What I know about Java™ Classloaders

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1. Classloading Delegation

2. The Standard Classloaders

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2.1. The System Classloader

```
import java.net.URL;
                                                              Current ClassLoader is System Classloader
import java.net.URLClassLoader;
public class TestCommonClassloaders {
                                                              java.class.path: C:\classloadertest\classes
    private static void analyze(URLClassLoader classloader) { System Classloader
       boolean isParentAssigned
                                                               - parent is assigned
            = classloader.getParent() != null;
                                                                - urls: 2 entries
       System.out.println(" - parent "
                                                                     -> file:/C:/classloadertest/classes/
            + (isParentAssigned ? "is" : "IS NOT")
           + " assigned");
       URL[] urls = classloader.getURLs();
        if (urls == null)
            System.out.println(" - urls: null");
        else {
            System.out.println(" - urls: "
                + urls.length + " entries");
            for (int i = 0; i < urls.length; i++)</pre>
                System.out.println(" -> " + urls[i]);
   public static void main(String[] args) {
       URLClassLoader systemClassloader
            = (URLClassLoader) ClassLoader
            .getSystemClassLoader();
       boolean isSystemClassloader
            = TestCommonClassloaders.class
            .getClassLoader() == systemClassloader;
```

```
System.out.println("Current ClassLoader "
         + (isSystemClassloader ? "is" : "IS NOT")
         + " System Classloader");
System.out.println("----");
System.out.println("java.class.path: "
         + System.getProperty("java.class.path"));
System.out.println("System Classloader");
analyze(systemClassloader);
   System Property
  java.class.path
                                                     MainClass
                                              loads...
             reflected in ...
                              System
                             Class loade r
                                                       Also known as
  defaults ...
                                                    User Classloader and
                                                    Application Classloader
```

2.2. The Extension Classloader

ENV

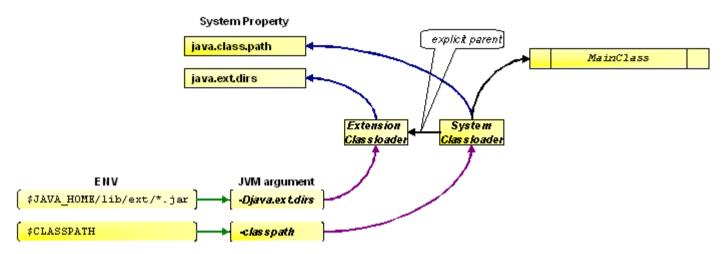
\$CLASSPATH

```
... see above ...
                                                             ... see above ...
   public static void main(String[] args) {
       ... see above ...
                                                             java.ext.dirs: C:\Programme\Java\jre1.5.0 02\lib\ext
       System.out.println("----");
                                                             Extension ClassLoader
       URLClassLoader extensionClassloader =
                                                               - parent IS NOT assigned
           (URLClassLoader) systemClassloader.getParent();
                                                               - urls: 4 entries
       System.out.println("java.ext.dirs: "
                                                                     -> file:/C:/Programme/Java/jre1.5.0_02/lib/ext/dnsns
           + System.getProperty("java.ext.dirs"));
                                                                     -> file:/C:/Programme/Java/jre1.5.0_02/lib/ext/locale
       System.out.println("Extension ClassLoader");
                                                                     -> file:/C:/Programme/Java/jre1.5.0 02/lib/ext/sunjce
       analyze(extensionClassloader);
                                                                     -> file:/C:/Programme/Java/jre1.5.0 02/lib/ext/sunpkc
```

sets entries (explicit) ...

JVM argument

-classpath



2.3. The Bootstrap Classloader

