

Spring MVC Validators, Convertors and i18N

Objectives

• Enhance the web application using validators, Type conversion and formatting, i18(internationalization), themes, templates



Validation

Validator interface

- Spring's features a Validator interface that you can use to validate objects.
- The Validator interface works using an Errors object so that while validating, validators can report validation failures to the Errors object.
- Methods of org.springframework.validation.Validator interface:
 - boolean supports(Class)
 - Can this Validator validate instances of the supplied Class?
 - void validate(Object, org.springframework.validation.Errors)
 - validates the given object and in case of validation errors, registers those with the given Errors object



Validation

Validator Example

```
* @author Banu Prakash
 * © 2011 MindTree Limited
public class AccountValidator implements Validator {
    /* (non-Javadoc)
     * @see org.springframework.validation.Validator#supports(java.lang.Class)
     */
    @Override
    public boolean supports(Class<?> clazz) {
        return clazz.isAssignableFrom(Account.class);
    /* (non-Javadoc) ...
    @Override
    public void validate(Object model, Errors errors) {
         ValidationUtils.rejectIfEmpty( errors, "accountNumber",
                 "acc.No", "Account Number is required");
         ValidationUtils.rejectIfEmpty( errors, "accountOwner",
                 "acc.Owner", "Account Owner is required");
         ValidationUtils.rejectIfEmpty( errors, "balance",
                 "acc.Balance", "Account Initial Balance is required");
         Account account = (Account) model;
         if(account.getBalance() <= 0) {</pre>
             errors.rejectValue("balance",
                     "acc.balanceInvalid",
                     "Account Initial Balance should be more than zero");
```



Validation

- BindingResult
 - Binding and validation errors can be trapped and introspected by declaring a BindingResult parameter
 - Must follow the JavaBean parameter in the method signature
 - Errors automatically exported in the model when rendering views



Type Conversion

PropertyEditors

- The java.beans.PropertyEditor interface provides a means to customize how String values are mapped to non-String types.
- java.beans.PropertyEditorSupport is a support class to help build property editors.
- Some important methods which has to be overridden in our PropertyEditor class are listed below:

Method	Description
void setAsText(String text)	Sets the property value by parsing a given String
String getAsText()	Gets the property value as a string suitable for presentation to a human to edit
Object getAsValue()	Gets the value of the property.



Type Conversion

- Spring Framework comes with several custom editors based on PropertyEditorSupport.
 - For Example "CustomDateEditor" is used to set a java.util.Date property from a String using a custom java.text.DateFormat object.
- In a web application data entered from form fields are of type String,
 If type conversion has to happen between the entered date in the
 String format to a java.util.Date, you need to register explicitly using
 WebDataBinder.
- Annotating controller methods with @InitBinder allows you to configure



Type Conversion

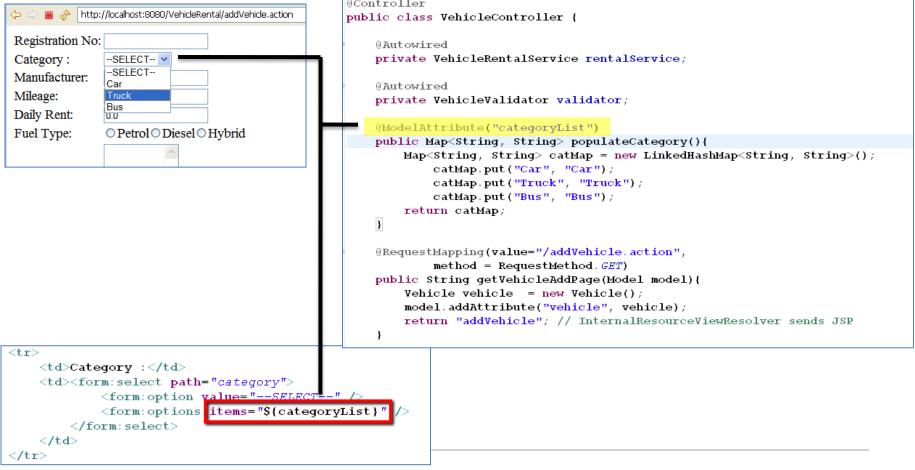
- Writing your own PropertyEditors
 - Converts data entered in the form House, Street, City to Address property

```
* @author Banu Prakash
* © 2011 MindTree Limited
*/
public class AddressEditor extends PropertyEditorSupport {
    private String[] strAddressData;
    private Address address;
    /* (non-Javadoc)
     * @see java.beans.PropertyEditorSupport#setAsText(java.lang.String)
     */
    @Override
    public void setAsText(String text) throws IllegalArgumentException {
        if( text != null) {
            strAddressData = text.split(",");
            if( strAddressData.length != 3) {
                throw new IllegalArgumentException("Address should have House No, Street, City");
        } else {
            throw new IllegalArgumentException("Address should have House No, Street, City");
   /* (non-Javadoc) ...
    @Override
    public Object getValue() {
       return new Address(strAddressData[0], strAddressData[1], strAddressData[2]);
```



Pre-populating form fields

- Pre-populate Form Fields
 - @ModelAttribute annotated methods will be executed before the chosen
 - @RequestMapping annotated handler method.





Internationalization & Localization

- Internationalization and localization are means of adapting computer software to different languages and regional differences.
- Internationalization is the process of designing a software application so that it can be adapted to various languages and regions without engineering changes.
- Localization is the process of adapting internationalized software for a specific region or language by adding locale-specific components and translating text
- The terms are frequently abbreviated to the numerous i18n (where 18 stands for the number of letters between the first i and last n in internationalization) and L10n respectively, due to the length of the words.



Spring MVC Internationalization (i18n)

- Message Resources File
 - Create two files messages.properties [default]

```
label.firstname=First Name
label.email=Email
label.telephone=Telephone
label.addcontact=Add Contact
label.title=Contact Manager
label.footer=© mindtree.com
```

and messages_de.properties[German]

```
label.firstname=Vorname
label.telephone=Telefon
label.addcontact=Addieren Kontakt
label.title=Kontakt Manager
label.footer=© mindtree.com
```



- Configure ResourceBundleMessageSource in the following way.
- The attribute to be noted here is the basename. This tells the Spring where to look for the properties file when a request for localized text comes in.
- We tell the Spring framework to look for file named messages.properties
 file in the classpath. It is called as basename because, whenever the
 request for a localized string comes, the locale or language code will be
 automatically appended to the basename value. So if the french string is
 requested, then messages_fr will be automatically picked from the
 classpath



 LocaleChangeInterceptor: This interceptor allows for changing the current locale on every request, via a configurable request parameter. Usually this parameter is lang. So, anytime a user send a request with request parameter "lang=en", his locale automatically be set as English.



CookieLocaleResolver:

- It's a LocaleResolver implementation that uses a cookie sent back to the user in case of a custom setting.
- Remember that sending locale or lang parameter in request is actually a custom setting.
- The cookie sent to user is used in further communication as user will not have to set the locale in every request.
- If this cookie has been generated, each request will have this overridden locale in request.

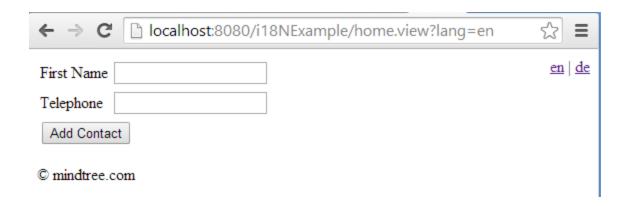


• In JSP pages use the **spring:message** to display the message from the corresponds properties file by checking the current user's locale.

```
<form:label path="firstname">
            <spring:message code="label.firstname" />
         </form:label>
      <form:input path="firstname" />
   <form:label path="telephone">
            <spring:message code="label.telephone" />
         </form:label>
      <form:input path="telephone" />
   <input type="submit"</pre>
            value="<spring:message code="label.addcontact"/>" />
```



View for English locale setting



View for German locale setting

