Spring Security Example Tutorial – How to limit number of User Session in Java

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**Spring security** can limit number of session a user can have. If you are developing web application specially **secure web application** in Java J2EE then you must have come up with requirement similar to online banking portals have e.g. **only one session per user** at a time or **no concurrent session per user**. You can also implement this functionality without using spring security but with Spring security its just piece of cake with coffee :). **Spring Security** provides lots of Out of Box functionality a secure enterprise or web application needed like authentication, authorization, session management, password encoding, secure access, session timeout etc. In our spring security example we have seen [how to do LDAP Authentication in Active directory using spring security](http://javarevisited.blogspot.com/2011/11/ldap-authentication-active-directory.html) and in this spring security example we will see how to limit number of session user can have in Java web application or restricting concurrent user session.

Spring Security Example: Limit Number of User Session

As I said it’s simple and easy when you use spring security framework or library. In fact is all declarative and no code is require to enable **concurrent session disable functionality**. You will need to include following xml snippet in your *Spring Security Configuration file* mostly named as applicaContext-security.xml. Here is sample **spring security Example** of limiting user session in Java web application:

**<session-management** invalid-session-url="/logout.html"**>**

**<concurrency-control** max-sessions="1" error-if-maximum-exceeded="true" **/>**

**</session-management>**

As you see you can **specify how many concurrent session per user is allowed**, most secure system like online banking portals allow just one authenticate session per user. You can even specify a URL where user will be taken if they submit an invalid session identifier can be used to detect session timeout. Session-management element is used to capture session related stuff. Max-session specify how many concurrent authenticated session is allowed and if error-if-maximum-exceeded set to true it will flag error if user tries to login into another session.

Dependency

This code has dependency on spring-security framework. You need to download spring security jar like spring-security-web-3.1.0.jar and add into [application classpath](http://javarevisited.blogspot.com/2011/01/how-classpath-work-in-java.html).

This **simple example of spring security** shows power of spring security, a small piece of xml snippet can add very useful and handy **security feature**in your Java web application. I recommend using spring security for your new or existing Java web application created using Servlet JSP.

That’s all on how to limit number of user session using [spring security](http://static.springsource.org/spring-security/site/) in Java web application. Let me know if you face any issue while implementing this security feature in your project.