

[EL Function Parameters with JBoss EL](#)

By [Roger Keays](#), 26 July 2008

One of the current missing features of Unified EL as used in JSF is the lack of support for calling methods on an object. You can access a bean's properties that have getters and setters and get elements from a map by name, but cannot call simple functions like `${list.size()}` or `${colours.RGBtoHex(0,75,50)}`. The clever folks at JBoss built an EL implementation which adds this basic feature, and a recent thread on the JSR 314 mailing list prompted me to add it to our stack.

It's quite easy to do, and you don't have to install Seam. First, you need to [download the JBoss EL implementation](#) and add it to your build. Using maven, first add the jar to your repository:

```
$ mvn install:install-file -Dfile=jboss-el-2.0.1.GA.jar -DgroupId=org.jboss.el
-DartifactId=jboss-el -Dversion=2.0.1 -Dpackaging=jar
```

Then add the dependency it to your pom:

```
<dependency>
  <groupId>org.jboss.el</groupId>
  <artifactId>jboss-el</artifactId>
  <version>2.0.1</version>
  <scope>compile</scope>
</dependency>
```

And configure web.xml to use the new library:

```
<!-- jboss el expressions allow method params -->
<context-param>
  <param-name>com.sun.faces.expressionFactory</param-name>
  <param-value>org.jboss.el.ExpressionFactoryImpl</param-value>
</context-param>
```

That's all there is to it! The library is 100% backwards compatible with the stock EL implementation which is pretty handy. Also, it looks like the key features will make their way into JSF 2.0 :)

Some references for you:

- [Chapter from Seam documentation describing JBoss EL](#)
- [JBoss EL subversion repo](#)

- [JBoss EL 2.0.1 download](#)

About Roger Keays



Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed address and has left footprints on 40-something different countries around the world.

Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.