

DAC 0521 MET-M Writeup - Java Module 1 Session 14

Reflection - It is a mechanism which allows a program to examine its own structure (objects) at runtime.

In Java every reference type is loaded (by the built-in application class loader from the corresponding class file which it searches in each directory/archive specified in the class-path which defaults to the current directory) into the memory as an instance of generic `java.lang.Class` the reference to which can be obtained as follows

(1) from the literal name of the type `T` which is known at compile time

```
java.lang.Class<T> c = T.class;
```

(2) from an object `obj` of any class

```
java.lang.Class<?> c = obj.getClass();
```

(3) from the fully qualified name `N` of the class discovered at runtime

```
java.lang.Class<?> c = Class.forName(N);
```