

[Home](#)
[PUBLIC](#)
[Stack Overflow](#)
[Tags](#)
[Users](#)
[Jobs](#)
[TEAMS](#)
[What's this?](#)
[First 10 Free](#)
[Home](#)
[PUBLIC](#)
[Stack Overflow](#)
[Tags](#)
[Users](#)
[Jobs](#)
[TEAMS](#)
[What's this?](#)
[First 10 Free](#)

Mybatis XML vs Annotation

Asked 4 years ago · Active 1 year, 8 months ago · Viewed 11k times

[Ask Question](#)

▲ I have read the book and documentation about Mybatis, both XML and Annotation does what I want, but from myBatis official website, they claim XML is a better way of doing Mappers, because Java annotation has limitations.

▼ I personally prefer Annotations e.g

★ 5

```
public interface PersonDAO {

    String INSERT_PERSON = "insert into person (title,firstName,surName,jobTitle,dob,email,mob) values (#{title},#{firstName},#{surName},#{jobTitle},#{dob},#{email},#{mob})";
    String UPDATE_PERSON = "update person set title=#{title},firstName=#{firstName},surName=#{surName},jobTitle=#{jobTitle},dob=#{dob},email=#{email},mob=#{mob} where id=#{id}";
    String GET_PERSON_BY_ID = "SELECT * FROM vw_person WHERE id = #{personId}";
    String DELETE_PERSON = "DELETE FROM person WHERE id = #{personId}";

    @Select(GET_PERSON_BY_ID)
    public PersonVO doSelectPerson(long personId) throws Exception;

    @Update(UPDATE_PERSON)@Options(flushCache = true, useCache = true)
    public int doUpdatePerson(PersonVO vo) throws Exception;

    @Insert(INSERT_PERSON)@Options(useGeneratedKeys = true, keyProperty = "id", flushCache = true)
    public int doCreatePerson(PersonVO person) throws Exception;

    @Delete(DELETE_PERSON)@Options(flushCache = true)
    public int doDeletePerson(long personId) throws Exception;

}
```

I wonder what the limitation is? Nothing seems to appear obvious to me.

[java](#) [mybatis](#) [ibatis](#)

share improve this question

edited Sep 18 '15 at 12:12

Lucky 11.9k ● 13 ● 87 ● 124

asked Sep 17 '15 at 13:23

user5324782 97 ● 1 ● 1 ● 9

Read this post to get what Annotations are limited to [Xml configuration versus Annotation based configuration](#). As far as myBatis is concerned the [docs say](#) that XML mapping is still required for the most advanced mappings. Nested Join Mapping is an example of that. – Lucky Sep 18 '15 at 12:32 ✓

Also read this related question on [Mybatis Annotations in Complex Applications](#) – Lucky Sep 18 '15 at 12:36

add a comment

3 Answers

active

oldest

votes

▲ 11 ▼ On top of Nested Join Mapping that Pitchers said, resultMap in XML format supports inheritance, which can not be achieved in annotation, you have to rewrite each time. Also the @Results annotation is a counterpart of the Mapper XML element <resultMap>. However, as of MyBatis 3.2.2 we can't give an ID for the @Results annotation. So unlike the <resultMap> XML element, we can't reuse the @Results declaration across different mapped statements. What this means is that you need to duplicate the @Results configuration even though it is the same. For example, see the

Blog

Lessons from Design School for Software Engineers

Iterating on Inclusion

Featured on Meta

Official FAQ on gender pronouns and Code of Conduct changes

Threshold experiment results: closing, editing and reopening all become more...

Would a note about preferred pronouns qualify the same way as a "thank you"?

performance needs

[Learn more](#)

IBM Cloud

Linked

130 [Xml configuration versus Annotation based configuration](#)



following `findStudentBy()` and `findAllStudents()` methods:

```
@Select("SELECT * FROM STUDENTS WHERE STUD_ID=#{studId}")
@Results({
    @Result(id=true, column="stud_id", property="studId"),
    @Result(column="name", property="name"),
    @Result(column="email", property="email"),
    @Result(column="addr_id", property="address.addrId")
})
Student findStudentById(int studId);

@Select("SELECT * FROM STUDENTS")
@Results({
    @Result(id=true, column="stud_id", property="studId"),
    @Result(column="name", property="name"),
    @Result(column="email", property="email"),
    @Result(column="addr_id", property="address.addrId")
})
List<Student> findAllStudents();
```

Here the `@Results` configuration is same for both the statements, but we need to duplicate it. There is also a work around for this problem. We can create a Mapper XML file and configure the `<resultMap>` element and reference that `resultMap` using the `@ResultMap` annotation.

Define `<resultMap>` with ID `StudentResult` in `StudentMapper.xml`.

```
<mapper namespace="com.mybatis3.mappers.StudentMapper">
    <resultMap type="Student" id="StudentResult">
        <id property="studId" column="stud_id"/>
        <result property="name" column="name"/>
        <result property="email" column="email"/>
        <result property="phone" column="phone"/>
    </resultMap>
</mapper>
```

SQL Mappers Using Annotations

In `StudentMapper.java`, reference the `resultMap` attribute `StudentResult` using `@ResultMap`.

```
public interface StudentMapper


@Select("SELECT * FROM STUDENTS WHERE STUD_ID=#{studId}")
@ResultMap("com.mybatis3.mappers.StudentMapper.StudentResult")
Student findStudentById(int studId);

@Select("SELECT * FROM STUDENTS")
@ResultMap("com.mybatis3.mappers.StudentMapper.StudentResult")
List<Student> findAllStudents();
```


quote from Java-Persistence-with-MyBatis3

share improve this answer

edited Jan 22 '18 at 17:29

 zagrimsan
145 • 1 • 12

answered Sep 18 '15 at 16:18

 Junchen Liu
3,117 • 7 • 43 • 54

Reuse of `@Results` is actually possible nowadays. If you provide an `id` with the `@Results` then you can reference it from `@ResultMap`. See [docs](#) and [gitlab issue](#). – Stim Jun 13 '17 at 10:01

add a comment



Yes, the documentation for Mybatis cautions that annotations can be much simpler and easier to read for smaller, simpler projects. However, annotations are limited compared to the XML configuration. If your project includes *complex objects or a complex database structure*, **consider using the XML**

5 Ibatis/MyBatis select dynamically without need to create any Pojo / Mapper

1 Dynamic Select SQL statements with MyBatis

2 Mybatis Annotations in Complex Applications

Related

28 How to use Annotations with iBatis (myBatis) for an IN query?

904 Which @NotNull Java annotation should I use?

1944 What's the difference between @Component, @Repository & @Service annotations in Spring?

1 XML + Annotation based configuration for MyBatis

30 Difference between ibatis and mybatis

4 mybatis foreach with annotations


-1 MyBatis to XML or CSV


1 Inheritance with MyBatis and XML


1 How to specify IN param type with annotation-configured MyBatis


-1 cannot be cast to java.sql.Blob


Hot Network Questions


 C# Toy Robot Simulator


 Stare long enough and you will have found the answer


 How to transform an UpperDiagonalMatrix into a symmetric matrix in Mathematica 5.2?


 Was Switzerland pressured either by Allies or Axis to take part in World War 2 at any time?


 When and why did the House rules change to permit an inquiry without a vote?


 Is it okay to request a vegetarian-only microwave at work? If yes, what's the proper way to do it?


 Use GPLv3 library in a closed system (no software distribution)


 Who inspired the character Geordi La Forge?


 What is gerrymandering called if it's not the result of redrawing districts?


 Grade changes with auto grader

 Linux Commands in Python

 What actually is "unallocated space"?

 How can I seal 8 inch round holes in my siding?

 Generate an array with custom index

 when to use がつ or げつ readings for 月?

configuration instead of the Java annotations.

XML mapping is still required for the most advanced mappings like *Nested Join Mapping* in MyBatis.

share improve this answer

answered Sep 17 '15 at 13:36



Bacteria

6,376 ● 9 ● 39 ● 56

1 I am sure annotation can achieve nested join mapping, isn't? – user5324782 Sep 18 '15 at 8:41

add a comment

There are plenty use cases when using .xml can be much more consice and cleaner approach. Say, you can create some `Common.xml`, define a bunch of queries, like

```
<sql id="inStmt">
  IN
  <foreach item="id" collection="ids" separator="," open="(" close=")">
    #{id}
  </foreach>
</sql>
```

and reuse this code in your project.

Moreover, the template query can be defined, e.g.:

```
<sql id="selectDistinct">
  SELECT DISTINCT(${column}), #{param}
  FROM ${entityTable}
</sql>
```

And then you can reference it via

```
<include refid="Common.selectDistinct">
  <property name="column" value="id"/>
  <property name="entityTable" value="some_table"/>
</include>
```

This approach is less error-prone and much less copy/pasted. (you can have a look [here](#)).

Conditions, iterating, etc should also be mentioned, too.

share improve this answer

edited May 23 '17 at 12:10



Community ♦

1 ● 1

answered Apr 11 '17 at 21:33



Alexander Davliatov

318 ● 2 ● 10

add a comment

Your Answer

B I

What plausible reasons why people forget they didn't originally live on this new planet?

How to increment the value of a (decimal) variable (with leading zero) by +1?

Did Bobby Fischer actually write "Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess"

Company indirectly discriminating against introverts, specifically INTJ

Visualize a large int

Have the US and Russia (or USSR before it) co-vetoed a UN resolution before today?


If you have a negative spellcasting ability modifier, how much damage does the Green-Flame Blade cantrip do to the second target below level 5?

Could you use uppercase or special characters in a password in early Unix?

I'm half of a hundred

Question feed

PUBLIC


 Stack Overflow

Tags

Users

Home

PUBLIC

 Stack Overflow


Tags

Users

Jobs

TEAMS

What's this?

 First 10 Free



STACK OVERFLOW

Questions

Jobs

Developer Jobs Directory

Salary Calculator

Help

Mobile

PRODUCTS

Teams

Talent

Advertising

Enterprise

COMPANY

About

Press


Work Here


Legal


Privacy Policy

Contact Us

STACK EXCHANGE NETWORK

Technology 

Life / Arts 

Culture / Recreation 


Science 


Other 


[Blog](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)

site design / logo © 2019 Stack Exchange Inc; user contributions
licensed under cc by-sa 4.0 with attribution required

Sign up or [log in](#)

 Sign up using Google

 Sign up using Facebook

 Sign up using Email and Password

Post Your Answer

By clicking "Post Your Answer", you agree to our [terms of service](#), [privacy policy](#) and [cookie policy](#)

Not the answer you're looking for? Browse other questions tagged [java](#) [mybatis](#) [ibatis](#) or [ask your own question](#).

Post as a guest

Name

Email

Required, but never shown

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#). 