| | [**Overview**](http://docs.google.com/overview-summary.html) | [**Package**](http://docs.google.com/package-summary.html) | **Class** | [**Use**](http://docs.google.com/class-use/RetentionPolicy.html) | [**Tree**](http://docs.google.com/package-tree.html) | [**Deprecated**](http://docs.google.com/deprecated-list.html) | [**Index**](http://docs.google.com/index-files/index-1.html) | [**Help**](http://docs.google.com/help-doc.html) | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | | ***Java™ Platform***  ***Standard Ed. 6*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [**PREV CLASS**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/Retention.html)   [**NEXT CLASS**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/Target.html) | [**FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/index.html?java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html)    [**NO FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/RetentionPolicy.html)     [**All Classes**](http://docs.google.com/allclasses-noframe.html) |
| SUMMARY: NESTED | [ENUM CONSTANTS](#3znysh7) | FIELD | [METHOD](#2et92p0) | DETAIL: [ENUM CONSTANTS](#1t3h5sf) | FIELD | [METHOD](#3rdcrjn) |

## **java.lang.annotation**

Enum RetentionPolicy

[java.lang.Object](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html)  
 [java.lang.Enum](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html)<[RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html)>  
 **java.lang.annotation.RetentionPolicy**

**All Implemented Interfaces:** [Serializable](http://docs.google.com/java/io/Serializable.html), [Comparable](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Comparable.html)<[RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html)>

public enum **RetentionPolicy**extends [Enum](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html)<[RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html)>

Annotation retention policy. The constants of this enumerated type describe the various policies for retaining annotations. They are used in conjunction with the [Retention](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/Retention.html) meta-annotation type to specify how long annotations are to be retained.

**Since:** 1.5

| **Enum Constant Summary** | |
| --- | --- |
| [**CLASS**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html#CLASS)            Annotations are to be recorded in the class file by the compiler but need not be retained by the VM at run time. |
| [**RUNTIME**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html#RUNTIME)            Annotations are to be recorded in the class file by the compiler and retained by the VM at run time, so they may be read reflectively. |
| [**SOURCE**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html#SOURCE)            Annotations are to be discarded by the compiler. |

| **Method Summary** | |
| --- | --- |
| static [RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html) | [**valueOf**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html#valueOf(java.lang.String))([String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) name)            Returns the enum constant of this type with the specified name. |
| static [RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html)[] | [**values**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html#values())()            Returns an array containing the constants of this enum type, in the order they are declared. |

| **Methods inherited from class java.lang.**[**Enum**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html) |
| --- |
| [clone](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#clone()), [compareTo](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#compareTo(E)), [equals](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#equals(java.lang.Object)), [finalize](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#finalize()), [getDeclaringClass](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#getDeclaringClass()), [hashCode](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#hashCode()), [name](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#name()), [ordinal](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#ordinal()), [toString](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#toString()), [valueOf](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Enum.html#valueOf(java.lang.Class,%20java.lang.String)) |

| **Methods inherited from class java.lang.**[**Object**](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html) |
| --- |
| [getClass](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#getClass()), [notify](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#notify()), [notifyAll](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#notifyAll()), [wait](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#wait()), [wait](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#wait(long)), [wait](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#wait(long,%20int)) |

| **Enum Constant Detail** |
| --- |

### SOURCE

public static final [RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html) **SOURCE**

Annotations are to be discarded by the compiler.

### CLASS

public static final [RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html) **CLASS**

Annotations are to be recorded in the class file by the compiler but need not be retained by the VM at run time. This is the default behavior.

### RUNTIME

public static final [RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html) **RUNTIME**

Annotations are to be recorded in the class file by the compiler and retained by the VM at run time, so they may be read reflectively.

**See Also:**[AnnotatedElement](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/reflect/AnnotatedElement.html)

| **Method Detail** |
| --- |

### values

public static [RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html)[] **values**()

Returns an array containing the constants of this enum type, in the order they are declared. This method may be used to iterate over the constants as follows:

for (RetentionPolicy c : RetentionPolicy.values())  
  System.out.println(c);

**Returns:**an array containing the constants of this enum type, in the order they are declared

### valueOf

public static [RetentionPolicy](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/annotation/RetentionPolicy.html) **valueOf**([String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) name)

Returns the enum constant of this type with the specified name. The string must match *exactly* an identifier used to declare an enum constant in this type. (Extraneous whitespace characters are not permitted.)

**Parameters:**name - the name of the enum constant to be returned. **Returns:**the enum constant with the specified name **Throws:** [IllegalArgumentException](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/IllegalArgumentException.html) - if this enum type has no constant with the specified name [NullPointerException](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/NullPointerException.html) - if the argument is null

| | [**Overview**](http://docs.google.com/overview-summary.html) | [**Package**](http://docs.google.com/package-summary.html) | **Class** | [**Use**](http://docs.google.com/class-use/RetentionPolicy.html) | [**Tree**](http://docs.google.com/package-tree.html) | [**Deprecated**](http://docs.google.com/deprecated-list.html) | [**Index**](http://docs.google.com/index-files/index-1.html) | [**Help**](http://docs.google.com/help-doc.html) | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | | ***Java™ Platform***  ***Standard Ed. 6*** |
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[Submit a bug or feature](http://bugs.sun.com/services/bugreport/index.jsp)

For further API reference and developer documentation, see [Java SE Developer Documentation](http://docs.google.com/webnotes/devdocs-vs-specs.html). That documentation contains more detailed, developer-targeted descriptions, with conceptual overviews, definitions of terms, workarounds, and working code examples.

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