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

## **javax.swing.text**

Interface Element

**All Known Implementing Classes:** [AbstractDocument.AbstractElement](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/AbstractDocument.AbstractElement.html), [AbstractDocument.BranchElement](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/AbstractDocument.BranchElement.html), [AbstractDocument.LeafElement](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/AbstractDocument.LeafElement.html), [DefaultStyledDocument.SectionElement](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/DefaultStyledDocument.SectionElement.html), [HTMLDocument.BlockElement](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/html/HTMLDocument.BlockElement.html), [HTMLDocument.RunElement](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/html/HTMLDocument.RunElement.html)

public interface **Element**

Interface to describe a structural piece of a document. It is intended to capture the spirit of an SGML element.

| **Method Summary** | |
| --- | --- |
| [AttributeSet](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/AttributeSet.html) | [**getAttributes**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getAttributes())()            Fetches the collection of attributes this element contains. |
| [Document](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Document.html) | [**getDocument**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getDocument())()            Fetches the document associated with this element. |
| [Element](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html) | [**getElement**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getElement(int))(int index)            Fetches the child element at the given index. |
| int | [**getElementCount**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getElementCount())()            Gets the number of child elements contained by this element. |
| int | [**getElementIndex**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getElementIndex(int))(int offset)            Gets the child element index closest to the given offset. |
| int | [**getEndOffset**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getEndOffset())()            Fetches the offset from the beginning of the document that this element ends at. |
| [String](http://docs.google.com/java/lang/String.html) | [**getName**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getName())()            Fetches the name of the element. |
| [Element](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html) | [**getParentElement**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getParentElement())()            Fetches the parent element. |
| int | [**getStartOffset**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#getStartOffset())()            Fetches the offset from the beginning of the document that this element begins at. |
| boolean | [**isLeaf**](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html#isLeaf())()            Is this element a leaf element? An element that *may* have children, even if it currently has no children, would return false. |

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

### getDocument

[Document](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Document.html) **getDocument**()

Fetches the document associated with this element.

**Returns:**the document

### getParentElement

[Element](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html) **getParentElement**()

Fetches the parent element. If the element is a root level element returns null.

**Returns:**the parent element

### getName

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

Fetches the name of the element. If the element is used to represent some type of structure, this would be the type name.

**Returns:**the element name

### getAttributes

[AttributeSet](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/AttributeSet.html) **getAttributes**()

Fetches the collection of attributes this element contains.

**Returns:**the attributes for the element

### getStartOffset

int **getStartOffset**()

Fetches the offset from the beginning of the document that this element begins at. If this element has children, this will be the offset of the first child. As a document position, there is an implied forward bias.

**Returns:**the starting offset >= 0 and < getEndOffset();**See Also:**[Document](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Document.html), [AbstractDocument](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/AbstractDocument.html)

### getEndOffset

int **getEndOffset**()

Fetches the offset from the beginning of the document that this element ends at. If this element has children, this will be the end offset of the last child. As a document position, there is an implied backward bias.

All the default Document implementations descend from AbstractDocument. AbstractDocument models an implied break at the end of the document. As a result of this, it is possible for this to return a value greater than the length of the document.

**Returns:**the ending offset > getStartOffset() and <= getDocument().getLength() + 1**See Also:**[Document](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Document.html), [AbstractDocument](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/AbstractDocument.html)

### getElementIndex

int **getElementIndex**(int offset)

Gets the child element index closest to the given offset. The offset is specified relative to the beginning of the document. Returns -1 if the Element is a leaf, otherwise returns the index of the Element that best represents the given location. Returns 0 if the location is less than the start offset. Returns getElementCount() - 1 if the location is greater than or equal to the end offset.

**Parameters:**offset - the specified offset >= 0 **Returns:**the element index >= 0

### getElementCount

int **getElementCount**()

Gets the number of child elements contained by this element. If this element is a leaf, a count of zero is returned.

**Returns:**the number of child elements >= 0

### getElement

[Element](http://docs.google.com/javax/swing/text/Element.html) **getElement**(int index)

Fetches the child element at the given index.

**Parameters:**index - the specified index >= 0 **Returns:**the child element

### isLeaf

boolean **isLeaf**()

Is this element a leaf element? An element that *may* have children, even if it currently has no children, would return false.

**Returns:**true if a leaf element else false

| | [**Overview**](http://docs.google.com/overview-summary.html) | [**Package**](http://docs.google.com/package-summary.html) | **Class** | [**Use**](http://docs.google.com/class-use/Element.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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