**Hibernate Mapping File**

* Hibernate is also called as “**O**bject **R**elational **M**apping (ORM)” framework / tool. Hence it expects Java Bean representation for every DB Table
* Hibernate Mapping File, as the name implies, this file describes the mapping between the particular Java Bean to the particular DB table& particular bean property to the particular column of the table. Hibernate refers this mapping file whenever it tries to operate on that corresponding DB table
* DB Table & Mapping file **should be in sync** with regards to DB column type & Java bean property type. In other words Java Bean should be the exact replica of DB table
* Hibernate Mapping File should be a XML file & can have any name but usually the file name will be like “*<table\_name>.*hbm.xml”
* Java Bean used in the mapping file SHOULD have public default constructor (otherwise in case of select operation it fails)
* Each instance of the Java Bean in the mapping file is represented by a row in the configured table
* We must have table definition in the mapping file but we can omit the column definitions in the Mapping file but in that case we should use property name as same as column names
* Hibernate expects Primary Key for every table & hence even if the table does not have Primary Key Hibernate expects id tag in mapping file. i.e. <id>or <composite-id>tag is Mandatory&<property> tag is non-mandatory in mapping file.
* Java Bean configured in mapping file should have the configured number of properties in it. Otherwise Hibernate throws an exception (In case of Select Operation; PropertyNotFound Exception). However it can also have other properties in it& in this case, Hibernate does not throw any exception in this case
* Generally we won’t use same Java Bean in more than one mapping file but in hibernate it is possible to have the same Java Bean in more than one mapping file
* We can have different mapping file & Java Bean for the **same table**
* We can also have one mapping file for entire application as shown below

<hibernate-mapping>

<class name=*"pkg.Bean1"*table=*"Table1"*>

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</class>

<class name=*"pkg.Bean2"*table=*"Table2"*>

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</class>

</hibernate-mapping>