| | [**Overview**](http://docs.google.com/overview-summary.html) | [**Package**](http://docs.google.com/package-summary.html) | **Class** | [**Use**](http://docs.google.com/class-use/Principal.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/security/PolicySpi.html)   [**NEXT CLASS**](http://docs.google.com/java/security/PrivateKey.html) | [**FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/index.html?java/security/Principal.html)    [**NO FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/Principal.html)     [**All Classes**](http://docs.google.com/allclasses-noframe.html) |
| SUMMARY: NESTED | FIELD | CONSTR | [METHOD](#3znysh7) | DETAIL: FIELD | CONSTR | [METHOD](#2et92p0) |

## **java.security**

Interface Principal

**All Known Subinterfaces:** [Group](http://docs.google.com/java/security/acl/Group.html) **All Known Implementing Classes:** [Identity](http://docs.google.com/java/security/Identity.html), [IdentityScope](http://docs.google.com/java/security/IdentityScope.html), [JMXPrincipal](http://docs.google.com/javax/management/remote/JMXPrincipal.html), [KerberosPrincipal](http://docs.google.com/javax/security/auth/kerberos/KerberosPrincipal.html), [Signer](http://docs.google.com/java/security/Signer.html), [X500Principal](http://docs.google.com/javax/security/auth/x500/X500Principal.html)

public interface **Principal**

This interface represents the abstract notion of a principal, which can be used to represent any entity, such as an individual, a corporation, and a login id.

**See Also:**[X509Certificate](http://docs.google.com/java/security/cert/X509Certificate.html)

| **Method Summary** | |
| --- | --- |
| boolean | [**equals**](http://docs.google.com/java/security/Principal.html#equals(java.lang.Object))([Object](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html) another)            Compares this principal to the specified object. |
| [String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) | [**getName**](http://docs.google.com/java/security/Principal.html#getName())()            Returns the name of this principal. |
| int | [**hashCode**](http://docs.google.com/java/security/Principal.html#hashCode())()            Returns a hashcode for this principal. |
| [String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) | [**toString**](http://docs.google.com/java/security/Principal.html#toString())()            Returns a string representation of this principal. |

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

### equals

boolean **equals**([Object](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html) another)

Compares this principal to the specified object. Returns true if the object passed in matches the principal represented by the implementation of this interface.

**Overrides:**[equals](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#equals(java.lang.Object)) in class [Object](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html) **Parameters:**another - principal to compare with. **Returns:**true if the principal passed in is the same as that encapsulated by this principal, and false otherwise.**See Also:**[Object.hashCode()](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#hashCode()), [Hashtable](http://docs.google.com/java/util/Hashtable.html)

### toString

[String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) **toString**()

Returns a string representation of this principal.

**Overrides:**[toString](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#toString()) in class [Object](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html) **Returns:**a string representation of this principal.

### hashCode

int **hashCode**()

Returns a hashcode for this principal.

**Overrides:**[hashCode](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#hashCode()) in class [Object](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html) **Returns:**a hashcode for this principal.**See Also:**[Object.equals(java.lang.Object)](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/Object.html#equals(java.lang.Object)), [Hashtable](http://docs.google.com/java/util/Hashtable.html)

### getName

[String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) **getName**()

Returns the name of this principal.

**Returns:**the name of this principal.

| | [**Overview**](http://docs.google.com/overview-summary.html) | [**Package**](http://docs.google.com/package-summary.html) | **Class** | [**Use**](http://docs.google.com/class-use/Principal.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/security/PolicySpi.html)   [**NEXT CLASS**](http://docs.google.com/java/security/PrivateKey.html) | [**FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/index.html?java/security/Principal.html)    [**NO FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/Principal.html)     [**All Classes**](http://docs.google.com/allclasses-noframe.html) |
| SUMMARY: NESTED | FIELD | CONSTR | [METHOD](#3znysh7) | DETAIL: FIELD | CONSTR | [METHOD](#2et92p0) |

[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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