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What is the difference between primitive and non primitive data types in Java?



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7 Answers



Will Merges, Programmer

Answered Jul 6, 2017

Primitives are the most basic kinds of data types and they directly contain values. There are eight primitive types in total:

- byte
- short
- int
- long
- char
- boolean
- float
- double

Non primitive data types are called reference types in Java and they refer to an object. They are created by the programmer and are not defined by Java like primitives are. A reference type references a memory location where the data is stored rather than directly containing a value.

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Gyan Prakash Tiwary, Ph.D Web Services Security & Java Web Services, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (2019)

Answered Apr 19, 2017

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Nikhil Kumar Vats, CS guy

Answered Jan 4, 2017

I am keeping this answer short and point to point to avoid confusion.

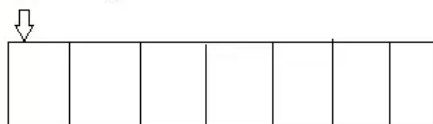
Primitive DataType: Primitive means “very basic”.

In Java, primitive datatype refer to basic (self-explanatory, you know it's an integer when you declare an **int**) datatype such as int, char, short, byte, float, long, double etc.

NonPrimitive DataType: Non primitive datatypes are those which uses primitive datatype as base like array, enum, class etc.

Below is example:

Primitive datatype



Array [Non primitive]

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Rushikesh Mandage, learning from life.

Answered Sep 24, 2017

Simple meaning of primitive is **very basic** or **crude**. So data types which are independent of any other data types are primitive one.

Basically they are self explanatory. Following are the primitive data types in Java.

- Boolean
- Char
- Int
- Float
- Double
- Long
- Short
- Byte

Whereas some data types are based on these primitive data types.

- String: Sequence of characters
- Array: Collection of variables of homogeneous data types.
Homogeneous means of same type. Either multiple integers or multiple booleans or multiple characters.

Hope you are clear.

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Maya Thakkar, Product Development Manager at LearnVern (2017-present)

Answered Feb 16

Primitive Data Types:

- Use var to specify the data types
- var can hold any type of values such as a numbers, strings, etc.

If you want to more information about primitive data types , so i can share free video tutorial. It's describe in details with example.

Primitive Data Types

Non Primitive Data Types:

- Object

- Array
- RegExp

If you want to more information about primitive data types , so i can share free video tutorial. It's describe in details with example.

Non Primitive Data Types

1.9k Views

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Nitesh Kumar, Software Development Manager (2017-present)

Answered Sep 25, 2017

Primitive datatypes are those that were available from the time of C-programming language and non-primitive are the ones that were developed after the arrival of **Object Oriented Approach**.

Primitive data types:

1. int
2. char
3. short
4. byte
5. float
6. long
7. double

Non-Primitive data types:

1. String
2. array
3. enum
4. class
5. etc.

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Bahubali Patil

Answered Jan 4, 2017

We don't have any methods to operate on primitive data types.

On non primitive data types we've readily available methods.

6/11/2018

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Any communication between client/server is through the objects. The objects can only be created from non primitive data types and not from primitive data types.

Hence non primitive data types are preferred.

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