

# Smart Use of Annotation Processing - APT

@gdigugli

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# Speakers

## @dbaeli - Dimitri BAELI

- Java developer since 1999
- R&D Team Mentor at



- Coder, DevOps, Agile Coach
  - From idea to production
- eXo Platform
  - VP Quality

## @gdigugli - Gilles Di Guglielmo

- Java developer since 1999
- Software architect at



- ILOG - IBM
  - ✓ 2D graphic toolkit
  - ✓ Rule engine
- Prima-Solutions
  - ✓ Services platform for J2EE
  - ✓ Domain models code generators



# Content Display Management

**1 MA DEMANDE**   **2 MON HISTORIQUE**   **3 MON VÉHICULE**

## Conducteur principal

**Sexe :**  
 Homme    Femme

**Date de naissance :**  
□ / □ / □ 

**Profession :**  
-- Sélectionnez --

**Situation maritale :** ?  
-- Sélectionnez --

**Date d'obtention du permis de conduire :**  
Mois   Année

**Permis obtenu en conduite accompagnée ?** ?  
 Oui    Non

Carrier   4:09 PM

Retour   Vous

**ASSURE MIEUX**  **VOTRE COMPAREUR D'ASSURANCES**

## Conducteur principal

**Je suis**  
Une femme

**Ma date de naissance**  
02   05   1976

**Ma profession ou mon activité**  
Non-cadre (salaré)

**Seul ou en couple ?**  
Marié

**Date de mon permis**  
Janvier   1997

**Permis en conduite accompagnée ?**  
 Oui    Non



# The story

## Effective Content Display

- Content Management
  - Labels
  - Layout & images
- Clean code
  - Strong Quality
  - Easy Maintenance

## using APT Tooling

- APT Engine
- APT Processors
  - Generate technical code
  - Generate reports
  - Generate patterns

## based on i18n

- @Message
- @MessageBundle
- Dedicated APT Processors

<https://github.com/lesfurets/ez18n>



# Improved i18n for text display



# Java i18n pattern

- The JDK default tooling to:
  - Dynamically bind the content
  - Usable for Texts, but also CSS and images (urls)
- Tooling :
  - `java.util.ResourceBundle` : for .properties reading
  - `java.util.MessageFormat` : tiny templating
  - .properties files with naming pattern



# java.util.ResourceBundle

- The .properties loader for a given Locale
- Key / Value in .properties
- Naming convention for the storage

Messages\_**en\_EN**.properties

Language      Country

```
ResourceBundle myResources =  
    ResourceBundle.getBundle("MyResources", currentLocale);
```





# java.util.MessageFormat

At 1:15 on April 13, 1998, we detected 7 spaceships on the planet Mars.

```
template = At {2,time,short} on {2,date,long}, \
we detected {1,number,integer} spaceships on \
the planet {0}.
```

```
currentLocale = en_US
At 10:16 AM on July 31, 2009, we detected 7
spaceships on the planet Mars.
currentLocale = de_DE
Um 10:16 am 31. Juli 2009 haben wir 7 Raumschiffe
auf dem Planeten Mars entdeckt.
```

- Tiny templating
- `format("<pattern>", args)`
- Date, numbers are formatted according to the Locale
- Options, conditional values easy to use





# .properties issues

- Low quality control
  - Keys are strings in the code
  - Poor IDE support
    - No warning on unused or wrong keys
  - Encoding Hell
    - use `\uxxxx` or you're in trouble
- Forces you to maintain two files in sync
  - key declaration / value in `.properties`
  - Key usage in the `.java` files



# Improved i18n



# Ez18n : improved i18n

- Interfaces representing each .properties
- The methods acts as keys

```
@MessageBundle
public interface Messages {

    @Message(value = "Love Me Tender")
    String loveMeTender();

    @Message("I love {0}")
    String doYouLove(String name);
}
```

Messages.java

```
loveMeTender=Love Me Tender
doYouLove=I love {0}
```

Messages.properties



# Annotations and Code generation

- Same pattern as in GWT, but for J2SE
- New Annotations in the code :
  - @MessageBundle to mark interfaces
    - ➔ represents a ResourceBundle
  - @Message to mark methods
    - ➔ represents a localization key
- Generate :
  - .properties file (for 'default')
  - A ResourceBundle for each .properties
  - Manage other languages out-side your code



# Improved i18n benefits

- Now you can
  - Refactor your keys
  - Maintain the 'default' in Java
  - Never change a .properties file for default locale
- And use it with other libs:
  - GWT (done on GitHub)
  - Even JQuery, Dojo, CoffeeScript (planned)
- We called that ez18n



# APT to generate .properties and ResourceBundle classes from annotations



# Behind the scene

## How APT works





# APT basics

- APT - Annotation Processing Tool
- Kind of old-school pre-processing
- Standard in JDK6+ (JSR 269)
- No runtime overload
- Based on annotations in source code
- Standard since JDK 1.6 (available in Sun JDK 1.5)



# APT annotations

- Use @Retention, @Target

```
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.SOURCE)  
@Target(ElementType.TYPE)  
public @interface MessageBundle {
```

```
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.SOURCE)  
@Target(ElementType.METHOD)  
public @interface Message {
```



# APT Processors

- `javax.annotation.processing.Processor`
- Code parsing similar to Reflection
  - No need of compiled code
  - Some limitations
- 2 key elements :
  - `@SupportedAnnotationTypes` to declare the matching annotations
  - `FileObject` : the future generated file



# SPI Discovery

- SPI - Service Provider Interface
- Is a built in way to discover Classes at runtime
- Based on Interface implementation
- @see `java.util.ServiceLoader`
  - `/META-INF/services/`  
`javax.annotation.processing.Processor`



# Similarities with java.lang.reflect

Java.lang.reflect	Javax.annotation.processing
java.lang.Class	TypeElement
Constructor	ExecutableElement
Field, Parameter	VariableElement
Method	ExecutableElement
java.lang.Package	PackageElement

- NO Class.newInstance()
- NO instanceof, NO isAssignable()
- NO getConstructor, getMethod, ...
- Weak inheritance support



# Processor code sample

- Processor declaration

```
@SupportedAnnotationTypes(value = "org.ez18n.MessageBundle")
@SupportedSourceVersion(RELEASE_6)
public final class CSVReportProcessor extends AbstractProcessor {

    @Override
    public boolean process(Set<? extends TypeElement> annotations,
                          RoundEnvironment roundEnv) {
```

- Use a FileObject to generate the content

```
final FileObject file = processingEnv.getFiler()
    .createResource(SOURCE_OUTPUT, "", "i18n_report.csv");
final Writer writer = file.openWriter();
for (TypeElement bundleType : labelBundles.keySet()) {
    for (LabelTemplateMethod templateMethod : labelBundles.get(bundleType)) {
        writer.write('\n');
        writer.write(bundleType.getQualifiedName().toString());
```



# APT command line

javac

-cp \$CLASSPATH

-proc:only

Or -proc:none

-encoding UTF-8

-processor \$PROCESSOR

processors fqcn list

-d \$PROJECT\_HOME\target\classes

-s \$PROJECT\_HOME\target\generated-sources\apt

-sourcepath \$SOURCE\_PATH

-verbose

\$FILES

optional





# APT tooling

- Maven integration
  - maven-processor-plugin (google-code)
  - Maven java compiler simply
- Ant integration
  - javac
- IDE integration
  - Extend the JDK compilation options



# APT usages

- Generate required repetitive code :
  - Not always possible at runtime
  - Unit tests, JMX declarations
  - Utility code with coverage and debug
- Build your reports on your code
  - Your metrics without runtime overload
  - Even fail the build if you want !



# One or Two phase compilation

- One phase :
  - APT runs during the compilation
  - Generated code is directly produced as bytecode (.class)
  - Harder to debug (no .java created)
- Two phases : “proc:only”
  - javac with proc:only then with proc:none
  - Creates .java files in the sourcepath



# Problems with APT

- Beware of the “Generate” golden hammer
  - generate needed code
- APT Processors can be tricky:
  - hard to test / maintain
  - bad error management (hidden errors !)
  - Not really (well) documented
- No built-in templating mechanism
- Enforced file path creation
- Beware of maven parallel builds
  - Because javac is not thread safe



# It's time to convince your team

- APT parses the source code to generate
  - Java Files & .class, Reports (.csv, ...)
  - Build log information or even build failures
- It allows you to have a source level DSL
  - Annotate your code & Generate the plumbing
  - Compile / Debug the generated code
- APT framework is compact



# Go deep in APT usage with Ez18n



# Demo

- The Stock-watcher available on
  - <http://github.com/lesfurets/ez18n>
  - In the ez18n-webapp module
  - Derived from a GWT Sample
- With a desktop browser
- With a mobile browser







# Ez18n - APT chaining

```
<plugin>
  <groupId>org.bsc.maven</groupId>
  <artifactId>maven-processor-plugin</artifactId>
  <executions>
    <execution>
      <id>generate-i18n-source</id>
      <goals>
        <goal>process</goal>
      </goals>
      <phase>generate-sources</phase>
      <configuration>
        <compilerArguments>-encoding UTF-8</compilerArguments>
        <outputDirectory>${project.build.directory}/generated-sources/apt</outputDirectory>
        <processors>
          <processor>org.ez18n.apr.processor.MobileBundleProcessor</processor>
          <processor>org.ez18n.apr.processor.MobileBundlePropertiesProcessor</processor>
          <processor>org.ez18n.apr.processor.DesktopBundleProcessor</processor>
          <processor>org.ez18n.apr.processor.DesktopBundlePropertiesProcessor</processor>
          <processor>org.ez18n.apr.processor.CSVReportProcessor</processor>
          <processor>org.ez18n.apr.processor.MetaInfServicesProcessor</processor>
        </processors>
      </configuration>
    </execution>
  </executions>
</plugin>
```



# From Messages to DesktopMessages.properties

- One property file per interface with **@MessageBundle**
- One property entry per method with **@Message**

The screenshot illustrates the relationship between three files in an IDE:

- Messages.java:** A Java interface annotated with `@MessageBundle`. It contains two methods:
  - `loveMeTender()` annotated with `@Message(value = "Love Me Tender", mobile = "Love Me True")`. A box highlights the `value` attribute, with an arrow pointing to the `{value}` placeholder in the template.
  - `doYouLove(String name)` annotated with `@Message("I love {0}")`. A box highlights the `{0}` placeholder, with an arrow pointing to the `{key}` placeholder in the template.
- BundleProperty.template:** A template for property files with the format `${key}=${value}`. Boxes highlight the `{key}` and `{value}` placeholders, with arrows pointing to the corresponding placeholders in the `DesktopMessages` file.
- DesktopMessages:** A property file containing two entries:
  - `loveMeTender=Love Me Tender`
  - `doYouLove=I love {0}`



# From Messages to MessagesDesktopBundle.java (1/2)

The image shows an IDE with three code editors. The top-left editor shows `Messages.java` with a `@MessageBundle` annotation on the `Messages` interface. The top-right editor shows `DesktopBundle.template` with a `@Desktop` annotation and a `@Generated` annotation. The bottom editor shows `MessagesDesktopBundle.java`, which is the result of processing the template. A blue box highlights the `MessagesDesktopBundle` class, and a blue arrow points from the `@Desktop` annotation in the template to this class.

```
Messages.java
package org.ez18n.sample;

import org.ez18n.Message;

@MessageBundle
public interface Messages {

    @Message(value = "Love Me Tender", //
mobile = "Love Me True")
    String loveMeTender();

    @Message("I love {0}")
    String doYouLove(String name);
}

DesktopBundle.template
package ${package.name};

import javax.annotation.Generated;
import java.util.ResourceBundle;

import org.ez18n.runtime.Desktop;

@Desktop
@Generated(value = "${process.class}", date = "${process.date}")
public final class ${target.class.name} implements ${source.class.name} {
    private final ResourceBundle delegate;

    public ${target.class.name}() {
        delegate = ResourceBundle.getBundle("${package.name}.${bundle.pr

MessagesDesktopBundle.java
public final class MessagesDesktopBundle implements Messages {
    private final ResourceBundle delegate;

    public MessagesDesktopBundle() {
        delegate = ResourceBundle.getBundle("org.ez18n.sample.DesktopMessages");
    }

    @SuppressWarnings("all")
    private String getMessage(String key, Object... params) {
        return java.text.MessageFormat.format(delegate.getString(key), params);
    }
}
```



# From Messages to MessagesDesktopBundle.java (2/2)

```
Messages.java
package org.ez18n.sample;

import org.ez18n.Message;

@MessageBundle
public interface Messages {

    @Message(value = "Love Me Tender",
mobile = "Love Me True")
    String loveMeTender();

    @Message("I love {0}")
    String doYouLove(String name);
}

DesktopBundle.templ
MultiParamBundleMet
NoParamBundleMethod.

@Override
public <return.type> ${method.name}(${input.typed.params}) {
    return getMessage("${method.name}", ${input.params});
}

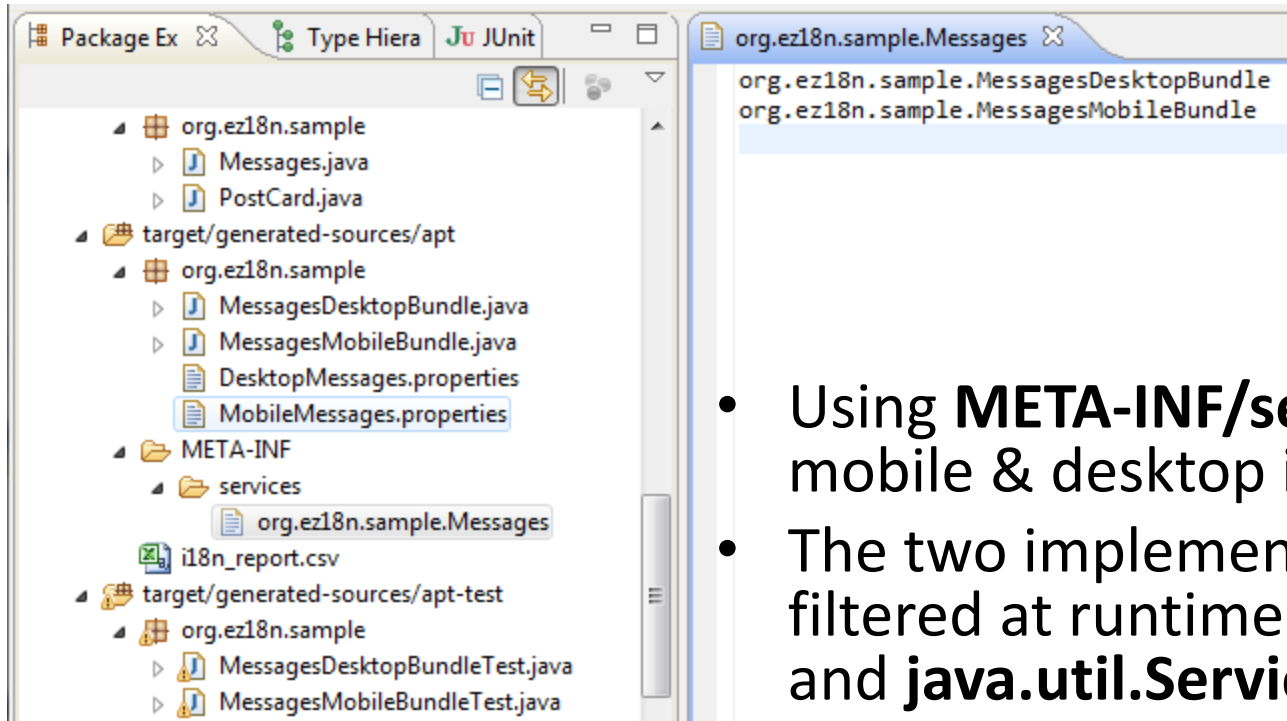
MessagesDesktopBundle.java
private String getMessage(String key, Object... params) {
    return java.text.MessageFormat.format(delegate.getString(key), params);
}

@Override
public String loveMeTender() {
    return getMessage("loveMeTender", new Object[]{});
}

@Override
public String doYouLove(String name) {
    return getMessage("doYouLove", name);
}
```



# From Messages to META-INF/services/org.ez18n.sample.Messages

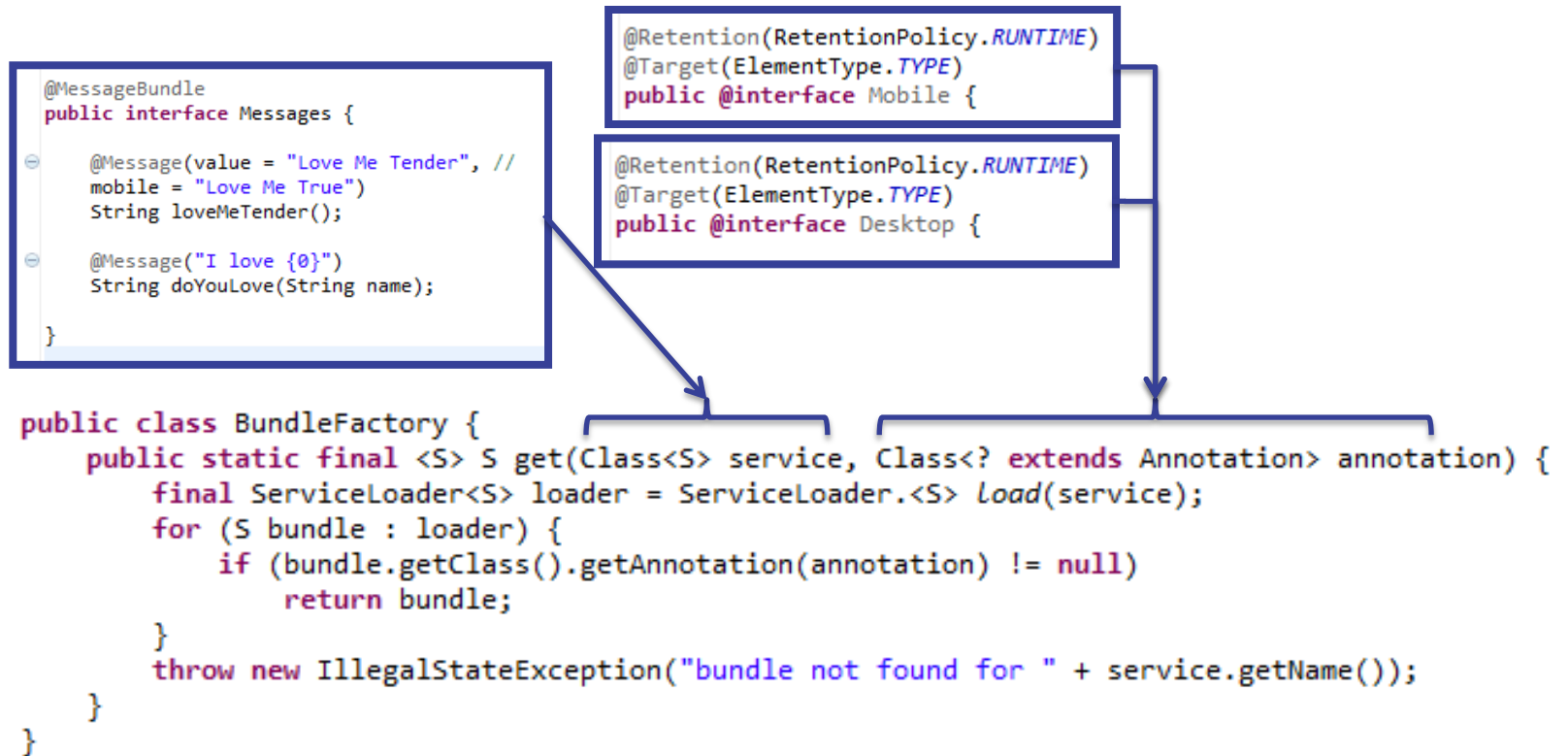


- Using **META-INF/services** to inject the mobile & desktop implementation
- The two implementations could be filtered at runtime using **annotations** and **java.util.ServiceLoader**
  - **@Mobile**
  - **@Desktop**



# A factory for the Messages implementations

- Using `java.util.ServiceLoader` to inject the interface with `@MessageBundle`
- `@Desktop` and `@Mobile` used to filter the injection result





# Client code sample with JUnit

- Some basic JUnit test using the API

```
@Generated(value = "org.ez18n.appt.processor.TestDesktopBundleProcessor", date = "9/14/12 7:07 PM")  
public class MessagesDesktopBundleTest {
```

```
    private Messages bundle;  
  
    @org.junit.Before  
    public void setUp() {  
        bundle = BundleFactory.get(Messages.class, Desktop.class);  
    }
```

```
    @org.junit.Test  
    public void loveMeTender() {  
        assertNotNull(bundle.loveMeTender());  
    }  
  
    @org.junit.Test  
    public void doYouLove() {  
        assertNotNull(bundle.doYouLove(null));  
    }  
}
```

The unit tests are generated using APT too 😊

**BundleFactory.get(...)** usage in the test @Before to retrieve the bundle implementation



# Ez18n - Summary

```
@MessageBundle  
public interface Messages
```

```
    @Message(value = "Love Me True")  
    mobile = "Love Me True"  
    String loveMeTender();
```

```
    @Message("I love {0}")  
    String doYouLove(String name);  
}
```

```
public static final void main(String... args) {  
    final Messages bundle = BundleFactory.get(Messages.class, Desktop.class);  
    System.out.println(bundle.doYouLove("Mum"));  
}
```

**Maven, javac  
Injection & APT**

```
META-INF  
└─ services  
    └─ org.ez18n.sample.Messages
```

```
Problems | @ Javadoc | Declaration | Console X  
<terminated> PostCard [Java Application] C:\java\jdk1.6.0_35\bin\javaw.exe  
I love Mum
```



**If you'd like  
a JSR for ez18n  
please tell us !**



Ez18n =  
@Message  
@MessageBundle  
Set of Processors



# APT Adoption

“As the lead engineer on JSR 269 in JDK 6, I'd be heartened to see greater adoption and use of annotation processing by Java developers.”

Joseph D. Darcy (Oracle)



# APT JDK 8

- possibilité d'ajouter une annotation sur les types d'objets (JSR 308)
- possibilité de répéter une annotation sur une déclaration (JEP 120)
- portage de l'API "javax.lang.model" au runtime pour qu'elle ne soit pas disponible uniquement à la compilation (JEP 119)
- Voir les notes :  
<http://blog.soat.fr/2012/11/devoxx-2012-jsr-308-annotations-on-java-types/>



# JavaOne 2012

## APT virtual mini-track

- Sessions
  - **Advanced Annotation Processing with JSR 269**
    - Jaroslav Tulach
  - **Build Your Own Type System for Fun and Profit**
    - Werner Dietl and Michael Ernst
  - **Annotations and Annotation Processing: What's New in JDK 8?**
    - Joel Borggrén-Franck
  - **Hack into Your Compiler!**
    - Jaroslav Tulach
  - **Writing Annotation Processors to Aid Your Development Process**
    - Ian Robertson
- Thanks to
  - Joseph D. Darcy (APT spec lead) - <https://blogs.oracle.com/darcy/>



# Thank you !

## Ez18n is on GitHub Just fork it !



<https://github.com/lesfurets/eZ18n>

