The Sample Application

The examples in each chapter of this book are tailored to the current discussion and are designed to elaborate on the implementation of each feature in an easy-to-understand manner. For the most part, these examples provide a sufficient explanation for the topic they are demonstrating. That said, the examples appear in isolation and are not based on a real-world scenario, which can make understanding how the different Spring features work together difficult. To overcome this, we have built a basic blog application, SpringBlog, that highlights most of the topics discussed in this book and shows how the different Spring features work together.

You should note that this application is purposely very simple, and indeed, many of its features were conceived so we could highlight a particular piece of Spring functionality. Despite its simplicity, the SpringBlog application demonstrates how a Spring-based application is constructed and how the components are glued together.

In this chapter, you get to take a peek at the finished SpringBlog application. We then discuss the Spring features used to implement different parts of the application. This chapter also highlights some of the decisions we made when designing the SpringBlog application and why we made them. More than anything, this chapter serves as a road map to the rest of the book, allowing you to highlight an area that is important to your own application and immediately identify where that area is covered in the book.

Specifically, this chapter covers two main topics:

- **Requirements of the SpringBlog application**: In this section, we discuss the requirements of the SpringBlog application and sneak a peek at the finished product of these requirements. We also discuss why we chose to include certain requirements and why we ignored others when we built the sample application.

- **Implementing the SpringBlog application**: In this section, we take a high-level look at how the requirements discussed in the previous section are implemented using Spring. This section does not go into any detail on the individual Spring features; instead, it discusses the features generally and points you to other chapters that contain more complete descriptions.

If you are already comfortable with the design of Spring applications or you already know which topics are most important to your application, feel free to skip this chapter. If you are completely new to Spring, reading this chapter will give you a good idea of where the different Spring components fit into your applications.

**Requirements of the SpringBlog Application**

When defining the requirements for the SpringBlog application, our main goal was to highlight certain Spring Framework features in the context of a full application. For this reason, we included a few features,
such as auditing and obscenity filtering, that you would not expect to see in a traditional blog application but that are useful features nonetheless and provide a way to highlight certain features of the Spring Framework.

This section provides a full rundown of the features included in the SpringBlog application.

### Security and Authentication

Like most other blog applications, the SpringBlog application provides security controls that prevent unauthorized users from creating and editing blog entries.

As you can see in Figure 3-1, the SpringBlog application provides a login form for users to sign in and identify themselves as valid and registered users of the application.

![Figure 3-1. User identity in SpringBlog](image)

However, login is not required for viewing blog entries. In SpringBlog, you are assigned the Anonymous identity automatically. Using the login function, you can validate your details against the user list in the database and assign yourself a different identity. Internally, SpringBlog uses this identity for security access control, and the user information will also be used in the audit process.

The security control requirements are as follows:

- Anonymous users are allowed only to view blog entries.