1. Factory bean

Declare a dateFormat bean, in “customer” bean, reference “dateFormat” bean as a factory bean. The factory method will call SimpleDateFormat.parse() to convert String into Date object automatically.

<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans

http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans-2.5.xsd">

<bean id="dateFormat" class="java.text.SimpleDateFormat">

<constructor-arg value="yyyy-MM-dd" />

</bean>

<bean id="customer" class="com.mkyong.common.Customer">

<property name="date">

<bean factory-bean="dateFormat" factory-method="parse">

<constructor-arg value="2010-01-31" />

</bean>

</property>

</bean>

</beans>

2. CustomDateEditor

Declares a CustomDateEditor class to convert String into **java.util.Date**.

<bean id="dateEditor"

class="org.springframework.beans.propertyeditors.CustomDateEditor">

<constructor-arg>

<bean class="java.text.SimpleDateFormat">

<constructor-arg value="yyyy-MM-dd" />

</bean>

</constructor-arg>

<constructor-arg value="true" />

</bean>

And declares another “CustomEditorConfigurer”, to make Spring convert bean properties whose type is **java.util.Date**.

<bean class="org.springframework.beans.factory.config.CustomEditorConfigurer">

<property name="customEditors">

<map>

<entry key="java.util.Date">

<ref local="dateEditor" />

</entry>

</map>

</property>

</bean>

Full example of bean configuration file.

<beans xmlns="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans"

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans

http://www.springframework.org/schema/beans/spring-beans-2.5.xsd">

<bean id="dateEditor"

class="org.springframework.beans.propertyeditors.CustomDateEditor">

<constructor-arg>

<bean class="java.text.SimpleDateFormat">

<constructor-arg value="yyyy-MM-dd" />

</bean>

</constructor-arg>

<constructor-arg value="true" />

</bean>

<bean class="org.springframework.beans.factory.config.CustomEditorConfigurer">

<property name="customEditors">

<map>

<entry key="java.util.Date">

<ref local="dateEditor" />

</entry>

</map>

</property>

</bean>

<bean id="customer" class="com.mkyong.common.Customer">

<property name="date" value="2010-02-31" />

</bean>

</beans>

<https://www.mkyong.com/spring/spring-how-to-pass-a-date-into-bean-property-customdateeditor/>