# **Directory and Filesystem Operations**

- This chapter is largely devoted to java.io. File class.
- The File class gives you the ability to list directories, obtain file status, rename and delete files on disk, create directories, and perform other filesystem operations.
- Note that many of the methods of this class attempt to modify the permanent file store, or disk file system, of the computer you run them on.

# **Getting File Information**

#### **Problem**

• You need to know all you can about a given file on disk.

#### **Solution**

• Use a java.io. File object.

java.io.File methods		
Modifier and Type	Method	Description
boolean	createNewFile()	It atomically creates a new, empty file named by this abstract pathname if and only if a file with this name does not yet exist.
boolean	canWrite()	It tests whether the application can modify the file denoted by this abstract pathname.String[]
boolean	canExecute()	It tests whether the application can execute the file denoted by this abstract pathname.
boolean	canRead()	It tests whether the application can read the file denoted by this abstract pathname.

boolean	isAbsolute()	It tests whether this abstract pathname is absolute.
boolean	isDirectory()	It tests whether the file denoted by this abstract pathname is a directory.
boolean	isFile()	It tests whether the file denoted by this abstract pathname is a normal file.
String	getName()	It returns the name of the file or directory denoted by this abstract pathname.
String	getParent()	It returns the pathname string of this abstract pathname's parent, or null if this pathname does not name a parent directory.
boolean	mkdir()	It creates the directory named by this abstract pathname.
long	length()	This method returns the length of the file denoted by this abstract pathname.
long	lastModified()	This method returns the time that the file denoted by this abstract pathname was last modified.
String	getCanonicalPath()	This method returns the canonical pathname string of this abstract pathname.
boolean	exists()	True if something of that name exists
String[]	list()	Returns an array of strings naming the files and directories in the directory denoted by this abstract pathname.
File[]	listFiles()	Returns an array of abstract pathnames denoting the files in the directory denoted by this abstract pathname.

```
Example: Java program to displays the property of a file and directory.
import java.io.File;
import java.io.IOException;
import java.util.Date;
public class FileStatus {
     public static void main(String[] argv) throws IOException {
           File f=new File("C:\\Users\\Sangram\\Documents\\JavaDemo
                                                         \\MyFile.txt");
           // Print File name
           String n = f.getName();
           System.out.println("File Name: " + n);
     // Print full name
     System.out.println("Canonical Name: " + f.getCanonicalPath());
           // Print parent directory if possible
           String p = f.getParent();
           if (p != null) {
                 System.out.println("Parent Directory: " + p);
           // Check if the file is readable
           if (f.canRead()) {
                 System.out.println("File is Readable.");
           }
           // Check if the file is writable
           if (f.canWrite()) {
                 System.out.println("File is Writable.");
```

}

```
// Report on the modification time.
           Date d = new Date(f.lastModified());
           System.out.println("Last Modified " + d);
           // See if file, directory, or other. If file, print size.
           if (f.isFile()) {
                 // Report on the file's size
           System.out.println("File size is " + f.length() + " bytes.");
           } else if (f.isDirectory()) {
                 System.out.println("It's a Directory");
           } else {
           System.out.println("It's Neither a File nor a Directory!");
           }
      }
}
Output:
File Name: MyFile.txt
Canonical Name: C:\Users\Sangram\Documents\JavaDemo\MyFile.txt
Parent Directory: C:\Users\Sangram\Documents\JavaDemo
File is Readable.
File is Writable.
Last Modified Thu May 21 22:47:27 IST 2020
File size is 69 bytes.
```

# Creating a File

#### **Problem**

• You need to create a new file on disk, but you don't want to write into it.

#### **Solution**

• Use a java.io.File object's createNewFile() method.

```
Example: Java program to create a new file.
import java.io.File;
import java.io.IOException;
public class CreateFile {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
          try {
             //creating a Java File instance
             File file = new File("H:\\DemoJava\\javaFile123.txt");
             //createNewFile(): Atomically creates
             //a new, empty file. If file is already
             //exist it show file exist message
             if (file.createNewFile()) {
                       System.out.println("New File is created!");
             } else {
                       System.out.println("File already exists.");
             }
```

New File is created!

# **Creating a Directory**

- You can use the Java File class to create directories if they don't already exists.
- The File class contains the method mkdir().
- The mkdir() returns true if the directory was created, and false if not.

```
Example: Java program to create a new Directory
import java.io.File;
public class CreateDirectory {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        //Creating a File object
        File file = new File("H:\\JAVA_DIR");
```

Directory created successfully

# **Renaming a File or Directory**

#### **Problem**

• You need to change a file's name on disk.

#### **Solution**

• Use a java.io.File object's renameTo() method.

```
Example: Java program to rename a file
import java.io.File;
public class Rename {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
```

```
//File objects for the existing name
          File oldName = new File("H:\\DemoJava\\javaFile123.txt");
          //File objects for the new name
          File newName = new File("H:\\DemoJava\\JAVA.txt");
          //renameTo(): Renames the file denoted
          //by this abstract pathname. If file is
          //already exist it show Error message
          if (oldName.renameTo(newName))
             System.out.println("Renamed successfully");
           else
             System.out.println("Error");
Output:
Renamed successfully
Example: Java program to rename a Directory
import java.io.File;
public class Rename {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
          //File objects for the existing name
          File oldName = new File("H:\\DemoJava");
```

```
//File objects for the new name
File newName = new File("H:\\Java");

//renameTo(): Renames the Directory denoted
//by this abstract pathname. If Directory is
//already exist it show Error message
if (oldName.renameTo(newName))

System.out.println("Renamed successfully");

else

System.out.println("Error");
}

Output:
```

Renamed successfully

# **Deleting a File and Directory**

#### **Problem**

• You need to delete one or more files from the disk.

#### **Solution**

- Use a java.io.File object's delete() method.
- It deletes files (subject to permissions) and directories (subject to permissions and to the directory being empty).

```
Example: Java program to delete a file
import java.io.File;
public class DeleteFile {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           //File objects for the new name
           File file = new File("H:\\DemoJava\\JAVA.txt");
           //file.delete(): Deletes the file or
           //directory denoted by this abstract path name. If
           //no such file display the failed to delete message
           if(file.delete())
              System.out.println("File deleted successfully");
           else
              System.out.println("Failed to delete the file");
      }
```

File deleted successfully

```
Example: Java program to delete a Directory.
import java.io.File;
public class DeleteDirectory {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           //File objects for the existing Directory name
           File DirName = new File("H:\\DemoJava");
           //Function for directory deletion
           deleteDir(DirName);
           System.out.println("The directory is deleted.");
}
     public static boolean deleteDir(File dir){
           //Returns an array of abstract pathnames
           //denoting the files in the directory
           //denoted by this abstract pathname.
        File[] files = dir.listFiles();
        if(files != null){
          for(File fileName : files){
             if(fileName.isDirectory()){
                deleteDir(fileName);
             } else {
                 fileName.delete();
```

```
System.err.println("** Deleted " + fileName + " **");
}
}
return dir.delete();
}
```

```
** Deleted H:\DemoJava\javaFile1.txt **

** Deleted H:\DemoJava\javaFile2.txt **

** Deleted H:\DemoJava\javaFile3.txt **

The directory is deleted.
```

# **Creating a Transient File**

#### **Problem**

• You need to create a file with a unique temporary filename, or arrange for a file to be deleted when your program is finished.

#### **Solution**

• Use a java.io.File object's createTempFile() or deleteOnExit() method.

## File createTempFile() method

- The **createTempFile**() function creates a temporary file in a given directory ( if directory is not mentioned then a default directory is selected).
- The function generates the filename by using the prefix and suffix passed as the parameters.

• If the suffix is null then the function uses ".tmp" as suffix. The function then returns the created file.

### • Syntax:

- public static File createTempFile(String prefix, String suffix)
  - prefix The prefix string defines the files name; must be at least three characters long.
  - **suffix** The suffix string defines the file's extension; if null the suffix ".tmp" will be used.
- public static File createTempFile(String prefix, String suffix, File directory)
  - prefix The prefix string defines the files name; must be at least three characters long.
  - suffix The suffix string defines the file's extension; if null the suffix ".tmp" will be used.
  - directory The directory in which the file is to be created. If the directory is not specified or a null value is passed then the function uses an default directory.

# File.deleteOnExit() method

- The *File.deleteOnExit()* method also deletes the file or directory defined by abstract pathname.
- The deleteOnExit() method deletes file in reverse order.

- It deletes the file when JVM terminates. It does not return any value.
- Once the request has been made, it is not possible to cancel the request. So this method should be used with care.
- Usually, we use this method when we want to delete the temporary file.
- A temporary file is used to store the less important and temporary data, which should always be deleted when JVM terminates.
- If we want to delete the .temp file manually, we can use File.delete() method.

**Example:** Java programs illustrates the use of createTempFile() function and deleteOnExit() method.

```
// prints absolute path
System.out.println("File path: "+f.getAbsolutePath());
// deletes file when the virtual machine terminate
   f.deleteOnExit();
// creates temporary file
f = File.createTempFile("tmp", null);
// prints absolute path
System.out.println("File path: "+f.getAbsolutePath());
// deletes file when the virtual machine terminate
   f.deleteOnExit();
   System.out.println(" ");
   System.out.println("*** Create Temporary file using
                                  Second Syntax ***");
// creates temporary file
f = File.createTempFile("tmp", ".txt", new File("D:/"));
// prints absolute path
System.out.println("File path: "+f.getAbsolutePath());
// deletes file when the virtual machine terminate
f.deleteOnExit();
// creates temporary file
f = File.createTempFile("tmp", null, new File("D:/"));
// prints absolute path
System.out.print("File path: "+f.getAbsolutePath());
```

```
// deletes file when the virtual machine terminate
f.deleteOnExit();

} catch(Exception e) {
    // if any error occurs
    e.printStackTrace();
}

Output:

*** Create Temporary file using First Syntax ***
File path: C:\Users\Sangram\AppData\Local\Temp\tmp11964534484036360606.txt
File path: C:\Users\Sangram\AppData\Local\Temp\tmp2999134140143943325.tmp

*** Create Temporary file using Second Syntax ***
File path: D:\tmp6661626881408204835.txt
```

# **Changing File Attributes**

File path: D:\tmp11537867165325446829.tmp

#### **Problem**

• You want to change attributes of a file other than its name.

#### **Solution**

• Use setReadOnly() or setLastModified().

# Java.io.File.setReadOnly() Method

- The **java.io.File.setReadOnly()** method switches the file to read only mode and denies any write operations on the file.
- The **setReadOnly**() method is a part of <u>File</u> class.

- The setReadOnly() function marks the specified file or directory such that only read operations are allowed on the file or directory.
- The function returns **boolean data type**. The function returns true if the File object could be set as Read only else false.

**Example:** Java programs illustrates the use of **setReadOnly()** method

```
import java.io.File;
public class SetReadOnly {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           try {
                 System.out.println("*** Before File Setting ***");
                 //Creates a new File instance
           File file = new
File("C:\\Users\\Sangram\\Documents\\JavaDemo\\FileOperation.txt");
           //Atomically creates a new, empty file
           file.createNewFile();
           //Get the file name
           String f = file.getName();
           if (file.canRead())
             System.out.println(f + " is Readable");
           else
```

```
System.out.println(f + " is Not Readable");
 if (file.canWrite())
   System.out.println(f + " is Writable");
 else
   System.out.println(f + " is Not Writable");
   file.setReadOnly();
 System.out.println("");
 System.out.println("*** After File Setting ***");
 if (file.canRead())
   System.out.println(f + " is Readable");
 else
   System.out.println(f + " is Not Readable");
 if (file.canWrite())
   System.out.println(f + " is Writable");
 else
   System.out.println(f + " is Not Writable");
} catch(Exception e) {
```

```
e.printStackTrace();
}
}
```

```
*** Before File Setting ***
FileOperation.txt is Readable
FileOperation.txt is Not Writable

*** After File Setting ***
FileOperation.txt is Readable
```

FileOperation.txt is Not Writable

# Java.io.File. setLastModified()

- The **setLastModified()** method is a part of File class.
- The function sets the last modified time of the file or directory. The function sets the last modified value of the file in milliseconds.
- Syntax:
  - public boolean setLastModified(long time)
- This function accepts a long value as parameter which represents the new last modified time.
- The function returns a boolean value which states whether the new last modified time is set or not.

```
Example: Java programs illustrates the use of setLastModified()
method
import java.io.File;
import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;
import java.util.Date;
public class SetLastModifiedTime {
     public static void main(String args[]) {
           File f = null;
         boolean bool = false;
         int year, month, day;
         long millisec;
         Date dt;
         try {
                // create new File object
                 f = new File("C:\\Users\\Sangram\\Documents
                                            \\JavaDemo\\abc.txt");
                 //Get the file name
                String FName = f.getName();
                System.out.println("*** Last Modification Time Before
                                                       Setting ***");
                // Report on the modification time.
                Date d = new Date(f.lastModified());
              System.out.println(FName + " is Last Modified on " + d);
                System.out.println("*** Last Modification Time After
                                                       Setting ***");
```

```
// date components
year = 2020;
month = 04;
day = 10;
// date in string
String sDate1 = day+"/"+month+"/"+year;
Date date1=new
           SimpleDateFormat("dd/MM/yyyy")
                                  .parse(sDate1);
// calculate milliseconds
millisec = date1.getTime();
// Check if the last modified time
// can be set to new value
if (f.setLastModified(millisec)) {
     // Display that the last modified time
     // is set as the function returned true
     System.out.println("Last modified time of "
                            + FName + " is set");
     // last modified time
      millisec = f.lastModified();
      // calculate date object
     dt = new Date(millisec);
     // Print on the modification time.
     System.out.println(FName + " is (new) Last
                            Modified on " + dt);
```

```
| else {
| // Display that the last modified time |
| // cannot be set as the function returned false |
| System.out.println("Last modified time cannot be set");
| }
| catch(Exception e) {
| // if any error occurs |
| e.printStackTrace();
| }
| }
| }
|
```

```
*** Last Modification Time Before Setting ***
abc.txt is Last Modified on Wed May 27 00:28:04 IST 2020
*** Last Modification Time After Setting ***
Last modified time of abc.txt is set
abc.txt is (new) Last Modified on Fri Apr 10 00:00:00 IST 2020
```

# Listing a Directory

#### **Problem**

• You need to list the filesystem entries named in a directory.

#### **Solution**

• Use a java.io.File object's list() or listFiles() method.

# list() method

- The **list()** method is a part of File class.
- The java.io.File.list() returns the array of files and directories in the directory defined by this abstract path name.
- The method returns null, if the abstract pathname does not denote a directory.
- Syntax:
  - public String[] list()
    - This function does not have any parameter
  - public String[] list(FilenameFilterf)
    - This function takes FilenameFilter object as parameter
  - The function returns a string array, or null value if the file object is file.
  - To list the filesystem entities named in the current directory, just write:
    - String[] list = new File(".").list()

**Example:** Java program to demonstrate the use of list() function to find all the files and directories in a given directory and current directory.

```
import java.io.File;
public class ListingDirectory {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           // try-catch block to handle exceptions
           try {
                 // Create a file object
                 File f = new File("C:\Users\Sangram\Documents");
                 // Get all the names of the files/Directory
                 // present in the given directory
                 String[] DirList = f.list();
                 System.out.println("Files/Directories are in the given
                                                          directory:");
                  // Display the names of the files
                 for (String dir : DirList) {
                       System.out.println(dir);
                 System.out.println();
                 // Get list of names from current directory
                 String[] Dirs = new java.io.File(".").list();
                 System.out.println("Files/Directories are in the current
                                                          directory:");
```

```
Files/Directories are in the given directory:
desktop.ini
JavaDemo
My Music
My Pictures
My Videos

Files/Directories are in the current directory:
.classpath
.project
.settings
bin
src
```

**Example:** Java program to demonstrate the use of *list(FilenameFilter f)* function to find all the files and directories in a given directory whose names start with "My".

```
import java.io.File;
import java.io.FilenameFilter;
```

```
public class ListingDirectory {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           // try-catch block to handle exceptions
           try {
                 // Create a file object
                 File f = new File("C:\Users\Sangram\Documents");
                 // Create a FilenameFilter
                 FilenameFilter filter = new FilenameFilter() {
                       public boolean accept(File f, String name) {
                            return name.startsWith("My");
                 };
                 // Get all the names of the directory
                 // present in the given directory
                 // and whose names start with "My"
                 String[] DirList = f.list(filter);
                 System.out.println("Files/Directories are in the given
                                                         directory:");
                 // Display the names of the files
                 for (String dir : DirList) {
                       System.out.println(dir);
                 }
           catch (Exception e) {
                       System.err.println(e.getMessage());
```

```
}
```

Files/Directories are in the given directory:

My Music

My Pictures

My Videos

# listFiles() method

- The **listFiles**() method is a part of <u>File</u> class.
- The function returns an array of Files denoting the files in a given abstract pathname if the path name is a directory else returns null.
- Syntax:
  - public File[] listFiles()
    - This function does not have any parameter.
  - o public File[] listFiles(FilenameFilter f)
    - This function takes FilenameFilter object as parameter.
  - o public File[]listFiles(FileFilterf)
    - This function takes FileFilter object as parameter.
  - The function returns a File array, or null value if the file object is a file.

- To get an array of already constructed File objects rather than Strings, use:
  - File[] list = new File(".").listFiles();

**Example:** Java program to demonstrate the use of listFiles() method to find all the files and directories in a given directory and current directory.

```
import java.io.File;
public class ListingDirectory {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           // try-catch block to handle exceptions
           try {
                 // Create a file object
                 File f = new File("C:\Users\Sangram\Documents");
                 // Get all the names of the files/Directory
                 // present in the given directory
                 File[] DirList = f.listFiles();
                 System.out.println("Files/Directories are in the given
                                                          directory:");
                 // Display the names of the files/Directories
                 for (int i = 0; i < DirList.length; i++) {
                 System.out.println(DirList[i].getName());
                 System.out.println();
```

```
// Get list of names from current directory
                 File[] Dirs = new File(".").listFiles();
                 System.out.println("Files/Directories are in the given
                                                          directory:");
                 // Display the names of the files/Directories
                 for (int j = 0; j < Dirs.length; j++) {
                       System.out.println(Dirs[j].getName());
                 }
           }
           catch (Exception e) {
                 System.err.println(e.getMessage());
           }
}
Output:
Files/Directories are in the given directory:
desktop.ini
JavaDemo
My Music
My Pictures
My Videos
Files/Directories are in the given directory:
.classpath
.project
.settings
bin
src
```

**Example:** Java program to demonstrate the use of listFiles(*FilenameFilter f*) function to find all the files and directories in a given directory whose names start with "out".

```
import java.io.File;
import java.io.FilenameFilter;
public class ListingDirectory {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           // try-catch block to handle exceptions
           try {
                 // Create a file object
                 File f = new File("C:\Users\Sangram\Documents)
                                                         \\JavaDemo");
                 // Get all the names of the files
                 // present in the given directory
                 // Create a FilenameFilter
                 FilenameFilter filter = new FilenameFilter() {
                       public boolean accept(File f, String name) {
                            return name.startsWith("out");
                       }
                 };
                 // Get all the names of the directory
                 // present in the given directory
                 // and whose names start with "out"
                 File[] DirList = f.listFiles(filter);
```

```
System.out.println("Files/Directories are in the given
                                                          directory:");
                 // Display the names of the files/Directories
                 for (int i = 0; i < DirList.length; i++) {
                       System.out.println(DirList[i].getName());
                 }
           }
           catch (Exception e) {
                 System.err.println(e.getMessage());
      }
}
Output:
Files/Directories are in the given directory:
output.txt
output1.txt
output2.txt
Example: Java program to demonstrate the use of listFiles(FileFilter f)
method to find all the files and directories in a given directory which are
text files.
import java.io.File;
import java.io.FileFilter;
public class ListingDirectory {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
```

```
// try-catch block to handle exceptions
try {
     // Create a file object
     File f = new File("C:\Users\Sangram\Documents)
                                               \\JavaDemo");
     // Get all the names of the files
     // present in the given directory
     // Create a FileFilter
     FileFilter filter = new FileFilter() {
            public boolean accept(File f) {
                 return f.getName().endsWith("txt");
      };
     // Get all the names of the files present
     // in the given directory
     // which are text files
      File[] files = f.listFiles(filter);
      System.out.println("Files are:");
     // Display the names of the files
     for (int i = 0; i < files.length; <math>i++) {
            System.out.println(files[i].getName());
      }
catch (Exception e) {
                  System.err.println(e.getMessage());
```

Files are:

abc.txt

BinaryInput.txt

BinaryOutput.txt

demofile.txt

MyFile.txt

MyInputFile.txt

MyOutputFile.txt

MyOutputFile1.txt

output.txt

output1.txt

output2.txt

# **Getting the Directory Roots**

#### **Problem**

You want to know about the top-level directories, such as C:\ and D:\ on Windows.

#### **Solution**

Use the static method File.listRoots().

### listRoots() method

- The **listRoots**() method is a part of File class.
- The listRoots() function returns the root directories of all the available file System roots.
- It is guaranteed that the pathname of any file on the system will begin with any one of these roots.

• The function returns **File array**, which contains all the file system roots.

**Example:** Java program to demonstrate the use of File.listRoots() method.

```
import java.io.File;
public class ListRoot {
     public static void main(String[] args) {
           // Get list of roots names
           File root[] = File.listRoots();
           // check if the root is null or not
           if (root != null) {
                  System.out.println("The List of Roots are: ");
                 // Print the list
                 for (File dr : drives) {
                        System.out.println(dr);
                  }
           else {
                  System.out.println("There are no roots");
            }
```

# **Output:**

The List of Roots are:

C:\ D:\

# Using Path instead of File

#### **Problem**

• You need more capability than the standard File class. You need to move, copy, delete, and otherwise work on files with a minimum of coding.

#### **Solution**

• Consider using the Path class, an intended replacement for File, and the Files class.

### java.nio.file.Path

- Path is the particular location of an entity such as file or a directory in a file system so that one can search and access it at that particular location.
- Path is an interface which is introduced in Java NIO file package during Java version 7, and is the representation of location in particular file system.
- As path interface is in Java NIO package so it get its qualified name as java.nio.file.Path.
- In general path of an entity could be of two types:
  - o absolute path

- It is the location address from the root to the entity where it locates
- o relative path
  - It is the location address which is relative to some other path.

### **Example:**

```
import java.io.File;
import java.nio.file.Path;
import java.nio.file.Paths;
public class PathDemo {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
           //Converts a path string, or a sequence of strings
           //that when joined form a path string, to a Path.
           Path path = Paths.get("C:\\Users\\Sangram\\Documents
                                             \\JavaDemo\\abc.txt");
           System.out.println("Relative path: " + path);
           //Returns a Path object representing
           //the absolute path of this path.
           Path absolute = path.toAbsolutePath();
           System.out.println("Absolute path: " + absolute);
           //Returns a name element of this path as a Path object.
           System.out.println("Name: " + path.getFileName());
           //Returns the root component
```

```
System.out.println("Root: " + path.getRoot());
//Returns the parent path
System.out.println("Parent: " + path.getParent());
//Returns the number of name elements in the path.
System.out.println("Name Count: " + path.getNameCount());
//Returns a name element of this path as a Path object.
System.out.println("First Directory: " + path.getName(0));
//Returns a relative Path that is a subsequence
//of the name elements of this path.
System.out.println("Sub Path: " + path.subpath(0, 2));
//Returns the string representation of this path.
System.out.println(path.toString());
// call toFile() to get
// File object from path
File file = path.toFile();
// print file details
System.out.println("File Name:" + file.getName());
if (!file.exists()) {
     System.out.println("This is a path.");
} else {
     System.out.println("This is a file.");
//Get the path of file.
System.out.println("Path: " + file.toPath());
```

}

Relative path: C:\Users\Sangram\Documents\JavaDemo\abc.txt Absolute path: C:\Users\Sangram\Documents\JavaDemo\abc.txt

Name: abc.txt

Root: C:\

Parent: C:\Users\Sangram\Documents\JavaDemo

Name Count: 5

First Directory: Users
Sub Path: Users\Sangram

C:\Users\Sangram\Documents\JavaDemo\abc.txt

File Name:abc.txt

This is a file.

Path: C:\Users\Sangram\Documents\JavaDemo\abc.txt