Hibernate Tip: Cascade a persist operation

Question:

How can I persist an entity together with all its child entities?

Solution:

You can tell Hibernate, and any other JPA implementation, to cascade certain operations you perform on an entity to its associated child entities. The only thing you have to do is to define the kind of operation you want to cascade to the child entities.

The following code snippet shows an example in which I cascade the persist operation of the *Author* entity to all associated *Book* entities.

```java
@Entity
public class Author {

    …

    @ManyToMany(mappedBy="authors",
                cascade = CascadeType.PERSIST)
    private List<Book> books = new ArrayList<Book>();

    …
}
```

Hibernate Tip: Cascade a persist operation

When you now create a new *Author* and several associated *Book* entities, you just have to persist the *Author* entity.

```
EntityManager em = emf.createEntityManager();

em.getTransaction().begin();


Author a = new Author();

a.setFirstName("John");

a.setLastName("Doe");


Book b1 = new Book();

b1.setTitle("John's first book");

a.getBooks().add(b1);


Book b2 = new Book();

b2.setTitle("John's second book");

a.getBooks().add(b2);


em.persist(a);


em.getTransaction().commit();

em.close();
```

As you can see in the log output, Hibernate cascades the operation to the associated Book entities and persists them as well.

```
15:44:28,140 DEBUG [org.hibernate.SQL] – insert into
Author (firstName, lastName, version, id) values (?, ?, ?, ?)

15:44:28,147 DEBUG [org.hibernate.SQL] – insert into Book
(publisherid, publishingDate, title, version, id) values (?, ?, ?,
?, ?)

15:44:28,150 DEBUG [org.hibernate.SQL] – insert into Book
(publisherid, publishingDate, title, version, id) values (?, ?, ?,
?, ?)
```

Learn more:

I get into more details about the different cascading options in my Advanced Hibernate Training. I'm happy to see you there if you want to dive deeper into this topic.