The objects that form the backbone of your application and that are managed by the Spring IoC container are called beans. A bean is an object that is instantiated, assembled, and otherwise managed by a Spring IoC container

Spring Configuration Metadata

Spring IoC container is totally decoupled from the format in which this configuration metadata is actually written. There are following three important methods to provide configuration metadata to the Spring Container:

* XML based configuration file.
* Annotation-based configuration
* Java-based configuration