

# FAQ: Use properties file to load country options

Section 14, Lecture 126

## Question:

How to use properties file to load country options

## Answer:

This solution will show you how to place the country options in a properties file. The values will no longer be hard coded in the Java code.

**1. Create a properties file to hold the countries. It will be a name value pair. Country code is name. Country name is the value.**

New text file: WEB-INF/countries.properties

```
1 BR=Brazil
2 FR=France
3 CO=Colombia
4 IN=India
```

Note the location of the properties file is very important. It must be stored in WEB-INF/countries.properties

## 2. Update header section for Spring config file

We are going to use a new set of Spring tags for <util>. As a result, you need to update the header information in the Spring config file.

File: spring-mvc-dmo-servlet.xml

Remove the previous header and add this.

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
2 <beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"
3       xmlns:context="http://www.springframework.org/schema/context"
4       xmlns:mvc="http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc"
5       xmlns:util="http://www.springframework.org/schema/util"
6       xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
7       xsi:schemaLocation="
8         http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans
9         http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans.xsd
10        http://www.springframework.org/schema/context
11        http://www.springframework.org/schema/context/spring-context.xsd
12        http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc
13        http://www.springframework.org/schema/mvc/spring-mvc.xsd
14        http://www.springframework.org/schema/util
15        http://www.springframework.org/schema/util/spring-util.xsd">
```

## 3. Load the country options properties file in the Spring config file.

**Bean id: countryOptions**

File: spring-mvc-dmo-servlet.xml

Add the following lines:

```
<util:properties id="countryOptions"
location="classpath:../countries.properties" />
```

## 4. Inject the properties values into your Spring Controller: StudentController.java