Spring Tools

Overview

Spring Tools is a built-in plugin in IntelliJ IDEA that simplifies configuration and provides visual tools for managing Spring Beans and dependencies.

This plugin was previously called Spring IDE and has since been renamed to Spring Tools.

Key Features of Spring Tools

Bean Validation: Ensures that all types in the XML configuration file are correctly recognized, reducing runtime errors.

Graphical Representation: Provides a visual graph of Spring Beans, helping to identify missing dependencies and configuration issues.

Simplifies Configuration: Assists in managing large and complex XML files over time.

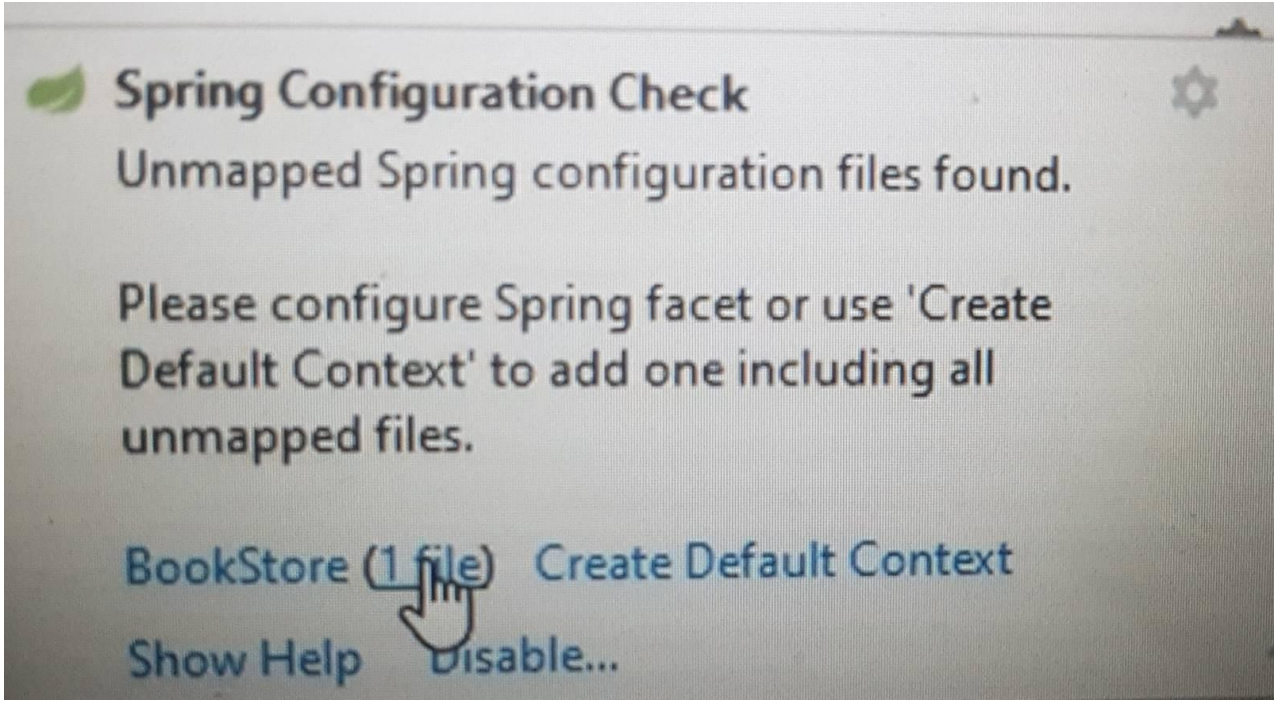
Enabling Spring Tools in IntelliJ

Spring Tools is included in IntelliJ by default, but it needs to be activated. There are two ways to enable it:

Method 1: Through Project File

1. Click on Bookstore (1 file).
2. Under the warning message, select Create Default Context.

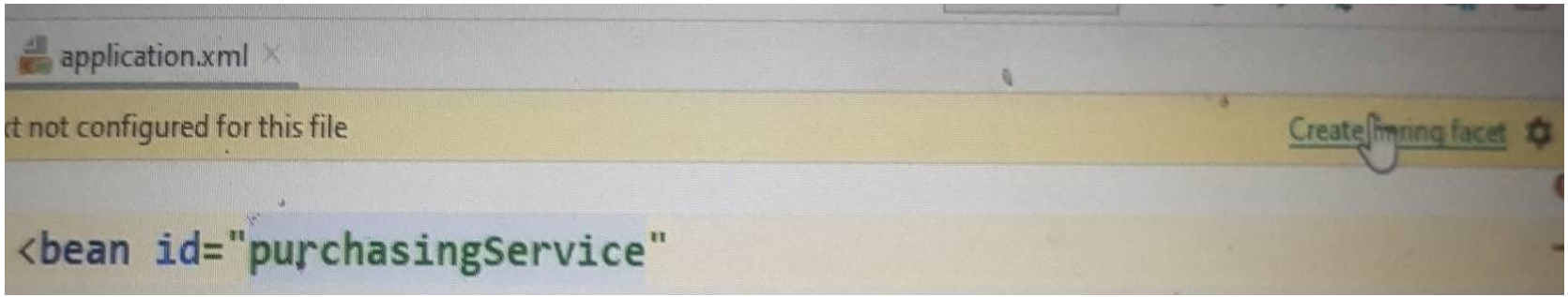
Method 1: Through Project File



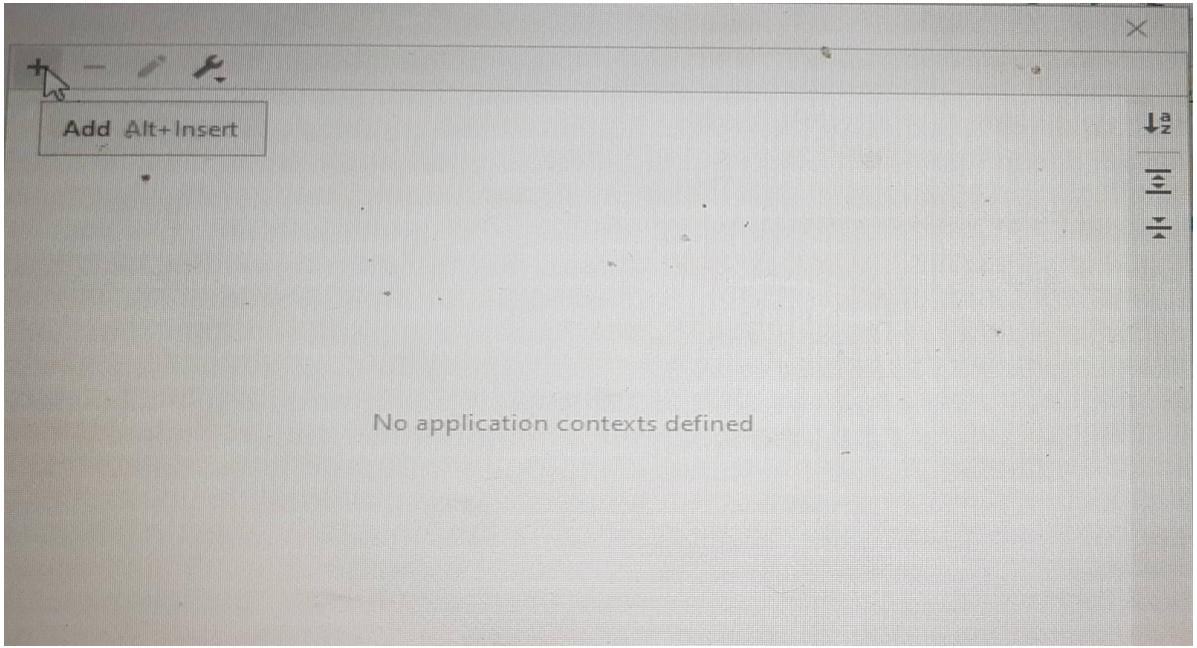
Method 2: Through application.xml

- Open application.xml.
- At the top, click on "Application context not configured for this file".
- Select Create Spring Facet.
- In the pop-up window, click +, then check BookStore and application.xml.
- Confirm the selection. Your project is now recognized as a Spring Project.

Method 2: Through application.xml



Method 2: Through application.xml



Fixing Common Issues

Issue: 'URI is not registered' Error in application.xml

Solution:

Go to File → Settings → Languages & Frameworks → Schema and DTDs.

Under the Ignored Panel, click +.

Paste the URI for the XML file

Click Apply.

Viewing Spring Bean Dependencies

Once Spring Tools is configured, you can visualize your Bean dependencies:

- Right-click anywhere in the XML file.
- Navigate to Diagrams → Show Diagrams.
- Select Spring Beans Dependencies.
- A graphical view of your Bean dependencies will appear, helping to debug missing references and misconfigurations.

Conclusion

Spring Tools enhances the development experience by providing validation, visualization, and automated configuration checks.

By enabling Spring Tools in IntelliJ, developers can efficiently manage large XML configurations and detect errors early.