**Comparing Spring AOP and AspectJ**

**AOP Terminology**:

* **Aspect**: module of code for a cross-cutting concern (logging, security, …)
* **Advice**: What action is taken and when it should be applied
* **Join** **Point**: When to apply code during program execution
* **Pointcut**: A predicate expression for where advice should be applied

**Advice Types**:

* **Before advice**: run before the method
* **After finally advice**: run after the method (finally)
* **After returning advice**: run after the method (success execution)
* **After throwing advice**: run after method (if exception thrown)
* **Around advice**: run before and after method

**Weaving**:

linking aspects with other application types or objects to create an advised object. This can be done at compile time (using the AspectJ compiler, for example), load time, or at runtime. Spring AOP, like other pure Java AOP frameworks, performs weaving at runtime.

* Connecting aspects to target objects to create an advised object
* Different types of weaving
  + Compile-time, load-time or run-time
* Regarding performance: run-time weaving is the s lowest

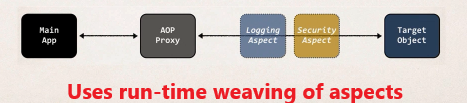
**AOP Frameworks**:

There are two leading AOP frameworks for Java.

1. Spring AOP
2. AspectJ

**Spring AOP Support**:

* Spring provides AOP support
* Key component of Spring
  + Security, transactions, caching etc.
* Uses run-time weaving of aspects



**AspectJ**:

* Original AOP framework, released in 2001
  + [www.eclipse.org/aspectj](http://www.eclipse.org/aspectj)
* Provides complete support for AOP
* Rich support for
  + **join points**: method-level, constructor, field
  + **code weaving**: compile-time, post compile-time and load-time

**Spring AOP Comparison**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantage** | **Disadvantage** |
| * Simpler to use than AspectJ * Uses Proxy pattern * Can migrate to AspectJ when using @Aspect annotation | * Only supports method-level join points * Can only apply aspects to beans created by Spring app context * Minor performance cost for aspect execution (run-time weaving) |

**AspectJ Comparison**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Advantage** | **Disadvantage** |
| * Support all join points * Works with any POJO, not just beans from app context. * Faster performance compared to Spring AOP * Complete AOP support. | * Compile-time weaving required extra compilation step. * AspectJ pointcut syntax can become complex |

**Comparing Spring AOP and AspectJ**:

* Spring AOP only supports
  + Method-level join points
  + Run-time code weaving (slower than AspectJ)
* AspectJ supports
  + join points: method-level, constructor, field
  + weaving: compile-time, post compile-time and load-time
* Spring AOP is a light implementation of AOP
* Solves common problems in enterprise applications
* Recommendation
  + Start with Spring AOP … easy to get started with
  + If you have complex requirements then move to AspectJ

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