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How can I pass a parameter to a commandLink inside a datatable?

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I'm using Primefaces in a JSF 2 application. I have a `<p:dataTable>`, and instead of selecting rows, I want the user to be able to directly execute various actions on individual rows. For that, I have several `<p:commandLink>`s in the last column.

My problem: how can I pass a row ID to the action started by the command link so that I know which row to act on? I tried using an `<f:attribute>`:

```
<p:commandLink actionListener="#{FilterList.insert}" value="insert" ajax="false">
  <f:attribute name="id" value="#{f.id}" />
</p:commandLink>
```

But it always yields 0 - apparently the row variable `f` is not available when the attribute is rendered (it works when I use a fixed value).

Anyone has an alternative solution?

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BalusC

352k ● 48 ● 568 ● 850



Michael Borgwardt

134k ● 13 ● 151 ● 350

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As to the cause, the `<f:attribute>` is specific to the component itself (populated during view build time), not to the iterated row (populated during view render time).

There are several ways to achieve the requirement.

1. Use `<f:param>` instead. It adds a request parameter.

```
<h:commandLink action="#{bean.insert}" value="insert">
  <f:param name="id" value="#{item.id}" />
</h:commandLink>
```

If your bean is request scoped, let JSF set it by `@ManagedProperty`

```
@ManagedProperty(value="#{param.id}")
private Long id; // +setter
```

Or if your bean has a broader scope or if you want more fine grained validation/conversion, use `<f:viewParam>` on the target view, see also [f:viewParam vs @ManagedProperty](#):

```
<f:viewParam name="id" value="#{bean.id}" required="true" />
```

Either way, this has the advantage that the datamodel doesn't necessarily need to be preserved for the form submit (for the case that your bean is request scoped).

2. Use `<f:setPropertyActionListener>` instead. The advantage is that this removes the need for accessing the request parameter map when the bean has a broader scope than the request



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scope.

```
<h:commandLink action="#{bean.insert}" value="insert">
    <f:setPropertyActionListener target="#{bean.id}" value="#{item.id}" />
</h:commandLink>
```

In combination with

```
private Long id; // +setter
```

It'll be just available by property `id` in action method. This only requires that the datamodel is preserved for the form submit request. Best is to put the bean in the view scope by `@ViewScoped`.

3. If your servletcontainer supports Servlet 3.0 / EL 2.2, then just pass it as method argument. This also requires that the datamodel is preserved for the form submit request. Best is to put the bean in the view scope by `@ViewScoped`.

```
<h:commandLink action="#{bean.insert(item.id)}" value="insert" />
```

In combination with:

```
public void insert(Long id) {
    // ...
}
```

You can even pass the entire item object:

```
<h:commandLink action="#{bean.insert(item)}" value="insert" />
```

with:

```
public void insert(Item item) {
    // ...
}
```

On Servlet 2.5 containers, this is also possible if you supply an EL implementation which supports this, like as JBoss EL. For configuration detail, see [this answer](#).

parameter in JSF

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4. Bind the datatable value to `DataModel<E>` instead which in turn wraps the items.

```
<h:dataTable value="#{bean.model}" var="item">
```

with

```
private transient DataModel<Item> model;

public DataModel<Item> getModel() {
    if (model == null) {
        model = new ListDataModel<Item>(items);
    }
    return model;
}
```

(making it `transient` and lazily instantiating it in the getter is mandatory when you're using this on a view or session scoped bean since `DataModel` doesn't implement `Serializable`)

Then you'll be able to access the current row by `DataModel#getRowData()` without passing anything around (JSF determines the row based on the request parameter name of the clicked command link/button).

```
public void insert() {
    Item item = model.getRowData();
    Long id = item.getId();
    // ...
}
```

This also requires that the datamodel is preserved for the form submit request. Best is to put the bean in the view scope by `@ViewScoped`.

5. You can use `Application#evaluateExpressionGet()` to programmatically evaluate the current `#{item}`.

```
public void insert() {
```

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JSF:commandlink not working

```
FacesContext context = FacesContext.getCurrentInstance();
Item item = context.getApplication().evaluateExpressionGet(context, "#{ite
Long id = item.getId();
// ...
}
```

Which way to choose depends on the functional requirements and whether the one or the other offers more advantages for other purposes. I personally would go ahead with #3 or, when you'd like to support servlet 2.5 containers as well, with #2.

share | improve this answer

edited Feb 15 '12 at 13:31

answered Feb 14 '11 at 16:54



BalusC

352k ● 48 ● 568 ● 850

1 +1, although my preference goes to #2 (if 2.5 has to be supported). – Bozho Feb 14 '11 at 17:06

Thanks for the exhaustive answer. Unfortunately, I have to report that #1 was the only thing that worked in a filtered primefaces datatable (which is exactly the scenarion I need it for). All the others only worked on an unfiltered table. I see this more as a bug in primefaces than in your answer, though. – Michael Borgwardt Feb 15 '11 at 11:32

Is the bean request or view scoped? – BalusC Feb 15 '11 at 11:41

it's session scoped. – Michael Borgwardt Feb 15 '11 at 14:27

With "filtered" you mean as in [this showcase example](#)? The symptoms indicate that the filter action take place in the client side only and that the model in the server side isn't maintained. Not sure if this is intentional. You can always leave an issue report. – BalusC Feb 15 '11 at 14:32

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In JSF 1.2 this was done by `<f:setPropertyActionListener>` (within the command component). In JSF 2.0 (EL 2.2 to be precise, thanks to BalusC) it's possible to do it like this:

```
action="${filterList.insert(f.id)}"
```

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edited Feb 14 '11 at 16:58

answered Feb 14 '11 at 16:48



Bozho

194k ● 14 ● 236 ● 431

3 This feature is not specific to JSF 2.0 (which can by itself run in Servlet 2.5 containers), but to EL 2.2 (which is part of Servlet 3.0). – BalusC Feb 14 '11 at 16:57

feedback

1

In my view page:

```
<p:dataTable ...>
<p:column>
<p:commandLink actionListener="#{inquirySOController.viewDetail}"
               process="@this" update=":mainform:dialog_content"
               oncomplete="dlg2.show()">
    <h:graphicImage library="images" name="view.png"/>
    <f:param name="trxNo" value="#{item.map['trxNo']}" />
</p:commandLink>
</p:column>
</p:dataTable>
```

backing bean

```
public void viewDetail(ActionEvent e) {

    String trxNo = getFacesContext().getRequestParameterMap().get("trxNo");

    for (DTO item : list) {
        if (item.get("trxNo").toString().equals(trxNo)) {
```

```
        System.out.println(trxNo);
        setSelectedItem(item);
        break;
    }
}
```

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answered May 9 '11 at 8:50





 **Arfan J**
11 ● 1





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