



ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE

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INHERITANCE

Inheritance

- Inheritance is a critical for OO to achieve polymorphism.
- The problem
 - RDBMS does not have inheritance as a default property.
 - We need a solution to enable us to achieve inheritance in an RDBMS.
 - Consider polymorphism when building RDBMS inheritance solutions.
- Do we need more than one solution?
- Is an RDBMS always properly designed?
- Is it possible to simulate inheritance in an RDBMS?



STRATEGIES

Single-Table Strategy

```
@Entity
@Inheritance(strategy=InheritanceType.SINGLE_TABLE)
@DiscriminatorColumn(name="P_TYPE")
public abstract class Person {
    @Id@GeneratedValue(...)
    private int id;
    private String name;
    private int age;
}
```

```
@Entity
@DiscriminatorValue("Std")
Public class Student extends Person{
    private float gpa;
    private int courses;
}
```

```
@Entity
@DiscriminatorValue("Emp")
Public class Employee extends Person {
    private float salary;
    private int office;
}
```

```
TABLE : Person
id      INT      PK
name    VARCHAR(20)
age     INT
gpa     FLOAT
courses INT
salary  FLOAT
office  INT
P_TYPE  VARCHAR(10)
```

Single-Table Strategy TABLE

id	name	age	gpa	courses	salary	room	P-TYPE
1	Jack	25	3.3	3			Std
2	John	23	3.4	7			Std
3	Jill	26			1200	2	Emp
4	James	29			1000	16	Emp
5	Jim	28	2.9	2			Std
6	July	24	3.8	5			Std
7	Jessica	31			1100	10	Emp
8	Jeremy	22					Person

Joined Strategy

```
@Entity
@Inheritance(strategy=InheritanceType.JOINED)
@DiscriminatorColumn(name="P_TYPE")
public abstract class Person {
    @Id @GeneratedValue(...)
    private int id;
    private String name;
    private int age;
}
```

```
@Entity
@DiscriminatorValue("Std")
Public class Student extends Person{
    private float gpa;
    private int courses;
}
```

```
@Entity
@DiscriminatorValue("Emp")
Public class Employee extends Person {
    private float salary;
    private int office;
}
```

```
TABLE : Person
id      INT      PK
name    VARCHAR(20)
age     INT
P_TYPE  VARCHAR(10)
```

```
TABLE : Student
id      INT      PK/FK
gpa     FLOAT
courses INT
```

```
TABLE : Employee
id      INT      PK/FK
salary  FLOAT
office  INT
```

Joined Strategy TABLES

Person

id	name	age	P-TYPE
1	Jack	25	Std
2	John	23	Std
3	Jill	26	Emp
4	James	29	Emp
5	Jim	28	Std
6	July	24	Std
7	Jessica	31	Emp

Student

id	gpa	courses
1	3.3	3
2	3.4	7
5	2.9	2
6	3.8	5

Employee

id	salary	room
3	1200	2
4	1000	16
7	1100	10

Table-per-Concrete-Class* Strategy

```
@Entity
@Inheritance(strategy=InheritanceType.TABLE_PER_CLASS)
public abstract class Person {
    @Id@GeneratedValue(...)
    private int id;
    private String name;
    private int age;
}
```

```
@Entity
Public class Student extends Person{
    private float gpa;
    private int courses;
}
```

```
@Entity
Public class Employee extends Person {
    private float salary;
    private int office;
}
```

```
TABLE : Student
id      INT      PK
name    VARCHAR(20)
age     INT
gpa     FLOAT
courses INT
```

```
TABLE : Employee
id      INT      PK
name    VARCHAR(20)
age     INT
salary  FLOAT
office  INT
```

Table-per-Concrete-Class Strategy TABLE

Student

id	name	age	gpa	courses
1	Jack	25	3.3	3
2	John	23	3.4	7
5	Jim	28	2.9	2
6	July	24	3.8	5

Employee

id	name	age	salary	room
3	Jill	26	1200	2
4	James	29	1000	16
7	Jessica	31	1100	10

Pros & Cons

- @MappedSuperclass
- Mixed Inheritance
- Single Table
 - Peak performance for polymorphic queries
 - Peak performance for writes
 - No Joins
- Joined Table
 - Data normalized
- Table-per-concrete class
 - Single entity lookup is cheap.
 - No discriminator column.
- Single Table
 - Normalization (not normalized)
 - Storage waste
- Joined Table
 - Single entity lookup is expensive
 - Insert is also expensive
 - PK of table is limited to type of parent's PK
- Table-per-concrete class
 - Polymorphic query very expensive
 - Need to issue union or multiple queries on each table

Main Point

- While RDBMS does not natively support inheritance JPA is able to simulate inheritance in the DB. There are different inheritance strategies to address the deferent needs when implementing inheritance, both from the DB or OO side.
- All the laws of nature are expressions of the Unified Field. The Unified Field is the ultimate inheritance strategy.