

XML static code analysis: "action" mappings should not have too many "forward" entries

2 minutes

It makes sense to handle all related actions in the same place. Thus, the same `<action>` might logically handle all facets of CRUD on an entity, with no confusion in the naming about which `<forward/>` handles which facet. But go very far beyond that, and it becomes difficult to maintain a transparent naming convention.

So to ease maintenance, this rule raises an issue when an `<action>` has more than the allowed number of `<forward/>` tags.

Noncompliant Code Example

With the default threshold of 4:

```
<action path='/book' type='myapp.BookDispatchAction'
name='form' parameter='method'>
  <forward name='create' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookCreate.jspx'
redirect='false'/>
  <forward name='read' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookDetails'
redirect='false'/>
  <forward name='update' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookUpdate.jspx'
redirect='false'/>
```

```
<forward name='delete' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookDelete.jspx'  
redirect='false'/>  
<forward name='authorRead' path='/WEB-INF/jsp  
/AuthorDetails' redirect='false'/> <!-- Noncompliant -->  
</action>
```

Compliant Solution

```
<action path='/book' type='myapp.BookDispatchAction'  
name='bookForm' parameter='method'>  
  <forward name='create' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookCreate.jspx'  
redirect='false'/>  
  <forward name='read' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookDetails'  
redirect='false'/>  
  <forward name='update' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookUpdate.jspx'  
redirect='false'/>  
  <forward name='delete' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookDelete.jspx'  
redirect='false'/>  
</action>
```

```
<action path='/author' type='myapp.AuthorDispatchAction'  
name='authorForm' parameter='method'>  
  <forward name='authorRead' path='/WEB-INF/jsp  
/AuthorDetails' redirect='false'/>  
</action>
```