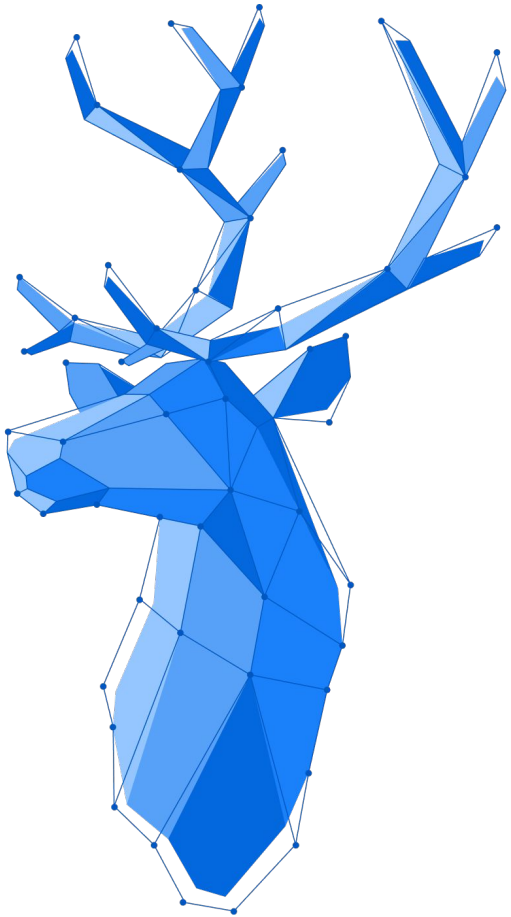
vaadin

Creating Forms: connecting user inputs to data



Vaadin Flow

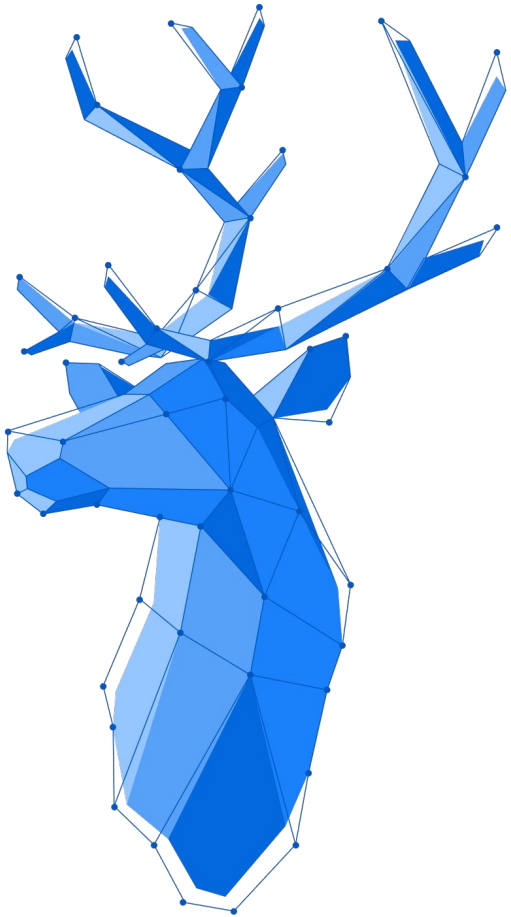
Vaadin training set

Vaadin Foundation

- Introduction
- Layouting
- **Creating Forms**
- Data Lists with Grid
- Routing and Navigation
- Theming and Styling Applications

Agenda

- Part 1:
  - Data Binding in Flow
- Part 2:
  - Validation
  - Conversion
- Part 3:
  - Custom Field



Forms and Data Binding, Part 1

Data binding in Flow

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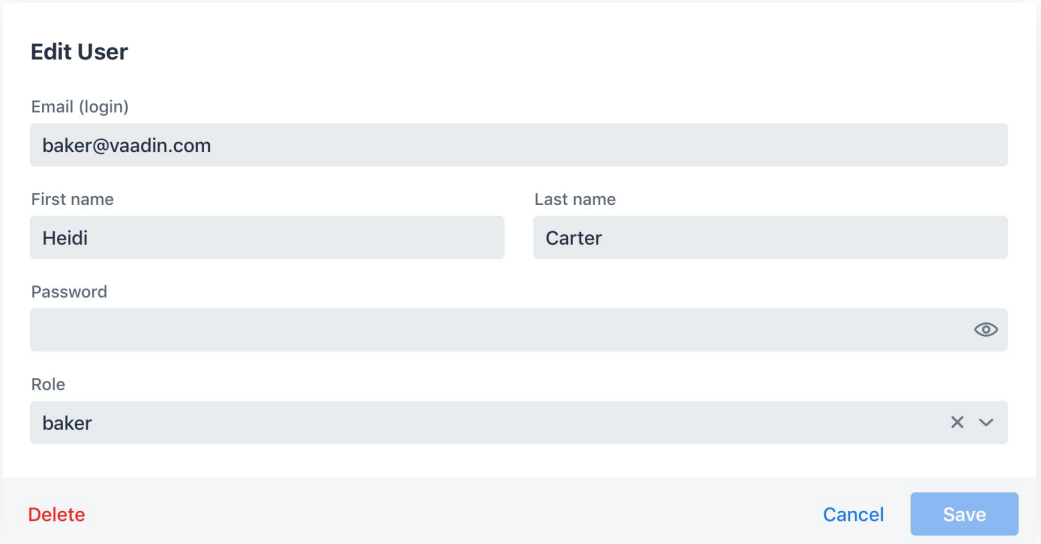
This is a form

How to connect data to the form?

```
public class User extends AbstractEntity {

  private String email;

  private String passwordHash;

  private String firstName;

  private String lastName;

  private String role;

  …
  // Properties need getters and setter
}
```

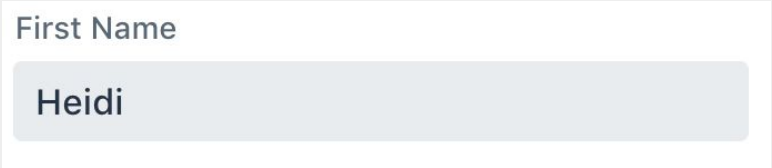


Vocabulary

Fields

A **Field** is a Vaadin component that holds a **value**, for example the TextField:

```
class TextField extends Component
        implements HasValue
```



Vocabulary

Properties

A JavaBean **Property**, like **email** for the User class this example, is a named attribute that can be accessed by a public getter and a setter.

The naming of the methods must follow the JavaBean specification:

- “get” + property name and “set” + property name
- Special case for getters of boolean type properties: “is” + name, like “`boolean isRunning()`”

```
public class User extends AbstractEntity {

  private String email;

  public String getEmail() {
    return email;
  }

  public void setEmail(String email) {
    this.email = email;
  }

  ...
```

All Fields implement HasValue<E, V>

V specifies the type of the data Value

- String for TextField, Integer for IntegerField…

E specifies the type of the value change Event

- More about this soon

HasValue<E, V> has 3 methods:

```
V getValue()
```

```
void setValue(V value)
```

```
Registration addValueChangeListener(ValueChangeListener<? super E> listener)
```

Value change events

A Field's value can change in two different ways:

- Calling setValue() in Java code directly or indirectly
- The user changes the value on the client side

You can react to the changing value using a **value change listener**:

```
TextField textField = new TextField();

textField.addValueChangeListener(event -> {
   if(event.isFromClient()) {
       System.out.println(event.getValue());
   }
});
```

Data Binding

Data Binding with Binder

Vaadin’s data binding system is designed for **reading and writing application data** from UI components

Data can be bound to individual fields or forms containing multiple fields, and to listing components. Listing components are discussed separately, as they have their own API.

At the core of the form data binding is a helper class called **Binder**, which takes care of reading values from the business object(s) and showing them in field Components

Binder

Binder binds the business data to field components (anything that implements HasValue)

- Handles data conversion and validation
- Like HasValue, the Binder is always typed to the backing bean:

  Binder<Person> binds fields to a Person object

Initializing Binder

You can instantiate Binder with or without class parameter

```
//Option 1: Doesn't support binding with property names.
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>();

//Option 2: Scan class for properties so you can bind by String property name.
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class)
```

Creating Bindings with Binder

Creating Bindings

A **Binding** describes how to move data between a Field and a data object's Property

A shared Binder is used to create bindings between each Property in a bean class and its corresponding Field:

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>();

TextField titleField = new TextField();              // a Person's title
IntegerField birthYearField = new IntegerField();    // a Person's birth year

binder.forField(titleField)...                       // create a binding for titleField
binder.forField(birthYearField)...                   // create a binding for birthYearField
```

There are multiple ways to create Bindings, both manual and automatic.

Bindings with method references

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>();
TextField titleField = new TextField();

binder.forField(titleField)            // Start by defining the Field instance to use
       .bind(                          // Finalize by doing the actual binding to the Person class
              Person::getTitle,        // Callback that loads the title from a person instance
              Person::setTitle));      // Callback that saves the title in a person instance
```

Bindings with the property name

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);
TextField titleField = new TextField();

binder.forField(titleField).bind("title");       // Alternative bind method for Java beans
```

Shorthands for creating bindings

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);
TextField titleField = new TextField();

// Shorthand for cases without extra configuration
binder.bind(titleField, Person::getTitle, Person::setTitle);

// or with property name
binder.bind(titleField, "title");
```

Binding with a lambda expression

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);
TextField titleField = new TextField();

// With lambda expressions
binder.bind(titleField,
       person -> person.getTitle(),
       (person, newTitle) -> person.setTitle(newTitle));
```

Bindings with an anonymous class

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);
TextField titleField = new TextField();

// With explicit callback interface instances (Java 7 style)
binder.bind(titleField,
       new ValueProvider<Person, String>() {
           @Override
           public String apply(Person person) {
               return person.getTitle();
           }
       },
       new Setter<Person, String>() {
           @Override
           public void accept(Person person, String title) {
               person.setTitle(title);
           }
       });
```

Automatic binding: bindInstanceFields

Automatic binding uses the field variable name or the @PropertyId annotation

```
public class MyForm {
   private TextField name = new TextField();

   @PropertyId("email")
   private TextField emailField = new TextField();

   public MyForm() {
       Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);
       binder.bindInstanceFields(this);
       // name is now bound to “name”, emailField is bound to “email”
   }
}
```

```
public class Person {
   private String name;
   private String email;

   // getter and setter...
}
```

Bindings for nested properties

What if we have a complex object with other beans as its Properties?

```
public class Person {

    private String name;
    private Address address;

    ...
}

public class Address {

    private String street;
    ...
}
```

Bind nested properties with Strings

Bind nested properties with the “`property.subproperty`” syntax

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);

TextField streetField = new TextField();

// this works if you can guarantee “address” is not null
binder.forField(streetField).bind("address.street");
```

```
public class Person {

    private String name;
    private Address address;

    ...
}

public class Address {

    private String street;
    ...
}
```

Bind nested properties with a lambda

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);

TextField streetField = new TextField();

binder.forField(streetField).bind(
       person -> person.getAddress().getStreet(),
       (person, street) -> person.getAddress().setStreet(street));

// Still not safe if getAddress() can return null
```

```
public class Person {

    private String name;
    private Address address;

    ...
}

public class Address {

    private String street;
    ...
}
```

Bind nested properties with a lambda

Bind nested properties with the a lambda expression and a null check

```
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);

TextField streetField = new TextField();

binder.forField(streetField).bind(
       person -> {
           if(person.getAddress()==null){
               return null;
           }else{
               return person.getAddress().getStreet();
           }
       },
       (person, street) -> {
           if(person.getAddress()!=null){
               person.getAddress().setStreet(street);
           }
           // should we create a new Address object otherwise?
       });
```

```
public class Person {

   private String name;
   private Address address;

   ...
}

public class Address {

   private String street;
   ...
}
```

Reading and writing with Binder

Buffered or immediate

Immediate reading and writing values

You can use *unbuffered* binding by calling binder.setBean. This means changes to the fields are updating the bound properties immediately. Fields are also updated with initial values when **setBean** is called.

```
Person person = getPerson();
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>();


binder.setBean(person);     // Sets the person instance as a data source for the binder
                            // Bound fields are updated, and the bean is updated when fields change
```

Buffered reading and writing values

Using a binder's **readBean** reads the values once and does not hold a reference to the bean. Field values are only committed back to the properties when a binder.**writeBean** call is made.

```
person = getPerson();
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>();

// Buffered binding.
binder.readBean(person);  // Reads values from the Person instance to the binder and updates fields
Button saveButton = new Button("Save", event -> {
   try {
       binder.writeBean(person);   // Writes values from the binder to the person object
       // After successful writeBean, binder.hasChanges() == false
   } catch (ValidationException e) {
       // Could not save the values; check exceptions for each bound field
   }
});
```

Writing as draft

Binder.writeBeanAsDraft(bean) allows you to write out changes despite some fields not passing validation - this is useful when you want to allow saving of an incomplete form (“save and resume later”). We’ll return to writing as draft after discussing validation and conversion later.

```
Button saveButton = new Button("Save draft", event -> {
       // Write the changes that are valid
       binder.writeBeanAsDraft(person);
});

Button saveEvenInvalidButton = new Button("Resume later", event -> {
        // Write all changes that pass conversion - skips validation!
        // Note: If the conversion fails, the value written to the bean will be null.
       binder.writeBeanAsDraft(person, true);
});
```

Writing as draft doesn’t reset the changed bindings list - binder.hasChanges() still returns “true” if changes occurred before writing.

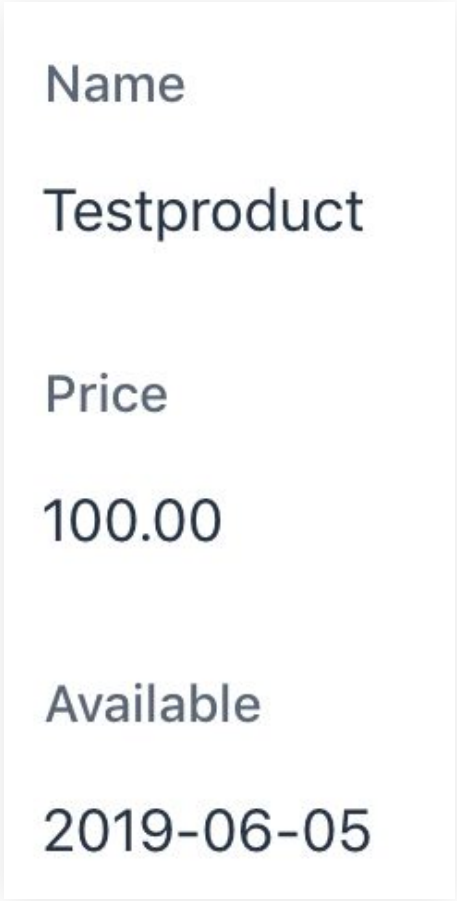
Reset buffered value

Buffered writing allows you to cancel edits by calling binder.readBean again instead of writeBean

```
person = getPerson(); // person is defined as a class member variable
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>();

// Buffered binding.
binder.readBean(person);    // Reads values from the Person instance to the binder
Button saveButton = new Button("Save", event -> {
   try {
       binder.writeBean(person);   // Writes values from the binder to the person object
   } catch (ValidationException e) {
       // Could not save the values; check exceptions for each bound field
   }
});
Button cancelButton = new Button("Cancel", event ->
       binder.readBean(person)
       // person has not been updated before writeBean -> revert changes in Fields back
);
```

Binding to a non-Field

Sometimes you might need to bind data to a non-field Component, like a Span or a Paragraph, to make the data read-only.



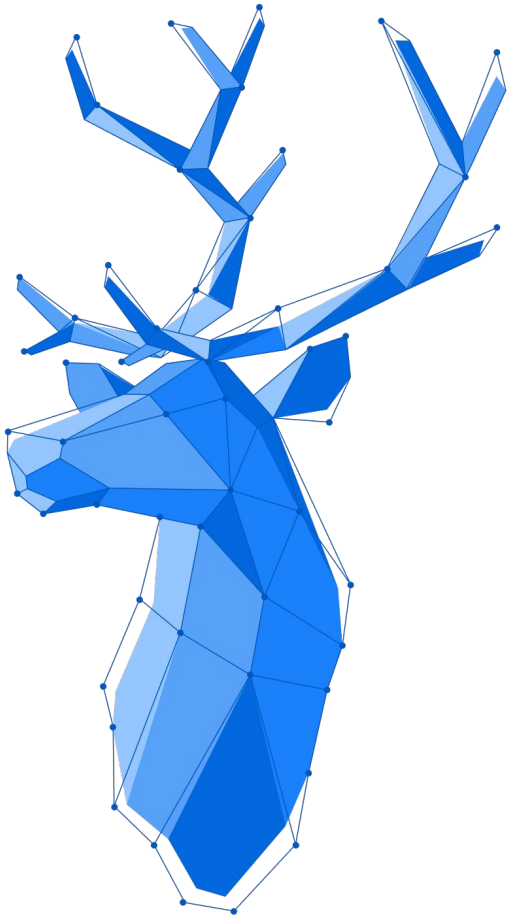
Binding with ReadOnlyHasValue

The method bindReadOnly also works for normal Fields.

```
Div nameText = new Div();
ReadOnlyHasValue<String> name = new ReadOnlyHasValue<>(text -> nameText.setText(text));
binder.forField(name).bindReadOnly(Person::getName);
// or the same thing:
binder.forField(name).bind(Person::getName, null);
```

Summary, Part 1

- Fields and Properties
- Binder
- Creating Bindings
- Reading and writing values with Bunder
  - Buffered (immediate)
  - Unbuffered



Creating Forms, Part 2

Validation and Conversion

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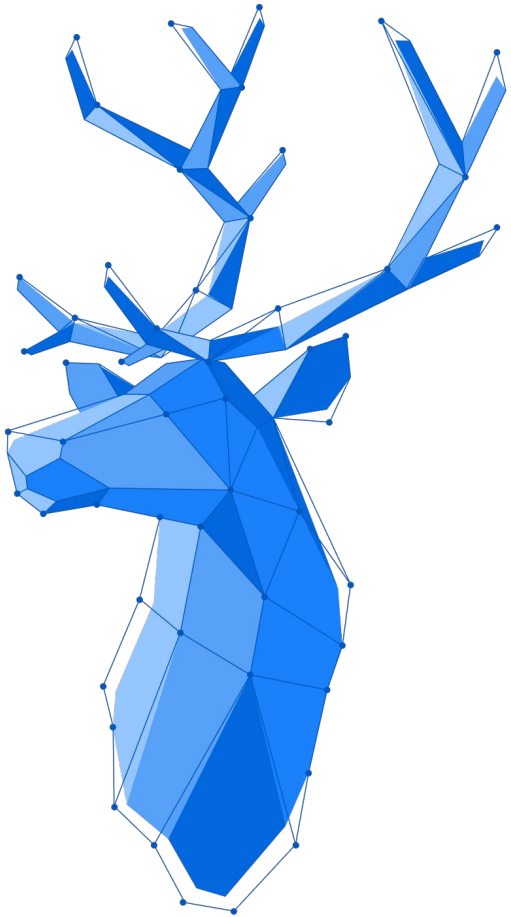
Recap, part 1

- Fields and Properties
- Creating Bindings to Components with Binder
- Reading and writing data

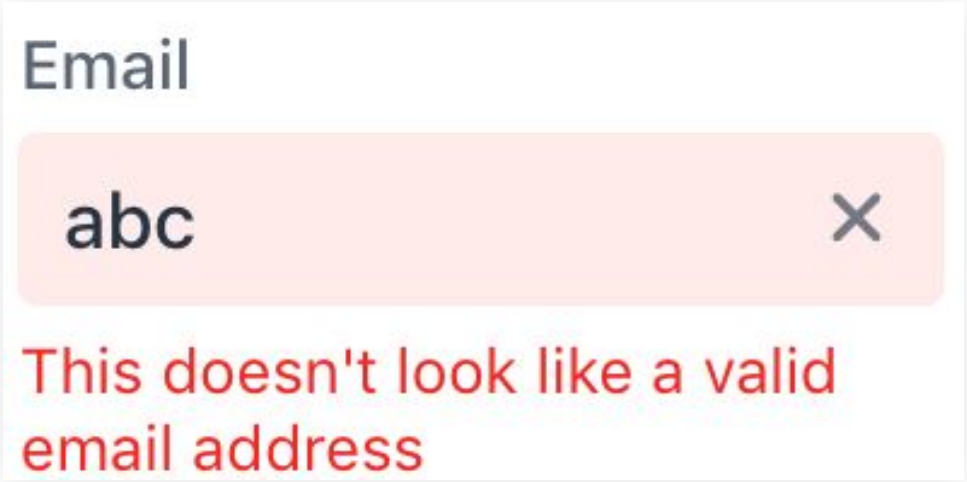


Validation

Validation

Validation is used to check that a field's value satisfies defined formats and other input criteria.

When validation fails, a field will turn red and display an error message next to it.



Validation with a Validator

Use .withValidator to configure a Validator for the binding you start with binder.forField

```
binder.forField(emailField)
        // Explicit Validator instance
        .withValidator(new EmailValidator("This doesn't look like a valid email address"))
        .bind(Person::getEmail, Person::setEmail);
```

Validation with a Validator

Use .withValidator to configure a Validator for the binding you start with binder.forField

```
binder.forField(emailField)
        // Explicit Validator instance
        .withValidator(new EmailValidator("This doesn't look like a valid email address"))
        .bind(Person::getEmail, Person::setEmail);
```

Notes:

- The binder.forField method call starts a **builder** where the field definition is followed by any number of configuration calls and the `.bind` call finalizes the chain.
    - You can specify multiple validators by chaining them!
- The shorthand method `binder.bind(emailField, Person::getEmail, Person::setEmail)` doesn't allow setting Validators

Validation with a lambda

You can specify your custom inline implementation for a validator easily with a lambda expression and a String error message:

```
binder.forField(nameField)
        // Validator defined based on a lambda and an error message
        .withValidator(
                name -> name.length() >= 3, "Full name must contain at least three characters")
        .bind(Person::getName, Person::setName);
```

The asRequired shorthand

The asRequired shorthand binding method allows for a convenient “not null / empty” validation check, and it also enables the Field’s required indicator

```
binder.forField(titleField)
        // Shorthand for requiring the field to be non-empty
        .asRequired("Every employee must have a title")
        .bind(Person::getTitle, Person::setTitle);
```

The Validator API

The Validator interface works with two helper interfaces: ValueContext and ValidationResult

```
public interface Validator<T>{

   @Override
   ValidationResult apply(T value, ValueContext context);

}
```

ValidationResult

ValidationResult is an interface; you can implement your own subclass if you want to pass additional information. The ValidationResult's "isError" method determines whether the validation passes or fails.

```
public class MyValidator implements Validator<String> {

   @Override
   public ValidationResult apply(String value, ValueContext context){
       if(value == null || value.length() < 3) {
           return ValidationResult.error("String is too short");
       } else {
           return ValidationResult.ok();
       }
   }
}
```

ValueContext

The ValueContext object that comes as an input to the apply method of the Validator interface is populated by the framework. It contains information about the binding target and current Locale.

```
public class ValueContext implements Serializable {

  private final Component component;
  private final HasValue<?, ?> hasValue;
  private final Locale locale;
  ...
```

Built-in validators

BeanValidator
BigDecimalRangeValidator
BigIntegerRangeValidator
ByteRangeValidator
DateRangeValidator
DateTimeRangeValidator
DoubleRangeValidator
EmailValidator
FloatRangeValidator
IntegerRangeValidator
LongRangeValidator
RangeValidator
RegexpValidator
ShortRangeValidator
StringLengthValidator

Custom validation result handling

You can direct Binder to use a specific component to display any error messages. By default, the error message is displayed next to the Field.

```
Paragraph errorHolder = new Paragraph();

binder.forField(nameField).asRequired().withStatusLabel(errorHolder).bind("name");

binder.forField(emailField).asRequired().withStatusLabel(errorHolder).bind("email");
```

Fully customized validation error handler

You can have even more control over the validation error handling by using .withValidationStatusHandler

```
binder.forField(nameField).asRequired().withValidationStatusHandler(status -> {
    // do something
}).bind("name");

binder.forField(emailField).asRequired().withValidationStatusHandler(status -> {
    // do something
}).bind("email");
```

Binder-level validation result handling

Instead of adding status label or status handler to each field, you can also add one to the Binder

```
binder.setStatusLabel(errMsg);

binder.setValidationStatusHandler(status -> {
    // do something for every validation status change
});
```

Binder-level validator

Add validator to binder directly to do cross-field validation. Binder-level validation will only run if field level validation has passed.

```
/*
* Note that it won't automatically make any fields invalid or show the error message if it fails.
* Combine it with binder.setStatusLabel() and binder.setValidationStatusHandler() to show the error message and invalidate the fields.
*/
binder.withValidator(flight ->
                flight.getDepartureDate().isBefore(flight.getReturnDate())
                        || flight.getDepartureDate().isEqual(flight.getReturnDate()),
        "Please select a valid date range");
```

Bean Validation (JSR-303)

Use the BeanValidationBinder for Bean validation. Validation messages are read from ValidationMessages.properties resource bundle file

```
public class Product {

  @NotBlank(message = "{bakery.name.required}")
  @Size(max = 255, message = "{bakery.field.max.length}")
  private String name;

}
```

```
TextField name = new TextField();
BeanValidationBinder<Product> binder = new BeanValidationBinder<>(Product.class);

binder.bind(nameField, "name");
```

Bean Validation

To use Bean Validation, you can ONLY do the data binding with property name.

Bean Validation

Bean validation needs the validation API and an implementation in your dependencies

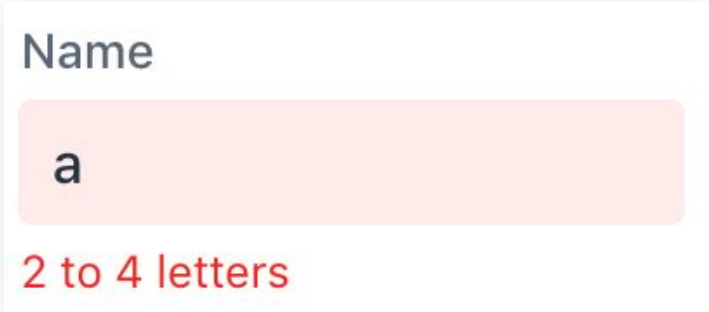
```
<!-- API -->
<dependency>
    <groupId>jakarta.validation</groupId>
    <artifactId>jakarta.validation-api</artifactId>
    <version>3.0.2</version>
</dependency>

<!-- One possible implementation -->
<dependency>
   <groupId>org.hibernate.validator</groupId>
   <artifactId>hibernate-validator</artifactId>
   <version>6.0.2.Final</version>
</dependency>
```

Client-side validation

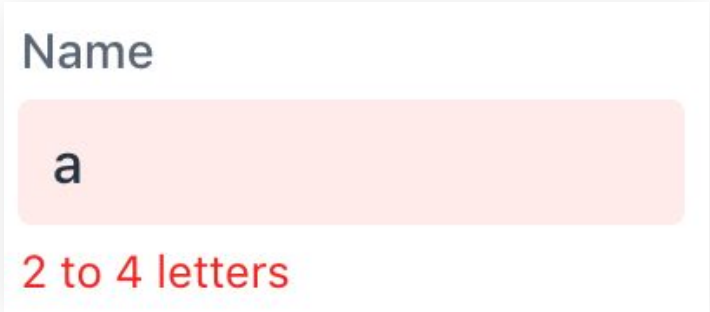
Components allow you to set validations directly on the field, not through a binder.

```
TextField name = new TextField("Name");
name.setRequired(true);
name.setMinLength(2);
name.setMaxLength(4);
name.setErrorMessage("2 to 4 letters");
```



Client-side validation

Client-side validations aren’t secure against tampering and shouldn’t be relied on alone.



Client-side constraints

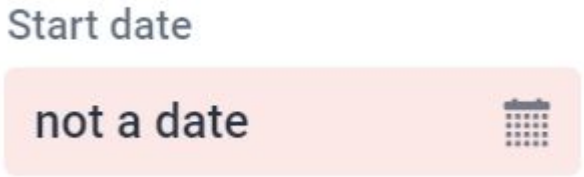
Every field component provides its own set of **constraints**, such as **`required`**, **`minlength`**, **`pattern`**, etc. Component constraints are integrated into Binder validation. Binder checks the value against constraints before custom validators.

The only exception is the **`required`** constraint, which is checked with the **`asRequired`** validator in Binder.

Client-side to server validation sync

Certain components, such as IntegerField or DatePicker, only accept input that can be parsed as a suitable **type** (`Integer`, `LocalDate`, etc.). Otherwise, the value on the server falls back to null.

The input type check, as well as all other validations, happen on **blur** - when the field loses focus



Conversion

Conversion

Both Fields and Bindings are typed.

When types don’t match, you need a converter.

No conversion?

- When you're binding with a String property name, you may get a **runtime exception** if the type of the Field and the type of the Property do not match.
- If you create the Binding with lambdas, method references or classes, your binding code will not **compile**.
  - You will catch type errors earlier

```
public class Person {
   private LocalDate birthDate;
}
```

```
TextField birthDateField = new TextField("Birth date");
Binder<Person> binder =
       new Binder<>(Person.class);
binder.bind(birthDateField, "birthDate");
```

```
Caused by: java.lang.ClassCastException:
java.base/java.lang.String cannot be cast to
java.base/java.time.LocalDate
       at
com.vaadin.flow.component.textfield.TextField.setValue(Tex
tField.java:32)
       at
com.vaadin.flow.data.binder.Binder$BindingImpl.initFieldVa
lue(Binder.java:1130)
       at ...
```

Converter

Add a Converter before binding:

```
TextField age = new TextField("Age");
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>(Person.class);

binder.forField(age)
        .withConverter(new StringToIntegerConverter("Must enter a number"))
        .bind("age");
```

Converter API

The Converter interface uses the ValueContext and Result helpers. Conversion is done between a **presentation** type (what the Field uses) and a **model** type (what the Property has).

```
public class MyStringToDoubleConverter implements Converter<String, Double> {

   @Override
   public String convertToPresentation(Double value, ValueContext context) {
       return String.format(context.getLocale().get(), "%1$.2f", value);
   }

   @Override
   public Result<Double> convertToModel(String value, ValueContext context) {
       try {
           return Result.ok(Double.parseDouble(value));
       }
       catch (NumberFormatException ex) {
           return Result.error(ex.getMessage());
       }

   }
}
```

Built-in converters

DateToLongConverter
DateToSqlDateConverter
LocalDateTimeToDateConverter
LocalDateToDateConverter
StringToBigDecimalConverter
StringToBigIntegerConverter
StringToBooleanConverter
StringToDateConverter
StringToDoubleConverter
StringToFloatConverter
StringToIntegerConverter
StringToLongConverter
StringToUuidConverter

Automatic conversion

If a Converter isn’t specified, and the types between the Field and the Property do not match, there’s a call to the default converter factory that attempts to find a mapping using the built-in converters.

You can also provide your own implementation of the ConverterFactory interface by extending Binder and overriding `getConverterFactory`.

Converters and Validators

You can combine multiple validators and converters. They will be executed in the same order as they are defined.

```
binder.forField(age)
       .withValidator(value -> validateIsNumber(value), "You can only enter numbers!")
       .withConverter(new StringToIntegerConverter("Not a valid integer!"))
       .withValidator(integer -> isAdult(integer), "Must be 18 or older!")
       .bind("age");
```

Writing as draft

Binder.writeBeanAsDraft(bean) allows you to write out changes despite some fields not passing validation - this is useful when you want to allow saving of an incomplete form (“save and resume later”)

```
Person person = getPerson();
Binder<Person> binder = new Binder<>();
binder.forField(field1).withValidator(...
binder.forField(field2).withValidator(...

Button saveButton = new Button("Save draft", event -> {
       // Write the changes that are valid
       binder.writeBeanAsDraft(person);
        // Note: binder.hasChanges is still true, Binder’s list of changed bindings is not reset
});

Button saveEvenInvalidButton = new Button("Resume later", event -> {
        // Write all changes that pass conversion - skips validation!
        // Note: If the conversion fails, the value written to the bean will be null.
       binder.writeBeanAsDraft(person, true);
});
```

Exercise 1

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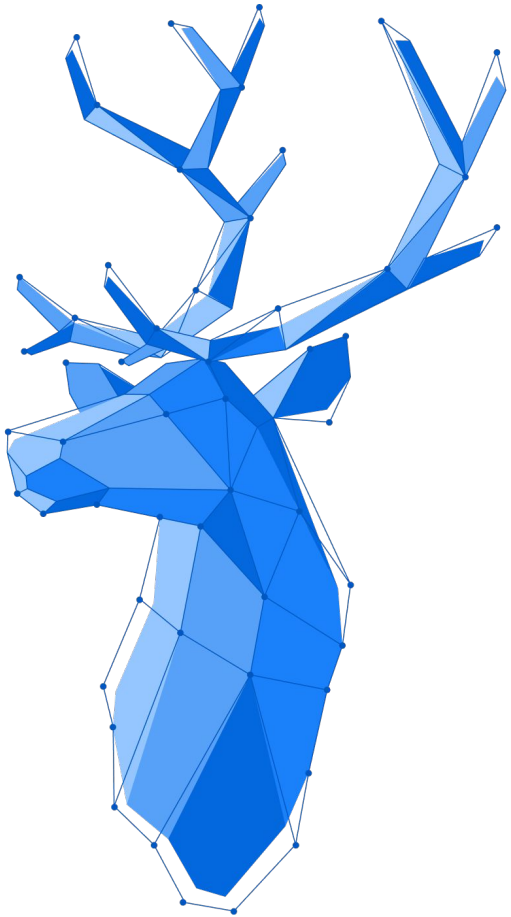
Summary, Part 2

- Validation
- The Validator API
- Validation result handling
- Bean validation
- Exercise 1
- Conversion
- The Converter API
- Writing as draft



Creating Forms, Part 3

Custom Field

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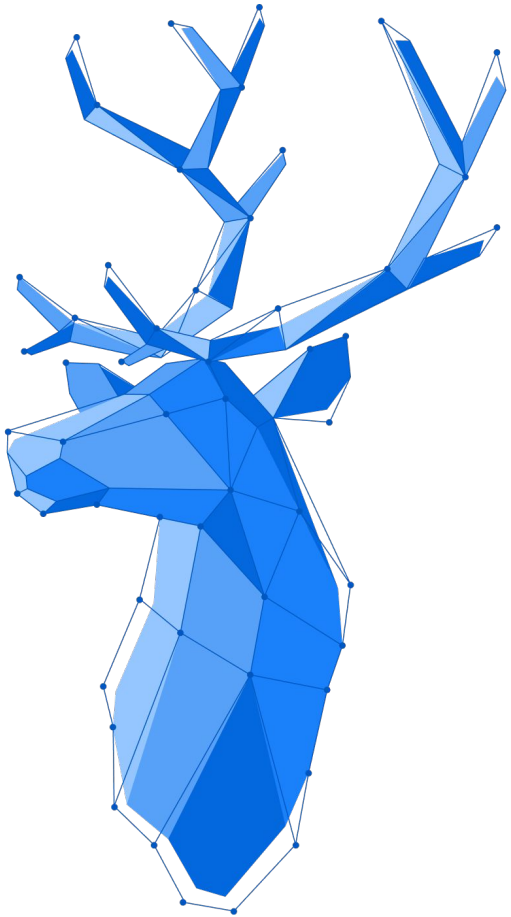
Recap, parts 1-2

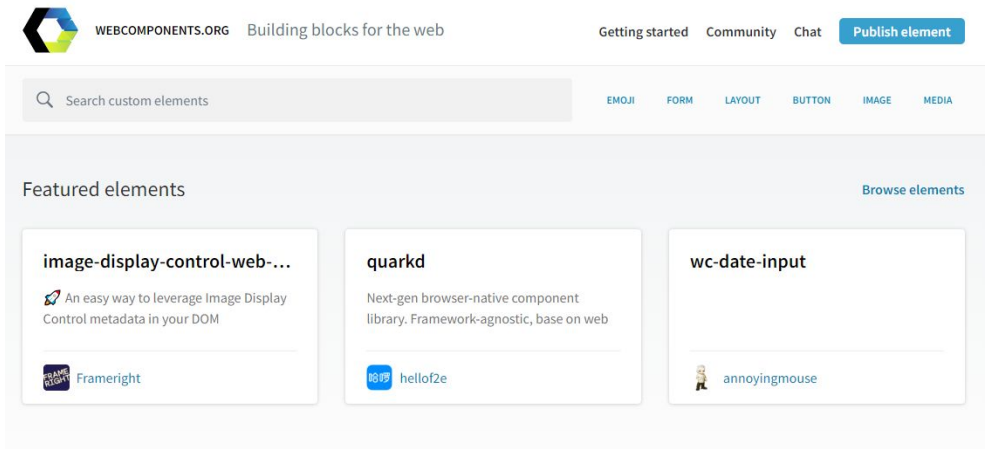
- Fields and Properties
- Creating Bindings to Components with Binder
- Reading and writing data
- Validation
- Conversion

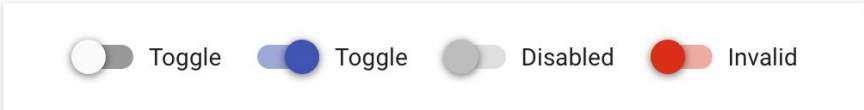


Custom Field

Custom Fields

You are not limited to use only Vaadin components as Fields, you can use a custom web component as well.





COPY

```
<paper-toggle-button>Toggle</paper-toggle-button>
<paper-toggle-button checked>Toggle</paper-toggle-button>
<paper-toggle-button disabled>Disabled</paper-toggle-button
<paper-toggle-button invalid>Invalid</paper-toggle-button>
```

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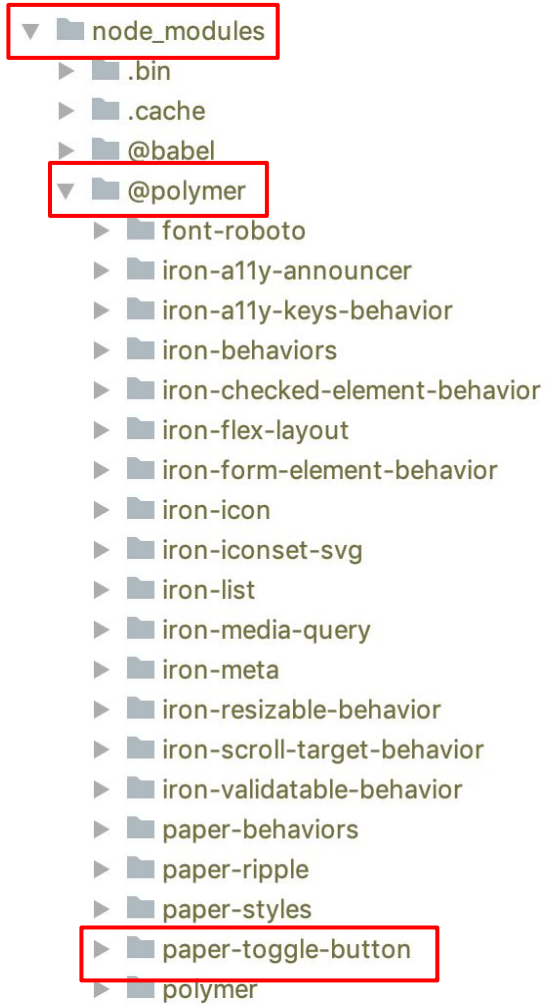
Install

Run npm install on the project's root directory

```
npm install --save @polymer/paper-toggle-button
```



Web Component as a Field

Many field-type web components usually have a property which holds the value. You can extend AbstractSinglePropertyField in a custom class to turn such a web component into a Vaadin-compatible Field.

AbstractSinglePropertyField takes two generic parameters. The first one is the Component type and the second one is the value type.

Usually only a super constructor call with 3 parameters is needed. The first is the property name which holds the value, the second one is the default value, and the third one defines if null is allowed.

```
@JsModule("@polymer/paper-toggle-button/paper-toggle-button.js")
@Tag("paper-toggle-button")
public class ToggleButton extends AbstractSinglePropertyField<ToggleButton, Boolean> {
   public ToggleButton() {
       // property name, default value, accept null values
       super("checked", false, false);
   }
}
```

Limitation of AbstractSinglePropertyField

AbstractSinglePropertyField holds the value properly, but it doesn’t have validation error message or required indicator.

CustomField

CustomField is a wrapper of component(s) to be used as a regular field.

CustomField has a validation error message and a required indicator.

Making a CustomField

Extend from CustomField which takes a generic parameter for the data type

```
public class MyCustomField extends CustomField<Boolean> {
```

Set up the content of the CustomField

Here we'll use the web component field as the inside implementation

```
public class MyCustomField extends CustomField<Boolean> {

   private ToggleButton toggleButton = new ToggleButton();

   public MyCustomField(){
       add(toggleButton);
   }
```

Implement value methods

Next, implement the generateModelValue() and setPresentationValue() methods

```
public class MyCustomField extends CustomField<Boolean> {

   private ToggleButton toggleButton = new ToggleButton();

   public MyCustomField(){
       add(toggleButton);
   }
   @Override
   protected Boolean generateModelValue() {
       return toggleButton.getValue();
   }

   @Override
   protected void setPresentationValue(Boolean newPresentationValue) {
       toggleButton.setValue(newPresentationValue);
   }
}
```

Combine multiple components

You can also combine server-side Field components into a single CustomField

```
public class MyCustomField extends CustomField<LocalDateTime> {

    private DatePicker datePicker = new DatePicker();
    private TimePicker timePicker = new TimePicker();

    public MyCustomField(){
        add(datePicker, timePicker);
    }

    @Override
    protected LocalDateTime generateModelValue() {
        return LocalDateTime.of(datePicker.getValue(), timePicker.getValue());
    }

    @Override
    protected void setPresentationValue(LocalDateTime newPresentationValue) {
        datePicker.setValue(newPresentationValue.toLocalDate());
        timePicker.setValue(newPresentationValue.toLocalTime());
    }

}
```

Upload as a Field

The Upload component doesn't implement HasValue, so it can't be used with Binder directly. You can get around this by implementing a CustomField that wraps Upload and handle the file data there:

```
public class UploadField extends CustomField<InputStream> {
  InputStream is;
  FileBuffer buffer = new FileBuffer(); // You might want to customize this

  public UploadField() {
    Upload upload = new Upload(buffer);
    upload.setMaxFiles(1);
    upload.addSucceededListener(event -> {
      is = buffer.getInputStream();
    });
    add(upload);
  }

  @Override
  protected InputStream generateModelValue() {
    return is;
  }
  @Override
  protected void setPresentationValue(InputStream newPresentationValue) {
  }
```

Exercise 2

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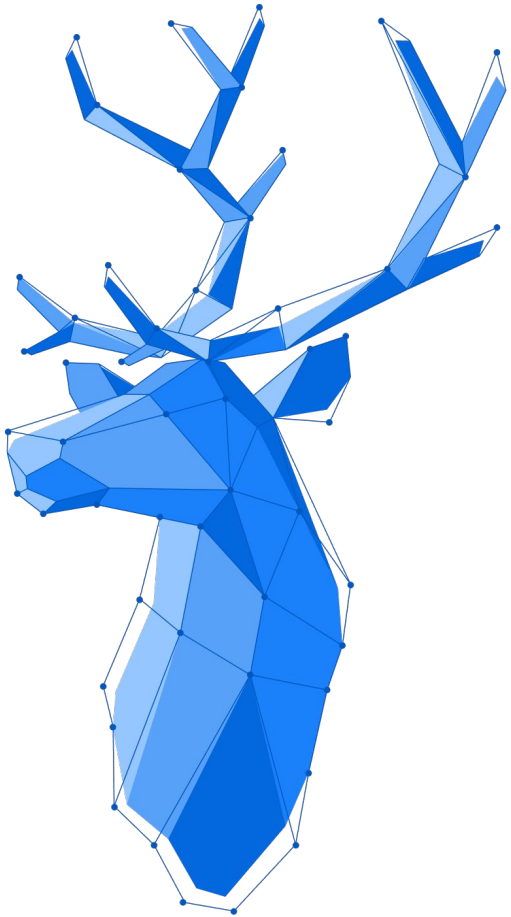
Summary, Part 3

- Custom Fields
- Web Component as a Field
- AbstractSinglePropertyField
- CustomField
- Exercise 2



Thank you!