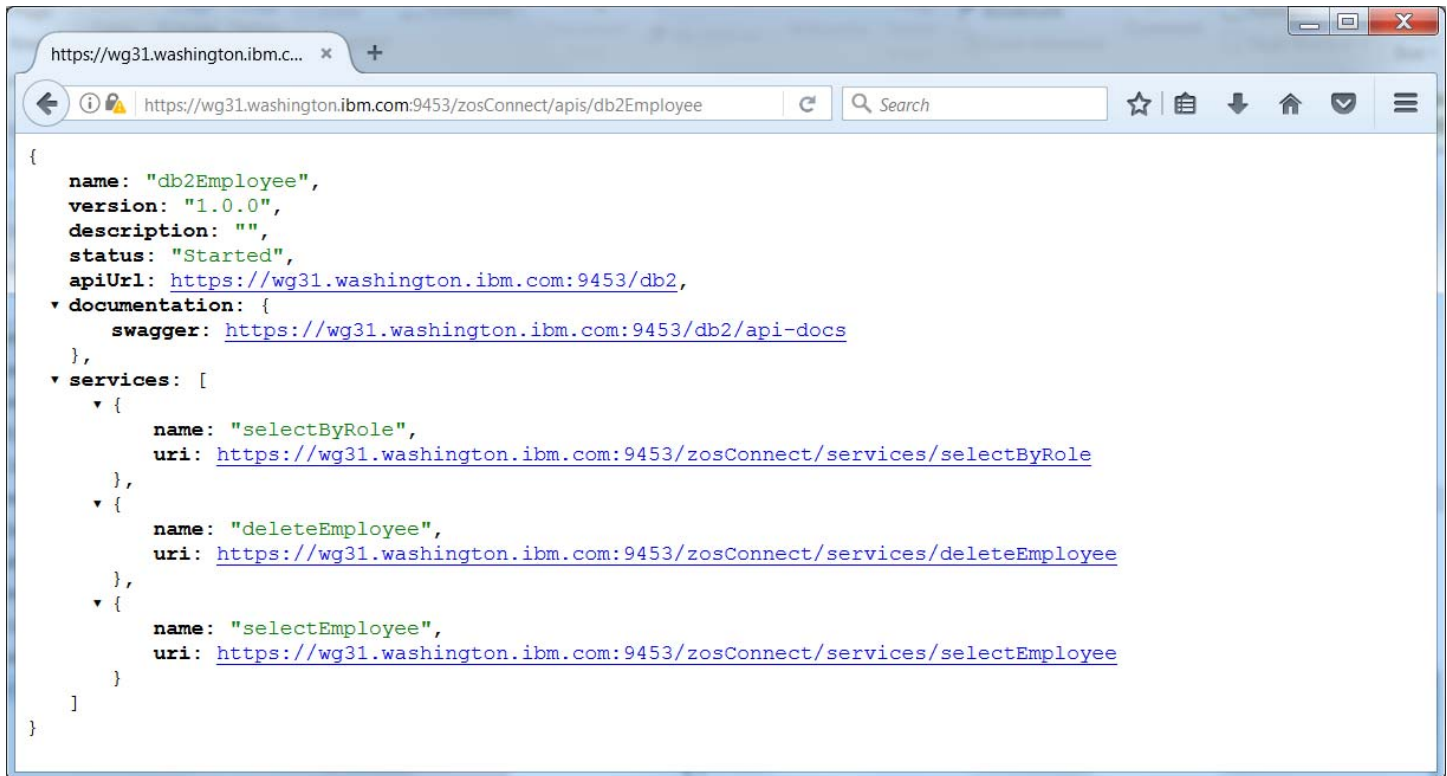
Tech Tip: You may be challenged by Firefox because the digital certificate used by the Liberty z/OS server is self-signed Click the **Add Exception** button to continue. If the **Add Exception** button is not displayed click the **Advanced** button. Then click on the **Confirm Security Exception** button. Next you may see a prompt you for a userid and password. If you do see the prompt, enter the username **Fred** and password **fredpwd** (case matters) and click **OK**. Remember we are using basic security and this is the user identity and password defined in the server.xml file.



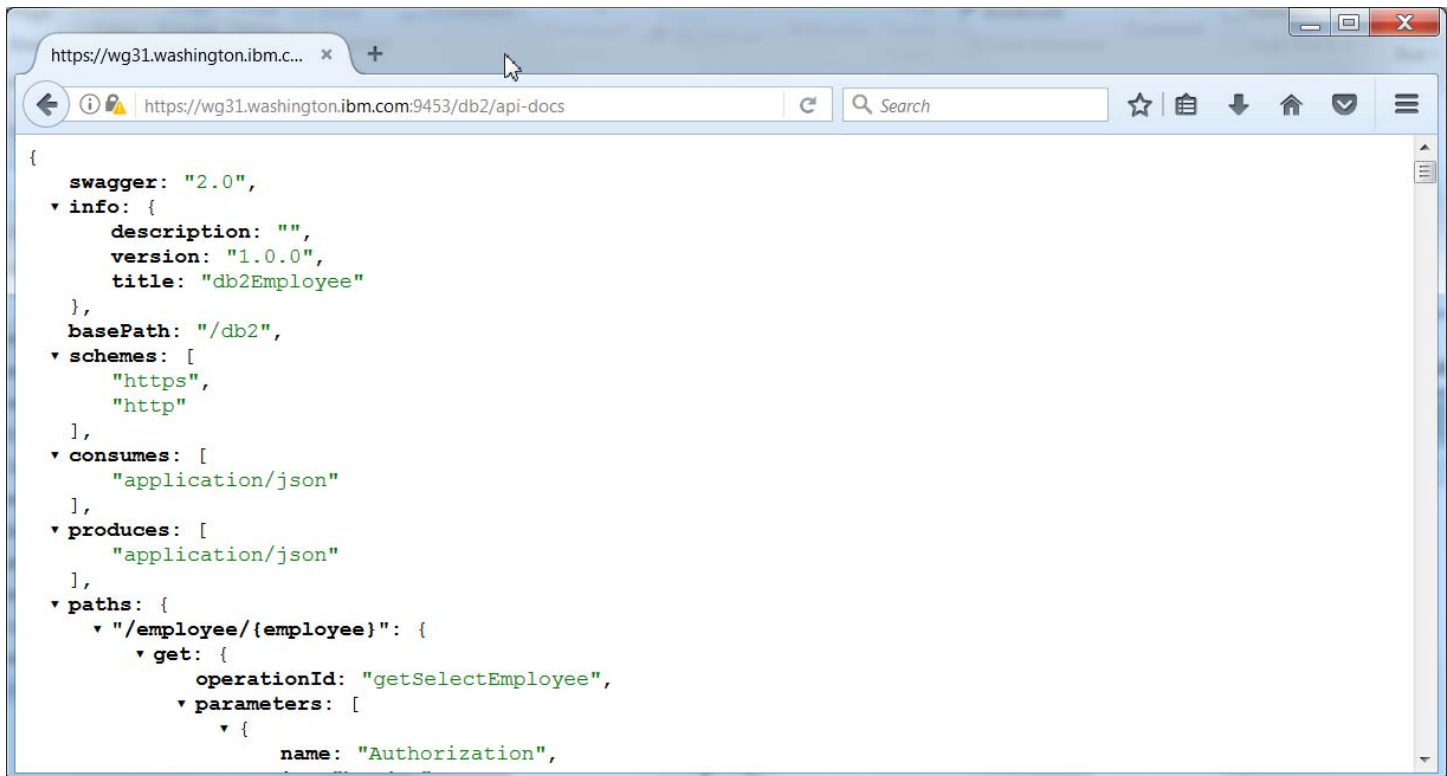
Tech Tip: It is very important to access the z/OS Connect server from a browser prior to any testing using the Swagger UI or Firefox RESTClient extension. Accessing a z/OS Connect URL from a browser starts an SSL handshake between the browser and the server. If this handshake has not performed prior to performing any test the test will fail with no message in the browser and no explanation. Ensuring this handshake has been performed is why you may be directed to access a z/OS Connect URL prior to using the Swagger UI or RESTClient extension during this exercise.

Note that other APIs may also be displayed.

3. If you click on *adminUrl* URL the window below should be displayed:

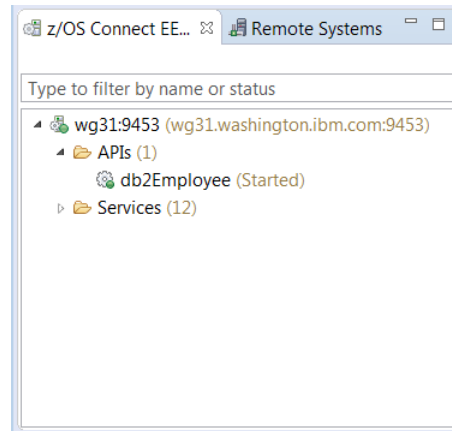


4. Finally click on the *swagger* URL and you should see the Swagger document associated with this API.

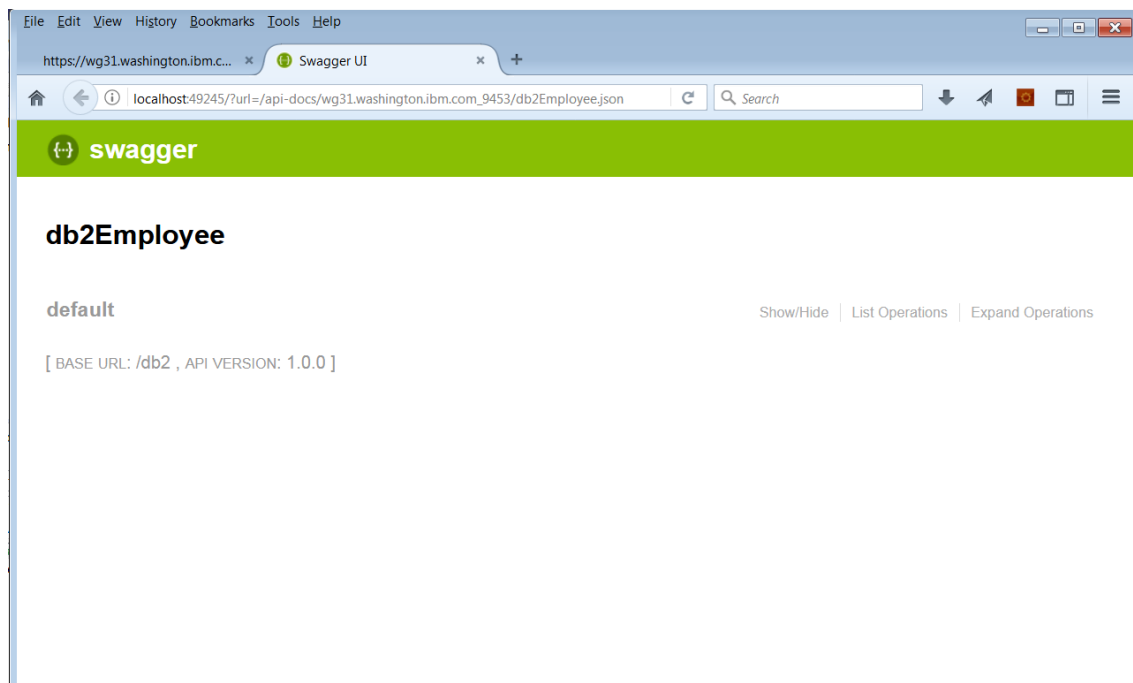


Explore this Swagger document and you will see the results of the request and response mapping performed earlier. This Swagger document can be used by a developer or other tooling to develop REST clients for this specific API.

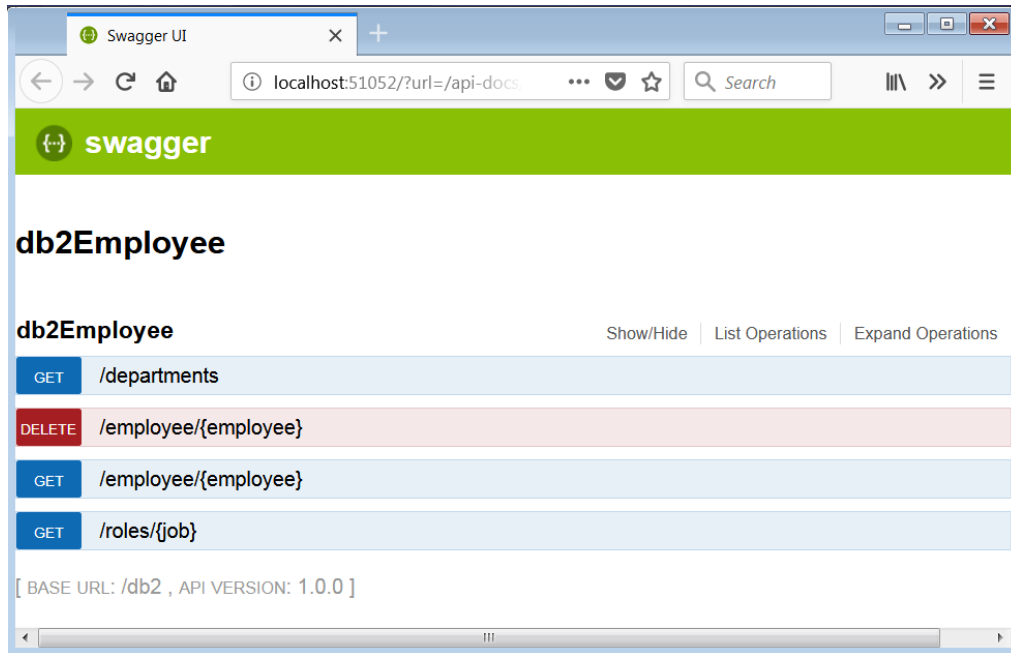
- ___5. In the lower left-hand side of the *z/OS Connect Explorer* perspective there is view entitled *z/OS Connect EE Servers*. Expand *wg31:9453* and then expand the *APIs* folder. the *RESTClient* icon. You should see a list of the APIs installed in the server.



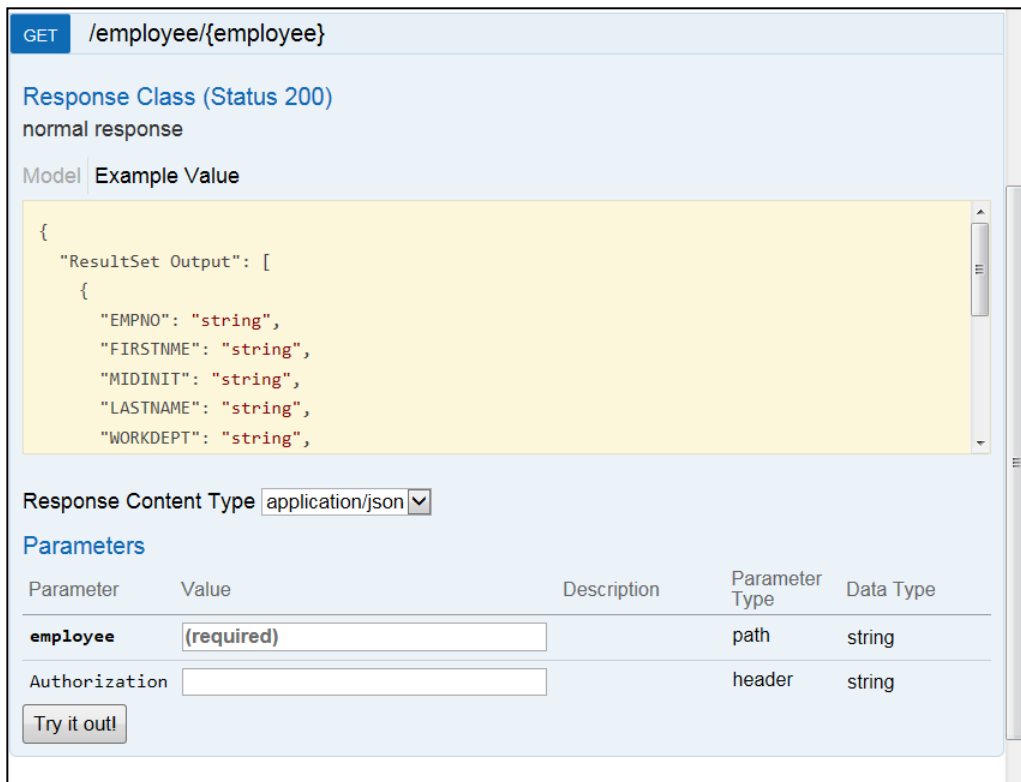
- ___6. Right mouse button click on *Db2Employee* and select *Open in Swagger UI*. Click OK if an informational prompt appears. This will open a new view showing a *Swagger* test client (see below).



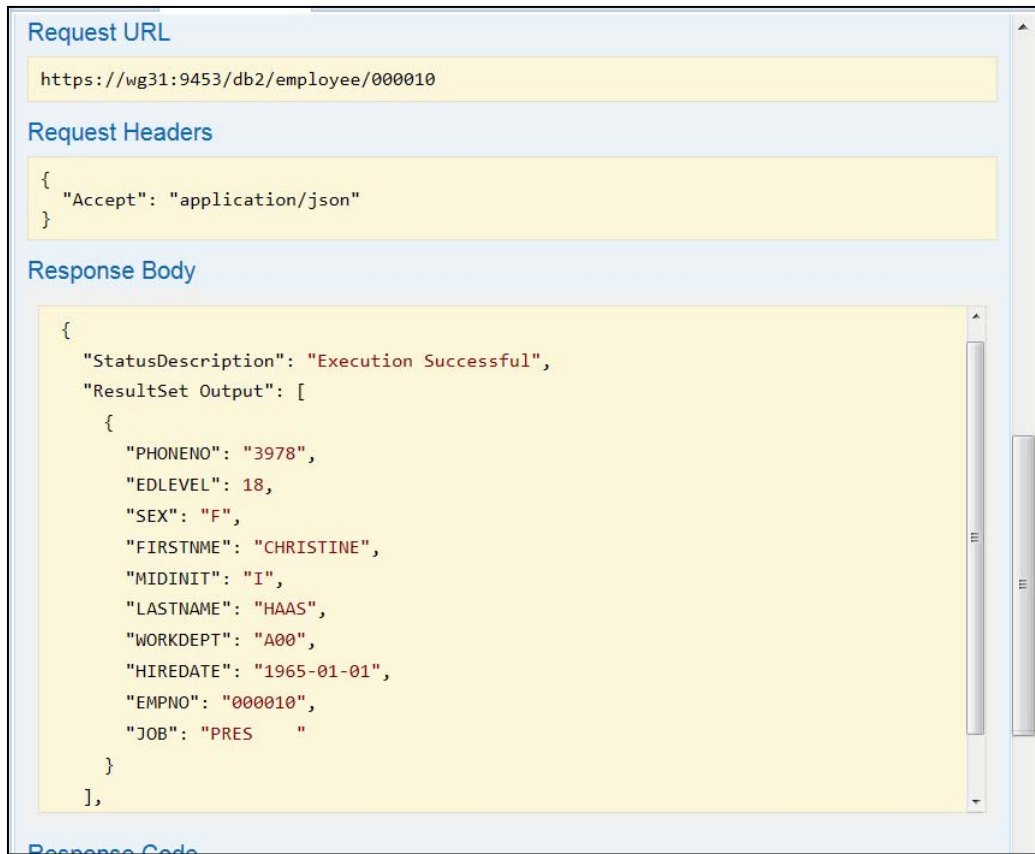
7. Click on *List Operations* option in this view and this will display a list of available HTTP methods in this API.



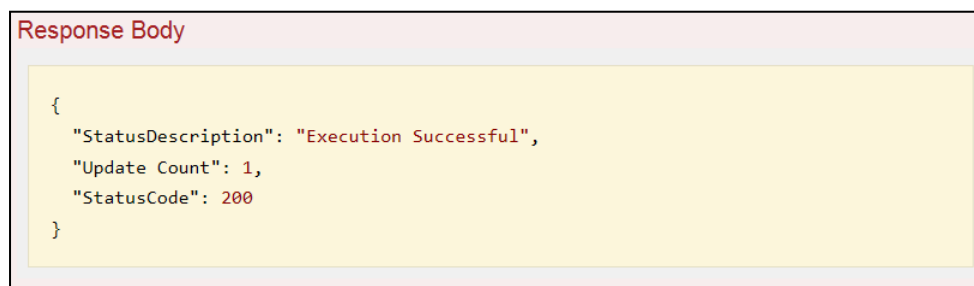
8. Select the *GET* method for selecting an individual row from the table by clicking on the */employee/{employee}* URI string. Remember this was the *Path* specified for the *GET* method for the *selectEmployee* service when the API was defined. This action will expand this method in this view and provides a Swagger UI test client (you may have to use the slider bar and adjust the perspective to see the entire client).



9. Enter **000010** in the box beside employee and **Basic RnJlZDpmcmVkcHdk** for *Authorization* and press the **Try it out!** button. You may see a Security Alert pop-up warning about the self-signed certificate being used by the z/OS Connect EE server. Click **Yes** on this pop-up.
10. Scroll down the view and you should see the Request URL and Response Body which contains the results of the GET method (see below). Note that the columns removed from the interface in an earlier steps are not present.



11. Repeat this process with the **DELETE** method and delete a row from the table. The *Response Body* should contain a JSON message like the one below:



Repeat the **GET** and **DELETE** methods with other records (see table below) and verify the results are as expected.

EMPNO	FIRSTNAME	MIDINIT	LASTNAME	WORKDEPT	PHONENO	HIREDATE	JOB	EDLEVEL	SEX	Birthdate	Salary	Bonus	COMM
000011	CHRISTINE	I	HAAS	A00	A1A1	1965-01-01	PRES	18	F	1933-08-14	52750.00	1000.00	4220.00
000020	MICHAEL	L	THOMPSON	B01	3476	1973-10-10	MANAGER	18	M	1948-02-02	41250.00	800.00	3300.00
000030	SALLY	A	KWAN	C01	4738	1975-04-05	MANAGER	20	F	1941-05-11	38250.00	800.00	3060.00
000050	JOHN	B	GEYER	E01	6789	1949-08-17	MANAGER	16	M	1925-09-15	40175.00	800.00	3214.00
000060	IRVING	F	STERN	D11	6423	1973-09-14	MANAGER	16	M	1945-07-07	32250.00	600.00	2580.00
000070	EVA	D	PULASKI	D21	7831	1980-09-30	MANAGER	16	F	1953-05-26	36170.00	700.00	2893.00
000090	EILEEN	W	HENDERSON	E11	5498	1970-08-15	MANAGER	16	F	1941-05-15	29750.00	600.00	2380.00
000100	THEODORE	Q	SPENSER	E21	0972	1980-06-19	MANAGER	14	M	1956-12-18	26150.00	500.00	2092.00
000110	VINCENZO	G	LUCCHESI	A00	3490	1958-05-16	SALESREP	19	M	1929-11-05	46500.00	900.00	3720.00
000120	SEAN		O'CONNELL	A00	2167	1963-12-05	CLERK	14	M	1942-10-18	29250.00	600.00	2340.00
000130	DOLORES	M	QUINTANA	C01	4578	1971-07-28	ANALYST	16	F	1925-09-15	23800.00	500.00	1904.00
000140	HEATHER	A	NICHOLLS	C01	1793	1976-12-15	ANALYST	18	F	1946-01-19	28420.00	600.00	2274.00
000150	BRUCE		ADAMSON	D11	4510	1972-02-12	DESIGNER	16	M	1947-05-17	25280.00	500.00	2022.00
000160	ELIZABETH	R	PIANKA	D11	3782	1977-10-11	DESIGNER	17	F	1955-04-12	22250.00	400.00	1780.00
000170	MASATOSHI	J	YOSHIMURA	D11	2890	1978-09-15	DESIGNER	16	M	1951-01-05	24680.00	500.00	1974.00
000180	MARILYN	S	SCOUTTEN	D11	1682	1973-07-07	DESIGNER	17	F	1949-02-21	21340.00	500.00	1707.00
000190	JAMES	H	WALKER	D11	2986	1974-07-26	DESIGNER	16	M	1952-06-25	20450.00	400.00	1636.00
000200	DAVID		BROWN	D11	4501	1966-03-03	DESIGNER	16	M	1941-05-29	27740.00	600.00	2217.00
000210	WILLIAM	T	JONES	D11	0942	1979-04-11	DESIGNER	17	M	1953-02-23	18270.00	400.00	1462.00
000220	JENNIFER	K	LUTZ	D11	0672	1968-08-29	DESIGNER	18	F	1948-03-19	29840.00	600.00	2387.00
000230	JAMES	J	JEFFERSON	D21	2094	1966-11-21	CLERK	14	M	1935-05-30	22180.00	400.00	1774.00
000240	SALVATORE	M	MARINO	D21	3780	1979-12-05	CLERK	17	M	1954-03-31	28760.00	600.00	2301.00
000250	DANIEL	S	SMITH	D21	0961	1969-10-30	CLERK	15	M	1939-11-12	19180.00	400.00	1534.00
000260	SYBIL	V	JOHNSON	D21	8953	1975-09-11	CLERK	16	F	1936-10-05	17250.00	300.00	1380.00
000270	MARIA	L	PEREZ	D21	9001	1980-09-30	CLERK	15	F	1953-05-26	27380.00	500.00	2190.00
000280	ETHEL	R	SCHNEIDER	E11	8997	1967-03-24	OPERATOR	17	F	1936-03-28	26250.00	500.00	2100.00
000290	JOHN	R	PARKER	E11	4502	1980-05-30	OPERATOR	12	M	1946-07-09	15340.00	300.00	1227.00
000300	PHILIP	X	SMITH	E11	2095	1972-06-19	OPERATOR	14	M	1936-10-27	17750.00	400.00	1420.00
000310	MAUDE	F	SETRIGHT	E11	3332	1964-09-12	OPERATOR	12	F	1931-04-21	15900.00	300.00	1272.00
000320	RAMLAL	V	MEHTA	E21	9990	1965-07-07	FIELDREP	16	M	1932-08-11	19950.00	400.00	1596.00
000330	WING		LEE	E21	2103	1976-02-23	FIELDREP	14	M	1941-07-18	25370.00	500.00	2030.00
000340	JASON	R	GOUNOT	E21	5698	1947-05-05	FIELDREP	16	M	1926-05-17	23840.00	500.00	1907.00

Note that the **GET** and **DELETE** methods do not required JSON in the *Request*. Only the path variable *employee* was required.

12. Collapse the Swagger UI test areas for the **DELETE** and **GET** methods for */employee/{employee}* clicking on the URIs.

13. Click on the URI for the **GET** method for `/roles/{job}` to open its Swagger Test user interface and scroll down to the *Response Content Type* area.

Response Content Type application/json

Parameters

Parameter	Value	Description	Parameter Type	Data Type
job	(required)		path	string
dept	(required)		query	string
Authorization			header	string

Note that this API requires two parameters, a path parameter *job* and a query parameter *dept*. These are present because the path `/roles/{job}?dept` was specified when the API was developed. Enter **PRES** for the *job* and **A00** as the *dept* and **Basic RnJlZDpmcmVkcHdk** for *Authorization* and press the **Try it Out!** button. Scroll down and you should see the following information in the *Response Body*.

Response Body

```

"ResultSet Output": [
  {
    "PHONENO": "A1A1",
    "EDLEVEL": 18,
    "SEX": "F",
    "FIRSTNAME": "CHRISTINE",
    "MIDINIT": "I",
    "BIRTHDATE": "1933-08-14",
    "SALARY": 52750,
    "COMM": 4220,
    "LASTNAME": "HAAS",
    "WORKDEPT": "A00",
    "HIREDATE": "1965-01-01",
    "BONUS": 1000,
    "EMPNO": "000011",
    "JOB": "PRES"
  }
]

```

Note that the contents of columns **SALARY**, **COMM**, **BONUS** and **BIRTHDATE** are displayed. This were not removed as they were in the **GET** method for the *selectEmployee* service.

14. Click on the URI for the **GET** method for `/departments` to open its Swagger Test user interface and scroll down to the *Response Content Type* area.

Response Content Type application/json ▼

Parameters

Parameter	Value	Description	Parameter Type	Data Type
Authorization	<input type="text"/>		header	string
dept1	<input type="text"/>		query	string
dept2	<input type="text"/>		query	string

Note that this API requires two query parameters, *dept1* and *dept2*. These are present because these parameters were added when the API was developed. Enter **A01** for the *dept1* and **C01** for *dept2* and **Basic RnJlZDpmcmVkcHdk** for *Authorization* and press the **Try it Out!** button. Scroll down and you should see the following information in the *Response Body*.

The screenshot shows the Swagger UI interface in a web browser. The address bar displays `https://wg31.washington.ibm.com/swagger-ui`. The browser tab is titled "Swagger UI". The URL bar shows `localhost:49224/?url=/api-docs`. The main content area displays the response body for the `GET /departments` API. The response is a JSON array with one object containing employee details. Below the response body, the "Response Code" is shown as `200`. The "Response Headers" section shows the following headers: `cache-control: no-cache=\\set-cookie, set-cookie2\\", content-language: en-US, content-type: application/json, expires: Thu, 01 Dec 1994 16:00:00 GMT`. At the bottom, the "BASE URI" is `/db2` and the "API VERSION" is `1.0.0.1`.

```

{
  "PHONENO": "1793",
  "LASTNAME": "NATZ",
  "WORKDEPT": "C01",
  "EMPNO": "200140",
  "FIRSTNAME": "KIM",
  "MIDINIT": "N"
}
],
"StatusCode": 200
}

```

Response Code

200

Response Headers

```

{
  "cache-control": "no-cache=\\set-cookie, set-cookie2\\",
  "content-language": "en-US",
  "content-type": "application/json",
  "expires": "Thu, 01 Dec 1994 16:00:00 GMT"
}

```

BASE URI: /db2 . API VERSION: 1.0.0.1

Try a few other combinations for *dept1* and *dept2* and compare the results with the above table.

Summary

You have verified the API. The API layer operates above the service layer you defined and tested earlier. The API layer provides a further level of abstraction and allows a more flexible use of HTTP verbs, and better mapping of data via the API editor function.