## **Creating a SOAP Client Using Spring Boot**

V4 2025

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#### **Contents**

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**Contents** 

Introduction

1 Create A Client Spring Boot Project

2 Add dependency for WSDL Generation

3 Add Support for Java 11

4 Tell the Client about the Service

**5 Build the Project** 

**<u>6 Create A Country Service Client</u>** 

**7 Configure Components** 

8 Run the Client

#### Introduction

The labs are written to be informative and, in order to aid clarity, instructions that you should actually execute are generally written in this colour. Instructions asking you to record something in your logbook are generally written in this colour.

This lab sheet uses the service created in the <u>Creating a SOAP Service Using Spring Boot</u> lab sheet. We will be using the Countries service created in the aforementioned sheet. <u>Make sure your Countries Service is running on a local machine</u>. It is needed to set up the client project. I will assume here that it is running at <a href="http://localhost:8080/ws/countries.wsdl">http://localhost:8080/ws/countries.wsdl</a>, but if it isn't you will need to put the correct address.

You can run your service from the previous tutorial from Eclipse or IntelliJ but it is probably better to run it from the command line so you don't lock your IDE up. The instructions to do this are in the Service Tutorial sheet but to summarise.

#### Open a console.

Go to the directory of your project and type

```
mvn clean package
cd target
java -jar <your project>.jar
(mine is producingwebservice-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar)
```

This way, when you've finished with the service you can just close the command shell.

If for whatever reason you don't have your service to hand you can either clone my Eclipse project.

Or this one created with IntelliJ.

#### Or download the jar file for my server

The IntelliJ project above gives instructions for running it.

In reality we could be developing a service for others to use or a client so that we can use another's service. Here we have done both. Once you have gone through this sheet with our simple countries service then you may like to look at <u>other public services</u>.

### 1 Create A Client Spring Boot Project

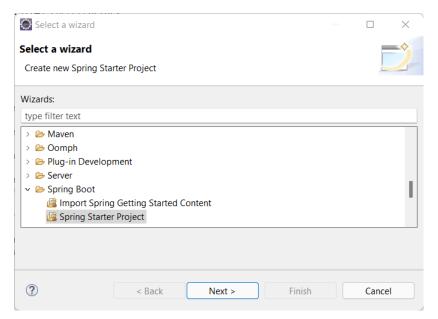
#### 1 Create a ProjectSpring Boot Starter

In Eclipse

In IntelliJ

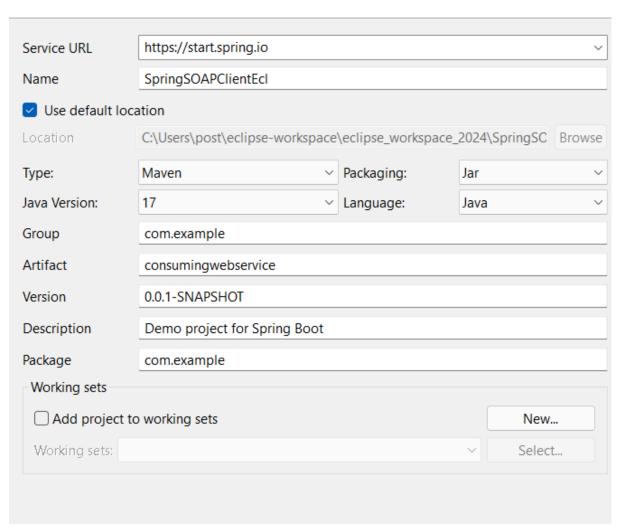
Note, if using a standard lab machine Maven is unlikely to work, so build the project using the Spring Initilzr and load the project into your IDE.

Or go to The Spring Initilzr <a href="https://start.spring.io/">https://start.spring.io/</a> to create downloadable source In Eclipse



### **New Spring Starter Project**



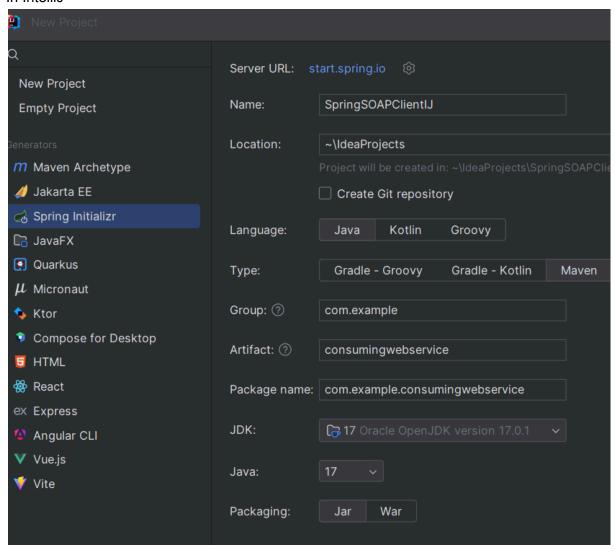


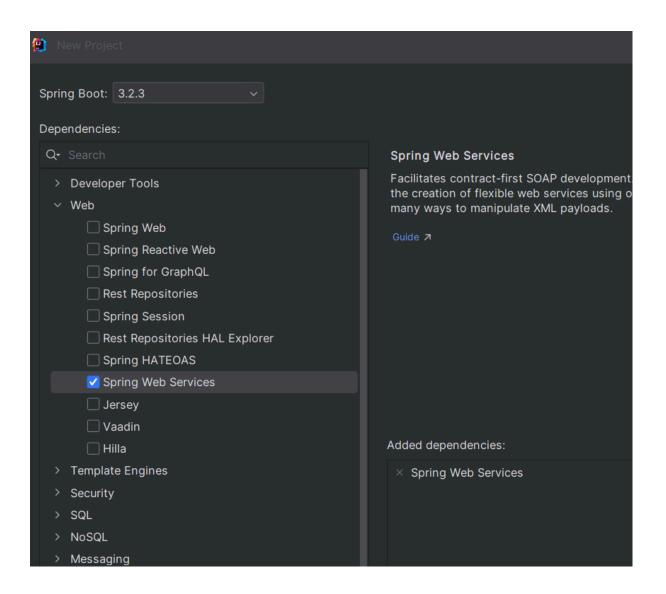
# **New Spring Starter Project Dependencies**



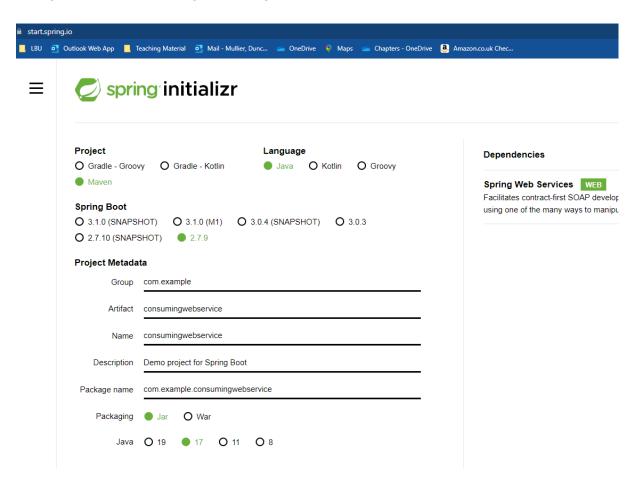
Spring Boot Version: 3.2.3 × Available:	Selected:
spring web  ✓ Web  ☐ Spring Web ☐ Spring Reactive Web ✓ Spring Web Services	X Spring Web Services

#### In IntelliJ





Spring Initilzr below showing the settings I've used.



Note, it is probably easiest to make your version exactly the same as mine, but remember that when doing this "for real" you will have your own package etc. Here I am giving everything generic names like "consumingwebservice" and a generic package "com.example". If I were doing this "for real" I'd have my package/GroupID as uk.ac.leedsbeckett.mullier. It's up to you if you want to copy the example here exactly or make it more realistic. If you do use your own package, make sure you alter the code you copy in appropriately (I do try and point it out as we go through).

Change the version to 3.4.3 (or the highest non snapshot). Spring Boot 3 requires a minimum Java version of 17 and it can introduce a level of sorting instals out of SDKs and JREs that we don't want to get into here. You can leave all the other options as they are (make sure it is a Maven project) but give the project a name.

Select **Dependencies** by clicking Next and select **Spring Web Services**. Or select it on the Spring Initilzr web page.Click finish.

If using IntelliJ make sure you Load the Maven Project if prompted.

You now have a blank client project with a Maven pom.xml file in the root. We need to tell Maven about the service we want our client to work with (the one we produced in the previous worksheet but if for any reason you don't have one

you can clone mine here or you can just

download my jar file and run it from the command line with

java -jar producing-web-service-complete-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar

It's probably best to have it up and running now so that you see its WSDL output when you point your browser at it.

http://localhost:8080/ws/countries.wsdl

```
📙 LBU 🧕 Outlook Web App 📙 Teaching Material 🚪 Mail - Mullier, Dun
This XML file does not appear to have any style information associated with it. The docu
▼<wsdl:definitions xmlns:wsdl="http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/wsdl/" xmlns:sch="http
 targetNamespace="http://spring.io/guides/gs-producing-web-service">
 ▼<wsdl:tvpes>
   ▼<xs:schema xmlns:xs="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema" elementFormDefault="
     ▼<xs:element name="getCountryRequest">
       ▼<xs:complexType>
         ▼<xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="name" type="xs:string"/>
          </xs:sequence>
        </xs:complexType>
      </xs:element>
     ▼<xs:element name="getCountryResponse">
       ▼<xs:complexType>
         ▼<xs:sequence>
            <xs:element name="country" type="tns:country"/>
          </xs:sequence>
        </xs:complexType>
       </xs:element>
     ▼<xs:complexType name="country">
       ▼<xs:sequence>
          <xs:element name="name" type="xs:string"/>
          <xs:element name="population" type="xs:int"/>
          <xs:element name="capital" type="xs:string"/>
          <xs:element name="currency" type="tns:currency"/>
        </xs:sequence>
       </xs:complexType>
     ▼<xs:simpleType name="currency">
       ▼<xs:restriction base="xs:string">
```

We need to tell Maven that we want to be able to parse a WSDL file. This requires a plugin, so we need to put the following into the <dependencies> section of the pom.xml file. (You can refer to the previous tutorial sheet on the service if you want extra detail about doing this with the Eclipse or IntelliJ interface, but you can just edit the pom.xml directly).

## 2 Add dependency for WSDL Generation

Paste the above into your <dependencies> section of pom.xml.

```
<dependency>
     <groupId>org.springframework.boot</groupId>
     <artifactId>spring-boot-starter-web-services</artifactId>
     <exclusions>
```

Here I'm doing it with IntelliJ by right clicking on the pom.xml background and selecting Generate->Dependency

If you get a syntax error on the version then just delete that tag.

## 3 Add Support for Correct Java Version and XML mapping

You should be using Java 17 or above and because we selected this when we created our project it will have

```
<java.version>17</java.version>
```

In our pom (if it isn't already there).

You can find which version of Java you are running from the command line:

```
C:\Users\post>java -version
java version "17.0.1" 2021-10-19 LTS
Java(TM) SE Runtime Environment (build 17.0.1+12-LTS-39)
Java HotSpot(TM) 64-Bit Server VM (build 17.0.1+12-LTS-39, mixed mode, sharing)
```

Note in your logbook which version of Java you have installed on your machine.

You can specify a range of Java version but here we have just used Java 17 with <jdk>17</jdk> for example and that would match the Java version reported by the command line above.

For more on Java versions see:

https://www.marcobehler.com/guides/a-guide-to-java-versions-and-features

For more on the <jdk> tag see:

https://www.concretepage.com/build-tools/maven/activate-maven-profile-java-version

#### 4 Tell the Client about the Service

Next we will give it the url of our service, which returns the wsdl describing the service. Remember from the service worksheet that if you type the address <a href="http://localhost:8080/ws/countries.wsdl">http://localhost:8080/ws/countries.wsdl</a>

NOTE, the service MUST be running and must be running on the port you put in the following. If it isn't running you will get the errors talked about below.

You will see the wsdl schema. You could save this as a file and give the client, it amounts to the same thing. The jaxb plugin will look for the wsdl file in the src/main/resources folder if you don't put it like we have here.

We inform Maven using the following section that goes in the <plugins> section of the pom.xml file.

Paste the above into your pom.xml inside the <plugins> section.

You can see that the url of your service is highlighted in red. In Eclipse if Maven can't find the service then you will get a(n unhelpful) syntax error on the <execution> tag (highlighted in yellow). Perhaps even less helpfully, in IntelliJ it doesn't say anything if it can't find the service. Temporarily change the port number so it doesn't find the service and click save. You will see the aforementioned syntax error. If you get this error anyway it is because the url is wrong or you haven't started your service. Check it is correct by putting the address into your browser. You should see the wsdl schema.

Note also that the package (GroupID) must match what you have called your service. Here I used the very generic com.example.

Warning: when messing about with the pom file we can make our project out of date. You will see the little red cross on your project name and if you look on the "problems" tab it will tell you that your project "is not up to date with pom.xml" and to select (right click on your project) Maven->Update Project in Eclipse, or Maven->Reload Project in IntelliJ (note in IntelliJ this option is what you are doing when the Maven Icon pops up on your pom file).

In Eclipse on the dialogue that pops up select "Force Update of Snapshots". The red cross will disappear.

If you are not using Eclipse/IntelliJ you will have to rebuild your project with mvn compile.

Maven will take the pom.xml and generate Java classes that will be used to connect to the service. In your project look inside target/generated-sources and you will see no Java files, in IntelliJ you won't even see a target directory.

Show in your logbook you pom.xml file and highlight the additions that you've made.

### 5 Build the Project

In Eclipse right click on your project and select run-as->Maven Generate-sources (

In IntelliJ Right click on pom.xml's background and select Maven->Generate Sources and Update Folders.

Or on the command line type mvn compile.

You will see in the bottom right of both IDEs that something is happening, let it finish.

In your project look inside target/generated-sources and you will see java files corresponding to the service endpoints.

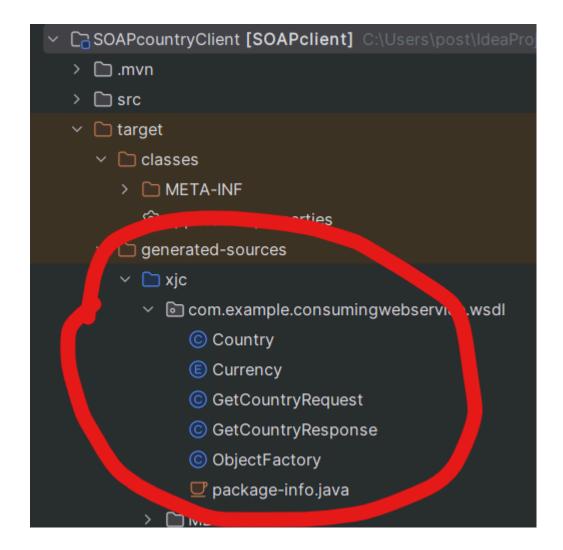
In Eclipse

- SpringSOAP-client-2 [boot]
  - - w to demo

      dem
  - - application.properties
  - > **#** src/test/java
  - > JRE System Library [JavaSE-11]
  - Maven Dependencies
  - **/** <sup>™</sup> target/generated-sources/xjc
    - # com.example.consumingwebservice.wsdl
      - > Country.java
      - > 🗗 Currency.java
      - > <a> GetCountryRequest.java</a>

      - > 🗾 ObjectFactory.java
      - package-info.java
    - AMP TA INIT

Or in IntelliJ



In your logbook paste a screenshot of your project before and after the generated sources and not what you did to generate them.

If you get syntax errors (or more warnings in the pom file) in these classes then it is probably because you have a Java version that is too old. Ensure you have at least SpringBoot version and Java 17 and all should be fine.

## 6 Create A Country Service Client

Next we must create a client class that must extend WebServiceGatewaySupport. This goes in main/java/<your package>

```
package com.example.consumingwebservice;
import org.slf4j.Logger;
import org.slf4j.LoggerFactory;
import org.springframework.ws.client.core.support.WebServiceGatewaySupport;
import org.springframework.ws.soap.client.core.SoapActionCallback;
```

If you have put yours in a different package ensure you have the correct package and the two imports reference your package correctly.

Ensure your service url is correct (in red), as if it isn't it (obviously) won't work and you'll get a run-time exception when you attempt to run the client.

You can create a class and copy this code into it. If using Eclipse it is very good at correcting syntax errors, so I end up relying on it out of laziness. I.e. Here I just create a class, copy the code in and it gives an error that it doesn't correspond to the package statement on the first line. Clicking on the syntax error gives the correction and if you select it it will do it for you (i.e. create the package and move the class into it).

The code looks a bit complex but it is just using the classes that were generated in the previous step. These correspond to the services that the Service offers and are described in its wsdl schema, which the client sees because we've given it the url. It contains one method for performing the actual SOAP request, getCountry() in green. When we eventually run the client we will see the message in yellow on the console.

The string parameter "country" is passed to the GetCountryRequest. This does the SOAP exchange and returns a response. Inside this is a Country object (created in the generated sources) which contains all the information about that country (i.e. capital city, population, currency).

Look at the above code and satisfy yourself that the objects it is referencing come from the generated sources.

In your logbook annotate the above code, perhaps with colours, showing the mapping to the generated sources.

### 7 Configure Components

Now create CountryConfiguration in the same package in src/main/java.

```
package com.example.consumingwebservice;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.Bean;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.Configuration;
import org.springframework.oxm.jaxb.Jaxb2Marshaller;
@Configuration
public class CountryConfiguration {
 @Bean
 public Jaxb2Marshaller marshaller() {
  Jaxb2Marshaller marshaller = new Jaxb2Marshaller();
  // this package must match the package in the <generatePackage> specified in
  // pom.xml
  marshaller.setContextPath("com.example.consuming
  return marshaller;
}
 @Bean
 public CountryClient countryClient(Jaxb2Marshaller marshaller) {
  CountryClient client = new CountryClient();
  client.setDefaultUri("http://localhost:8080/ws");
  client.setMarshaller(marshaller);
  client.setUnmarshaller(marshaller);
  return client;
```

}

The @configuration tag means that this class will have one or more @bean methods. The @bean marshaller() is the method that sends the SOAP requests. It is injected into the countryClient which has the url of the server. The part highlighted in red is the package where the generated sources are. This must match what package you have.

Create a class in your project and copy the above code into it.

#### 8 Run the Client

When the project was created it made a simple class with a main method in it, in com.example.demo. We don't need this, you can delete it.

Create a class called ConsumingWebServiceApplication in the com.example.consumingwebservice package and copy the code below into it.

```
package com.example.consumingwebservice;
import org.springframework.boot.CommandLineRunner;
import org.springframework.boot.SpringApplication;
import org.springframework.boot.autoconfigure.SpringBootApplication;
import org.springframework.context.annotation.Bean;
import com.example.consumingwebservice.wsdl.GetCountryResponse;
@SpringBootApplication
public class ConsumingWebServiceApplication {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
  SpringApplication.run(ConsumingWebServiceApplication.class, args);
 @Bean
 CommandLineRunner lookup(CountryClient quoteClient) {
  return args -> {
   String country = "Spain";
   if (args.length > 0) {
    country = args[0];
```

```
GetCountryResponse response = quoteClient.getCountry(country);
    System.err.println(response.getCountry().getCurrency());
    };
}
```

The main method runs our Spring Boot application. Spring Boot then calls the lookup method. This hard codes the country that we want to lookup, here "Spain". It gets the response and prints it out. It is important to remember that the actual information, that the Euro is the currency of Spain, has come from an external service which is running locally on your machine but could be elsewhere on the internet.

#### Copy the above code into your project.

Before we run it we need to make sure it isn't going to run on the same local port as our service (this is only a problem when we are using a local machine for everything.

In target\classes\com\application.properties put

```
port = 8888
```

(or anything that's different from your server, which I have as 8080).

If you don't put anything it SHOULD allocate a free port and since this is the client we don't really need to know the port, but sometimes it doesn't check that it's free and it defaults to 8080.

Right click on the main class (ConsumingWebServiceApplication) in the project and select run-as->Java Application.

You should get a response from the service "EUR", because we sent a currency request for Spain.

```
c.e.c.ConsumingWebServiceApplication : Starting
ConsumingWebServiceApplication using Java 16.0.2 on Faramir with PID 24796
(C:\Users\post\eclipse-workspace\SpringSOAP-client-2\target\classes started by
post in C:\Users\post\eclipse-workspace\SpringSOAP-client-2)
2022-03-04 13:00:55.865 INFO 24796 --- [
c.e.c.ConsumingWebServiceApplication : No active profile set, falling back to
default profiles: default
2022-03-04 13:00:56.867 INFO 24796 --- [
o.s.ws.soap.saaj.SaajSoapMessageFactory: Creating SAAJ 1.3 MessageFactory
with SOAP 1.1 Protocol
2022-03-04 13:00:57.097 INFO 24796 --- [
                                              main]
c.e.c.ConsumingWebServiceApplication : Started
ConsumingWebServiceApplication in 1.807 seconds (JVM running for 4.31)
2022-03-04 13:00:57.100 INFO 24796 --- [
                                              main1
c.e.consumingwebservice.CountryClient : Requesting location for Spain
```

Now alter the program to get it to output data from other countries. Such as the capital city and populations. Note you should have added data to your service last week.

Show the examples in your logbook.

If you are using the command line then you can generate everything with:

```
mvn clean package
```

Potential problems that can occur here are:

- 1 Your service isn't running, so it doesn't know what you are talking about and you will get build errors. Ensure it is running.
- 2 If you have been using an IDE and then come out to a command prompt it can't delete a file it wants to and will fail. Quit out of your IDE. You can probably restart it again as it is a temporary file.

You can then

```
dir target
```

And you should see your jar file, mine is called consumingwebservice-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar.

You can then run this with:

```
java -jar target\consumingwebservice-0.0.1-SNAPSHOT.jar
```

Once you have built a client you might try building a client for a more complex service. Try using this fully-fledged version of the country service that we built.

http://webservices.oorsprong.org/websamples.countryinfo/CountryInfoService.wso?WSDL

You can use SoapUI to have a look at it first.

#### Addendum

## Importing Projects from Git using Eclipse

Goto git perspective

Paste git repository link into "clone a git repository and add to this view".

Go to package or project explorer in Java perspective and import general->projects from folder or archive.

It will come up with the main project and maven project. Select both.

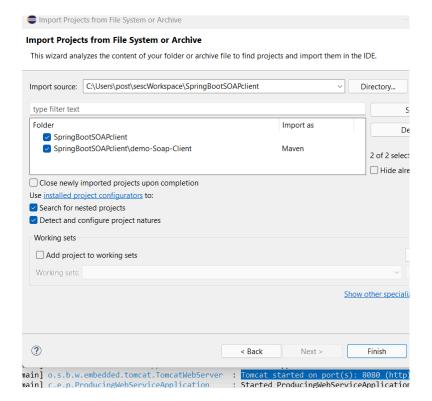
There will likely be syntax errors until you right click on the maven project and select maven->update project.

Run the project:

run-as->run configurations double click Spring Boot App - search for main type and select your class with ain in (for the server producingwebservices).

Your service should now appear on the port (see output text "Tomcat started on port(s): 8080 (http) with context path "

You should see wsdl output in your browser <a href="http://localhost:8080/ws/countries.wsdl">http://localhost:8080/ws/countries.wsdl</a>



## To build and run from the command line

Once you have got the sources from gitHub then go to the project directory (the one with \src and mvn in it) and

```
mvn clean install
```

This will create a jar file in the \target directory which you can run. To see what it is type dir target

You can run it with java - jar target\<name of jar>.jar

When building the client jar file it needs to have the service in existence (running on our local machine in this case so it can get the wsdl (or you could have a copy of the wsdl file instead of the server url in your setup). It is best to stop the server (in eclipse click on the server project and then click the red square or see this for manually killing a process: <a href="https://medium.com/@javatechie/how-to-kill-the-process-currently-using-a-port-on-localhost-in-windows-31ccdea2a3ea">https://medium.com/@javatechie/how-to-kill-the-process-currently-using-a-port-on-localhost-in-windows-31ccdea2a3ea</a>

Sometimes the build fails because it doesn't like the service. Restarting it should work. You can then do the same as before with.

```
mvmw clean install
```

And then run the resulting jar file in the \target directory.

If you have time you could expand the service to have more data. Or you could try and create a client for one of these public SOAP services.

https://documenter.getpostman.com/view/8854915/Szf26WHn

## GitHub Projects

Try and build your own but here are working examples for you to build.

Service Client

## **Eclipse**

If using Eclipse you need the Enterprise Edition (EE).

You then need to add Spring Tools.

Go to Help->Eclipse Market Place

Type "Spring Boot" into the search box.

Search | Recent | Popular | Favorites | Installed |

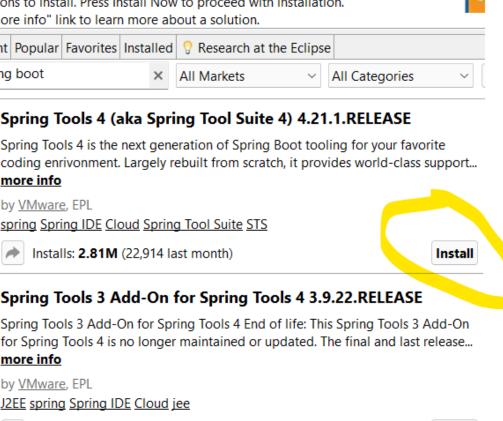
more info

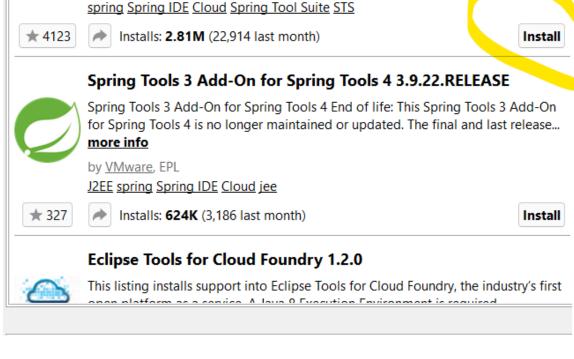
by VMware, EPL

### Eclipse Marketplace

Find: P spring boot

Select solutions to install. Press Install Now to proceed with installation. Press the "more info" link to learn more about a solution.





Research at the Eclipse

All Markets

Install the latest Spring Tools.

You will now see "Spring" under the New Project templates.