Spring

Agenda

- What is Spring?
- IoC and DI (A run thru some small example applications)
- Spring & Context
- Spring Boot
- Common context issues
- More on Spring Beans
- Spring Boot Configuration
- Spring Boot MVC

What is Spring?

The Spring Framework is an application framework and inversion of control container for the Java platform

— *Wikipedia* [1]

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Framework

Yes - but what is Spring?

Core spring is based on the ideas of Inversion of Control (IoC) and Dependency Injection (DI) - so we'll start there.

Dependency Injection (DI)

A class is provided with the services etc that it needs rather than creating them.

Inversion of Control (IoC) - in Spring

IoC is a very open design principle - but in Spring terms it mostly refers to the spring container that provide the actual DI mechanics (creation of beans, injecting them following configuration etc).

IoC and DI applications

Initial code

We start with a simple application [2]

[2] initial/pom.xml

Services

- Calculator
- Display

Calculator Service

```
public int plus(int a, int b);

public int minus(int a, int b);

public int multiply(int a, int b);

public int divide(int a, int b);
```

Display Service

```
public void output(String value);
```

Business Logic

The calculation class performs a business operation using the services.

However - let's take a look at the code:

Main method in the Business Logic

```
public void complexCalculation() {
  // Service 1
  Calculator calculator = new Calculator();

  int result = calculator.plus(2, 3);

  // Service 2
  Display display = new Display();

  display.output(String.format("2 + 3 = %d", result));
}
```

Problems

- How do we test different implementations of either service?
- How do we even provide different implementations?

All of these require editing the business logic class.

Dependency Injection

Let's take a look at how we can manually change this over to a DI based setup.

First round - manual DI - no spring.

Constructor vs Setter

We can do this in two ways:

Provide (inject) the required services (dependencies) via:

- the constructor
- setters

Setter injection

```
private Calculator calculator;
private Display display;

public void setCalculator(Calculator calculator) {
  this.calculator = calculator;
}

public void setDisplay(Display display) {
  this.display = display;
}
```

Constructor injection

```
private final Calculator calculator;
private final Display display;

public CalculationConstructorInjection(Calculator calculator,
  Display display) {
  this.calculator = calculator;
  this.display = display;
}
```

Orchestration

OK - but how do we set up (or orchestrate) the application?

```
public static void main(String[] args) {
  // Services
  Calculator calculator = new Calculator();
  Display display = new Display();

  // Setter injection
  CalculationSetterInjection calculationSetterInjection = new CalculationSetterInjection();
  calculationSetterInjection.setCalculator(calculator);
  calculationSetterInjection.setDisplay(display);

  calculationSetterInjection.complexCalculation();

  // Constructor injection
  CalculationConstructorInjection calculationConstructorInjection =
    new CalculationConstructorInjection(calculator, display);

  calculationConstructorInjection.complexCalculation();
}
```

Exercise 1

- Convert the simple initial application to be constructor injected.

Exercise 1 - Walkthrough

First round - manual DI - no spring [3]

[3] initial-manual/pom.xml

Spring?

So far we have seen DI but had to orchestrate the application by hand.

Spring provides an IoC container - objects define what they need and the IoC container can then provide the required dependencies via DI.

We'll look at three ways:

- Old style (spring - with XML configured beans)
- Annotation style (spring - with annotated classes)
- Spring Boot

Spring Beans

A spring bean is any object that is managed by the Spring IoC container.

A spring bean is usually a singleton (this is the default bean scope - we will look at scopes later on).

Spring - XML

First steps are to grab some java libraries:

```
<dependencies>
    <dependency>
        <groupId>org.springframework</groupId>
        <artifactId>spring-core</artifactId>
        <version>5.3.1</version>
    </dependency>
    <dependency>
        <groupId>org.springframework</groupId>
        <artifactId>spring-context</artifactId>
        <version>5.3.1</version>
    </dependency>
    <dependency>
        <groupId>org.springframework</groupId>
        <artifactId>spring-beans</artifactId>
        <version>5.3.1</version>
    </dependency>
</dependencies>
```

Application context

Spring provides a set of classes (based around BeanFactory) that allows us to configure the IoC container.

However - in nearly every project it is far far more common to use spring's application context for this.

applicationContext.xml

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
       xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
       xsi:schemaLocation="
    http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
    http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans.xsd">

  <bean id="display" class="no.itera.spring.Display"/>
  <bean id="calculator" class="no.itera.spring.Calculator"/>

  <bean id="calculationConstructorInjection" class="no.itera.spring.CalculationConstructorInjection">
    <constructor-arg name="calculator" ref="calculator"/>
    <constructor-arg name="display" ref="display"/>
  </bean>

  <bean id="calculationSetterInjection" class="no.itera.spring.CalculationSetterInjection">
    <property name="calculator" ref="calculator"/>
    <property name="display" ref="display"/>
  </bean>
</beans>
```

Using the context

```
// Load the context
ApplicationContext context =
  new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext("applicationContext.xml");

// Get a bean by type
CalculationSetterInjection calculationSetterInjection =
  context.getBean(CalculationSetterInjection.class);

calculationSetterInjection.complexCalculation();

// Get a bean by name
CalculationConstructorInjection calculationConstructorInjection =
    (CalculationConstructorInjection) context.getBean("calculationConstructorInjection");
calculationConstructorInjection.complexCalculation();
```

Exercise 2

- Complete the spring XML configuration for the application

Things to note - the Service classes are identical to those used in the previous manual project.

The only changes here are in how we orchestrate the app.

Exercise 2 - Walkthrough

We'll be using spring's context and beans.

Problems

This works - but - it means that the XML file is tightly coupled to the class structures.

If we change the java code we have to remember to adjust this file.

Spring - Annotations

Let's modify the previous version using spring's component scanning mechanism.

Scanning is enabled in the application context file.

It triggers spring to go through all classes in a given package tree looking for annotations.

Application context

The context file becomes a lot smaller - it simply configures what packages to scan

applicationContext.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
       xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
       xmlns:context="http://www.springframework.org/schema/context"
       xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
    http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans.xsd
    http://www.springframework.org/schema/context
    http://www.springframework.org/schema/context/spring-context.xsd">

  <context:annotation-config/>
  <context:component-scan base-package="no.itera.spring"/>
</beans>
```

Annotating classes

Classes get a class level annotation stating what sort of bean they are (@Service, @Component, @Repository)

Injection points are often marked @Autowired [5]

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[5] From Spring 4.3 a spring bean class with only one constructor does not need the autowired annotation - spring will wire it

Using the context

The code in Application is exactly the same as for the XML version

Exercise 3

- Annotate the two service classes and the calculation class so that the application functions.
- Consider what annotation to use in each case.

Exercise 3 - Walkthrough

Let's modify the previous version using spring's component scanning mechanism (annotations) [6]

[6] initial-spring/annotations/pom.xml

What is the difference between the annotations

@Component - the basic spring bean marker. This is what component scanner is looking for

@Service - a special case of Component - used to state that this is a bean used in the service layer - there is no functional difference to Component

@Repository - also a special case of Component - but it has an extra job - to catch any persistence specific exception and to re-throw it as a standard spring exception. Requires an instance of PersistenceExceptionTranslationPostProcessor bean in the context [6.1].

[6.1] Spring Boot adds this for you automatically

Notes

These examples are very simple. some other things we need to consider are

- bean scopes (is it a singleton? etc)
- qualifiers (requiring a bean and there are multiple implementations available)

Problems

- Still a lot of boiler plate
- Managing dependencies in a larger project is still challenging

Spring Boot

Spring Boot makes it easy to create stand-alone, production-grade Spring based Applications that you can "just run".
We take an opinionated view of the Spring platform and third-party libraries so you can get started with minimum fuss. Most Spring Boot applications need minimal Spring configuration.

— *Spring.io* [7]

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[7] https://spring.io/projects/spring-boot/

Spring Boot tries to simplify:

- Setup
- Dependency Management
- Configuration

Spring Boot Starters

Spring Boot provides different starters - so that you can add support for different functionality.

We'll take a look at what's available after we've looked at the same test app in a Spring Boot version.

Exercise 4

See README in the exercise directory.

Exercise 4 - Walkthrough

- Classes keep the same annotations as before
- Main class gets annotated `@SpringBootApplication`
- Implement the CommandLineRunner as it is a command line app [8]

[8] initial-spring-boot/pom.xml

```java
@SpringBootApplication
public class  Application implements CommandLineRunner {
  private final ApplicationContext context;

  public Application(ApplicationContext context) {
    this.context = context;
  }

  public static void main(String[] args) {
    SpringApplication.run(Application.class, args);
  }

  @Override
  public void run(String... args) {
    CalculationSetterInjection calculationSetterInjection =
      context.getBean(CalculationSetterInjection.class);

    calculationSetterInjection.complexCalculation();

    CalculationConstructorInjection calculationConstructorInjection =
      context.getBean(CalculationConstructorInjection.class);

    calculationConstructorInjection.complexCalculation();
  }
}
```

Spring Initializr

https://start.spring.io/

Under the Add Dependencies button you can see what starter packs you can add.

Common context issues

Spring complains if it cannot build a valid context

Usually it will be one of two issues:

- Cannot find a bean it needs
- Finds more than one match

How to fix

First - dig down through the stack trace - spring will try and tell you what it didn't manage to do.

Things to remember:

- Missing annotation on a @Component or @Service or similar?
- Missing configuration or auto configuration?
- Search by type (interface) or name can give more than one hit - can you use @Qualifier?
- Component scanning also scans dependencies (if the package name is correct)
  - did you get more than you bargained for?
  - did something that was included expect certain dependencies that are not available?

More on Spring Beans

Spring beans have a scope which defines lifecycle

- singleton (default)
- prototype

Spring web-aware only

- request
- session
- application
- websocket

Singleton bean

The standard spring bean.

The spring container will always return the same bean.

Prototype bean

The spring container will return a new instance every time.

Web aware

Lifetime of web aware beans

- request - single http request
- session - http session
- websocket - a websocket
- application - servlet context

Spring Boot Configuration

- Property Files
- Yaml files
- Profiles

Defining property file location

```
@Configuration
@PropertySource("classpath:somefile.properties")
public class SomeConfiguration {}
```

One or more files

```
// Single
@PropertySource("classpath:somefile.properties")

// Multiple - java 8 and above
@PropertySource("classpath:somefile.properties")
@PropertySource("classpath:anotherfile.properties")

// Multiple - any java version
@PropertySources({
  @PropertySource("classpath:somefile.properties")
  @PropertySource("classpath:anotherfile.properties")
})
```

For multiple files - if a name collision occurs then the *last* file read wins.

Using property values

Simplest with @Value injection

```
@Value( "${config.property.name}" )
private String configProperty;
```

You can inject Environment and use that:

```
@Autowired
private Environment env;

env.getProperty("config.property.name");
```

ConfigurationProperties

```
@Configuration // spring boot before 2.1 needs this in addition
@ConfigurationProperties(prefix = "db")
public class SomeConfig {
  private String username;
  private String password;
}
```

This will read properties db.username and db.password

It is a standard java bean - so you must define setters and getters (or use lombok or a kotlin data class)

You can nest configuration classes and build out a property hierarchy.

File names/types/profiles

- application.properties
- application-profileName.properties
- properties vs yaml

application*.properties/yaml are handled by default - you do not need to specify a location - just inject @Value and you're done.

Profiles

We can specify at runtime what profiles are active.

Spring boot will load application-profileName.* only if profile with name profileName is active.

Properties vs YAML

Yaml can be used and is often useful for properties that are nested in nature.

Yaml does *not* work with PropertySource - but works fine with ConfigurationProperty and default property (application*) loading.

Spring Boot MVC

- Resources
- Requests/sessions
- Responses

Add the web starter:

```
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
    <artifactId>spring-boot-starter-web</artifactId>
</dependency>
```

Resources

Get all items

```
@RestController
public class ExampleController {
    private final SomeService service;

    public ExampleController(SomeService service) {
      this.service = service;
    }

    @GetMapping("/")
    @ResponseBody
    public List<Example> getAllExamples() {
        return service.examples();
    }
}
```

PathVariable

```
GET /3

@GetMapping("/{id}")
@ResponseBody
public Example getExample(@PathVariable Integer id) {
    return service.example(id);
}
```

RequestParam

```
GET /?id=3
```

```
@GetMapping("/")
@ResponseBody
public Example getExample(@RequestParam Integer id) {
    return service.example(id);
}
```

RequestParam can also retrieve from form posts and file uploads

RequestBody

```
@PostMapping("/")
@ResponseBody
public Example addExample(@RequestBody Example example) {
    return service.addExample(example);
}
```

Exercise 5

See README in the exercise directory.

Exercise 5 - Walkthrough

Let's take a look at an example project.[9]

This time in kotlin with gradle using the kotlin DSL - just for fun.

Initially created with spring initializer by choosing kotlin and gradle on https://start.spring.io/

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[9] spring-boot-web-example

Further Reading

- Spring presentation (full) - https://github.com/itera/spring - mostly the same as this with a section on reactive java/spring and a section on databases
- Test presentation - https://github.com/Itera/java-test
- Spring Auto-configuration
- Spring Security / OAuth
- Rest Repositories
- Spring Web Services (XML/SOAP)
- Spring Cloud
- Project Reactor (reactive java - Mono/Flux)

Many other useful sites out there - my current goto is

https://www.baeldung.com/