Building a Hypermedia-Driven RESTful Web Service

This guide walks you through the process of creating a "hello world" Hypermedia Driven REST web service (/understanding/HATEOAS) with Spring.

Hypermedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HATEOAS) is an important aspect of REST (/understanding/REST). It allows you to build services that decouple client and server to a large extent and allow them to evolve independently. The representations returned for REST resources contain not only data, but links to related resources. Thus the design of the representations is crucial to the design of the overall service.

What you'll build

You'll build a hypermedia-driven REST service with Spring HATEOAS, a library of APIs that you can use to easily create links pointing to Spring MVC controllers, build up resource representations, and control how they're rendered into supported hypermedia formats such as HAL.

The service will accept HTTP GET requests at:

```
http://localhost:8080/greeting
```

and respond with a JSON (/understanding/JSON) representation of a greeting enriched with the simplest possible hypermedia element, a link pointing to the resource itself:

```
{
  "content":"Hello, World!",
  "_links":{
    "self":{
      "href":"http://localhost:8080/greeting?name=World"
    }
  }
}
```

The response already indicates you can customize the greeting with an optional `name` parameter in the query string:

```
http://localhost:8080/greeting?name=User
```

The `name` parameter value overrides the default value of "World" and is reflected in the response: