**What is JPA**

JPA(Java Persistence API) is a specification that provides guidelines to implement an ORM tool, like Hibernate. It is only a specification and can not provide any concrete functionality to your application. Its only purpose is to provide a set of rules and guidelines that can be followed by JPA implementation vendors such as Hbernate, iBATIS, Eclipse link etc. to create an ORM implementation in a standardized manner.

There are many ORM tools available like iBATIS, Hibernate, Open JPA. Among all these tools, Hibernate is the most widely used ORM tool. This is the tool which existed before the existence of JPA. It has many additional features apart from defined by JPA

The **javax.persistence** package contains the JPA classes and interfaces.