

Managed Beans I – Classes to Represent Form Info

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Topics in This Section

- Basic beans and "managed" beans
- Three parts of beans in JSF
 - Getter/setter methods to represent input elements
 - Action controller method
 - Placeholder for results (properties derived from input)
- Prepopulating input fields
 - And building comboboxes (drop down menus)

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Basic Beans and "Managed" Beans

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Background: Basic Beans

Java classes that follow certain conventions

- Must have a zero-argument (empty) constructor
 - You can satisfy this requirement either by explicitly defining such a constructor or by omitting all constructors
- Should have no public instance variables (fields)
 - You should already follow this practice and use accessor methods instead of allowing direct access to fields
- Persistent values should be accessed through methods called get*Blah* and set*Blah*
 - If class has method getTitle that returns a String, class is said to have a String property named title
 - JSF uses #{book.title} to mean "call getTitle on 'book' ".
 - Boolean properties may use is Blah instead of get Blah
 - What matters is method name, not instance variable name

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More on Bean Properties

Usual rule to turn method into property

- Drop the word "get" or "set" and change the next letter to lowercase. Again, instance var name is irrelevant.
 - Method name: getFirstName
 - Property name: firstName
 - Example: #{customer.firstName}

Exception 1: boolean properties

- If getter returns boolean or Boolean
 - Method name: getPrime or isPrime
 - · Property name: prime
 - Example: #{myNumber.prime}

Exception 2: consecutive uppercase letters

- If two uppercase letters in a row after "get" or "set"
 - Method name: getURL
 - Property name: URL (not uRL)
 - Example: #{webSite.URL}

If <u>you</u> write the methods, it is considered better practice to avoid the consecutive uppercase letters, and to call the method getUrl, not getURL.

Bean Properties: Examples

Method Names	Property Name	Example JSF Usage
getFirstName setFirstName	firstName	#{customer.firstName} <h:inputtext value="#{customer.firstName}"></h:inputtext>
isExecutive setExecutive (boolean property)	executive	#{customer.executive} <h:selectbooleancheckbox value="#{customer.executive}"/></h:selectbooleancheckbox
getExecutive setExecutive (boolean property)	executive	#{customer.executive} <h:selectbooleancheckbox value="#{customer.executive}"/></h:selectbooleancheckbox
getZIP setZIP	ZIP	#{address.ZIP} <h:inputtext value="#{address.ZIP}"></h:inputtext>

Note 1: property name does not exist anywhere in your code. It is just a shortcut for the method name. Instance variable name is irrelevant.

Note 2: if you can choose the method names, it is a better practice to avoid consecutive uppercase letters.

E.g., use getZip and getUrl, not getZIP and getURL.

Why You Should Use Accessors, Not Public Fields

Bean rules

- To be a bean, you should use accessors, not public fields
 - Wrong

public double speed;

Right

private double speed; // Var name need not match method name

Note: in Eclipse, after you create instance variable, if you R-click and choose "Source", it gives you option to generate getters and setters for you.

```
public double getSpeed() {
   return(speed);
}

public void setSpeed(double speed) {
   this.speed = speed;
}
```

OOP design

- You should do this in *all* your Java code anyhow. Why?

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Why You Should Use Accessors, Not Public Fields

1) You can put constraints on values

```
public void setSpeed(double newSpeed) {
  if (newSpeed < 0) {
    sendErrorMessage(...);
    newSpeed = Math.abs(newSpeed);
  }
  speed = newSpeed;
}</pre>
```

 If users of your class accessed the fields directly, then they would each be responsible for checking constraints.

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Why You Should Use Accessors, Not Public Fields

 2) You can change your internal representation without changing interface

```
// Instance var changed to store
// metric units (kph, not mph)

public void setSpeed(double newSpeed) { // MPH
   speedInKph = convertMphToKph(newSpeed);
}

public void setSpeedInKph(double newSpeed) {
   speedInKph = newSpeed;
}
```

Why You Should Use Accessors, Not Public Fields

3) You can perform arbitrary side effects

```
public double setSpeed(double newSpeed) {
   speed = newSpeed;
   updateSpeedometerDisplay();
}
```

 If users of your class accessed the fields directly, then they would each be responsible for executing side effects.
 Too much work and runs huge risk of having display inconsistent from actual values.

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Basic Beans: Bottom Line

- It is no onerous requirement to be a "bean"
 - You are probably following most of the conventions already anyhow
 - Zero arg constructor
 - No public instance variables
 - Use getBlah/setBlah or isBlah/setBlah naming conventions
- JSF often refers to "bean properties"
 - Which are shortcuts for getter/setter methods
 - getFirstName method: refer to "firstName"
 - #{customer.firstName}
 - isVeryCool method (boolean): refer to "veryCool"
 - #{invention.veryCool}
 - getHTMLString method: refer to "HTMLString"
 - #{message.HTMLString}

Managed Beans

JSF automatically "manages" the bean

- Instantiates it
 - · Thus the need for a zero-arg constructor
- Controls its lifecycle
 - Scope (request, session, application) determines lifetime
- Calls setter methods
 - I.e., for <h:inputText value="#{customer.firstName"/>, when form submitted, the value is passed to setFirstName
- Calls getter methods
 - #{customer.firstName} results in calling getFirstName

Declaring beans

- Simplest: @ManagedBean before class
 - Results in request scope. See next lecture for other scopes.
- Most powerful: <managed-bean> in faces-config.xml
 - See separate section on navigation and faces-config.xml

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Performance Principle: Make Getter Methods Fast

Problem

- Getter methods of managed beans called several times.
 - E.g., at a minimum, once when form is displayed (<h:inputText value="#{user.customerId}"/>) and again when result is shown (#{user.customerId}).
 - But often extra times.
- So, if getter method talks to database or does other expensive operation, performance can be unexpectedly bad.

Solution

 Store data in instance variables, have getter methods merely return the existing values.



The Three Parts of Managed Beans

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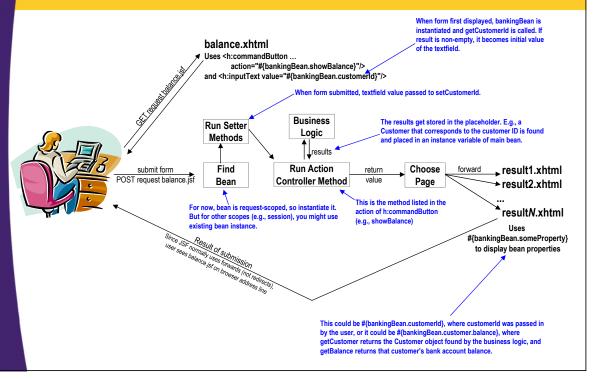
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Overview

- Managed beans typically have three parts
 - Bean properties (i.e, pairs of getter and setter methods)
 - · One pair for each input element
 - Setter methods called automatically by JSF when form submitted. Called before action controller method.
 - Action controller methods
 - Often only one, but could be several if the same form has multiple buttons
 - Action controller method (corresponding to the button that was pressed) called automatically by JSF
 - Placeholders for results data
 - Not automatically called by JSF: to be filled in by action controller method based on results of business logic.
 - Needs a getter method so value can be output in results page, but not required to have a setter method.

JSF Flow of Control (Updated but Still Simplified)



Example

Idea

- Enter a bank customer id and a password
- Get either
 - · Page showing first name, last name, and balance
 - Three versions depending on balance
 - · Error message about missing or invalid data

What managed bean needs

- Bean properties corresponding to input elements
 - I.e., getCustomerId/setCustomerId, getPassword/setPassword
- Action controller method
 - Maps a customer ID to a Customer and stores the Customer in an instance variable
- Placeholder for results data
 - An initially empty instance variable (for storing the Customer) and associated getter method.

Input Form (bank-lookup.xhtml)

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-/W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN"</pre>
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"</pre>
        xmlns:h="http://java.sun.com/jsf/html">
                                    This value plays a dual role. When form is first displayed, bankingBean is instantiated and getCustomerId is
<h:body>
                                    called. If the value is non-empty, that result is the initial value of the textfield. Otherwise, the textfield is
                                    initially empty. When the form is submitted, bankingBean is reinstantiated (since it is request scoped, not
                                    session scoped) and the value in the textfield is passed to setCustomerId.
<fieldset>
<legend>Bank Customer Lookup (Request Scope)
<h:form>
  Customer ID:
  <h:inputText value="#{bankingBean.customerId}"/><br/>
  <h:inputSecret value="#{bankingBean.password}"/><br/>
  <h:commandButton value="Show Current Balance"
                          action="#{bankingBean.showBalance}"/>
</h:form>
</fieldset>
</h:body></html>
```

BankingBean.java: Part 1 (Bean Properties for Input Elements)

```
@ManagedBean
public class BankingBean
                                                                    Called by JSF when form first displayed.
   private String customerId, password;
                                                                    Since it returns null in that case, the textfield
                                                                    is left blank initially
   public String getCustomerId() {
                                                                  When form submitted, the bean is
      return (customerId);
                                                                  instantiated again (since it is request-
                                                                  scoped, not session-scoped) and the value
                                                                  in the textfield is passed to this method.
   public void setCustomerId(String customerId) {
      this.customerId = customerId.trim();
      if (this.customerId.isEmpty()) {
         this.customerId = "(none entered)";
      }
   public String getPassword() {
      return (password);
                                                                                getPassword and setPassword mostly have
                                                                                the same behavior as getCustomerId and
                                                                                setCustomerId above, but with the
                                                                                exception that the return value of
   public void setPassword(String password) {
                                                                                getPassword does not affect the initial value
                                                                                of the password field, since browsers do not
      this.password = password;
                                                                                let you prefill values in password fields.
```

BankingBean.java: Part 2 (Action Controller Method)

```
private static CustomerLookupService lookupService =
   new CustomerSimpleMap();
                                                                         Filled in by JSF before
                                                                         this action controller
public String showBalance() {
                                                                         method is called.
   if (!password.equals("secret")) {
       return("wrong-password");
   customer = lookupService.findCustomer(customerId);
   if (customer == null) {
       return("unknown-customer");
                                                                                      The customer is not filled in
   } else if (customer.getBalance() < 0) {</pre>
                                                                                       automatically by JSF, since it is not
       return("negative-balance");
                                                                                       directly part of the submitted data,
                                                                                       but rather indirectly derived (by the
   } else if (customer.getBalance() < 10000) {</pre>
                                                                                      business logic) from the submitted
                                                                                      data. So, it is filled in by this action
       return("normal-balance");
                                                                                      controller method.
   } else {
       return("high-balance");
}
    There are five possible results pages: wrong-password.xhtml, unknown-customer.xhtml, negative-balance.xhtml, normal-balance.xhtml, and high-balance.xhtml. We are using the default mapping of return values to file names in all cases (rather than explicit navigation rules in faces-config.xml)
```

BankingBean.java: Part 3 (Placeholder for Results)

```
private Customer customer;

public Customer getCustomer() {
    return (customer);
}

The getCustomer method is needed because the results page does #(bankingBean customer firstName) and #(bankingBean customer other Properties). But no setter method is needed since this property does not correspond directly to input data, and this property is not automatically filled in by JSF.
```

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Business Logic (Interface)

```
public interface CustomerLookupService {
  public Customer findCustomer(String id);
}
```

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Business Logic (Implementation)

Provides some simple hardcoded test cases

Business Logic (Implementation, Continued)

```
public Customer findCustomer(String id) {
   if (id != null) {
      return(customers.get(id.toLowerCase()));
   } else {
      return(null);
   }
}

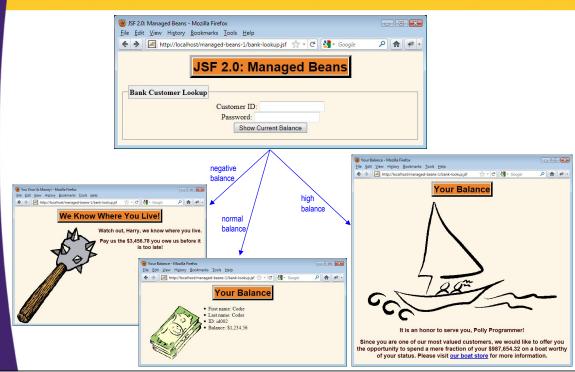
private void addCustomer(Customer customer) {
   customers.put(customer.getId(), customer);
  }
}
```

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Results Pages: Good Input (normal-balance.xhtml)

Results Pages: Bad Input (unknown-customer.xhtml)

Results (Legal ID and Password)



Results (Bad Inputs)



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Prepopulating Input Fields

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Dual Roles

Bean property refers to both getter & setter

- The getter method is called when form is displayed, and affects what is initially displayed to user
- The value from the input element is passed to the setter method when the form is submitted

Examples

- <h:inputText.../> (textfield)
 - If getter returns non-empty (neither null nor ""), this is initial value inside textfield. Not used for password fields.
- <h:selectBooleanCheckbox.../> (checkbox)
 - Getter returns true: initially checked. Otherwise unchecked
- <h:selectOneMenu.../> (combobox; drop down menu)
 - If return value of getter matches an entry in menu, that is initial selection. Otherwise top entry is initially selected.

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Textfields

Example 1 (Simple property)

- <h:inputText value="#{someBean.someProperty}"/>
 - When form initially displayed, call <u>getSomeProperty</u>. If value is something other than null or empty String, use it as initial value of textfield.
 - When form submitted, take the value in the textfield and pass it to <u>set</u>SomeProperty.

Example 2 (Chained properties)

- <h:inputText value="#{someBean.a.b.c}"/>
 - When form initially displayed, call getA, then getB on that result, then getC on that. If value of getC is non-empty, use it as initial value of textfield.
 - When form submitted, call <u>get</u>A, then <u>get</u>B on that result.
 Then take the value in the textfield and pass it to the <u>set</u>C method of that final result. Only last one becomes setter.

Checkboxes

Example

- When form initially displayed, call the accessor method, which must be of type boolean or Boolean. The name could be either <u>isSomeProperty</u> (most common) or <u>getSomeProperty</u>. If value is true, make checkbox initially checked. If value is false, make checkbox initially unchecked.
- When form submitted, pass either true or false to setSomeProperty (which expects boolean or Boolean)
 - Note that JSF does not require anything (such as Struts 1.x does) to clear out old values of session-scoped checkboxes or radio buttons.

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Drop Down Menus (Comboboxes)

Example

- <h:selectOneMenu</p>

value="#{someBean.someProperty}">

<f:selectItems value="#{someBean.choices}"/>

</h:selectOneMenu>

- When form initially displayed, call getChoices (which should return List<SelectItem> or SelectItem[]). This gives the entries in the drop down menu. Then call getSomeProperty. If result matches any of the entries, make that initially shown item. Otherwise use top item.
 - There are several forms of the SelectItem constructor, but the simplest just takes a String: the value that will go in the menu.
- When form submitted, pass the current selection to setSomeProperty.
 - Note that, due to the f:selectItems tag, you must add an entry for the f: namespace to the <html ...> start tag at top of file

Example

Idea

 Collect input about programming background and preferences. Give recommended computer study plan.

Input form

- Textfield for favorite language. Prepopulate based on most popular language in the application
- Drop down menu for second-favorite language. Make choices be the languages for which app has study guides. Make initial choice the second most popular language in the application.
- Two checkboxes. Initial selection based on logic in app

Results page

- List of recommended languages. Requires looping tag.
 - Shown briefly here but covered in detail in later section

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Input Form – Top (study-plan-input.xhtml)

Since we use the f:selectItems tag for the drop down menu, we must declare the f: namespace

Input Form – Bottom (study-plan-input.xhtml)

```
Since getFavoriteLanguage returns non-empty (Java) originally, this textfield
<h:body>
                      has an initial value when form displayed to user.
                                                     Since getSecondFavoriteLanguage returns a value that matches one of the
<h:form>
                                                     choices in the list of languages, that option (JavaScript) is initially displayed to
                                                     the user, rather than the top item being initially displayed.
  Email address:
  <h:inputText value="#{trainingForm.emailAddress}"/><br/>
  Favorite language:
  <h:inputText value="#{trainingForm.favoriteLanguage}"/><br/>
  Second favorite language:
  <h:selectOneMenu value="#{trainingForm.secondFavoriteLanguage}">
     <f:selectItems value="#{trainingForm.availableLanguages}"/>
  </h:selectOneMenu><br/>
  Programmed for 5+ years?
  <h:selectBooleanCheckbox value="#{trainingForm.expert}"/><br/>
  Personally know Larry Page, Steve Balmer, and James Gosling?
  <h:selectBooleanCheckbox value="#{trainingForm/.liar}"/><br/>
  <h:commandButton value="Show Recommended Study Plan"
                          action="#{trainingForm.showTrainingPlan}"/>
</h:form>
                                                        isExpert initially returns true, so the first checkbox is initially checked.
</h:body></html>
                                                        isLiar initially returns false, so the second checkbox is initially unchecked.
```

Managed Bean (Part 1 – Properties for Input Elements)

```
@ManagedBean
public class TrainingForm {
   private String emailAddress;
   private String favoriteLanguage =
        LanguageUtils.findMostPopularLanguage(0);
   private String secondFavoriteLanguage =
        LanguageUtils.findMostPopularLanguage(1);
   private boolean isExpert = true;
   private boolean isLiar = false;

// Getters and setters for all. The getters for
   // the boolean properties start with is, not get

public List<SelectItem> getAvailableLanguages() {
    return(LanguageUtils.languageList());
   } // Options for dropdown box. See later slide.
```

Managed Bean (Part 2 – Action Controller)

```
public String showTrainingPlan() {
  int numLanguagesToStudy;
  if (isExpert) {
     numLanguagesToStudy = 4;
  } else {
     numLanguagesToStudy = 2;
  }
  if (isLiar) {
     return("liar");
                                        This List is the placeholder that is filled in. Since it can be of varying length,
                                        the results page will need to use a loop.
  } else {
     languagesToStudy =
        LanguageUtils.randomLanguages(numLanguagesToStudy);
     return("study-plan");
  }
}
```

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Managed Bean (Part 3 – Placeholder for Results)

```
private List<String> languagesToStudy;

public List<String> getLanguagesToStudy() {
   return(languagesToStudy);
}
```

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Helper Class (Code for Options in Dropdown)

Main Results Page (study-plan.xhtml)

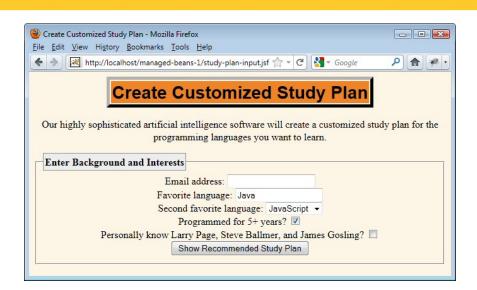
```
<!DOCTYPE ...>
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml"</pre>
         xmlns:h="http://java.sun.com/jsf/html"
         xmlns:ui="http://java.sun.com/jsf/facelets">
<h:head>...</h:head>
<h:body>
<u1>
   <ui:repeat var="language"</pre>
                    value="#{trainingForm.languagesToStudy}">
      #{language}
   </ui:repeat>
There is a whole separate tutorial section on looping and handling variable-
</h:body></html>
                                            length data. But the basic idea is simple; identical to the JSTL c;forEach loop
                                            and very similar to the Java for(Blah b: collectionOfBlahs) loop. This uses
                                            JSTL behind the scenes, so if you are using a non-Java-EE-6 server, you must
                                            include the JSTL JAR files with your app.
```

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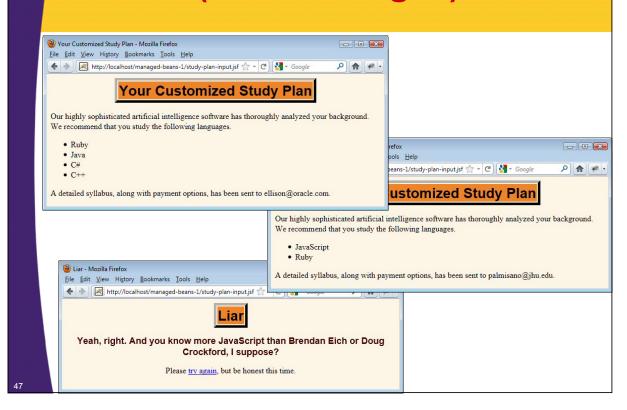
"Error" Page (liar.xhtml)

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Results (Input Form)



Results (Results Pages)



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Wrap-Up

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Summary

Managed beans generally have three sections

- Bean properties to represent input elements
- Action controller method
- Placeholder for results (properties derived from input)

Prepopulating input elements

- <h:inputText value="#{customer.firstName}"/>
 - · When form displayed, getFirstName called
 - When form submitted, value passed to setFirstName

Drop down menus (combo boxes)

<h:selectOneMenu value="#{bean.userChoice}">
 <f:selectItems value="#{bean.listOfOptions}"/>
 </h:selectOneMenu>

Looping tags

- Look at simple example, but covered in detail in later lecture

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Questions?

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