Java SE 8: Creating a Web App with Bootstrap and Tomcat Embedded

https://www.oracle.com/webfolder/technetwork/tutorials/obe/java/basic_app_embedded_tomcat/basic_app-tomcat-embedded.html#section6

Before You Begin

Purpose

This tutorial shows how to develop a simple Web application standalone using Servlets, JSPs, Bootstrap and Tomcat Embedded.

Time to Complete

45 minutes

Background

A web application is a software program that runs on a web server, usually they are packaged in a WAR file and deployed in a server container like Tomcat, JBOSS or GlassFish. However embedded servers provide an interesting alternative. Instead of deploying your app in a server, the server is embedded inside your application The result is a standalone application packaged in a jar file and that could be executed from a command line.

A web application is usually divided in two parts: front-end development and back-end development. The back-end, often called the server-side, defines how the site works and is responsible for things like calculations, business logic, database interactions, and performance. Front-end development refers to the part of the application web users interact with. It is usually a mixture of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, controlled by the browser.

Most of the web projects in modern times utilize some kind of standard framework to make the web development process faster, easier and more standards compliant. Currently Bootstrap is the most popular and widely used framework for creating web applications.

Bootstrap is a front-end framework that contains a collection of tools designed to allow developers to quickly create web applications. It includes HTML and CSS based design templates for common user interface components like forms, typography, buttons, navigations, tables, tabs, dropdowns, alerts, modals, accordion, carousel and many other optional JavaScript extensions.

Bootstrap is very easy to use and it's compatible with all modern browsers such as Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, and Opera.

Scenario

You will build a simple Java web application of employees that implements the CRUD operations using Bootstrap to add UI styles, Tomcat as embedded server and Maven to compile and package the dependencies needed to run the web application standalone.

What Do You Need?

- Java Development Kit 8 (JDK8)
- Maven 3.0+

- Bootstrap v3.3.4
- A favorite text editor or IDE.

Install JDK8 and Maven following the instructions provided with the downloads.

Creating a new Maven project

In this section, you create a basic Maven project from an archetype.

The first time you execute any Maven command, Maven will need to download all the plugins and related dependencies to fulfill the command. From a clean installation of Maven, this can take quite a while based on the internet connection. If you create other project, Maven will now have what it needs, so it won't need to download anything new and will be able to execute the command much more quickly.

- 1. Open a command line window (or Terminal in Linux).
- 2. Navigate to the directory where the new project should reside.
- 3. Execute the following Maven command:

```
mvn archetype:generate -DarchetypeArtifactId=maven-archetype-webapp -Darchety
peGroupId=org.apache.maven.archetypes -DinteractiveMode=false -DgroupId=com.e
xample.employees -DartifactId=employees-app -DarchetypeVersion=1.0
```

You may observe some warnings during the project creation, please ignore them since they will not affect the correct execution of the command.

This command creates a standard Maven structure, once it is finished, you should see the new employees-app project directory created in your current location.

You can change the groupId and/or artifactId of this command for your particular project.

This project can be opened in Netbeans (File -> Open project) or in Eclipse (File -> Import -> Maven-> Existing Maven Project) but Maven must be configured in the IDE. Make sure the IDE version supports java 8. Version 7.4 (or later) of NetBeans includes support for JDK 8.

Configuring the pom.xml

Java web applications require a web container, such as Tomcat, to run on. Installing and configuring a web container on each development machine can be time consuming. Furthermore, other developers need to manage the dependencies manually if they want to run the web application.

Maven has a Tomcat plugin that allows us to run an embedded tomcat instance without the need of installing a local tomcat server.

This section configures the dependencies required to run Tomcat in an embedded mode and the plugins to compile and package the project in single uber-jar.

Adding Maven dependencies

- 1. Open the pom.xml located in the project root directory.
- 2. Add the following dependencies in the <dependencies> tags:

```
cproperties>
   <tomcat.version>7.0.57</tomcat.version>
</properties>
<dependencies>
   <dependency>
       <groupId>org.apache.tomcat.embed</groupId>
       <artifactId>tomcat-embed-core</artifactId>
       <version>${tomcat.version}</version>
   </dependency>
   <dependency>
       <groupId>org.apache.tomcat.embed
       <artifactId>tomcat-embed-logging-juli</artifactId>
       <version>${tomcat.version}</version>
   </dependency>
   <dependency>
       <groupId>org.apache.tomcat.embed</groupId>
       <artifactId>tomcat-embed-jasper</artifactId>
       <version>${tomcat.version}
   </dependency>
   <dependency>
       <groupId>org.apache.tomcat</groupId>
       <artifactId>tomcat-jasper</artifactId>
       <version>${tomcat.version}</version>
   </dependency>
   <dependency>
       <groupId>org.apache.tomcat</groupId>
       <artifactId>tomcat-jasper-el</artifactId>
       <version>${tomcat.version}</version>
   </dependency>
   <dependency>
       <groupId>org.apache.tomcat</groupId>
       <artifactId>tomcat-jsp-api</artifactId>
       <version>${tomcat.version}
```

JSTL (JSP Standard Tag Library) is a JSP based standard tag library which offers a collection of tags to control the flow in the JSP page, date/number formatting and internationalization facilities and several utility EL functions.

Adding build plugins

In the plugins section the following are configured:

- The Maven Compiler Plugin (maven-compiler-plugin) used to compile the sources of the project.
- The Maven Assembly Plugin (**maven-assembly-plugin**) allows users to aggregate the project output along with its dependencies, modules, site documentation, and other files into a single distributable archive..
- Build plugins will be executed during the build and they should be configured in the <build/> element from the POM.
- 1. Copy and paste the following code into the pom.xml:

```
<build>
<finalName>employees-app</finalName>
<fresources>

<fresource>

<directory>src/main/webapp</directory>
<targetPath>META-INF/resources</targetPath>

</resource>

</resources>
</plugins>

<groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
<artifactId>maven-compiler-plugin</artifactId>
<version>2.3.2</version>
<inherited>true</inherited>
<configuration>
```

```
<source>1.8</source>
              <target>1.8</target>
          </configuration>
      </plugin>
      <plugin>
          <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins
          <artifactId>maven-assembly-plugin</artifactId>
          <configuration>
              <descriptorRefs>
                  <descriptorRef>jar-with-dependencies</descriptorRef>
              </descriptorRefs>
              <finalName>employees-app-${project.version}</finalName>
              <archive>
                  <manifest>
                      <mainClass>com.example.employees.Main</mainClass>
                  </manifest>
              </archive>
          </configuration>
          <executions>
              <execution>
                  <phase>package</phase>
                  <goals>
                      <goal>single</goal>
                  </goals>
              </execution>
          </executions>
     </plugin>
 </plugins>
</build>
```

Usually Maven ignores all but .java files in src/main/java when tasks are executed such as compile and package. The <resource> tag is used to include the jsp, css, js and fonts files in the jar like resources.

Download pom.xml

Creating an Employee Class Model

To model the Employee representation, create a plain old java class with fields, constructors, and accessors for the fields.

- 1. Create the package <code>java.com.example.employees</code> in the **main** directory.
- 2. Create the Employee.java class.

Employee.java - Fragment

```
public class Employee {
   private long id;
   private String name;
   private String lastName;
   private String birthDate;
   private String role;
   private String department;
   private String email;
   private static final AtomicLong counter = new AtomicLong(100);
   public Employee (String name, String lastName, String birthDate, String r
ole, String department, String email, long id) {
        this.name = name;
        this.lastName = lastName;
        this.birthDate = birthDate;
       this.role = role;
        this.department = department;
        this.email = email;
        this.id = id;
    }
    public Employee (String name, String lastName, String birthDate, String r
ole, String department, String email) {
        this.name = name;
        this.lastName = lastName;
        this.birthDate = birthDate;
        this.role = role;
        this.department = department;
```

```
this.email = email;
this.id = counter.incrementAndGet();
}
```

This class contains two constructors one that receives all the fields as parameters and the other without the id field. The reason for two constructors is that the second one creates a new Id for the employee. This constructor will used when we want to create a new Employee.

Download Employee.java

Because this is a simple example, this tutorial does not use a database to store Employee objects. Instead, you will use an ArrayList, and store the Employee objects in memory.

EmployeeList.java

```
package com.example.employees;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.List;
public class EmployeeList {
    private static final List<Employee> employeeList = new ArrayList();
    private EmployeeList(){
    static{
        employeeList.add(new Employee("John", "Smith", "12-12-1980", "Manager",
"Sales", "john.smith@abc.com"));
        employeeList.add(new Employee("Laura", "Adams", "02-11-1979", "Manager"
,"IT","laura.adams@abc.com"));
        employeeList.add(new Employee("Peter", "Williams", "22-10-1966", "Coord
inator","HR","peter.williams@abc.com"));
        employeeList.add(new Employee("Joana", "Sanders", "11-11-1976", "Manage
r", "Marketing", "joana.sanders@abc.com"));
        employeeList.add(new Employee("John", "Drake", "18-08-1988", "Coordinat
or", "Finance", "john.drake@abc.com"));
        employeeList.add(new Employee("Samuel","Williams","22-03-1985","Coor
dinator", "Finance", "samuel.williams@abc.com"));
```

```
public static List <Employee> getInstance() {
    return employeeList;
}
```

Six employees are added to the list in order to have some data to retrieve for testing purposes.

Download EmployeeList.java

Building a Search Page

In this section, you create a user interface to search the employees that match the name or last name.

1. Create the EmployeeService.java class in the com.example.employees package.

EmployeeService.java - Fragment

```
List<Employee> employeeList = EmployeeList.getInstance();
    //Get all employees.
    public List<Employee> getAllEmployees() {
        return employeeList;
    //Get all employees whose Name or Last Name match the searchParam, orde
r by name and last name.
    public List<Employee> searchEmployeesByName(String searchParam) {
        Comparator<Employee> groupByComparator = Comparator.comparing(Emplo
yee::qetName)
                                                     .thenComparing(Employee
::getLastName);
        List<Employee> result = employeeList
                .stream()
                .filter(e -> e.getName().equalsIgnoreCase(searchParam) || e
.getLastName().equalsIgnoreCase(searchParam))
                .sorted(groupByComparator)
                .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

This class contains an instance of EmployeeList and three methods to retrieve the employees using Lambda expressions.

Download EmployeeService.java

1. Create the EmployeeServlet.java class in the java.com.example.employees package.

The @WebServlet annotation is used to declare a servlet instead of using XML in the web deployment descriptor (web.xml). The annotation is processed by the container at deployment time.

2. Override the doGetmethod.

EmployeeServlet.java - Fragment

```
@Override

protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req, HttpServletResponse resp)

throws ServletException, IOException {

   String action = req.getParameter("searchAction");

   if (action!=null) {

       switch (action) {
```

```
case "searchById":
    searchEmployeeById(req, resp);
    break;

case "searchByName":
    searchEmployeeByName(req, resp);
    break;
}

letse{

List<Employee> result = employeeService.getAllEmployees();
    forwardListEmployees(req, resp, result);
}
```

The doGet is used to process the HTTP GET request. In this case is implemented to process three kinds of searches: by Id, by Name and by default the complete list of employees.

The searchAction parameter is used to determine what kind of search it will be executed.

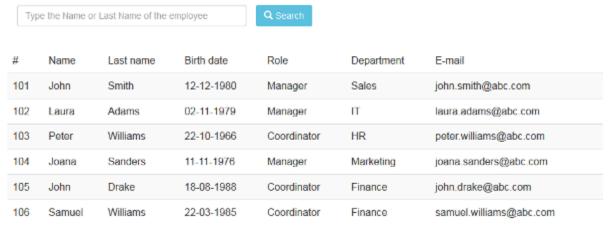
The forwardListEmployees method is a helper method to dispatch the employee list to listemployees.jsp. It is in a separate method because the code is re-used in other operations.

Download EmployeeServlet.java

Creating the user interface

The purpose of this section is to build a User Interface to search employees by name or last name and show the results that match in a table. In the next sections other operations will be added. Bootstrap is used to add some styles.

Employees



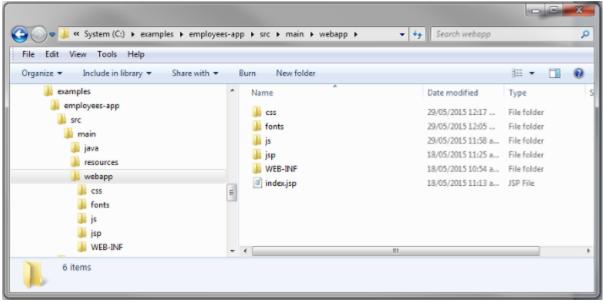
Description of this image

There are two ways to start using Bootstrap on your own web site:

- Downloading Bootstrap from getbootstrap.com.
- Including Bootstrap from a CDN (Content Delivery Network).

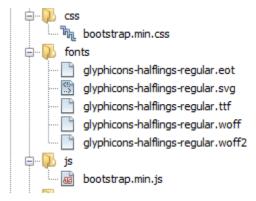
For this tutorial we are going to download the precompiled and minified versions of Bootstrap CSS, JavaScript and fonts from getbootstrap.com and add them into our project.

1. Copy the directories **js**, **fonts** and **css** from the Bootstrap zip to the **webapp** folder.



Description of this image

2. Delete the non-minified versions of the CSS and JS files.



Description of this image

The minified files are a compressed version of the css and js which means they be downloaded faster.

- 3. Create the list-employees.jsp in a new folder named **jsp** under **webapp** folder.
- 4. Add the bootstrap.min.js and bootstrap.min.css files to the jsp.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="../css/bootstrap.min.css">
<script src="../js/bootstrap.min.js"></script>
```

5. Add the tag lib for jstl support.

```
<%@ taglib uri="http://java.sun.com/jsp/jstl/core" prefix="c" %>
```

6. Add the Search form.

list-employees.jsp - Fragment

```
<div class="container">
  <h2>Employees</h2>
  <!--Search Form -->
  <form action="/employee" method="get" id="seachEmployeeForm" role="form"</pre>
    <input type="hidden" id="searchAction" name="searchAction" value="searc</pre>
hByName"/>
    <div class="form-group col-xs-5">
        <input type="text" name="employeeName" id="employeeName" class="for</pre>
m-control" required="true"
                 placeholder="Type the Name or Last Name of the employee"/>
    </div>
    <button type="submit" class="btn btn-info">
        <span class="glyphicon glyphicon-search"></span> Search
    </button>
    <br></br>
    <br></br>
  </form>
</div>
```

Individual form controls (input, textarea and select) automatically receive some global styling with Bootstrap.

Bootstrap requires a containing element to wrap site contents. The container class is used for a responsive fixed width container.

The required attribute introduced in HTML5 specifies that the user is required to enter a value before submitting the form. Bootstrap validates the required fields before submitting the form and shows a predefined message in case of a missing field but you may also override this behavior by coding your specific rules and messages using jQuery.

The placeholder is other attribute introduced in HTML5 that describes the expected value of the input field.

The class .btn provides the default look of a gray button with rounded corners, and the btn-info class gives to the button the light blue color, is usually used for informational alert messages.

Bootstrap includes 200 glyphs from the Glyphicon Halflings set. Glyphicons Halflings are normally not available for free, but there are some basic icons available for Bootstrap free of cost. The class btn-info provides the magnifying glass icon.

7. Add the table to display the result of the search. Make sure the new form is enclosed in <div class="container">tags.

list-employees.jsp - Fragment

```
<form action="/employee" method="post" id="employeeForm" role="form" >
 <c:choose>
    <c:when test="${not empty employeeList}">
       <thead>
            #
               Name
               Last name
               Birth date
               Role
               Department
               E-mail
            </thead>
          <c:forEach var="employee" items="${employeeList}">
            <c:set var="classSucess" value=""/>
            <c:if test ="${idEmployee == employee.id}">
               <c:set var="classSucess" value="info"/>
            </c:if>
            ${employee.id}
               $ {employee.name} 
               ${employee.lastName}
               ${employee.birthDate}
               ${employee.role}
               ${employee.department}
               ${employee.email}
            </c:forEach>
       </c:when>
    <c:otherwise>
```

employeeList is the attribute that contains the employee search results. This fragment of code iterates the employeeList to display the employee information. If there are no results that match the search, an alert message is displayed.

The .table-striped class adds the zebra-striping style to any table row.

Bootstrap has four contextual classes (.alert-success, .alert-info, .alert-warning, .alert-danger) that provide a way to style messages to the user.

```
<div class="alert alert-success">Success! Well done its submitted.</div>
<div class="alert alert-info">Info! take this info.</div>
<div class="alert alert-warning">Warning! Dont submit this.</div>
<div class="alert alert-danger">Error ! Change few things.</div>
```

Download <u>list-employee.jsp</u>

8. Modify the index.jsp to forward to the servlet.

```
<jsp:forward page="/employee" />
```

Creating a launcher class

In this section you create a class with a main method that creates an instance of Tomcat server, this method will be executed when you run the jar file.

Create the Main cass in the com.example.employees package.

```
package com.example.employees;

import java.util.Optional;
import org.apache.catalina.startup.Tomcat;

public class Main {

   public static final Optional<String> port = Optional.ofNullable(System.g)
   etenv("PORT"));
```

```
public static void main(String[] args) throws Exception {
    String contextPath = "/";
    String appBase = ".";

    Tomcat tomcat = new Tomcat();

    tomcat.setPort(Integer.valueOf(port.orElse("8080") ));

    tomcat.getHost().setAppBase(appBase);

    tomcat.addWebapp(contextPath, appBase);

    tomcat.start();

    tomcat.getServer().await();
}
```

With org.apache.catalina.startup.Tomcat class you may configure the port using the setPort method, and the context path using the addWebapp method.

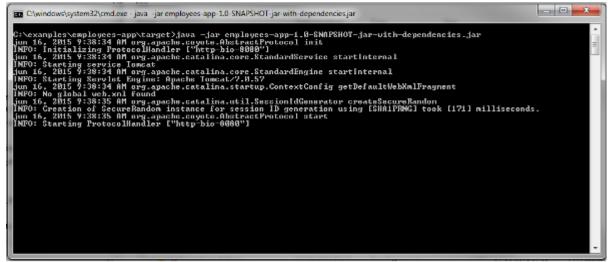
Download Main.java

Running the Web Application

This section shows how to compile and run the web application using the Maven commands.

Compiling and Running the Web app

- 1. Open a Command Line Window or Terminal
- 2. Navigate to the root directory of the project (employees-app), where the pom.xml resides.
- 3. Compile the project: mvn clean compile.
- 4. Package the application: mvn package.
- **5.** Look in the target directory. You should see a file with the following or a similar name: employees-app-1.0-SNAPSHOT-jar-with-dependencies.jar
- **6.** Change into the target directory.
- 7. Execute the jar: java -jar employees-app-1.0-SNAPSHOT-jar-with-dependencies.jar.

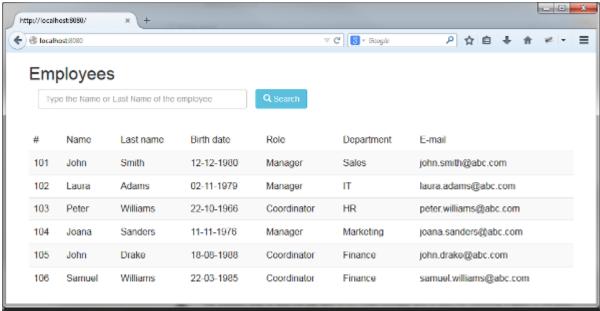


Description of this image

This indicates that employees-app is running on http://localhost:8080

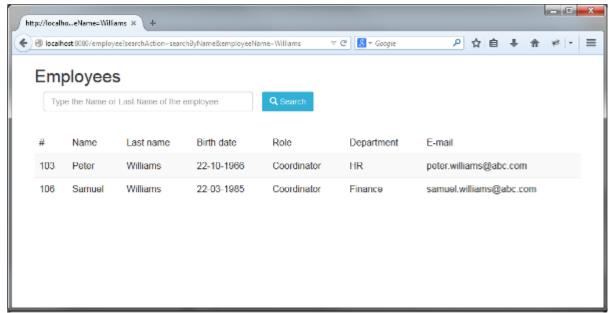
Testing the web app

- 1. Open the Firefox or Chrome web browser.
- 2. Enter the following URL into the browser address window and open the URL: http://localhost:8080



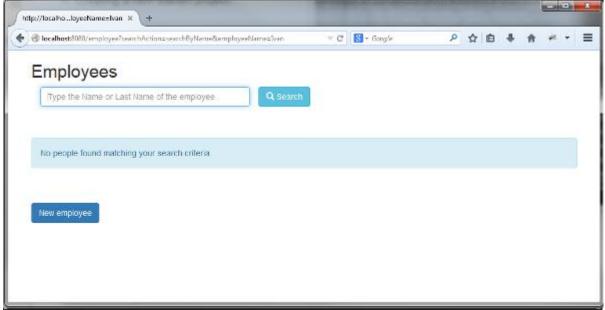
Description of this image

1. Enter a Name or Last Name for example: Williams and click Search.



Description of this image

2. Search an employee name that does not exist in the pre-load list (e.g. Ivan).



Description of this image

This is how the Bootstrap's class alert-info looks for alert messages.

Adding editing operations

In this section three new operations will be added: Create, Remove and Edit an employee.

Editing the Service

Open the EmployeeService.javaclass and add the new three operations:

EmployeeService.java - Fragment

```
public long addEmployee(Employee employee) {
        employeeList.add(employee);
        return employee.getId();
   }
    public boolean updateEmployee(Employee customer) {
        int matchIdx = 0;
        Optional<Employee> match = employeeList.stream()
                .filter(c -> c.getId() == customer.getId())
                .findFirst();
        if (match.isPresent()) {
            matchIdx = employeeList.indexOf(match.get());
            employeeList.set(matchIdx, customer);
            return true;
        } else {
            return false;
        }
    }
    public boolean deleteEmployee(long id) {
        Predicate<Employee> employee = e -> e.getId() == id;
        if (employeeList.removeIf(employee)) {
           return true;
        } else {
            return false;
        }
    }
```

Download EmployeeService.java updated.

Editing the Servlet

Open the EmployeeServlet.javaclass and override the doPost method.

EmployeeServlet.java - Fragment

Download EmployeeServlet.java updated.

Editing the View

- 1. Open the list-employee.jsp file.
- 2. Add two input hidden in the employeeForm

```
<input type="hidden" id="idEmployee" name="idEmployee">
<input type="hidden" id="action" name="action">
```

These inputs are used to pass the values of idEmployee and type of action to the servlet and execute the corresponding action.

3. Add add a div above the employeeForm to display an alert message to show information.

4. Add a link to the idEmployee column.

This link is used to display the values for a particular employee on an edit page.

5. Add a new column next to the E-mail column for the remove button.

```
<a href="#" id="remove"

onclick="document.getElementById('idEmployee').value='${employee.id}';

document.getElementById('action').value='remove';

document.getElementById('employeeForm').submit();">

<span class="glyphicon glyphicon-trash"/>
</a>
```

The glyphicon-trash provides a Trash can icon.

6. Add a new form below employeeForm with a button for creating a new Employee. Make sure the new form is enclosed in <div class="container"> tags.

Download updated <u>list-employees.jsp</u>.

7. Create the new-employee.jsp in the jsp directory.

```
<form action="/employee" method="post" role="form" data-toggle</pre>
="validator" >
                <c:if test ="${empty action}">
                   <c:set var="action" value="add"/>
                </c:if>
                <input type="hidden" id="action" name="action" value="${act</pre>
ion } "/>
                <input type="hidden" id="idEmployee" name="idEmployee" valu</pre>
e="${employee.id}"/>
                <h2>Employee</h2>
                <div class="form-group col-xs-4">
                   <label for="name" class="control-label col-xs-4">Name:<</pre>
/label>
                    <input type="text" name="name" id="name" class="form-co</pre>
ntrol" value="${employee.name}"
                         required="true"/>
                    <label for="lastName" class="control-label col-xs-4">La
st name:</label>
                    <input type="text" name="lastName" id="lastName" class=</pre>
"form-control" value="${employee.lastName}"
                        required="true"/>
                    <label for="birthdate" class="control-label col-xs-4">B
irth date</label>
                    <input type="text" pattern="\d{2}-\d{2}-\d{4}" name=
"birthDate" id="birthdate" class="form-control"
                         value="${employee.birthDate}" maxlength="10" placeh
older="dd-MM-yyy" required="true"/>
                    <label for="role" class="control-label col-xs-4">Role:
/label>
                    <input type="text" name="role" id="role" class="form-co</pre>
ntrol" value="${employee.role}"
                        required="true"/>
```

```
<label for="department" class="control-label col-xs-4">
Department:</label>
                    <input type="text" name="department" id="department" cl</pre>
ass="form-control"
                        value="${employee.department}" required="true"/>
                    <label for="department" class="control-label col-xs-4">
E-mail:</label>
                    <input type="text" name="email" id="email" class="form-</pre>
control" value="${employee.email}"
                        placeholder="smith@aol.com" required="true"/>
                    <br></br>
                    <button type="submit" class="btn btn-primary btn-md">A
ccept</button>
                </div>
            </form>
        </div>
    </body>
</html>
```

This jsp contains a form to add a new employee or edit an existing one. All fields are marked as required.

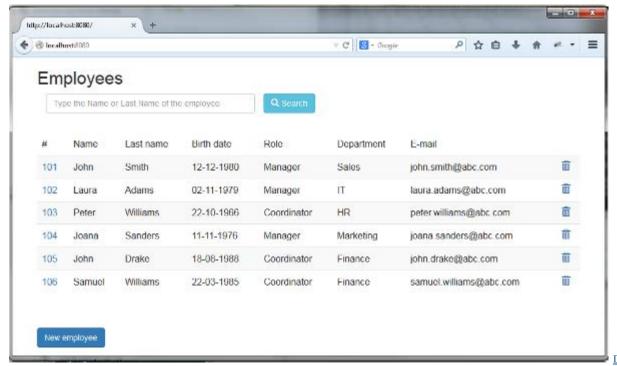
The data-toggle="validator" attribute automatically enables form validation for the form element.

The pattern is an attribute introduced in HTML5 that specifies a JavaScript regular expression for the field's value to be checked against. This form is used in the birthdate field to validate the format (dd-MM-yyyy).

Download new-employee.jsp

Testing the new operations: Create, Edit and Remove

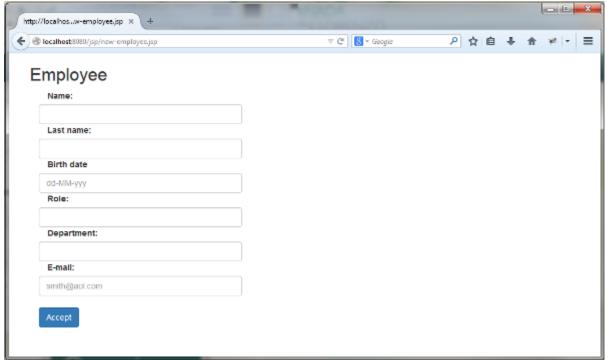
- 1. Stop the application (if it is running).
- 2. Execute the steps listed in the section Running the Web Application again.
- 3. Enter the URL into the browser address window and open the URL: http://localhost:8080



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Testing New employee

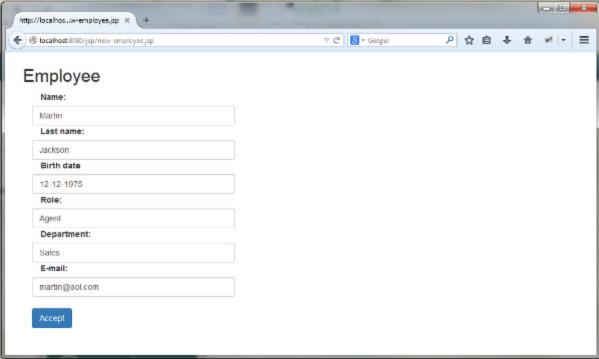
1. Click New employee



Description of this image

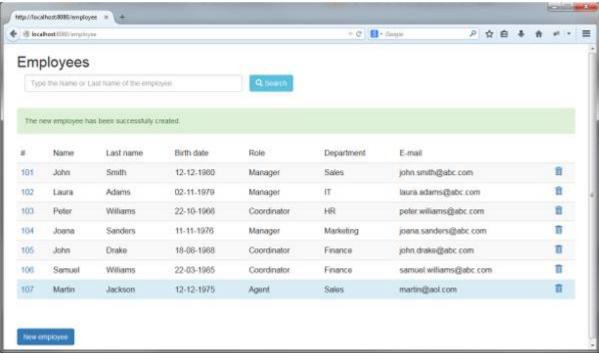
2. Fill in all the fields.

Note: Try submitting the form leaving one inputbox empty, and see what happens.



Description of this image

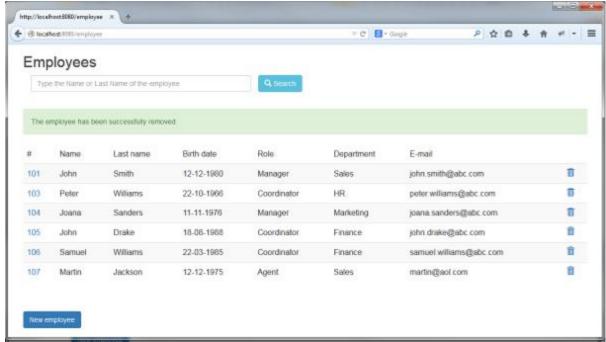
3. Click Accept.



Description of this image

Testing Remove an employee

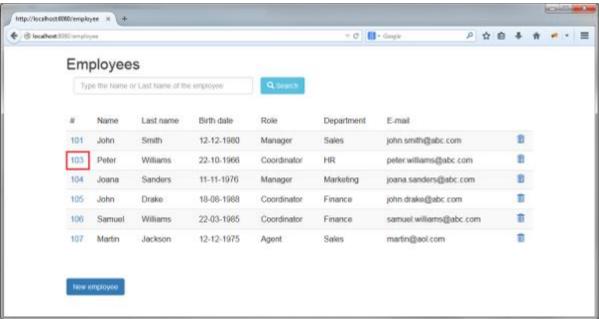
1. Click the Trash can icon to delete the employee (e.g. the 102 employee).



Description of this image

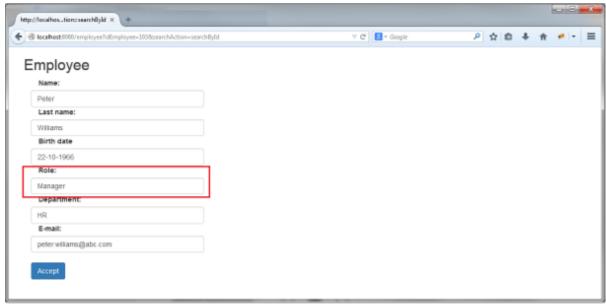
Testing Edit an employee

1. Click the id number.



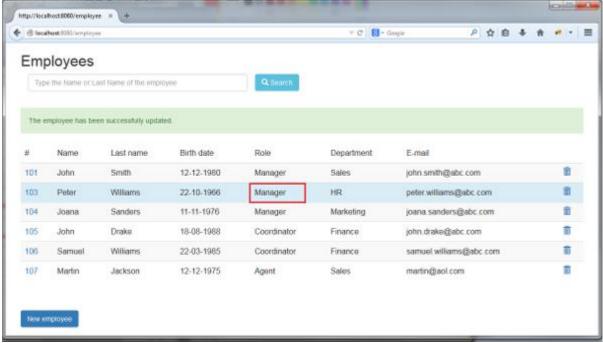
Description of this image

2. Edit some fields.



Description of this image

3. Click Accept.



Description fo this image

As you can see, Bootstrap is a powerful front-end framework, this guide just shows you the basics to get started and how easy it is to use.

Resources

The Maven project with source code is in the following zip file.

employees-app.zip

Want to Learn More?

- <u>Bootstrap</u>
- Maven plugin Apache Tomcat
- <u>Lambda expressions</u>

Credits

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