



# JPA ORM XML MetaData Reference (v5.1)

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JPA XML MetaData allows you to define mapping information but in a separate file (`orm.xml`) separating persistence mapping from your model. What follows provides a reference guide to `orm.xml` MetaData elements. Here is an example header for `orm.xml` files with XSD specification

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<entity-mappings xmlns="http://xmlns.jcp.org/xml/ns/persistence/orm"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="http://xmlns.jcp.org/xml/ns/persistence/orm
    http://xmlns.jcp.org/xml/ns/persistence/orm_2_2.xsd" version="2.2">
  ...
</entity-mappings>
```

If using any of the DataNucleus extensions, then the XSD is [defined here](#), in which case you would define your header as :-

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
<entity-mappings xmlns="http://www.datanucleus.org/xsd/jpa/orm"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
  xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.datanucleus.org/xsd/jpa/orm
    http://www.datanucleus.org/xsd/jpa/orm_2_2.xsd" version="2.2">
  ...
</entity-mappings>
```

- `entity-mappings`
  - `description`
  - `persistence-unit-metadata`
    - `xml-mapping-metadata-complete`
  - `package`
  - `schema`
  - `catalog`
  - `access`
  - `sequence-generator`
  - `table-generator`
  - `named-query`
    - `query`
  - `named-native-query`

- query
- sql-result-set-mapping
  - entity-result
    - field-result
  - column-result
- mapped-superclass
  - description
  - id-class
  - datastore-id
    - column
    - generated-value
  - surrogate-version
    - column
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  - entity-listeners
    - entity-listener
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      - post-persist
      - pre-remove
      - post-remove
      - pre-update
      - post-update
      - post-load
- pre-persist
- post-persist
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- post-remove

- pre-update
- post-update
- post-load
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  - Same elements as under <entity> → <attributes>
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    - unique-constraint
      - column-name
    - index
  - secondary-table
    - primary-key-join-column
    - primary-key-foreign-key
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      - column-name
    - index
  - primary-key-join-column
  - primary-key-foreign-key
  - id-class
  - datastore-id
    - column
    - generated-value
  - surrogate-version
    - column
  - inheritance
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  - discriminator-column

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- pre-persist
- post-persist
- pre-remove
- post-remove
- pre-update
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  - column
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  - embedded-id
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    - convert
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    - column
  - many-to-one
    - join-column



- `join-table join-column inverse-join-column unique-constraint * column-name`
- `cascade cascade-all cascade-persist cascade-merge cascade-remove cascade-refresh`
- `element-collection`
  - `collection-table join-column index foreign-key`
  - `order-by`
  - `order-column`
  - `map-key`
  - `map-key-class`
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  - `join-table join-column foreign-key inverse-join-column inverse-foreign-key unique-constraint * column-name`
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- `one-to-many`
  - `order-by`
  - `order-column`
  - `map-key`
  - `map-key-class`
  - `map-key-temporal`
  - `map-key-enumerated`
  - `join-table join-column inverse-join-column unique-constraint * column-name`
  - `join-column`
  - `cascade cascade-all cascade-persist cascade-merge cascade-remove cascade-refresh`
  - `shared-relation`
- `one-to-one`
  - `join-column`

- [foreign-key](#)
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# Metadata for description tag

The **<description>** element (**<entity-mappings>**) contains the text describing all classes (and hence entities) defined in this file. It serves no useful purpose other than descriptive.

# Metadata for `xml-mapping-metadata-complete` tag

The `<xml-mapping-metadata-complete>` element (under `<persistence-unit-metadata>`) when specified defines that the classes in this file are fully specified with just their metadata and that any annotations should be ignored.

# Metadata for package tag

The `<package>` element (under `<entity-mappings>`) contains the text defining the package into which all classes in this file belong.

# Metadata for schema tag

The `<schema>` element (under `<entity-mappings>`) contains the default schema for all classes in this file.

# Metadata for catalog tag

The `<catalog>` element (under `<entity-mappings>`) contains the default catalog for all classes in this file.

# Metadata for access tag

The `<access>` element (under `<entity-mappings>`) contains the setting for how to access the persistent fields/properties. This can be set to either "FIELD" or "PROPERTY".



# Metadata for sequence-generator tag

The **<sequence-generator>** element (under **<entity-mappings>**, or **<entity>** or **<id>**) defines a generator of sequence values, for use elsewhere in this persistence-unit.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the generator (required)	
sequence-name	Name of the sequence	
initial-value	Initial value for the sequence	1
allocation-size	Number of values that the sequence allocates when needed	50

# Metadata for table-generator tag

The **<table-generator>** element (under **<entity-mappings>**, or **<entity>** or **<id>**) defines a generator of sequence values using a datastore table, for use elsewhere in this persistence-unit.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the generator (required)	
table	name of the table to use for sequences	SEQUENCE_TABLE
catalog	Catalog to store the sequence table	
schema	Schema to store the sequence table	
pk-column-name	Name of the primary-key column in the table	SEQUENCE_NAME
value-column-name	Name of the value column in the table	NEXT_VAL
pk-column-value	Name of the value to use in the primary key column (for this row)	{name of the class}
initial-value	Initial value to use in the table	0
allocation-size	Number of values to allocate when needed	50

# Metadata for named-query tag

The **<named-query>** element (under **<entity-mappings>** or under **<entity>**) defines a JPQL query that will be accessible at runtime via the name. The element itself will contain the text of the query. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the query	

# Metadata for named-native-query tag

The **<named-native-query>** element (under **<entity-mappings>** or under **<entity>**) defines an SQL query that will be accessible at runtime via the name. The element itself will contain the text of the query. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the query	

# Metadata for sql-result-set-mapping tag

The **<sql-result-set-mapping>** element (under **<entity-mappings>** or under **<entity>**) defines how the results of the SQL query are output to the user per row of the result set. It will contain sub-elements. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the SQL result-set mapping (referenced by native queries)	

# Metadata for named-entity-graph tag

The `<named-entity-graph>` element (under `<entity>`) defines an entity graph with root as that entity, accessible at runtime via the name. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the entity graph	

# Metadata for named-attribute-node tag

The `<named-attribute-node>` element (under `<named-entity-graph>`) defines a node in the entity graph. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the node (field/property)	
subgraph	Name of a subgraph that maps this attribute fully (optional)	

# Metadata for subgraph/subclass-subgraph tag

The <**subgraph**>/**subclass-subgraph** element (under <named-entity-graph>) defines a subgraph in the entity graph. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the subgraph (referenced in the named-attribute-node)	
class	Type of the subgraph attribute	



# Metadata for entity-result tag

The `<entity-result>` element (under `<sql-result-set-mapping>`) defines an entity that is output from an SQL query per row of the result set. It can contain sub-elements of type `<field-result>`. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
entity-class	Class of the entity	
discriminator-column	Column containing any discriminator (so subclasses of the entity type can be distinguished)	

# Metadata for field-result tag

The **<field-result>** element (under **<entity-result>**) defines a field of an entity and the column representing it in an SQL query. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the entity field	
column	Name of the SQL column	

# Metadata for column-result tag

The `<column-result>` element (under `<sql-result-set-mapping>`) defines a column that is output directly from an SQL query per row of the result set. It has the following attributes

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the SQL column	

# Metadata for mapped-superclass tag

These are attributes within the `<mapped-superclass>` tag (under `<entity-mappings>`). This is used to define the persistence definition for a class that has no table but is mapped.

Attribute	Description	Values
class	Name of the class (required)	
metadata-complete	Whether the definition of persistence of this class is complete with this MetaData definition. That is, should any annotations be ignored.	true, <b>false</b>

# Metadata for entity tag

These are attributes within the `<entity>` tag (under `<entity-mappings>`). This is used to define the persistence definition for this class.

Attribute	Description	Values
class	Name of the class (required)	
name	Name of the entity. Used by JPQL queries	
metadata-complete	Whether the definition of persistence of this class is complete with this MetaData definition. That is, should any annotations be ignored.	true, <b>false</b>
cacheable	Whether instances of this class should be cached in the L2 cache. New in JPA2	<b>true</b> , false

# Metadata for description tag

The **<description>** element (under **<entity>**) contains the text describing the class being persisted. It serves no useful purpose other than descriptive.

# Metadata for table tag

These are attributes within the `<table>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to define the table where this class will be persisted.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the table	
catalog	Catalog where the table is stored	
schema	Schema where the table is stored	

# Metadata for secondary-table tag

These are attributes within the `<secondary-table>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to define the join of a secondary table back to the primary table where this class will be persisted.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the table	
catalog	Catalog where the table is stored	
schema	Schema where the table is stored	



# Metadata for join-table tag

These are attributes within the `<join-table>` tag (under `<one-to-one>`, `<one-to-many>`, `<many-to-many>`). This is used to define the join table where a collection/maps relationship will be persisted.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the join table	
catalog	Catalog where the join table is stored	
schema	Schema where the join table is stored	
orphan-removal	Whether to remove orphans when either removing the owner or nulling the relation	false

# Metadata for collection-table tag

These are attributes within the <collection-table> tag (under <element-collection>). This is used to define the join table where a collections relationship will be persisted.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the join table	
catalog	Catalog where the join table is stored	
schema	Schema where the join table is stored	

# Metadata for unique-constraint tag

This element is specified under the <table>, <secondary-table> or <join-table> tags. This is used to define a unique constraint on the table. No attributes are provided, just sub-element(s) "column-name"

# Metadata for column tag

These are attributes within the <column> tag (under <basic>). This is used to define the column where the data will be stored.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the column	
unique	Whether the column is unique	true, false
nullable	Whether the column is nullable	true, false
insertable	Whether the column is insertable	true, false
updatable	Whether the column is updatable	true, false
column-definition	DDL to use for the column (everything except the column name). This must include the SQL type of the column	
table	Table for the column ?	
length	Length for the column (when string type)	255
precision	Precision for the column (when numeric type)	0
scale	Scale for the column (when numeric type)	0
jdbc-type	The JDBC Type to use for this column ( <b>DataNucleus extension</b> )	
sql-type	The SQL Type to use for this column ( <b>DataNucleus extension</b> )	
position	The position to use for this column (first=0) ( <b>DataNucleus extension</b> )	

# Metadata for primary-key-join-column tag

These are attributes within the `<primary-join-key-column>` tag (under `<secondary-table>` or `<entity>`). This is used to define the join of PK columns between secondary and primary tables, or between table of subclass and table of base class.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the column	
referenced-column-name	Name of column in primary table	

# Metadata for join-column tag

These are attributes within the `<join-column>` tag (under `<join-table>`). This is used to define the join column.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the column	
referenced-column-name	Name of the column at the other side of the relation that this is a FK to	
unique	Whether the column is unique	true, false
nullable	Whether the column is nullable	true, false
insertable	Whether the column is insertable	true, false
updatable	Whether the column is updatable	true, false
column-definition	DDL to use for the column (everything except the column name). This must include the SQL type of the column	
table	Table for the column ?	

# Metadata for inverse-join-column tag

These are attributes within the `<inverse-join-column>` tag (under `<join-table>`). This is used to define the join column to the element.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the column	
referenced-column-name	Name of the column at the other side of the relation that this is a FK to	
unique	Whether the column is unique	true, false
nullable	Whether the column is nullable	true, false
insertable	Whether the column is insertable	true, false
updatable	Whether the column is updatable	true, false
column-definition	DDL to use for the column (everything except the column name). This must include the SQL type of the column	
table	Table for the column ?	

# Metadata for shared-relation tag

These are attributes within the <**shared-relation**> tag (under <one-to-many> or <many-to-many>). **This is a DataNucleus Extension.** This is used to define a relation as being shared, with a distinguisher column.

Attribute	Description	Values
column	Name of the distinguisher column	
value	Value to store in the distinguisher column for this field	
primary-key	Whether the distinguisher column is part of the primary key (when join table).	



# Metadata for id-class tag

These are attributes within the <id-class> tag (under <entity>). This defines a identity class to be used for this entity.

Attribute	Description	Values
class	Name of the identity class (required)	

# Metadata for inheritance tag

These are attributes within the <**inheritance**> tag (under <entity>). This defines the inheritance of the class.

Attribute	Description	Values
strategy	Strategy for inheritance in terms of storing this class	SINGLE_TABLE, JOINED, TABLE_PER_CLASS

# Metadata for discriminator-value tag

These are attributes within the `<discriminator-value>` tag (under `<entity>`). This defines the value used in a discriminator. The value is contained in the element. Specification of the value will result in a "value-map" discriminator strategy being adopted. If no discriminator-value is present, but discriminator-column is then "class-name" discriminator strategy is used.

# Metadata for discriminator-column tag

These are attributes within the <**discriminator-column**> tag (under <entity>). This defines the column used for a discriminator.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the discriminator column	DTYPE
discriminator-type	Type of data stored in the discriminator column	STRING, CHAR, INTEGER
length	Length of the discriminator column	

# Metadata for id tag

These are attributes within the <id> tag (under <attributes>). This is used to define the field used to be the identity of the class.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	

# Metadata for generated-value tag

These are attributes within the `<generated-value>` tag (under `<id>`). This is used to define how to generate the value for the identity field.

Attribute	Description	Values
strategy	Generation strategy. Please refer to the <a href="#">Identity Generation Guide</a>	<b>auto</b> , identity, sequence, table
generator	Name of the generator to use if wanting to override the default DataNucleus generator for the specified strategy. Please refer to the <code>&lt;sequence-generator&gt;</code> and <code>&lt;table-generator&gt;</code>	

# Metadata for datastore-id tag

These are attributes within the **<datastore-id>** tag (under **<entity>**). This is used to define the entity is using datastore identity (DataNucleus extension).

Attribute	Description	Values
column	Name of the surrogate column to add for the datastore identity.	
generated-value	Details of the generated value strategy and generator. Please refer to the <a href="#">&lt;generated-value&gt;</a>	

# Metadata for surrogate-version tag

These are attributes within the <**surrogate-version**> tag (under <entity>). This is used to define the entity has a surrogate version column (DataNucleus extension).

Attribute	Description	Values
column	Name of the surrogate column to add for the version.	
indexed	Whether the surrogate version column should be indexed.	true, <b>false</b>



# Metadata for embedded-id tag

These are attributes within the `<embedded-id>` tag (under `<attributes>`). This is used to define the field used to be the (embedded) identity of the class. **Note that this is not yet fully supported - specify the fields in the class**

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	

# Metadata for version tag

These are attributes within the `<version>` tag (under `<attributes>`). This is used to define the field used to hold the version of the class.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	

# Metadata for basic tag

These are attributes within the `<basic>` tag (under `<attributes>`). This is used to define the persistence information for the field.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	
fetch	Fetch type for this field	LAZY, EAGER
optional	Whether this field may be null and may be used in schema generation	true, false

# Metadata for temporal tag

These are attributes within the `<temporal>` tag (under `<basic>`). This is used to define the details of persistence as a temporal type. The contents of the element can be one of DATE, TIME, TIMESTAMP.

# Metadata for enumerated tag

These are attributes within the `<enumerated>` tag (under `<basic>`). This is used to define the details of persistence as an enum type. The contents of the element can be one of **ORDINAL** or **STRING** to represent whether the enum is persisted as an integer-based or the actual string.

# Metadata for one-to-one tag

These are attributes within the `<one-to-one>` tag (under `<attributes>`). This is used to define that the field is part of a 1-1 relation.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	
target-entity	Class name of the related entity	
fetch	Whether the field should be fetched immediately	<b>EAGER</b> , <b>LAZY</b>
optional	Whether the field can store nulls.	<b>true</b> , <b>false</b>
mapped-by	Name of the field that owns the relation (specified on the inverse side)	

# Metadata for many-to-one tag

These are attributes within the <**many-to-one**> tag (under <attributes>). This is used to define that the field is part of a N-1 relation.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	
target-entity	Class name of the related entity	
fetch	Whether the field should be fetched immediately	<b>EAGER, LAZY</b>
optional	Whether the field can store nulls.	<b>true, false</b>

# Metadata for element-collection tag

These are attributes within the <element-collection> tag (under <attributes>). This is used to define that the field is part of a 1-N non-PC relation.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	
target-class	Class name of the related object	
fetch	Whether the field should be fetched immediately	EAGER, LAZY



# Metadata for one-to-many tag

These are attributes within the <**one-to-many**> tag (under <attributes>). This is used to define that the field is part of a 1-N relation.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	
target-entity	Class name of the related entity	
fetch	Whether the field should be fetched immediately	EAGER, LAZY
mapped-by	Name of the field that owns the relation (specified on the inverse side)	
orphan-removal	Whether to remove orphans when either removing the owner or removing the element	false

# Metadata for many-to-many tag

These are attributes within the <many-to-many> tag (under <attributes>). This is used to define that the field is part of a M-N relation.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	
target-entity	Class name of the related entity	
fetch	Whether the field should be fetched immediately	EAGER, LAZY
mapped-by	Name of the field on the non-owning side that completes the relation. Specified on the owner side	

# Metadata for embedded tag

These are attributes within the `<embedded>` tag (under `<attributes>`). This is used to define that the field is part of an embedded relation.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	

# Metadata for order-by tag

This element is specified under <one-to-many> or <many-to-many>. It is used to define the field(s) of the element class that is used for ordering the elements when they are retrieved from the datastore. It has no attributes and the ordering is specified within the element itself. It should be a comma-separated list of field names (of the element) with optional "ASC" or "DESC" to signify ascending or descending

# Metadata for order-column tag

This element is specified under <one-to-many> or <many-to-many>. It is used to define that the List will be ordered with the ordering stored in a surrogate column in the other table.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the column	{fieldName}_ORDER
nullable	Whether the column is nullable	true, false
insertable	Whether the column is insertable	true, false
updatable	Whether the column is updatable	true, false
column-definition	DDL to use for the column (everything except the column name). This must include the SQL type of the column	
base	Origin of the ordering (value for the first element)	0

# Metadata for map-key tag

These are attributes within the `<map-key>` tag (under `<one-to-many>` or `<many-to-many>`). This is used to define the field of the value class that is the key of a Map.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	

# Metadata for map-key-class tag

These are attributes within the `<map-key-class>` tag (under `<one-to-many>` or `<many-to-many>`). This is used to define the key type for a Map.

Attribute	Description	Values
class	Type used for the key (required)	

# Metadata for map-key-temporal tag

Within the `<map-key-temporal>` tag (under `<element-collection>`, `<one-to-many>` or `<many-to-many>`) you put the `TemporalType` value.



# Metadata for map-key-enumerated tag

Within the **<map-key-enumerated>** tag (under **<element-collection>**, **<one-to-many>** or **<many-to-many>**) you put the EnumType value.

# Metadata for transient tag

These are attributes within the <**transient**> tag (under <attributes>). This is used to define that the field is not to be persisted.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field (required)	

# Metadata for index tag

These are attributes within the `<index>` element. This is used to define the details of an index when overriding the provider default.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the index	
unique	Whether the index is unique	
column-list	List of columns (including any ASC, DESC specifications for each column)	

# Metadata for foreign-key tag

These are attributes within the <foreign-key> element. This is used to define the details of a foreign-key when overriding the provider default.

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the foreign-key	
value	Constraint mode	
foreignKeyDefiniton	The DDL for the foreign key	

# Metadata for convert tag

These are attributes within the <**convert**> element, under <**basic**>. This is used to define the use of type conversion on this field.

Attribute	Description	Values
converter	Class name of the converter	
attribute-name	Name of the embedded field to convert (optional). <b>Not yet supported</b>	
disable-conversion	Whether to disable any auto-apply converters for this field	true, <b>false</b>

# Metadata for exclude-default-listeners tag

This element is specified under `<mapped-superclass>` or `<entity>` and is used to denote that any default listeners defined in this file will be ignored.

# Metadata for `exclude-superclass-listeners` tag

This element is specified under `<mapped-superclass>` or `<entity>` and is used to denote that any listeners of superclasses will be ignored.

# Metadata for entity-listener tag

These are attributes within the `<entity-listener>` tag (under `<entity-listeners>`). This is used to an EntityListener class and the methods it uses

Attribute	Description	Values
class	Name of the EntityListener class that receives the callbacks for this Entity	



# Metadata for pre-persist tag

These are attributes within the `<pre-persist>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to define any "PrePersist" method callback.

Attribute	Description	Values
method-name	Name of the method (required)	

# Metadata for post-persist tag

These are attributes within the `<post-persist>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to define any "PostPersist" method callback.

Attribute	Description	Values
method-name	Name of the method (required)	

# Metadata for pre-remove tag

These are attributes within the <pre-remove> tag (under <entity>). This is used to define any "PreRemove" method callback.

Attribute	Description	Values
method-name	Name of the method (required)	

# Metadata for post-remove tag

These are attributes within the <post-remove> tag (under <entity>). This is used to define any "PostRemove" method callback.

Attribute	Description	Values
method-name	Name of the method (required)	

# Metadata for pre-update tag

These are attributes within the `<pre-remove>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to define any "PreUpdate" method callback.

Attribute	Description	Values
method-name	Name of the method (required)	

# Metadata for post-update tag

These are attributes within the <post-update> tag (under <entity>). This is used to define any "PostUpdate" method callback.

Attribute	Description	Values
method-name	Name of the method (required)	

# Metadata for post-load tag

These are attributes within the `<post-load>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to define any "PostLoad" method callback.

Attribute	Description	Values
method-name	Name of the method (required)	

# Metadata for attribute-override tag

These are attributes within the `<attribute-override>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to override the columns for any fields in superclasses

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field/property (required)	



# Metadata for association-override tag

These are attributes within the `<association-override>` tag (under `<entity>`). This is used to override the columns for any N-1/1-1 fields in superclasses

Attribute	Description	Values
name	Name of the field/property (required)	