

Advanced Queries Using Criteria

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- Hibernate provides different ways to retrieve data.
 - ▣ We have already discussed HQL and the use of native SQL queries; now we add criteria.
- The Criteria Query API lets you build nested, structured query expressions in Java, providing a compile-time syntax checking that is not possible with a query language like HQL or SQL.
- The Criteria API also includes *query by example* (QBE) functionality.
 - ▣ This lets you supply example objects that contain the properties you would like to retrieve instead of having to step-by-step spell out the components of the query.
 - ▣ It also includes projection and aggregation methods, including counts.
- In this lecture, we explore the use of the Criteria API, employing the sample object model discussed in the previous lecture.

Using the Criteria API

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- The Criteria API allows you to build up a criteria query object programmatically; the `org.hibernate.Criteria` interface defines the available methods for one of these objects.
- The Hibernate Session interface contains several `createCriteria()` methods.
- Pass the persistent object's class or its entity name to the `createCriteria()` method, and Hibernate will create a Criteria object that returns instances of the persistence object's class when your application executes a criteria query.
- The simplest example of a criteria query is one with no optional parameters or restrictions—the criteria query will return every object that corresponds to the class.
`Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);`
`List<Product> results = crit.list();`
- When you run this example with our sample data, you will get all objects that are instances of the Product class.
- Note that this includes any instances of the Software class because they are derived from Product.
- Moving on from this simple example, we will add constraints to our criteria queries.

Modifier and Type	Method and Description
Transaction	<code>beginTransaction()</code> Begin a unit of work and return the associated <code>Transaction</code> object.
Criteria	<code>createCriteria(Class persistentClass)</code> Create <code>Criteria</code> instance for the given class (entity or subclasses/implementors).
Criteria	<code>createCriteria(Class persistentClass, String alias)</code> Create <code>Criteria</code> instance for the given class (entity or subclasses/implementors), using a specific alias.
Criteria	<code>createCriteria(String entityName)</code> Create <code>Criteria</code> instance for the given entity name.
Criteria	<code>createCriteria(String entityName, String alias)</code> Create <code>Criteria</code> instance for the given entity name, using a specific alias.
Query	<code>createQuery(String queryString)</code> Create a <code>Query</code> instance for the given HQL query string.
SQLQuery	<code>createSQLQuery(String queryString)</code> Create a <code>SQLQuery</code> instance for the given SQL query string.
ProcedureCall	<code>createStoredProcedureCall(String procedureName)</code> Creates a call to a stored procedure.
ProcedureCall	<code>createStoredProcedureCall(String procedureName, Class... resultClasses)</code> Creates a call to a stored procedure with specific result set entity mappings.
ProcedureCall	<code>createStoredProcedureCall(String procedureName, String... resultSetMappings)</code> Creates a call to a stored procedure with specific result set entity mappings.
ProcedureCall	<code>getNamedProcedureCall(String name)</code> Gets a <code>ProcedureCall</code> based on a named template
Query	<code>getNamedQuery(String queryName)</code> Create a <code>Query</code> instance for the named query string defined in the metadata.
String	<code>getTenantIdentifier()</code> Obtain the tenant identifier associated with this session.
Transaction	<code>getTransaction()</code> Get the <code>Transaction</code> instance associated with this session.

Using Restrictions with Criteria

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- The Criteria API makes it easy to use restrictions in your queries to selectively retrieve objects
 - ▣ for instance, your application could retrieve only products with a price over \$30.
- You may add these restrictions to a Criteria object with the `add()` method.
- The `add()` method takes an `org.hibernate.criterion.Criterion` object that represents an individual restriction.
- You can have more than one restriction for a criteria query.

Creating Criterion Object

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- Although you could create your own objects as follows:
 - implementing the Criterion object
 - extend an existing Criterion objectit is recommended that you use Hibernate's built-in Criterion objects from your application's business logic.
- For instance, you could create your own factory class that returns instances of Hibernate's Criterion objects appropriately set up for your application's restrictions.
- Use the factory methods on the [org.hibernate.criterion.Restrictions](https://hibernate.org/orm/jpa-query-api-specification/) class to obtain instances of the Criterion objects.

org.hibernate.criterion

Class Restrictions

java.lang.Object
org.hibernate.criterion.Restrictions

Direct Known Subclasses: Expression

```
public class Restrictions extends Object
```

The `criterion` package may be used by applications as a framework for building new kinds of `Criterion`. However, it is intended that most applications will simply use the built-in criterion types via the static factory methods of this class. See also the `Projections` factory methods for generating `Projection` instances

See Also: `Criteria`

Constructor Summary

Constructors

Modifier	Constructor and Description
protected	<code>Restrictions()</code>

Method Summary

Modifier and Type	Method and Description
static <code>Criterion</code>	<code>allEq(Map<String,?> propertyNameValues)</code> Apply an "equals" constraint to each property in the key set of a Map
static <code>Conjunction</code>	<code>and(Criterion... predicates)</code>

eq() Method

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- To retrieve objects that have a property value that equals your restriction, use the eq() method on Restrictions, as follows:

public static SimpleExpression eq(String propertyName, Object value)

- We would typically nest the eq() method in the add() method on the Criteria object.
- Here is an example to search for products with the name “Tablet”:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
crit.add(Restrictions.eq("description", "Tablet"));  
List<Product> results = crit.list()
```

- Next, we search for products that do *not* have the name “Tablet”.
- Use the ne() method on the Restrictions class to obtain a not-equal restriction

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
crit.add(Restrictions.ne("description", "Tablet"));  
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```

Not-Equal to Retrieve Records with NULL Value

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- You cannot use the not-equal restriction to retrieve records with a NULL value in the database for that property.
 - ▣ in SQL, and therefore in Hibernate,
 - NULL represents the absence of data
 - so cannot be compared with data).
- If you need to retrieve objects with NULL properties, you will have to use the `isNull()` restriction.
- You can combine the two with an OR logical expression.

like() and ilike() Methods

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- Instead of searching for exact matches, we can retrieve all objects that have a property matching part of a given pattern.
- To do this, we need to create a SQL LIKE clause, with either the `like()` or the `ilike()`.
- The `ilike()` method is case-insensitive.
- In either case, we have two different ways to call the method:
`public static SimpleExpression like(String propertyName, Object value)`
`public static SimpleExpression like(String propertyName, String value, MatchMode mode)`
- The first `like()` or `ilike()` method takes a pattern for matching.
- Use the `%` character as a wildcard to match parts of the string, like so:
`Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);`
`crit.add(Restrictions.like("name", "Tab%"));`
`List<Product> results = crit.list();`

org.hibernate.criterion.MatchMode object

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- The second like() or ilike() method uses an org.hibernate.criterion.MatchMode object to specify how to match the specified value to the stored data.
- The MatchMode object (a type-safe enumeration) has four different matches:
 - ▣ ANYWHERE: Anyplace in the string
 - ▣ END: The end of the string
 - ▣ EXACT: An exact match
 - ▣ START: The beginning of the string
- Here is an example that uses the ilike() method to search for case-insensitive matches at the end of the string:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
crit.add(Restrictions.ilike("description","ser", MatchMode.END));
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```

isNull() and isNotNull() restrictions

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- The isNull() and isNotNull() restrictions allow you to do a search for objects that have (or do not have) null property values.

- This is easy to demonstrate:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
crit.add(Restrictions.isNull("name"));  
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```

gt(), ge(), lt(), and le() restrictions

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- Several of the restrictions are useful for doing math comparisons.
 - ▣ The greater-than comparison is gt(),
 - ▣ the greater-than-or-equal-to comparison is ge(),
 - ▣ the less-than comparison is lt()
 - ▣ the less-than-or-equal-to comparison is le().
- We can do a quick retrieval of all products with prices over \$25 like this, relying on Java's type promotions to handle the conversion to Double:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
crit.add(Restrictions.gt("price", 25.0));
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```

AND and OR Restrictions

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- Moving on, we can start to do more complicated queries with the Criteria API.
- For example, we can combine AND and OR restrictions in logical expressions.
- When we add more than one constraint to a criteria query, it is interpreted as an **AND**:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
crit.add(Restrictions.lt("price", 10.0));  
crit.add(Restrictions.ilike("description", "mouse", MatchMode.ANYWHERE));  
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```
- If we want to have two restrictions that return objects that satisfy either or both of the restrictions, we need to use the `or()` method on the `Restrictions` class, as follows:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
Criterion priceLessThan = Restrictions.lt("price", 10.0);  
Criterion tablet = Restrictions.ilike("description", "tablet", MatchMode.ANYWHERE);  
LogicalExpression orExp = Restrictions.or(priceLessThan, tablet);  
crit.add(orExp);  
List<Product> results=crit.list();
```

orExp Logical Expression

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- The orExp logical expression that we have created here will be treated like any other criterion.
- We can therefore add another restriction to the criteria:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
Criterion price = Restrictions.gt("price",new Double(25.0));  
Criterion name = Restrictions.like("name","Mou%");  
LogicalExpression orExp = Restrictions.or(price,name);  
crit.add(orExp);  
crit.add(Restrictions.ilike("description","blocks%"));  
List results = crit.list();
```

OR expression with more than two different criteria

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- If we wanted to create an OR expression with more than two different criteria
 - for example, “price > 25.0 OR name like Tab% OR description not like blocks%” we would use an `org.hibernate.criterion.Disjunction` object to represent a disjunction.
- You can obtain this object from the `disjunction()` factory method on the `Restrictions` class.
- The disjunction is more convenient than building a tree of OR expressions in code.
- To represent an AND expression with more than two criteria, you can use the `conjunction()` method, although you can easily just add those to the `Criteria` object.
- The conjunction can be more convenient than building a tree of AND expressions in code.

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
Criterion priceLessThan = Restrictions.lt("price", 10.0);
Criterion mouse = Restrictions.ilike("description", "mouse", MatchMode.ANYWHERE);
Criterion browser = Restrictions.ilike("description", "browser", MatchMode.ANYWHERE);
Disjunction disjunction = Restrictions.disjunction();
disjunction.add(priceLessThan);
disjunction.add(mouse);
disjunction.add(browser);
crit.add(disjunction);
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```

sqlRestriction()

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- The last type of restriction is the SQL restriction `sqlRestriction()`.
- This restriction allows you to directly specify SQL in the Criteria API.
- It's useful if you need to use SQL clauses that Hibernate does not support through the Criteria API.
- Your application does not need to know the name of the table your class uses.
- Use `{alias}` to signify the class's table, as follows:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
crit.add(Restrictions.sqlRestriction("{alias}.description like 'Tab%'"));  
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```
- There are two other `sqlRestriction()` methods that permit you to pass JDBC parameters and values into the SQL statement.
- Use the standard JDBC parameter placeholder (?) in your SQL fragment.

Paging Through the Result Set

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- ❑ One common application pattern that criteria can address is pagination through the result set of a database query.
- ❑ When we say pagination, we mean an interface in which the user sees part of the result set at a time, with navigation to go forward and backward through the results.
- ❑ A simple pagination implementation might load the entire result set into memory for each navigation action, and would usually lead to terrible performance.
- ❑ If you are programming directly to the database, you will typically use proprietary database SQL or database cursors to support paging.
- ❑ Hibernate abstracts this away for you: behind the scenes, Hibernate uses the appropriate method for your database.

setFirstResult() and setMaxResults()

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- There are two methods on the Criteria interface for paging, just as there are for Query:
 - ▣ `setFirstResult()`
 - ▣ `setMaxResults()`
- The `setFirstResult()` method takes an integer that represents the first row in your result set, starting with row 0.
- You can tell Hibernate to retrieve a fixed number of objects with the `setMaxResults()` method.
- Using both of these together, we can construct a paging component in our web or Swing application.

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
crit.setFirstResult(1);  
crit.setMaxResults(20);  
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```

Obtaining a Unique Result

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- Sometimes you know you will return only zero or one object from a given query.
- This could be because you are calculating an aggregate (like COUNT) or because your restrictions naturally lead to a unique result—when selecting upon a property under a unique constraint, for example.
- You may also limit the results of any result set to just the first result, using the `setMaxResults()` method.
- In any of these circumstances, if you want obtain a single Object reference instead of a List, the `uniqueResult()` method on the Criteria object returns an object or null.
- If more than one result, the `uniqueResult()` method throws a `HibernateException`.
- The following short example demonstrates having a result set that would have included more than one result, except that it was limited with the `setMaxResults()` method:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
Criterion price = Restrictions.gt("price",new Double(25.0));
crit.setMaxResults(1);
Product product = (Product) crit.uniqueResult();
```

Sorting the Query's Results

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- ❑ Sorting the query's results works the same way with criteria as it would with HQL or SQL
- ❑ The Criteria API provides the [org.hibernate.criterion.Order](#) class to sort your result set in either ascending or descending order, according to one of your object's properties.
- ❑ Create an Order object with either of the two static factory methods on the Order class:
 - ❑ `asc()` for ascending
 - ❑ `desc()` for descending.
- ❑ Both methods take the name of the property as their only argument.
- ❑ After you create an Order, use the `addOrder()` method on the Criteria object.
- ❑ This example demonstrates how you would use the Order class:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
crit.add(Restrictions.gt("price",10.0));
crit.addOrder(Order.desc("price"));
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```
- ❑ You may add more than one Order object to the Criteria object.
- ❑ Hibernate will pass them through to the underlying SQL query.
- ❑ Your results will be sorted by the first order, then any identical matches within the first sort will be sorted by the second order, and so on.

Associations

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- ❑ To add a restriction on a class that is associated with your criteria's class, you will need to create another Criteria object.
- ❑ Pass the property name of the associated class to the `createCriteria()` method, and you will have another Criteria object.
- ❑ You can get the results from either Criteria object, although you should pick one style and be consistent for readability's sake.
- ❑ We find that getting the results from the top-level Criteria object (the one that takes a class as a parameter) makes it clear what type of object is expected in the results
- ❑ The association works when going from either one-to-many or from many-to-one.

one-to-many Associations

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- First, we will demonstrate how to use one-to-many associations to obtain suppliers who sell products with a price over \$25.
- Notice that we create a new Criteria object for the products property, add restrictions to the products' criteria we just created, and then obtain the results from the supplier Criteria object:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Supplier.class);  
Criteria prdCrit = crit.createCriteria("products");  
prdCrit.add(Restrictions.gt("price",25.0));  
List<Supplier> results = crit.list();
```

many-to-one Associations

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- Going the other way, we obtain all the products from the supplier MegaInc using many-to-one associations:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
Criteria suppCrit = crit.createCriteria("supplier");
suppCrit.add(Restrictions.eq("name","Hardware Are We"));
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```

- Although we can use either Criteria object to obtain the results, it makes a difference which criteria we use for ordering the results.

- In the following example, we are ordering the supplier results by the supplier names:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Supplier.class);
Criteria prdCrit = crit.createCriteria("products");
prdCrit.add(Restrictions.gt("price",25.0));
crit.addOrder(Order.desc("name"));
List<Supplier> results = prdCrit.list();
```

Sorting

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- If we wanted to sort the suppliers by the descending price of their products, we would use the following line of code.
- This code would have to replace the previous `addOrder()` call on the supplier Criteria object.

```
prdCrit.addOrder(Order.desc("price"));
```
- Although the products are not in the result set, SQL still allows you to order by those results.
- If you get mixed up about which Criteria object you are using and pass the wrong property name for the sort-by order, Hibernate will throw an exception

Distinct Results

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- If you would like to work with distinct results from a criteria query, Hibernate provides a result transformer for distinct entities,
 - ▣ `org.hibernate.transform.DistinctRootEntityResultTransformer`, which ensures that no duplicates will be in your query's result set.
- Rather than using `SELECT DISTINCT` with SQL, the distinct result transformer compares each of your results using their default `hashCode()` methods, and only adds those results with unique hash codes to your result set.
- This may or may not be the result you would expect from an otherwise equivalent SQL `DISTINCT` query, so be careful with this.
- An additional performance note: the comparison is done in Hibernate's Java code, not at the database, so non-unique results will still be transported across the network.

Projections and Aggregates

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- Instead of working with objects from the result set, you can treat the results from the result set as a set of rows and columns, also known as a *projection* of the data.
- This is similar to how you would use data from a SELECT query with JDBC.
 - ▣ Also, Hibernate supports properties, aggregate functions, and the GROUP BY clause.
- To use projections, get the `org.hibernate.criterion.Projection` object you need from the `org.hibernate.criterion.Projections` factory class.
- The Projections class is similar to the Restrictions class in that it provides several static factory methods for obtaining Projection instances.
- After you get a Projection object, add it to your Criteria object with the `setProjection()` method.
- When the Criteria object executes, the list contains object references that you can cast to the appropriate type.
- The row-counting functionality provides a simple example of applying projections.
- The code looks similar to the restrictions examples we discussed earlier:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
crit.setProjection(Projections.rowCount());
List<Long> results = crit.list();
```
- The results list will contain a Long that has the results of executing the COUNT SQL statement.

Other aggregate functions available through the Projections factory class

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- **avg(String propertyName)**
 - ▣ Gives the average of a property's value
- **count(String propertyName)**
 - ▣ Counts the number of times a property occurs
- **countDistinct(String propertyName)**
 - ▣ Counts the number of unique values the property contains
- **max(String propertyName)**
 - ▣ Calculates the maximum value of the property values
- **min(String propertyName)**
 - ▣ Calculates the minimum value of the property values
- **sum(String propertyName)**
 - ▣ Calculates the sum total of the property values

Applying More than one Projection

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- We can apply more than one projection to a given Criteria object.
- To add multiple projections, get a projection list from the `projectionList()` method on the `Projections` class.
- The `org.hibernate.criterion.ProjectionList` object has an `add()` method that takes a `Projection` object.
- You can pass the projections list to the `setProjection()` method on the `Criteria` object because `ProjectionList` implements the `Projection` interface.
- The following example demonstrates some of the aggregate functions, along with the projection list:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
ProjectionList projList = Projections.projectionList();
projList.add(Projections.max("price"));
projList.add(Projections.min("price"));
projList.add(Projections.avg("price"));
projList.add(Projections.countDistinct("description"));
crit.setProjection(projList);
List<Object[]> results = crit.list();
```

Multiple Aggregate Projections

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- When you execute multiple aggregate projections, you get a List with an Object array as the first element.
- The Object array contains all of your values, in order.
- For this projection, you'll have three Double references, and then a Long reference for the count.
- Another use of projections is to retrieve individual properties, rather than entities.
- For instance, we can retrieve just the name and description from our product table, instead of loading the entire object representation into memory.
- Use the `property()` method on the Projections class to create a Projection for a property.
- When you execute this form of query, the `list()` method returns a List of Object arrays.
- Each Object array contains the projected properties for that row.

Example

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- The following example returns just the contents of the name and description columns from the Product data.
- Remember, Hibernate is polymorphic, so this also returns the name and description from the Software objects that inherit from Product class used in the previous lecture.

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
ProjectionList projList = Projections.projectionList();  
projList.add(Projections.property("name"));  
projList.add(Projections.property("description"));  
crit.setProjection(projList);  
List<Object[]> results = crit.list();
```

Example to Group the Products by Name and Price:

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- Use this query style when you want to cut down on network traffic between your application servers and your database servers.
- For instance, if your table has a large number of columns, this can slim down your results.
- In other cases, you may have a large set of joins that would return a very wide result set, but you are only interested in a few columns.
- Lastly, if your clients have limited memory, this can save you trouble with large data sets.
- But make sure you don't have to retrieve additional columns for the entire result set later, or your optimizations may actually decrease performance.

- You can group your results (using SQL's GROUP BY clause) with the groupProperty projection. Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);

```
ProjectionList projList = Projections.projectionList();  
projList.add(Projections.groupProperty("name"));  
projList.add(Projections.groupProperty("price"));  
crit.setProjection(projList);  
crit.addOrder(Order.asc("price"));  
List<Object> results = crit.list();
```

Projections Benefits

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- As you can see, projections open up aggregates to the Criteria API, which means that developers do not have to drop into HQL for aggregates.
- Projections offer a way to work with data that is closer to the JDBC result set style, which may be appropriate for some parts of your application.

Query By Example (QBE)

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- Because of the confusing terminology, we will refer to excerpts from our demonstration code as “samples” rather than “examples,” reserving “example” for its peculiar technical meaning in the context of QBE.
- In QBE, instead of programmatically building a Criteria object with Criterion objects and logical expressions, you can partially populate an instance of the object.
- You use this instance as a template and have Hibernate build the criteria for you based upon its values.
- This keeps your code clean and makes your project easier to test.
- The `org.hibernate.criterion.Example` class contains the QBE functionality.
- Note that the Example class implements the Criterion interface, so you can use it like any other restriction on a criteria query.
- For instance, if we have a user database, we can construct an instance of a user object, set the property values for type and creation date, and then use the Criteria API to run a QBE query.
- Hibernate will return a result set containing all user objects that match the property values that were set.
- Behind the scenes, Hibernate inspects the Example object and constructs an SQL fragment that corresponds to the properties on the Example object.

Constructing an Example Object

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- To use QBE, we first need to construct an Example object.
- Then we need to create an instance of the Example object, using the static create() method on the Example class.
- The create() method takes the Example object as its argument.
- You add the Example object to a Criteria object just like any other Criterion object.

Example

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- The following basic example searches for suppliers that match the name on the example Supplier object:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Supplier.class);  
Supplier supplier = new Supplier();  
supplier.setName("MegaInc");  
crit.add(Example.create(supplier));  
List<Supplier> results = crit.list();
```
- When Hibernate translates our Example object into an SQL query, all the properties on our Example objects get examined.
- We can tell Hibernate which properties to ignore,
 - ▣ the default is to ignore null-valued properties.
- To search our products or software in the sample database with QBE, we need
 - either to specify a price
 - or to tell Hibernate to ignore properties with a value of zerobecause we used a double primitive for storage instead of a Double object.
- The double primitive initializes to zero, while a Double would have been null; and so, left to its own devices, the QBE logic will assume that we are specifically searching for prices of zero, whereas we want it to ignore this default value.

Excluding Zero-Valued Properties

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- We can make the Hibernate Example object exclude zero-valued properties with the `excludeZeroes()` method.
- We can exclude properties by name with the `excludeProperty()` method, or exclude nothing (compare for null values and zeroes exactly as they appear in the Example object) with the `excludeNone()` method.
- This sample applies the `excludeZeroes()` method to ignore the default zero prices:

```
Criteria crit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);  
Product exampleProduct = new Product();  
exampleProduct.setName("Mouse");  
Example example = Example.create(exampleProduct);  
example.excludeZeroes();  
crit.add(example);  
List<Product> results = crit.list();
```
- Other options on the Example object include
 - ▣ ignoring the case for strings with the `ignoreCase()` method
 - ▣ enabling use of SQL's LIKE for comparing strings, instead of just using `equals()`.

Associtaions in QBE

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- We can also use associations for QBE. In the following sample, we create two Example objects: one for the product and one for the supplier.
- We use the technique discussed previously in the “Associations” section to retrieve objects that match both criteria.

```
Criteria prdCrit = session.createCriteria(Product.class);
Product product = new Product();
product.setName("M%");
Example prdExample = Example.create(product);
prdExample.excludeProperty("price");
prdExample.enableLike();
Criteria suppCrit = prdCrit.createCriteria("supplier");
Supplier supplier = new Supplier();
supplier.setName("SuperCorp");
suppCrit.add(Example.create(supplier));
prdCrit.add(prdExample);
List<Product> results = prdCrit.list();
```

- We also ignore the price property for our product, and we use LIKE for object comparison, instead of equals.

QBE Uses

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- The QBE API works best for searches in which you are building the search from user input.
- The Hibernate team recommends using QBE for advanced searches with multiple fields because it's easier to set values on business objects than to manipulate restrictions with the Criteria API.

JPA2 and the Type-safe Criteria API

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- In addition to the Hibernate Criteria API described in this lecture, Hibernate 4.2 and later includes a new type-safe Criteria API based on the JPA2 standard.
- The advantage of this new API is that if you use it, you will not have any errors related to typos in the Criteria restrictions, such as “prduct”.
- Rather than relying on strings in Criteria, there is a new metamodel class for each JPA entity.
- You would use the references to properties in these metamodel classes in your criteria restrictions, but you would use the `javax.persistence` criteria classes.
- Hibernate can generate the metamodel classes for you from the annotations in your existing classes.

JPA2 Type-Safe Criteria doesn't Replace the Hibernate Criteria API

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- Both criteria APIs will accomplish the same thing for building a query.
- Using the JPA2 Criteria API is similar to the Hibernate Criteria API, but references to fields as strings are replaced with references to fields on generated metamodel classes.
- The Metamodel Generator is a Java 6 annotation processor, so your existing build tools should automatically create the generated metamodel classes.
- Depending on how you have your source repository and project layout arranged, you will have to decide where to put the generated classes.