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='oroate' path='/WEB_INE/isp/BookCroate'

<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'</pre>
redirect='false'/>
 <forward name='read' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookDetails'</pre>
redirect='false'/>
 <forward name='update' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookUpdate.jspx'</pre>
redirect='false'/>
 <forward name='delete' path='/WEB-INF/jsp/BookDelete.jspx'</pre>
redirect='false'/>
</action>
<action path='/author' type='myapp.AuthorDispatchAction'
name='authorForm' parameter='method'>
 <forward name='authorRead' path='WEB-INF/jsp</pre>
/AuthorDetails' redirect='false'/>
</action>
```