**Hands-on 3: Hibernate Annotation-Based Configuration**

🔹 Uses Annotations Instead of XML for Mapping

🔹 **Key Annotations**:

| **Annotation** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| **@Entity** | Marks the class as a persistent entity |
| **@Table(name="...")** | Maps the class to a specific table (optional if names match) |
| **@Id** | Marks the primary key field |
| **@GeneratedValue** | Specifies how the primary key is auto-generated (e.g., AUTO, IDENTITY) |
| **@Column(name="...")** | Maps a field to a DB column with optional constraints |

🔹 **hibernate.cfg.xml is still used:**

* **Contains DB config (dialect, driver, URL, credentials)**
* Uses **<mapping class="com.example.Employee"/>** instead of XML mapping

🔹 Advantages:

* Cleaner and more intuitive
* Easier to maintain
* Less boilerplate