⌗Understanding Application Context

The `ApplicationContext` (http://static.springsource.org/spring/docs/current/javadoc-api/org/springframework/context/ApplicationContext.html) is the central interface within a Spring application for providing configuration information to the application. It is read-only at run time, but can be reloaded if necessary and supported by the application. A number of classes implement the `ApplicationContext` interface, allowing for a variety of configuration options and types of applications.

The `ApplicationContext` provides:

- Bean factory methods for accessing application components.
- The ability to load file resources in a generic fashion.
- The ability to publish events to registered listeners.
- The ability to resolve messages to support internationalization.
- Inheritance from a parent context.

> **NOTE**: This understanding guide provides details about Spring's usage of the application context. But in most situations, developers do NOT need to directly access the application context.

⌗Access the application context

There are a few methods for obtaining a reference to the application context. You can implement `ApplicationContextAware` (http://static.springsource.org/spring/docs/current/javadoc-api/org/springframework/context/ApplicationContextAware.html) as in the following example: