DataOutputStream

A DataOutputStream lets an application write primitive Java data types to an output stream, in a portable way.

An application can then use a DataInputStream to read the data back in.

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Serialization

The process of translating a data structure or object, into a format that can be stored on a file, is called serialization.

Only instances of Serializable classes can be serialized, meaning the class must implement the Serializable interface.

This interface doesn't have any methods, it's just used to mark the class as serializable.

All subtypes of a serializable class are themselves also serializable.

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Deserialization or Reconstituting an Object

The default serialization mechanism, writes the class of the object, the class signature, and the values of non-static fields.

These elements are used to restore the object, and it's state, during the read operation.

This process is called reconstituting the data, or deserialization.

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