ANNOTATIONS

A form of metadata that provides supplemental info about a program.

Let's see an example to understand this concept →

```
package in.sp.beans;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Qualifier;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;
@Component // Registering Student as a Spring Bean
public class Student {
  private int roll_no;
  private String name;
  @Autowired // Injecting Address Bean
  @Qualifier("address") // If multiple Address beans exist, specify the exact one
  private Address address;
  // Setter methods (Spring will use these if needed)
  public void setRollno(int rollno) {
    this.roll_no = rollno;
  public void setName(String name) {
    this.name = name:
```

```
public void setAddress(Address address) {
    this.address = address;
}

// Method to print attributes
public void display() {
    System.out.println("Roll_no: " + roll_no);
    System.out.println("Name: " + name);
    System.out.println("Address: " + address);
}
```

```
package in.sp.beans;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;
@Component("address") // Registering Address as a Spring Bean
public class Address {
  private int houseno;
  private String city;
  private int pincode;
  public void setHouseno(int houseno) {
    this.houseno = houseno;
  }
  public void setCity(String city) {
    this.city = city;
  public void setPincode(int pincode) {
    this.pincode = pincode;
```

```
@Override
public String toString() {
    return "#" + houseno + ", " + city + " -" + pincode;
}
```

1. @Component (for Bean Creation)

• Use @Component on both Student and Address classes to register them as Spring Beans.

2. @Autowired (for Dependency Injection)

• Use @Autowired in the Student class to automatically inject the Address bean.

3. <a>@Qualifier (to Specify a Particular Bean)

• If there are multiple Address beans, you can use @Qualifier to specify which one to inject.

Let's modify your code to handle multiple Address beans and see how @Qualifier comes into play.

Changes Made:

- 1. Created multiple Address beans (@Component("homeAddress") and @Component("officeAddress")).
- 2. Modified Student class to inject a specific Address using @Qualifier.
- 3. Demonstrated how @Qualifier helps in selecting the right bean.

Updated Code:

Student.java (Injecting a Specific Address)

```
java
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package in.sp.beans;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Qualifier;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;
@Component // Mark Student as a Spring Bean
public class Student {
  private int roll_no;
  private String name;
  @Autowired // Injecting Address Bean
  @Qualifier("homeAddress") // Specify which Address to inject
  private Address address;
  // Setter methods
  public void setRollno(int rollno) {
    this.roll_no = rollno;
  }
  public void setName(String name) {
    this.name = name;
  }
  public void setAddress(Address address) {
    this.address = address;
  }
  // Method to print attributes
  public void display() {
    System.out.println("Roll_no: " + roll_no);
    System.out.println("Name: " + name);
```

```
System.out.println("Address: " + address);
}
```

Here's how it works:

Spring scans for a matching bean of type Address.

Since both HomeAddress and OfficeAddress extend Address, Spring finds multiple candidates.

If **no Qualifier is used**, Spring **throws an error** because it doesn't know which one to inject.

```
When you use @Qualifier("homeAddress"), Spring only injects

HomeAddress, ignoring OfficeAddress.
```

Similarly, if you use @Qualifier("officeAddress"), Spring injects OfficeAddress instead.

So, **only one child class gets injected**, depending on the Qualifier used.

Address.java (Base Class)

```
java
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package in.sp.beans;

public class Address {
  private int houseno;
  private String city;
  private int pincode;
```

```
public void setHouseno(int houseno) {
    this.houseno = houseno;
}

public void setCity(String city) {
    this.city = city;
}

public void setPincode(int pincode) {
    this.pincode = pincode;
}

@Override
public String toString() {
    return "#" + houseno + ", " + city + " -" + pincode;
}
```



The reason

why @component was not used in Address.java in this example is that

Address is an abstract/generalized parent class that is not meant to be

directly instantiated as a Spring bean. Instead, its child classes

(HomeAddress and OfficeAddress) are the ones registered as Spring beans

Using @Component("homeAddress") and @Component("officeAddress").

Why Not Use @Component in Address.java?

- 1. Address is a general base class (it just holds common properties).
 - If we mark Address with @Component, Spring will create a bean for it, which is unnecessary because we always want to work with either HomeAddress Or OfficeAddress, not a generic Address object.
- 2. If @Component were used in Address.java , it would create ambiguity.
 - Spring would register an extra Address bean alongside homeAddress and officeAddress.
 - When we use <a>@Autowired, Spring might get confused about which bean to inject (since we would have three beans of type <a>Address instead of two).
- 3. Using @Component in HomeAddress and OfficeAddress is enough
 - These two child classes are the actual implementations, so only they should be instantiated as beans.

HomeAddress.java (One Address Bean)

java CopyEdit package in.sp.beans;

```
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component("homeAddress") // Register Home Address as a Bean public class HomeAddress extends Address {    public HomeAddress() {       setHouseno(101);       setCity("Bangalore");        setPincode(560001);    }
}
```

OfficeAddress.java (Another Address Bean)

```
java
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package in.sp.beans;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component("officeAddress") // Register Office Address as a Bean
public class OfficeAddress extends Address {
   public OfficeAddress() {
      setHouseno(202);
      setCity("Mumbai");
      setPincode(400001);
   }
}
```

How @Qualifier Comes into Picture

- Since we have **two** Address **beans** (homeAddress and officeAddress), Spring doesn't know which one to inject.
- We use @Qualifier("homeAddress") inside Student.java to tell Spring which Address bean to inject.

• If we wanted the **office address instead**, we'd replace:with

```
java
CopyEdit
@Qualifier("homeAddress")

java
CopyEdit
@Qualifier("officeAddress")
```

How to Use This in Spring Boot?

- 1. **Enable Component Scanning:** Ensure your main application scans the package.
- 2. Run the Application and Fetch the Bean:

```
java
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ApplicationContext context = new AnnotationConfigApplicationContext("i
n.sp.beans");
Student student = context.getBean(Student.class);
student.display();
```

Expected Output (With homeAddress Chosen)

```
yaml
CopyEdit
Roll_no: 0
Name: null
Address: #101, Bangalore -560001
```

If you switch <a>Qualifier("officeAddress"), the output changes to:

```
yaml
CopyEdit
Roll_no: 0
Name: null
```

Address: #202, Mumbai -400001

This is how <a>Qualifier helps resolve conflicts when multiple beans of the same type exist.

Q. suppose there were 2-3 student class who are depending upon the address class like in the above code i provided. so now how will these three annotations work?

Scenario:

- We have **three different Student classes** (EngineeringStudent, MedicalStudent, and ArtsStudent).
- Each student needs an Address, but different students may have different addresses.
- We use @Autowired to inject Address and @Qualifier to specify which Address to inject.

Updated Code:

Address.java (Parent Class)

```
java
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package in.sp.beans;

public class Address {
  private int houseno;
```

```
private String city;
private int pincode;

public void setHouseno(int houseno) { this.houseno = houseno; }
public void setCity(String city) { this.city = city; }
public void setPincode(int pincode) { this.pincode = pincode; }

@Override
public String toString() {
    return "#" + houseno + ", " + city + " -" + pincode;
}
```

HomeAddress.java (First Child Bean)

```
java
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package in.sp.beans;

import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component("homeAddress") // Register Home Address as a Bean
public class HomeAddress extends Address {
   public HomeAddress() {
      setHouseno(101);
      setCity("Delhi");
      setPincode(110001);
   }
}
```

HostelAddress.java (Second Child Bean)

```
java
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```

```
package in.sp.beans;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component("hostelAddress") // Register Hostel Address as a Bean public class HostelAddress extends Address {
   public HostelAddress() {
      setHouseno(302);
      setCity("Bangalore");
      setPincode(560001);
   }
}
```

OfficeAddress.java (Third Child Bean)

```
java
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package in.sp.beans;

import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component("officeAddress") // Register Office Address as a Bean
public class OfficeAddress extends Address {
   public OfficeAddress() {
      setHouseno(505);
      setCity("Mumbai");
      setPincode(400001);
   }
}
```

Multiple Student Classes Depending on Address

EngineeringStudent.java

```
java
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package in.sp.beans;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Qualifier;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;
@Component // Register EngineeringStudent as a Spring Bean
public class EngineeringStudent {
  private String name = "John Doe";
  @Autowired
  @Qualifier("homeAddress") // Engineering students live at home
  private Address address;
  public void display() {
    System.out.println("Engineering Student: " + name);
    System.out.println("Address: " + address);
  }
}
```

MedicalStudent.java

```
java
CopyEdit
package in.sp.beans;

import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Qualifier;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component // Register MedicalStudent as a Spring Bean
```

```
public class MedicalStudent {

private String name = "Alice Smith";

@Autowired
@Qualifier("hostelAddress") // Medical students live in a hostel
private Address address;

public void display() {
    System.out.println("Medical Student: " + name);
    System.out.println("Address: " + address);
}
```

ArtsStudent.java

```
java
CopyEdit
package in.sp.beans;

import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Qualifier;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component // Register ArtsStudent as a Spring Bean
public class ArtsStudent {

private String name = "Bob Williams";

@Autowired
@Qualifier("officeAddress") // Arts students live near an office area
private Address address;

public void display() {

System.out.println("Arts Student: " + name);
```

```
System.out.println("Address: " + address);
}
```

How to Use This in Spring Boot

```
java
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import org.springframework.context.ApplicationContext;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.AnnotationConfigApplicationC
ontext;
public class MainApp {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    ApplicationContext context = new AnnotationConfigApplicationContext("i
n.sp.beans");
    EngineeringStudent engStudent = context.getBean(EngineeringStudent.c
lass);
    engStudent.display();
    MedicalStudent medStudent = context.getBean(MedicalStudent.class);
    medStudent.display();
    ArtsStudent artsStudent = context.getBean(ArtsStudent.class);
    artsStudent.display();
  }
}
```

Expected Output

```
yaml
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Engineering Student: John Doe
```

```
Address: #101, Delhi -110001
```

Medical Student: Alice Smith

Address: #302, Bangalore -560001

Arts Student: Bob Williams

Address: #505, Mumbai -400001

Example: Using an Interface with Multiple Implementations

Scenario

- We create an Address interface.
- We have **two implementations**: HomeAddress and OfficeAddress.
- Multiple student classes depend on Address, and we use @Qualifier to specify the implementation.

Step 1: Create an Interface

Address.java (Interface)

```
java
CopyEdit
package in.sp.beans;

public interface Address {
    String getAddressDetails();
}
```

Step 2: Implement Multiple Address Classes

HomeAddress.java

```
java
CopyEdit
package in.sp.beans;

import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component("homeAddress") // Register as a Spring Bean
public class HomeAddress implements Address {
    @Override
    public String getAddressDetails() {
        return "Home Address: #101, Delhi - 110001";
    }
}
```

OfficeAddress.java

```
java
CopyEdit
package in.sp.beans;

import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component("officeAddress") // Register as a Spring Bean
public class OfficeAddress implements Address {
    @Override
    public String getAddressDetails() {
        return "Office Address: #505, Mumbai - 400001";
    }
}
```

Step 3: Inject the Interface into Student Class

EngineeringStudent.java

```
java
CopyEdit
package in.sp.beans;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Qualifier;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;
@Component
public class EngineeringStudent {
  private String name = "John Doe";
  @Autowired
  @Qualifier("homeAddress") // Explicitly specify HomeAddress
  private Address address;
  public void display() {
    System.out.println("Engineering Student: " + name);
    System.out.println(address.getAddressDetails());
  }
}
```

MedicalStudent.java

```
java
CopyEdit
package in.sp.beans;

import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Qualifier;
import org.springframework.stereotype.Component;

@Component
```

```
public class MedicalStudent {
    private String name = "Alice Smith";

@Autowired
    @Qualifier("officeAddress") // Explicitly specify OfficeAddress
    private Address address;

public void display() {
        System.out.println("Medical Student: " + name);
        System.out.println(address.getAddressDetails());
    }
}
```

Step 4: Spring Boot Main Class

```
java
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import org.springframework.context.ApplicationContext;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.AnnotationConfigApplicationC
ontext;
public class MainApp {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    ApplicationContext context = new AnnotationConfigApplicationContext("i
n.sp.beans");
    EngineeringStudent engStudent = context.getBean(EngineeringStudent.c
lass);
    engStudent.display();
    MedicalStudent medStudent = context.getBean(MedicalStudent.class);
    medStudent.display();
  }
}
```

Expected Output

yaml

CopyEdit

Engineering Student: John Doe Home Address: #101, Delhi - 110001

Medical Student: Alice Smith

Office Address: #505, Mumbai - 400001

Q Key Differences Between XML and Annotation-Based Configuration

Feature	Annotation-Based	XML-Based
Bean Definition	@Component	 bean>
Dependency Injection	@Autowired	<pre><pre><pre><pre>property></pre></pre></pre></pre>
Bean Selection	@Qualifier("beanName")	ref="beanName"
Configuration File	No XML required (uses @ComponentScan)	Uses spring-config.xml
Readability	Less configuration, easier to read	More verbose



Generally, annotation-based configuration (@Component, @Autowired, @Qualifier) is preferred because it's cleaner and reduces XML complexity.