Java Arrays

Normally, an array is a collection of similar type of elements which have a contiguous memory location.

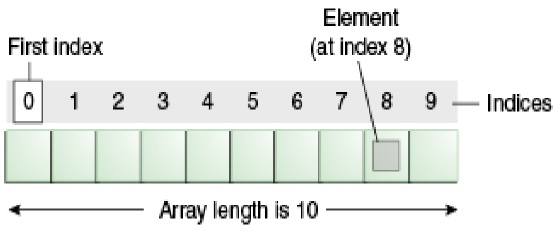
Java array is an object which contains elements of a similar data type. Additionally, The elements of an array are stored in a contiguous memory location. It is a data structure where we store similar elements. We can store only a fixed set of elements in a Java array.

Array in Java is index-based, the first element of the array is stored at the 0th index, 2nd element is stored on 1st index and so on.

Unlike C/C++, we can get the length of the array using the length member. In C/C++, we need to use the sizeof operator.

In Java, array is an object of a dynamically generated class. Java array inherits the Object class, and implements the Serializable as well as Cloneable interfaces. We can store primitive values or objects in an array in Java. Like C/C++, we can also create single dimentional or multidimentional arrays in Java.

Moreover, Java provides the feature of anonymous arrays which is not available in C/C++.



Advantages

- **Code Optimization:** It makes the code optimized, we can retrieve or sort the data efficiently.
- **Random access:** We can get any data located at an index position.

Disadvantages

- **Size Limit:** We can store only the fixed size of elements in the array. It doesn't grow its size at runtime. To solve this problem, collection framework is used in Java which grows automatically.

Types of Array in java

There are two types of array.

- Single Dimensional Array
- Multidimensional Array

Single Dimensional Array in Java

Syntax to Declare an Array in Java

```
dataType[] arr; (or)
dataType []arr; (or)
dataType arr[];
```

Instantiation of an Array in Java

```
arrayRefVar=new datatype[size];
```

Example of Java Array

Let's see the simple example of java array, where we are going to declare, instantiate, initialize and traverse an array.

```
//Java Program to illustrate how to declare, instantiate, initialize
//and traverse the Java array.
class Testarray{
public static void main(String args[]){
int a[]=new int[5];//declaration and instantiation
a[0]=10;//initialization
a[1]=20;
a[2]=70;
a[3]=40;
a[4]=50;
//traversing array
for(int i=0;i<a.length;i++)//length is the property of array
System.out.println(a[i]);
}}
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
10
20
70
40
50
```

Multidimensional Array in Java

In such case, data is stored in row and column based index (also known as matrix form).

Syntax to Declare Multidimensional Array in Java

```
dataType[][] arrayRefVar; (or)
dataType [][]arrayRefVar; (or)
dataType arrayRefVar[][]; (or)
dataType []arrayRefVar[];
```

Example to instantiate Multidimensional Array in Java

```
int[][] arr=new int[3][3];//3 row and 3 column
```

Example to initialize Multidimensional Array in Java

```
arr[0][0]=1;
arr[0][1]=2;
arr[0][2]=3;
arr[1][0]=4;
arr[1][1]=5;
arr[1][2]=6;
arr[2][0]=7;
arr[2][1]=8;
arr[2][2]=9;
```

Example of Multidimensional Java Array

Let's see the simple example to declare, instantiate, initialize and print the 2Dimensional array.

```java
//Java Program to illustrate the use of multidimensional array
class Testarray3{
public static void main(String args[]){
//declaring and initializing 2D array
int arr[][]={{1,2,3},{2,4,5},{4,4,5}};
//printing 2D array
for(int i=0;i<3;i++){
 for(int j=0;j<3;j++){
   System.out.print(arr[i][j]+" ");
 }
 System.out.println();
}
}}
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
1 2 3
2 4 5
4 4 5
```

Jagged Array in Java

If we are creating odd number of columns in a 2D array, it is known as a jagged array. In other words, it is an array of arrays with different number of columns.

```
//Java Program to illustrate the jagged array
class TestJaggedArray{
    public static void main(String[] args){
        //declaring a 2D array with odd columns
        int arr[][] = new int[3][];
        arr[0] = new int[3];
        arr[1] = new int[4];
        arr[2] = new int[2];
        //initializing a jagged array
        int count = 0;
        for (int i=0; i<arr.length; i++)
            for(int j=0; j<arr[i].length; j++)
                arr[i][j] = count++;

        //printing the data of a jagged array
        for (int i=0; i<arr.length; i++){
            for (int j=0; j<arr[i].length; j++){
                System.out.print(arr[i][j]+" ");
            }
            System.out.println();//new line
        }
    }
}
```

Output:

```
0 1 2
3 4 5 6
7 8
```

Example of Copying an Array in Java

```
//Java Program to copy a source array into a destination array in Java
class TestArrayCopyDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        //declaring a source array
        char[] copyFrom = { 'd', 'e', 'c', 'a', 'f', 'f', 'e',
                'i', 'n', 'a', 't', 'e', 'd' };
        //declaring a destination array
        char[] copyTo = new char[7];
        //copying array using System.arraycopy() method
        System.arraycopy(copyFrom, 2, copyTo, 0, 7);
        //printing the destination array
        System.out.println(String.valueOf(copyTo));
    }
}
```

Test it Now

Output:

```
caffein
```

Cloning an Array in Java

Since, Java array implements the Cloneable interface, we can create the clone of the Java array. If we create the clone of a single-dimensional array, it creates the deep copy of the Java array. It means, it will copy the actual value. But, if we create the clone of a multidimensional array, it creates the shallow copy of the Java array which means it copies the references.

```java
//Java Program to clone the array
class Testarray1{
public static void main(String args[]){
int arr[]={33,3,4,5};
System.out.println("Printing original array:");
for(int i:arr)
System.out.println(i);

System.out.println("Printing clone of the array:");
int carr[]=arr.clone();
for(int i:carr)
System.out.println(i);


 }}
```

Output:

```
Printing original array:
33
3
4
5
Printing clone of the array:
33
3
4
5
```