Spring Professional Exam Tutorial v5.0

Question 08

Question 08 - What are the differences between @RequestParam and @PathVariable?

The main difference between `@RequestParam` and `@PathVariable` is a purpose of each annotation.

`@PathVariable` is responsible for mapping parts of URI, marked with usage of URI templates variables to controller method parameters. URI templates are identifiers surrounded with curly brackets.

```
/countries/US/cities/DEN
```

```
@GetMapping("/countries/{country}/cities/{city}")

public String countryAndCityByCode(@PathVariable("country") String country, @PathVariable(value = "city") String city) {
    ...
}
```

`@RequestParam` is used to bind web request parameters to controller method parameter.

```
/index?name=John&city=NYC&country=US
```

```
@GetMapping("/index")
public String index(@RequestParam("name") String name, @RequestParam("city") String city, @RequestParam("country") String country) {
    ...
}
```

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The other difference between `@RequestParam` and `@PathVariable` is following:

- `@RequestParam` allows you to specify `defaultValue` property, `@PathVariable` does not

Similarities are following, both allows you to:

- Specify name of variable to bind
- Mark variables as required or optional
- Use Java 8 Optional for optional values
- Map all parameters to Map
- Map list of values for parameter to collection