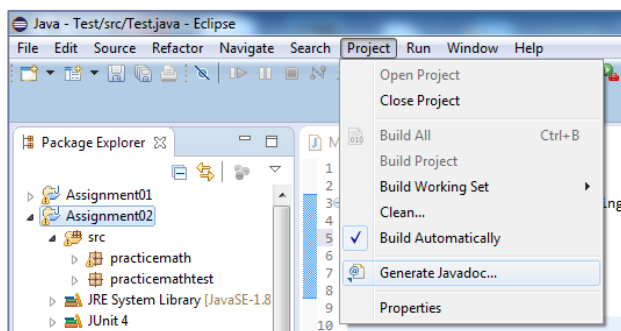# Generating Javadocs

How to Generate javadocs in Eclipse

Description:

This is a short step-by-step tutorial on generating Javadoc files, so that you can use Javadocs to document your assignments and labs.
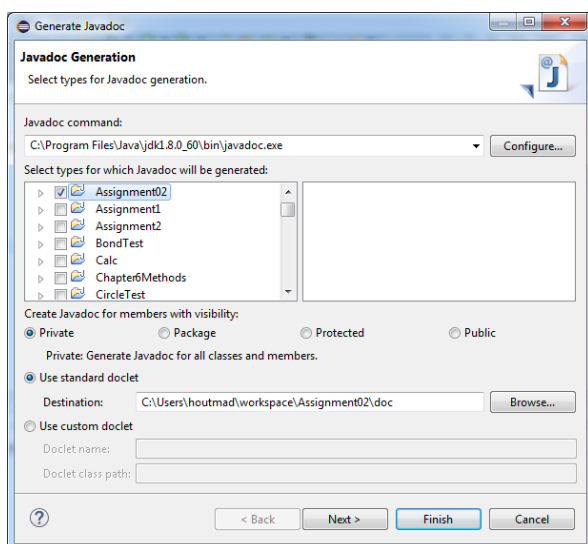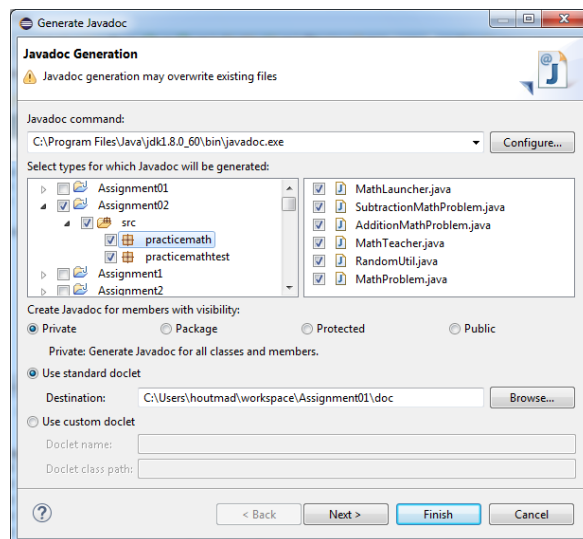
Generating Javadocs

Generating Javadocs in Eclipse
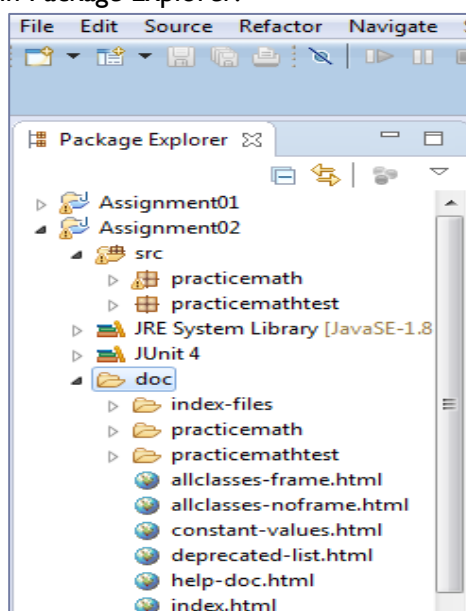
a. In Eclipse, select `Project > Generate Javadoc...`

b. From the Javadoc Generation Wizard that appears, select the Project that you wish to generate Javadocs for from the list of Projects in the list at left. (Note: see http://help.eclipse.org/juno/index.jsp?topic=%2Forg.eclipse.jdt.doc.user%2Freference%2Fref-export-javadoc.htm for a list of this Wizard's features.)

c. Note that you can expand the folders in this menu to specify which classes you wish to generate Javadocs for. For your assignments, make sure all the classes in the assignment are selected, and be sure the `private` radiobutton is selected, as indicated in the screenshot below.

d. At this stage, you can click on the 'Finish' button. If any additional menus appear, select the default, or click 'Yes to all'.

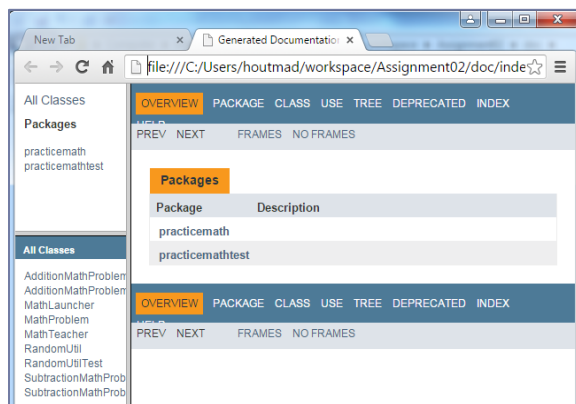e. The generator will create a `doc` folder containing a number of (mostly-) HTML files in Package Explorer.

f. You should make sure that this `doc` folder is included with any assignment submissions that have a Javadoc requirement.

g. If you double click on any of the HTML files, they will be opened up inside the Eclipse main code window. This is a rather confined space, and while you can explore Javadoc files in the IDE, a better choice might be to use you File Manager to navigate to the folder in which these HTML files are located. If you have the standard Java setup, this folder should be found at:

```
C:\Users\yourUserName\workspace
\yourProjectName\
```

Go into the `doc` folder and double click on the HTML files to load them into your browser directly.
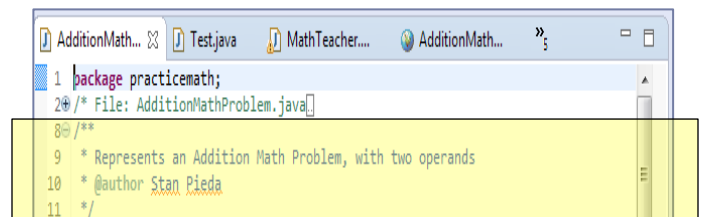
h. Probably the most useful HTML file to start with is `index.html`. As the name suggests, this file acts as a 'Table of Contents' for all the other files:
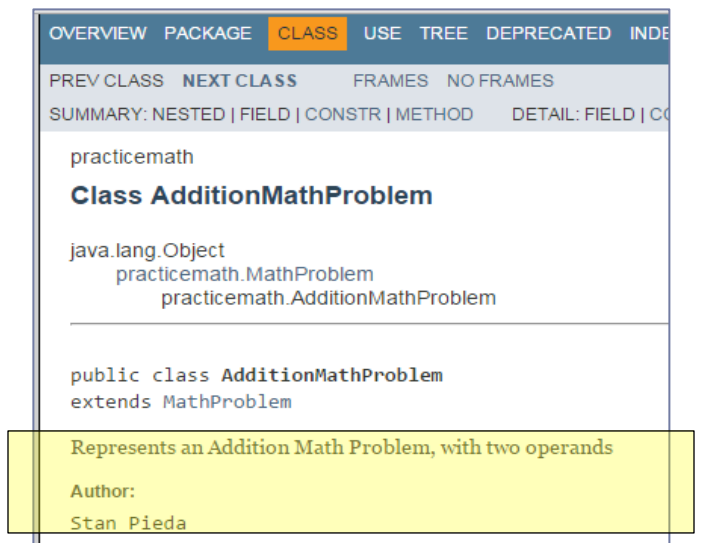

i. Note that the information in each HTML file comes from two sources. First, the Javadoc Generator is able to determine certain information from your classes, i.e. what they inherit from, and who they interface to, and who uses them, along with the parameters that are passed to methods and their return types, how many constructors there are, and so on.

The second source of information is the Javadoc comments that you provide in your .java files. Anything written between `/**… */`, along with any annotations (i.e. preceded by the @ symbol), such as

shows up in the appropriate HTML file:

So if your Java code contains appropriate Javadoc comments (written according to the College standard), then these will show up in the HTML files. These HTML files—more than the comments that you write in the .java files themselves—form a complete, hypertext-linked document explaining how you code works, what resources it uses, and how the pieces of the code fit together.