

EasyBeans HowTo

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Table of Contents

1. GWT and EJB3 with EasyBeans	1
1.1. Requirements	1
1.1.1. JDK	1
1.1.2. Eclipse	2
1.1.3. EasyBeans	2
1.1.4. Tomcat	2
1.1.5. Google Web Toolkit	2
1.2. Starting with GWT	2
1.2.1. Creating an Eclipse Project	2
1.2.2. Adding a GWT Application to the Eclipse Project	2
1.3. Calling EJB3 Beans with an RPC Service	3
1.3.1. Defining the Interface of the Service	3
1.3.1.1. Service Interface	3
1.3.1.2. Asynchronous Interface	3
1.3.2. Classes Used by the Interfaces	4
1.3.2.1. The GridData Class	4
1.3.2.2. The ServiceException Exception	4
1.3.3. Implementing the Service	5
1.3.3.1. Implementation Service Class	5
1.3.3.2. Accessing an EJB3 from this Remote Service	5
1.3.3.3. Calling the Facade Bean from the Remote Service	6
1.3.4. Calling the Remote Service from the Client Side	6
1.3.4.1. The gwt.xml File	6
1.3.4.2. Calling the Service from the Client Side	6
1.4. Packaging of the Application for Running on a Web Container	7
1.4.1. Creating the web.xml File	7
1.4.2. Generating the AJAX Client that Will Be Embedded in the War File	8
1.4.3. Packaging of the .war File	8
1.5. Deploying Applications for GWT/EasyBeans	9
1.6. Launching the Google Web Toolkit Tools	9
1.7. Comments	9

List of Figures

1.1. Sudoku Game demo using GWT and EasyBeans	1
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Chapter 1. GWT and EJB3 with EasyBeans

The GWT (Google Web Toolkit [<http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/>]) will be used as the framework for producing clients using the AJAX [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AJAX>] technique, while EJB3 will be on the server side providing some services (such as persistence).

EJB3 can help developers with the persistence aspects (with the Java Persistence API) or with the business aspects.

The source of an application, a Sudoku Game, that uses EasyBeans and GWT can be viewed on the Fisheye Sudoku EasyBeans site [<http://fisheye.easybeans.org/viewrep/EasyBeans/trunk/easybeans-sudoku>] using a browser. This howto uses some of the code from this application.

Figure 1.1. Sudoku Game demo using GWT and EasyBeans



1.1. Requirements

1.1.1. JDK

A JDK 5.0 is required to use EasyBeans.

**Tip**

GWT only supports JDK 1.4 functions. Therefore, classes that will be transformed by GWT into JavaScript should not use JDK 5 features (such as annotations). Other classes can use the new features (like the EJB3).

1.1.2. Eclipse

GWT can be used without Eclipse. However, Eclipse [<http://www.eclipse.org/downloads/>] is used in this HowTo.

1.1.3. EasyBeans

This HowTo uses the EasyBeans Tomcat package. Note that it also works with the JOnAS package.

EasyBeans can be downloaded from the EasyBeans Web Site [<http://www.easybeans.org>].

1.1.4. Tomcat

Tomcat 5.5.17 was used. It should work with other versions as well. Download this software from Tomcat site [<http://tomcat.apache.org/download-55.cgi>].

1.1.5. Google Web Toolkit

The Toolkit can be downloaded from the Google Web Toolkit download page. [<http://code.google.com/webtoolkit/download.html>]

1.2. Starting with GWT

1.2.1. Creating an Eclipse Project

GWT comes with an eclipse project creator tool. The project will have the name Sudoku and will be created in the \$HOME/workspace directory.

```
$ cd gwt-linux-1.0.21
$ ./projectCreator -eclipse Sudoku -out $HOME/workspace/sudoku
Created directory $HOME/workspace/sudoku/src
Created file $HOME/workspace/sudoku/.project
Created file $HOME/workspace/sudoku/.classpath
```

1.2.2. Adding a GWT Application to the Eclipse Project

A GWT application must be added to the eclipse project. The application creator tool is given the name of the class to generate.

The following files will be generated:

- The Sudoku.gwt.xml file, which describes the module with entry point. Additionally, this file will be used to add the mapping for the remote service using EasyBeans.
- The Sudoku.html file, which is a skeleton page that calls the widget's examples.
- The Sudoku.java file, which is the class responsible to load widgets (which implements the EntryPoint interface).
- Additionally, there are three scripts that allow files to be launched or compiled. Note that the compile script will be replaced by an ant task in this HowTo.

```
$ ./applicationCreator -out $HOME/workspace/sudoku -eclipse -out
org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.Sudoku
```

```
Created directory $HOME/workspace/sudoku/src/org/objectweb/easybeans/demo/sudoku/web
Created directory $HOME/workspace/sudoku/src/org/objectweb/easybeans/demo/sudoku/web/client
Created directory $HOME/workspace/sudoku/src/org/objectweb/easybeans/demo/sudoku/web/public
Created file $HOME/workspace/sudoku/src/org/objectweb/easybeans/demo/sudoku/web/Sudoku.gwt.xml
Created file
$HOME//workspace/sudoku/src/org/objectweb/easybeans/demo/sudoku/web/public/Sudoku.html
Created file
$HOME//workspace/sudoku/src/org/objectweb/easybeans/demo/sudoku/web/client/Sudoku.java
Created file $HOME/workspace/sudoku/Sudoku.launch
Created file $HOME/workspace/sudoku/Sudoku-shell
Created file $HOME/workspace/sudoku/Sudoku-compile
```

1.3. Calling EJB3 Beans with an RPC Service

1.3.1. Defining the Interface of the Service

The two interfaces of the service must be present in the client package. In this howto, the package name is `org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.service`.

The following two interfaces must be defined:

- The interface that will be implemented by the remote service
- The asynchronous interface, which is always a void method. A new parameter must be added on the method and the name of the interface must have a suffix of `Async`.

1.3.1.1. Service Interface

The following is an example of a service that takes an argument and returns an object (A solver).

```
package org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.service;

import org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.api.GridData;
import org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.api.ServiceException;

import com.google.gwt.user.client.rpc.RemoteService;

/**
 * Interface used to call the servlet facade and then EJB3.
 * @author Florent Benoit
 */
public interface ServletFacadeService extends RemoteService {

    /**
     * Solve a sudoku grid and send in return the solved grid.
     * @param gridData the grid to solve
     * @return the solved grid.
     * @throws ServiceException if solving fails.
     */
    GridData solve(GridData gridData) throws ServiceException;
}
```



Note

`GridData` must be a serializable object. However, this serialization is not JDK serialization. This class must implement the `com.google.gwt.user.client.rpc.IsSerializable` interface.

The Exception (`ServiceException`) also implements the `IsSerializable` interface.

1.3.1.2. Asynchronous Interface

The signature is almost the same, except for the following:

- The return type is void.
- An extra argument is added in the method signature: the `AsyncCallback` object.
- The name of the class ends with the `Async` keyword.

```
package org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.service;

import org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.api.GridData;

import com.google.gwt.user.client.rpc.AsyncCallback;

/**
 * Asynchronous interface. Same parameters of interface but all methods have an
 * AsyncCallback parameter and are void !.
 * @author Florent Benoit
 */
public interface ServletFacadeServiceAsync {

    /**
     * Asynchronous call to the solve method.
     * @param gridData the grid to solve
     * @param callback the callback to use for this method
     */
    void solve(GridData gridData, AsyncCallback callback);
}
```



Note

The `ServiceException` is not thrown by the `solve()` method of the Async interface. The exceptions will be reported in the `onFailure(Throwable t)` method of the callback.

1.3.2. Classes Used by the Interfaces

1.3.2.1. The GridData Class

This class implements the `IsSerializable` interface.

```
package org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.api;

import com.google.gwt.user.client.rpc.IsSerializable;

/**
 * Represents the data of a sudoku grid.
 * It is a serializable object (gwt) used by remote service.
 * @author Florent Benoit
 */
public class GridData implements IsSerializable {
    ...
}
```

1.3.2.2. The ServiceException Exception

This class implements the `IsSerializable` interface and stores the message.

Additionally, an empty constructor is required for the serialization.

```
package org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.api;

import com.google.gwt.user.client.rpc.IsSerializable;

/**
 * Exception thrown by the remote service. <br />
 * Exception needs to be serializable (gwt)
 * @author Florent Benoit
 */
public class ServiceException extends Exception implements IsSerializable {

    /**
     * The message of the exception.
     */
    private String msg;

    /**
     * Empty message.
     */
    public ServiceException() {
        super();
    }
}
```



```
/**
 * Builds an exception with a given message.
 * @param msg the message of the exception.
 */
public ServiceException(final String msg) {
    super(msg);
    this.msg = msg;
}

/**
 * Gets the message of the exception.
 * @return the message of the exception.
 */
public String getMessage() {
    return this.msg;
}
}
```

1.3.3. Implementing the Service

1.3.3.1. Implementation Service Class

The implementation of the service will run on the server side. Therefore, it need not be present in the client package (no JavaScript transformation). The class will be in the server package.

The service is provided as a servlet. Then, the class must extend the `com.google.gwt.user.server.rpc.RemoteServiceServlet` class.

The Class will look like the following:

```
package org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.server.service;

import org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.api.GridData;
import org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.api.ServiceException;

import com.google.gwt.user.server.rpc.RemoteServiceServlet;

/**
 * Implementation of the service that runs on the server side. <br />
 * All is delegate to the EJB3 session facade.
 * @author Florent Benoit
 */
public class ServletFacadeServiceImpl extends RemoteServiceServlet implements
ServletFacadeService {

    /**
     * Solve a sudoku grid and send in return the solved grid.
     * @param gridData the grid to solve
     * @return the solved grid.
     * @throws ServiceException if solving fails.
     */
    public GridData solve(final GridData gridData) throws ServiceException {
        ...
    }
}
```

1.3.3.2. Accessing an EJB3 from this Remote Service

A sessionBean facade will be used for delegating all the requests.

The service will use a `getFacade()` method. `InitialContext` is built, then the facade is searched and the session bean is returned. The bean can be cached to avoid getting a new bean each time.

The following is the code for this method:

```
/**
 * Gets the session facade bean.
 * @return the session bean.
 * @throws Exception if facade is not retrieved
 */
```

```
private SudokuFacade getFacade() throws Exception {
    SudokuFacade sudokuFacade = null;

    Context initialContext = null;
    Hashtable<String, String> env = new Hashtable<String, String>();
    env.put(Context.INITIAL_CONTEXT_FACTORY,
        "org.objectweb.carol.jndi.spi.MultiOrbInitialContextFactory");
    initialContext = new InitialContext(env);
    sudokuFacade = (SudokuFacade) initialContext.lookup("SudokuFacade");
    return sudokuFacade;
}
```



Note

The JNDI name is very simple as the attribute mappedName was used on the @Stateless annotation of the EJB3. No Provider URL is used as the service and the EJB3s are running with the same registry. The default URL will be fine.

1.3.3.3. Calling the Facade Bean from the Remote Service

When an operation must be performed on the facade session bean, it is done in the following way:

```
try {
    ... = getFacade().methodName();
} catch (Exception e) {
    throw new ServiceException(e.getMessage());
}
```

The exception thrown is wrapped in the ServiceException. Only the message is kept and thrown to the client. The error can be printed to the error log to have a full trace on the server side.

1.3.4. Calling the Remote Service from the Client Side

1.3.4.1. The gwt.xml File

The service must be added to an xml file in order to declare it. In this howto, the file is named Sudoku.gwt.xml.

The servlet element is added to this file along with the class implementing the service and the endpoint of the service (/facade is the following example).

```
<module>
<!-- Inherit the core Web Toolkit stuff. -->
<inherits name='com.google.gwt.user.User' />

<!-- Specify the app entry point class. -->
<entry-point class='org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.client.Sudoku' />

<servlet path='/facade'
class='org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.server.service.ServletFacadeServiceImpl' />

</module>
```

1.3.4.2. Calling the Service from the Client Side

1.3.4.2.1. Getting the Service on the Client Side

An endpoint must be created. The path of the endpoint will use the name of the module and then /facade (the same entry as in the gwt.xml file).

The endpoint will be something similar to "http://localhost:8080/org.objectweb.easybeans.demo/facade".

By using GWT.getModuleBaseURL(), the port and the host need not be known.

```
ServletFacadeServiceAsync servletFacadeServiceAsync = (ServletFacadeServiceAsync) GWT
.create(ServletFacadeService.class);
ServiceDefTarget endpoint = (ServiceDefTarget) servletFacadeServiceAsync;
endpoint.setServiceEntryPoint(GWT.getModuleBaseURL() + "/facade");
```

1.3.4.2.2. Creating the Callback

Before invoking the service, a callback must be built. The asynchronous interface of the service is used. As this interface requires a callback, it must be constructed beforehand.

A callback provides two methods:

- An `onSuccess(final Object result)` method if the call completes successfully.
- An `onFailure(final Throwable caught)` method if the call fails.

For the `onSuccess` method, the result parameter can be cast to `GridData`, which is the return type of the original method's interface.

```
final AsyncCallback solvedCallback = new AsyncCallback() {  
    /**  
     * Called when an asynchronous call completes successfully. It is  
     * always safe to downcast the parameter (of type  
     * <code>Object</code>) to the return type of the original method  
     * for which this is a callback.  
     */  
    public void onSuccess(final Object result) {  
        GridData solvedGridData = (GridData) result;  
        ...  
    }  
    /**  
     * Called when an asynchronous call fails to complete normally.  
     * @param caught the failure.  
     */  
    public void onFailure(final Throwable caught) {  
        ...  
    }  
};
```

1.3.4.2.3. Invoking the Service

The service can be invoked by providing the arguments of the original method, one of which is the callback on the asynchronous interface.

```
serviceAsync.solve(gridData, solvedCallback);
```

1.4. Packaging of the Application for Running on a Web Container

1.4.1. Creating the web.xml File

A `web.xml` file must be created to define a servlet for the remote service that was defined and the mapping must be done. The mapping must be the same as that used in the client when it was searching for the endpoint to use.

The following is an example of the xml file:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1">  
<web-app xmlns="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/j2ee"  
    xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"  
    xsi:schemaLocation="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/j2ee  
        http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/j2ee/web-app_2_4.xsd"  
    version="2.4">  
    <servlet>  
        <servlet-name>ServletFacadeService</servlet-name>  
        <servlet-class>org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.server.service.ServletFacadeServiceImpl</servlet-class>  
    </servlet>  
    <servlet-mapping>  
        <servlet-name>ServletFacadeService</servlet-name>
```

```
<url-pattern>/facade</url-pattern>
</servlet-mapping>

</web-app>
```

1.4.2. Generating the AJAX Client that Will Be Embedded in the War File

GWT provides some shell scripts to generate the client side. However, it is recommended that an ant task be used.

First, define a classpath. This classpath should include GWT libraries and the path to the source code of the Entry point:

```
<path id="gwt.classpath">
<pathelement location="${project.dir}/src" />
<pathelement location="${gwt.sdk.location}/gwt-user.jar" />
<pathelement location="${gwt.sdk.location}/gwt-dev-windows.jar" />
</path>
```

Then, compile the code:

```
<target name="compile" description="Compile demo" depends="init">
<javac srcdir="${src.dir}" destdir="${classes.dir}" debug="on">
<classpath refid="base.classpath" />
</javac>
</target>
```

Finally, generate the GWT:

```
<target name="generate-gwt" depends="compile">
<java classname="com.google.gwt.dev.GWTCompiler" fork="true">
<arg value="-out" />
<arg value="${dist.www.dir}" />
<arg value="org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.Sudoku" />
<classpath refid="base.classpath" />
</java>
</target>
```

1.4.3. Packaging of the .war File

The AJAX client will be bundled in a war file and will contain the GWT runtime library.

The war task of ant can be used to create the package.

The output generated by the GWT compiler is added at the root of the WAR file; the libraries go in the WEB-INF/lib folder, and all classes go in the WEB-INF/classes folder.

```
<target name="build.war"
description="Build war file"
depends="compile, generate-gwt, removejavax">
<war jarfile="${dist.webapps.dir}/sudoku.war"
webxml="${resources.dir}/web.xml">
<fileset dir="${dist.www.dir}/org.objectweb.easybeans.demo.sudoku.web.Sudoku" />
<lib dir="${tmp.dir}">
<include name="gwt-user.jar" />
</lib>
<classes dir="${classes.dir}">
<include name="**/*" />
</classes>
</war>
</target>
```



Warning

The gwt-user.jar provided by Google contains javax.servlet.* classes, and thus it cannot be deployed on a Tomcat container. These classes must be removed. An ant target can do this job:

```
<target name="removejavax" depends="init">
```

```
<mkdir dir="${tmp.dir}/classes" />
<unjar src="${lib.dir}/gwt-user.jar" dest="${tmp.dir}/classes">
  <patternset>
    <exclude name="javax/**" />
  </patternset>
</unjar>
<jar jarfile="${tmp.dir}/gwt-user.jar">
  <fileset dir="${tmp.dir}/classes" />
</jar>
</target>
```

1.5. Deploying Applications for GWT/Easy-Beans

The war file generated by Ant should be copied to the `CATALINA_HOME/webapps` folder, and the EJB3 implementation should be copied to the `CATALINA_HOME/ejb3s` folder.

Documentation about how to start Tomcat/EasyBeans is located in the documentation section [<http://wiki.easybeans.org/xwiki/bin/Main/Documentation>] of the EasyBeans web site.

1.6. Launching the Google Web Toolkit Tools

The GWT toolkit creates a .launch script that allows launching of an embedded browser and an embedded web container for debugging applications within Eclipse. This script must be modified for EasyBeans access.

The following lines have been added:

```
<listEntry value="&lt;?xml version='1.0'&gt;
encoding='UTF-8'&gt;?&#13;&#10;&lt;runtimeClasspathEntry
externalArchive='&quot;/easybeans-sudoku/lib/ow_carol.jar&quot; path='&quot;3&quot;
type='&quot;2&quot;'/&#13;&#10;"/>
<listEntry value="&lt;?xml version='1.0'&gt;
encoding='UTF-8'&gt;?&#13;&#10;&lt;runtimeClasspathEntry
externalArchive='&quot;/easybeans-sudoku/lib/ow_carol_cmi.jar&quot; path='&quot;3&quot;
type='&quot;2&quot;'/&#13;&#10;"/>
<listEntry value="&lt;?xml version='1.0'&gt;
encoding='UTF-8'&gt;?&#13;&#10;&lt;runtimeClasspathEntry
externalArchive='&quot;/easybeans-sudoku/lib/ow_easybeans_api.jar&quot; path='&quot;3&quot;
type='&quot;2&quot;'/&#13;&#10;"/>
<listEntry value="&lt;?xml version='1.0'&gt;
encoding='UTF-8'&gt;?&#13;&#10;&lt;runtimeClasspathEntry
externalArchive='&quot;/easybeans-sudoku/lib/ow_easybeans_core.jar&quot; path='&quot;3&quot;
type='&quot;2&quot;'/&#13;&#10;"/>
<listEntry value="&lt;?xml version='1.0'&gt;
encoding='UTF-8'&gt;?&#13;&#10;&lt;runtimeClasspathEntry
externalArchive='&quot;/easybeans-sudoku/lib/ejb-2_1-api.jar&quot; path='&quot;3&quot;
type='&quot;2&quot;'/&#13;&#10;"/>
<listEntry value="&lt;?xml version='1.0'&gt;
encoding='UTF-8'&gt;?&#13;&#10;&lt;runtimeClasspathEntry
externalArchive='&quot;/easybeans-sudoku/lib/ow_ejb3_core_api.jar&quot; path='&quot;3&quot;
type='&quot;2&quot;'/&#13;&#10;"/>
<listEntry value="&lt;?xml version='1.0'&gt;
encoding='UTF-8'&gt;?&#13;&#10;&lt;runtimeClasspathEntry
externalArchive='&quot;/easybeans-sudoku/lib/ow_ejb3_persistence_api.jar&quot; path='&quot;3&quot;
type='&quot;2&quot;'/&#13;&#10;"/>
```

These libraries are used to access the EasyBeans services.

1.7. Comments

Although this guide may not answer all questions, it should still be possible to complete the HowTo. The intent of this HowTo is to illustrate how to call remote EJB3s running on EasyBeans using the Google Web Toolkit.

The EasyBeans user guide [<http://wiki.easybeans.org/xwiki/bin/Main/Documentation>] provides help for developing EJB3 components.