

# The AbstractUsecase Class

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## 1. Introduction

When you implement a custom usecase, you're very likely to extend `org.apache.lenya.cms.usecase.AbstractUsecase`. This class provides a set of functionality to simplify the implementation of usecases.

## 2. Configuration

The usecase is configured in `cocoon.xconf`. A typical configuration looks like this:

```
<component-instance name="edit.forms" logger="lenya.publication"
    class="org.apache.lenya.cms.editors.forms.FormsEditor">
  <transaction policy="pessimistic"/>
  <view template="edit/forms/forms" menu="false"/>
</component-instance>
```

The following configuration options are available:

- Element `<transaction>` (optional)
  - Attribute `policy` = (`optimistic` | `pessimistic`)

This element is used to determine the transaction policy of the usecase (*optimistic* or *pessimistic offline lock*). It can be omitted, the default is optimistic behaviour. You should only use pessimistic behaviour for complex usecases when the user can't afford to lose all changes.

- Element `<parameter>` (arbitrary number)
  - Attribute `name`
  - Attribute `value`

An arbitrary number of initial parameters can be passed to the usecase.

- Element `<view>` (optional)
  - Attribute `template` (required)
  - Attribute `menu` = (`true` | `false`) (optional)
  - Element `<parameter name="..." value="..." />` (arbitrary number)

This element declares the view of the usecase. The `template` attribute points to the JX template to use, relatively to the `lenya/usecases` directory. The suffix `.jx` is added automatically. The attribute `menu` determines if the menu should be visible. It can be omitted and defaults to `false`.

- Element `<exit>` (optional)
  - Attribute `usecase` (required)
  - Element `<parameter name="..." value="..." />` (arbitrary number)

This element declares the exit usecase. By default, a usecase exits on the URL it was started from, without any request parameters. Using this method, it is possible to specify a usecase that should be called after this usecase has exited. Additional parameter elements can be supplied.

## 3. Extending AbstractUsecase

The following methods of the `AbstractUsecase` class are meant to be overridden or invoked by subclasses:

- `protected void initParameters()`

This method is called to initialize the parameters of the usecase. For instance, if your usecase shall display meta data on the view screen, `initParameters()` reads the meta data from the document and puts them into the parameter map using `setParameter(String, Object)` to make them available to the JX template.

- `protected void doCheckPreconditions()`

The method `checkPreconditions()` is a template method which calls this method. For details on

`checkPreconditions()`, see section [Overview](#) (index.html) .

- `protected void doCheckExecutionConditions()`

The method `checkExecutionConditions()` is a template method which calls this method. For details on `checkExecutionConditions()`, see section [Overview](#) (index.html) .

- `protected void doCheckPostconditions()`

The method `checkPostonditions()` is a template method which calls this method. For details on `checkPostonditions()`, see section [Overview](#) (index.html) .

- `protected void doExecute()`

The method `execute()` is a template method which calls this method. For details on `execute()`, see section [Overview](#) (index.html) .

- `public void advance()`

For details on `advance()`, see section [Overview](#) (index.html) .

- `protected Transactionable[] getObjectsToLock()`

This method is supposed to return all objects which should be locked before the usecase is started. If the transaction policy is *pessimistic offline lock*, these objects are checked out immediately.

- `protected void setExitParameter(String name, String value)`

Call this method to set a parameter that should be added to the exit request. For instance, imagine a usecase which edits a user's groups. The exit usecase might be *userProfile*, with the additional parameter *userId*.