**Q1. What Is Spring Framework?**

Spring is the most broadly used framework for the development of Java Enterprise Edition applications. Further, the core features of Spring can be used in developing any Java application.

We use its extensions for building various web applications on top of the Jakarta EE platform. We can also just use its dependency injection provisions in simple standalone applications.

**Q2. What Are the Benefits of Using Spring?**

Spring targets to make Jakarta EE development easier, so let’s look at the advantages:

**Lightweight** – There is a slight overhead of using the framework in development.

**Inversion of Control (IoC)** – Spring container takes care of wiring dependencies of various objects instead of creating or looking for dependent objects.

**Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP)** – Spring supports AOP to separate business logic from system services.

**IoC container** – manages Spring Bean life cycle and project-specific configurations.

**MVC framework** – used to create web applications or RESTful web services, capable of returning XML/JSON responses.

**Transaction management** – reduces the amount of boilerplate code in JDBC operations, file uploading, etc., either by using Java annotations or by Spring Bean XML configuration file

**Exception Handling** – Spring provides a convenient API for translating technology-specific exceptions into unchecked exceptions.

**Q3. What Spring Sub-Projects Do You Know? Describe Them Briefly.**

**Core** – a key module that provides fundamental parts of the framework, such as IoC or DI

**JDBC** – enables a JDBC-abstraction layer that removes the need to do JDBC coding for specific vendor databases

**ORM integration** – provides integration layers for popular object-relational mapping APIs, such as JPA, JDO and Hibernate

**Web** – a web-oriented integration module that provides multipart file upload, Servlet listeners and web-oriented application context functionalities

**MVC framework** – a web module implementing the Model View Controller design pattern

**AOP module** – aspect-oriented programming implementation allowing the definition of clean method-interceptors and pointcuts

**Q4. What Is Dependency Injection?**

Dependency injection, an aspect of Inversion of Control (IoC), is a general concept stating that we do not create our objects manually but instead describe how they should be created. Then an IoC container will instantiate required classes if needed.

**Q5. How Can We Inject Beans in Spring?**

A few different options exist in order to inject Spring beans:

1. **Setter injection**
2. **Constructor injection**
3. **Field injection**

The configuration can be done using XML files or annotations.

**Q6. Which Is the Best Way of Injecting Beans and Why?**

The recommended approach is to use constructor arguments for mandatory dependencies and setters for optional ones. This is because constructor injection allows injecting values to immutable fields and makes testing easier.

**Q7. What Is the Difference Between BeanFactory and ApplicationContext?**

BeanFactory is an interface representing a container that provides and manages bean instances. The default implementation instantiates beans lazily when getBean() is called.

In contrast, ApplicationContext is an interface representing a container holding all information, metadata and beans in the application. It also extends the BeanFactory interface, but the default implementation instantiates beans eagerly when the application starts. However, this behavior can be overridden for individual beans.

| **BeanFactory** | **ApplicationContext** |
| --- | --- |
| It is a fundamental container that provides the basic functionality for managing beans. | It is an advanced container that extends the BeanFactory that provides all basic functionality and adds some advanced features. |
| It is suitable to build standalone applications. | It is suitable to build Web applications, integration with AOP modules, ORM and distributed applications. |
| It supports only Singleton and Prototype bean scopes. | It supports all types of bean scopes such as Singleton, Prototype, Request, Session etc. |
| It does not support Annotations. In Bean Autowiring, we need to configure the properties in XML file only. | It supports Annotation based configuration in Bean Autowiring. |
| This interface does not provides messaging (i18n or internationalization) functionality. | ApplicationContext interface extends MessageSource interface, thus it provides messaging (i18n or internationalization) functionality. |
| BeanFactory does not support Event publication functionality. | Event handling in the ApplicationContext is provided through the ApplicationEvent class and ApplicationListener interface. |
| In BeanFactory, we need to manually register BeanPostProcessors and BeanFactoryPostProcessors. | The ApplicationContext automatically registers BeanFactoryPostProcessor and BeanPostProcessor at startup. |
| BeanFactory will create a bean object when the getBean() method is called thus making it Lazy initialization. | ApplicationContext loads all the beans and creates objects at the time of startup only thus making it Eager initialization. |
| BeanFactory interface provides basic features only thus requires less memory. For standalone applications where the basic features are enough and when memory consumption is critical, we can use BeanFactory. | ApplicationContext provides all the basic features and advanced features, including several that are geared towards enterprise applications thus requires more memory. |

**Q8. What Is a Spring Bean?**

The Spring Beans are Java Objects that are initialized by the Spring IoC container.

**Q9. What Is the Default Bean Scope in Spring Framework?**

By default, a Spring Bean is initialized as a singleton.

**Q10. How to Define the Scope of a Bean?**

In order to set Spring Bean’s scope, we can use @Scope annotation or “scope” attribute in XML configuration files. Note that there are five supported scopes:

**singleton**

(Default) Scopes a single bean definition to a single object instance for each Spring IoC container.

**prototype**

Scopes a single bean definition to any number of object instances.

**request**

Scopes a single bean definition to the lifecycle of a single HTTP request. That is, each HTTP request has its own instance of a bean created off the back of a single bean definition. Only valid in the context of a web-aware Spring ApplicationContext.

**session**

Scopes a single bean definition to the lifecycle of an HTTP Session. Only valid in the context of a web-aware Spring ApplicationContext.

**application**

Scopes a single bean definition to the lifecycle of a ServletContext. Only valid in the context of a web-aware Spring ApplicationContext.

**websocket**

Scopes a single bean definition to the lifecycle of a WebSocket. Only valid in the context of a web-aware Spring ApplicationContext.

**Q11. Are Singleton Beans Thread-Safe?**

No, singleton beans are not thread-safe, as thread safety is about execution, whereas the singleton is a design pattern focusing on creation. Thread safety depends only on the bean implementation itself.

**Q12. What Does the Spring Bean Life Cycle Look Like?**

First, a Spring bean needs to be instantiated based on Java or XML bean definition. It may also be required to perform some initialization to get it into a usable state. After that, when the bean is no longer required, it will be removed from the IoC container.

**InitializingBean and DisposableBean**

In Spring, InitializingBean and DisposableBean are two callback interfaces, a useful way for Spring to perform certain actions upon bean initialization and destruction.

For bean implemented InitializingBean, it will run **afterPropertiesSet()** after all bean properties have been set.

void afterPropertiesSet() throws Exception;

For bean implemented DisposableBean, it will run **destroy()** after Spring container is released the bean.

void destroy() throws Exception;

The JSR-250 @PostConstruct and @PreDestroy annotations are generally considered best practice for receiving lifecycle callbacks in a modern Spring application. Using these annotations means that your beans are not coupled to Spring-specific interfaces.

XML-based configuration metadata, you can use the init-method attribute to specify the name of the method that has a void no-argument signature. If you do not want to use the JSR-250 annotations but you still want to remove coupling, consider init-method and destroy-method bean definition metadata.

<bean id="exampleInitBean" class="examples.ExampleBean" init-method="init"/>

<bean id="exampleDestructionBean" class="examples.ExampleBean" destroy-method="cleanup"/>

public class BeanOne {

public void init() {

// initialization logic

}

}

public class BeanTwo {

public void cleanup() {

// destruction logic

}

}

@Configuration

public class AppConfig {

@Bean(initMethod = "init")

public BeanOne beanOne() {

return new BeanOne();

}

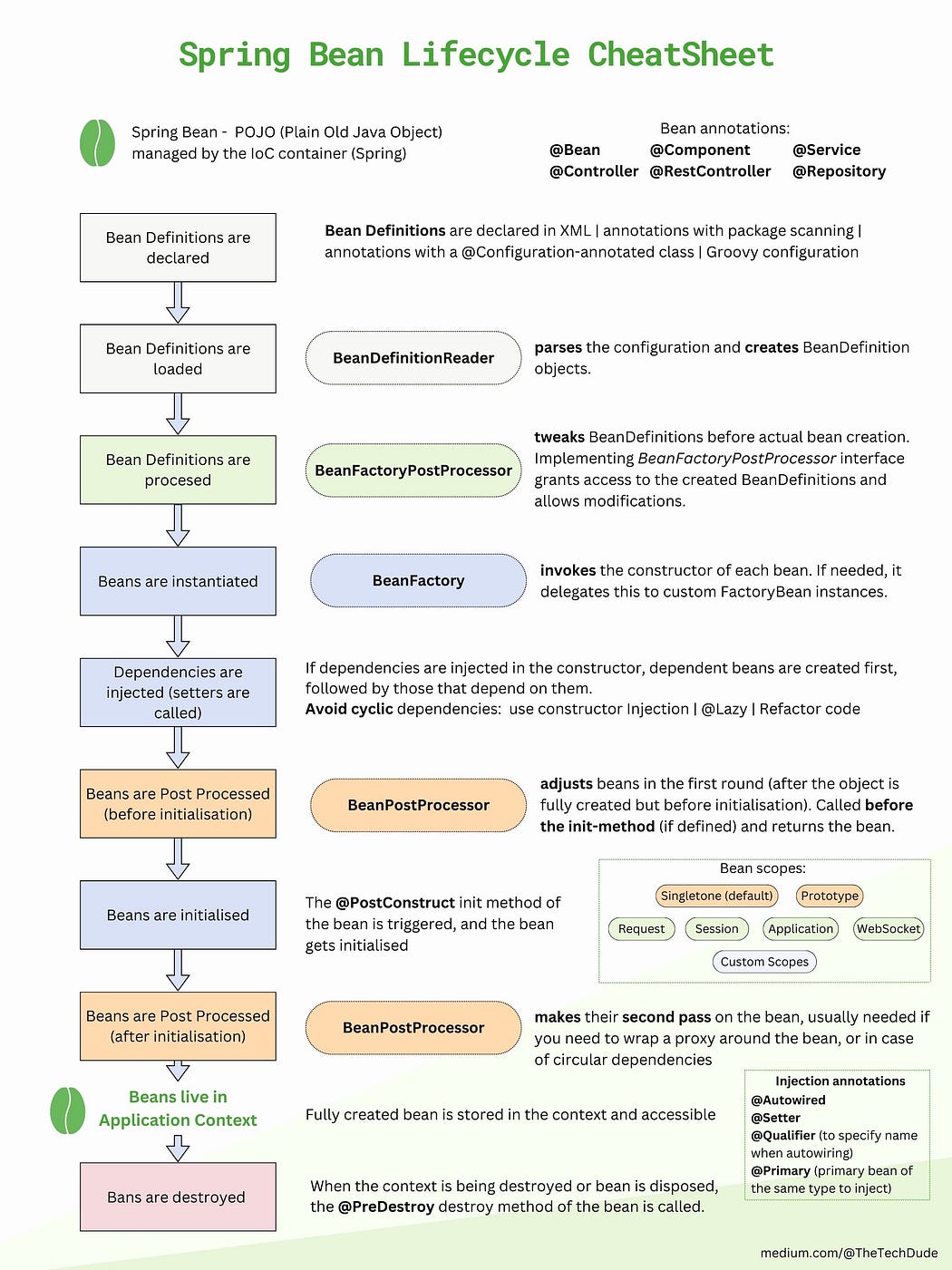
@Bean(destroyMethod = "cleanup")

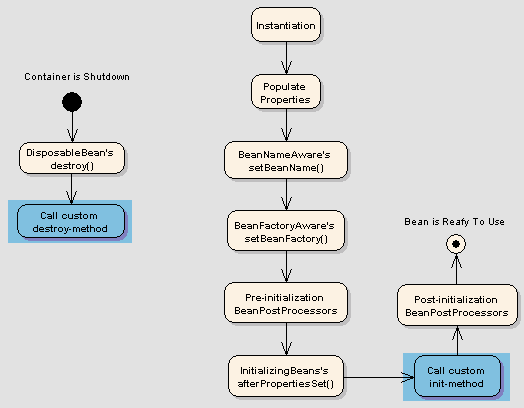
public BeanTwo beanTwo() {

return new BeanTwo();

}

}





The whole cycle with all initialization methods is shown in the image (source):

Spring Bean Life Cycle

**Q13. What Is the Spring Java-Based Configuration?**

It’s one of the ways of configuring Spring-based applications in a type-safe manner. It’s an alternative to the XML-based configuration.

Also, to migrate a project from XML to Java config, please refer to this article.

**Q14. Can We Have Multiple Spring Configuration Files in One Project?**

Yes, in large projects, having multiple Spring configurations is recommended to increase maintainability and modularity. @Import annotation has a solution, by its capability to group Configuration classes:

@Configuration

@Import({ DogConfig.class, CatConfig.class })

class MammalConfiguration {

}

We can load multiple Java-based configuration files:

Or we can load one XML file that will contain all other configs:

ApplicationContext context = new ClassPathXmlApplicationContext("spring-all.xml");

And inside this XML file we’ll have the following:

<import resource="main.xml"/>

<import resource="scheduler.xml"/>

**Q15. What Is Spring Security?**

Spring Security is a separate module of the Spring framework that focuses on providing authentication and authorization methods in Java applications. It also takes care of most of the common security vulnerabilities such as CSRF attacks.

To use Spring Security in web applications, we can get started with the simple annotation @EnableWebSecurity.

For more information, we have a whole series of articles related to security.

**Q16. What Is Spring Boot?**

Spring Boot is a project that provides a pre-configured set of frameworks to reduce boilerplate configuration. This way, we can have a Spring application up and running with the smallest amount of code.

**Q17. Name Some of the Design Patterns Used in the Spring Framework?**

Singleton Pattern – singleton-scoped beans

Factory Pattern – Bean Factory classes

Prototype Pattern – prototype-scoped beans

Adapter Pattern – Spring Web and Spring MVC

Proxy Pattern – Spring Aspect-Oriented Programming support

Template Method Pattern – JdbcTemplate, HibernateTemplate, etc.

Front Controller – Spring MVC DispatcherServlet

Data Access Object – Spring DAO support

Model View Controller – Spring MVC

**Q18. How Does the Scope Prototype Work?**

Scope prototype means that every time we call for an instance of the Bean, Spring will create a new instance and return it. This differs from the default singleton scope, where a single object instance is instantiated once per Spring IoC container.

Can be achieved by two ways

1. With @Bean annotation in config file
2. At class level

**Q19. How to Get ServletContext and ServletConfig Objects in a Spring Bean?**

1. Use @Autowired annotation to inject ServletContext and ServletConfig in Spring Bean.
2. Implement Spring aware interfaces in the class that depends on ServletConfigor ServletContext.

We can do either by implementing Spring-aware interfaces. The complete list is available here.

We could also use @Autowired annotation on those beans:

@Autowired

ServletContext servletContext;

@Autowired

ServletConfig servletConfig;

**Q20. What Is a Controller in Spring MVC?**

Simply put, all the requests processed by the DispatcherServlet are directed to classes annotated with @Controller. Each controller class maps one or more requests to methods that process and execute the requests with provided inputs.

To take a step back, we recommend having a look at the concept of the Front Controller in the typical Spring MVC architecture.

**Q21. How Does the @RequestMapping Annotation Work?**

The @RequestMapping annotation is used to map web requests to Spring Controller methods. In addition to simple use cases, we can use it for mapping of HTTP headers, binding parts of the URI with @PathVariable, and working with URI parameters and the @RequestParam annotation.

More details on @RequestMapping are available here.

For more Spring MVC questions, please check out our article on Spring MVC interview questions.

**Q22. What Is Spring JdbcTemplate Class and How to Use It?**

The Spring JDBC template is the primary API through which we can access database operations logic that we’re interested in:

1. Creation and closing of connections.
2. Executing statements and stored procedure calls
3. Iterating over the ResultSet and returning results
4. In order to use it, we’ll need to define the simple configuration of DataSource:

@Configuration

@ComponentScan("org.baeldung.jdbc")

public class SpringJdbcConfig {

@Bean

public DataSource mysqlDataSource() {

DriverManagerDataSource dataSource = new DriverManagerDataSource();

dataSource.setDriverClassName("com.mysql.jdbc.Driver");

dataSource.setUrl("jdbc:mysql://localhost:3306/springjdbc");

dataSource.setUsername("guest\_user");

dataSource.setPassword("guest\_password");

return dataSource;

}

}

**Q23. How to Enable Transactions in Spring and What Are Their Benefits?**

There are two distinct ways to configure Transactions — with annotations or by using Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP) — each with their advantages.

Here are the benefits of using Spring Transactions, according to the official docs:

1. Provide a consistent programming model across different transaction APIs such as JTA, JDBC, Hibernate, JPA and JDO
2. Support declarative transaction management.
3. Provide a simpler API for programmatic transaction management than some complex transaction APIs such as JTA
4. Integrate very well with Spring’s various data access abstractions.

**Q24. What Is Spring DAO?**

Spring Data Access Object (DAO) is Spring’s support provided to work with data access technologies like JDBC, Hibernate and JPA in a consistent and easy way.

There is an entire series discussing persistence in Spring that provides a more in-depth look.

**Q25. What Is Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP)?**

Aspects enable the modularization of cross-cutting concerns such as transaction management that span multiple types and objects by adding extra behavior to already existing code without modifying affected classes.

Here is the example of aspect-based execution time logging.

**Q26. What Are Aspect, Advice, Pointcut and JoinPoint in AOP?**

Aspect – a class that implements cross-cutting concerns, such as transaction management

Advice – the methods that get executed when a specific JoinPoint with matching Pointcut is reached in the application

Pointcut – a set of regular expressions that are matched with JoinPoint to determine whether Advice needs to be executed or not

JoinPoint – a point during the execution of a program, such as the execution of a method or the handling of an exception

**Q27. What Is Weaving?**

According to the official docs, weaving is a process that links aspects with other application types or objects to create an advised object. This can be done at compile time, load time, or runtime. Spring AOP, like other pure Java AOP frameworks, performs weaving at runtime.

**Q28. What Is Reactive Programming?**

Reactive programming is about non-blocking, event-driven applications that scale with a small number of threads, with back pressure being a key ingredient that aims to ensure producers don’t overwhelm consumers.

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These are the primary benefits of reactive programming:

Increased utilization of computing resources on multicore and multi-CPU hardware

Increased performance by reducing serialization

Reactive programming is generally event-driven, in contrast to reactive systems, which are message-driven. So, using reactive programming does not mean we’re building a reactive system, which is an architectural style.

However, reactive programming may be used as a means to implement reactive systems if we follow the Reactive Manifesto, which is quite vital to understand.

Based on this, reactive systems have four important characteristics:

Responsive – The system should respond in a timely manner.

Resilient – In case the system faces any failure, it should stay responsive.

Elastic – Reactive systems can react to changes and stay responsive under varying workload.

Message-driven – Reactive systems need to establish a boundary between components by relying on asynchronous message passing.

Q29. What Is Spring WebFlux?

Spring WebFlux is Spring’s reactive-stack web framework, and it’s an alternative to Spring MVC.

In order to achieve this reactive model and be highly scalable, the entire stack is non-blocking. Check out our tutorial on Spring 5 WebFlux for additional details.

Q30. What Are the Mono and Flux Types?

The WebFlux framework in Spring Framework 5 uses Reactor as its async foundation.

This project provides two core types: Mono to represent a single async value and Flux to represent a stream of async values. They both also implement the Publisher interface defined in the Reactive Streams specification.

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Mono implements Publisher and returns 0 or 1 elements:

public abstract class Mono<T> implements Publisher<T> {...}

Copy

And Flux implements Publisher and returns N elements:

public abstract class Flux<T> implements Publisher<T> {...}

Copy

By definition, the two types represent streams, and so they’re both lazy. This means nothing is executed until we consume the stream using the subscribe() method. Both types are also immutable, so calling any method will return a new instance of Flux or Mono.

Q31. What Is the Use of WebClient and WebTestClient?

WebClient is a component in the new Web Reactive framework that can act as a reactive client for performing non-blocking HTTP requests. Since it’s reactive client, it can handle reactive streams with back pressure, and it can take full advantage of Java 8 lambdas. It can also handle both sync and async scenarios.

On the other hand, the WebTestClient is a similar class that we can use in tests. Basically, it’s a thin shell around the WebClient. It can connect to any server over an HTTP connection. It can also bind directly to WebFlux applications using mock request and response objects, without the need for an HTTP server.

Q32. What Are the Disadvantages of Using Reactive Streams?

There are some major disadvantages to using reactive streams:

Troubleshooting a Reactive application is a bit difficult, so be sure to check out our tutorial on debugging reactive streams for some handy debugging tips.

There is limited support for reactive data stores since traditional relational data stores have yet to embrace the reactive paradigm.

There’s an extra learning curve when implementing.

Q33. Is Spring 5 Compatible With Older Versions of Java?

In order to take advantage of Java 8 features, the Spring codebase has been revamped. This means older versions of Java cannot be used. So, the framework requires a minimum of Java 8.

Q34. How Does Spring 5 Integrate With JDK 9 Modularity?

In Spring 5, everything has been modularized. This way, we won’t be forced to import jars that may not have the functionalities we’re looking for.

Please have a look at our guide to Java 9 modularity for an in-depth understanding of how this technology works.

Let’s see an example to understand the new module functionality in Java 9 and how to organize a Spring 5 project based on this concept.

We’ll first create a new class that contains a single method to return a String “HelloWorld”. We’ll place this within a new Java project — HelloWorldModule:

package com.hello;

public class HelloWorld {

public String sayHello(){

return "HelloWorld";

}

}

Copy

Then we create a new module:

module com.hello {

export com.hello;

}

Copy

Now let’s create a new Java Project, HelloWorldClient, to consume the above module by defining a module:

module com.hello.client {

requires com.hello;

}

Copy

The above module will be available for testing now:

public class HelloWorldClient {

public static void main(String[] args){

HelloWorld helloWorld = new HelloWorld();

log.info(helloWorld.sayHello());

}

}

Copy

Q35. Can We Use Both Web MVC and WebFlux in the Same Application?

As of now, Spring Boot will only allow either Spring MVC or Spring WebFlux, as Spring Boot tries to auto-configure the context depending on the dependencies that exist in its classpath.

Also, Spring MVC cannot run on Netty. Moreover, MVC is a blocking paradigm and WebFlux is a non-blocking style. So, we shouldn’t be mixing both together because they serve different purposes.