

The Core Spring Module: Defining Beans and Dependency Injection

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Taught by the author of *Core Servlets and JSP*, *More Servlets and JSP*, and this tutorial. Available at public venues, or customized versions can be held on-site at <u>your</u> organization. Contact hall@coreservlets.com for details.

Agenda

- Setting bean properties
- Supplying constructor arguments
- Using factory methods
- Dependency injection
 - Supplying other beans as properties or constructor args
- Bean scopes

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Overview

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Main Capabilities of Core Spring Module

Bean definition file

- Objects whose implementations are likely to change are defined in XML file. Java code does not need to refer to any specific implementation
 - You use the <bean> tag to define object's name and class
 - You use nested <property> or <constructor-arg> elements to give startup values to the object

Container based on bean definition file

ApplicationContext context = new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext("/bean-file.xml");

 You get object instances from the container (InterfaceType)context.getBean("bean-name")

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Dependency Injection

Spring is useful when

- You have objects whose implementations change often
 - These objects are defined in bean definition file, isolating Java code from changes in the implementation
 - You supply initialization values via constructors or setters

Spring is even more useful when

- The initialization values are other beans. That is, your Spring-managed objects depend on other bean values.
- Supplying these values in bean definition file is called "dependency injection"
 - Because Java code doesn't have to depend explicitly on specific concrete values
 - Instead, bean values are passed in ("injected") at run time
 - Also called "Inversion of Control" (IoC)

Basic Approach

- Define interface or abstract class
 - No dependencies on Spring
- Make concrete implementations of interface
 - No dependencies on Spring
- Declare concrete object in bean defn. file

Instantiate container from bean defn. file

ApplicationContext context =
 new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext("/bean-file.xml");

Get bean instance(s)

GeneralType bean =
 (GeneralType)context.getBean("bean-name");

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Simple Properties

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Setting Properties: Basics

property name="foo" value="bar"/>

- When you declare a bean (but don't use constructor-arg), it calls the zero-argument constructor when the object is instantiated. You use property.../> tags to specific what setter methods are called after the constructor runs.
 - <bean id="some-name" class="package.SomeClass">
 cproperty name="someProp" value="some-value"/>
 </pean>
- This means that when getBean is called, the zero argument SomeClass constructor is called, then setSomeProp is called.
- Simple type conversions will be performed, so setSomeProp can take String, int, Integer, double, Double, etc.

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Bean Properties

Idea

- The bean definition file refers to a "bean property", which is a shortcut for a setter method name.
 - The instance variable name is irrelevant
- In general, you come up with the bean property name by dropping "set" from the setter method name, then changing the next letter to lowercase.
 - But if the first two letters after "set" are uppercase, Java assumes it is an acronym, and the bean property name does not start with a lowercase letter

Examples

Setter Method Name	Bean Property Name
setFirstName	firstName
setURL	URL (not uRL)

Fancy Property Features (Covered Later)

ref: to refer to bean declared elsewhere

```
<br/><bean id="bean1" ...>...</bean><bean id="bean2" ...><br/><property name="blah" ref="bean1"/></bean>
```

Nested <bean>: to supply new bean as value

list: to pass a List to the setter method

```
<list>...
```

map: to pass a Map to the setter method

```
<map>...
```

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Bean Definition Files

Basic format

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
    xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
    xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
    http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans.xsd">
    <bean...>...</bean>
    <bean...>...</bean>
</beans</pre>
```

- Creating
 - With Spring IDE
 - R-click on src folder → New → Other → Spring → Spring Bean Definition
 - By copying applicationContext.xml from spring-blank
 - Download from coreservlets.com Spring Tutorial
 - By hand

Storing Bean Definition Files

- Most common: top level of class path
 - Instantiate container with new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext("/file.xml");
- Subdirectory of class path
 - Instantiate container with new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext("/dir/file.xml");
- Anywhere on file system
 - Instantiate container with new FileSystemXmlApplicationContext("/usr/hall/file.xml");
- In WEB-INF (Web applications only)
 - Instantiate container with special listener when app loads.
 - Access container with static methods in WebApplicationContextUtils

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Getting Bean Instances

Instantiate the container

ApplicationContext context = new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext ("/applicationContext.xml");

- Notes
 - Instantiating the container is expensive
 - Container should be instantiated once only
- Get instance from the container

SomeType myBean =
 (SomeType)context.getBean("bean-name");

- Notes
 - You normally treat bean as the abstract type
 - Instantiating a bean is inexpensive
 - You often instantiate beans many times
 - By default, calling getBean on the same name multiple times returns the same instance. See later section on bean scopes.

Example: Shapes

Goal

 Test out various geometric calculations. Top-level code should not change with types of shapes change.

Approach

- Abstract class: Shape
 - abstract getArea method, concrete printInfo method
- Concrete classes
 - Rectangle, Circle, RightTriangle
- Bean definition file

- Driver class
 - Gets application context, calls getBean, casts to Shape

Making Shapes Project

From scratch

- File → New → Project → Spring → Spring Project
 - Or, if no Spring IDE, File → New → Java → Java Project
- Named project spring-core
- R-clicked on project, made new folder called lib
 - Copied spring-install/dist/spring.jar and spring-install/lib/jakarta-commons/commons-logging.jar to lib
 - R-clicked on project, Properties → Libraries → Add JARs
 - Then pointed at lib/spring.jar and lib/commons-logging.jar
- R-clicked src folder and New → Other → Spring → Spring
 Bean Definition
 - If no Spring IDE, copied sample applicationContext.xml file

By copying existing project

- Copied spring-blank
- Renamed copy to spring-core

Abstract Class

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Concrete Class 1

```
public class Rectangle extends Shape {
  private double length, width;

  public Rectangle() {}

  public Rectangle() {}

  public Rectangle(double length, double width) {
    setLength(length);
    setWidth(width);
}

If you instantiate an object from the bean definition file, it is common to use zero-arg constructor and then to invoke setter methods (via property> tags

If you instantiate a Rectangle from Java code, you would expect a constructor like this.
```

Concrete Class 1 (Continued)

```
public double getLength() {
    return(length);
}

public void setLength(double length) {
    this.length = length;
}

public double getWidth() {
    return(width);
}

public void setWidth(double width) {
    this.width = width;
}

public double getArea() {
    return(length * width);
}
```

Concrete Class 2

```
public class Circle extends Shape {
  private double radius = 1.0;

public Circle() {}

public Circle(double radius) {
   setRadius(radius);
}

public double getRadius() {
   return(radius);
}

public void setRadius(double radius) {
   this.radius = radius;
}

public double getArea() {
   return(Math.PI * radius * radius);
}
```

Concrete Class 3

```
public class RightTriangle extends Shape {
  private double sideA, sideB;

public RightTriangle() {}

public RightTriangle(double sideA, double sideB) {
    setSideA(sideA);
    setSideB(sideB);
}

public double getSideA(...) {...}

public void setSideA(double sideA) {...}

public double getSideB(...) {...}

public void setSideB(double sideB) {...}

public double getHypotenuse() {...}

public double getArea() {
    return(0.5 * sideA * sideB);
}
```

Bean Definition File

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
    xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
    xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
    http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans.xsd">
    <bean id="shape1" class="coreservlets.Rectangle">
        <property name="length" value="10"/>
        <property name="width" value="20"/>
    </bean>
...
</bean>
```

Driver Class (Instantiate Container and Get Instances)

Output

- Executing in Eclipse
 - Right-click inside main and choose
 Run As → Java Application
- Output for value "shape1"

```
Informational messages about container starting ...
Rectangle with area of 200.00
```



Constructor Arguments

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Constructor Args: Basics

- <constructor-arg value="..."/>
 - Instead of calling the zero-arg constructor and then calling setter methods (via property.../>), you can supply constructor arguments.

- - Design the class the way you would have if you weren't planning on using Spring. There may not even be a zeroarg constructor in that case.
 - Use constructor-arg only for immutable classes that have no setter methods. Use property otherwise.
 - Pick and choose depending on how simple it is.

Constructor Args: Problems

Issues

- Spring doesn't always pass args in the order they are listed
 - For instance, for public Test(int n, String s), you could do

- Spring does type conversion
 - For instance, the following could match a constructor that takes a String, an int, or a double
 - <constructor-arg value="5"/>
 - What if there are multiple constructors?

Resulting problem

</bean>

- There is often ambiguity about which constructor you mean, and which args go in which order
 - This is one reason some developers prefer property.../>

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Constructor Args: Solutions

- If there are multiple constructor arguments with compatible types
 - Use index to specify which argument is which

 If there are multiple constructors with same number of arguments

Constructor Args: Fancy Features (Covered Later)

ref: to refer to bean declared earlier

```
<br/><bean id="bean1" ...>...</bean><bean id="bean2" ...><br/><constructor-arg ref="bean1"/></bean>
```

Nested <bean>: to supply new bean as value

```
< constructor-arg>
    <br/>bean...>...</bean>
</ constructor-arg>
```

list: to pass a List to the constructor

```
< constructor-arg>
<list>...</list>
</ constructor-arg>
```

map: to pass a Map to the constructor

```
< constructor-arg>
 <map>...</map>
</ constructor-arg>
```

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Example: Shapes

- Goal
 - Test out various geometric calculations. Top-level code should not change with types of shapes change.
- Approach
 - Abstract class: Shape
 - abstract getArea method, concrete printInfo method
 - Concrete classes
 - Rectangle, Circle, RightTriangle
 - Bean definition file

- Driver class
 - · Gets application context, calls getBean, casts to Shape

Abstract and Concrete Classes

Abstract class: Shape

 Shown in previous section. Has abstract getArea and concrete printInfo methods.

Concrete classes

- Shown in previous section.
 - · Rectangle, Circle, RightTriangle
- Circle takes a double (the radius) as a constructor argument.

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Bean Definition File

Driver Class (Instantiate Container and Get Instances)

Output

- Executing in Eclipse
 - Right-click inside main and choose
 Run As → Java Application
- Output for values "shape1" and "shape2"

```
Informational messages about container starting ...
Rectangle with area of 200.00
Circle with area of 314.16
```



Factory Methods

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Factory Methods: Basics

- <bean ... factory-method="makeBean">
 - Sometimes you don't know the specific type of bean you will need. You need to run some logic to determine this.
 So, instead of calling constructor, you call a method that returns an object.

<bean id="some-name" class="package.HelperClass"
factory-method="makeSomeBean">

</bean>

- This means that when getBean is called, the static method HelperClass.makeSomeBean() is invoked (with no arguments), and the output of that method is the bean.
 - Note that "class" is not the class of the bean, but rather of the helper class that contains the static factory method.
 - There are also instance factory methods, but are less common so won't be shown here.

Factory Methods: Arguments

 You use the mis-named "constructor-arg" to supply values to the factory method

<bean id="some-name" class="package.HelperClass"
 factory-method="makeSomeBean">
 <constructor-arg value="Hola"/>
</bean>

- This means that the static method call HelperClass.makeSomeBean("Hola") determines the output of getBean.
 - Note that no constructor is called directly (although the static method might use a constructor internally). So "constructor-arg" is a bad choice of name.
 - Again, "class" is not the type of the bean, but the name of the class that contains the static method.

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Example: Shapes

- Goal
 - Test out various geometric calculations as before.
- Approach
 - Abstract class: Shape
 - abstract getArea method, concrete printInfo method
 - Concrete classes
 - Rectangle, Circle, RightTriangle
 - Bean definition file

- Driver class
 - Gets application context, calls getBean, casts to Shape

Abstract and Concrete Classes

Abstract class: Shape

 Shown in previous section. Has abstract getArea and concrete printInfo methods.

Concrete classes

- Shown in previous section.
 - Rectangle, Circle, RightTriangle

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Helper Class (with Factory Methods)

```
public class ShapeMaker {
  public static Shape randomShape1() {
    return(randomShape2(10));
  }

public static Shape randomShape2(double size) {
    double d = Math.random();
    if (d < 0.333) {
       return(new Circle(size));
    } else if (d < 0.666) {
       return(new Rectangle(size, size*2));
    } else {
       return(new RightTriangle(size, size*2));
    }
}</pre>
```

Bean Definition File

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans ...>
  <bean id="shape1" class="coreservlets.Rectangle">
    roperty name="length" value="10"/>
    cproperty name="width" value="20"/>
  </bean>
  <bean id="shape2" class="coreservlets.Circle">
    <constructor-arg value="10"/>
  </bean>
  <bean id="shape3" class="coreservlets.ShapeMaker"</pre>
        factory-method="randomShape1">
  </bean>
  <bean id="shape4" class="coreservlets.ShapeMaker"</pre>
        factory-method="randomShape2">
    <constructor-arg value="100"/>
  </bean>
</beans>
```

Driver Class (Instantiate Container and Get Instances)

Output

- Executing in Eclipse
 - Right-click inside main and choose
 Run As → Java Application
- Output for values "shape1" ... "shape4"

Informational messages about container starting ...

Rectangle with area of 200.00 Circle with area of 314.16 RightTriangle with area of 100.00 Circle with area of 31,415.93

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Dependency Injection

Supplying Other Beans as Properties or Constructor Args

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Dependency Injection: Basics

- roperty ... ref="existing-bean-name"/>
- property><bean.../>
 - Also applies to constructor-arg
- Idea
 - Suppose that you have a class that performs operations on Shapes. You don't want the code to depend on any particular Shape or collection of Shapes.
 - So, the main class should never call "new" on a particular Shape subclass. Instead, the bean definition file should create the objects that the main class depends on (i.e., the "dependencies"), and pass them into ("inject" them) the main class via property.../> or <constructor-arg.../>

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Dependency Injection: Passing in Collections

You can also supply a List or Map of beans

Example: ShapeList

Goals

- Have a class that can take one or more shapes and perform the following operations
 - · Find the smallest Shape
 - Find the largest Shape
 - · Find the sum of the areas of all the shapes
- Be able to test this class with various different shapes, without changing the Java code

Approach

- Instantiate the ShapeList from bean definition file
- Supply a single Shape or a List of Shapes

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ShapeList

```
public class ShapeList {
                                                  To avoid tying ShapeList to any particular Shape or
  private List<Shape> shapes;
                                                  set of Shapes, these dependencies will be injected
                                                  (passed in) via the bean definition file.
  public ShapeList(Shape shape) {
     shapes = Arrays.asList(shape);
  }
  public ShapeList(List<Shape> shapes) {
     this.shapes = shapes;
  }
  public List<Shape> getShapes() {
     return shapes;
  public void setShapes(List<Shape> shapes) {
     this.shapes = shapes;
  }
```

ShapeList (Continued)

```
public double getTotalArea() {
   double total = 0.0;
   for(Shape shape: shapes) {
     total = total + shape.getArea();
   return(total);
 }
 public Shape getSmallestShape() {
   Shape smallestShape = null;
   double smallestArea = Double.MAX_VALUE;
   for(Shape shape: shapes) {
     double area = shape.getArea();
     if (area < smallestArea) {</pre>
       smallestArea = area;
       smallestShape = shape;
     }
   return(smallestShape);
```

ShapeList (Continued)

```
public Shape getBiggestShape() {
   Shape biggestShape = null;
   double biggestArea = 0;
   for(Shape shape: shapes) {
     double area = shape.getArea();
     if (area > biggestArea) {
      biggestArea = area;
      biggestShape = shape;
   }
   return(biggestShape);
public void printInfo() {
   System.out.printf("ShapeList has %s entries%n",
                     shapes.size());
   System.out.printf(" Smallest: ");
   getSmallestShape().printInfo();
   System.out.printf(" Biggest: ");
   getBiggestShape().printInfo();
   System.out.printf(" Total area: %,.2f%n", getTotalArea());
```

Dependencies (Classes Used by ShapeList)

Abstract class: Shape

 Shown in previous section. Has abstract getArea and concrete printInfo methods.

Concrete classes

- Shown in previous sections.
 - · Rectangle, Circle, RightTriangle

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Bean Definition File

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans ...>
 <bean id="shapeList1" class="coreservlets.ShapeList">
    <constructor-arg ref="shape1"/>
  <bean id="shapeList2" class="coreservlets.ShapeList">
    <constructor-arg>
                                                           Shape names defined earlier in
         <ref local="shape2"/>
         <bean class="coreservlets.RightTriangle">
           cproperty name="sideA" value="5"/>
           cproperty name="sideB" value="10"/>
                                                                New, un-named
                                                                shapes. Sometimes
                                                                called "inner beans".
         <bean class="coreservlets.Circle"> <</pre>
           <constructor-arg value="25"/>
         </bean>
      </list>
    </constructor-arg>
  </bean>
</beans>
```

Driver Class (Instantiate Container and Get Instances)

```
import org.springframework.context.*;
import org.springframework.context.support.*;
public class ShapeTest {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    ApplicationContext context =
      new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext
                             ("/applicationContext.xml");
    for(int i=1; i<=4; i++) {
      Shape shape = (Shape)context.getBean("shape" + i);
      shape.printInfo();
    }
    for(int i=1; i<=2; i++) {
      ShapeList shapes =
        (ShapeList)context.getBean("shapeList" + i);
      shapes.printInfo();
    }
  }
```

Output

- Executing in Eclipse
 - Right-click and choose Run As → Java Application
- Output

```
Informational messages about container starting ...

Rectangle with area of 200.00

Circle with area of 314.16

RightTriangle with area of 100.00

Circle with area of 31,415.93

ShapeList has 1 entries

Smallest: Rectangle with area of 200.00

Biggest: Rectangle with area of 200.00

Total area: 200.00

ShapeList has 3 entries

Smallest: RightTriangle with area of 25.00

Biggest: Circle with area of 1,963.50

Total area: 2,302.65
```



Bean Scopes

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Basics

- <bean ... scope="singleton"> (or no scope)
 - Every time you call getBean on the same name, you get the same instance. Default if no scope specified.
 - property.../> and <constructor-arg.../> only invoked the
 first time (if bean of that name not already instantiated)
 - You get the same instance per container. If you reinstantiate the container, then you get new instance
- <bean ... scope="prototype">
 - Every time you call getBean, you get new instance
 - <property> and <constructor-arg> invoked every time

Other scopes

- scope="request" and scope="session"
 - Valid only in Web apps. See next tutorial section.
- scope="globalSession"
 - Valid only in portal apps.

Bean Definition File

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"</pre>
   xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
   xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
     http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans.xsd">
  <!-- Default scope is singleton -->
  <bean id="rectangle1" class="coreservlets.Rectangle">
    cproperty name="length" value="5"/>
    cproperty name="width" value="10"/>
  </bean>
  <bean id="rectangle2" class="coreservlets.Rectangle"</pre>
        scope="prototype">
    cproperty name="length" value="5"/>
    cproperty name="width" value="10"/>
  </bean>
</beans>
```

Driver Class

Driver Class (Continued)

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Driver Class (Continued)

Driver Class (Continued)

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Output 1

Singleton scope, one container instance

```
Singleton beans from same context
r1: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r2: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r1 == r2: true
r1: Rectangle with area of 500.00
r2: Rectangle with area of 500.00
r1 == r2: true
```

Output 2

Prototype scope, one container instance

```
Prototype beans from same context
r1: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r2: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r1 == r2: false
r1: Rectangle with area of 500.00
r2: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r1 == r2: false
```

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Output 3

Singleton scope, two container instances

```
Singleton beans from different contexts
r1: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r2: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r1 == r2: false
r1: Rectangle with area of 500.00
r2: Rectangle with area of 50.00
r1 == r2: false
```



Wrap-up

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Summary

Java classes

- Make interface or abstract class
- Make concrete implementations

Bean definition file

- Use <bean> to declare objects
 - Always use name and class
 - Sometimes use scope or factory-method
- Use property> or <constructor-arg> for init values
 - Simple values
 - ref to refer to previously-defined beans
 - Nested <bean> definitions
 - list> or <map> (containing any of the above)

Driver class

- Make new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext
- Call getBean

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Questions?

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