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### Difference between save vs persist and saveOrUpdate in Hibernate

#### Save vs saveOrUpdate vs persist in Hibernate

What is difference between `save` and `saveOrUpdate` or Difference between `save` and `persist` are common interview question in any Hibernate interview, much like [Difference between get and load method in Hibernate](#).  
Hibernate `Session` class provides couple of ways to save object into database by methods like `save`, `saveOrUpdate` and `persist`. You can use either `save()`, `saveOrUpdate()` or `persist()` based upon your requirement for persisting object into [Database](#). Along with [Spring framework Interview questions](#), Hibernate questions are also quite popular on J2EE interviews because of its status as leading ORM. It's good to prepare some questions from Hibernate before appearing in any [J2EE interviews](#). One of them is *Difference between save, saveOrUpdate and persist*, which we will see in this Hibernate article.

#### Difference between save and saveOrUpdate in Hibernate



Main *difference between save and saveOrUpdate method* is that `save()` generates a **new identifier** and INSERT record into [database](#) while `saveOrUpdate` can either INSERT or UPDATE based upon existence of record. Clearly `saveOrUpdate` is more flexible in terms of use but it involves an extra processing to find out whether record already exists in table or not.

In summary `save()` method saves records into database by INSERT SQL query, Generates a new identifier and return the [Serializable](#) identifier back.

On the other hand `saveOrUpdate()` method either INSERT or UPDATE based upon existence of object in database. If persistence object already exists in database then UPDATE SQL will [execute](#) and if there is no corresponding object in database then INSERT will run.

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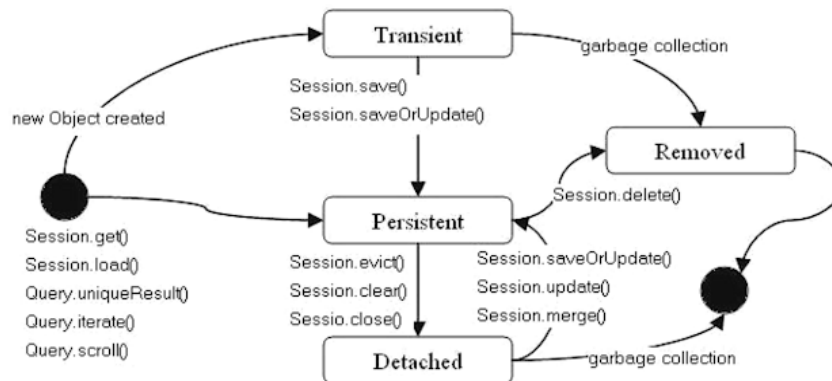
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### Difference between save and persist method in Hibernate

In last section we saw What are difference between `save` and `saveOrUpdate` and now we will see Difference on `save` vs `persist` method.

1) First difference between `save` and `persist` is there return type. Similar to `save` method `persist` also INSERT records into database but **return type of `persist` is `void`** while return type of `save` is [Serializable](#) object.

2) Another difference between `persist` and `save` is that both methods make a [transient](#) instance persistent. However, `persist()` method doesn't guarantee that the identifier value will be assigned to the persistent instance immediately, the assignment might happen at flush time.



3) One more thing which differentiate `persist` and `save` method in Hibernate is that is there behavior on outside of transaction boundaries. `persist()` method guarantees that it will not execute an INSERT statement if it is called outside of [transaction boundaries](#). `save()` method does not guarantee the same, it returns an identifier, and if an INSERT has to be executed to get the identifier (e.g. "identity" generator), this INSERT happens immediately, no matter if you are inside or outside of a transaction.

4) Fourth difference between `save` and `persist` method in Hibernate is related to previous difference on `save` vs `persist`. Because of its above behavior of `persist` method outside transaction boundary, its useful in long-running conversations with an extended `Session` context. On the other hand `save` method is not good in a long-running conversation with an extended `Session` context.

These were some **differences between `save`, `saveOrUpdate` and `persist` method of **Hibernate****. All three method are related to saving Object into database but there behavior are quite different. Knowledge of `save`, `persist` and `saveOrUpdate` not only helps to decide better use of Hibernate API but also help you to do well in Hibernate interviews.

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