Hibernate Tip: Map an association to an Optional

Question:

How can I map an optional to-one association to a Java 8 Optional?

Solution:

Hibernate doesn't support Optional as an attribute type. But if Hibernate uses field access, you can implement your own getter methods. This provides you the option to wrap the attribute which represents the to-one association into an Optional. You can see an example of it in the following code snippet.

```java
@Entity
public class Book implements Serializable {

    …

    @ManyToOne
    @JoinColumn(name="publisherid")
    private Publisher publisher;

    …


    public Optional getPublisher() {

        return Optional.ofNullable(this.publisher);

    }


    public void setPublisher(final Publisher publisher) {

        this.publisher = publisher;

    }

}
```

As you can see in the code snippet, I only changed the *getPublisher*() method. It now uses the *ofNullable* method to wrap the publisher attribute into an Optional and returns it to the caller.

Learn more:

You can learn more about Hibernate's Java 8 support in my free ebook: Java 8 support in Hibernate 5.