

The standard J2EE deployment descriptors (that is, the deployment descriptors defined for J2EE applications and modules within the J2EE specification) generally do not contain sufficient information that is required for a completely non-interactive and automated deployment process. Therefore, the SDA deployment descriptor can be understood as a supplement to the standard J2EE deployment descriptor for this purpose.

In fact, the J2EE specific part of the SDA deployment descriptor enhances the definition of existing deployment parameters and introduces new deployment parameters that are not or not sufficiently covered by the standard J2EE deployment descriptors with regard to the above requirements.

Each deployment parameter the J2EE specific part of the SDA deployment descriptor consists of can be assigned one of the following three types:

1st type:

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There are deployment parameters that in principal can be assigned a pre-defined value within the standard J2EE deployment descriptors, but their semantics does not allow this, and simultaneously need to be supplied at deployment time. An example could be the location of some property file that the application requires, provided using an environment entry.

Deployment parameters of this kind have to be taken over from the standard J2EE deployment descriptors. The deployer will have to supply a value for each of these parameters that SDM finds in the SDA deployment descriptor. Note that each such deployment parameter leads to additional workload for the deployer and means a step away from an easy deployment process. Therefore, deployment parameters of this kind should be added to the SDA deployment descriptor with caution only. In particular, deployment parameters that can exclusively be supplied using application specific knowledge should be avoided in the SDA deployment descriptor.