Mastering Spring MVC 3

And its @Controller programming model

Get the code for the demos in this presentation at

- http://src.springsource.org/svn/spring-samples/mvc-showcase

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Topics

- Getting started
- Introduction to the MVC programming model
- Mapping HTTP requests
- Obtaining request input
- Generating responses
- Rendering views
- Type conversion, validation, forms, and file upload
- Exception handling
- Testing

Getting started

- **Create a new Spring MVC project from a template**
  - Most use Roo to do this, either from an IDE like STS or the command-line

Typical setup:

- **One DispatcherServlet registered in web.xml**
  - FrontController that dispatches web requests to your application logic
  - Generally the “default servlet” mapped to “/”

- **Two Spring Containers (or ApplicationContexts) instantiated**
  - 1 “root” context to host “shared resources” required by Servlets / Filters
  - 1 “web” context to host local application components delegated to by the DispatcherServlet
    - Your application components are typically discovered via classpath scanning

Demo

Typical Spring MVC project structure

Introduction to the MVC programming model

- **DispatcherServlet requests are mapped to @Controller methods**
  - @RequestMapping annotation used to define mapping rules
  - Method parameters used to obtain request input
  - Method return values used to generate responses

- **Simplest possible @Controller**

```
@Controller
public class HomeController {
    @RequestMapping("/")
    public @ResponseBody String home() {
        return "hello world";
    }
}
```

Demo

Simplest possible @Controller

org.springframework.samples.mvc.simple

Mapping requests

- **By path**
  - @RequestMapping(“path”)
- **By HTTP method**
  - @RequestMapping(“path”, method=RequestMethod.GET)
    - POST, PUT, DELETE, OPTIONS, and TRACE are are also supported
- **By presence of query parameter**
  - @RequestMapping(“path”, method=RequestMethod.GET, params=”foo”)
  - Negation also supported: params={ “foo”, “!bar” })
- **By presence of request header**
  - @RequestMapping(“path”, header=”content-type=text/*”)
  - Negation also supported

Mapping requests (2)

- Simplest possible @Controller revisited

```
@Controller
public class HomeController {
    @RequestMapping(“/”, method=RequestMethod.GET,
        headers=”Accept=text/plain”)
    public @ResponseBody String home() {
        return “hello world”;
    }
}
```

Demo

Mapping requests

org.springframework.samples.mvc.mapping

Request mapping at the class level

- **@RequestMapping can be used at the class level**
  - Concise way to map all requests *within* a path to a @Controller

```
@Controller
@RequestMapping(“/accounts/*)”
public class AccountsController {

    @RequestMapping(“active”)
    public @ResponseBody List<Account> active() { + }

    @RequestMapping(“inactive”)
    public @ResponseBody List<Account> inactive() { + }
}
```

Request mapping at the class level (2)

- The same rules expressed with method-level mapping only:

```
@Controller
public class AccountsController {

    @RequestMapping("/accounts/active")
    public @ResponseBody List<Account> active() { + }

    @RequestMapping("/accounts/inactive")
    public @ResponseBody List<Account> inactive() { + }

}
```

Demo

@RequestMapping at the class level

org.springframework.samples.mvc.mapping

Obtaining request data

- **Obtain request data by declaring method arguments**
  - **A query parameter value**
    - @RequestParam(“name”)
  - **A group of query parameter values**
    - A custom JavaBean with a getName()/setName() pair for each parameter
  - **A path element value**
    - @PathVariable(“var”)
  - **A request header value**
    - @RequestHeader(“name”)
  - **A cookie value**
    - @CookieValue(“name”)
  - **The request body**
    - @RequestBody
  - **The request body and any request header**
    - HttpEntity<T>

Demo

Obtaining request data

org.springframework.samples.mvc.data

Injecting standard objects

- **A number of "standard arguments" can also be injected**
  - Simply declare the argument you need

- **HttpServletRequest (or its more portable WebRequest wrapper)**
- **Principal**
- **Locale**
- **InputStream**
- **Reader**
- **HttpServletResponse**
- **OutputStream**
- **Writer**
- **HttpSession**

Injecting custom objects

- **Custom object injectors can also be defined**
  - Implement the WebArgumentResolver extension point
  - Register with the AnnotationMethodHandlerAdapter

```
public interface WebArgumentResolver {

    Object resolveArgument(MethodParameter param,
        NativeWebRequest request);

}
```

Demo

Injecting standard and custom objects

org.springframework.samples.mvc.data.standard

org.springframework.samples.mvc.data.custom

Generating responses

- **Return a POJO annotated with @ResponseBody**
  - POJO marshaled as the body of the response

or

- **Return a new ResponseEntity<T> object**
  - More powerful; allows for setting custom response headers and status code

Demo

Generating responses

org.springframework.samples.mvc.response

HttpMessageConverters

- Behind the scenes, a HttpMessageConverter underpins reading the request body and generating the response
- Multiple converters may be registered for different content types
- For @RequestBody, the first converter that can read the POSTed "Content-Type" into the desired method parameter type is used
- For @ResponseBody, the first converter that can write the method return type into one of the client's "Accept"ed content types is used
  - Also applies to HttpResponseEntity<T> (can also force the content-type)
- Default set of HttpMessageConverters registered for you
- Can write your own

Default HttpMessageConverters

- **StringHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads “text/*” into Strings; writes Strings as “text/plain”
- **FormHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads “application/x-www-form-urlencoded” into MultiValueMap<String, String>
  - Writes MultiValueMap<String, String> into “application/x-www-form-urlencoded”
- **ByteArrayMessageConverter**
  - Reads “*/*” into a byte[]; writes Objects as “application/octet-stream”
- **Jaxb2RootElementHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads ”text/xml” || “application/xml” into Objects annotated by JAXB annotations
  - Writes JAXB-annotated Objects as “text/xml” or “application/xml”
  - Only registered by default if JAXB is present on the classpath

Default HttpMessageConverters (2)

- **MappingJacksonHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads “application/json” into Objects; writes Objects as “application/json”
  - Delegates to the Jackson JSON Processing Library
  - Only registered by default if Jackson API is in your classpath
- **SourceHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads “text/xml” or “application/xml” into javax.xml.transform.Source
  - Writes javax.xml.transform.Source to “text/xml” or “application/xml”
- **ResourceHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads/writes org.springframework.core.io.Resource objects
- **AtomFeed/RssChannelHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads/writes Rome Feed and RssChannels (application/atom+xml | rss+xml)
  - Only registered by default if Rome is present in your classpath

Demo

Default HttpMessageConverters

org.springframework.samples.mvc.messageconverters

Other HttpMessageConverters options available to you

- **BufferedImageHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads/writes mime-types supported by Java Image I/O into BufferedImage
- **MarshallingHttpMessageConverter**
  - Reads/writes XML but allows for pluggability in Marshalling technology
- **Register your own or customize existing ones by setting the "messageConverters" property of the AnnotationMethodHandlerAdapter bean**
  - Easy to override the defaults using a BeanPostProcessor

Rendering views

- **A DispatcherServlet can also render Views**
  - Alternative to having a HttpMessageConverter write the response body
  - Designed for generating text/* content from a template
- **Declare a Model parameter to export data to the view**
  - Call model.addAttribute(“name”, value) for each item to export
- **Select the view by to render by returning a String**
  - Do not use @ResponseBody annotation in this case
  - Configured ViewResolver maps name to a View instance
- **Default ViewResolver forwards to internal servlet resources**
  - Many other options: JSP, Tiles, Freemarker, Velocity, iText PDF, JExcel, Jasper Reports, and XSLT are all supported out of the box
  - Can also write your own View integrations

Demo

Rendering views

org.springframework.samples.mvc.views

Views vs. @ResponseBody (aka HttpMessageConverters)

- **Two different systems exist for rendering responses**
  - ViewResolver + View
  - HttpMessageConverter
- **Triggered in different ways**
  - Render a view by returning a String
  - Write a message by returning a @ResponseBody Object or ResponseEntity
- **Which one do I use?**
  - Use views to generate documents for display in a web *browser*
    - HTML, PDF, etc
  - Use @ResponseBody to exchange data with web *service* clients
    - JSON, XML, etc

Type conversion

- **Type conversion happens automatically**
- **A common "ConversionService" underpins the places where type conversion is required**
  - Always used with @RequestParam, JavaBean, @PathVariable, and @RequestHeader, and @CookieValue
  - HttpMessageConverter may use when reading and writing objects
    - for @RequestBody, @ResponseBody, HttpEntity, ResponseEntity
- **All major conversion requirements satisfied out-of-the-box**
  - Primitives, Strings, Dates, Collections, Maps, custom value objects
- **Can declare annotation-based conversion rules**
  - @NumberFormat, @DateTimeFormat, your own custom @Format annotation
- **Elegant SPI for implementing your own converters**

Demo

Type Conversion System

org.springframework.samples.mvc.convert

Validation

- **Trigger validation by marking a JavaBean parameter as @Valid**
  - The JavaBean will be passed to a Validator for validation
  - JSR-303 auto-configured if a provider is present on the classpath
- **Binding and validation errors can be trapped and introspected by declaring a BindingResult parameter**
  - *Must* follow the JavaBean parameter in the method signature
  - Errors automatically exported in the model when rendering views
  - *Not supported* with other request parameter types (@RequestBody, etc)

Demo

Validation

org.springframework.samples.mvc.validation

Forms

- **Get a new form**
  - Export a JavaBean to the view as the “form bean” or “form backing object”
  - Can pre-populate form using initial bean property values or client query parameters
  - Convenient form tags/macros exist to simplify rendering form fields
- **Post a form**
  - Declare JavaBean argument to trigger binding and validation
  - Declare a BindingResult argument to query binding and validation results
  - Re-render form view if validation errors are present
  - Redirect after successful post by returning target resource URL prefixed with special “redirect:” directive
  - Store any success messages in a flash map cleared after the next request
    - Flash map contents are cached temporarily in the session until the next request completes, then cleared

Demo

Forms

org.springframework.samples.mvc.form

Fileupload

- **File Upload Form**
  - Set form encoding to “multipart/form-data”
  - Declare input element of type “file”
- **Upload Controller**
  - Map based on RequestMethod.POST
  - Declare MultipartFile argument to bind file parameter
- **A MultipartResolver bean must be registered in your servlet-context**
  - CommonsMultipartResolver most popular implementation
    - Requires commons-fileupload and commons-io libraries
- **Consider Tomcat 7’s (Servlet 3.0) native fileupload capability in the future**

Demo

File Upload

org.springframework.samples.mvc.fileupload

Exception Handling

- **Two-levels of Exception Handling**
  - @Controller level
  - DispatcherServlet level
- **@Controller level**
  - Annotate a separate method in your @Controller as a @ExceptionHandler
  - Or simply catch the Exception yourself in your handler method
- **DispatcherServlet level**
  - Rely on the DefaultHandlerExceptionResolver
    - Maps common exceptions to appropriate status codes
  - Supplement with your own custom HandlerExceptionResolver as needed

Demo

Exception Handling

org.springframework.samples.mvc.exceptions

Testing

- **Unit Testing**
  - Controllers are just POJOs - just new them up and test them!
  - Inject mock dependencies using your favorite mocking library (Mockito)
- **HttpServlet Mocks**
  - Useful when you have a Servlet API dependency in your @Controller
  - MockHttpServletRequest, MockHttpServletResponse, MockServletContext
- **Integration Testing**
  - Selinium-based acceptance tests great way to exercise end-to-end behavior
  - Also useful for automating the testing of @RequestMapping rules

Demo

Testing

Resources

- **Reference Manual**
  - http://www.springsource.org/documentation
- **Samples**
  - http://src.springsource.org/svn/spring-samples/mvc-showcase
  - http://src.springsource.org/svn/spring-samples
- **Forum**
  - http://forum.springframework.org
- **Issue Tracker**
  - http://jira.springsource.org/browse/SPR
- **Blog**
  - http://blog.springsource.com
- **Twitter**
  - Follow @kdonald, @poutsma, @springrod, @benalexau

What's coming in the Spring 3.1 timeframe

- Conversation Scope, Flash Map
- Comet (long-polling) support
- Java @Flow Definitions
- OAuth support
- Social Media Integration (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
- Mobile Development Support (iPhone/Android/Mobile Web)
- Roo Add-ons
  - "Open Web" (HTML/CSS/JS) improvements
  - Flex (new)
  - GWT (new)

Enjoy being an application developer!

Questions?