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STRINGS IN JAVA

Strings-Introduction

- In Java, string is basically an object that represents sequence of char values. An array of characters works same as Java string.

<String_Type> <string_variable> = "<sequence_of_string>";

What is String in Java?

Generally, String is a sequence of characters. But in Java, string is an object that represents a sequence of characters. The java.lang.String class is used to create a string object.

There are two ways to create String object:

- By string literal
- By new keyword

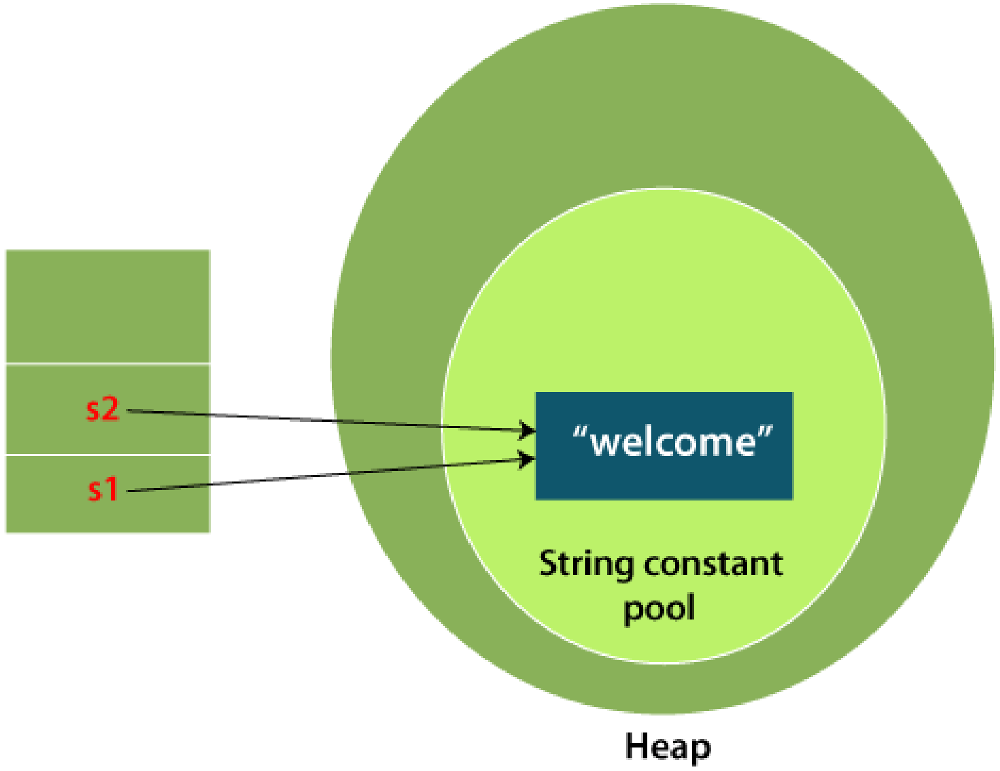
String Literal

Java String literal is created by using double quotes. For Example:

```
String s="welcome";
```

Each time you create a string literal, the JVM checks the "string constant pool" first. If the string already exists in the pool, a reference to the pooled instance is returned. If the string doesn't exist in the pool, a new string instance is created and placed in the pool. For example:

```
String s1="Welcome";
String s2="Welcome";//It doesn't create a new instance
```


s2
s1
"welcome"
String constant pool
Heap

String pool in Java

- The String pool is a special type of memory maintained by the JVM.
- String pool is used to store unique string objects.
- When you assign the same string literal to different string variables, JVM saves only one copy of the String object in the String pool, and String variables will start referring to that string object.

By new keyword

- String s=**new** String("Welcome");//creates two objects and one reference variable
- In such case, JVM will create a new string object in normal (non-pool) heap memory, and the literal "Welcome" will be placed in the string constant pool.
- The variable s will refer to the object in a heap (non-pool).

Java String class

- **Java String** class provides a lot of methods to perform operations on strings such as: compare(), concat(), equals(), split(), length(), replace(), compareTo(), intern(), substring() etc.

Java String class methods

No.	Method	Description
1	char charAt(int index)	It returns char value for the particular index
2	int length()	It returns string length
3	static String format(String format, Object... args)	It returns a formatted string.
4	static String format(Locale l, String format, Object... args)	It returns formatted string with given locale.
5	String substring(int beginIndex)	It returns substring for given begin index.

6	**String substring(int beginIndex, int endIndex)**	**It returns substring for given begin index and end index.**
7	boolean contains(CharSequence s)	It returns true or false after matching the sequence of char value.
8	static String join(CharSequence delimiter, CharSequence... elements)	It returns a joined string.
9	static String join(CharSequence delimiter, Iterable<? extends CharSequence> elements)	It returns a joined string.
10	boolean equals(Object another)	It checks the equality of string with the given object.
11	boolean isEmpty()	It checks if string is empty.

12	**String concat(String str)**	**It concatenates the specified string.**
13	String replace(char old, char new)	It replaces all occurrences of the specified char value.
14	String replace(CharSequence old, CharSequence new)	It replaces all occurrences of the specified CharSequence.
15	static String equalsIgnoreCase(String another)	It compares another string. It doesn't check case.
16	String[] split(String regex)	It returns a split string matching regex.
17	String[] split(String regex, int limit)	It returns a split string matching regex and limit.

18	**String intern()**	**It returns an interned string.**
19	int indexOf(int ch)	It returns the specified char value index.
20	int indexOf(int ch, int fromIndex)	It returns the specified char value index starting with given index.
21	int indexOf(String substring)	It returns the specified substring index.
22	int indexOf(String substring, int fromIndex)	It returns the specified substring index starting with given index.
23	String toLowerCase()	It returns a string in lowercase.

24	**String toLowerCase(Locale l)**	**It returns a string in lowercase using specified locale.**
25	String toUpperCase()	It returns a string in uppercase.
26	String toUpperCase(Locale l)	It returns a string in uppercase using specified locale.
27	String trim()	It removes beginning and ending spaces of this string.
28	static String valueOf(int value)	It converts given type into string. It is an overloaded method.

Java StringBuffer Class

- Java StringBuffer class is used to create mutable (modifiable) String objects.
- The StringBuffer class in Java is the same as String class except it is mutable i.e. it can be changed.

Important Constructors of StringBuffer Class

Constructor	Description
StringBuffer()	It creates an empty String buffer with the initial capacity of 16.
StringBuffer(String str)	It creates a String buffer with the specified string..
StringBuffer(int capacity)	It creates an empty String buffer with the specified capacity as length.

Important methods of StringBuffer class

Modifier and Type	Method	Description
public synchronized StringBuffer	append(String s)	It is used to append the specified string with this string. The append() method is overloaded like append(char), append(boolean), append(int), append(float), append(double) etc.
public synchronized StringBuffer	insert(int offset, String s)	It is used to insert the specified string with this string at the specified position. The insert() method is overloaded like insert(int, char), insert(int, boolean), insert(int, int), insert(int, float), insert(int, double) etc.

public synchronized StringBuffer	**replace(int startIndex, int endIndex, String str)**	**It is used to replace the string from specified startIndex and endIndex.**
public synchronized StringBuffer	delete(int startIndex, int endIndex)	It is used to delete the string from specified startIndex and endIndex.
public synchronized StringBuffer	reverse()	is used to reverse the string.
public int	capacity()	It is used to return the current capacity.
public void	ensureCapacity(int minimumCapacity)	It is used to ensure the capacity at least equal to the given minimum.

public char	**charAt(int index)**	**It is used to return the character at the specified position.**
public int	length()	It is used to return the length of the string i.e. total number of characters.
public String	substring(int beginIndex)	It is used to return the substring from the specified beginIndex.
public String	substring(int beginIndex, int endIndex)	It is used to return the substring from the specified beginIndex and endIndex.

Difference between String & StringBuffer

	String	StringBuffer
1)	The String class is immutable.	The StringBuffer class is mutable.
2)	String is slow and consumes more memory when we concatenate too many strings because every time it creates new instance.	StringBuffer is fast and consumes less memory when we concatenate t strings.
3)	String class overrides the equals() method of Object class. So you can compare the contents of two strings by equals() method.	StringBuffer class doesn't override the equals() method of Object class.
4)	String class is slower while performing concatenation operation.	StringBuffer class is faster while performing concatenation operation.
5)	String class uses String constant pool.	StringBuffer uses Heap memory

Example

```
class StringBufferExample{
public static void main(String args[]){
StringBuffer sb=new StringBuffer("Hello ");
sb.append("Java");//now original string is changed
System.out.println(sb);//prints Hello Java
}
}
```