**1. Overview of Spring Data Repositories:**

Spring Data repositories simplify data access by providing an abstraction layer on top of data persistence technologies like JPA. Key benefits include:

* **Reduction of Boilerplate Code:** By extending repository interfaces, Spring Data JPA automatically provides CRUD operations without the need to write explicit implementations.
* **Query Method Derivation:** You can define methods in the repository interface, and Spring Data will automatically implement them based on the method name conventions (e.g., findByName).
* **Integration with Spring:** Repository interfaces are seamlessly integrated with the Spring framework, supporting dependency injection and transaction management.
* **Built-in Pagination and Sorting:** Spring Data JPA also supports built-in pagination and sorting capabilities.
* **Custom Queries:** You can define custom queries using JPQL, native SQL, or even method names to query the database.