FAQ: Use properties file to load country options

Question:

How to use properties file to load country options

Answer:

This solution will show you how to place the country options in a properties file. The values will no longer be hard coded in the Java code.

1. Create a properties file to hold the countries. It will be a name value pair. Country code is name. Country name is the value.

New text file: WEB-INF/countries.properties

```
BR=Brazil
FR=France
CO=Colombia
IN=India
```

Note the location of the properties file is very important. It must be stored in WEB-INF/countries.properties

2. Update header section for Spring config file

We are going to use a new set of Spring tags for <util>. As a result, you need to update the header information in the Spring config file.

File: spring-mvc-dmo-servlet.xml

Remove the previous header and add this.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
        xmlns:context="http://www.springframework.org/schema/context"
        xmlns:mvc="http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc"
        xmlns:util="http://www.springframework.org/schema/util"
        xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
        xsi:schemaLocation="
```

```
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans.xsd
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/context
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/context/spring-context.xsd
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc/spring-mvc.xsd
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/util
            http://www.springframework.org/schema/util/spring-util.xsd">
```

3. Load the country options properties file in the Spring config file. Bean id: countryOptions

File: spring-mvc-dmo-servlet.xml

Add the following lines:

```
<util:properties id="countryOptions"
location="classpath:../countries.properties" />
```

4. Inject the properties values into your Spring Controller: StudentController.java

```
@Value("#{countryOptions}")
private Map<String, String> countryOptions;
```

5. Add the country options to the Spring MVC model. Attribute name: theCountryOptions

```
@RequestMapping("/showForm")
public String showForm(Model theModel) {

    // create a student object Student
    Student theStudent = new Student();

    // add student object to the model
    theModel.addAttribute("student", theStudent);

    // add the country options to the model
    theModel.addAttribute("theCountryOptions", countryOptions);

    return "student-form";
}
```

6. Update the JSP page, student-form.jsp, to use the new model attribute for the drop-down list: theCountryOptions

```
<form:select path="country">
 <form:options items="${theCountryOptions}" />
</form:select>
```

7. Remove all references to country option from your Student.java.

DOWNLOAD FULL SOURCE CODE

You can download entire code from here:

- http://www.luv2code.com/downloads/spring-hibernate/spring-props-mvc-demo.zip