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

## **javax.activation**

Interface DataSource

**All Known Implementing Classes:** [FileDataSource](http://docs.google.com/javax/activation/FileDataSource.html), [URLDataSource](http://docs.google.com/javax/activation/URLDataSource.html)

public interface **DataSource**

The DataSource interface provides the JavaBeans Activation Framework with an abstraction of an arbitrary collection of data. It provides a type for that data as well as access to it in the form of InputStreams and OutputStreams where appropriate.

**Since:** 1.6

| **Method Summary** | |
| --- | --- |
| [String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) | [**getContentType**](http://docs.google.com/javax/activation/DataSource.html#getContentType())()            This method returns the MIME type of the data in the form of a string. |
| [InputStream](http://docs.google.com/java/io/InputStream.html) | [**getInputStream**](http://docs.google.com/javax/activation/DataSource.html#getInputStream())()            This method returns an InputStream representing the data and throws the appropriate exception if it can not do so. |
| [String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) | [**getName**](http://docs.google.com/javax/activation/DataSource.html#getName())()            Return the *name* of this object where the name of the object is dependant on the nature of the underlying objects. |
| [OutputStream](http://docs.google.com/java/io/OutputStream.html) | [**getOutputStream**](http://docs.google.com/javax/activation/DataSource.html#getOutputStream())()            This method returns an OutputStream where the data can be written and throws the appropriate exception if it can not do so. |

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

### getInputStream

[InputStream](http://docs.google.com/java/io/InputStream.html) **getInputStream**()  
 throws [IOException](http://docs.google.com/java/io/IOException.html)

This method returns an InputStream representing the data and throws the appropriate exception if it can not do so. Note that a new InputStream object must be returned each time this method is called, and the stream must be positioned at the beginning of the data.

**Returns:**an InputStream **Throws:** [IOException](http://docs.google.com/java/io/IOException.html)

### getOutputStream

[OutputStream](http://docs.google.com/java/io/OutputStream.html) **getOutputStream**()  
 throws [IOException](http://docs.google.com/java/io/IOException.html)

This method returns an OutputStream where the data can be written and throws the appropriate exception if it can not do so. Note that a new OutputStream object must be returned each time this method is called, and the stream must be positioned at the location the data is to be written.

**Returns:**an OutputStream **Throws:** [IOException](http://docs.google.com/java/io/IOException.html)

### getContentType

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

This method returns the MIME type of the data in the form of a string. It should always return a valid type. It is suggested that getContentType return "application/octet-stream" if the DataSource implementation can not determine the data type.

**Returns:**the MIME Type

### getName

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

Return the *name* of this object where the name of the object is dependant on the nature of the underlying objects. DataSources encapsulating files may choose to return the filename of the object. (Typically this would be the last component of the filename, not an entire pathname.)

**Returns:**the name of the object.

| | [**Overview**](http://docs.google.com/overview-summary.html) | [**Package**](http://docs.google.com/package-summary.html) | **Class** | [**Use**](http://docs.google.com/class-use/DataSource.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/javax/activation/DataHandler.html)   [**NEXT CLASS**](http://docs.google.com/javax/activation/FileDataSource.html) | [**FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/index.html?javax/activation/DataSource.html)    [**NO FRAMES**](http://docs.google.com/DataSource.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.

Copyright 2006 Sun Microsystems, Inc. All rights reserved. Use is subject to [license terms](http://docs.google.com/legal/license.html). Also see the [documentation redistribution policy](http://java.sun.com/docs/redist.html).