Enterprise Middleware Coursework Report

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Introduction:

The coursework required the development of a RESTful API for managing hotel bookings as part of a larger travel agency service. The project emphasized modularity, scalability, and adherence to enterprise-grade practices. Using modern middleware technologies like Quarkus, JPA, and JTA, the application was designed to be deployed on OpenShift, providing a cloud-native experience. The final implementation integrates with APIs developed by classmates to create a unified TravelAgent service for managing multiple commodities, including flights, taxis, and hotels.

Service Composition and Architecture:

The hotel application was structured with a clear separation of concerns across multiple layers, ensuring maintainability and scalability:

1.Entities:

- Hotel: Captures essential hotel details like name and address. A unique constraint ensures no duplicate hotel names.
- Booking: Represents the relationship between Customer and Hotel, encapsulating booking details such as the bookingDate.

2. Repositories:

• The HotelRepository and BookingRepository handle database operations for their respective entities, ensuring efficient data access through JPA.

3. Services:

- HotelService: Contains business logic for managing hotel data.
- BookingService: Validates and processes hotel booking requests.

4.REST Endpoints:

- HotelRestService: Exposes endpoints for CRUD operations on hotels.
- BookingRestService: Manages booking operations, including creation and cancellation.

5.Integration:

• The TravelAgent API integrates with the hotel service and the services of classmates for flights and taxis, enabling aggregate bookings.

6. Deployment:

• Deployed on OpenShift using Maven and GitHub, ensuring a robust and cloud-native environment.

JPA Annotations:

JPA annotations were extensively utilized to define entity relationships, constraints, and database operations:

1.Core Annotations:

- @Entity: Marks Hotel and Booking as persistent entities.
- @Table: Defines table-specific constraints, such as unique hotel names.
- @Id, @GeneratedValue: Configure primary key generation strategies.

2. Relationships:

- @ManyToOne: Establishes the link between Booking and Hotel or Customer.
- @OneToMany: Used in reverse for associating multiple bookings with a single hotel or customer.

3. Cascading:

• **CascadeType.ALL** ensures that operations like delete or persist on a parent entity (e.g., Hotel) propagate to associated entities (e.g., Booking).

4. Advanced Features:

• Cascading deletions and orphan removal mechanisms were implemented to maintain referential integrity and prevent database inconsistencies.

Technologies:

The hotel application leveraged cutting-edge middleware technologies to deliver a scalable, robust, and cloud-ready solution:

Quarkus:

- A Kubernetes-native Java framework optimized for cloud deployment.
- 2. **JPA**:
 - Simplifies database interactions by abstracting the persistence layer.
- 3. **JTA**:
 - Ensures transactional consistency, especially in the GuestBooking API.

4. **OpenShift**:

- Platform-as-a-Service for deploying and managing cloud applications.
- 5. Swagger/OpenAPI:

Provides comprehensive API documentation and endpoint testing.

6. **REST Assured**:

Used for automated testing of RESTful endpoints.

Validation:

Validation was implemented to ensure data consistency and compliance with business rules:

1. **Bean Validation**:

- @NotNull and @Size: Validate fields like name, email, and address.
- **@Pattern**: Enforces correct formatting for attributes such as email addresses.

2. **Custom Validation**:

- HotelValidator:
 - Ensures unique hotel names during creation.
- BookingValidator:
 - Prevents overlapping bookings for the same customer and hotel on the same date.

3. **Error Handling**:

• Custom exceptions like HotelNameAlreadyExistsException and InvalidBookingDateException provide user-friendly error messages.

Personal Experience and Project Reflection

Developing this application provided hands-on experience in enterprise middleware development. Key takeaways include:

Service Integration:

• Integrating APIs for flights and taxis into the TravelAgent service highlighted the importance of standardized API contracts.

Transactional Consistency:

• Implementing JTA-based manual transaction management for GuestBooking was a challenging yet rewarding experience.

Cloud Deployment:

• Using OpenShift demonstrated the complexities of cloud deployment, including configuration management and testing for scalability.

This project deepened my understanding of middleware technologies, RESTful principles, and cloud-native application development.

References

1. Technologies:

Quarkus, JPA, JTA, Maven, OpenShift, Swagger, REST Assured.

2. Documentation:

Official documentation for Quarkus, JPA, and OpenShift.

3. Course Material:

Coursework tutorials and lectures provided by Newcastle University.

4. Additional Readings:

RESTful Web APIs and Enterprise Integration Patterns for design insights.

Screenshots:







