



Javadoc

Java Programming using the Eclipse IDE

transforming performance
through learning

Outline

- **Javadoc**
 - What is documentation?
 - Why do we want it?
- **The Java API**
 - How to search for new information
- **Writing our own documentation**

Objectives

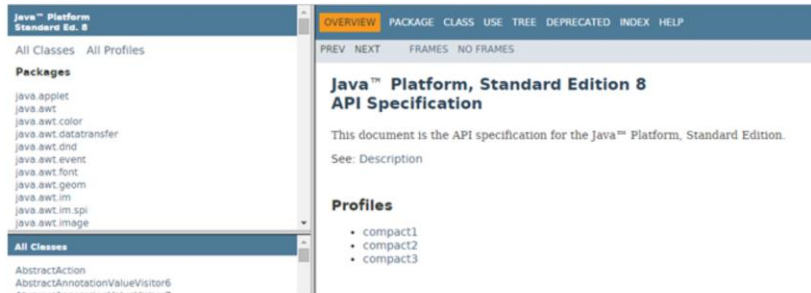
- **Know where to go for more information about java classes**
- **Be able to write our own documentation**
 - Generate Javadoc from comments in the code

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What is Javadoc?

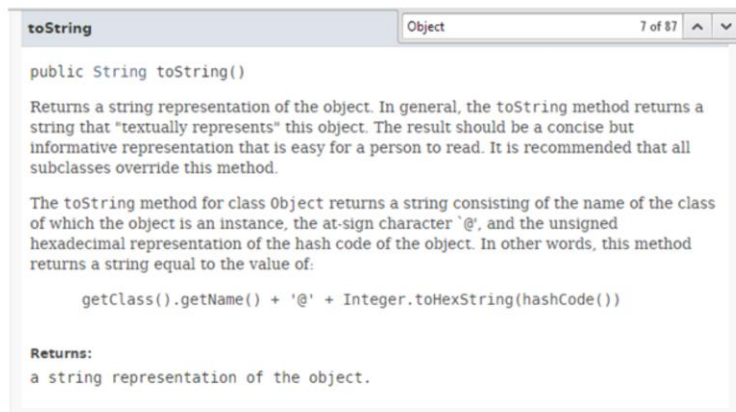
- **Java Documentation**
 - Generated directly from the source code using comments
 - Creates a set of HTML documents
 - Specific format for comments
 - Allows others to understand the classes you have written
 - Also allows us to look up how to use classes in the main API
- <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/>



There is a very good guide to javadoc on the Oracle website:
<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/articles/java/index-137868.html>

Why do we want extensive documentation?

- **Makes your code easier to understand**
 - For you now
 - For you in the future
 - For other people at any point
- **Lets anyone understand what a method does without needing to look at the implementation of that method**



The screenshot shows the Eclipse IDE's Javadoc viewer for the `toString()` method of the `Object` class. The title bar indicates 'toString' and 'Object', with a page indicator '7 of 87'. The content includes the method signature `public String toString()`, a general description of the method's purpose, a specific description for the `Object` class, the source code implementation, and the return value.

```
public String toString()
```

Returns a string representation of the object. In general, the `toString` method returns a string that "textually represents" this object. The result should be a concise but informative representation that is easy for a person to read. It is recommended that all subclasses override this method.

The `toString` method for class `Object` returns a string consisting of the name of the class of which the object is an instance, the at-sign character '@', and the unsigned hexadecimal representation of the hash code of the object. In other words, this method returns a string equal to the value of:

```
getClass().getName() + '@' + Integer.toHexString(hashCode())
```

Returns:
a string representation of the object.

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Writing our own JavaDoc

- **Javadoc is generated from the comments in the code**
 - The second star at the start of the comment identifies it to the Javadoc compiler

```
/**  
 * This is a javadoc comment  
 */
```

- **There are annotations which let us specify information about the comment**
 - These annotations are used to generate the formatting in the eventual webpage created

```
@param      @author      @since      @serial  
@return      @version      @throws      @serialField  
@see         @deprecated @exception @serialData  
{@link}
```


Writing our own javadoc

- **Eclipse will attempt to help you write the javadoc as much as it can**
 - If you start a comment with `/**` it will add any annotations it considered applicable at the time
- **@Author**
 - Added on javadoc comments at the class level. The author of the class

```
/**  
 * Class to hold information about a book  
 * @author Kat  
 */  
public class Book {
```

Writing Javadoc for methods

- **Generally you want to write Javadoc for public methods**
 - You can write it for private methods, but as nothing outside that class can access that method then it is not often necessary
- **@param**
 - Parameters for the method, should include the name of the parameter, the type and a short description

```
/**
 * Constructor for book
 * @param name String title of the book
 * @param authors String array up to five authors
 * @param price double price of the book
 */
public Book(String name, String[] authors, double price) {
    this.name = name;
    this.authors = authors;
    this.price = price;
}
```

Writing Javadoc for Methods

- **@return**
 - What is returned from a method, including the type

```
/**
 * Returns the title of the book
 * @return String title
 */
public String getName() {
    return name;
}
```

Javadoc for methods

- In the description of a method you can also explain what will happen for any errors

```
/**
 * Add an individual author to the list of authors of the book
 * Will print an error if there are already 5 listed authors
 * @param author the author to add to the array
 */
public void addAuthor(String author) {
    if (authors.length <= 5) {
        authors[authors.length] = author;
    } else {
        System.out
            .println("Error, you can only have up to five
                    authors. Change not made");
    }
}
```

Annotations:

Annotation	Description	Example
@param	Parameters for a method	@param name String title
@return	Return from a method	@return String title
@see	See another class for additional information	@see class
@author	Author of the class, added at class level	@Author Kat
@version	Version of this class	@Version %I%, %G%
@deprecated	If the method has been marked for removal	@deprecated
@since	When the class was added	@Since 1.0
@throws	If the method throws an exception (same as @exception)	@throws Exception
@serial @serialField @serialData	Documents serialised fields and data	@serial
{@link}	A link to another javadoc place (inline, vs in its own section)	{@link package.class#member label}

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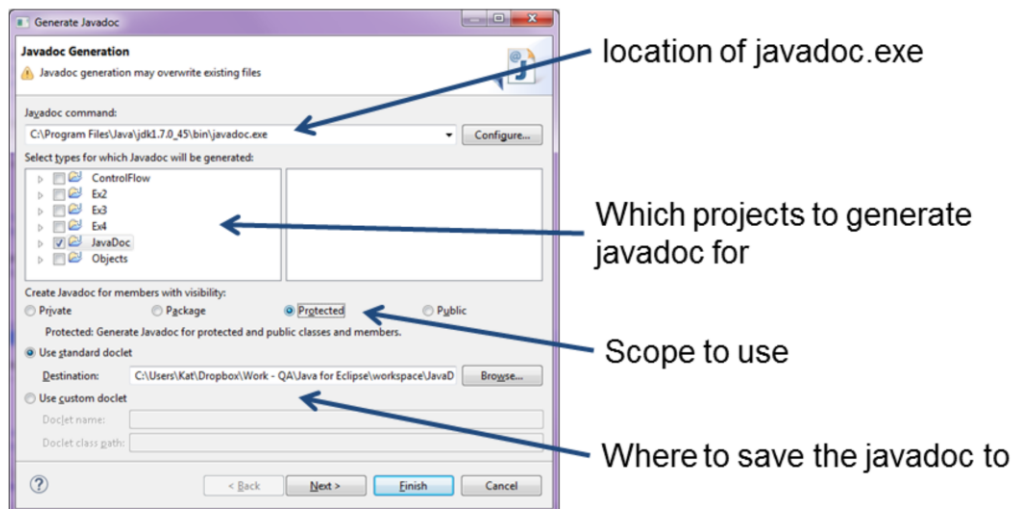
%I% gets incremented each time you edit the file

%G% is the date in the format mm/dd/yy – it can be better to use %G% for dates in the form “December 5th”

We’ll meet serialisation and exceptions later. Serialised fields allow the object to be saved to a file more easily or sent over a communications stream. Exceptions are used for recovering from errors, rather than just exiting the program.

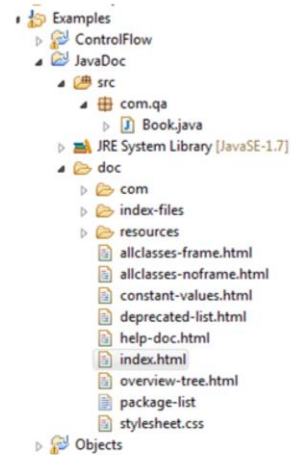
Generating the Javadoc

- Eclipse can generate the javadoc for us
 - Project menu, Generate Javadoc



Generating the JavaDoc

- The console will tell you of any errors in your javadoc comments
- The html files will be generated for you regardless based on the comments you provided
- Right click 'index.html'
 - Open with – Web browser
 - This will open the file in eclipse
 - You could also open it outside eclipse by going to the file directly



Generating the JavaDoc

- Constructors are picked up automatically and grouped together

Constructor Summary

Constructors

Constructor and Description

Book(java.lang.String name, java.lang.String[] authors, double price)
Constructor for book

- Methods are grouped together
- Click on a method to go to the specific docs generated

Method Summary

Methods

Method and type	Method and Description
void	addAuthor(java.lang.String author) Add an individual author to the list of authors of the book. Will print an error if there are already 5 listed authors.
java.lang.String[]	getAuthors() Get all the authors
java.lang.String	getName() Returns the title of the book.
double	getPrice() Get the price of the book.
void	setAuthors(java.lang.String[] authors) Set the authors of the book. Ignored if the set array contains only only accept up to 5 authors in the array, otherwise an error is thrown and no change is made.
void	setTitle(java.lang.String name) Set the title of the book.
void	setPrice(double price) Set the price of the book.
java.lang.String	toString() Adding method for the class, returns the object in the form Book: [Title, Author, Author2, ...]
Methods inherited from class java.lang.Object	
clone, equals, finalize, getClass, hashCode, notify, notifyAll, wait, wait, wait	

Exercise

- Write some JavaDoc comments for your book class and other classes created in the last exercise
- Generate the javadoc for these and have a look
- Look through some of the Java8 API

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