

Spring boot - Part9 (Role based Authorization - Annotations)

Tuesday, 22 April 2025 5:25 PM

Role based Authorization - (Annotation)

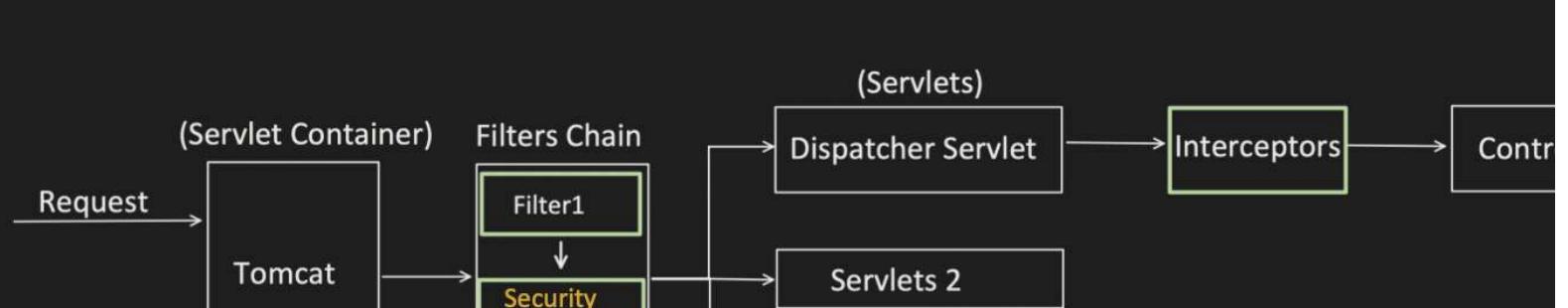
- We have already covered different type of Authentications.
- And with that, we have also covered, how at Security Filter layer itself we can do authori

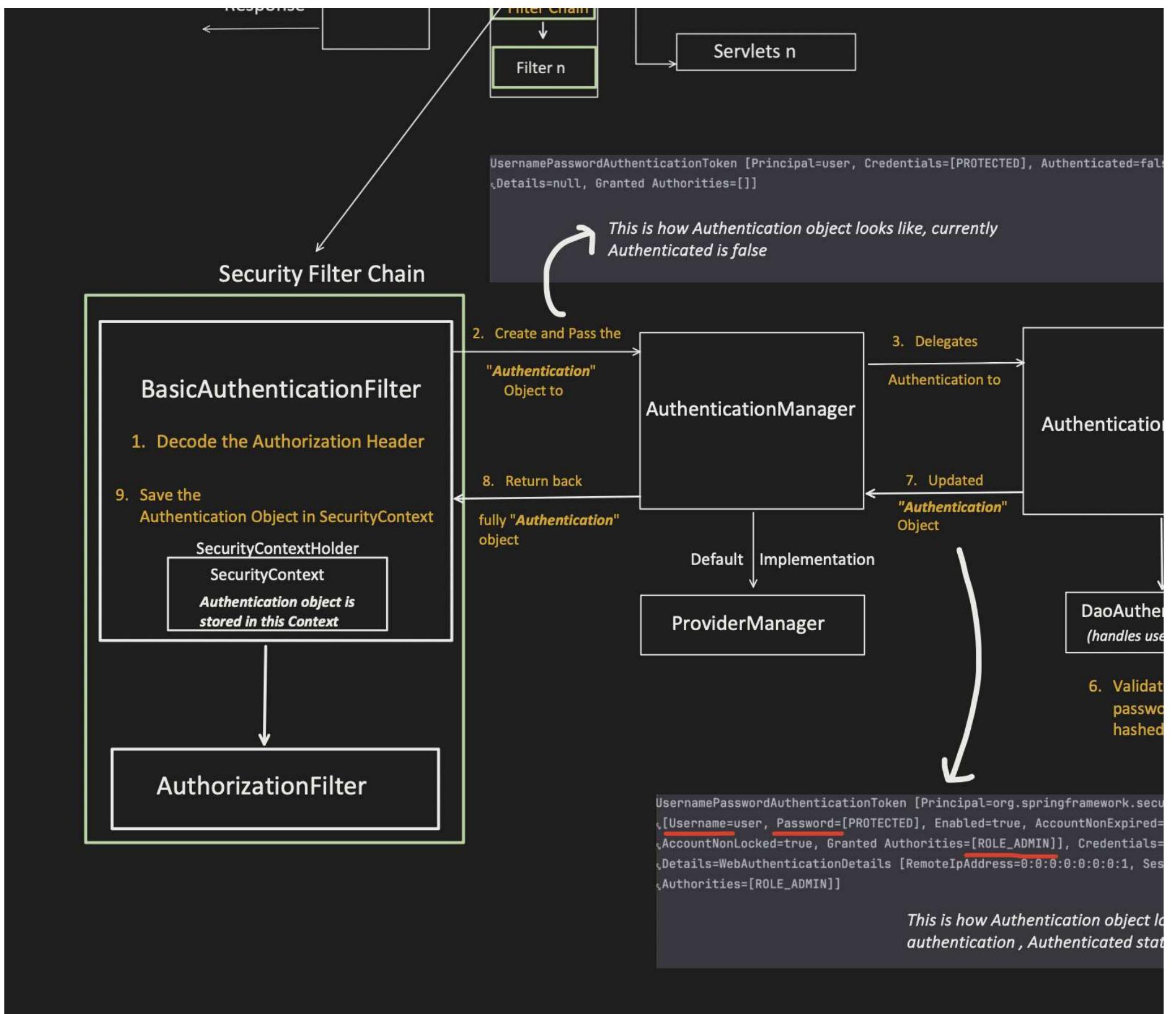
```
@Configuration
@EnableWebSecurity
public class SecurityConfig {

    @Bean
    public SecurityFilterChain securityFilterChain(HttpSecurity http) {
        http
            .authorizeHttpRequests(auth -> auth
                .requestMatchers( ...patterns: "/users" ).hasRole("User")
                .anyRequest().authenticated()
            )
            .formLogin(Customizer.withDefaults());
        return http.build();
    }
}
```

- But in large scale applications, where we might have 100s of APIs, in that scenarios it become difficult and cause scalable issue.

That's where, Annotation based "Role Based Authorization" comes into the picture. A Controller class.





Annotations for "Role Based Authorization"

@PreAuthorize

Does Authorization, before execution of the API.

Lets create User First (Dynamic one)

We have already seen its implementation in



```

@Entity
@Table(name = "user_login")
public class UserLoginEntity implements UserDetails {

    @Id
    @GeneratedValue(strategy = GenerationType.IDENTITY)
    private Long id;

    @Column(unique = true, nullable = false)
    private String username;

    @Column(nullable = false)
    private String password;

    private String role; // e.g., {"ROLE_USER" or "ROLE_ADMIN"}

    @OneToMany(cascade = CascadeType.ALL, fetch = FetchType.EAGER)
    private List<UserPermissionEntity> permissions = new ArrayList<>();

    @Override
    public Collection<? extends GrantedAuthority> getAuthorities() {
        Set<GrantedAuthority> authorities = new HashSet<>();
        authorities.add(new SimpleGrantedAuthority(role));
        permissions.forEach(permission ->
            authorities.add(permission.getAuthority()));
        return authorities;
    }
}

```

```

    authorities.add(new SimpleGrantedAuthority(permission.getName()));

    return authorities;
}

@Override
public String getPassword() {
    return password;
}

@Override
public String getUsername() {
    return username;
}

```

```

@RestController
public class UserLoginController {

    @Autowired
    UserLoginEntityService userLoginEntityService;

    @Autowired
    PasswordEncoder passwordEncoder;

    @PostMapping("/user-login")
    public ResponseEntity<String> login(@RequestBody UserLoginEntity userLoginEntity) {
        // Hash the password before saving
        userLoginEntity.setPassword(passwordEncoder.encode(userLoginEntity.getPassword()));

        userLoginEntityService.save(userLoginEntity);

        return ResponseEntity.ok( body: "User registered successfully!");
    }
}

```

Now, we should be able to create user, and in this one User can have 1 role like ROLE_AI
But we can give many permissions like ORDER_READ, SALES_DELETE etc.... (more granular)

Params Authorization Headers (9) Body Scripts S

none form-data x-www-form-urlencoded raw

```
1  {
2    "username": "sj",
3    "password": "123",
4    "role": "ROLE_USER",
5    "permissions": [
6      {
7        "name" : "ORDER_READ"
8      }
9    ]
10 }
```

Now, User Creation part is done, lets update our Security C

```
@Configuration
@EnableWebSecurity
@EnableMethodSecurity(prePostEnabled = true)
public class SecurityConfig{

    @Bean
    public PasswordEncoder passwordEncoder(){
        return new BCryptPasswordEncoder();
    }

    @Bean
    public SecurityFilterChain securityFilterChain(HttpSecurity http){

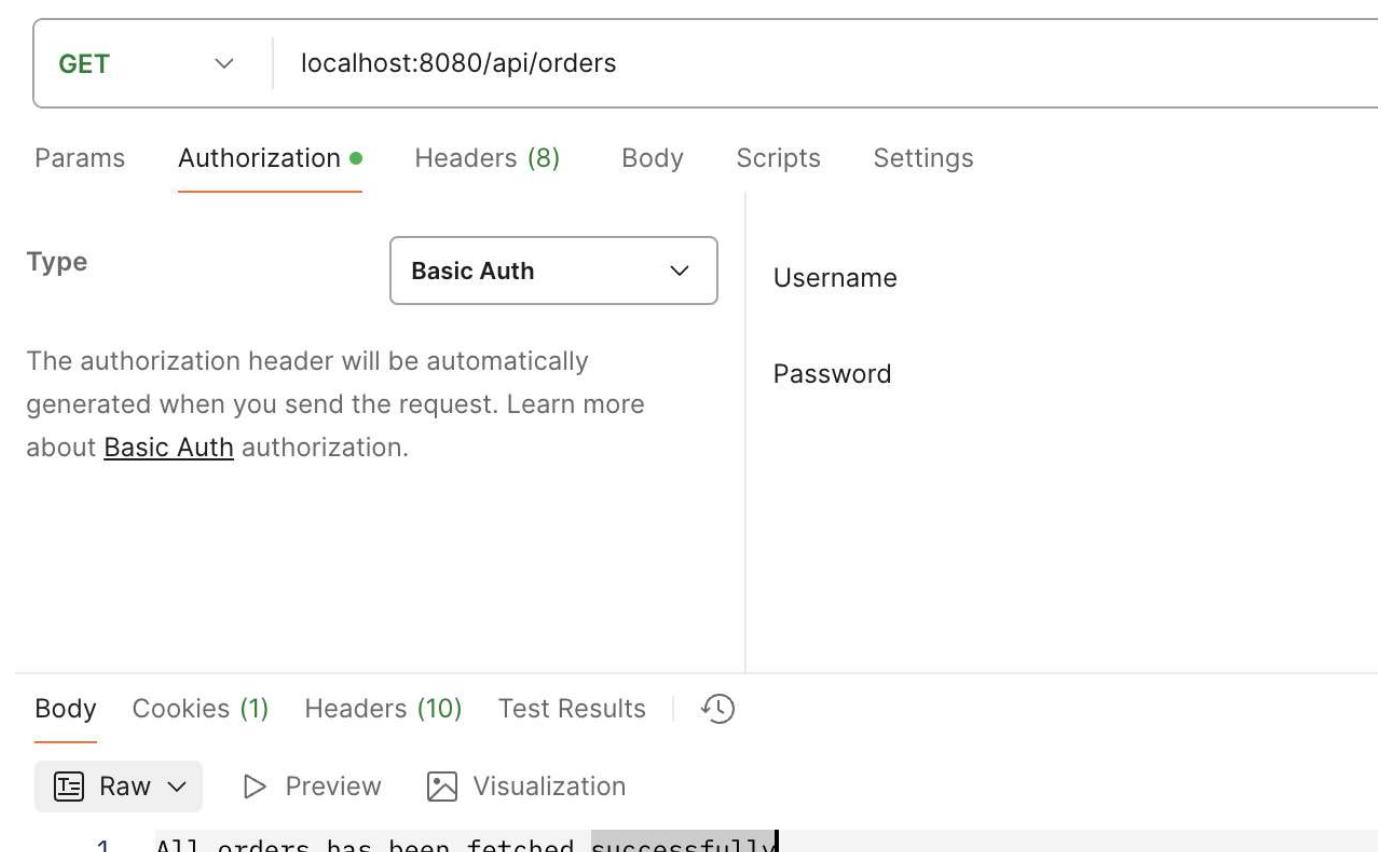
        http.authorizeHttpRequests(auth -> auth
            .requestMatchers( ...patterns: "/user-loc")
            .anyRequest().authenticated()
            .sessionManagement(session -> session
                .sessionCreationPolicy(SessionCreationPolicy.STATELESS))
            .csrf(csrf -> csrf.disable())
            .httpBasic(Customizer.withDefaults()));
    }
}
```

```
        return http.build();  
    }  
}
```

Now, lets create 2 Controller class, one for ORDER and another f

```
@RestController  
@RequestMapping("/api")  
public class OrderController {  
  
    @GetMapping("/orders")  
    @PreAuthorize("hasRole('USER') and hasAuthority('ORDER_READ')")  
    public ResponseEntity<String> readOrders() {  
        return ResponseEntity.ok( body: "All orders has been fetched successfully");  
    }  
}
```

Above we have created user, who has both the permissions ROLE_USER and successfully executed.



The screenshot shows a REST client interface with the following details:

- Method: GET
- URL: localhost:8080/api/orders
- Authorization tab selected, Type: Basic Auth
- Body tab selected, showing the response: "All orders has been fetched successfully"
- Headers tab: (8)
- Cookies tab: (1)
- Test Results tab: (10)
- Raw tab selected, showing the response body: "All orders has been fetched successfully"
- Preview tab: (1) All orders has been fetched successfully
- Visualization tab: (1) All orders has been fetched successfully

Now, when we try to access /sales API, which above user do not have permission.

GET localhost:8080/api/sales

Params Authorization Headers (8) Body Scripts Settings

Type Basic Auth Username sj

The authorization header will be automatically generated when you send the request. Learn more about [Basic Auth](#) authorization.

Username sj

Password 123

Body Cookies (1) Headers (11) Test Results

{ } JSON ▾ Preview Visualization

```

1 {
2   "timestamp": "2025-04-24T05:57:42.823+00:00",
3   "status": 403,
4   "error": "Forbidden",
5   "path": "/api/sales"
6 }
```

`@PreAuthorize("hasRole('USER') and hasAuthority('MANAGE'))")`

Spring Boot, treat both "hasRole" and "hasAuthority" in a similar way, only difference is how they are used.

For "hasRole" : "ROLE_" is appended

SecurityExpressionRoot.java

```
private String defaultRolePrefix = "ROLE_";
```

```
@Override
```

```
public final boolean hasAuthority(String authority) {
```

```

public final boolean hasAuthority(String authority) {
    return hasAnyAuthority(authority);
}

@Override
public final boolean hasAnyAuthority(String... authorities) {
    return hasAnyAuthorityName( prefix: null, authorities);
}

@Override
public final boolean hasRole(String role) {
    return hasAnyRole(role);
}

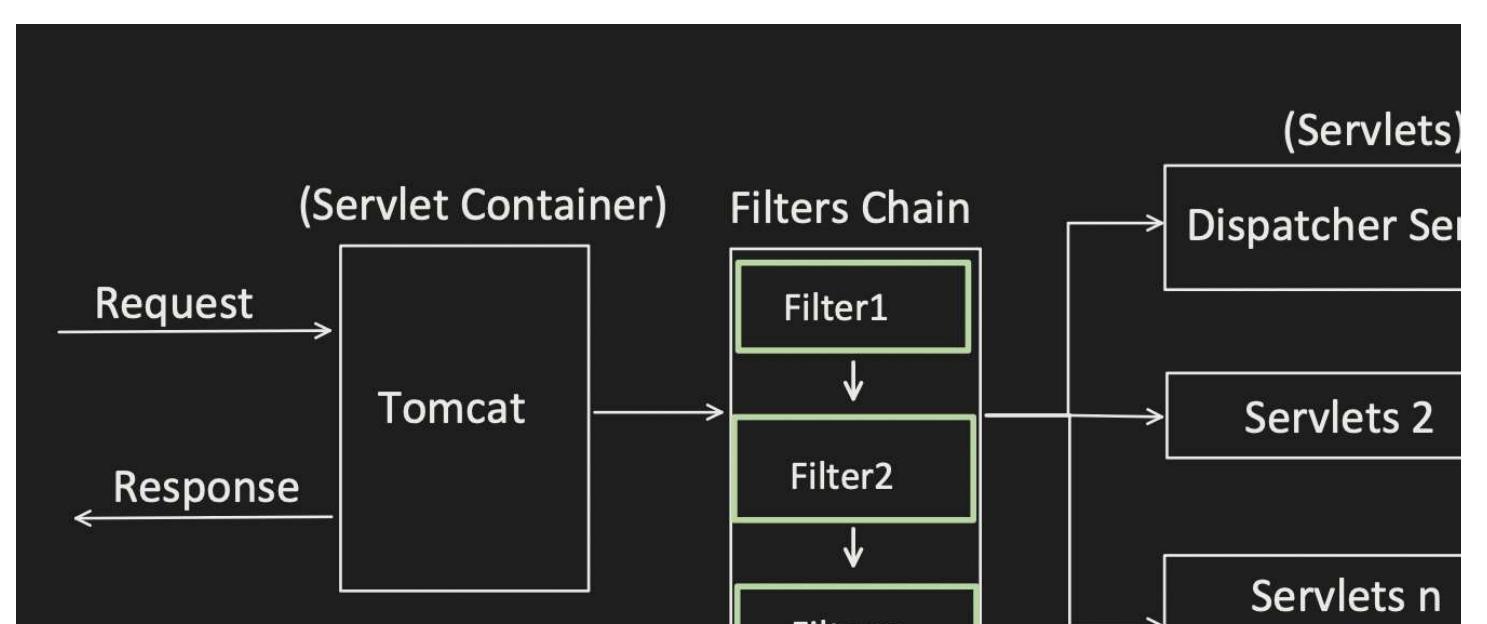
@Override
public final boolean hasAnyRole(String... roles) {
    return hasAnyAuthorityName(this.defaultRolePrefix, roles);
}

private boolean hasAnyAuthorityName(String prefix, String... roles) {
    Set<String> roleSet = getAuthoritySet();
    for (String role : roles) {
        String defaultedRole = getRoleWithDefaultPrefix(prefix, role);
        if (roleSet.contains(defaultedRole)) {
            return true;
        }
    }
    return false;
}

```

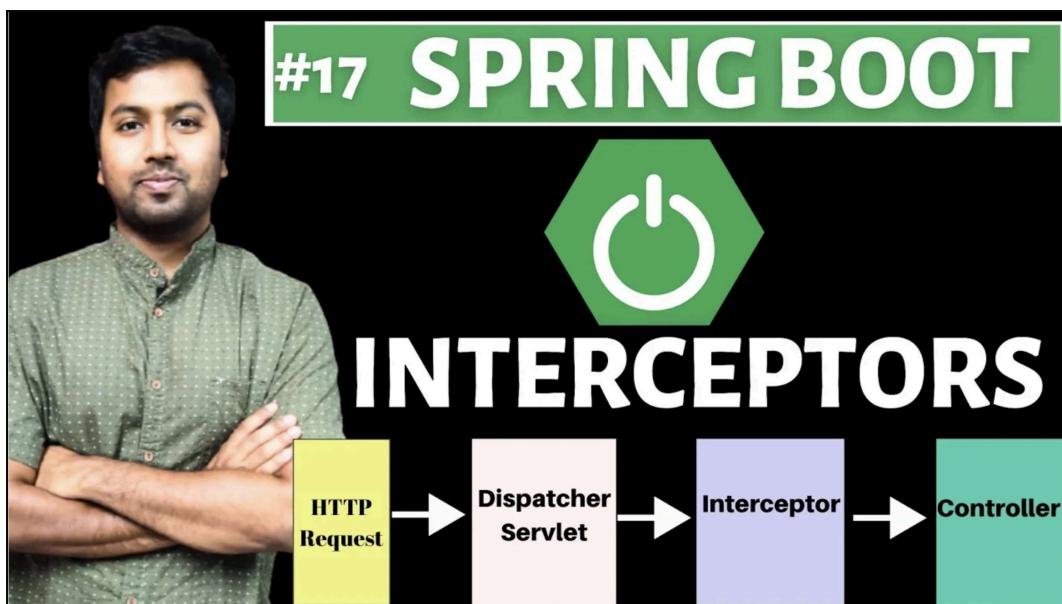
Now, one question comes to mind is, how this Authorization methods invoke Controller method.

Its because of INTERCEPTORS



@PreAuthorize Annotation is intercepted by **AuthorizationManagerBeforeMethod**

What and how Interceptors works and how they are different from filters?
We have already covered both the topics in depth.

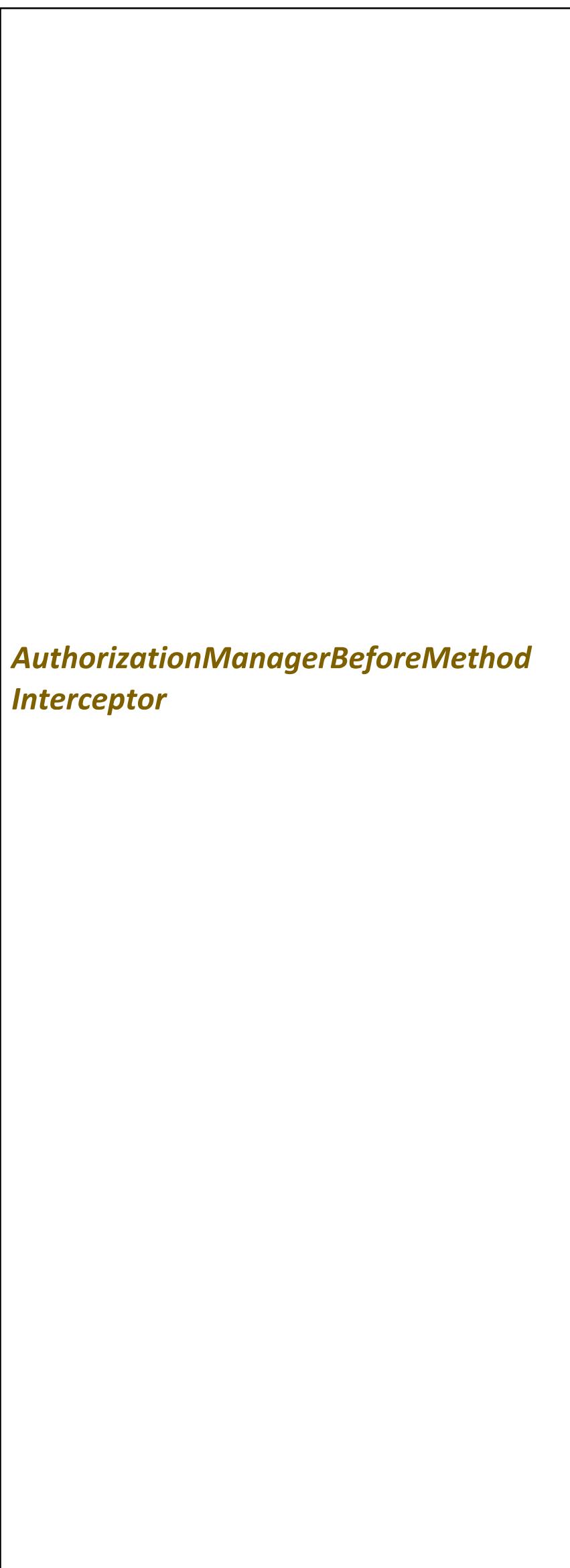


@PreAuthorize("hasRole('USER') and hasAuthority('ORDER'))")

This expression uses SpEL (i.e. Spring Expressions Language).

Spring framework has *SpelExpressionParser* class, which helps in parsing the SpEL expression.

Below is the high level flow of the process:



1. Reads String from `@PreAuthroize` annotation → `@PreA`
2. Parse it using `SpelExpressionParser` → **Conve
Synta**
3. Resolves the above Expression → **• Ref
Wh**

```

@Override
public TypedValue getValueInternal(Expression e) {
    if (!getBooleanValue(state, getLeftOperand(e))) {
        // no need to evaluate right operand
        return BooleanTypedValue.FALSE;
    }
    return BooleanTypedValue.valueOf(getBooleanValue(state, getRightOperand(e)));
}
  
```

4. Validat or not

More Logical Operator

Operator	Description	
and	Logical AND	hasRole('AD')
or	Logical OR	hasRole('A')
not	Logical NOT	r
!	Also logical NOT	!h

Relational Operators

Operator	Description	
==	Equal	
!=	Not equal	
<	Less than	
>	Greater than	
<=	Less than or equal	
>=	Greater than or equal	

```
@PreAuthorize("#id == authentication.principal.id")
@GetMapping("/users/{id}")
public User fetchUserDetails(@PathVariable Long id) {
    return userServiceObject.fetchUserDetails(id);
}
```



@PostAuthorize

- Does Authorization after execution of the API but before sending the response.
- `AuthorizationManagerAfterMethodInterceptor`, is the one which handles this annotation.

Let's see with an example

Created 2 Users

The screenshot shows two separate POST requests in the Postman interface, both targeting `localhost:8080/user-login`.

Request 1 (Left):

- Method: POST
- URL: `localhost:8080/user-login`
- Body (raw JSON):

```

1 {
2   "username": "a_user",
3   "password": "123",
4   "role": "ROLE_USER",
5   "permissions": [
6     {
7       "name" : "ORDER_READ"
8     }
9   ]
10 }
11
12
13

```

- Response: `User registered successfully!`

Request 2 (Right):

- Method: POST
- URL: `localhost:8080/user-login`
- Body (raw JSON):

```

1 {
2   "username": "user2",
3   "password": "123",
4   "role": "ROLE_USER",
5   "permissions": [
6     {
7       "name" : "ORDER_READ"
8     }
9   ]
10 }
11
12
13

```

- Response: `User registered`

`SELECT * FROM USER_LOGIN`

`SELECT * FROM USER_LOGIN;`

ID	PASSWORD
1	\$2a\$10\$oLOsKKtsbEsC63.MmGuNbO2CYqN8kvcCZW8/fwMvBB0p6mtKnQZ5u
2	\$2a\$10\$Eb/CtISeC0uUpTd09iyTUOcXDjdKTNiX.9C6CjZj2zZ9L2OI0YW.m

(2 rows, 6 ms)

```

@RestController
@RequestMapping("/api")
public class OrderController {

    @GetMapping("/orders")
    @PreAuthorize("hasRole('USER') and hasAuthority('READ_ORDER')")
    @PostAuthorize("returnObject.userID == authentication.getName()")
    public List<Order> getAllOrders() {
        return orderRepository.findAll();
    }
}

```

```

public OrderDTO readOrders() {
    OrderDTO orderDTO = new OrderDTO();
    orderDTO.userID = 1l; //hardcoding for now
    orderDTO.orderID = 10000l;
    return orderDTO;
}

```

Now, try to invoke this api with "b_users" credentials

GET | localhost:8080/api/orders

Params | Authorization | Headers (8) | Body | Scripts | Settings

Type: Basic Auth

The authorization header will be automatically generated when you send the request. Learn more about [Basic Auth](#) authorization.

Username: b
Password: 1

Body | Cookies (1) | Headers (10) | Test Results | ⚙️

{ } JSON ▾ | Preview | Visualization

```

1  {
2   "timestamp": "2025-04-24T10:31:41.797+00:00",
3   "status": 403,
4   "error": "Forbidden",
5   "path": "/api/orders"
6 }

```

Now, try to invoke this api with "a_users" credentials:

GET | localhost:8080/api/orders

Params | Authorization | Headers (8) | Body | Scripts | Settings

Type: Basic Auth

The authorization header will be automatically generated when you send the request. Learn more about [Basic Auth](#) authorization.

Username: a
Password: 1

[Body](#) [Cookies \(1\)](#) [Headers \(10\)](#) [Test Results](#) | [{ } JSON](#) Preview Visualization

```
1 {  
2   "userID": 1,  
3   "orderID": 10000  
4 }
```