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JAX-RS: The Java API for RESTful Web Services

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1

Agenda

- Goals of JAX-RS**
- Creating resources
- HTTP methods annotations
- Representations
- Common patterns
- Supported types
- Creating responses
- Building URIs
- Exceptions
- Security
- Deployment options
- Tools



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2

REST Request and Response via HTTP

Request

```
GET /music/artists/magnum/recordings HTTP/1.1
Host: media.example.com
Accept: application/xml
```

Response

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Tue, 08 May 2007 16:41:58 GMT
Server: Apache/1.3.6
Content-Type: application/xml; charset=UTF-8
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<recordings xmlns="...">
<recording>...</recording>
...
</recordings>
```

REST APIs

- Lots of Web companies now offering REST APIs for their services
 - Where both WS-* and REST API offered, REST API more widely used
- REST APIs often easier to consume with scripting languages
 - Browser-based experimentation also easy
 - Current platform APIs for building REST WS are rather low level
- Many opportunities for simplifying development

Example

- ❑ Example
 - ❑ Music Collection
 - ❑ /music/artists
 - ❑ /music/artists/{id}
 - ❑ /music/recordings
 - ❑ /music/recordings/{id}
 - ❑ /music/artists/{id}/recordings
 - ❑ /music/genre/{id}
 - ❑ /music/format/{id}
- ❑ XML and JSON support

Artist Resource Using Servlet API

```

public class Artist extends HttpServlet {
    public enum SupportedOutputFormat {XML, JSON};

    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)
        throws ServletException, IOException {
        String accept = request.getHeader("accept").toLowerCase();
        String acceptableTypes[] = accept.split(",");
        SupportedOutputFormat outputType = null;
        for (String acceptableType: acceptableTypes) {
            if (acceptableType.contains("*/") || acceptableType.contains("application/*") ||
                acceptableType.contains("application/xml")) {
                outputType=SupportedOutputFormat.XML;
                break;
            } else if (acceptableType.contains("application/json")) {
                outputType=SupportedOutputFormat.JSON;
                break;
            }
        }
        if (outputType==null)
            response.sendError(415);
        String path = request.getPathInfo();
        String pathSegments[] = path.split("/");
        String artist = pathSegments[1];
        if (pathSegments.length < 2 && pathSegments.length > 3)
            response.sendError(404);
        else if (pathSegments.length == 3 && pathSegments[2].equals("recordings")) {
            if (outputType == SupportedOutputFormat.XML)
                writeRecordingsForArtistAsXml(response, artist);
            else
                writeRecordingsForArtistAsJson(response, artist);
        } else {
            if (outputType == SupportedOutputFormat.XML)
                writeArtistAsXml(response, artist);
            else
                writeArtistAsJson(response, artist);
        }
    }
}

```

Better: Server Side API Wish List for Exposing a Resource

- High level and Declarative
 - Use @ annotation in POJOs
- Clear mapping to REST concepts
 - Address-ability through URI, HTTP methods
- Takes care of the boilerplate code
 - No need to write boilerplate code
- Graceful fallback to low-level APIs when required

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Root Resource Classes

- ❑ POJOs (Plain Old Java Objects) that are annotated with `@Path` with relative URI path as value
 - ❑ The base URI is the application context
- ❑ Have resource methods with HTTP method annotations
 - ❑ `@GET`, `@PUT`, `@POST`, `@DELETE`



Example: Root Resource Class

```
// Assume the application context is http://example.com/catalogue, then
// GET http://example.com/catalogue/widgets - handled by the getList
// method
// GET http://example.com/catalogue/widgets/nnn - handled by the
// getWidget method.
```

```
@Path("widgets")
public class WidgetsResource {
    @GET
    String getList() {...}

    @GET @Path("{id}")
    String getWidget(@PathParam("id") String id) {...}
}
```



URI Path Template

- ❑ URI path templates are URIs with variables embedded within the URI syntax.
- ❑ To obtain the value of the username variable the `@PathParam` may be used on method parameter of a request method

// Will respond to `http://example.com/users/Chanapat`

```
@Path("/users/{username}")
```

```
public class UserResource {
```

```
    @GET
```

```
    @Produces("text/xml")
```

```
    public String getUser(@PathParam("username") String
        userName) { ...
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

@PathParam, @QueryParam

- ❑ Annotated method parameters extract client request information
- ❑ **@PathParam** extracts information from the request URI
- ❑ `http://host/catalog/items/123`
- ❑ **@QueryParam** extracts information from the request URI query parameters
- ❑ `http://host/catalog/items/?start=0`

Example:@PathParam, @QueryParam

```
@Path("/items/")
@Consumes("application/xml")
public class ItemsResource {

    // Example request: http://host/catalog/items/?start=0
    @GET
    ItemsConverter get(@QueryParam("start")int start) {
        ...
    }

    // Example request: http://host/catalog/items/123
    @Path("/{id}")
    ItemResource getItemResource(@PathParam("id")Long id){
        ...
    }
}
```



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Clear Mapping to REST Concepts: Methods

- ❑ **Methods:** what are the HTTP methods?
- ❑ HTTP methods implemented as Java methods annotated with

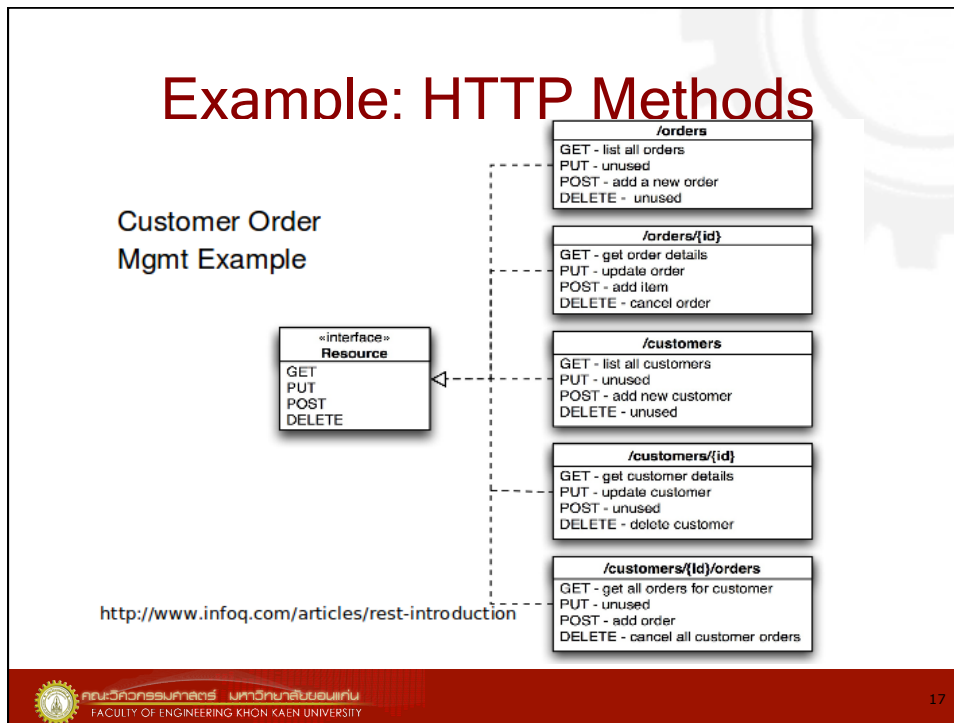
```
@HEAD
@GET
@PUT
@DELETE
@POST
```

Uniform Interface: Methods on Root Resources

```
@Path("/employees")
class Employees {
  @GET <type> get() { ... }
  @POST <type> create(<type>) { ... }
}
```

```
@Path("/employees/{eid}")
class Employee {
  @GET <type> get(...) { ... }
  @PUT void update(...) { ... }
  @DELETE void delete(...) { ... }}
```

Java method name is not significant
 The HTTP method is the method



Code Example: GET /customers

```

// Handles http://localhost:8080/CustomerDB/resources/customers/
@Path("/customers/")
public class CustomersResource {
    /**
     * Get method for retrieving a collection of Customer instance in XML format.
     * @return an instance of CustomersConverter
     */
    @GET
    @Produces({"application/xml", "application/json"})
    public CustomersConverter get(...) {
        try {
            return new CustomersConverter(getEntities(start, max, query),
                uriInfo.getAbsolutePath(), expandLevel);
        } finally {
            PersistenceService.getInstance().close();
        }
    }
}
  
```

18

Code Example: GET /customers{id}

```
// Handles http://localhost:8080/CustomerDB/resources/customers/1
@Path("/customers/")
public class CustomersResource {
    ...
    /**
     * Returns a dynamic instance of CustomerResource used for entity navigation.
     * @return an instance of CustomerResource
     */
    @Path("/{customerid}")
    public CustomerResource getCustomerResource(@PathParam("customerid")
        Integer id) {
        CustomerResource resource =
            resourceContext.getResource(CustomerResource.class);
        resource.setld(id);
        return resource;
    }
}
```

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Formats in HTTP

Request
 GET /music/artists/beatles/recordings HTTP/1.1
 Host: media.example.com
 Accept: application/xml

Response
 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
 Date: Tue, 08 May 2007 16:41:58 GMT
 Server: Apache/1.3.6
 Content-Type: application/xml;
 charset=UTF-8

State transfer **Representation**

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<recordings xmlns="...">
<recording>...</recording>
...
</recordings>
```

Format

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21

Multiple Representations

- Resources can have multiple representation
 - Specified through 'Content-type' HTTP header
 - Acceptable format through 'Accept' HTTP header
- A web page can be represented as
 - text/html - regular web page
 - application/xhtml+xml - in XML
 - application/rss+xml - as a RSS feed
 - application/octet-stream - an octet stream
 - application/rdf+xml - RDF format

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22

Supported Media Types

- ❑ Think what media is consumed and produced...
- ❑ ...then think of the Java types associated
- ❑ “Out-of-the-box” support for the following
 - ❑ `*/*` - `byte[]`, `InputStream`, `File`, `DataSource`
 - ❑ `text/*` - `String`
 - ❑ `text/xml`, `application/xml`, - `JAXBElement`, `Source`
 - ❑ `application/x-www-form-urlencoded` - `Multimap<String, String>`

@Produces

- ❑ Used to specify the MIME media types of representations a resource can produce and send back to the client
- ❑ Can be applied at both the class and method levels
- ❑ Method level overrides class level

Example: @Produces

```

@Path("/myResource")
@Produces("text/plain")
public class SomeResource {
    // defaults to the MIME type of the @Produces annotation at the class level
    @GET
    public String doGetAsPlainText() {
        ...
    }
    // overrides the class-level @Produces setting
    @GET
    @Produces("text/html")
    public String doGetAsHtml() {
        ...
    }
}

```



Choice of Mime Type Based on Client Preference

- If a resource class is capable of producing more than one MIME media type then the resource method chosen will correspond to the most acceptable media type as declared by the client.
- Accept header of the HTTP request
- For example,
 - Accept: text/plain - doGetAsPlainText method will be invoked
 - Accept: text/plain;q=0.9, text/html - doGetAsHtml method will be invoked



Multiple Types Maybe Declared

```

@GET
// More than one media type may be declared in the same
// @Produces annotation.
// The doGetAsXmlOrJson method will get invoked if either
// of the media types "application/xml" and "application/json"
// are acceptable.
// If both are equally acceptable then the former will be chosen
// because it occurs first.
@Produces({"application/xml", "application/json"})
public String doGetAsXmlOrJson() {
...
}

```



@Consumes

- Used to specify the MIME media types of representations a resource can consume that were sent by the client.
- Can be applied at both the class and method levels
 - Method level override a class level
- A container is responsible for ensuring that the method invoked is capable of consuming the media type of the HTTP request entity body.
 - If no such method is available the container must respond with a HTTP "415 Unsupported Media Type"



Example: @Consumes

```

@POST
// Consume representations identified by the MIME media
// type "text/plain".
// Notice that the resource method returns void. This means
// no representation is returned and response with a status
// code of 204 (No Content) will be returned.
@Consumes("text/plain")
public void postClickedMessage(String message) {
    // Store the message
}

```



Working with Media Types

```

@Post
@ConsumeMime("application/x-www-form-urlencoded")
@ProduceMime("application/rss+xml")

public JAXBElementupdateEmployee(
    @HttpHeader("Cookie") String cookie,
    MultivalueMap<String, String> form) {
    ...
}

```

Serialized to a XML stream

Converted to a map for accessing form's field



Clear Mapping to REST Concepts

- ❑ **Resources**: what are the **URIs**?
`@Path("/artists/{id}")`
- ❑ **Methods**: what are the **HTTP methods**?
`@GET`
`public XXX find()`
- ❑ **Representations**: what are the **formats**?
`@Consumes("application/xml")`
`@Produces("application/json")`



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- ❑ Tools



Common Patterns: Container-Item Server in control of URI

- Container - a collection of items
- List catalog items:
 - GET /catalog/items
- Add item to container:
 - POST /catalog/items with item in request
 - URI of item returned in HTTP response header
 - e.g. http://host/catalog/items/1
- Update item
 - PUT /catalog/items/1 with updated item in request
- Good example: Atom Publishing Protocol



Common Patterns: Container-Item Server in control of URI

- List key-value pairs: GET /map
 - Put new value to map: PUT /map/{key} with entry in request
 - e.g. PUT /map/dir/contents.xml
- Read value: GET /map/{key}
- Update value: PUT /map/{key}
 - with updated value in request
- Remove value: DELETE /map/{key}
- Good example: Amazon S3



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Supported Types

- JAX-RS can automatically marshall/unmarshall between HTTP request/response and Java types
- “Out-of-the-box” support for
 - */* - byte[]
 - text/* - String
 - text/xml, application/xml, application/*+xml - JAXBElement
 - application/x-www-form-urlencoded - MultivaluedMap<String, String>
- Matching order - n/m > n/* > */*



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Building Responses

- Sometimes it is necessary to return information additional information in response to a HTTP request
- Such information may be built and returned using Response and Response.ResponseBuilder
- Response building provides other functionality such as setting the entity tag and last modified date of the representation.



HTTP Response Codes

- ❑ JAX-RS returns default response codes
 - ❑ GET returns 200 OK
 - ❑ PUT returns 201 CREATED
 - ❑ <http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2616/rfc2616-sec10.html>
- 200 OK
 201 Created
 202 Accepted
 203 Non-Authoritative Information
 204 No Content
 205 Reset Content
 206 Partial Content
 207 Multi-Status
 226 IM Used

...

HTTP Reponse for Creating an Item

C: POST /items HTTP/1.1
 C: Host: host.com
 C: Content-Type: application/xml
 C: Content-Length: 35
 C:
 C: <item><name>dog</name></item>

S: HTTP/1.1 **201 Created**
 S: **Location: http://host.com/employees/1234**
 S: Content-Length: 0

Creating a Response Using Response Class

```
@POST
@Consumes("application/xml")
// A common RESTful pattern for the creation of a new
// resource is to support a POST request that returns a 201
// (Created) status code and a Location header whose
// value is the URI to the newly created resource
public Response post(String content) {
    URI createdUri = ...
    create(content);
    return Response.created(createdUri).build();
}
```

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UriBuilder Class

- ❑ A very important aspects of REST is hyperlinks, URIs, in representations that clients can use to transition the Web service to new application states
 - ❑ "hypermedia as the engine of application state"
- ❑ Building URIs and building them safely is not easy with `java.net.URI`, which is why JAX-RS has the `UriBuilder` class that makes it simple and easy to build URIs safely

UriInfo Class

- ❑ Provides base URI information
- ❑ The URIs that will be returned are typically built from the base URI the Web service is deployed at or from the request URI

UriBuilder & UriInfo

```

@Path("/users/")
public class UsersResource {
    @Context UriInfo uriInfo;
    ...
    @GET
    @Produces("application/json")
    // The getUsersAsJsonArray method constructs a JSONArray where
    // each element is a URI identifying a specific user resource
    public JSONArray getUsersAsJsonArray() {
        JSONArray uriArray = new JSONArray();
        for (UserEntity userEntity : getUsers()) {
            UriBuilder ub = uriInfo.getAbsolutePathBuilder();
            URI userUri = ub.
                path(userEntity.getUserid()).
                build();
            uriArray.put(userUri.toASCIIString());
        }
        return uriArray;
    }
}

```

UriBuilder for Extracting Query Parameters

```

// UriBuilder can be used to build/replace
// query parameters. URI templates can also
// be declared, for example the following will
// build the URI
// "http://localhost/segment?name=value":
UriBuilder.fromUri("http://localhost/").
    path("{a}").
    queryParams("name", "{value}").
    build("segment", "value");

```

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NotFoundException

```
@Path("items/{itemid}")
public Item getItem(@PathParam("itemid") String itemid) {
    Item i = getItems().get(itemid);
    // Shows the throwing of a NotFoundException.
    // The NotFoundException exception is a Jersey specific exception
    that
    // extends WebApplicationException and builds a HTTP response with
    // the 404 status code and an optional message as the body of the
    response:
    if (i == null)
        throw new NotFoundException("Item, " + itemid + ", is not found");
    return i;
}
```



WebApplicationException

```
public class NotFoundException extends WebApplicationException {
    // Create a HTTP 404 (Not Found) exception.
    public NotFoundException() {
        super(Responses.notFound().build());
    }
    //Create a HTTP 404 (Not Found) exception.
    // @param message the String that is the entity of the 404 response.
    public NotFoundException(String message) {
        super(Response.status(Responses.NOT_FOUND).
            entity(message).type("text/plain").build());
    }
}
```

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Getting SecurityContext

- ❑ Security information is available by obtaining the SecurityContext using @Context, which is essentially the equivalent functionality available on the HttpServletRequest
- ❑ SecurityContext can be used in conjunction with sub-resource locators to return different resources if the user principle is included in a certain role.
- ❑ For example, a sub-resource locator could return a different resource if a user is a preferred customer:

Example: SecurityContext

```

@Path("basket")
// Sub-resource locator could return a different resource if a
// user is a preferred customer:
public ShoppingBasketResource get(@Context SecurityContext
    sc) {
    if (sc.isUserInRole("PreferredCustomer") {
        return new PreferredCustomerShoppingBasketResource();
    } else {
        return new ShoppingBasketResource();
    }
}

```

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Servlet

- JAX-RS applications are packaged in WAR like a servlet
- For JAX-RS aware containers
 - web.xml can point to Application subclass
- For non-JAX-RS aware containers
 - web.xml points to the servlet implementation of JAX-RS runtime
- Application declares resource classes
 - Can create your own by subclassing
 - Reuse PackagesResourceConfig



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Development Tools

- IDE - for general purpose RESTful Web service development
 - NetBeans, Eclipse
- Client tools - for sending HTTP requests
 - “Poster” plug-in to Firefox
 - Several command line tools
 - curl <http://curl.haxx.se/>
- Browser

Summary

- ❑ REST architecture is gaining popularity
 - ❑ Simple, scalable and the infrastructure is already in place
- ❑ JAX-RS (JSR-311) provides a high level declarative programming model
 - ❑ <http://jersey.dev.java.net>
- ❑ NetBeans provides a necessary tool

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