

San Francisco Java User Group

Spring and EJB 3 Integration

Reza Rahman

Author, EJB 3 in Action

Expert Group Member, Java EE 6 and EJB 3.1

Independent Consultant

June, 2009

EJB 3: EJB Reinvented

- **Standards-based, vendor-agnostic server-side component development model**
- **Time-tested set of services for enterprise applications (e.g. transactions, security, persistence, messaging)**
- **Radical transformation of the EJB 2.x programming model**
- **100% annotations, no XML deployment descriptor**
- **Intelligent defaulting, zero-configuration**
- **Powerful, easy-to-use, popular JPA**
- **EJB 3 adoption increasing steadily**
- **EJB 3.1 adds even more ease-of-use, powerful features**

Spring: Popular Java EE framework

- **Rise as a response to EJB 2.x complexity, along with Hibernate**
- **Popular open-source middleware framework (slight gravitation to commercial open-source)**
- **Dependency injection and AOP as core developer services**
- **Integration with standard (JPA, JMS, JDBC, JAX-WS) and non-standard tools (iBATIS, Quartz, Acegi)**
- **Extensible platform, easy to integrate third-party tools**
- **Integration with EJB**

EJB 3 and Spring Integration Scenarios

- **Innovative, best-of-breed applications taking advantage of the strong-points of both technologies as needed.**
- **EJB Features**
 - **Standards-based, zero-configuration, secure, transactional, thread-safe components**
 - **Seamless JPA integration**
 - **Statefulness, passivation, extended persistence context**
 - **Message Driven Beans**
 - **Robust web services/remoting**
 - **Clustering, load-balancing, instance pooling and server thread optimization**
 - **IDE and application server tooling support**
- **Spring Features**
 - **Advanced dependency injection**
 - **Advanced AOP, including @AspectJ support**
 - **Spring JDBC integration**
 - **Spring JMS integration**
 - **iBATIS, Hibernate, JDO, TopLink DAOs**
 - **Quartz integration**
- **The sky is the limit!**

Integration Mechanics

- Spring can be used inside Java EE application server
- EJB 3 embeddable containers (OpenEJB, EasyBeans, Embedded JBoss, Embedded Glassfish) can be embedded onto Tomcat with Spring
- Anything in JNDI can be injected into Spring
- Spring supports Java EE `@Resource` and `@EJB` injection annotations for resources in JNDI
- XML based injection can be done via `jee` schema: `<jee:jndi-lookup/>`
- Enabling Spring `@Autowired` annotation in EJB 3 beans via Interceptors
- Lookup from Spring application context using Spring-supplied EJB 2 base class
- Use EJB 3 natively inside Spring using Spring Pitchfork...or another solution 😊

The Tools in the Demo

- **Apache OpenEJB**

- Most mature EJB 3 embedded container
- EJB 3 implementation for Apache Geronimo and IBM WebSphere Community Edition
- Supports EJB 3 deployments in WAR
- Could also have used EasyBeans, Embedded JBoss or Embedded GlassFish

- **Spring 2.5**

- Much better annotation support
- XML schema based configuration
- Improved JPA, JMS, JDBC, JSF and EJB integration
- @AspectJ support

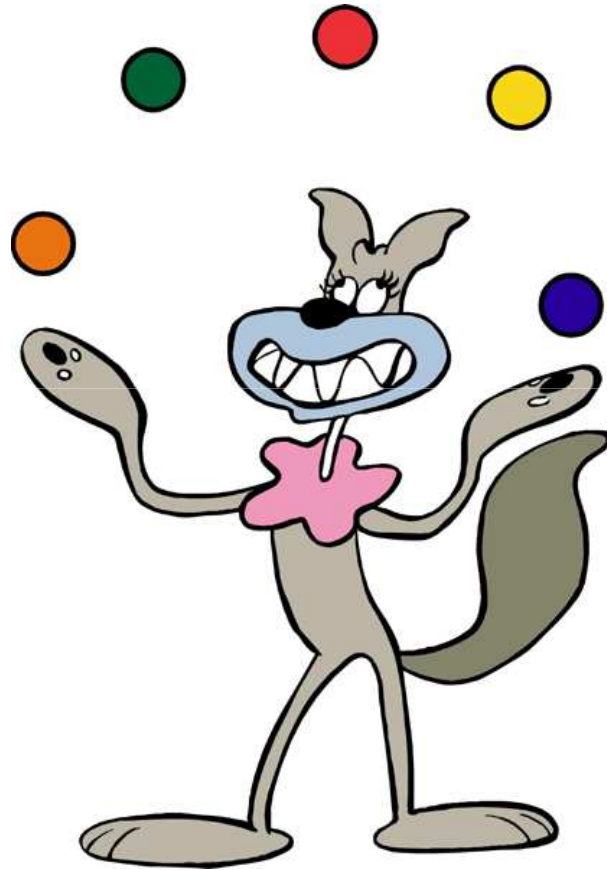
- **Tomcat**

- Predominant lightweight web container
- Could also have used WebSphere, WebLogic, JBoss, GlassFish, Oracle


- **Eclipse**

- Predominant Java IDE
- Excellent Java EE 5 support including JSF, JPA and EJB 3
- Could also have used NetBeans

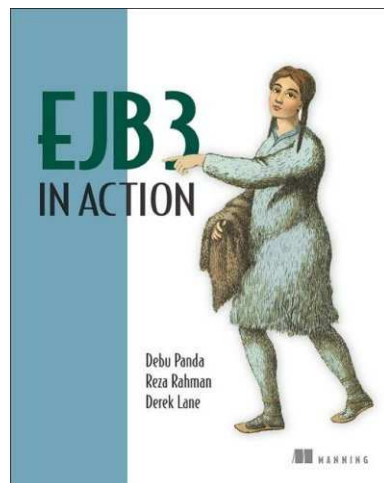
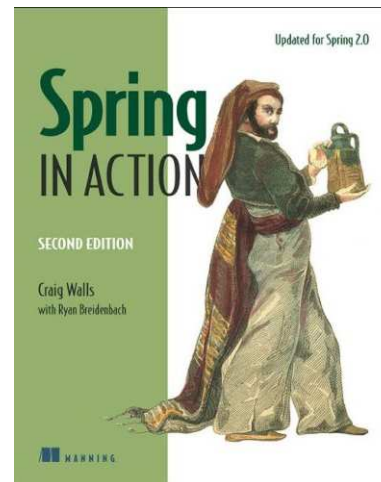
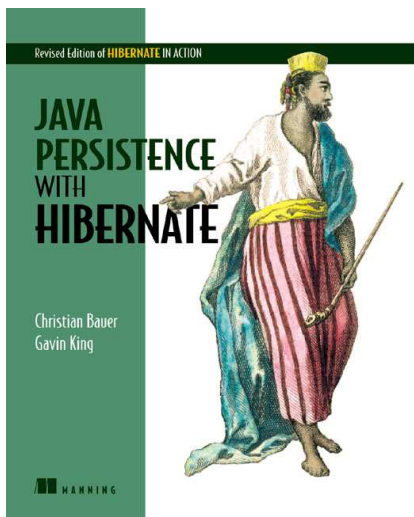
The Demo!



Summary

- **Create best-of-breed solutions leveraging the strong points of both EJB 3 and Spring**
- **Benefit from ease-of-use and vendor neutrality**
- **Take advantage of advanced AOP and DI as well as broad range of integration APIs**
- **Mix and match from broad range of features and integration points**
- **Can be done on Tomcat**
- **Can be done on Java EE servers like WebSphere, WebLogic, GlassFish, JBoss and Oracle**
- **How about much better native EJB 3 support on the Spring framework and application platform?**
- **Have fun!** 

References



Shameless plug alert!