Hibernate Tip: How to access Hibernate APIs from JPA

Question:

I'm using Hibernate via the *EntityManager* API. Is there any way to access the proprietary Hibernate *Session* and *SessionFactory*?

Solution:

Since version 2.0, JPA provides easy access to the APIs of the underlying implementations. The *EntityManager* and the *EntityManagerFactory* provide an *unwrap* method which returns the corresponding classes of the JPA implementation. In the case of Hibernate, these are the *Session* and the *SessionFactory*.

You can see an example in the following code snippet.

```
Session session = em.unwrap(Session.class);

SessionFactory sessionFactory =
        em.getEntityManagerFactory()
            .unwrap(SessionFactory.class);
```

In the first line, I get the current Hibernate Session from the *EntityManager*. I, therefore, call the *unwrap* method on the *EntityManager* and provide the *Session* class as a parameter.

The second line looks very similar. I get the *EntityMangerFactory* for the current *EntityManager* and call the unwrap method the Hibernate-specific *SessionFactory* class.

These classes provide you full access to proprietary Hibernate features, like the support for Streams and Optional.