

Q1. What is ORM in Hibernate?

ORM stands for Object-Relational Mapping. In Hibernate, ORM is a technique that allows developers to map Java objects to relational database tables. It provides a way to interact with databases using Java objects, eliminating the need for writing low-level SQL queries. Hibernate handles the mapping, persistence, and retrieval of objects, making database operations more object-oriented and efficient.

Q2. What are the advantages of Hibernate over JDBC?

Some advantages of Hibernate over JDBC are:

- Hibernate provides a higher level of abstraction, allowing developers to work with objects rather than dealing with low-level SQL statements.
- Hibernate simplifies database operations by handling the mapping between objects and database tables, automatically generating SQL queries.
- Hibernate provides caching mechanisms, improving application performance by reducing the number of database queries.
- Hibernate supports automatic transaction management, reducing the boilerplate code required for managing database transactions in JDBC.
- Hibernate supports a wide range of database platforms, making it portable and adaptable to different databases.

Q3. What are some of the important interfaces of the Hibernate framework?

Some important interfaces in Hibernate are:

- **SessionFactory**: Responsible for creating and managing Hibernate Sessions.
- **Session**: Represents a single-threaded, short-lived conversation with the database. It provides methods for performing CRUD operations and querying the database.
- **Transaction**: Represents a database transaction. It provides methods for managing transactions, such as commit and rollback.

Q4. What is a Session in Hibernate?

In Hibernate, a Session represents a single-threaded, short-lived conversation between the application and the database. It is the main interface for interacting with the persistence layer. The Session is used to perform CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) operations on persistent objects and execute queries. It also provides caching and transaction management capabilities.

Q5. What is a SessionFactory?

A SessionFactory in Hibernate is a factory for creating Session instances. It is typically instantiated once during application startup and shared across the application. The SessionFactory is responsible for initializing Hibernate and providing a connection to the database. It caches compiled mappings and configuration settings, allowing efficient creation of Session instances. The SessionFactory is thread-safe and designed to be shared among multiple threads and sessions.

Q6. What is HQL?

HQL (Hibernate Query Language) is a Hibernate-specific query language that is similar to SQL but operates on Hibernate's persistent objects and their properties rather than database tables and columns. HQL allows developers to write database queries in an object-oriented way, using the names of Java classes and properties instead of SQL tables and columns. HQL queries are translated into SQL queries by Hibernate at runtime.

Q7. What are Many-to-Many associations?

Many-to-Many associations in Hibernate represent a relationship between two entities where each entity can be associated with multiple instances of the other entity. For example, a "Student" entity can have multiple "Course" entities associated with it, and a "Course" entity can have multiple "Student" entities associated with it. In Hibernate, Many-to-Many associations are typically represented using a join table that stores the relationship between the entities.

Q8. What is Hibernate caching?

Hibernate caching is a mechanism that allows Hibernate to store frequently accessed data in memory to improve performance. It reduces the number of database queries by retrieving data from the cache instead of hitting the database. Hibernate provides different levels of caching, such as first level cache (session cache) and second level cache, which can be configured based on specific needs.

Q9. What is the difference between first-level cache and second-level cache?

- First-level cache (also known as the session cache) is associated with a Hibernate Session. It is enabled by default and is used to store the entities and their state associated with a specific session. The first-level cache is transaction-scoped and lasts for the duration of a single session. It improves performance by avoiding redundant database calls within a session.

- Second-level cache is a cache shared by multiple Hibernate Sessions. It is global and can be shared across sessions or even across different applications. It stores entities and their state in a shared cache region, which can be configured with various caching strategies. The second-level cache is more persistent and survives across multiple sessions, allowing data to be shared and reused among different parts of the application.

Q10. What can you tell about the Hibernate Configuration File?

The Hibernate Configuration File is an XML or Java properties file that contains configuration settings for Hibernate. It includes database connection details, mapping configurations, cache settings, and other properties required for Hibernate to operate. The configuration file is used to initialize the SessionFactory, which is a key component in Hibernate. The configuration file can be named 'hibernate.cfg.xml' or 'hibernate.properties', and it needs to be placed on the application's classpath.