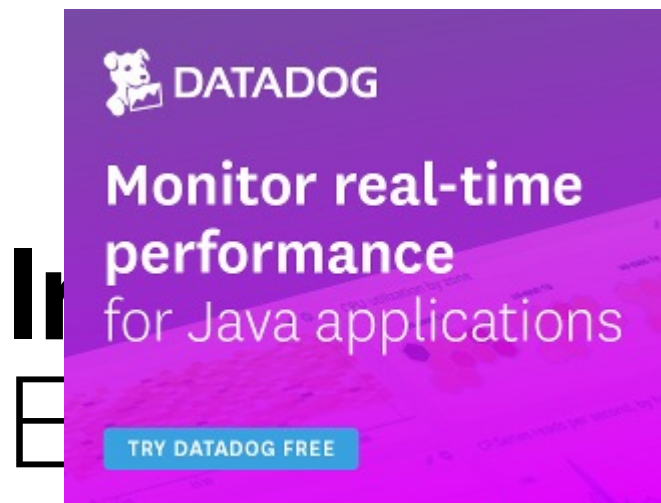


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Introduction to Pointcut in Spring

([/datadog](https://datadog.com))

Last modified: July 20, 2017

by baeldung (<http://www.baeldung.com/author/baeldung/>)

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I just announced the new *Spring 5* modules in REST With Spring:

>> CHECK OUT THE COURSE (</rest-with-spring-course#new-modules>)

1. Overview

In this tutorial we will discuss the Spring AOP pointcut expression language.

We will first introduce some terminology used in aspect-oriented programming.

A *join point* is a step of the program execution, such as the execution of a method or the handling of an exception. In Spring AOP, a join point always represents a method

execution. A *pointcut* is a predicate that matches the join points and a *pointcut expression language* is a way of describing pointcuts programmatically.

2.



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A pointcut expression can be used as the value of the `@Pointcut` annotation:

```
1 @Pointcut("execution(* org.springframework.stereotype.Repository *..*)")
2 public void repositoryMethods() {}
```

The value of the `@Pointcut` annotation is the **pointcut signature**. It provides a name that can be used by advice annotations to refer to that pointcut.

```
1 @Around("repositoryClassMethods()")
2 public Object measureMethodExecutionTime(ProceedingJoinPoint pjp) throws ...
3 ...
4 }
```

A pointcut expression could also appear as the value of the *expression* property of an `aop:pointcut` tag:

```
1 <aop:config>
2     <aop:pointcut id="anyDaoMethod"
3         expression="@target(org.springframework.stereotype.Repository)"/>
4 </aop:config>
```

3. Pointcut Designators

A pointcut expression starts with a **pointcut designator (PCD)**, which is a keyword telling Spring AOP what to match. There are several pointcut designators, such as the execution of a method, a type, method arguments, or annotations.

3.1 execution

The primary Spring PCD is *execution*, which matches method execution join points.

```
1 | @Pointcut("execution(public String org.baeldung.dao.FooDao.findById(Long))")
```

This is achieved by the execution of *findById* method of the *FooDao* class. This is very flexible. Suppose we would like to match all the methods of *FooDao* which may have different signatures, return type, etc. We may use wildcards:

```
1 | @Pointcut("execution(public String org.baeldung.dao.FooDao.*(..))")
```

Here, the first *** matches any method name, the second matches any method return value, the third matches any method parameter value, the fourth matches any method parameter number of parameters (zero or more).



3.2 *within*

Another way to achieve the same result from the previous section is by using the *within* PCD, which limits matching to join points of certain types.

```
1 | @Pointcut("within(org.baeldung.dao.FooDao)")
```

We could also match any type within the *org.baeldung* package or a sub-package.

```
1 | @Pointcut("within(org.baeldung..*)")
```

3.3 *this* and *target*

this limits matching to join points where the bean reference is an instance of the given type, while *target* limits matching to join points where the target object is an instance of the given type. The former works when Spring AOP creates a CGLIB-based proxy, and the latter is used when a JDK-based proxy is created. Suppose that the target class implements an interface:

```
1 | public class FooDao implements BarDao {
2 |     ...
3 | }
```

In this case, Spring AOP will use the JDK-based proxy and you should use the *target* PCD because the proxied object will be an instance of *Proxy* class and implement the *BarDao* interface:

```
1 | @Pointcut("execution(* dao.BarDao)")
On |
pro | implement any interface or
Foo | then the proxied object will be a subclass of
1 | :
1 | @Pointcut("execution(* dao.FooDao)")
```

3.4 *@args*

This PCD is used for matching particular method arguments:

```
1 | @Pointcut("execution(* *..find*(Long))")
```

This pointcut matches any method that starts with *find* and has only one parameter of type *Long*. If we want to match a method with any number of parameters but having the first parameter of type *Long*, we could use the following expression:

```
1 | @Pointcut("execution(* *..find*(Long,...))")
```

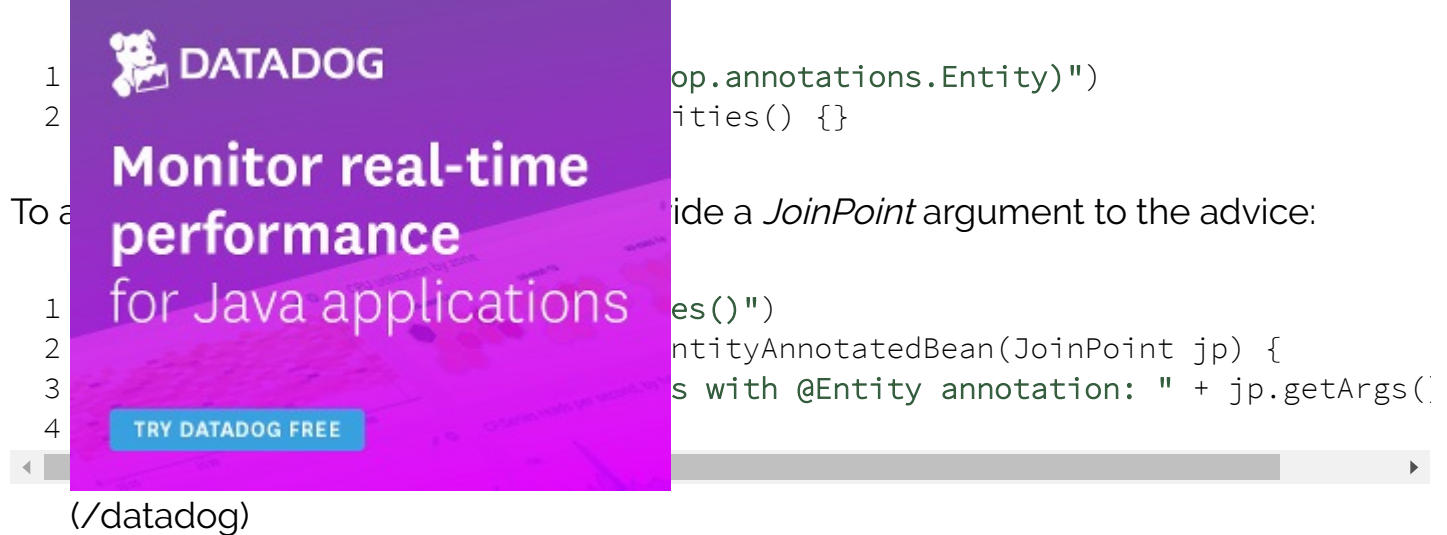
3.5 *@target*

The *@target* PCD (not to be confused with the *target* PCD described above) limits matching to join points where the class of the executing object has an annotation of the given type:

```
1 | @Pointcut("@target(org.springframework.stereotype.Repository)")
```

3.6 *@args*

This PCD limits matching to join points where the runtime type of the actual arguments passed have annotations of the given type(s). Suppose that we want to trace all the methods accepting beans annotated with `@Entity` annotation:



3.7 @within

This PCD limits matching to join points within types that have the given annotation:

```
1 | @Pointcut("@within(org.springframework.stereotype.Repository)")
```

Which is equivalent to:

```
1 | @Pointcut("within(@org.springframework.stereotype.Repository *)")
```

3.8 @annotation

This PCD limits matching to join points where the subject of the join point has the given annotation. For example we may create a `@Loggable` annotation:

```
1 | @Pointcut("@annotation(org.baeldung.aop.annotations.Loggable)")
2 | public void loggableMethods() {}
```

Then we may log execution of the methods marked by that annotation:

```

1 @Before("loggableMethods()")
2 public void logMethod(JoinPoint jp) {
3     String methodName = jp.getSignature().getName();
4     // ... logging logic ...
5     log("Method: " + methodName);

```

4.

Pointcut

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Expressions

using **&&**, **||** and **!** operators:

```

1 @Pointcut("execution(* *..create*(Long,...))")
2 {}
3
4 //datadog
5 public void firstLongParamMethods() {}
6
7 @Pointcut("repositoryMethods() && firstLongParamMethods()")
8 public void entityCreationMethods() {}

```

5.

In the previous

The book is available on Amazon (http://www.amazon.com/dp/1491560602) or on Eclix.



In the previous pointcuts, we illustrated some examples of

pointcuts in my github project (https://github.com/jbaird/spring-mvc-java/tree/master/spring-mvc-java) – this is an easy way to import and run as it is.

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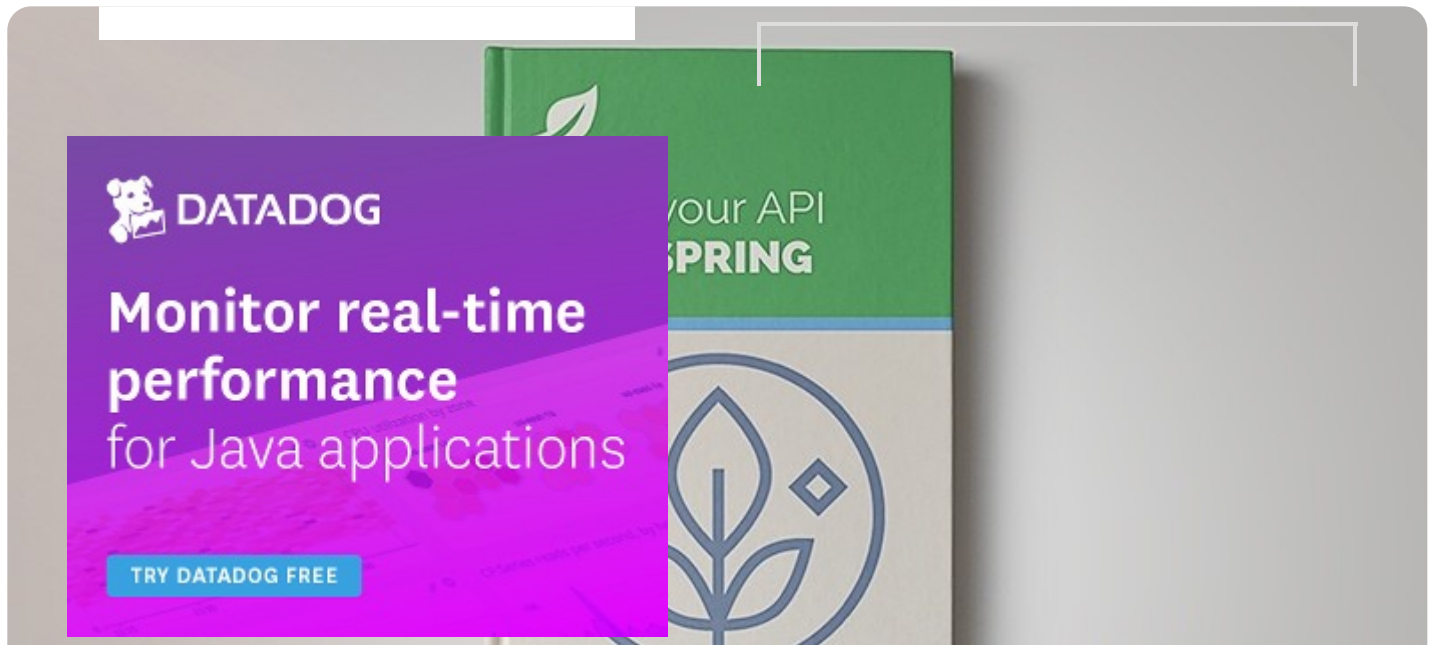
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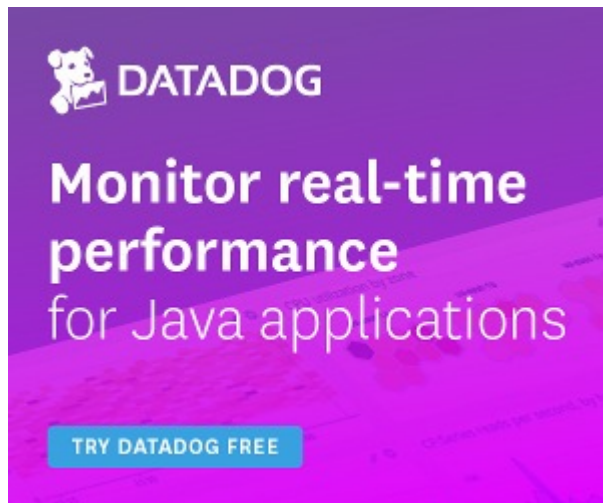
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