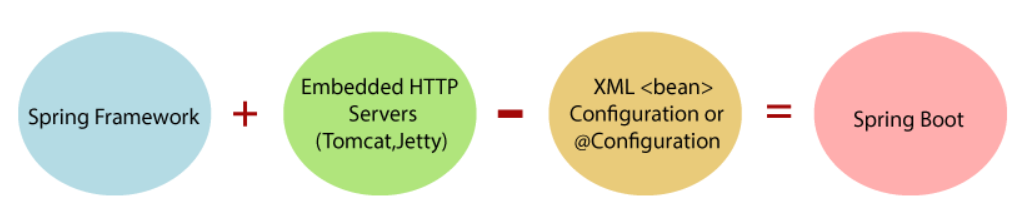
What is Spring Boot

Spring Boot is a project that is built on the top of the Spring Framework. It provides an easier and faster way to set up, configure, and run both simple and web-based applications.

It is a Spring module that provides the **RAD (Rapid Application Development)** feature to the Spring Framework. It is used to create a stand-alone Spring-based application that you can just run because it needs minimal Spring configuration.



In short, Spring Boot is the combination of **Spring Framework** and **Embedded Servers**.

In Spring Boot, there is no requirement for XML configuration (deployment descriptor). It uses convention over configuration software design paradigm that means it decreases the effort of the developer.

We can use Spring **STS IDE** or **Spring Initializr** to develop Spring Boot Java applications.

**Why should we use Spring Boot Framework?**

We should use Spring Boot Framework because:

* The dependency injection approach is used in Spring Boot.
* It contains powerful database transaction management capabilities.
* It simplifies integration with other Java frameworks like JPA/Hibernate ORM, Struts, etc.
* It reduces the cost and development time of the application.

Along with the Spring Boot Framework, many other Spring sister projects help to build applications addressing modern business needs. There are the following Spring sister projects are as follows:

* **Spring Data:** It simplifies data access from the relational and **NoSQL** databases.
* **Spring Batch:** It provides powerful **batch** processing.
* **Spring Security:** It is a security framework that provides robust **security** to applications.
* **Spring Social:** It supports integration with **social networking** like LinkedIn.
* **Spring Integration:** It is an implementation of Enterprise Integration Patterns. It facilitates integration with other **enterprise applications** using lightweight messaging and declarative adapters.

Advantages of Spring Boot

* It creates **stand-alone** Spring applications that can be started using Java **-jar**.
* It tests web applications easily with the help of different **Embedded** HTTP servers such as **Tomcat, Jetty,** etc. We don't need to deploy WAR files.
* It provides opinionated '**starter**' POMs to simplify our Maven configuration.
* It provides **production-ready** features such as **metrics, health checks,** and **externalized configuration**.
* There is no requirement for **XML** configuration.
* It offers a **CLI** tool for developing and testing the Spring Boot application.
* It offers the number of **plug-ins**.
* It also minimizes writing multiple **boilerplate codes** (the code that has to be included in many places with little or no alteration), XML configuration, and annotations.
* It **increases productivity** and reduces development time.

Limitations of Spring Boot

Spring Boot can use dependencies that are not going to be used in the application. These dependencies increase the size of the application.

# **Spring Initializr**

# **Spring Boot Annotations**

Spring Boot Annotations is a form of metadata that provides data about a program. In other words, annotations are used to provide **supplemental** information about a program. It is not a part of the application that we develop. It does not have a direct effect on the operation of the code they annotate. It does not change the action of the compiled program.

In this section, we are going to discuss some important **Spring Boot Annotation** that we will use later in this tutorial.

## Core Spring Framework Annotations

**@Required:** It applies to the **bean** setter method. It indicates that the annotated bean must be populated at configuration time with the required property, else it throws an exception **BeanInitilizationException**.

**@Autowired:** Spring provides annotation-based auto-wiring by providing @Autowired annotation. It is used to autowire spring bean on setter methods, instance variable, and constructor. When we use @Autowired annotation, the spring container auto-wires the bean by matching data-type.

**@Configuration:** It is a class-level annotation. The class annotated with @Configuration used by Spring Containers as a source of bean definitions.

**@ComponentScan:** It is used when we want to scan a package for beans. It is used with the annotation @Configuration. We can also specify the base packages to scan for Spring Components.

**@Bean:** It is a method-level annotation. It is an alternative of XML <bean> tag. It tells the method to produce a bean to be managed by Spring Container.

## Spring Framework Stereotype Annotations

**@Component:** It is a class-level annotation. It is used to mark a Java class as a bean. A Java class annotated with **@Component** is found during the classpath. The Spring Framework pick it up and configure it in the application context as a **Spring Bean**.

**@Controller:** The @Controller is a class-level annotation. It is a specialization of **@Component**. It marks a class as a web request handler. It is often used to serve web pages. By default, it returns a string that indicates which route to redirect. It is mostly used with **@RequestMapping** annotation.

**@Service:** It is also used at class level. It tells the Spring that class contains the **business logic**.

## Spring Boot Annotations

* **@EnableAutoConfiguration:** It auto-configures the bean that is present in the classpath and configures it to run the methods. The use of this annotation is reduced in Spring Boot 1.2.0 release because developers provided an alternative of the annotation, i.e. **@SpringBootApplication**.
* **@SpringBootApplication:** It is a combination of three annotations **@EnableAutoConfiguration, @ComponentScan,** and **@Configuration**.

### **Spring MVC and REST Annotations**

* **@RequestMapping:** It is used to map the **web requests**. It has many optional elements like **consumes, header, method, name, params, path, produces**, and **value**. We use it with the class as well as the method.
* **@GetMapping:** It maps the **HTTP GET** requests on the specific handler method. It is used to create a web service endpoint that **fetches** It is used instead of using: **@RequestMapping(method = RequestMethod.GET)**
* **@PostMapping:** It maps the **HTTP POST**requests on the specific handler method. It is used to create a web service endpoint that **creates** It is used instead of using: **@RequestMapping(method = RequestMethod.POST)**
* **@PutMapping:** It maps the **HTTP PUT** requests on the specific handler method. It is used to create a web service endpoint that **creates** or **updates** It is used instead of using: **@RequestMapping(method = RequestMethod.PUT)**
* **@DeleteMapping:** It maps the **HTTP DELETE** requests on the specific handler method. It is used to create a web service endpoint that **deletes**a resource. It is used instead of using: **@RequestMapping(method = RequestMethod.DELETE)**
* **@PatchMapping:** It maps the **HTTP PATCH**requests on the specific handler method. It is used instead of using: **@RequestMapping(method = RequestMethod.PATCH)**
* **@RequestBody:** It is used to **bind** HTTP request with an object in a method parameter. Internally it uses **HTTP MessageConverters** to convert the body of the request. When we annotate a method parameter with **@RequestBody,** the Spring framework binds the incoming HTTP request body to that parameter.
* **@ResponseBody:** It binds the method return value to the response body. It tells the Spring Boot Framework to serialize a return an object into JSON and XML format.
* **@PathVariable:** It is used to extract the values from the URI. It is most suitable for the RESTful web service, where the URL contains a path variable. We can define multiple @PathVariable in a method.
* **@RequestParam:** It is used to extract the query parameters form the URL. It is also known as a **query parameter**. It is most suitable for web applications. It can specify default values if the query parameter is not present in the URL.
* **@RequestHeader:** It is used to get the details about the HTTP request headers. We use this annotation as a **method parameter**. The optional elements of the annotation are **name, required, value, defaultValue.**For each detail in the header, we should specify separate annotations. We can use it multiple time in a method
* **@RestController:** It can be considered as a combination of **@Controller** and **@ResponseBody**annotations**.** The @RestController annotation is itself annotated with the @ResponseBody annotation. It eliminates the need for annotating each method with @ResponseBody.
* **@RequestAttribute:** It binds a method parameter to request attribute. It provides convenient access to the request attributes from a controller method. With the help of @RequestAttribute annotation, we can access objects that are populated on the server-side.