

Spring Session

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Spring Session provides an API and implementations for managing a user's session information.

1. Introduction

Spring Session provides an API and implementations for managing a user's session information, while also making it trivial to support clustered sessions without being tied to an application container specific solution. It also provides transparent integration with:

- <u>HttpSession</u> allows replacing the HttpSession in an application container (i.e. Tomcat) neutral way, with support for providing session IDs in headers to work with RESTful APIs.
- <u>WebSocket</u> provides the ability to keep the HttpSession alive when receiving WebSocket messages
- <u>WebSession</u> allows replacing the Spring WebFlux's WebSession in an application container neutral way.

2. What's New in 2.0

Below are the highlights of what is new in Spring Session 2.0. You can find a complete list of what's new by referring to the changelogs of <u>2.0.0.M1</u>, <u>2.0.0.M2</u>, <u>2.0.0.M3</u>, <u>2.0.0.M4</u>, <u>2.0.0.M5</u>, <u>2.0.0.RC1</u>, <u>2.0.0.RC2</u>, and <u>2.0.0.RELEASE</u>.

- Upgraded to Java 8 and Spring Framework 5 as baseline
- Added support for managing Spring WebFlux's WebSession with Redis ReactiveSessionRepository
- Extracted SessionRepository implementations to separate modules
- Improved <u>Session</u> and <u>SessionRepository</u> APIs
- · Improved and harmonized configuration support for all supported session stores
- Added support for configuring default CookieSerializer using SessionCookieConfig
- · Lots of performance improvements and bug fixes

3. Samples and Guides (Start Here)

If you are looking to get started with Spring Session, the best place to start is our Sample Applications.

Table 3.1. Sample Applications using Spring Boot

Source	Description	Guide
HttpSession with Redis	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with Redis.	HttpSession with Redis Guide
HttpSession with JDBC	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with a relational database store.	HttpSession with JDBC Guide
Find by Username	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to find sessions by username.	Find by Username Guide
<u>WebSockets</u>	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session with WebSockets.	WebSockets Guide
<u>WebFlux</u>	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the Spring WebFlux's WebSession with Redis.	TBD
HttpSession with Redis JSON serialization	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with Redis using JSON serialization.	TBD

Source	Description	Guide
HttpSession with Redis	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with Redis.	HttpSession with Redis Guide
HttpSession with JDBC	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with a relational database store.	HttpSession with JDBC Guide
HttpSession with Hazelcast	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with Hazelcast.	HttpSession with Hazelcast Guide
Custom Cookie	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session and customize the cookie.	Custom Cookie Guide

Source	Description	Guide
Spring Security	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session with an existing Spring Security application.	Spring Security Guide
REST	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session in a REST application to support authenticating with a header.	REST Guide

Table 3.3. Sample Applications using Spring XML based configuration

Source	Description	Guide
HttpSession with Redis	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with a Redis store.	HttpSession with Redis Guide
HttpSession with JDBC	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session to replace the HttpSession with a relational database store.	HttpSession with JDBC Guide

Table 3.4. Misc sample Applications

Source	Description	Guide
<u>Grails 3</u>	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session with Grails 3.	Grails 3 Guide
Hazelcast	Demonstrates how to use Spring Session with Hazelcast in a Java EE application.	TBD

4. Spring Session Modules

In Spring Session 1.x all of the Spring Session's SessionRepository implementations were available within the spring-session artifact. While convenient, this approach wasn't sustainable long-term as more features and SessionRepository implementations were added to the project.

Starting with Spring Session 2.0, the project has been split up to Spring Session Core module, and several other modules that carry SessionRepository implementations and functionality related to the specific data store. The users of Spring Data will find this arrangement familiar, with Spring Session Core module taking a role equivalent to Spring Data Commons and providing core functionalities and APIs with other modules containing data store specific implementations. As a part of this split, the Spring Session Data MongoDB and Spring Session Data GemFire modules were moved to separate repositories so the situation with project's repositories/modules is a follows:

- <u>spring-session</u> repository
 - Hosts Spring Session Core, Spring Session Data Redis, Spring Session JDBC and Spring Session Hazelcast modules
- spring-session-data-mongodb repository
 - Hosts Spring Session Data MongoDB module
- spring-session-data-geode repository
 - Hosts Spring Session Data Geode and Spring Session Data Geode modules

Finally, Spring Session now also provides a Maven BOM (as in "bill of materials") module in order to help users with version management concerns:

- <u>spring-session-bom</u> repository
 - Hosts Spring Session BOM module

5. HttpSession Integration

Spring Session provides transparent integration with HttpSession. This means that developers can switch the HttpSession implementation out with an implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

5.1 Why Spring Session & HttpSession?

We have already mentioned that Spring Session provides transparent integration with HttpSession, but what benefits do we get out of this?

- **Clustered Sessions** Spring Session makes it trivial to support <u>clustered sessions</u> without being tied to an application container specific solution.
- RESTful APIs Spring Session allows providing session IDs in headers to work with RESTful APIs

5.2 HttpSession with Redis

Using Spring Session with HttpSession is enabled by adding a Servlet Filter before anything that uses the HttpSession. You can choose from enabling this using either:

- Java Based Configuration
- <u>XML Based Configuration</u>

Redis Java Based Configuration

This section describes how to use Redis to back HttpSession using Java based configuration.

Note

The <u>HttpSession Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to integrate Spring Session and HttpSession using Java configuration. You can read the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed HttpSession Guide when integrating with your own application.

Spring Java Configuration

After adding the required dependencies, we can create our Spring configuration. The Spring configuration is responsible for creating a Servlet Filter that replaces the HttpSession implementation with an implementation backed by Spring Session. Add the following Spring Configuration:

```
@EnableRedisHttpSession ①
public class Config {
    @Bean
    public LettuceConnectionFactory connectionFactory() {
    return new LettuceConnectionFactory(); ②
    }
}
```

• The @EnableRedisHttpSession annotation creates a Spring Bean with the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The filter is what is in charge of replacing the HttpSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session. In this instance Spring Session is backed by Redis. We create a RedisConnectionFactory that connects Spring Session to the Redis Server. We configure the connection to connect to localhost on the default port (6379) For more information on configuring Spring Data Redis, refer to the <u>reference documentation</u>.

Java Servlet Container Initialization

Our <u>Spring Configuration</u> created a Spring Bean named springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The springSessionRepositoryFilter bean is responsible for replacing the HttpSession with a custom implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

In order for our Filter to do its magic, Spring needs to load our Config class. Last we need to ensure that our Servlet Container (i.e. Tomcat) uses our springSessionRepositoryFilter for every request. Fortunately, Spring Session provides a utility class named AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer both of these steps extremely easy. You can find an example below:

src/main/java/sample/Initializer.java.

```
public class Initializer extends AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer { 0
    public Initializer() {
        super(Config.class); 0
    }
}
```

Note

The name of our class (Initializer) does not matter. What is important is that we extend AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer.

- The first step is to extend AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer. This ensures that the Spring Bean by the name springSessionRepositoryFilter is registered with our Servlet Container for every request.
- AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer also provides a mechanism to easily ensure Spring loads our Config.

Redis XML Based Configuration

This section describes how to use Redis to back <code>HttpSession</code> using XML based configuration.

Note

The <u>HttpSession XML Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to integrate Spring Session and HttpSession using XML configuration. You can read the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed HttpSession XML Guide when integrating with your own application.

Spring XML Configuration

After adding the required dependencies, we can create our Spring configuration. The Spring configuration is responsible for creating a Servlet Filter that replaces the HttpSession implementation with an implementation backed by Spring Session. Add the following Spring Configuration:

src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/spring/session.xml.



- We use the combination of <context:annotation-config/> and RedisHttpSessionConfiguration because Spring Session does not yet provide XML Namespace support (see gh-104). This creates a Spring Bean with the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The filter is what is in charge of replacing the HttpSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session. In this instance Spring Session is backed by Redis.
- We create a RedisConnectionFactory that connects Spring Session to the Redis Server. We configure the connection to connect to localhost on the default port (6379) For more information on configuring Spring Data Redis, refer to the <u>reference documentation</u>.

XML Servlet Container Initialization

Our <u>Spring Configuration</u> created a Spring Bean named springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The springSessionRepositoryFilter bean is responsible for replacing the HttpSession with a custom implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

In order for our Filter to do its magic, we need to instruct Spring to load our session.xml configuration. We do this with the following configuration:

src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/web.xml.

```
<context-param>
<param-name>contextConfigLocation</param-name>
<param-value>
/WEB-INF/spring/*.xml
</param-value>
</context-param>
<listener>
<listener>
<listener-class>
org.springframework.web.context.ContextLoaderListener
</listener>>
```

The <u>ContextLoaderListener</u> reads the contextConfigLocation and picks up our session.xml configuration.

Last we need to ensure that our Servlet Container (i.e. Tomcat) uses our springSessionRepositoryFilter for every request. The following snippet performs this last step for us:

src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/web.xml.

```
<filter>
<filter-name>springSessionRepositoryFilter</filter-name>
<filter-class>org.springframework.web.filter.DelegatingFilterProxy</filter-class>
</filter>
<filter-mapping>
<filter-name>springSessionRepositoryFilter</filter-name>
<url-pattern>/*</url-pattern>
<dispatcher>REQUEST</dispatcher>
</filter-mapping>
</filter-mapping>
```

The <u>DelegatingFilterProxy</u> will look up a Bean by the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter and cast it to a Filter. For every request that DelegatingFilterProxy is invoked, the springSessionRepositoryFilter will be invoked.

5.3 HttpSession with JDBC

Using Spring Session with HttpSession is enabled by adding a Servlet Filter before anything that uses the HttpSession. You can choose from enabling this using either:

- Java Based Configuration
- XML Based Configuration
- Spring Boot Based Configuration

JDBC Java Based Configuration

This section describes how to use a relational database to back <code>HttpSession</code> using Java based configuration.

Note

The <u>HttpSession JDBC Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to integrate Spring Session and HttpSession using Java configuration. You can read the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed HttpSession JDBC Guide when integrating with your own application.

Spring Java Configuration

After adding the required dependencies, we can create our Spring configuration. The Spring configuration is responsible for creating a Servlet Filter that replaces the HttpSession implementation with an implementation backed by Spring Session. Add the following Spring Configuration:

```
@EnableJdbcHttpSession ①
public class Config {
    @Bean
    public EmbeddedDatabase dataSource() {
        return new EmbeddedDatabaseBuilder() ②
            .setType(EmbeddedDatabaseType.H2)
            .addScript("org/springframework/session/jdbc/schema-h2.sql").build();
    }
    @Bean
    public PlatformTransactionManager transactionManager(DataSource dataSource) {
        return new DataSourceTransactionManager(dataSource); ③
    }
```

- The @EnableJdbcHttpSession annotation creates a Spring Bean with the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The filter is what is in charge of replacing the HttpSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session. In this instance Spring Session is backed by a relational database.
- We create a dataSource that connects Spring Session to an embedded instance of H2 database. We configure the H2 database to create database tables using the SQL script which is included in Spring Session.

• We create a transactionManager that manages transactions for previously configured dataSource.

For additional information on how to configure data access related concerns, please refer to the <u>Spring</u> <u>Framework Reference Documentation</u>.

Java Servlet Container Initialization

Our <u>Spring Configuration</u> created a Spring Bean named springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The springSessionRepositoryFilter bean is responsible for replacing the HttpSession with a custom implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

In order for our Filter to do its magic, Spring needs to load our Config class. Last we need to ensure that our Servlet Container (i.e. Tomcat) uses our springSessionRepositoryFilter for every request. Fortunately, Spring Session provides a utility class named AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer both of these steps extremely easy. You can find an example below:

src/main/java/sample/Initializer.java.

```
public class Initializer extends AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer { 0
    public Initializer() {
        super(Config.class); 0
    }
}
```

Note

The name of our class (Initializer) does not matter. What is important is that we extend AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer.

- The first step is to extend AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer. This ensures that the Spring Bean by the name springSessionRepositoryFilter is registered with our Servlet Container for every request.
- AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer also provides a mechanism to easily ensure Spring loads our Config.

JDBC XML Based Configuration

This section describes how to use a relational database to back <code>HttpSession</code> using XML based configuration.

Note

The <u>HttpSession JDBC XML Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to integrate Spring Session and HttpSession using XML configuration. You can read the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed HttpSession JDBC XML Guide when integrating with your own application.

Spring XML Configuration

After adding the required dependencies, we can create our Spring configuration. The Spring configuration is responsible for creating a Servlet Filter that replaces the HttpSession implementation with an implementation backed by Spring Session. Add the following Spring Configuration:

src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/spring/session.xml.

```
0
<context:annotation-config/>
<bean class="org.springframework.session.jdbc.config.annotation.web.http.JdbcHttpSessionConfiguration"/>
0
<jdbc:embedded-database id="dataSource" database-name="testdb" type="H2">
<jdbc:script location="classpath:org/springframework/session/jdbc/schema-h2.sql"/>
</jdbc:embedded-database>
6
<bean class="org.springframework.jdbc.datasource.DataSourceTransactionManager">
<constructor-arg ref="dataSource"/>
</bean>
```

- We use the combination of <context:annotation-config/> and JdbcHttpSessionConfiguration because Spring Session does not yet provide XML Namespace support (see gh-104). This creates a Spring Bean with the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The filter is what is in charge of replacing the HttpSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session. In this instance Spring Session is backed by a relational database.
- We create a dataSource that connects Spring Session to an embedded instance of H2 database.
 We configure the H2 database to create database tables using the SQL script which is included in Spring Session.
- We create a transactionManager that manages transactions for previously configured dataSource.

For additional information on how to configure data access related concerns, please refer to the <u>Spring</u> <u>Framework Reference Documentation</u>.

XML Servlet Container Initialization

Our <u>Spring Configuration</u> created a Spring Bean named springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The springSessionRepositoryFilter bean is responsible for replacing the HttpSession with a custom implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

In order for our Filter to do its magic, we need to instruct Spring to load our session.xml configuration. We do this with the following configuration:

src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/web.xml.

```
<context-param>
<param-name>contextConfigLocation</param-name>
<param-value>
/WEB-INF/spring/*.xml
</param-value>
</context-param>
<listener>
<listener>
<listener-class>
org.springframework.web.context.ContextLoaderListener
</listener><
</listener>
```

The <u>ContextLoaderListener</u> reads the contextConfigLocation and picks up our session.xml configuration.

Last we need to ensure that our Servlet Container (i.e. Tomcat) uses our springSessionRepositoryFilter for every request. The following snippet performs this last step for us:

src/main/webapp/WEB-INF/web.xml.

```
<filter>
<filter-name>springSessionRepositoryFilter</filter-name>
<filter-class>org.springframework.web.filter.DelegatingFilterProxy</filter-class>
</filter>
<filter-mapping>
<filter-name>springSessionRepositoryFilter</filter-name>
<url-pattern>/*</url-pattern>
<dispatcher>REQUEST</dispatcher>
</filter-mapping>
</filter-mapping>
```

The <u>DelegatingFilterProxy</u> will look up a Bean by the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter and cast it to a Filter. For every request that DelegatingFilterProxy is invoked, the springSessionRepositoryFilter will be invoked.

JDBC Spring Boot Based Configuration

This section describes how to use a relational database to back HttpSession when using Spring Boot.

Note

The <u>HttpSession JDBC Spring Boot Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to integrate Spring Session and HttpSession using Spring Boot. You can read the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed HttpSession JDBC Spring Boot Guide when integrating with your own application.

Spring Boot Configuration

After adding the required dependencies, we can create our Spring Boot configuration. Thanks to firstclass auto configuration support, setting up Spring Session backed by a relational database is as simple as adding a single configuration property to your application.properties:

src/main/resources/application.properties.

spring.session.store-type=jdbc # Session store type.

Under the hood, Spring Boot will apply configuration that is equivalent to manually adding @EnableJdbcHttpSession annotation. This creates a Spring Bean with the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The filter is what is in charge of replacing the HttpSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session.

Further customization is possible using application.properties:

src/main/resources/application.properties.

```
server.servlet.session.timeout= # Session timeout. If a duration suffix is not specified, seconds will
be used.
spring.session.jdbc.initialize-schema=embedded # Database schema initialization mode.
spring.session.jdbc.schema=classpath:org/springframework/session/jdbc/schema-@@platform@@.sql # Path to
the SQL file to use to initialize the database schema.
spring.session.jdbc.table-name=SPRING_SESSION # Name of the database table used to store sessions.
```

For more information, refer to Spring Session portion of the Spring Boot documentation.

Configuring the DataSource

Spring Boot automatically creates a DataSource that connects Spring Session to an embedded instance of H2 database. In a production environment you need to ensure to update your configuration to point to your relational database. For example, you can include the following in your **application.properties**

src/main/resources/application.properties.

```
spring.datasource.url= # JDBC URL of the database.
spring.datasource.username= # Login username of the database.
spring.datasource.password= # Login password of the database.
```

For more information, refer to <u>Configure a DataSource</u> portion of the Spring Boot documentation.

Servlet Container Initialization

Our <u>Spring Boot Configuration</u> created a Spring Bean named springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The springSessionRepositoryFilter bean is responsible for replacing the HttpSession with a custom implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

In order for our Filter to do its magic, Spring needs to load our Config class. Last we need to ensure that our Servlet Container (i.e. Tomcat) uses our springSessionRepositoryFilter for every request. Fortunately, Spring Boot takes care of both of these steps for us.

5.4 HttpSession with Hazelcast

Using Spring Session with HttpSession is enabled by adding a Servlet Filter before anything that uses the HttpSession.

This section describes how to use Hazelcast to back HttpSession using Java based configuration.

Note

The <u>Hazelcast Spring Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to integrate Spring Session and HttpSession using Java configuration. You can read the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed Hazelcast Spring Guide when integrating with your own application.

Spring Configuration

After adding the required dependencies, we can create our Spring configuration. The Spring configuration is responsible for creating a Servlet Filter that replaces the HttpSession implementation with an implementation backed by Spring Session. Add the following Spring Configuration:

```
@EnableHazelcastHttpSession 0
@Configuration
public class HazelcastHttpSessionConfig {
@Bean
public HazelcastInstance hazelcastInstance() {
 MapAttributeConfig attributeConfig = new MapAttributeConfig()
   .setName(HazelcastSessionRepository.PRINCIPAL_NAME_ATTRIBUTE)
   .setExtractor(PrincipalNameExtractor.class.getName());
  Config config = new Config();
  config.getMapConfig(HazelcastSessionRepository.DEFAULT_SESSION_MAP_NAME)
    .addMapAttributeConfig(attributeConfig)
    .addMapIndexConfig(new MapIndexConfig(
     HazelcastSessionRepository.PRINCIPAL_NAME_ATTRIBUTE, false));
 return Hazelcast.newHazelcastInstance(config); 0
 }
}
```

- The @EnableHazelcastHttpSession annotation creates a Spring Bean with the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The filter is what is in charge of replacing the HttpSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session. In this instance Spring Session is backed by Hazelcast.
- In order to support retrieval of sessions by principal name index, appropriate ValueExtractor needs to be registered. Spring Session provides PrincipalNameExtractor for this purpose.
- We create a HazelcastInstance that connects Spring Session to Hazelcast. By default, an embedded instance of Hazelcast is started and connected to by the application. For more information on configuring Hazelcast, refer to the <u>reference documentation</u>.

Servlet Container Initialization

Our <u>Spring Configuration</u> created a Spring Bean named springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The springSessionRepositoryFilter bean is responsible for replacing the HttpSession with a custom implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

In order for our Filter to do its magic, Spring needs to load our SessionConfig class. Since our application is already loading Spring configuration using our SecurityInitializer class, we can simply add our SessionConfig class to it.

src/main/java/sample/SecurityInitializer.java.

```
public class SecurityInitializer extends AbstractSecurityWebApplicationInitializer {
    public SecurityInitializer() {
        super(SecurityConfig.class, SessionConfig.class);
    }
}
```

Servlet Last we need to ensure that our Container (i.e. Tomcat) our uses springSessionRepositoryFilter for every request. It is extremely important that Spring Session's springSessionRepositoryFilter is invoked before Spring Security's springSecurityFilterChain. This ensures that the HttpSession that Spring Security uses is backed by Spring Session. Fortunately, Spring Session provides a utility class named AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer that makes this extremely easy. You can find an example below:

src/main/java/sample/Initializer.java.

```
public class Initializer extends AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer {
```

Note

}

The name of our class (Initializer) does not matter. What is important is that we extend AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer.

By extending AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer we ensure that the Spring Bean by the name springSessionRepositoryFilter is registered with our Servlet Container for every request before Spring Security's springSecurityFilterChain.

5.5 How HttpSession Integration Works

Fortunately both HttpSession and HttpServletRequest (the API for obtaining an HttpSession) are both interfaces. This means that we can provide our own implementations for each of these APIs.

Note

This section describes how Spring Session provides transparent integration with HttpSession. The intent is so that user's can understand what is happening under the covers. This functionality is already integrated and you do NOT need to implement this logic yourself.

First we create a custom HttpServletRequest that returns a custom implementation of HttpSession. It looks something like the following:

```
public class SessionRepositoryRequestWrapper extends HttpServletRequestWrapper {
    public SessionRepositoryRequestWrapper(HttpServletRequest original) {
        super(original);
    }
    public HttpSession getSession() {
        return getSession(true);
    }
    public HttpSession getSession(boolean createNew) {
        // create an HttpSession implementation from Spring Session
    }
    // ... other methods delegate to the original HttpServletRequest ...
}
```

Any method that returns an HttpSession is overridden. All other methods are implemented by HttpServletRequestWrapper and simply delegate to the original HttpServletRequest implementation.

We replace the HttpServletRequest implementation using a servlet Filter called SessionRepositoryFilter. The pseudocode can be found below:

```
public class SessionRepositoryFilter implements Filter {
    public doFilter(ServletRequest request, ServletResponse response, FilterChain chain) {
    HttpServletRequest httpRequest = (HttpServletRequest) request;
    SessionRepositoryRequestWrapper customRequest =
    new SessionRepositoryRequestWrapper(httpRequest);
    chain.doFilter(customRequest, response, chain);
  }
  // ...
}
```

By passing in a custom HttpServletRequest implementation into the FilterChain we ensure that anything invoked after our Filter uses the custom HttpSession implementation. This highlights why it is important that Spring Session's SessionRepositoryFilter must be placed before anything that interacts with the HttpSession.

5.6 HttpSession & RESTful APIs

Spring Session can work with RESTful APIs by allowing the session to be provided in a header.

Note

The <u>REST Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to use Spring Session in a REST application to support authenticating with a header. You can follow the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed REST Guide when integrating with your own application.

Spring Configuration

After adding the required dependencies, we can create our Spring configuration. The Spring configuration is responsible for creating a Servlet Filter that replaces the HttpSession implementation with an implementation backed by Spring Session. Add the following Spring Configuration:

```
@Configuration
@EnableRedisHttpSession ①
public class HttpSessionConfig {
    @Bean
    public LettuceConnectionFactory connectionFactory() {
    return new LettuceConnectionFactory(); ②
    }
    @Bean
    public HttpSessionIdResolver httpSessionIdResolver() {
    return HeaderHttpSessionIdResolver.xAuthToken(); ③
    }
}
```

- The @EnableRedisHttpSession annotation creates a Spring Bean with the name of springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The filter is what is in charge of replacing the HttpSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session. In this instance Spring Session is backed by Redis.
- We create a RedisConnectionFactory that connects Spring Session to the Redis Server. We configure the connection to connect to localhost on the default port (6379) For more information on configuring Spring Data Redis, refer to the <u>reference documentation</u>.

• We customize Spring Session's HttpSession integration to use HTTP headers to convey the current session information instead of cookies.

Servlet Container Initialization

Our <u>Spring Configuration</u> created a Spring Bean named springSessionRepositoryFilter that implements Filter. The springSessionRepositoryFilter bean is responsible for replacing the HttpSession with a custom implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

In order for our Filter to do its magic, Spring needs to load our Config class. We provide the configuration in our Spring MvcInitializer as shown below:

src/main/java/sample/mvc/MvcInitializer.java.

```
@Override
protected Class<?>[] getRootConfigClasses() {
  return new Class[] { SecurityConfig.class, HttpSessionConfig.class };
}
```

Container Last we need to ensure that our Servlet (i.e. Tomcat) uses our springSessionRepositoryFilter for every request. Fortunately, Spring Session provides a utility class named AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer that makes this extremely easy. Simply extend the class with the default constructor as shown below:

src/main/java/sample/Initializer.java.

```
public class Initializer extends AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer {
```

Note

The name of our class (Initializer) does not matter. What is important is that we extend AbstractHttpSessionApplicationInitializer.

5.7 HttpSessionListener

Spring Session supportsHttpSessionListenerby translatingSessionDestroyedEventandSessionCreatedEventintoHttpSessionEventbydeclaringSessionEventHttpSessionListenerAdapter.To use this support, you need to:

- Ensure your SessionRepository implementation supports and is configured to fire SessionDestroyedEvent and SessionCreatedEvent.
- Configure SessionEventHttpSessionListenerAdapter as a Spring bean.
- Inject every <code>HttpSessionListener</code> into the <code>SessionEventHttpSessionListenerAdapter</code>

If you are using the configuration support documented in <u>HttpSession with Redis</u>, then all you need to do is register every <code>HttpSessionListener</code> as a bean. For example, assume you want to support Spring Security's concurrency control and need to use <code>HttpSessionEventPublisher</code> you can simply add <code>HttpSessionEventPublisher</code> as a bean. In Java configuration, this might look like:

```
@Configuration
@EnableRedisHttpSession
public class RedisHttpSessionConfig {
    @Bean
    public HttpSessionEventPublisher httpSessionEventPublisher() {
    return new HttpSessionEventPublisher();
    }
    // ...
}
```

In XML configuration, this might look like:

<bean class="org.springframework.security.web.session.HttpSessionEventPublisher"/>

6. WebSocket Integration

Spring Session provides transparent integration with Spring's WebSocket support.

Note

Spring Session's WebSocket support only works with Spring's WebSocket support. Specifically it does not work with using <u>JSR-356</u> directly. This is due to the fact that JSR-356 does not have a mechanism for intercepting incoming WebSocket messages.

6.1 Why Spring Session & WebSockets?

So why do we need Spring Session when using WebSockets?

Consider an email application that does much of its work through HTTP requests. However, there is also a chat application embedded within it that works over WebSocket APIs. If a user is actively chatting with someone, we should not timeout the HttpSession since this would be pretty poor user experience. However, this is exactly what <u>JSR-356</u> does.

Another issue is that according to JSR-356 if the HttpSession times out any WebSocket that was created with that HttpSession and an authenticated user should be forcibly closed. This means that if we are actively chatting in our application and are not using the HttpSession, then we will also disconnect from our conversation!

6.2 WebSocket Usage

The <u>WebSocket Sample</u> provides a working sample on how to integrate Spring Session with WebSockets. You can follow the basic steps for integration below, but you are encouraged to follow along with the detailed WebSocket Guide when integrating with your own application:

HttpSession Integration

Before using WebSocket integration, you should be sure that you have Chapter 5, *HttpSession Integration* working first.

Spring Configuration

In a typical Spring WebSocket application users would implement WebSocketMessageBrokerConfigurer. For example, the configuration might look something like the following:

```
@Configuration
@EnableScheduling
@EnableWebSocketMessageBroker
public class WebSocketConfig implements WebSocketMessageBrokerConfigurer {
    @Override
    public void registerStompEndpoints(StompEndpointRegistry registry) {
        registry.addEndpoint("/messages").withSockJS();
    }
    @Override
    public void configureMessageBroker(MessageBrokerRegistry registry) {
        registry.enableSimpleBroker("/queue/", "/topic/");
        registry.setApplicationDestinationPrefixes("/app");
    }
}
```

We can easily update our configuration to use Spring Session's WebSocket support. For example:

src/main/java/samples/config/WebSocketConfig.java.



To hook in the Spring Session support we only need to change two things:

- Instead of implementing WebSocketMessageBrokerConfigurer we extend AbstractSessionWebSocketMessageBrokerConfigurer
- **②** We rename the registerStompEndpoints method to configureStompEndpoints

What does AbstractSessionWebSocketMessageBrokerConfigurer do behind the scenes?

- WebSocketConnectHandlerDecoratorFactory is added as a WebSocketHandlerDecoratorFactory to WebSocketTransportRegistration. This ensures a custom SessionConnectEvent is fired that contains the WebSocketSession. The WebSocketSession is necessary to terminate any WebSocket connections that are still open when a Spring Session is terminated.
- SessionRepositoryMessageInterceptor is added as a HandshakeInterceptor to every StompWebSocketEndpointRegistration. This ensures that the Session is added to the WebSocket properties to enable updating the last accessed time.
- SessionRepositoryMessageInterceptor is added as a ChannelInterceptor to our inbound ChannelRegistration. This ensures that every time an inbound message is received, that the last accessed time of our Spring Session is updated.
- WebSocketRegistryListener is created as a Spring Bean. This ensures that we have a mapping of all of the Session id to the corresponding WebSocket connections. By maintaining this mapping, we can close all the WebSocket connections when a Spring Session (HttpSession) is terminated.

7. WebSession Integration

Spring Session provides transparent integration with Spring WebFlux's WebSession. This means that developers can switch the WebSession implementation out with an implementation that is backed by Spring Session.

7.1 Why Spring Session & WebSession?

We have already mentioned that Spring Session provides transparent integration with Spring WebFlux's WebSession, but what benefits do we get out of this? As with HttpSession, Spring Session makes it trivial to support <u>clustered sessions</u> without being tied to an application container specific solution.

7.2 WebSession with Redis

Using Spring Session with WebSession is enabled by simply registering a WebSessionManager implementation backed by Spring Session's ReactiveSessionRepository. The Spring configuration is responsible for creating a WebSessionManager that replaces the WebSession implementation with an implementation backed by Spring Session. Add the following Spring Configuration:

```
@EnableRedisWebSession ①
public class SessionConfiguration {
    @Bean
    public LettuceConnectionFactory redisConnectionFactory() {
    return new LettuceConnectionFactory(); ②
    }
}
```

- The @EnableRedisWebSession annotation creates a Spring Bean with the name of webSessionManager that implements the WebSessionManager. This is what is in charge of replacing the WebSession implementation to be backed by Spring Session. In this instance Spring Session is backed by Redis.
- We create a RedisConnectionFactory that connects Spring Session to the Redis Server. We configure the connection to connect to localhost on the default port (6379) For more information on configuring Spring Data Redis, refer to the <u>reference documentation</u>.

7.3 How WebSession Integration Works

With Spring WebFlux and it's WebSession things are considerably simpler for Spring Session to integrate with, compared to Servlet API and it's HttpSession. Spring WebFlux provides WebSessionStore API which presents a strategy for persisting WebSession.

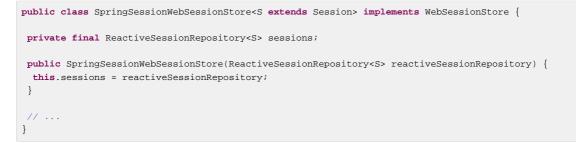
Note

This section describes how Spring Session provides transparent integration with WebSession. The intent is so that user's can understand what is happening under the covers. This functionality is already integrated and you do NOT need to implement this logic yourself.

First we create a custom SpringSessionWebSession that delegates to Spring Session's Session. It looks something like the following:

```
public class SpringSessionWebSession implements WebSession {
 enum State {
 NEW, STARTED
 }
private final S session;
private AtomicReference<State> state = new AtomicReference<>();
 SpringSessionWebSession(S session, State state) {
 this.session = session;
 this.state.set(state);
 }
@Override
public void start() {
 this.state.compareAndSet(State.NEW, State.STARTED);
 }
@Override
public boolean isStarted() {
 State value = this.state.get();
 return (State.STARTED.equals(value)
   (State.NEW.equals(value) && !this.session.getAttributes().isEmpty()));
 }
@Override
 public Mono<Void> changeSessionId() {
 return Mono.defer(() -> {
  this.session.changeSessionId();
  return save();
 });
 }
 // ... other methods delegate to the original Session
}
```

Next, we create a custom WebSessionStore that delegates to the ReactiveSessionRepository and wraps Session into custom WebSession implementation:



In order to be detected by Spring WebFlux, this custom WebSessionStore needs to be registered with ApplicationContext as bean named webSessionManager. For additional information on Spring WebFlux, refer to the Spring Framework Reference Documentation.

8. Spring Security Integration

Spring Session provides integration with Spring Security.

8.1 Spring Security Remember-Me Support

Spring Session provides integration with <u>Spring Security's Remember-Me Authentication</u>. The support will:

- · Change the session expiration length
- Ensure the session cookie expires at Integer.MAX_VALUE. The cookie expiration is set to the largest possible value because the cookie is only set when the session is created. If it were set to the same value as the session expiration, then the session would get renewed when the user used it but the cookie expiration would not be updated causing the expiration to be fixed.

To configure Spring Session with Spring Security in Java Configuration use the following as a guide:

```
@Override
protected void configure(HttpSecurity http) throws Exception {
    http
    // ... additional configuration ...
    .rememberMe()
    .rememberMeServices(rememberMeServices());
}
@Bean
public SpringSessionRememberMeServices rememberMeServices() {
    SpringSessionRememberMeServices rememberMeServices =
        new SpringSessionRememberMeServices();
    // optionally customize
    rememberMeServices.setAlwaysRemember(true);
    return rememberMeServices;
}
```

An XML based configuration would look something like this:

```
<security:http>
<!-- ... -->
<security:form-login />
<security:remember-me services-ref="rememberMeServices"/>
</security:http>
<bean id="rememberMeServices"
class="org.springframework.session.security.web.authentication.SpringSessionRememberMeServices"
p:alwaysRemember="true"/>
```

8.2 Spring Security Concurrent Session Control

Spring Session provides integration with Spring Security to support its concurrent session control. This allows limiting the number of active sessions that a single user can have concurrently, but unlike the default Spring Security support this will also work in a clustered environment. This is done by providing a custom implementation of Spring Security's SessionRegistry interface.

When using Spring Security's Java config DSL, you can configure the custom SessionRegistry through the SessionManagementConfigurer like this:

```
@Configuration
public class SecurityConfiguration<S extends Session>
 extends WebSecurityConfigurerAdapter {
@Autowired
private FindByIndexNameSessionRepository<S> sessionRepository;
@Override
protected void configure(HttpSecurity http) throws Exception {
  // @formatter:off
 http
  // other config goes here...
  .sessionManagement()
   maximumSessions(2)
   .sessionRegistry(sessionRegistry());
 // @formatter:on
 }
@Bean
public SpringSessionBackedSessionRegistry<S> sessionRegistry() {
 return new SpringSessionBackedSessionRegistry<>(this.sessionRepository);
}
}
```

This assumes that you've also configured Spring Session to provide a FindByIndexNameSessionRepository that returns Session instances.

When using XML configuration, it would look something like this:

```
<security:http>
<!-- other config goes here... -->
<security:session-management>
<security:concurrency-control max-sessions="2" session-registry-ref="sessionRegistry"/>
</security:http>
<bean id="sessionRegistry"
    class="org.springframework.session.security.SpringSessionBackedSessionRegistry">
<constructor-arg ref="sessionRegistry"
</bean>
```

This assumes that your Spring Session SessionRegistry bean is called sessionRegistry, which is the name used by all SpringHttpSessionConfiguration subclasses.

8.3 Limitations

Spring Session's implementation of Spring Security's SessionRegistry interface does not support the getAllPrincipals method, as this information cannot be retrieved using Spring Session. This method is never called by Spring Security, so this only affects applications that access the SessionRegistry themselves.

9. API Documentation

You can browse the complete <u>Javadoc</u> online. The key APIs are described below:

9.1 Session

A Session is a simplified Map of name value pairs.

Typical usage might look like the following:

```
public class RepositoryDemo<S extends Session> {
    private SessionRepository<S> repository; ①
    public void demo() {
        S toSave = this.repository.createSession(); ④
        User rwinch = new User("rwinch");
        toSave.setAttribute(ATTR_USER, rwinch);
        this.repository.save(toSave); ①
        S session = this.repository.findById(toSave.getId()); ③
        G
        User user = session.getAttribute(ATTR_USER);
        assertThat(user).isEqualTo(rwinch);
    }
    // ... setter methods ...
}
```

- We create a SessionRepository instance with a generic type, S, that extends Session. The generic type is defined in our class.
- We create a new Session using our SessionRepository and assign it to a variable of type S.
- We interact with the Session. In our example, we demonstrate saving a User to the Session.
- We now save the Session. This is why we needed the generic type S. The SessionRepository only allows saving Session instances that were created or retrieved using the same SessionRepository. This allows for the SessionRepository to make implementation specific optimizations (i.e. only writing attributes that have changed).
- We retrieve the Session from the SessionRepository.
- We obtain the persisted User from our Session without the need for explicitly casting our attribute.

Session API also provides attributes related to the Session instance's expiration.

Typical usage might look like the following:

```
public class ExpiringRepositoryDemo<S extends Session> {
    private SessionRepository<S> repository; ①
    public void demo() {
        S toSave = this.repository.createSession(); ②
        // ...
        toSave.setMaxInactiveInterval(Duration.ofSeconds(30)); ③
        this.repository.save(toSave); ④
        S session = this.repository.findById(toSave.getId()); ⑤
        // ...
    }
    // ... setter methods ...
}
```

- We create a SessionRepository instance with a generic type, S, that extends Session. The generic type is defined in our class.
- **@** We create a new Session using our SessionRepository and assign it to a variable of type S.
- We interact with the Session. In our example, we demonstrate updating the amount of time the Session can be inactive before it expires.
- We now save the Session. This is why we needed the generic type S. The SessionRepository only allows saving Session instances that were created or retrieved using the same SessionRepository. This allows for the SessionRepository to make implementation specific optimizations (i.e. only writing attributes that have changed). The last accessed time is automatically updated when the Session is saved.
- We retrieve the Session from the SessionRepository. If the Session were expired, the result would be null.

9.2 SessionRepository

A SessionRepository is in charge of creating, retrieving, and persisting Session instances.

If possible, developers should not interact directly with a SessionRepository or a Session. Instead, developers should prefer interacting with SessionRepository and Session indirectly through the <u>HttpSession</u> and <u>WebSocket</u> integration.

9.3 FindByIndexNameSessionRepository

Spring Session's most basic API for using a Session is the SessionRepository. This API is intentionally very simple, so that it is easy to provide additional implementations with basic functionality.

Some SessionRepository implementations may choose to implement FindByIndexNameSessionRepository also. For example, Spring's Redis support implements FindByIndexNameSessionRepository.

The FindByIndexNameSessionRepository adds a single method to look up all the sessions for a particular user. This is done by ensuring that the session attribute with the name FindByIndexNameSessionRepository.PRINCIPAL_NAME_INDEX_NAME is populated with the username. It is the responsibility of the developer to ensure the attribute is populated since Spring Session is not aware of the authentication mechanism being used. An example of how this might be used can be seen below:

```
String username = "username";
this.session.setAttribute(
    FindByIndexNameSessionRepository.PRINCIPAL_NAME_INDEX_NAME, username);
```

Note

Some implementations of FindByIndexNameSessionRepository will provide hooks to automatically index other session attributes. For example, many implementations will automatically ensure the current Spring Security user name is indexed with the index name FindByIndexNameSessionRepository.PRINCIPAL_NAME_INDEX_NAME.

Once the session is indexed, it can be found using the following:

```
String username = "username";
Map<String, Session> sessionIdToSession = this.sessionRepository
.findByIndexNameAndIndexValue(
    FindByIndexNameSessionRepository.PRINCIPAL_NAME_INDEX_NAME,
    username);
```

9.4 ReactiveSessionRepository

A ReactiveSessionRepository is in charge of creating, retrieving, and persisting Session instances in a non-blocking and reactive manner.

If possible, developers should not interact directly with a ReactiveSessionRepository or a Session. Instead, developers should prefer interacting with ReactiveSessionRepository and Session indirectly through the <u>WebSession</u> integration.

9.5 EnableSpringHttpSession

The @EnableSpringHttpSession annotation can be added to an @Configuration class to expose the SessionRepositoryFilter as a bean named "springSessionRepositoryFilter". In order to leverage the annotation, a single SessionRepository bean must be provided. For example:

```
@EnableSpringHttpSession
@Configuration
public class SpringHttpSessionConfig {
    @Bean
    public MapSessionRepository sessionRepository() {
    return new MapSessionRepository(new ConcurrentHashMap<>());
    }
}
```

It is important to note that no infrastructure for session expirations is configured for you out of the box. This is because things like session expiration are highly implementation dependent. This means if you require cleaning up expired sessions, you are responsible for cleaning up the expired sessions.

9.6 EnableSpringWebSession

The @EnableSpringWebSession annotation can be added to an @Configuration class to expose the WebSessionManager as a bean named "webSessionManager". In order to leverage the annotation, a single ReactiveSessionRepository bean must be provided. For example:

```
@EnableSpringWebSession
public class SpringWebSessionConfig {
    @Bean
    public ReactiveSessionRepository reactiveSessionRepository() {
    return new ReactiveMapSessionRepository(new ConcurrentHashMap<>());
    }
}
```

It is important to note that no infrastructure for session expirations is configured for you out of the box. This is because things like session expiration are highly implementation dependent. This means if you require cleaning up expired sessions, you are responsible for cleaning up the expired sessions.

9.7 RedisOperationsSessionRepository

RedisOperationsSessionRepository is a SessionRepository that is implemented using Spring Data's RedisOperations. In a web environment, this is typically used in combination with SessionRepositoryFilter. The implementation supports SessionDestroyedEvent and SessionCreatedEvent through SessionMessageListener.

Instantiating a RedisOperationsSessionRepository

A typical example of how to create a new instance can be seen below:

```
RedisTemplate<Object, Object> redisTemplate = new RedisTemplate<>();
// ... configure redisTemplate ...
SessionRepository<? extends Session> repository =
    new RedisOperationsSessionRepository(redisTemplate);
```

For additional information on how to create a RedisConnectionFactory, refer to the Spring Data Redis Reference.

EnableRedisHttpSession

In a web environment, the simplest way to create a new RedisOperationsSessionRepository is to use @EnableRedisHttpSession. Complete example usage can be found in the Chapter 3, Samples and Guides (Start Here) You can use the following attributes to customize the configuration:

- · maxInactiveIntervalInSeconds the amount of time before the session will expire in seconds
- **redisNamespace** allows configuring an application specific namespace for the sessions. Redis keys and channel IDs will start with the prefix of <redisNamespace>:.
- **redisFlushMode** allows specifying when data will be written to Redis. The default is only when save is invoked on SessionRepository. A value of RedisFlushMode.IMMEDIATE will write to Redis as soon as possible.

Custom RedisSerializer

You can customize the serialization by creating a Bean named springSessionDefaultRedisSerializer that implements RedisSerializer<Object>.

Redis TaskExecutor

RedisOperationsSessionRepository is subscribed to receive events from redis using a RedisMessageListenerContainer. You can customize the way those events are dispatched, by creating a Bean named springSessionRedisTaskExecutor and/or a Bean springSessionRedisSubscriptionExecutor. More details on configuring redis task executors can be found here.

Storage Details

The sections below outline how Redis is updated for each operation. An example of creating a new session can be found below. The subsequent sections describe the details.

```
HMSET spring:session:sessions:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe creationTime 140436000000 \
maxInactiveInterval 1800 \
lastAccessedTime 140436000000 \
sessionAttr:attrName someAttrValue \
sessionAttr2:attrName someAttrValue2
EXPIRE spring:session:sessions:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe 2100
APPEND spring:session:sessions:expires:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe ""
EXPIRE spring:session:sessions:expires:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe 1800
SADD spring:session:expirations:1439245080000 expires:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe
EXPIRE spring:session:expirations1439245080000 2100
```

Saving a Session

Each session is stored in Redis as a Hash. Each session is set and updated using the HMSET command. An example of how each session is stored can be seen below.

```
HMSET spring:session:sessions:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe creationTime 140436000000 \
maxInactiveInterval 1800 \
lastAccessedTime 1404360000000 \
sessionAttr:attrName someAttrValue \
sessionAttr2:attrName someAttrValue2
```

In this example, the session following statements are true about the session:

- The session ID is 33fdd1b6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe
- The session was created at 1404360000000 in milliseconds since midnight of 1/1/1970 GMT.
- The session expires in 1800 seconds (30 minutes).
- The session was last accessed at 1404360000000 in milliseconds since midnight of 1/1/1970 GMT.
- The session has two attributes. The first is "attrName" with the value of "someAttrValue". The second session attribute is named "attrName2" with the value of "someAttrValue2".

Optimized Writes

The Session instances managed by RedisOperationsSessionRepository keeps track of the properties that have changed and only updates those. This means if an attribute is written once and read many times we only need to write that attribute once. For example, assume the session attribute "sessionAttr2" from earlier was updated. The following would be executed upon saving:

HMSET spring:session:sessions:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe sessionAttr:attrName2 newValue

Session Expiration

An expiration is associated to each session using the EXPIRE command based upon the Session.getMaxInactiveInterval(). For example:

EXPIRE spring:session:sessions:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe 2100

You will note that the expiration that is set is 5 minutes after the session actually expires. This is necessary so that the value of the session can be accessed when the session expires. An expiration is set on the session itself five minutes after it actually expires to ensure it is cleaned up, but only after we perform any necessary processing.

Note

The SessionRepository.findById(String) method ensures that no expired sessions will be returned. This means there is no need to check the expiration before using a session.

Spring Session relies on the delete and expired <u>keyspace notifications</u> from Redis to fire a <u>SessionDeletedEvent</u> and <u>SessionExpiredEvent</u> respectively. It is the SessionDeletedEvent or SessionExpiredEvent that ensures resources associated with the Session are cleaned up. For example, when using Spring Session's WebSocket support the Redis expired or delete event is what triggers any WebSocket connections associated with the session to be closed.

Expiration is not tracked directly on the session key itself since this would mean the session data would no longer be available. Instead a special session expires key is used. In our example the expires key is:

```
APPEND spring:session:sessions:expires:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe ""
EXPIRE spring:session:sessions:expires:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe 1800
```

When a session expires key is deleted or expires, the keyspace notification triggers a lookup of the actual session and a SessionDestroyedEvent is fired.

One problem with relying on Redis expiration exclusively is that Redis makes no guarantee of when the expired event will be fired if the key has not been accessed. Specifically the background task that Redis uses to clean up expired keys is a low priority task and may not trigger the key expiration. For additional details see <u>Timing of expired events</u> section in the Redis documentation.

To circumvent the fact that expired events are not guaranteed to happen we can ensure that each key is accessed when it is expected to expire. This means that if the TTL is expired on the key, Redis will remove the key and fire the expired event when we try to access the key.

For this reason, each session expiration is also tracked to the nearest minute. This allows a background task to access the potentially expired sessions to ensure that Redis expired events are fired in a more deterministic fashion. For example:

```
SADD spring:session:expirations:1439245080000 expires:33fddlb6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe
EXPIRE spring:session:expirations1439245080000 2100
```

The background task will then use these mappings to explicitly request each key. By accessing the key, rather than deleting it, we ensure that Redis deletes the key for us only if the TTL is expired.

Note

We do not explicitly delete the keys since in some instances there may be a race condition that incorrectly identifies a key as expired when it is not. Short of using distributed locks (which would kill our performance) there is no way to ensure the consistency of the expiration mapping. By simply accessing the key, we ensure that the key is only removed if the TTL on that key is expired.

SessionDeletedEvent and SessionExpiredEvent

SessionDeletedEvent and SessionExpiredEvent are both types of SessionDestroyedEvent.

RedisOperationsSessionRepository supports firing a SessionDeletedEvent whenever a Session is deleted or a SessionExpiredEvent when it expires. This is necessary to ensure resources associated with the Session are properly cleaned up.

For example, when integrating with WebSockets the SessionDestroyedEvent is in charge of closing any active WebSocket connections.

Firing SessionDeletedEvent or SessionExpiredEvent is made available through the SessionMessageListener which listens to <u>Redis Keyspace events</u>. In order for this to work, Redis Keyspace events for Generic commands and Expired events needs to be enabled. For example:

```
redis-cli config set notify-keyspace-events Egx
```

If you are using @EnableRedisHttpSession the SessionMessageListener and enabling the necessary Redis Keyspace events is done automatically. However, in a secured Redis environment the config command is disabled. This means that Spring Session cannot configure Redis Keyspace events for you. To disable the automatic configuration add ConfigureRedisAction.NO_OP as a bean.

For example, Java Configuration can use the following:

```
@Bean
public static ConfigureRedisAction configureRedisAction() {
  return ConfigureRedisAction.NO_OP;
}
```

XML Configuration can use the following:

```
<util:constant
static-field="org.springframework.session.data.redis.config.ConfigureRedisAction.NO_OP"/>
```

SessionCreatedEvent

When a session is created an event is sent to Redis with the channel of spring:session:channel:created:33fdd1b6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe such that 33fdd1b6-b496-4b33-9f7d-df96679d32fe is the session ID. The body of the event will be the session that was created.

If registered as a MessageListener (default), then RedisOperationsSessionRepository will then translate the Redis message into a SessionCreatedEvent.

Viewing the Session in Redis

After installing redis-cli, you can inspect the values in Redis using the redis-cli. For example, enter the following into a terminal:

```
$ redis-cli
redis 127.0.0.1:6379> keys *
1) "spring:session:sessions:4fc39ce3-63b3-4e17-b1c4-5eled96fb021" 
2) "spring:session:expirations:1418772300000" 
2
```

• The suffix of this key is the session identifier of the Spring Session.

On This key contains all the session IDs that should be deleted at the time 1418772300000.

You can also view the attributes of each session.

```
redis 127.0.0.1:6379> hkeys spring:session:sessions:4fc39ce3-63b3-4e17-blc4-5eled96fb021
1) "lastAccessedTime"
2) "creationTime"
3) "maxInactiveInterval"
4) "sessionAttr:username"
redis 127.0.0.1:6379> hget spring:session:sessions:4fc39ce3-63b3-4e17-blc4-5eled96fb021
sessionAttr:username
"\xac\xed\x00\x05t\x00\x03rob"
```

9.8 ReactiveRedisOperationsSessionRepository

ReactiveRedisOperationsSessionRepository is a ReactiveSessionRepository that is implemented using Spring Data's ReactiveRedisOperations. In a web environment, this is typically used in combination with WebSessionStore.

Instantiating a ReactiveRedisOperationsSessionRepository

A typical example of how to create a new instance can be seen below:

```
// ... create and configure connectionFactory and serializationContext ...
ReactiveRedisTemplate<String, Object> redisTemplate = new ReactiveRedisTemplate<>(
    connectionFactory, serializationContext);
ReactiveSessionRepository<? extends Session> repository =
    new ReactiveRedisOperationsSessionRepository(redisTemplate);
```

For additional information on how to create a ReactiveRedisConnectionFactory, refer to the Spring Data Redis Reference.

EnableRedisWebSession

In a web environment, the simplest way to create a new ReactiveRedisOperationsSessionRepository is to use @EnableRedisWebSession. You can use the following attributes to customize the configuration:

- · maxInactiveIntervalInSeconds the amount of time before the session will expire in seconds
- redisNamespace allows configuring an application specific namespace for the sessions. Redis keys and channel IDs will start with the prefix of <redisNamespace>:.
- **redisFlushMode** allows specifying when data will be written to Redis. The default is only when save is invoked on ReactiveSessionRepository. A value of RedisFlushMode.IMMEDIATE will write to Redis as soon as possible.

Optimized Writes

The Session instances managed by ReactiveRedisOperationsSessionRepository keeps track of the properties that have changed and only updates those. This means if an attribute is written once and read many times we only need to write that attribute once.

Viewing the Session in Redis

After installing redis-cli, you can inspect the values in Redis using the redis-cli. For example, enter the following into a terminal:

```
$ redis-cli
redis 127.0.0.1:6379> keys *
1) "spring:session:sessions:4fc39ce3-63b3-4e17-b1c4-5eled96fb021" 0
```

• The suffix of this key is the session identifier of the Spring Session.

You can also view the attributes of each session.

```
redis 127.0.0.1:6379> hkeys spring:session:sessions:4fc39ce3-63b3-4e17-blc4-5eled96fb021
1) "lastAccessedTime"
2) "creationTime"
3) "maxInactiveInterval"
4) "sessionAttr:username"
redis 127.0.0.1:6379> hget spring:session:sessions:4fc39ce3-63b3-4e17-blc4-5eled96fb021
sessionAttr:username
"\xac\xed\x00\x05t\x00\x03rob"
```

9.9 MapSessionRepository

The MapSessionRepository allows for persisting Session in a Map with the key being the Session ID and the value being the Session. The implementation can be used with a ConcurrentHashMap as a testing or convenience mechanism. Alternatively, it can be used with distributed Map implementations. For example, it can be used with Hazelcast.

Instantiating MapSessionRepository

Creating a new instance is as simple as:

```
SessionRepository<? extends Session> repository = new MapSessionRepository(
    new ConcurrentHashMap<>());
```

Using Spring Session and Hazlecast

The <u>Hazelcast Sample</u> is a complete application demonstrating using Spring Session with Hazelcast.

To run it use the following:

./gradlew :samples:hazelcast:tomcatRun

The <u>Hazelcast Spring Sample</u> is a complete application demonstrating using Spring Session with Hazelcast and Spring Security.

It includes example Hazelcast MapListener implementations that support firing SessionCreatedEvent, SessionDeletedEvent and SessionExpiredEvent.

To run it use the following:

./gradlew :samples:hazelcast-spring:tomcatRun

9.10 ReactiveMapSessionRepository

The ReactiveMapSessionRepository allows for persisting Session in a Map with the key being the Session ID and the value being the Session. The implementation can be used with a ConcurrentHashMap as a testing or convenience mechanism. Alternatively, it can be used with distributed Map implementations with the requirement that the supplied Map must be a non-blocking.

9.11 JdbcOperationsSessionRepository

JdbcOperationsSessionRepository is a SessionRepository implementation that uses Spring's JdbcOperations to store sessions in a relational database. In a web environment, this is typically used in combination with SessionRepositoryFilter. Please note that this implementation does not support publishing of session events.

Instantiating a JdbcOperationsSessionRepository

A typical example of how to create a new instance can be seen below:

```
JdbcTemplate jdbcTemplate = new JdbcTemplate();
// ... configure JdbcTemplate ...
PlatformTransactionManager transactionManager = new DataSourceTransactionManager();
// ... configure transactionManager ...
SessionRepository<? extends Session> repository =
    new JdbcOperationsSessionRepository(jdbcTemplate, transactionManager);
```

For additional information on how to create and configure JdbcTemplate and PlatformTransactionManager, refer to the Spring Framework Reference Documentation.

EnableJdbcHttpSession

In a web environment, the simplest way to create a new JdbcOperationsSessionRepository is to use @EnableJdbcHttpSession. Complete example usage can be found in the Chapter 3, Samples and Guides (Start Here) You can use the following attributes to customize the configuration:

- tableName the name of database table used by Spring Session to store sessions
- · maxInactiveIntervalInSeconds the amount of time before the session will expire in seconds

Custom LobHandler

You can customize the BLOB handling by creating a Bean named springSessionLobHandler that implements LobHandler.

Custom ConversionService

You can customize the default serialization and deserialization of the session by providing a ConversionService instance. When working in a typical Spring environment, the default ConversionService Bean (named conversionService) will be automatically picked up and used for serialization and deserialization. However, you can override the default ConversionService by providing a Bean named springSessionConversionService.

Storage Details

By default, this implementation uses SPRING_SESSION and SPRING_SESSION_ATTRIBUTES tables to store sessions. Note that the table name can be easily customized as already described. In that case the table used to store attributes will be named using the provided table name, suffixed with _ATTRIBUTES. If further customizations are needed, SQL queries used by the repository can be customized using set*Query setter methods. In this case you need to manually configure the sessionRepository bean.

Due to the differences between the various database vendors, especially when it comes to storing binary data, make sure to use SQL script specific to your database. Scripts for most major database vendors are packaged as org/springframework/session/jdbc/schema-*.sql, where * is the target database type.

For example, with PostgreSQL database you would use the following schema script:

```
CREATE TABLE SPRING_SESSION
PRIMARY_ID CHAR(36) NOT NULL,
SESSION_ID CHAR(36) NOT NULL,
CREATION_TIME BIGINT NOT NULL,
LAST_ACCESS_TIME BIGINT NOT NULL,
MAX_INACTIVE_INTERVAL INT NOT NULL,
EXPIRY_TIME BIGINT NOT NULL,
PRINCIPAL_NAME VARCHAR(100),
CONSTRAINT SPRING_SESSION_PK PRIMARY KEY (PRIMARY_ID)
);
CREATE UNIQUE INDEX SPRING_SESSION_IX1 ON SPRING_SESSION (SESSION_ID);
CREATE INDEX SPRING_SESSION_IX2 ON SPRING_SESSION (EXPIRY_TIME);
CREATE INDEX SPRING SESSION IX3 ON SPRING SESSION (PRINCIPAL NAME);
CREATE TABLE SPRING_SESSION_ATTRIBUTES (
SESSION_PRIMARY_ID CHAR(36) NOT NULL,
ATTRIBUTE NAME VARCHAR(200) NOT NULL
ATTRIBUTE_BYTES BYTEA NOT NULL,
CONSTRAINT SPRING_SESSION_ATTRIBUTES_PK PRIMARY KEY (SESSION_PRIMARY_ID, ATTRIBUTE_NAME),
CONSTRAINT SPRING_SESSION_ATTRIBUTES_FK FOREIGN KEY (SESSION_PRIMARY_ID) REFERENCES
SPRING SESSION(PRIMARY ID) ON DELETE CASCADE
);
```

And with MySQL database:

```
CREATE TABLE SPRING_SESSION (
PRIMARY ID CHAR(36) NOT NULL,
SESSION_ID CHAR(36) NOT NULL,
CREATION TIME BIGINT NOT NULL,
LAST_ACCESS_TIME BIGINT NOT NULL,
MAX INACTIVE INTERVAL INT NOT NULL,
 EXPIRY_TIME BIGINT NOT NULL,
PRINCIPAL_NAME VARCHAR(100),
CONSTRAINT SPRING_SESSION_PK PRIMARY KEY (PRIMARY_ID)
) ENGINE=InnoDB ROW_FORMAT=DYNAMIC;
CREATE UNIQUE INDEX SPRING_SESSION_IX1 ON SPRING_SESSION (SESSION_ID);
CREATE INDEX SPRING_SESSION_IX2 ON SPRING_SESSION (EXPIRY_TIME);
CREATE INDEX SPRING_SESSION_IX3 ON SPRING_SESSION (PRINCIPAL_NAME);
CREATE TABLE SPRING_SESSION_ATTRIBUTES (
SESSION_PRIMARY_ID CHAR(36) NOT NULL,
ATTRIBUTE_NAME VARCHAR(200) NOT NULL,
ATTRIBUTE_BYTES BLOB NOT NULL,
CONSTRAINT SPRING_SESSION_ATTRIBUTES_PK PRIMARY KEY (SESSION_PRIMARY_ID, ATTRIBUTE_NAME),
CONSTRAINT SPRING_SESSION_ATTRIBUTES_FK FOREIGN KEY (SESSION_PRIMARY_ID) REFERENCES
 SPRING_SESSION(PRIMARY_ID) ON DELETE CASCADE
) ENGINE=InnoDB ROW FORMAT=DYNAMIC;
```

Transaction management

All JDBC operations in JdbcOperationsSessionRepository are executed in a transactional manner. Transactions are executed with propagation set to REQUIRES_NEW in order to avoid unexpected behavior due to interference with existing transactions (for example, executing save operation in a thread that already participates in a read-only transaction).

9.12 HazelcastSessionRepository

HazelcastSessionRepository is a SessionRepository implementation that stores sessions in Hazelcast's distributed IMap. In a web environment, this is typically used in combination with SessionRepositoryFilter.

Instantiating a HazelcastSessionRepository

A typical example of how to create a new instance can be seen below:

```
Config config = new Config();
// ... configure Hazelcast ...
HazelcastInstance hazelcastInstance = Hazelcast.newHazelcastInstance(config);
HazelcastSessionRepository repository =
    new HazelcastSessionRepository(hazelcastInstance);
```

For additional information on how to create and configure Hazelcast instance, refer to the <u>Hazelcast</u> <u>documentation</u>.

EnableHazeIcastHttpSession

If you wish to use <u>Hazelcast</u> as your backing source for the SessionRepository, then the @EnableHazelcastHttpSession annotation can be added to an @Configuration class. This extends the functionality provided by the @EnableSpringHttpSession annotation but makes the SessionRepository for you in Hazelcast. You must provide a single HazelcastInstance bean for the configuration to work. Complete configuration example can be found in the Chapter 3, Samples and Guides (Start Here)

Basic Customization

You can use the following attributes on <code>@EnableHazelcastHttpSession</code> to customize the configuration:

- **maxInactiveIntervalInSeconds** the amount of time before the session will expire in seconds. Default is 1800 seconds (30 minutes)
- sessionMapName the name of the distributed Map that will be used in Hazelcast to store the session data.

Session Events

Using a MapListener to respond to entries being added, evicted, and removed from the distributed Map, these events will trigger publishing SessionCreatedEvent, SessionExpiredEvent, and SessionDeletedEvent events respectively using the ApplicationEventPublisher.

Storage Details

Sessions will be stored in a distributed IMap in Hazelcast. The IMap interface methods will be used to get() and put() Sessions. Additionally, values() method is used to support FindByIndexNameSessionRepository#findByIndexNameAndIndexValue operation, together with appropriate ValueExtractor that needs to be registered with Hazelcast. Refer to Hazelcast Spring Sample for more details on this configuration. The expiration of a session in the IMap is handled by Hazelcast's support for setting the time to live on an entry when it is put() into the IMap. Entries (sessions) that have been idle longer than the time to live will be automatically removed from the IMap.

You shouldn't need to configure any settings such as max-idle-seconds or time-to-live-seconds for the IMap within the Hazelcast configuration.

Note that if you use Hazelcast's MapStore to persist your sessions IMap there are some limitations when reloading the sessions from MapStore:

- reload triggers EntryAddedListener which results in SessionCreatedEvent being re-published
- reload uses default TTL for a given IMap which results in sessions losing their original TTL

10. Custom SessionRepository

Implementing a custom <u>SessionRepository</u> API should be a fairly straightforward task. Coupling the custom implementation with <u>@EnableSpringHttpSession</u> support allow to easily reuse existing Spring Session configuration facilities and infrastructure. There are however a couple of aspects that deserve a closer consideration.

During a lifecycle of an HTTP request, the HttpSession is typically is persisted to SessionRepository twice. First to ensure that the session is available to the clients as soon as the client has access to the session ID, and it is also necessary to write after the session is committed because further modifications to the session might be made. Having this in mind, it is generally recommended for a SessionRepository implementation to keep track of changes to ensure that only deltas are saved. This is in particular very important in highly concurrent environments, where multiple requests operate on the same HttpSession and therefore cause race conditions, with requests overriding each others changes to session attributes. All of the SessionRepository implementations provided by Spring Session use the described approach to persisting session changes and can be used for guidance while implementing custom SessionRepository.

Note that the same recommendations apply for implementing a custom <u>ReactiveSessionRepository</u> as well. Of course, in this case the <u>@EnableSpringWebSession</u> should be used.

11. Upgrading to 2.x

With the new major release version, the Spring Session team took the opportunity to make some nonpassive changes. The focus of these changes is to improve and harmonize Spring Session's APIs, as well as remove the deprecated components.

11.1 Baseline update

Spring Session 2.0 requires Java 8 and Spring Framework 5.0 as a baseline, since its entire codebase is now based on Java 8 source code. Refer to guide for <u>Upgrading to Spring Framework 5.x</u> for reference on upgrading Spring Framework.

11.2 Replaced and Removed Modules

As a part of the project's split the modules, the existing spring-session has been replaced with spring-session-core module. The spring-session-core module holds only the common set of APIs and components while other modules contain the implementation of appropriate SessionRepository and functionality related to that data store. This applies to several existing that were previously a simple dependency aggregator helper modules but with new module arrangement actually carry the implementation:

- Spring Session Data Redis
- Spring Session JDBC
- Spring Session Hazelcast

Also the following modules were removed from the main project repository:

- Spring Session Data MongoDB
- Spring Session Data GemFire

Note that these two have moved to separate repositories, and will continue to be available albeit under a changed artifact names:

- <u>spring-session-data-mongodb</u>
- <u>spring-session-data-geode</u>

11.3 Replaced and Removed Packages, Classes and Methods

- ExpiringSession API has been merged into Session API
- Session API has been enhanced to make full use of Java 8
- + Session API has been extended with <code>changeSessionId</code> support
- SessionRepository API has been updated to better align with Spring Data method naming conventions
- AbstractSessionEvent and its subclasses are no longer constructable without an underlying Session object

- Redis namespace used by RedisOperationsSessionRepository is now fully configurable, instead of being partial configurable
- Redis configuration support has been updated to avoid registering a Spring Session specific RedisTemplate bean
- JDBC configuration support has been updated to avoid registering a Spring Session specific JdbcTemplate bean
- Previously deprecated classes and methods have been removed across the codebase

11.4 Dropped Support

As a part of the changes to HttpSessionStrategy and it's alignment to the counterpart from the reactive world, the support for managing multiple users' sessions in a single browser instance has been removed. The introduction of a new API to replace this functionality is under consideration for future releases.

12. Spring Session Community

We are glad to consider you a part of our community. Please find additional information below.

12.1 Support

You can get help by asking questions on <u>StackOverflow with the tag spring-session</u>. Similarly we encourage helping others by answering questions on StackOverflow.

12.2 Source Code

Our source code can be found on GitHub at https://github.com/spring-projects/spring-session/

12.3 Issue Tracking

We track issues in GitHub issues at https://github.com/spring-projects/spring-session/issues

12.4 Contributing

We appreciate Pull Requests.

12.5 License

Spring Session is Open Source software released under the Apache 2.0 license.

12.6 Community Extensions

Name	Location
Spring Session OrientDB	https://github.com/maseev/spring-session- orientdb
Spring Session Infinispan	http://infinispan.org/docs/dev/user_guide/ user_guide.html#externalizing_session_using_spri

13. Minimum Requirements

The minimum requirements for Spring Session are:

- Java 8+
- If you are running in a Servlet Container (not required), Servlet 3.1+
- If you are using other Spring libraries (not required), the minimum required version is Spring 5.0.x.
- @EnableRedisHttpSession requires Redis 2.8+. This is necessary to support Session Expiration
- @EnableHazelcastHttpSession requires Hazelcast 3.6+. This is necessary to support FindByIndexNameSessionRepository

Note

At its core Spring Session only has a required dependency on spring-jcl. For an example of using Spring Session without any other Spring dependencies, refer to the <u>hazelcast sample</u> application.