What is Java?

Java is a popular programming language, created in 1995.

It is owned by Oracle, and more than **3 billion** devices run Java.

It is used for:

* Mobile applications (specially Android apps)
* Desktop applications
* Web applications
* Web servers and application servers
* Games
* Database connection
* And much, much more!

Why Use Java?

* Java works on different platforms (Windows, Mac, Linux, Raspberry Pi, etc.)
* It is one of the most popular programming language in the world
* It is easy to learn and simple to use
* It is open-source and free
* It is secure, fast and powerful
* It has a huge community support (tens of millions of developers)
* Java is an object oriented language which gives a clear structure to programs and allows code to be reused, lowering development costs
* As Java is close to [C++](https://www.w3schools.com/cpp/default.asp) and [C#](https://www.w3schools.com/cs/default.asp), it makes it easy for programmers to switch to Java or vice versa

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Java Comments

Comments can be used to explain Java code, and to make it more readable. It can also be used to prevent execution when testing alternative code.

## Single-line Comments

Single-line comments start with two forward slashes (//).

Any text between // and the end of the line is ignored by Java (will not be executed).

## Java Multi-line Comments

Multi-line comments start with /\* and ends with \*/.

Any text between /\* and \*/ will be ignored by Java.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

## Java Data Types

As explained in the previous chapter, a [variable](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_variables.asp) in Java must be a specified data type:

Data types are divided into two groups:

* Primitive data types - includes byte, short, int, long, float, double, boolean and char
* Non-primitive data types - such as [String](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_strings.asp), [Arrays](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_arrays.asp) and [Classes](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_classes.asp) (you will learn more about these in a later chapter)

## Primitive Data Types

A primitive data type specifies the size and type of variable values, and it has no additional methods.

There are eight primitive data types in Java:





Non-Primitive Data Types

Non-primitive data types are called **reference types** because they refer to objects.

The main difference between **primitive** and **non-primitive** data types are:

* Primitive types are predefined (already defined) in Java. Non-primitive types are created by the programmer and is not defined by Java (except for String).
* Non-primitive types can be used to call methods to perform certain operations, while primitive types cannot.
* A primitive type has always a value, while non-primitive types can be null.
* A primitive type starts with a lowercase letter, while non-primitive types starts with an uppercase letter.
* The size of a primitive type depends on the data type, while non-primitive types have all the same size.

Examples of non-primitive types are [Strings](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_strings.asp), [Arrays](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_arrays.asp), [Classes,](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_classes.asp)[Interface](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_interface.asp), etc. You will learn more about these in a later chapter.

Java Type Casting

Type casting is when you assign a value of one primitive data type to another type.

In Java, there are two types of casting:

* **Widening Casting** (automatically) - converting a smaller type to a larger type size  
  byte -> short -> char -> int -> long -> float -> double
* **Narrowing Casting** (manually) - converting a larger type to a smaller size type

## Java Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values.

Java divides the operators into the following groups:

* Arithmetic operators
* Assignment operators
* Comparison operators
* Logical operators

## Arithmetic Operators

Arithmetic operators are used to perform common mathematical operations.



## Java Assignment Operators

Assignment operators are used to assign values to variables.

A list of all assignment operators:



## Java Comparison Operators

Comparison operators are used to compare two values:



## Java Logical Operators

Logical operators are used to determine the logic between variables or values:



## Java Strings

Strings are used for storing text.

A String variable contains a collection of characters surrounded by double quotes

A String in Java is actually an object, which contain methods that can perform certain operations on strings. For example, the length of a string can be found with the length() method

There are many string methods available, for example toUpperCase() and toLowerCase()

The indexOf() method returns the **index** (the position) of the first occurrence of a specified text in a string (including whitespace)

The + operator can be used between strings to combine them. This is called **concatenation**

You can also use the concat() method to concatenate two strings

Because strings must be written within quotes, Java will misunderstand this string, and generate an error:

String txt = "We are the so-called "Vikings" from the north.";

The solution to avoid this problem, is to use the **backslash escape character**.

The backslash (\) escape character turns special characters into string characters:

The sequence \"  inserts a double quote in a string



Java Conditions and If Statements

Java supports the usual logical conditions from mathematics:

* Less than: a < b
* Less than or equal to: a <= b
* Greater than: a > b
* Greater than or equal to: a >= b
* Equal to a == b
* Not Equal to: a != b

You can use these conditions to perform different actions for different decisions.

Java has the following conditional statements:

* Use if to specify a block of code to be executed, if a specified condition is true
* Use else to specify a block of code to be executed, if the same condition is false
* Use else if to specify a new condition to test, if the first condition is false
* Use switch to specify many alternative blocks of code to be executed

## Short Hand If...Else

There is also a short-hand [if else](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_conditions.asp), which is known as the **ternary operator** because it consists of three operands.

It can be used to replace multiple lines of code with a single line, and is most often used to replace simple if else statements:

### **Syntax**

variable *= (*condition*) ?* expressionTrue *:*  expressionFalse*;*

## Java Arrays

Arrays are used to store multiple values in a single variable, instead of declaring separate variables for each value.

To declare an array, define the variable type with **square brackets**:

String[] cars;

We have now declared a variable that holds an array of strings. To insert values to it, we can use an array literal - place the values in a comma-separated list, inside curly braces:

String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};

## Access the Elements of an Array

You access an array element by referring to the index number.

This statement accesses the value of the first element in cars:

String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};

System.out.println(cars[0]);

// Outputs Volvo

## Change an Array Element

To change the value of a specific element, refer to the index number:

cars[0] = "Opel";

**Array Length**

To find out how many elements an array has, use the length property:

String[] cars = {"Volvo", "BMW", "Ford", "Mazda"};

System.out.println(cars.length);

// Outputs 4

## Loop Through an Array

You can loop through the array elements with the for loop, and use the length property to specify how many times the loop should run.

## Multidimensional Arrays

A multidimensional array is an array of arrays.

To create a two-dimensional array, add each array within its own set of **curly braces**:

### **Example**

int[][] myNumbers = { {1, 2, 3, 4}, {5, 6, 7} };

Java - What is OOP?

OOP stands for **Object-Oriented Programming**.

Procedural programming is about writing procedures or methods that perform operations on the data, while object-oriented programming is about creating objects that contain both data and methods.

Object-oriented programming has several advantages over procedural programming:

* OOP is faster and easier to execute
* OOP provides a clear structure for the programs
* OOP helps to keep the Java code DRY "Don't Repeat Yourself", and makes the code easier to maintain, modify and debug
* OOP makes it possible to create full reusable applications with less code and shorter development time

**Tip:** The "Don't Repeat Yourself" (DRY) principle is about reducing the repetition of code. You should extract out the codes that are common for the application, and place them at a single place and reuse them instead of repeating it.

Java - What are Classes and Objects?

Classes and objects are the two main aspects of object-oriented programming.

Look at the following illustration to see the difference between class and objects:



Another example:



So, a class is a template for objects, and an object is an instance of a class.

When the individual objects are created, they inherit all the variables and methods from the class.

## Java Classes/Objects

Java is an object-oriented programming language.

Everything in Java is associated with classes and objects, along with its attributes and methods. For example: in real life, a car is an object. The car has **attributes**, such as weight and color, and **methods**, such as drive and brake.

A Class is like an object constructor, or a "blueprint" for creating objects.

## Create a Class

To create a class, use the keyword class:

Create a class named "Main" with a variable x

Remember from the [Java Syntax chapter](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_syntax.asp) that a class should always start with an uppercase first letter, and that the name of the java file should match the class name.

## Create an Object

In Java, an object is created from a class. We have already created the class named Main, so now we can use this to create objects.

To create an object of Main, specify the class name, followed by the object name, and use the keyword new

## Java Class Attributes

In the previous chapter, we used the term "variable" for x in the example (as shown below). It is actually an **attribute** of the class. Or you could say that class attributes are variables within a class

## Java Constructors

A constructor in Java is a **special method** that is used to initialize objects. The constructor is called when an object of a class is created. It can be used to set initial values for object attributes

Note that the constructor name must **match the class name**, and it cannot have a **return type** (like void).

Also note that the constructor is called when the object is created.

All classes have constructors by default: if you do not create a class constructor yourself, Java creates one for you. However, then you are not able to set initial values for object attributes.

Modifiers

By now, you are quite familiar with the public keyword that appears in almost all of our examples:

**public** class Main

The public keyword is an **access modifier**, meaning that it is used to set the access level for classes, attributes, methods and constructors.

We divide modifiers into two groups:

* **Access Modifiers** - controls the access level
* **Non-Access Modifiers** - do not control access level, but provides other functionality

## Access Modifiers

For **classes**, you can use either public or default:



For **attributes, methods and constructors**, you can use the one of the following:



## Non-Access Modifiers

For **classes**, you can use either final or abstract:



For **attributes and methods**, you can use the one of the following:



# **Java Encapsulation**

## Encapsulation

The meaning of **Encapsulation**, is to make sure that "sensitive" data is hidden from users. To achieve this, you must:

* declare class variables/attributes as private
* provide public **get** and **set** methods to access and update the value of a private variable

## Get and Set

You learned from the previous chapter that private variables can only be accessed within the same class (an outside class has no access to it). However, it is possible to access them if we provide public **get** and **set** methods.

The get method returns the variable value, and the set method sets the value.

Syntax for both is that they start with either get or set, followed by the name of the variable, with the first letter in upper case

Why Encapsulation?

* Better control of class attributes and methods
* Class attributes can be made **read-only** (if you only use the get method), or **write-only** (if you only use the set method)
* Flexible: the programmer can change one part of the code without affecting other parts
* Increased security of data

# **Java Inheritance**

## Java Inheritance (Subclass and Superclass)

In Java, it is possible to inherit attributes and methods from one class to another. We group the "inheritance concept" into two categories:

* **subclass** (child) - the class that inherits from another class
* **superclass** (parent) - the class being inherited from

To inherit from a class, use the extends keyword.

In the example below, the Car class (subclass) inherits the attributes and methods from the Vehicle class (superclass)

Did you notice the protected modifier in Vehicle?

We set the **brand** attribute in **Vehicle** to a protected access modifier. If it was set to private, the Car class would not be able to access it.

#### **Why And When To Use "Inheritance"?**

- It is useful for code reusability: reuse attributes and methods of an existing class when you create a new class.

# **Java Polymorphism**

## Java Polymorphism

Polymorphism means "many forms", and it occurs when we have many classes that are related to each other by inheritance.

Like we specified in the previous chapter; **[Inheritance](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_inheritance.asp)** lets us inherit attributes and methods from another class. **Polymorphism** uses those methods to perform different tasks. This allows us to perform a single action in different ways.

For example, think of a superclass called Animal that has a method called animalSound(). Subclasses of Animals could be Pigs, Cats, Dogs, Birds - And they also have their own implementation of an animal sound (the pig oinks, and the cat meows, etc.):

Remember from the [Inheritance chapter](https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_inheritance.asp) that we use the extends keyword to inherit from a class.

Now we can create Pig and Dog objects and call the animalSound() method on both of them:

#### **Why And When To Use "Inheritance" and "Polymorphism"?**

- It is useful for code reusability: reuse attributes and methods of an existing class when you create a new class.

# **Java Abstraction**

## Abstract Classes and Methods

Data **abstraction** is the process of hiding certain details and showing only essential information to the user.  
Abstraction can be achieved with either **abstract classes** or **interfaces** (which you will learn more about in the next chapter).

The abstract keyword is a non-access modifier, used for classes and methods:

* **Abstract class:** is a restricted class that cannot be used to create objects (to access it, it must be inherited from another class).
* **Abstract method:** can only be used in an abstract class, and it does not have a body. The body is provided by the subclass (inherited from).

An abstract class can have both abstract and regular methods:

abstract class Animal {

public abstract void animalSound();

public void sleep() {

System.out.println("Zzz");

}

}

From the example above, it is not possible to create an object of the Animal class:

Animal myObj = new Animal(); // will generate an error

To access the abstract class, it must be inherited from another class.

#### **Why And When To Use Abstract Classes and Methods?**

To achieve security - hide certain details and only show the important details of an object.

# **Java Interface**

## Interfaces

Another way to achieve abstraction in Java, is with interfaces.

An interface is a completely "**abstract class**" that is used to group related methods with empty bodies

To access the interface methods, the interface must be "implemented" (kinda like inherited) by another class with the implements keyword (instead of extends). The body of the interface method is provided by the "implement" class

#### **Notes on Interfaces:**

* Like **abstract classes**, interfaces **cannot** be used to create objects (in the example above, it is not possible to create an "Animal" object in the MyMainClass)
* Interface methods do not have a body - the body is provided by the "implement" class
* On implementation of an interface, you must override all of its methods
* Interface methods are by default abstract and public
* Interface attributes are by default public, static and final
* An interface cannot contain a constructor (as it cannot be used to create objects)

#### **Why And When To Use Interfaces?**

1) To achieve security - hide certain details and only show the important details of an object (interface).

2) Java does not support "multiple inheritance" (a class can only inherit from one superclass). However, it can be achieved with interfaces, because the class can **implement** multiple interfaces. **Note:** To implement multiple interfaces, separate them with a comma (see example below).

## Multiple Interfaces

To implement multiple interfaces, separate them with a comma.

## Java equals()

Object class defined equals() method like this:

public boolean equals(Object obj) {

return (this == obj);

}

According to java documentation of equals() method, any implementation should adhere to following principles.

* For any object x, x.equals(x) should return true.
* For any two object x and y, x.equals(y) should return true if and only if y.equals(x) returns true.
* For multiple objects x, y, and z, if x.equals(y) returns true and y.equals(z) returns true, then x.equals(z) should return true.
* Multiple invocations of x.equals(y) should return same result, unless any of the object properties is modified that is being used in the equals() method implementation.
* Object class equals() method implementation returns true only when both the references are pointing to same object.

## Java hashCode()

Java Object hashCode() is a native method and returns the integer hash code value of the object. The general contract of hashCode() method is:

* Multiple invocations of hashCode() should return the same integer value, unless the object property is modified that is being used in the equals() method.
* An object hash code value can change in multiple executions of the same application.
* If two objects are equal according to equals() method, then their hash code must be same.
* If two objects are unequal according to equals() method, their hash code are not required to be different. Their hash code value may or may-not be equal.

## Importance of equals() and hashCode() method

Java hashCode() and equals() method are used in Hash table based implementations in java for storing and retrieving data. I have explained it in detail at [How HashMap works in java?](https://www.journaldev.com/11560/java-hashmap" \l "how-hashmap-works-in-java" \t "_blank)

The implementation of equals() and hashCode() should follow these rules.

* If o1.equals(o2), then o1.hashCode() == o2.hashCode() should always be true.
* If o1.hashCode() == o2.hashCode is true, it doesn’t mean that o1.equals(o2) will be true.

# toString()` method in Java

The toString() method returns the string representation of an object. It is widely used for debugging, printing objects’ contents in logs, etc. This post will discuss how to override the toString() method in Java.

The object class already contains the toString() method, which returns a string that “textually represents” the object. The default implementation of the Object.toString() method returns a string consisting of the class name, '@' character, followed by the unsigned hexadecimal representation of the hash code of the object. i.e,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | public String toString() {      return getClass().getName() + "@" + Integer.toHexString(hashCode());  } |

Since all Java objects inherit from java.lang.Object, you need to override the toString() method to get the desired string representation. Otherwise, the above default implementation of the toString() method will be invoked when you try to print an object.

## Enums

An enum is a special "class" that represents a group of **constants** (unchangeable variables, like final variables).

To create an enum, use the enum keyword (instead of class or interface), and separate the constants with a comma. Note that they should be in uppercase letters

You can access enum constants with the **dot** syntax:

Level myVar = Level.MEDIUM;

**Enum** is short for "enumerations", which means "specifically listed".

## Enum inside a Class

You can also have an enum inside a class

## Enum in a Switch Statement

Enums are often used in switch statements to check for corresponding values

## Loop Through an Enum

The enum type has a values() method, which returns an array of all enum constants. This method is useful when you want to loop through the constants of an enum

#### **Difference between Enums and Classes**

An enum can, just like a class, have attributes and methods. The only difference is that enum constants are unchangeable - cannot be overridden).

An enum cannot be used to create objects, and it cannot extend other classes (but it can implement interfaces).

#### **Why And When To Use Enums?**

Use enums when you have values that you know aren't going to change, like month days, days, colors, deck of cards, etc.

finalize() Method in Java and How to Override it?

The Java **finalize() method** of [Object class](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/object-class-in-java/) is a method that the [Garbage Collector](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/garbage-collection-java/) always calls just before the deletion/destroying the object which is eligible for Garbage Collection to perform clean-up activity. Clean-up activity means closing the resources associated with that object like Database Connection, Network Connection, or we can say resource de-allocation. Remember, it is not a reserved keyword. Once the finalize() method completes immediately, Garbage Collector destroys that object.

## Finalization:

Just before destroying any object, the garbage collector always calls finalize() method to perform clean-up activities on that object. This process is known as Finalization in Java.

***Note:****The Garbage collector calls the finalize() method only once on any object.*

## Syntax:

protected void finalize throws Throwable{}

Since the Object class contains the finalize method hence finalize method is available for every java class since Object is the superclass of all java classes. Since it is available for every java class, Garbage Collector can call the finalize() method on any java object.

## Why finalize() method is used?

finalize() method releases system resources before the garbage collector runs for a specific object. JVM allows finalize() to be invoked only once per object.

**How to override finalize() method?**

The finalize method, which is present in the Object class, has an **empty implementation**. In our class, clean-up activities are there. Then we have to **override this method** to define our clean-up activities.

JUnit Tutorial | Testing Framework for Java

JUnit tutorial provides basic and advanced concepts of **unit testing in java** with examples. Our junit tutorial is designed for beginners and professionals.

It is an *open-source testing framework* for java programmers. The java programmer can create test cases and test his/her own code.

It is one of the unit testing framework.

To perform unit testing, we need to create test cases. The **unit test case** is a code which ensures that the program logic works as expected.

The **org.junit** package contains many interfaces and classes for junit testing such as Assert, Test, Before, After etc.

## Types of unit testing

There are two ways to perform unit testing: 1) manual testing 2) automated testing.

#### **1) Manual Testing**

If you execute the test cases manually without any tool support, it is known as manual testing. It is time consuming and less reliable.

#### **2) Automated Testing**

If you execute the test cases by tool support, it is known as automated testing. It is fast and more reliable.

#### **Annotations for Junit testing**

The Junit 4.x framework is annotation based, so let's see the annotations that can be used while writing the test cases.

**@Test** annotation specifies that method is the test method.

**@Test(timeout=1000)** annotation specifies that method will be failed if it takes longer than 1000 milliseconds (1 second).

**@BeforeClass** annotation specifies that method will be invoked only once, before starting all the tests.

**@Before** annotation specifies that method will be invoked before each test.

**@After** annotation specifies that method will be invoked after each test.

**@AfterClass** annotation specifies that method will be invoked only once, after finishing all the tests.

## Assert class

The org.junit.Assert class provides methods to assert the program logic.

#### Methods of Assert class

The common methods of Assert class are as follows:

1. **void assertEquals(boolean expected,boolean actual)**: checks that two primitives/objects are equal. It is overloaded.
2. **void assertTrue(boolean condition)**: checks that a condition is true.
3. **void assertFalse(boolean condition)**: checks that a condition is false.
4. **void assertNull(Object obj)**: checks that object is null.
5. **void assertNotNull(Object obj)**: checks that object is not null.

## Varargs

It's possible to pass an arbitrary number of the same type arguments to a method using the special syntax named **varargs (variable-length arguments)**. These arguments are specified by three dots after the type. In the body of the method, you can process this parameter as a regular array of the specified type.

The following method takes an integer **vararg**parameter and outputs the number of arguments in the standard output using the**length** property of arrays.

public static void printNumberOfArguments(int... numbers) {  
    System.out.println(numbers.length);  
}

As you can see, a special syntax **...** is used here to specify a **vararg** parameter.

Now, you can invoke the method passing several integer numbers or an array of ints.

printNumberOfArguments(1);  
printNumberOfArguments(1, 2);  
printNumberOfArguments(1, 2, 3);  
printNumberOfArguments(new int[] { }); // no arguments here  
printNumberOfArguments(new int[] { 1, 2 });

This code outputs:

1  
2  
3  
0  
2

This example also demonstrates the difference between the arguments and parameters of a method. The method has only a single parameter but it can be called with several arguments.

**Varargs and other parameters**

If a method has more than one parameter, the vararg parameter must be the last one in the declaration of the method.

First example is incorrect, second one is correct:

public static void method(double... varargs, int a) { /\* do something \*/ }

public static void method(int a, double... varargs) { /\* do something \*/ }

## JVM

**Writing a program**

As a developer, the first thing you do while creating a program is writing the **source code** in a plain text file and saving it with an extension corresponding to the programming language you've chosen (.java for the Java language, .kt for Kotlin, and so on). A single program consists of one or more such files, which contain instructions specifying what the program does. The source code must follow the syntax rules of the respective language and be easy to read and understand.

**Compilation**

After the code is written, you need to make the computer run the program. As computers don't understand the source code, it needs to be translated into a computer-comprehensible format. That's where a special program called a **compiler** comes in handy. The code obtained after compilation is called native code or low-level code. Each computer platform uses different low-level commands, just like people around the world speak different languages. It creates an additional challenge to use a program on different devices.

In the world of Java, a compiler (the javac tool for Java or the kotlinc tool for Kotlin) translates source code into an intermediate representation known as **Java bytecode**stored in files with a .class extension. Computers can't read bytecode without translation, but a system called the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) can execute it.

**Running a program**

The **Java Virtual Machine** is an application that represents a virtual computer according to the JVM specification document. It executes the compiled Java bytecode and translates it into low-level commands, which the computer understands. Each platform has its own version of the JVM, but since all JVMs match the same specification, your program will behave identically on different devices.

One of the main concepts of the Java Platform is "write once, run anywhere". It means that a program can run on various devices as long as they have a JVM installed. This concept is also frequently called **platform independence** or portability.

It's important to remember: the code input into the JVM is platform-independent, while the output code is platform-dependent.



*A platform-independent program in the world of Java*

If the JVM is installed on the computer, you can run a compiled JVM program using the java tool. It will open a file with the.class extension to launch the program from this file. The tool is the same for all JVM languages.

The picture below briefly summarizes the work cycle of a JVM program.



**JVM languages**

The Java Platform allows using more than one programming language to create programs. This is achieved by the design of the JVM: it doesn't know anything about any particular programming language. It only understands Java bytecode. If the tools for a programming language can generate bytecode, programs written in this language can be executed on the JVM. Such languages are often called **JVM languages**. They include Java itself, Kotlin, Scala, Groovy, Clojure, and others. So, to create programs in the world of Java, you can choose the most convenient language of your choice.

Nowadays, you can find tools to generate Java bytecode for almost any programming language, which means that there's hardly any language that is not a JVM language.



*Different programming languages can be used to write programs in the world of Java*

Methods provided by the Object class

The Object class provides some common methods to all subclasses. It has nine instance methods (excluding overloaded methods) which can be divided into four groups:

* **threads synchronization:** wait, notify, notifyAll;
* **object identity**: hashCode, equals;
* **object management**: finalize, clone, getClass;
* **human-readable representation**: toString;

This way of grouping methods isn't perfect, but it can help you remember them. Here's a more detailed explanation of the methods:

* The first group of methods (wait, notify, notifyAll) are for working in multithreaded applications.
* hashCode returns a hash code value for the object.
* equals indicates whether some other object is **"equal to"** this particular one.
* finalize is called by the garbage collector (GC) on an object when the GC wants to clean it up. (**Note:**this method has been deprecated as of JDK 9).
* clone creates and returns a copy of the object.
* getClass returns an instance of Class, which has information about the runtime class.
* toString returns a string representation of the object.

Some of the methods listed above are native, which means they are implemented in the **native** code. It is typically written in C or C++. Native methods are usually used to interface with system calls or libraries written in other programming languages.

In the following topics, we will consider these class methods in more detail.

# **Difference between JDK, JRE, and JVM**

### **JVM**

JVM (Java Virtual Machine) is an abstract machine. It is called a virtual machine because it doesn't physically exist. It is a specification that provides a runtime environment in which Java bytecode can be executed. It can also run those programs which are written in other languages and compiled to Java bytecode.

JVMs are available for many hardware and software platforms. JVM, JRE, and JDK are platform dependent because the configuration of each [OS](https://www.javatpoint.com/os-tutorial)

is different from each other. However, Java is platform independent. There are three notions of the JVM: specification, implementation, and instance.

2

The JVM performs the following main tasks:

* Loads code
* Verifies code
* Executes code
* Provides runtime environment

### **JRE**

JRE is an acronym for Java Runtime Environment. It is also written as Java RTE. The Java Runtime Environment is a set of software tools which are used for developing Java applications. It is used to provide the runtime environment. It is the implementation of JVM. It physically exists. It contains a set of libraries + other files that JVM uses at runtime.

The implementation of JVM is also actively released by other companies besides Sun Micro Systems.



### **JDK**

JDK is an acronym for Java Development Kit. The Java Development Kit (JDK) is a software development environment which is used to develop Java applications and [applets](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-applet)

. It physically exists. It contains JRE + development tools.

JDK is an implementation of any one of the below given Java Platforms released by Oracle Corporation:

* Standard Edition Java Platform
* Enterprise Edition Java Platform
* Micro Edition Java Platform

The JDK contains a private Java Virtual Machine (JVM) and a few other resources such as an interpreter/loader (java), a compiler (javac), an archiver (jar), a documentation generator (Javadoc), etc. to complete the development of a Java Application.



# **JVM (Java Virtual Machine) Architecture**

JVM (Java Virtual Machine) is an abstract machine. It is a specification that provides runtime environment in which java bytecode can be executed.

JVMs are available for many hardware and software platforms (i.e. JVM is platform dependent).

### **What is JVM**

1. **A specification** where working of Java Virtual Machine is specified. But implementation provider is independent to choose the algorithm. Its implementation has been provided by Oracle and other companies.
2. **An implementation** Its implementation is known as JRE (Java Runtime Environment).
3. **Runtime Instance** Whenever you write java command on the command prompt to run the java class, an instance of JVM is created.

### **What it does**

The JVM performs following operation:

* Loads code
* Verifies code
* Executes code
* Provides runtime environment

JVM provides definitions for the:

* Memory area
* Class file format
* Register set
* Garbage-collected heap
* Fatal error reporting etc.

## JVM Architecture

Let's understand the internal architecture of JVM.



### **1) Classloader**

Classloader is a subsystem of JVM which is used to load class files. Whenever we run the java program, it is loaded first by the classloader. There are three built-in classloaders in Java.

1. **Bootstrap ClassLoader**: This is the first classloader which is the super class of Extension classloader. It loads the rt.jar file which contains all class files of Java Standard Edition like java.lang package classes, java.net package classes, java.util package classes, java.io package classes, java.sql package classes etc.
2. **Extension ClassLoader**: This is the child classloader of Bootstrap and parent classloader of System classloader. It loades the jar files located inside $JAVA\_HOME/jre/lib/ext directory.
3. **System/Application ClassLoader**: This is the child classloader of Extension classloader. It loads the classfiles from classpath. By default, classpath is set to current directory. You can change the classpath using "-cp" or "-classpath" switch. It is also known as Application classloader.

**2) Class(Method) Area**

Class(Method) Area stores per-class structures such as the runtime constant pool, field and method data, the code for methods.

### **3) Heap**

It is the runtime data area in which objects are allocated.

### **4) Stack**

Java Stack stores frames. It holds local variables and partial results, and plays a part in method invocation and return.

Each thread has a private JVM stack, created at the same time as thread.

A new frame is created each time a method is invoked. A frame is destroyed when its method invocation completes.

### **5) Program Counter Register**

PC (program counter) register contains the address of the Java virtual machine instruction currently being executed.

### **6) Native Method Stack**

It contains all the native methods used in the application.

### **7) Execution Engine**

It contains:

1. **A virtual processor**
2. **Interpreter:** Read bytecode stream then execute the instructions.
3. **Just-In-Time(JIT) compiler:** It is used to improve the performance. JIT compiles parts of the byte code that have similar functionality at the same time, and hence reduces the amount of time needed for compilation. Here, the term "compiler" refers to a translator from the instruction set of a Java virtual machine (JVM) to the instruction set of a specific CPU.

### **8) Java Native Interface**

Java Native Interface (JNI) is a framework which provides an interface to communicate with another application written in another language like C, C++, Assembly etc. Java uses JNI framework to send output to the Console or interact with OS libraries.

## Multiple constructors

##### Theory

Sometimes we need to initialize all fields of an object when creating it, but there are cases in which it might be appropriate to initialize only one or several fields. Fortunately, for this purpose, a class can have several constructors that assign values to the fields in different ways. In this topic, you will learn how to work with multiple constructors and define the way they interact with each other.

##### Constructor overloading

You can define as many constructors as you need. Each constructor should have a name that matches the class name but the parameters should be different. The situation when a class contains multiple constructors is known as **constructor overloading**.

Example in Lesson 10 Robot class:

The class Robot has two constructors:

* Robot() is a no-argument constructor that initializes fields with default values;
* Robot(String name, String model) takes two parameters and assigns them to the corresponding fields.

To create an instance of the class Robot we can use either of the two constructors:

Robot anonymous = new Robot(); // name is "Anonymous", model is "Unknown"  
Robot andrew = new Robot("Andrew", "NDR-114"); // name is "Andrew", model is "NDR-114"

Bear in mind that you cannot define two constructors with the same number, types, and order of the parameters!

##### Invoking constructors from other constructors

We can also invoke a constructor from another one. It allows you to initialize one part of an object by one constructor and another part by another constructor.

Calling a constructor inside another one is done using this. For example:

this(); // calls a no-argument constructor

If you called a constructor that has parameters you can pass some arguments:

this("arg1", "arg2"); // calls a constructor with two string arguments

Remember, the statement for invoking a constructor should be the first statement in the body of a caller constructor.

Now, the class has three constructors:

* Robot() is a no-argument constructor;
* Robot(String name, String model) is a two-argument constructor that invokes another constructor;
* Robot(String name, String model, int lifetime) is a three-argument constructor that fills all fields.

The second constructor invokes the third one and passes name, model, and lifetime = 20 to it. The third constructor, in its turn, initializes all fields of the created object.

Super keyword

## Teory

Sometimes when we define a new subclass we need to access members or constructors of its superclass. Java provides a special keyword super to do this. This keyword can be used in several cases:

* to access instance fields of the parent class;
* to invoke methods of the parent class;
* to invoke constructors of the parent class (no-arg or parameterized).

Let's consider all of these cases with examples.

## Accessing superclass fields and methods

The keyword super can be used to access instance methods or fields of the superclass. In a sense, it is similar to the keyword this, but it refers to the immediate parent class object.

The keyword super is optional if members of a subclass have different names from members of the superclass. Otherwise, using super is the right way to access hidden (with the same name) members of the base class.

**Example.** There are two classes: SuperClass and SubClass. Each class has a field and a method.

In the constructor of SubClass , the superclass field is initialized using the keyword super. We need to use the keyword here because the subclass field hides the base class field with the same name.

In the body of the method printSubValue , the superclass method printBaseValue is invoked. Here, the keyword super is optional. It is required when a subclass method has the same name as a method in the base class. This case will be considered in the topic concerning overriding.

## Invoking superclass constructor

Constructors are not inherited by subclasses, but a superclass constructor can be invoked from a subclass using the keyword super **with parentheses**. We can also pass some arguments to the superclass constructor.

[ALERT-warning]Two important points:

* invoking super(...) must be the first statement in a subclass constructor, otherwise, the code cannot be compiled;
* the default constructor of a subclass automatically calls the no-argument constructor of the superclass.[/ALERT]

**Example.** Here are two classes Person and Employee. The second class extends the first one. Each class has a constructor to initialize fields.

In the provided example, the constructor of the class Employee invokes the parent class constructor for assigning values to the passed fields. In a way, it resembles working with multiple constructors using this().

## Objects

##### Theory

A typical object-oriented program consists of a set of interacting **objects**. Each object has its own state separated from others. Each object is an instance of a particular class (type) that defines common properties and possible behavior for its objects.

All classes from the standard library (**String**, **Date**) and classes defined by programmers are **reference types** which means that variables of these types store addresses where the actual objects are located. In this regard, the comparison and assignment operations work with objects differently than with primitive types.

##### Creating objects

The keyword **new** creates an object of a particular class. Here we create a standard string and assign it to the variable **str**:

String str = new String("hello");

The variable **str** stores a reference to the object **"hello"** located somewhere in the heap memory.

In the same way, we can create an object of any class we know.

Here is a class that describes a patient in a hospital information system:

class Patient {  
    String name;  
    int age;  
}

Here is an instance of this class:

Patient patient = new Patient();

Despite the fact that **String** is a standard class and **Patient** is our own class, both classes are regular reference types. However, there is a big difference between those classes and we will discuss it below.

##### Immutability of objects

There is an important concept in programming called **immutability**. Immutability means that an object always stores the same values. If we need to modify these values, we should create a new object. The common example is the standard **String** class. Strings are immutable objects so all string operations produce a new string. Immutable types allow you to write programs with fewer errors.

The class **Patient** is not immutable because it is possible to change any field of an object.

Patient patient = new Patient();  
  
patient.name = "Mary";  
patient.name = "Alice";

In the following topics, we will look at the existing immutable classes as well as learn how to create new ones and when to use them.

##### Sharing references

More than one variable can refer to the same object.

Patient patient = new Patient();  
  
patient.name = "Mary";  
patient.age = 24;  
  
System.out.println(patient.name + " " + patient.age); // Mary 24  
  
Patient p = patient;  
  
System.out.println(p.name + " " + p.age); // Mary 24

It is important to understand that two variables refer to the same data in memory rather than two independent copies. Since our class is mutable, we can modify the object using both references.

patient.age = 25;  
System.out.println(p.age); // 25

##### Nullability

As for any reference types, a variable of class type can be **null** which means it is not initialized yet.

Patient patient = null;

This is a common feature in Java available for classes since they are reference types.