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# J Object Dictionary

*A code, test and documentation database system for J*

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is JOD?

JOD is a code, test and documentation database *Addon* for the *J programming language* [3]. JOD has been programmed entirely in J<sup>1</sup> and can be quickly ported to any system that supports J.

## 1.2 Why JOD?

Programming in J has a charming and distinctive flavor. Tasks decompose into scores of tiny programs that are called *words*. JOD stores and organizes J words and other objects in a dictionary database: hence the name **J Object Dictionary**.

Code databases are not new. Similar systems have been developed for many programming environments. Storing code in a database might strike you as obtuse. Why compromise the ease, portability, and broad support of standard source code files? Believe me, there are good reasons.

- J encourages brevity: microscopic programs, words, accumulate rapidly. *Short J words are often general purpose words*. They can be used in many contexts. How are scores of terse words best employed? Scattering them in many scripts leads to error prone *copy-and-pasting* or *rampant over-inclusion*.<sup>2</sup> The best way to reuse short words is to put them in a system like JOD and fetch as required.
- With JOD there is only *one definition* for a given word. When word copies are found in many files it's not always easy to find the current version.
- With JOD there are no significant limits on vocabulary size. Scripts *can* hold thousands of words but it's a nuisance to maintain and include such large files.
- The *complete definition* of a word can be quickly examined. Good English dictionaries contain far more than definitions. There are etymologies, synonyms, usage comments and illustrations. Similarly, *literate* software documentation contains far more than source code. You will find descriptions of basic algorithms, remarks about coding techniques, references to published material, program test suites, detailed error logs and germane diagrams. Storing such material in source code would horribly clutter programs. A dictionary is where this material belongs.
- *Relationships between words* can be stored. Accurate word references make it easier to understand code. This is especially true if references and documentation are linked.

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<sup>1</sup>JOD makes a few OS calls to move files and generate GUIDs.

<sup>2</sup>Over-inclusion occurs when you load an entire class and only use a tiny portion of it. Unused code is not harmless. It always confuses programmers.

- JOD facilitates the *generation of scripts and the distribution* of code. When I program with JOD I rarely write load scripts. I use JOD to generate and distribute J scripts. JOD can fetch and execute arbitrary J scripts so you can manage very elaborate generation and distribution procedures.
- Finally, *JOD encourages a different way to think about programming*. When programs are reduced to their primary reusable units, words in J's case, many traditional software engineering problems almost disappear. With JOD code reuse and refactoring is fluid, natural and darn near unavoidable.

## 2 Installing and Configuring JOD

Before using JOD you need to install the current Windows, Linux or Mac version of J.<sup>3</sup> J can be downloaded from [www.jsoftware.com](http://www.jsoftware.com).

In addition to J you may need to install a number of J *addons*. JOD uses the `regex`, `task`, `jfiles` and `zip` addons. Some J versions include these addons as part of the basic J system. If you can run the following J commands without errors your system is ready for JOD.

```
require 'regex task jfiles'
require '~addons/arc/zip/zfiles.ijs'
```

If you encounter any errors running these commands use JAL to install missing addons. JOD can be installed in two ways.

1. Use [JAL](#), J's package manager [9], to download JOD. *Using JAL is the easiest way to install and maintain JOD.*
2. Download the current JOD distribution from [The JOD Page](#) [6] and unzip, preserving directories, to the relative directory<sup>4</sup> `~addons/general/jod`

After installation JOD can be loaded with:<sup>5</sup>

```
load 'general/jod'
```

To configure and maintain JOD you must be aware of the following:

1. JOD uses the J startup file `~config/startup.ijs` to store load scripts: see [mls](#) on page 38. Exercise caution when manually editing JOD's load script section.

---

<sup>3</sup>JOD runs on J 6.0x and J 7.0x Windows systems. The Linux and Mac versions of JOD require J 7.0x. Currently there no IOS or Android versions of JOD. Porting JOD to any J system is a simple task. If you are interested in helping me create ports please contact me at: [bakerjd99@gmail.com](mailto:bakerjd99@gmail.com)

<sup>4</sup>Paths that begin with the `~` character are relative directories. The full path can be obtained with `jpath` verb.

<sup>5</sup> The `'` character is a single quote: in J notation it is: `39 { a.`

2. To run JOD labs you must download and install the `jodsource` addon [5]. `jodsource` can be installed with JAL.
3. JOD labs and test scripts assume some J folders have been configured. Open J's configuration tool, see Figure 1 on page 7, and define folders like:

JOD	c:/jod/j701
JODDUMPS	c:/jod/j701/joddumps
JODSOURCE	c:/jodtest/labtesting
JODTEST	c:/jodtest/test

*Use fully qualified directory paths that are not in the J install tree.*

### 3 Quick Tutorial

The best way to get started with JOD is to work through the lab *JOD (1) Introduction*.<sup>6</sup> JOD labs are listed in the General category: see Figure 2 on page 8. This tutorial uses lab material; work through the JOD labs after reading this section.

**Start JOD.** After installation JOD can be started from a J session with:

```
require 'general/jod'    NB. start JOD
```

**Create dictionaries.** To use JOD you must create some dictionaries with `newd`: see page 39. JOD words, with a few exceptions, return boxed list results. The first item is a return code where 1 indicates success and 0 means failure.

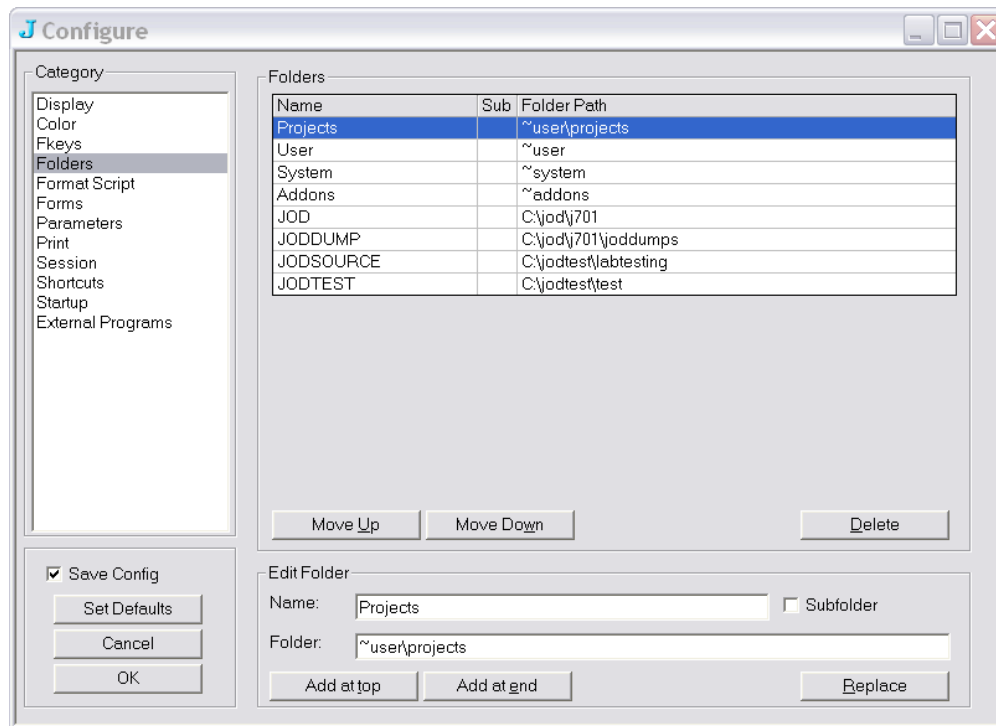
```
newd 'lab'; 'c:/jodtut/lab'    NB. create (lab)
+-----+
|1|dictionary created ->|lab|c:/jodtut/lab/|
+-----+

newd 'labdev'; 'c:/jodtut/labdev'    NB. create (labdev)
+-----+
|1|dictionary created ->|labdev|c:/jodtut/labdev/|
+-----+
```

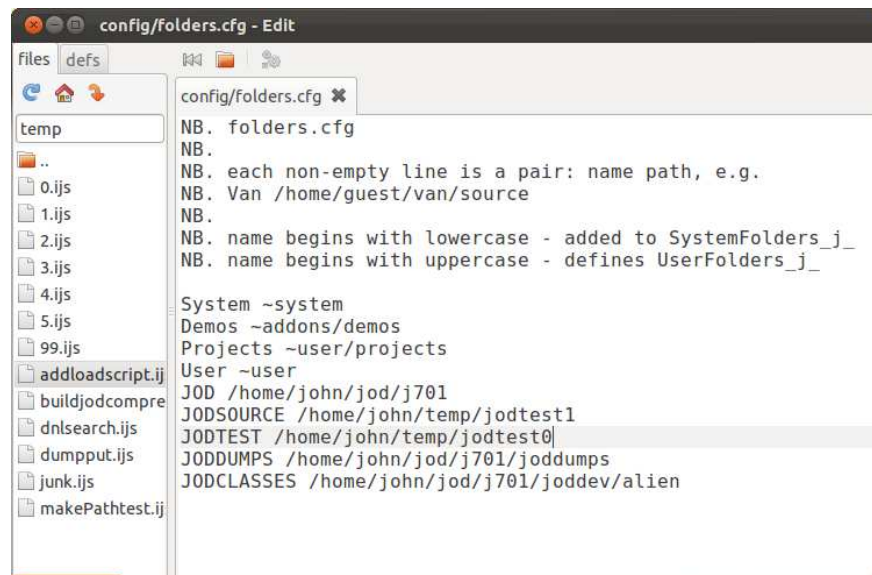
**Open dictionaries.** To use a dictionary it must be open. Open dictionaries with `od`: see page 41.

---

<sup>6</sup> The number “(n)” in JOD lab titles is a suggested order.



(a) J 6 . 0x Windows configuration dialog



(b) J 7 . 0x Linux configuration editor

Figure 1: This folder configuration is recommended for running JOD labs and test scripts. When defining JOD folders the full path, including the drive letter on Windows and a leading / for Linux, must be used: see page 6.



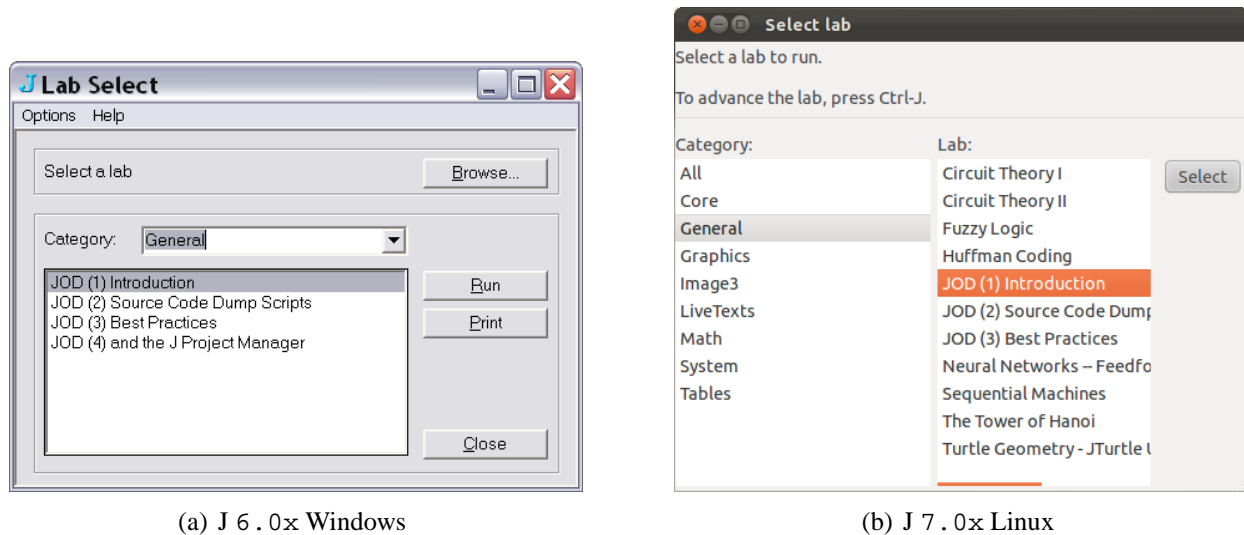


Figure 2: JOD Labs are installed in the General category.

```

od 'labdev'      NB. open read/write
+---+-----+-----+
|1|opened (rw) ->|labdev|
+---+-----+-----+

2 od 'lab'       NB. open read/only
+---+-----+-----+
|1|opened (ro) ->|lab|
+---+-----+-----+

```

**Show open dictionaries.** Open dictionaries define a *reference path*, see appendix C on page 62. `did`, see page 20, displays information about open dictionaries.

```

did 0 NB. show open dictionary path
+---+-----+-----+
|1|labdev|lab|
+---+-----+-----+

```

**Create some words to store.** You can store all types of J words in JOD dictionaries.

```

NB. create some words in the base locale
random=: ?10 10$100 NB. numeric noun
text=: 'this is a test of the one pure thing'
floats=: 2 + % 100#100

```



```
symbols=: s: ' once more with feeling'
boxed=: <"1 i. 2 3
rationals=: 100 + % (>i. 10x) ^ 50
unicode=: u: 'this is now unicode'
each=: &.>          NB. tacit adverb

explicit=: 4 : 0
NB. explicit verb
x +. y
)

NB. list of defined words
words=: ;:'random text floats symbols'
words=: words, ;:'boxed rationals unicode each explicit'
```

**Store words in put dictionary.** The first dictionary on the path is the only dictionary that can be updated. Most updates are put operations so the first dictionary is called the *put dictionary*: see [put](#) on page 43.

```
put words      NB. save words
+--+-----+
|1|9 word(s) put in ->|labdev|
+--+-----+

erase words    NB. erase words
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
```

**Retrieve words from dictionaries.** [get](#), see page 27, fetches words from dictionaries.

```
get words      NB. get words
+--+-----+
|1|9 word(s) defined|
+--+-----+
```

**Make a group.** Dictionary words can be grouped: see [grp](#) page 31.

```
grp 'tutgroup' ; words
+--+-----+
|1|group <tutgroup> put in ->|labdev|
+--+-----+
```

**Make a load script from a group.** Load scripts are J scripts that can be loaded with the standard load utility. Standard J load scripts are defined in the `scripts.ijs` file. This file is



reset by JAL updates so JOD load scripts are stored in the user's `startup.ijs` file: see appendix [H](#) on page 69.

```
mls 'tutgroup'
+-----+
|1|load script saved ->|c:/jodtut/labdev/script/tutgroup.ijs|
+-----+
```

*NB. load with standard utility*

```
load 'tutgroup'
```

**Backup the put dictionary.** *You're either backed up or f'ed up—there are no other options!* JOD makes backups easy: see [packd](#) on page 43.

```
packd 'labdev'
+-----+
|1|dictionary packed ->|labdev|1|
+-----+
```

**Dump dictionaries on path.** [make](#), see page 36, can dump all open dictionaries as a single *dump script*.

```
make ''
+-----+
|1|object(s) on path dumped ->|c:/jodtut/labdev/dump/labdev.ijs|
+-----+
```

3 od '' *NB. close all dictionaries*

```
+-----+
|1|closed ->|labdev|lab|
+-----+
```

This brief tutorial has just touched JOD's surface. Work through the JOD labs to learn more.

## 4 Best Practices

Here are some JOD practices I have found useful. A JOD lab, *JOD (3) Best Practices*, elaborates and reiterates this material. After reading these notes I recommend you run this lab. JOD labs are found in the General lab category.

**JOD does not belong in the J tree.** Never store your JOD dictionaries in J install directories! Create a JOD master dictionary directory root that is independent of J: see [newd](#) on page 39. It's also a good idea to define a subdirectory structure that mirrors J's versions.



*NB. create a master JOD directory root outside of J's directories.*  
newd 'bptest'; 'c:/jodlabs/j701/bptest'; 'best practices dictionary'

*NB. linux paths start with a leading /*  
newd 'bptest'; '/home/john/jodlabs/bptest'

**Backup backup and then backup.** It's easy to backup with JOD so backup often: see [packd](#) and [restd](#) on pages 43 and 46.

*NB. open the best practice dictionary*  
od 'bptest' [ 3 od ''

*NB. back it up*  
packd 'bptest'

**Take a script dump.** It's a good idea to “dump” your dictionaries as plain text. JOD can dump all open dictionaries as a single J script: see [make](#) on page 36. Script dumps are the most stable way to store J dictionaries. The [jodsource](#) addon distributes all JOD source code in this form.

*NB. (make) creates a dictionary dump in the dump subdirectory*  
make ''

**Make a master re-register script.** JOD only sees dictionaries registered in the `jmaster.ijf` file: see Table 3 on page 52. Maintaining a list of registered dictionaries is recommended. JOD can generate a re-register script: see [od](#) on page 41. Generate a re-register script and put it in your main JOD dictionary directory root.

*NB. generate re-register script*  
rereg=: ;{ : 5 od ''

**Set library dictionaries to READONLY.** Open JOD dictionaries define a search path. The first dictionary on the path is the only dictionary that can be changed. It is called the *put dictionary*. Even though nonput dictionaries cannot be changed by JOD it's a good idea to set them READONLY because:

1. READONLY dictionaries can be accessed by any number of JOD tasks. READWRITE dictionaries can only be accessed by one task.
2. Keeping libraries READONLY prevents accidental put's as you open and close dictionaries.



```
NB. make bptest READONLY
od 'bptest' [ 3 od ''
dpset 'READONLY'
```

**Keep references updated.** JOD stores word references: see [globs](#) on page 30. References enable many useful operations. References allow [getrx](#), see page 30, to load words that call other words in new contexts.

```
NB. only put dictionary references need updating
0 globs&> }. revo ''
```

**Document dictionary objects.** Documentation is a long standing sore point for programmers. Most of them hate it. Some claim it's unnecessary and distracting. Many put in half-assed efforts. In my opinion this is "not even wrong!" Good documentation elevates code. In [Knuth's](#) [7] opinion it separates "literate programming" from the odious alternative. JOD provides a number of easy ways to document code: see [doc](#) on page 23, [put](#) on page 43 and [nw](#) on page 40.

**Define your own JOD shortcuts.** JOD words can be used within arbitrary J programs. If you don't find a JOD primitive that meets your needs do a little programming.

```
NB. describe a JOD group - (ijod) is JOD's interface locale
hg_ijod=: [: hlpnl [: ]. grp

NB. re-reference put dictionary show any errors
reref_ijod=: 3 : '(n,.s) #~ -.;0{"1 s=.0 globs&>n=.}.revo'''' [ y'

NB. words referenced by group words that are not in the group
jodg_ijod=: 'agroup'
nx_ijod=: 3 : '(allrefs }. gn) -. gn=. grp jodg'

NB. missing from (agroup)
nx ''
```

**Customize JOD edit facilities.** The main JOD edit words [nw](#) on page 40 and [ed](#) on page 26 can be customized by defining a DOCUMENTCOMMAND script.

```
NB. define document command script - {~N~} is word name placeholder
DOCUMENTCOMMAND_ijod_ =: 0 : 0
smoutput pr '{~N~}'
)
```



```
NB. edit a new word - opens edit window
nw 'bpword'
```

**Define JOD project macros.** When programming with JOD you typically open dictionaries, load system scripts and define nouns. This can be done in a project macro script: see [rm](#) on page 47.

```
NB. define a project macro - I use the prefix prj for such scripts
prjsunmoon=: 0 : 0
```

```
NB. standard j scripts
require 'debug task'
```

```
NB. local script nouns
jodg_iod=: 'sunmoon'
jods_iod=: 'sunmoontests'
```

```
NB. put/xref
DOCUMENTCOMMAND_iod=: 'smoutput pr ''{~N~}''
)
```

```
NB. store macro
4 put 'prjsunmoon';JSCRIPT_ajod;prjsunmoon
```

```
NB. setup project
rm 'prjsunmoon' [ od ;:'bpcopy bptest' [ 3 od ''
```

**Maintain a make load scripts macro or test.** To simplify the maintenance of JOD generated load scripts create a macro or test script that rebuilds load scripts when executed with [rm](#) on page 47 or [rtt](#) on page 48.

```
NB.*make_load_scripts s-- generates load scripts.
```

```
NB.
```

```
NB. Can run as a tautology test see: rtt
```

```
cocurrent 'base'
require 'general/jod'
coclass 'AAAmake999' [ coerase <'AAAmake999'
```

```
>0{OPENDIC=: did 0
>0{od 'utils' [ 3 od ''
```

```
NB. utils scripts
```



```
>0{mls 'bstats'
>0{mls 'xmlutils'
>0{3 od ''

NB. jod tester
>0{od ;::'joddev jod utils'
>0{mls 'jodtester'
>0{3 od ''

NB. exif image utils
>0{od ;::'smugdev smug image utils'
>0{mls 'exif'
>0{3 od ''

cocurrent 'AAAmake999'
>0{od }. OPENDIC

cocurrent 'base'
coerase <'AAAmake999'
```

**Edit your jodprofile.ijs.** When JOD loads the profile script

```
~addons/general/jod/jodprofile.ijs
```

is run: see appendix [F](#) on page 67. Use this script to customize JOD. Note how you can execute project macros when JOD loads with sentences like:

```
NB. open required dictionaries and run project macro
rm 'prjsunmoon' [ od ;::'bpcopy bptest'
```

**Use JOD help and documentation.** JOD documentation is available in two forms: a single PDF document `jod.pdf` and online Google Documents pages. Both forms can be read with [jodhelp](#): see page 34.

```
NB. open JOD online help - requires internet connection
jodhelp 'AContents'
```

```
NB. open JOD PDF documentation - requires PDF reader
jodhelp~ 'PDF'
```

## 5 JOD Interface Words

This section describes all JOD user interface words in alphabetical order. Each word description consists of a short explanation followed by examples. Examples show J inputs; outputs are omitted. Word arguments are summarized with a form of Hungarian notation: see appendix J on page 74.

When JOD loads it creates a number of locale classes, (see appendix B on page 61), and defines an **ijod** user interface locale: **ijod** is placed on the **base** locale's path. JOD's **ijod** user interface consists of definitions like:

```
get      NB. display get interface
get_1_   ::jodsf

mls      NB. display mls interface
mls_8_   ::jodsf

jodsf    NB. display error trap
0"_ ; 'JOD SYSTEM FAILURE: last J error -> '"_ , [: 13!:12 '"_ [ ]
```

Each interface word calls a corresponding object instance word. The default interface is an *error trapping* interface.<sup>7</sup> If any JOD word fails `jodsf` will catch the error and return JOD's standard (`paRc;clMessage`) result.

### 5.1 addgrp — add words/tests to group/suite

`addgrp` adds words to a group and tests to a suite.

**Dyad:** `clGroup addgrp clName V blclNames`  
`(clSuite;iaObject) addgrp clName V blclNames`

*NB. add a word to a group*  
'group' addgrp 'word'

*NB. add many words to a group*  
'groupname' addgrp ;:'word names to group'

*NB. boxed (x) is used for suites - 3 denotes suite*  
('suiteName';3) addgrp ;:'tests added to suite'

---

<sup>7</sup>Provisions for defining a *non-error-trapping* interface exist in JOD source code.



## 5.2 *bget* — backup get NIMP

## 5.3 *bnl* — backup name lists NIMP

## 5.4 *compj* — compress J code

*compj* compresses J code by removing comments, white space and shortening safe local identifiers to single characters.<sup>8</sup> Code compression is useful when preparing production scripts. The JOD system script:

```
~addons/general/jod/jod.ijs
```

is an example of a compressed J script. In its fully commented form this script is about 192 kilobytes when squeezed with *compj* it shrinks to about 72 kilobytes. *compj* does not compress words in JOD dictionaries it returns a compressed script result.

**Warning: to safely use *compj* you must understand how to:**

1. mark ambiguous names.
2. exclude words with local names that match quoted text.

*If you do not properly mark ambiguous names and exclude words with local names that match quoted text compj will break your code!*

Prior to compressing a word apply *globs*, see page 30, to expose any name problems.

*compj* compression can be limited to *white space removal* by marking explicit words with the comment tag *(-.)=:*.

```
donotsqueeze=: 4 : 0
```

*NB. I have local names that occur in quoted strings*

*NB. Compressing me will end civilization as we know it.*

*NB. Use the comment tag (-.)=: anywhere to save the day.*

*NB. do not compress (-.)=:*

```
home=. 2 * y
heart=. x - 1
if. 0=|home do.
  'home is where the heart is'
else.
  'heart health helps'
end.
)
```

---

<sup>8</sup>If more than one character is required to rename all local identifiers *compj* uses a letter prefixed high base numbering scheme.



Ambiguous names in J are words created in object instances, temporary locale globals, names masked by indirect assignments and objects created with execute. When you use ambiguous names augment your code with sufficient information to clearly resolve and cross reference all names.

JOD provides two comment scope tags *(\*)=.* and *(\*)=:* to clarify ambiguous names. Comment scope tags override J scope.

1. local tag *NB. (\*)=.* *local names declared after tag*
2. global tag *NB. (\*)=:* *global names also declared*

The following examples show how to use these tags:

```
indirectassignments=: 4 : 0
```

```
NB. Indirect assignments ()=: create objects
NB. that elude static cross referencing.
NB. Declaring the names global and local
NB. makes it possible to cross reference
NB. this verb with (globs)
globref=. ;:'one two three'
```

```
NB. declared global (*)=: one two three
(globref)=: y
```

```
NB. declared local (*)=. we are hidden locals
locoref=. ;:'we are hidden locals'
(locoref)=. i. 4
```

```
NB. without tags these names appear to
NB. be used out of nowhere
one * two * three
we + are + hidden + locals
)
```

```
createobject=: 3 : 0
```

```
NB. Object initialization often creates
NB. global nouns that are not really globals.
NB. They only exist within the the scope of
NB. the object. Tags can over ride J's
NB. global scope for cross referencing.
```

```
NB. create "globals" in an object instance
```



```
THIS=: STUFF=: IS=: INSIDE=: AN=: OBJECT=: 1
```

```
NB. over ride J's scope by declaring names local.
```

```
NB. !(*)=. THIS STUFF IS INSIDE AN OBJECT
```

```
1
)
```

More examples of the use of comment scope tags can be found in JOD source code. JOD source code is not distributed with JOD. You can get JOD source code by installing the [jodsource](#) addon or by downloading [jodijs.zip](#) from *The JOD Page* [6]. JOD source is distributed as JOD dictionary dump scripts and as fully commented class files in [jodijs.zip](#).

**Monad:** `compj clName V blclNames`

```
NB. compress a single word
```

```
compj 'squeezeme'
```

```
NB. compress words beginning with fat
```

```
compj }. dnl 'fat'
```

```
NB. compress all words in a group
```

```
'rc script'= . compj }. grp 'group'
```

## 5.5 `del` — delete objects

`del` deletes dictionary objects. If objects are on the search path but not in the put dictionary nothing will be deleted and the *nonput dictionary* objects will be identified in an error message.

Warning: `del` will remove objects that are in use without warning. This can lead to broken groups and suites.<sup>9</sup> Deleting a word that belongs to a group breaks the group: similarly for suites. An attempt to [get](#) or [make](#) a broken group or suite will result in an error. You can recover from this error by deleting references, (see below), and regrouping.

**Monad:** `del clName V blclNames`

```
NB. delete one word
```

```
del 'word'
```

```
NB. delete many words
```

```
del 'go'; 'ahead'; 'delete'; 'us'
```

---

<sup>9</sup>In database terms `del` can violate *referential integrity*. Early versions of JOD maintained referential integrity but this proved cumbersome and was dropped.

**Dyad:** *iaObject del clName V blclNames*

*NB. delete a test*

1 del 'test'

*NB. delete a group - words in the*

*NB. group are not not deleted*

2 del 'group'

*NB. delete many groups*

2 del ;:'we are toast'

*NB. delete suites and macros*

3 del 'suite'

4 del 'macro'

*NB. delete many macros*

4 del 'macro';'byebye'

*NB. delete word references*

11 del ;:'remove our references'

## 5.6 *delgrp* — remove words/tests from group/suite

*delgrp* removes words from a group and tests from a suite.

Removing objects from groups and suites does not delete them. To delete objects use [del](#).

**Dyad:** *clGroup delgrp clName V blclNames*  
*(clSuite;iaObject) delgrp clName V blclNames*

*NB. remove a word from a group*

'group' delgrp 'word'

*NB. remove many words from a group*

'groupname' delgrp ;:'word names to remove'

*NB. boxed (x) is used for suites - 3 denotes suite*

('suiteName';3) delgrp ;:'tests removed from suite'



## 5.7 *did* — dictionary identification

*did* identifies open dictionaries.

**Monad:** *did uuIgnore*

*NB. lists open dictionaries in path order*  
*did 0*

**Dyad:** *uuIgnore did uuIgnore*

*NB. open dictionaries and basic statistics*  
*0 did 0*

*NB. handy idiom*  
*did~ 0*

## 5.8 *disp* — display dictionary objects

*disp* displays dictionary objects. *disp* returns a character list when successful and the standard boxed (*parC;clMessage*) when reporting errors.

**Monad:** *disp clName V blclNames*

*NB. display a word*  
*disp 'word'*

*NB. display many words*  
*disp ;:'go ahead show us'*

**Dyad:** *iaObject disp clName V blclNames*  
*(iaObject,iaOption) disp clName V blclNames*

*NB. show a test*  
*1 disp 'test'*

*NB. generate and display a group*  
*2 disp 'group'*

*NB. display the group text or header*



```
2 1 disp 'groupheader'
```

*NB. generate and display a suite*

```
3 disp 'suite'
```

*NB. display the suite text or header*

```
3 1 disp 'suiteheader'
```

*NB. display one macro*

```
4 disp 'macro'
```

*NB. display many macros*

```
4 disp 'macro'; 'byebye'
```

## 5.9 `dn1` — dictionary name lists

`dn1` searches and returns dictionary name lists. The entire path is searched for names and duplicates are removed. A negative option code requests a *path order list*. A path order list returns the objects in each directory in path order. Raising, removing duplicates and sorting a path order list gives a standard `dn1` list. `dn1` arguments follow the pattern:

```
(n, <p, <d>)) dn1 'str'
```

where:

*n* is one of 0 1 2 3 4

optional *p* is one of 1 2 3 \_1 \_2 \_3

optional *d* is word name class or macro type

**Monad:** `dn1 z1 V clPstr`

*NB. list all words on current dictionary path*

```
dn1 ''
```

*NB. list all words that begin with prefix*

```
dn1 'prefix'
```

**Dyad:** `iaObject dn1 z1 V clPstr`

```
(iaObject, iaOption) dn1 z1 V clPstr
```

```
(iaObject, iaOption, iaQualifier) dn1 z1
```

```
(iaObject, iaOption, iaQualifier) dn1 clPstr
```



```

0 dnl '' NB. all words (monad)
1 dnl '' NB. list all tests
2 dnl '' NB. list all groups
3 dnl '' NB. list all suites
4 dnl '' NB. list all macros

```

A word can appear in two dictionaries. When getting such a word the first path occurrence is the value returned. The second value is *shadowed* by the first as only one value can be retrieved.

*NB. match word names beginning with str*

```
0 1 dnl 'str'
```

*NB. match word names containing the string str*

```
0 2 dnl 'str'
```

*NB. match word names ending with string str*

```
0 3 dnl 'str'
```

*NB. words and macros have an optional third*

*NB. item that denotes name class or type*

*NB. adverb names beginning with str*

```
0 1 1 dnl 'str'
```

*NB. verb names containing str*

```
0 2 3 dnl 'str'
```

*NB. nouns ending with str*

```
0 3 0 dnl 'str'
```

*NB. J macro names beginning with jscrip*

```
4 1 21 dnl 'jscrip'
```

*NB. LaTeX macro names containing latex*

```
4 2 22 dnl 'latex'
```

*NB. HTML macro names ending with html*

```
4 3 23 dnl 'html'
```

A negative second item option code returns a path order list.

*NB. words containing str (result is a list of lists)*

```
0 _2 3 dnl 'str'
```



```
NB. group names beginning with so
2 _1 dnl 'so'
```

```
NB. suite names ending with str
3 _3 dnl 'str'
```

## 5.10 doc — format comments

doc formats the leading comment block of explicit words, tests, group/suite headers and macros. The comment block must follow J [scriptdoc](#) [1] compatible conventions. The comment style processed by doc is illustrated in the following example. More examples of doc formatting can be examined by displaying words in the distributed JOD dictionaries. Install the [jodsource](#) addon to get the distributed JOD dictionaries.

```
docexample0=: 3 : 0
NB.*docexample0 v-- the leading block of comments
NB. can be a scriptdoc compatible mess as far
NB. as formatting goes.
NB.
NB. However, if you run doc over
NB. a word in a JOD dictionary your
NB. mess is cleaned up. See below.
NB. monad: docexample uuHungarian
NB.
NB. text below monad: and dyad: is left unformatted
NB. this region is used to display example calls
J code from now on
)
```

```
docexample0=:3 : 0
NB.*docexample0 v-- the leading block of comments can be a
NB. scriptdoc compatible mess as far as formatting goes.
NB.
NB. However, if you run doc over a word in a JOD dictionary
NB. your mess is cleaned up. See below.
NB.
NB. monad: docexample uuHungarian
NB.
NB. text below monad: and dyad: is left unformatted
NB. this region is used to display example calls
j code from now on
)
```





**Monad:** `doc clName`

*NB. format leading comment block*  
`doc 'formatme'`

**Dyad:** `iaObject doc clName`  
`(iaObject,iaOption) doc clName`

*NB. format leading test script comments*  
`1 doc 'tidytest'`

*NB. format J script macros - only J scripts formatted*  
`4 doc 'macroname'`

*NB. group and suite headers*  
`2 1 doc 'thisgroup'`  
`3 1 doc 'thissuite'`

`doc` also formats the long document text of all dictionary objects. Long document text differs from J script text in that it is not prefixed with leading NB. 's.

*NB. format long documents*  
`0 9 doc 'word'`  
`1 9 doc 'test'`  
`2 9 doc 'group'`  
`3 9 doc 'suite'`  
`4 9 doc 'macro'`

## 5.11 dpset — set and change parameters

`dpset` modifies dictionary parameters. JOD uses a variety of values that control putting, getting and generating objects. Parameters are stored in individual dictionaries and the master file. Master file parameters are initially set from the `jodparms.ijs` file, see appendix E, on page 65, and cannot be reset without editing `jodparms.ijs` and recreating the master file. Individual dictionary parameters can be changed at any time with `dpset`. `dpset` is permissive; it will allow parameters to be set to any value. *Invalid values will crash JOD!* Before setting any values examine the `jodparms.ijs` file. This file is used to set the default values of dictionary parameters.

*Note:* If you set an invalid parameter value you can recover using `dpset`'s `DEFAULTS` option.

Not all dictionary parameters can be set by `dpset`. The parameters `dpset` can change are dictionary specific user parameters. There are a number of system wide parameters that are set in code and require script edits to change.



If JOD, or the host OS crashes, the master file could be left in a state that makes it impossible to reopen dictionaries. `dpset 'RESETME'` and `dpset 'RESETALL'` clear read status codes in the master file. `RESETME` resets all dictionaries recently opened from the current machine. `RESETALL` resets all dictionaries in the master file. In the worst case you can rebuild the master file by:

1. Exiting J.
2. Deleting the files:
  - `~addons/general/jod/jmaster.ijf`
  - `~addons/general/jod/jod.ijn`
3. Restarting J.
4. Reloading JOD with: `load 'general/jod'`

**Monad:** `dpset z1 V clName V (clName;uuParm)`

*NB. list all parameters and current values*

`dpset ''`

*NB. restore default settings in put dictionary*

`dpset 'DEFAULTS'`

*NB. option names are case sensitive*

*NB. resets current machine dictionaries*

`dpset 'RESETME'`

*NB. resets all dictionaries*

`dpset 'RESETALL'`

Note: if a JOD dictionary is being used by more than one task never use `RESETALL` unless you are absolutely sure you will not reset other tasks!

*NB. clears the put dictionary reference path*

`dpset 'CLEARPATH'`

*NB. makes the current put dictionary read-only*

`dpset 'READONLY'`

*NB. makes the current put dictionary read-write*

`dpset 'READWRITE'`



*NB. use ascii85 in dump scripts*  
dpset 'ASCII85';1

## 5.12 *ed* — edit dictionary objects

*ed* fetches or generates dictionary objects and puts them in an edit window for editing.

**Monad:** *ed clName V blclNames*

*NB. retrieve word and place in edit window*  
*ed 'word'*

*NB. put many words in edit window*  
*ed ;:'many words edited'*

**Dyad:** *iaObject ed clName V blclNames*  
*(iaObject,iaOption) ed clPstr*

*NB. edit test*  
1 *ed 'test'*

*NB. generate group and place in edit window*  
2 *ed 'group'*

*NB. generate test suite and place in edit window*  
3 *ed 'suite'*

*NB. edit macro text*  
4 *ed 'macro'*

*NB. edit group header text*  
2 1 *ed 'group'*

*NB. edit suite header text*  
3 1 *ed 'suite'*

## 5.13 *et* — put text into edit window

*et* load character lists into edit windows.

**Monad:** *et clText*

*NB. put character data into edit window*  
*et 'put text in edit window'*

*NB. read text and put in edit window*  
*et (1!1) <'c:\temp\text.txt'*

## 5.14 *gdeps* — group dependents

*gdeps* returns lists of global names in the dependent section of group and suite headers: see page 50.

**Monad:** *gdeps clGroup*

*NB. globals in the dependent section of group jod*  
*gdeps 'jod'*

*NB. all dependent section globals in all groups*  
*gdeps&> }. grp ''*

**Dyad:** *iaOption gdeps clName*

*NB. globals in the dependent section of suite testenv*  
*3 gdeps 'testenv'*

## 5.15 *get* — get objects

*get* retrieves dictionary objects and information about dictionary objects. There is a close correspondence between the arguments of *get* and *put*, see page 43. A basic JOD rule is that if you can put it you can get it.

**Monad:** *get clName ∨ blclNames*

*NB. get word and define in current locale*  
*get 'word'*

*NB. get a group*  
*get }. grp ''*



**Dyad:** *ilOptions* *get* *clName* *✓* *blclNames* *✓* *uuIgnore*  
*clLocale* *get* *clName* *✓* *blclNames*

*NB. get word (monad)*

0 *get* 'word'

*NB. get words (monad)*

0 7 *get* ;:'words are us'

For words a character left argument is a target locale.

*NB. get into locale*

'locale' *get* ;:'hi ho into locale we go'

*NB. allow numbered locales*

'666' *get* ;:'beast code'

*NB. explain words*

0 8 *get* ;:'explain us eh'

*NB. word documentation*

0 9 *get* ;:'document or die'

*NB. get word scripts without defining*

0 10 *get* 'define';'not'

Information about stored words can be retrieved with *get*.

*NB. J name class of words*

0 12 *get* ;:'our name class'

*NB. word creation dates*

0 13 *get* ;:'our creation'

*NB. last word put dates*

0 14 *get* ;:'last change'

*NB. word size in bytes*

0 15 *get* ;:'how big are we'

*NB. get test scripts*

1 7 *get* 'i';'test';'it'

*NB. test explanations*

1 8 *get* ;:'explain tests'



*NB. test case documentation*

1 9 *get* 'radical'

*get* fetches information about stored tests.

*NB. test creation dates*

1 13 *get* ;:'our creation'

*NB. last test put dates*

1 14 *get* ;:'last change'

*NB. test size in bytes*

1 15 *get* ;:'how big are we'

*NB. get group scripts*

2 7 *get* ;:'groupies cool'

*NB. get group explanation text*

2 8 *get* 'group';'explain'

*NB. get group document text*

2 9 *get* 'document'

*NB. suite text*

3 7 *get* ;:'this suites me'

*NB. explain suites*

3 8 *get* ;:'suites need comments'

*NB. document suites*

3 9 *get* ;:'document your suites'

*NB. get various macros*

4 *get* 'jmacro';'html';'latex'

*NB. explain macros*

4 8 *get* ;:'macros need explaining'

4 9 *get* ;:'and documents too'

*NB. get dictionary documentation - ignores (y) argument*

5 *get* ''

## 5.16 *getrx* — get required to execute

*getrx* gets all the words required to execute words on (y).

*Warning:* if the words listed on (y) refer to object or locale references this verb returns an error because such words generally cannot be run out of context.

**Monad:** *getrx* *clName* *∨* *blclNames*

*NB. load required words into base locale*

*getrx* 'stuffineed'

*NB. get all words required to run many words*

*getrx* ;:'stuff we need to run'

**Dyad:** *clLocale* *getrx* *clName* *∨* *blclNames*

*NB. load all required words into locale*

'locale' *getrx* ;:'load the stuff we need into locale'

## 5.17 *globs* — global references

*globs* analyzes global references in words and tests. A global reference is a nonlocal J name where nonlocality is with respect to the current word's scope. Names with locale references, for example:

<i>jread_jfiles_</i>	<i>NB. direct locale reference</i>
<i>did__jd2</i>	<i>NB. indirect locale (object) reference</i>
<i>did_3_</i>	<i>NB. direct numbered local reference</i>
<i>boo__hoo__too</i>	<i>NB. two levels of indirection</i>

*NB. suffix nouns: jd2 hoo too*

are treated like primitives. This makes it possible to define clean locale/object interfaces. In the case of indirect locale references the suffix noun(s) must exist to determine the name class of the word. This makes static name analysis difficult. By treating such references as “primitives” this problem is swept under the proverbial rug.

For example the *jfiles* utility is often accessed with **z** locale definitions like:

*jread\_z\_ =: jread\_jfiles\_ NB. z interface for jread*



Words that use `jread` can call it without locale suffixes. For this case `globs` will detect the use of `jread` but will cease searching the call tree when it encounters `jread_jfiles_`.

Globals referenced by test scripts are not stored because tests often manipulate their working environments in ways that make static name analysis unfeasible. `globs` is one of two verbs, (`globs`, `grp`), that create references. For `globs` to store references the word must be in the put dictionary, all word references must exist on the path and the current path must match the put dictionary reference path.

**Monad:** `globs cName`

*NB. list globals in locale word*  
`globs 'word'`

**Dyad:** `iaObject globs cName`

*NB. update referenced globals*  
`0 globs 'word'`

*NB. update all words in a group*  
`0 globs&> }. grp 'group'`

*NB. list global references in test text*  
`1 globs 'test'`

*NB. classify name references in locale word.*  
`11 globs 'word'`

## 5.18 *grp* — create and modify groups

`grp` creates and modifies word groups and test suites. A group is a list of objects. Operations on groups do not change the objects that belong to groups. When a group is created the put dictionary's reference path is compared to the current dictionary path. If the paths do not match an error is returned and the group is not created.

**Monad:** `grp z1 V cName V blcNames`

*NB. list all word groups (2 dnl '')*  
`grp ''`

*NB. list words in group*





```
grp 'group'
```

*NB. create empty group*

```
grp 'soempty';''
```

*NB. create/reset group first name is the group name*

```
grp 'group';'list';'of';'group';'names'
```

*NB. has effect of emptying but not deleting group*

```
grp <'group'
```

**Dyad:** *iaObject* grp z1 *V* clName *V* blclNames

*NB. list all test suites (3 dnl '')*

```
3 grp ''
```

*NB. list tests in suite*

```
3 grp 'suite'
```

*NB. (monad)*

```
2 grp 'group';'list';'of';'group';'names'
```

*NB. create/reset suite*

```
3 grp 'suite';'list';'of';'test';'names'
```

*NB. empty suite*

```
3 grp <'suite'
```

## 5.19 *gt* — get edit window text

Fetch text from edit window.

**Monad:** *gt* z1 *V* clName

*NB. returns text from the word.ijs edit window*

```
gt 'word'
```

*NB. using gt to update a test and macro.*

```
1 put 'test';gt 'test'
```

```
4 put 'macro';21;gt 'macro'
```

## 5.20 *hlpnl* — display short object descriptions

*hlpnl* displays short object descriptions.

Short object descriptions are always a good idea. If you cannot *terse*ly describe an object you probably don't understand it. Short descriptions are stored with *put*.

**Monad:** *hlpnl clName* *∨ blclNames*

*NB. put short word description*

```
0 8 put 'describeme'; 'briefly describe me'
```

*NB. display short word description*

```
hlpnl 'describeme'
```

*NB. display many descriptions*

```
hlpnl ;: 'show our short word descriptions'
```

*NB. describe all the words in a group*

```
hlpnl }. grp 'groupname'
```

*NB. describe all the words called by a word*

```
hlpnl allrefs <'wordname'
```

*NB. describe all dictionary words*

```
hlpnl }. dnl ''
```

**Dyad:** *iaObject hlpnl clName* *∨ blclNames*

*NB. display short word description (monad)*

```
0 hlpnl 'word'
```

*NB. display test, group, suite, macro descriptions*

```
1 hlpnl 'testname'
```

```
2 hlpnl 'groupname'
```

```
3 hlpnl 'suite name'
```

```
4 hlpnl 'macroname'
```

*NB. describe a test suite*

```
3 hlpnl }. 3 dnl 'testsuite'
```

*NB. describe a group*

```
2 hlpnl }. 2 dnl 'groupname'
```



*NB. describe macro scripts with prefix prj*  
 4 hlpnl }. 4 dnl 'prj'

## 5.21 *jodage* — age of JOD objects

*jodage* returns the age of JOD objects. When an object is put into a dictionary the date is recorded.

The monad returns the age of words and the dyad returns the age of other objects. JOD dates are stored in a fractional day `yyyymmdd.f` floating point format.<sup>10</sup>

**Monad:** *jodage clWord V blclWords*

*NB. show age of (jodage)*  
 jodage 'jodage'

*NB. age of all group words*  
 jodage }. grp 'bstats'

**Dyad:** *ia jodage clWord V blclNames*

*NB. age of all test scripts*  
 1 jodage }. 1 dnl ''

*NB. age of group script*  
 2 jodage 'mygroup'

*NB. age of all macro scripts*  
 4 jodage }. 4 dnl ''

## 5.22 *jodhelp* — return help

*jodhelp* displays help for JOD words. The monad returns help for specific words and displays an index. The dyad displays `jod.pdf` and lists all words that have online help.

`jod.pdf` is omitted from the JOD addon JAL package to reduce download size. *jodhelp* will browse an online version of `jod.pdf` if it doesn't find it in the directory.

<sup>10</sup> JOD times are derived from *local* computer clock times. UTC is not used.



*NB. JOD addon PDF document directory*

`~addons/general/jod/joddoc/pdfdoc`

If you download `jod.pdf` and place it in this directory `jodhelp` will use the local copy.

**Monad:** `jodhelp clWord`

*NB. show (put) help*

`jodhelp 'put'`

*NB. display help index*

`jodhelp ''`

**Dyad:** `uuIgnore V clPDF jodhelp uuIgnore`

*NB. list help topics - ignores arguments*

`jodhelp~ 0`

*NB. open PDF documentation*

`'PDF' jodhelp ''`

*NB. handy idiom*

`jodhelp~ 'PDF'`

## 5.23 *lg* — make and load group

*lg* assembles and loads JOD group scripts. The monad loads without the postprocessor script and the dyad loads with the postprocessor.

The postprocessor is a JOD macro script that is associated with a group. If a group is named `numutils` the associated postprocessor is named `POST_numutils`. The prefix `POST_` labels J macro scripts as postprocessors.<sup>11</sup> The postprocessor is appended to generated group scripts and is often used to start systems.

**Monad:** `lg clGroup`

*NB. make and load group without postprocessor*

`lg 'groupname'`

---

<sup>11</sup> A macro must be coded as a J script, (code 21), to be used as a postprocessor.

**Dyad:** *iaOption lg clGroup*

*NB. monad*

2 lg 'groupname'

*NB. define a group postprocessor macro script*

*NB. 21 identifies macro text as an arbitrary J script*

4 put 'POST\_groupname';21;'smoutput ''hello world''

*NB. make and load appending postprocessor*

lg~ 'groupname'

## 5.24 *locgrp* — list groups/suites with word/test

*locgrp* lists groups and suites with word or test (*y*). A word or test can belong to many groups or suites.

**Monad:** *locgrp clName*

*NB. list all groups that contain myword*

*locgrp* 'myword'

*NB. list all suites that contain this test*

*locgrp* 'thistest'

## 5.25 *make* — generates dictionary scripts

*make* generates J scripts from objects stored in dictionaries. The generated scripts can be returned as results or written to file: see subsection 6.1 on page 49.

Generated scripts are stored in the standard dump, script and suite subdirectories. Monadic *make* dumps all the objects on the current path to a J script file. The dump file is a single J script that can be used to rebuild dictionaries.

*make* uses the reference path to generate words, tests, groups and suites. When generating groups and suites *make* returns an error if the current path does not match the reference path. By default dyadic *make* generates objects that exist in the current put dictionary. This can be overridden with a negative option code.

**Monad:** *make z1 V clDumpfile*



*NB. Dump objects on current path*  
*NB. to put dictionary dump directory.*  
*NB. The name of the put dictionary is*  
*NB. used as the dump file name.*  
 make ''

*NB. dump to specified Windows file*  
 make 'c:/dump/on/me.ijs'

*NB. linux paths must begin with /*  
 make '/home/john/temp/joddumps/metoo.ijs'

**Dyad:** *iaObject make z1 V clName V blclNames*  
*(iaObject,iaOption) make clName*

0 make ;:'an arbitrary list of words into a script'  
 0 2 make ;:'generate a character list script result'

*NB. make J script that defines a group*  
 2 make 'group'

*NB. make J script that defines a suite*  
 3 make 'suite'

An option code controls whether results are written to file, (1 default), or returned, (2 return), for word lists, groups and suites. Default dictionary file locations are the subdirectories created by [newd](#): see page 39.

*NB. make and return group script*  
 2 2 make 'group'

*NB. make put dictionary suite script and write to file*  
 3 1 make 'suite'

*NB. make and file group script. The group does not*  
*NB. have to exist in the put dictionary but can*  
*NB. occur anywhere on the path.*  
 2 \_1 make 'group'

*NB. make suite script and write to file*  
 3 \_1 make 'suite'



## 5.26 mls — make load script

mls generates J load scripts. The generated script is added to the current user's start up script

```
~config/startup.ijs
```

and inserted in the session's Public\_j\_ table.<sup>12</sup>

An mls load script is independent of JOD and can be used like any other J load script, for example:

```
load 'mlsmademe'
```

The generated script can be written to file or returned. Generated scripts are stored in the put dictionary script subdirectory. mls appends any postprocessor to the generated script: see subsection 6.1 Generated Script Structure, on page 49.

**Monad:** mls clGroupname

*NB. add a postprocessor script for (addgroup)*

```
postproc=. 'smoutput '''this is a post processor''''
4 put 'POST_appgroup';JSCRIPT_ajod_;postproc
```

*NB. generate group script with*

*NB. postprocessor and add to startup.ijs*

```
mls 'appgroup'
```

*NB. load group - postprocessor runs*

```
load 'appgroup'
```

**Dyad:** iaOption mls clGroupname

*NB. make J script file but do*

*NB. not add to startup.ijs*

```
0 mls 'bstats'
```

*NB. monad*

```
1 mls 'bstats'
```

*NB. return generated script as result*

*NB. does not add to startup.ijs*

```
2 mls 'bstats'
```

<sup>12</sup> On J 6.0x systems the public script noun is named PUBLIC\_j\_.

## 5.27 *mn1* — master name lists NIMP

## 5.28 *newd* — create a new dictionary

*newd* creates a new dictionary. Dictionary creation generates a set of files in a standard dictionary directory structure: see Figure 3 on page 55. The root directory, dictionary name, and optional dictionary documentation can be specified. All other dictionary creation parameters are taken from the master file.

**Monad:** *newd clDictionary*  
*newd (clDictionary;clPath)*  
*newd (clDictionary;clPath;clDocumentation)*

*NB. if no location is specified the dictionary*

*NB. is created in the default directory*

*newd 'makemydictionary'*

*NB. create with name in location*

*newd 'new';'c:/location/'*

*newd 'deep';'d:/we/can/root/dictionaries/down/deep'*

*NB. on linux create dictionaries in your \$HOME directory*

*newd 'homeboy';'/home/john/where/the/dictionaries/are'*

*NB. optional third item is dictionary documentation*

*newd 'new';'c:/location/';'Dictionary documentation ...'*

## 5.29 *notgrp* — not grouped

*notgrp* list words or tests from (y) that are not in groups or suites. Useful for finding loose ends and dead code.

**Monad:** *notgrp clName V blclNames*

*NB. recent ungrouped words*

*notgrp }. revo ''*

*NB. all ungrouped words*

*notgrp }. dnl ''*

**Dyad:** *iaOption notgrp clName V blclNames*





*NB. ungrouped words (monad)*

```
2 notgrp }. dnl ''
```

*NB. tests that are not in suites*

```
3 notgrp }. 1 dnl ''
```

## 5.30 *nw* — edit a new word

*nw* edits a new word in an edit window using JOD format conventions. *nw* assumes the new word is *explicit* but you can edit the default text to define *tacit* words. *nw* will append the character list DOCUMENTCOMMAND to the text placed in an edit window. This allows the user to define an arbitrary script that is run when a word is defined.<sup>13</sup>

**Monad:** *nw* *clName*

*NB. open an edit window with an explicit newword*

```
nw 'newword'
```

*NB. define a script that is run when the J editor*

*NB. window is run. {~N~} placeholders are replaced*

*NB. with the name of the new word*

```
DOCUMENTCOMMAND_ijod=: 0 : 0
smoutput pr '{~N~}'
)
```

*NB. edit a word with DOCUMENTCOMMAND*

```
nw 'placeholdername'
```

**Dyad:** *iaNameclass nw clName*

*NB. edit an explicit adverb*

```
1 nw 'adverb'
```

*NB. edit an explicit conjunction*

```
2 nw 'conjunction'
```

*NB. edit an explicit text noun*

<sup>13</sup> Key combinations like CTRL-W that run editor scripts depend on the J platform.

```
0 nw 'text'
```

*NB. edit an explicit word (monad)*

```
3 nw 'word'
```

*NB. edit dyadic word*

```
4 nw 'dyad'
```

## 5.31 *nt* — edit a new test

*nt* edits a new test script in an edit window.

*nt* looks for the test script *teststub* on the path and inserts *teststub* text in the edit window. *teststub* allows users to define dictionary specific custom script formats.

**Monad:** *nt clTestName*

*NB. open an edit window*

```
nt 'newtest'
```

*NB. define a custom test script*

```
testheader=: 0 : 0
```

```
NB.*{~T~} t-- test script header
```

```
NB.
```

*NB. This is my custom test script header.*

*NB. The {~T~} strings are replaced with test*

*NB. name and creation time*

```
NB.
```

```
NB. created: {~created~}
```

```
)
```

*NB. save custom header in put dictionary*

```
1 put 'teststub';testheader
```

*NB. edit a new test using the custom header*

```
nt 'customtest'
```

## 5.32 *od* — open dictionaries

*od* opens dictionaries. Open dictionaries are appended to the path in the order they are opened. Dictionaries can be opened READWRITE (default) or READONLY. Only one J task can open a



dictionary READWRITE. Any number of tasks can open a dictionary READONLY. If any task has a dictionary open READONLY it can only be opened READONLY by other tasks. If a dictionary is opened READWRITE by a task it cannot be opened by other dictionary tasks. This harsh protocol insures that only one task can update a dictionary.

The first dictionary on the search path is special! It is the only dictionary that can be updated by JOD verbs. Because most updates are puts the first dictionary is called the *put dictionary*.

**Monad:** *od z1 V clDictionary V blclDictionaries*

*NB. list registered dictionaries*  
*od ''*

*NB. open read/write*  
*od 'dictionary'*

*NB. opens d(i) read/write*  
*od 'd1';'d2';'d3'*

**Dyad:** *iaOption od z1 V clDictionary V blclDictionaries*

*NB. list registered dictionaries (monad)*  
*1 od ''*

*NB. close all open dictionaries (related to did 4)*  
*3 od ''*

*NB. open read/write (monad)*  
*1 od 'dictionary'*

*NB. open read only and append to any path*  
*2 od 'dictionary'*

*NB. open d(i) read only and append to any path*  
*2 od 'd1';'d2';'d3'*

*NB. close dictionaries and remove from path*  
*3 od ;:'d0 d1 d2'*

*NB. all dictionary root directories*  
*4 od ''*

*NB. list all dictionaries as regd script*  
*5 od ''*



### 5.33 *packd* — backup and pack dictionaries

*packd* removes all unused space from dictionary files by copying active components to new files. After the *packd* operation is complete the new dictionary files are renamed to match the original files. During the copy operation directories are checked against the items in dictionary files. If a directory data discrepancy is detected the pack operation ends with an error. Old files are renamed with an increasing sequential backup number prefix, e.g.: `13jwords.ijf` and retained in the backup subdirectory. If a *packd* operation succeeds the backup dictionary has no directory data inconsistencies.

A *packd* operation can be reversed with *restd*. There is no JOD facility for deleting backup files. To erase backup files use OS facilities.

The read/write status of a dictionary is recorded in the master file. JOD assumes all tasks point to the same master file.

**Monad:** *packd clDictionary*

*NB. packd requires an open READWRITE dictionary  
od 'dictionary'*

*NB. reclaim unused file space in dictionary  
NB. and retain original files as a backup  
packd 'dictionary'*

### 5.34 *put* — store objects in dictionary

The *put* verb stores objects in the *put* dictionary. It can store words, tests, groups, suites and macros. As a general rule: if something can be stored with *put* it can be retrieved by *get*: see page 27.

**Monad:** *put clName ∨ blclNames*

*NB. default is put words from base locale  
put 'word'*

*NB. store all base locale verbs in dictionary  
put nl 3*

**Dyad:** *iaObject put clName ∨ blclNames  
iaObject put clDocument ∨ btNvalues  
clLocale put clName ∨ blclNames ∨ btNvalues  
(iaObject,iaQualifier) put clName ∨ blclNames  
(iaObject,iaQualifier) put clName ∨ btNvalues*



*NB. put words (monad)*

```
0 put ;:'w0 w1 w2 w3 w4'
```

*NB. put words from specified locale*

```
'locale' put 'w0';'w2';'w3'
```

*NB. numbered locales*

```
'99' put 'word'
```

*NB. put explain/document text*

*NB. words must exist in dictionary*

```
0 8 put (;:'w0 w1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

```
0 9 put (;:'w0 w1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. put words from name class value table*

```
0 10 put ('w0'; 'w1'),..(3;3),..'code0...';'code1...
```

*NB. put tests from name value table*

```
1 put (;:'t0 t1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. put test explain/document text*

```
1 8 put (;:'t0 t1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

```
1 9 put (;:'t0 t1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

A group or suite header script is an arbitrary J script that precedes the code generated by [make](#) on page 36.

*NB. put group header scripts from name,value table*

```
2 put (;:'g0 g1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. group header scripts can be put*

*NB. with 2 1 as well - maintains put/get symmetry*

```
2 1 put (;:'g0 g1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. put group explain/document text*

```
2 8 put (;:'g0 g1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

```
2 9 put (;:'g0 g1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. put suite header scripts from name value table*

```
3 put (;:'s0 s1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

```
3 1 put (;:'s0 s1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. put suite explain/document text*



```
3 8 put (::'s0 s1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
3 9 put (::'s0 s1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. put macro scripts from name, type, value table*

*NB. J scripts - can be run with (rm)*

```
4 put (::'m0 m1'),..(21;21),..('text ...';'...')
```

The text types LaTeX, HTML, XML, ASCII, BYTE, UTF8 are stored as J character lists.

*NB. LaTeX*

```
4 put (::'m0 m1'),..(22;22),..('text ...';'...')
```

*NB. HTML*

```
4 put (::'m0 m1'),..(23;23),..('text ...';'...')
```

*NB. XML*

```
4 put (::'m0 m1'),..(24;24),..('text ...';'...')
```

*NB. plain ASCII text*

```
4 put (::'m0 m1'),..(25;25),..('text ...';'...')
```

*NB. list of arbitrary bytes*

```
4 put (::'m0 m1'),..(26;26),..('bytes ...';'...')
```

*NB. UTF-8 unicode text*

```
4 put (::'m0 m1'),..(28;28),..('utf8 text ...';'...')
```

*NB. put macro explain/document text*

```
4 8 put (::'m0 m1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
4 9 put (::'m0 m1'),..('text ...';'text ...')
```

*NB. update dictionary documentation text*

```
5 put 'go ahead document this dictionary'
```

## 5.35 *regd* — register dictionaries

*restd* registers and unregisters dictionaries in the master file.

A dictionary is a set of files in a standard directory structure: see page 51. The *newd* verb creates JOD directories and files. There is no JOD verb that destroys dictionaries; actual deletion of dictionary files and directories must be done using other means. However, you can unregister



a dictionary. When a dictionary is unregistered it is removed from the main dictionary directory in the master file. It will no longer appear on [od](#) lists and will no longer be accessible with JOD interface verbs. Conversely, you can also register dictionaries with *regd*.

**Monad:** *regd* (*clDictionary*;*clPath*;*clDocumentation*)

*NB. register dictionary with name*

*NB. directory and dictionary must exist*

```
regd 'name';'c:/location/'
```

*NB. register linux dictionary with optional documentation*

```
regd 'name';'/home/john/location/';'Documentation text'
```

**Dyad:** *iaOption regd clDictionary*

*NB. unregistering a dictionary does not delete files*

```
3 regd 'name'
```

*NB. regd can be used to rename dictionaries*

*NB. and update dictionary documentation*

*NB. unregister*

```
'name path' =. _2 { . 3 regd 'badname'
```

*NB. re-register with new name and documentation*

```
doc =. 'brand spanking new documenation'
```

```
regd 'goodname';path;doc
```

## 5.36 *restd* — restore backup dictionaries

*restd* restores the last backup created by [packd](#).

**Monad:** *restd clDictionary*

*NB. open dictionary READWRITE*

*NB. must be first dictionary on the path*

```
od 'lastbackup' [ 3 od ''
```

*NB. restore last dictionary backup*

```
restd 'lastbackup'
```



### 5.37 *revo* — list recently revised objects

*revo* lists recently recently revised objects. Only put dictionary objects can be revised and only *put* operations are considered revisions.

**Monad:** *revo* *z1* *V* *clName*

*NB. all put dictionary words in last put order*  
*revo ''*

*NB. revised words with names beginning with boo*  
*revo 'boo'*

**Dyad:** *iaObject* *revo* *z1* *V* *clName*

*NB. list all revised tests*  
*1 revo ''*

*NB. revised suites with names prefixed by boo*  
*3 revo 'boo'*

### 5.38 *rm* — run macros

A JOD macro is an arbitrary J script. *rm* fetches J macro scripts and runs them. *rm* will only run J, code 21, macros; other types return errors.

*rm* sets the current locale to base and starts executing macro scripts in base.

**Monad:** *rm* *cl* *V* *blclNames*

*NB. run J macro*  
*rm 'macro'*

*NB. run macros with names starting with DoUs*  
*rm }. dnl 'DoUs'*

**Dyad:** *iaOption* *rm* *z1* *V* *clName* *V* *blclNames*

*NB. run J script and suppress output*  
*1 rm 'quiet'*

*NB. note the repeat*  
*1 rm ;:'run silent run deep'*





### 5.39 *rtt* — run tautology tests

*rtt* runs tautology test scripts stored in JOD dictionaries.

J has a built in test facility see: (0! : 2) and (0! : 3). These foreigners run scripts and stop if the result deviates from arrays of 1's. This facility is used by J's developers and *rtt* applies it to dictionary test scripts.

*rtt* starts scripts in the base locale.

**Monad:** *rtt clName V blclNames*

*NB. run test script as a tautology*

*rtt 'tautologytest'*

*NB. run all tautology tests in a suite*

*rtt }. 3 grp 'testsuite'*

**Dyad:** *iaOption rtt clName V blclNames*

*NB. same as monad*

*0 rtt 'tautologytest'*

*NB. run tautology test and suppress output*

*1 rtt 'silenttautology'*

*NB. run test as plain script*

*2 rtt 'plaintest'*

*NB. generate test suite and run as tautology*

*3 rtt 'suiteName'*

*NB. generate test suite and run as silent tautology*

*4 rtt 'silentsuite'*

### 5.40 *rxs* — regular expression search NIMP

### 5.41 *uses* — return word uses

*uses* lists words used by other words. The lists are derived from the cross references stored by [globs](#). The typical result of *uses* is a boxed table. Column 0 is a list of names and column 1 is list of pairs of boxed lists. Each boxed list pair contains nonlocale and locale global references.



When computing the *uses union*, (option 31), only nonlocale references are searched for further references. In general it is not possible to search locale references as they typically refer to objects created at runtime. In this system such references are treated as black boxes. It is important to know an object is being referenced even if you cannot peer inside the object.

**Monad:** `uses blclName ∨ clName`

*NB. list all words used by words (0 globs)*  
`uses :: 'word globals'`

**Dyad:** `iaObject uses blclName ∨ clname`

*NB. same as monad*  
`0 uses 'word'`

*NB. uses union of word*  
`31 uses :: 'all known words we call'`

## 6 JOD Scripts

### 6.1 Generated Script Structure

To use dictionary words it is necessary to generate scripts. JOD scripts come in three flavors:

1. Arbitrary J scripts
2. Header and list scripts
3. Dump scripts

JOD test, macro and group/suite headers are arbitrary J scripts. There are no restrictions on these scripts. Group and suite scripts generated by [make](#), [mls](#) and [lg](#), (see pages [36](#), [38](#), [35](#)), are header and list scripts. `make` produces dump scripts.

JOD script structure mirrors what you typically do in a J application script. With most J application scripts you:

1. Setup the application's runtime environment.
2. Load the classes, words and data that comprise the application.
3. Start the application.

This pattern of *setup*, *load* and *start* is seen over and over in J scripts: see Table [2](#) on page [50](#).



Generated Script Structure			
Section	Type	Description	Example
Setup	Active	Define group and Suite headers. Headers may contain one dependent section: see page 50.	<pre>NB. define a group header 2 1 put 'groupname';' ... script text ... '  NB. define a suite header 3 1 put 'suite name';' ... suite text ... '</pre>
Load	Passive	Load lists of words or tests. <i>Only word lists are passive.</i> Tests are typically active scripts.	<pre>NB. form group from stored words grp 'groupname' ; ;:'words in group'  NB. form suite from stored tests 3 grp 'suite name' ; ;:'stored tests'</pre>
Start	Active	Associate a postprocessor macro with a group or suite. Postprocessors are prefixed with POST_	<pre>NB. group postprocessor 4 put 'POST_groupname';21;' ... script ... '  NB. test suite postprocessor 4 put 'POST_suite name';21;' ... script ... '</pre>

Table 2: JOD generated script structure

## 6.2 Dependent Section

A dependent section is a delimited subsection of a group or suite header, (see [grp](#) on page 31), that is used to define related words and runtime globals. *Global words defined in a dependent section are removed from group lists when groups are generated with [make](#), [mls](#) and [lg](#): see pages 36, 38 and 35.* This insures that the values assigned in the dependent section are maintained when the group script loads.

A dependent section is delimited with *NB.\*dependents* and *NB.\*enddependents* and only one dependent section per group header is allowed. The following is the dependent section in the jod class group header. Globals in a dependent section are returned by [gdeps](#), see page 27.

```
NB.*dependents x-- words defined in this section have related definitions
NB. host specific z locale nouns set during J profile loading
NB. (*)=: IFWIN UNAME
LF=:10{a.
CR=:13{a.
TAB=:9{a.
CRLF=:CR,LF
NB. option codes - to add more add a new object code
NB. and modify the following definition of MACROTYPE
JSCRIPT=:21
LATEX=:22
HTML=:23
XML=:24
TEXT=:25
BYTE=:26
UTF8=:28
NB. macro text types, depends on: JSCRIPT,LATEX,HTML,XML,TEXT,BYTE,UTF8
```



```
MACROTYPE=:JSCRIPT,LATEX,HTML,XML,TEXT,BYTE,UTF8
NB. object codes
WORD=:0
TEST=:1
GROUP=:2
SUITE=:3
MACRO=:4
NB. object name class, depends on: WORD,TEST,GROUP,SUITE,MACRO
OBJECTNC=:WORD,TEST,GROUP,SUITE,MACRO
NB. bad object code, depends on: OBJECTNC
badobj=:[: -. [: *./ [: , ] e. OBJECTNC"_
NB. path delimiter character & path punctuation characters
PATHDEL=: IFWIN { '/'\
PATHCHRS=: ' :.-',PATHDEL
NB. default master profile user locations
JMASTER=:jodsystempath 'jmaster'
JODPROF=:jodsystempath 'jodprofile.ijs'
JODUSER=:jodsystempath 'joduserconfig.ijs'
NB.*enddependents
```

## 7 JOD Directory and File Layouts

JOD stores J objects in binary `jfiles`. When `newd` creates a dictionary it registers the location of the dictionary in `jmaster.ijs`, see Table 3 on page 52, and creates a set of standard directories: see Figure 3 on page 55. This section describes the internal structure of JOD's binary `jfiles`.

### 7.1 Master File — `jmaster.ijs`

`jmaster.ijs` is a binary component `jfile`. To use `jfiles` you load or require the standard `jfiles` script.

`jmaster.ijs` is an index of currently registered dictionaries and standard dictionary meta-data. The component layout of `jmaster.ijs` is given in Table 3 on page 52.

### 7.2 Words File — `jwords.ijs`

`jwords.ijs` is a binary component `jfile`. `jwords.ijs` contains word definitions and meta-data. The component layout of `jwords.ijs` is given in Table 4 on page 53.

### 7.3 Tests File — `jtests.ijs`

`jtests.ijs` is a binary component `jfile`. `jtests.ijs` contains test definitions and meta-data. The component layout of `jtests.ijs` is given in Table 5 on page 54.



<b>jmaster.ijf</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>c</i> <sub>0</sub>	(pa;il)	Use bit and last master change.  The use bit is set by all processes that update this file - while set the use bit blocks other dictionary tasks from updating this file.
<i>c</i> <sub>1</sub>	(cl;i,X)	Version m.m.p character, build count and unique master file id.
<i>c</i> <sub>2</sub>	bt	Dictionary names, numbers, directories and read-write status.  When a dictionary is opened for update (READWRITE default) by <i>od</i> (pp. 41) the status is set and stays on until closed by <i>od</i> . This blocks all other dictionary tasks from updating the dictionary. This harsh treatment prevents garbled files. Dictionaries can also be opened read only. This allows multiple readers but no writers.
<i>c</i> <sub>3</sub>	bt	Previous master directory.  Essentially a copy of component two less at most one deleted or new dictionary.
<i>c</i> <sub>4</sub> → <i>c</i> <sub>6</sub>		Reserved.
<i>c</i> <sub>7</sub>	bt	Active dictionary parameters.  0 { - b1c1 ; parameter names 1 { - b1c1 ; short parameter explanation 2 { - blu ; default values
<i>c</i> <sub>8</sub>	bt	Copy of active dictionary parameters.
<i>c</i> <sub>9</sub>	bt	Default dictionary parameters.
<i>c</i> <sub>10</sub>	x1	Dictionary log.  The dictionary log is a simple, (append only), list of all the extended dictionary numbers (DIDNUMS) that have ever been registered. When a dictionary is registered it is appended to this list. If it is unregistered and then re-registered the same dictionary number will appear more than once. I don't expect this list to be very large. Hundreds, maybe thousands, over the lifetime of the master file.

Table 3: *jmaster.ijf* file component layout

<b>jwords.ijf</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>c</i> <sub>0</sub>	blnl	Length and last directory change.
<i>c</i> <sub>1</sub>	il	Pack and backup count. Used to prefix backup and dump files.
<i>c</i> <sub>2</sub>	cl	Dictionary documentation <a href="#">newd</a> , <a href="#">regd</a> . (pp. 39,45)
<i>c</i> <sub>3</sub>	bluu	Dictionary parameters. 0 { - cl ; dictionary name 1 { - Xa ; dictionary number DIDNUM (extended precision) 2 { - il ; dictionary creation date 3 { - il ; last dump date (NOT UPDATED) 4 { - cl ; script directory 5 { - cl ; suite directory 6 { - cl ; macro directory 7 { - cl ; document directory 8 { - cl ; dump directory 9 { - cl ; alien directory 10 { - cl ; J version that created dictionary 11 { - ia ; J system code that created dictionary 12 { - uu ; unused - reserved 13 { - bt ; user dictionary parameters see: <a href="#">jmaster.ijf</a> (pp. 52). 0 { cl ; parameter 1 { uu ; value
		Main inverted items, <i>c</i> <sub>4</sub> → <i>c</i> <sub>11</sub> have the same length.
<i>c</i> <sub>4</sub>	blcl	Word list (main index 1).
<i>c</i> <sub>5</sub>	il	Word components (main index 2).
<i>c</i> <sub>6</sub>	il	Name class list.
<i>c</i> <sub>7</sub>	fl	Last put date list <i>yyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
<i>c</i> <sub>8</sub>	fl	Creation put list <i>yyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
<i>c</i> <sub>9</sub>	il	Word size in bytes.
<i>c</i> <sub>10</sub>		Reserved.
<i>c</i> <sub>11</sub>	blcl	Short word explanations.
<i>c</i> <sub>12</sub> → <i>c</i> <sub>38</sub>		Reserved.
		The remaining component pairs contain word data. The word names match the entries in the word index list.
<i>c</i> <sub>39</sub>	bluu	Word definition. 0 { - cl ; word name 1 { - ia ; name class 2 { - cl ✓ uu ; word value: nouns binary, all others character lists
<i>c</i> <sub>40</sub>	bluu	Word documentation and other. 0 { - cl ; word name 1 { - uu ; unused - reserved 2 { - uu ; unused - reserved 3 { - cl ; text documentation
<i>c</i> <sub>41</sub>	bluu	Like <i>c</i> <sub>39</sub>
<i>c</i> <sub>42</sub>	bluu	Like <i>c</i> <sub>40</sub>
...	...	...
<i>c</i> <sub><i>n</i></sub>	...	Like <i>c</i> <sub><i>n</i>-2</sub>

Table 4: *jwords.ijf* file component layout

<b>jtests.ijf</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>Description</b>
$c_0$	blnl	Length and last directory change.
$c_1 \rightarrow c_3$		Reserved.
		Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.
$c_4$	blcl	Test list (main index 1).
$c_5$	il	Test components (main index 2).
$c_6$		Reserved to match <i>jwords.ijf</i> .
$c_7$	fl	Last put date list <i>yyyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
$c_8$	fl	Creation put list <i>yyyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
$c_9$	il	Test size in bytes.
$c_{10}$		Reserved.
$c_{11}$	blcl	Short test explanations.
$c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$		Reserved.
		The remaining component pairs contain test data. The test names match the entries in the test index $c_4$ list.
$c_{39}$	blcl	Test definition. 0 { - cl ; test name 1 { - cl ; test value
$c_{40}$	bluu	Test documentation and other. 0 { - cl ; test name 1 { - uu ; unused - reserved 2 { - uu ; unused - reserved 3 { - cl ; text documentation
$c_{41}$	blcl	Like $c_{39}$
$c_{42}$	bluu	Like $c_{40}$
...	...	...
$c_n$	...	Like $c_{n-2}$

Table 5: *jtests.ijf* file component layout

### JOD Directory Structure created by `newd 'name' ; '.../'`

```

.../name The dictionary root directory holds binary jfiles, see section 7 on page 51.
├── jwords.ijf, jtests.ijf
├── jgroups.ijf, jsuites.ijf
├── jmacros.ijf
├── juses.ijf
├── name/alien Unused — reserved for files related to this dictionary.
├── name/backup Binary backups created by packd (43).
├── name/document Unused — reserved for documents related to this dictionary.
├── name/dump J dump script files generated by make (36).
├── name/script J script files generated by make, mls and lg (36, 38, 35).
└── name/suite J test scripts generated by make (36).

```

Figure 3: `newd` generates this directory structure when a new JOD dictionary is created. The locations of JOD directories are stored in directory objects when dictionaries are opened.

## 7.4 Groups File — `jgroups.ijf`

`jgroups.ijf` is a binary component jfile. `jgroups.ijf` contains group definitions and group metadata. The component layout of `jgroups.ijf` is given in Table 6 on page 56.

## 7.5 Suites File — `jsuites.ijf`

`jsuites.ijf` is a binary component jfile. `jsuites.ijf` contains test suite definitions and test suite metadata. The component layout of `jsuites.ijf` is given in Table 7 on page 57.

## 7.6 Macros File — `jmacros.ijf`

`jmacros.ijf` is a binary component jfile. `jmacros.ijf` contains macro script definitions and macro script metadata. The component layout of `jmacros.ijf` is given in Table 8 on page 58.

## 7.7 Uses File — `juses.ijf`

`juses.ijf` is a binary component jfile. `juses.ijf` contains word references: see `globs` subsection 5.17, on page 30.





<b>jgroups.ijf</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>Description</b>
$c_0$	blnl	Group count and last directory change.
$c_1 \rightarrow c_3$		Reserved.
		Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.
$c_4$	blcl	Group list (main index 1).
$c_5$	il	Group components (main index 2).
$c_6$		Reserved to match <i>jwords.ijf</i> .
$c_7$	fl	Last put date list <i>yyyymmdd.f d</i> (fractional day).
$c_8$	fl	Creation put list <i>yyyymmdd.f d</i> (fractional day).
$c_9 \rightarrow c_{10}$		Reserved.
$c_{11}$	blcl	Short group explanations.
$c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$		Reserved.
		The remaining component pairs contain group data. The group names match the entries in the group index $c_4$ list.
$c_{39}$	bluu	Group definition. 0 { - cl ; group name 1 { - cl ; group prefix script 2 { - blcl ; group content list
$c_{40}$	bluu	Group documentation and other. 0 { - cl ; group name 1 { - uu ; unused - reserved 2 { - uu ; unused - reserved 3 { - cl ; text documentation
$c_{41}$	bluu	Like $c_{39}$
$c_{42}$	bluu	Like $c_{40}$
...	...	...
$c_n$	...	Like $c_{n-2}$

Table 6: *jgroups.ijf* file component layout

<b>jsuites.ijf</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>Description</b>
$c_0$	blnl	Suite count and last directory change.
$c_1 \rightarrow c_3$		Reserved.
		Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.
$c_4$	blcl	Suite list (main index 1).
$c_5$	il	Suite components (main index 2).
$c_6$		Reserved to match <i>jwords.ijf</i> .
$c_7$	fl	Last put date list <i>yyyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
$c_8$	fl	Creation put list <i>yyyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
$c_9 \rightarrow c_{10}$		Reserved.
$c_{11}$	blcl	Short suite explanations.
$c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$		Reserved.
		The remaining component pairs contain suite data. The suite names match the entries in the suite index $c_4$ list.
$c_{39}$	bluu	Suite definition. 0 { - cl ; suite name 1 { - cl ; suite prefix script 2 { - blcl ; suite content list
$c_{40}$	bluu	Suite documentation and other. 0 { - cl ; suite name 1 { - uu ; unused - reserved 2 { - uu ; unused - reserved 3 { - cl ; text documentation
$c_{41}$	bluu	Like $c_{39}$
$c_{42}$	bluu	Like $c_{40}$
...	...	...
$c_n$	...	Like $c_{n-2}$

Table 7: *jsuites.ijf* file component layout

<b>jmacros.ijf</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>Description</b>
$c_0$	blnl	Macro count and last directory change.
$c_1 \rightarrow c_3$		Reserved.
		Main inverted items, $c_4 \rightarrow c_{11}$ have the same length.
$c_4$	blcl	Macro list (main index 1).
$c_5$	il	Macro components (main index 2).
$c_6$		Reserved to match <i>jwords.ijf</i> .
$c_7$	fl	Last put date list <i>yyyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
$c_8$	fl	Creation put list <i>yyyymmdd.f</i> d (fractional day).
$c_9$	fl	Macro size in bytes.
$c_{10}$		Reserved.
$c_{11}$	blcl	Short macro explanations.
$c_{12} \rightarrow c_{38}$		Reserved.
		The remaining component pairs contain macro data. The macro names match the entries in the macro index $c_4$ list.
$c_{39}$	blcl	Macro definition. 0 { - cl ; macro name 1 { - cl ; macro script
$c_{40}$	bluu	Macro documentation and other. 0 { - cl ; macro name 1 { - uu ; unused - reserved 2 { - uu ; unused - reserved 3 { - cl ; text documentation
$c_{41}$	blcl	Like $c_{39}$
$c_{42}$	bluu	Like $c_{40}$
...	...	...
$c_n$	...	Like $c_{n-2}$

Table 8: *jmacros.ijf* file component layout

<b>juses.ijf</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Hungarian</b>	<b>Description</b>
$c_0$	blnl	0 and and last directory change.  The number of references stored is not tracked. 0 is the value in the count position of other files.
$c_1 \rightarrow c_4$		Reserved.
		Uses (reference) directory layout differs from <i>jwords.ijf</i> but occupies the same component range for <a href="#">packd</a> (pp. 43). Only non-empty reference lists are stored.
$c_5$	blcl	Word uses words (index).
$c_6$	il	Component list.
$c_7 \rightarrow c_{18}$		Reserved.
$c_{19}$	Xl	Put reference path. List of extended dictionary numbers DIDNUMs.
$c_{20} \rightarrow c_{38}$		Reserved.
		Note: remaining components contain reference lists where:  cl is the name of the object being referenced. ia is an object code - 0 means words used by words. ( <blcl ) , <blcl is a pair of boxed lists.  The first list contains all global references excluding locale references. Locale references, if any, are in the second list.
$c_{39}$	cl;ia;(<blcl),<blcl	References.
$c_{40}$		Like $c_{39}$
...	...	...
$c_n$	...	Like $c_{n-1}$

Table 9: *juses.ijf* file component layout

## A JOD Distribution

JOD is distributed as a *J addon*. You can install JOD using JAL the *J package manager* [9].

The JOD distribution is broken into two packages:

1. *jod* [4]: This is the only package that must be installed to run JOD. It contains JOD system code and supporting files.
2. *jodsource* [5]: This addon is single zip file containing JOD dictionary dumps. JOD dictionary dumps are J script files that can rebuild JOD dictionaries. Dump files are the best way to distribute dictionary code since they are independent of J binary representations. The *jodsource* addon contains.
  - (a) *joddev.ijs* — development put dictionary
  - (b) *jod.ijs* — main JOD source and test script dictionary
  - (c) *utils.ijs* — common utilities dictionary
  - (d) *jodsourcesetup.ijs* — J script that creates and loads the three JOD development dictionaries.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> The addon *arc/zip* can fail on 64 bit systems. This breaks *jodsourcesetup.ijs*. See The JOD Page [6] for instructions on loading JOD dictionaries without using *jodsourcesetup.ijs*.



## B JOD Classes

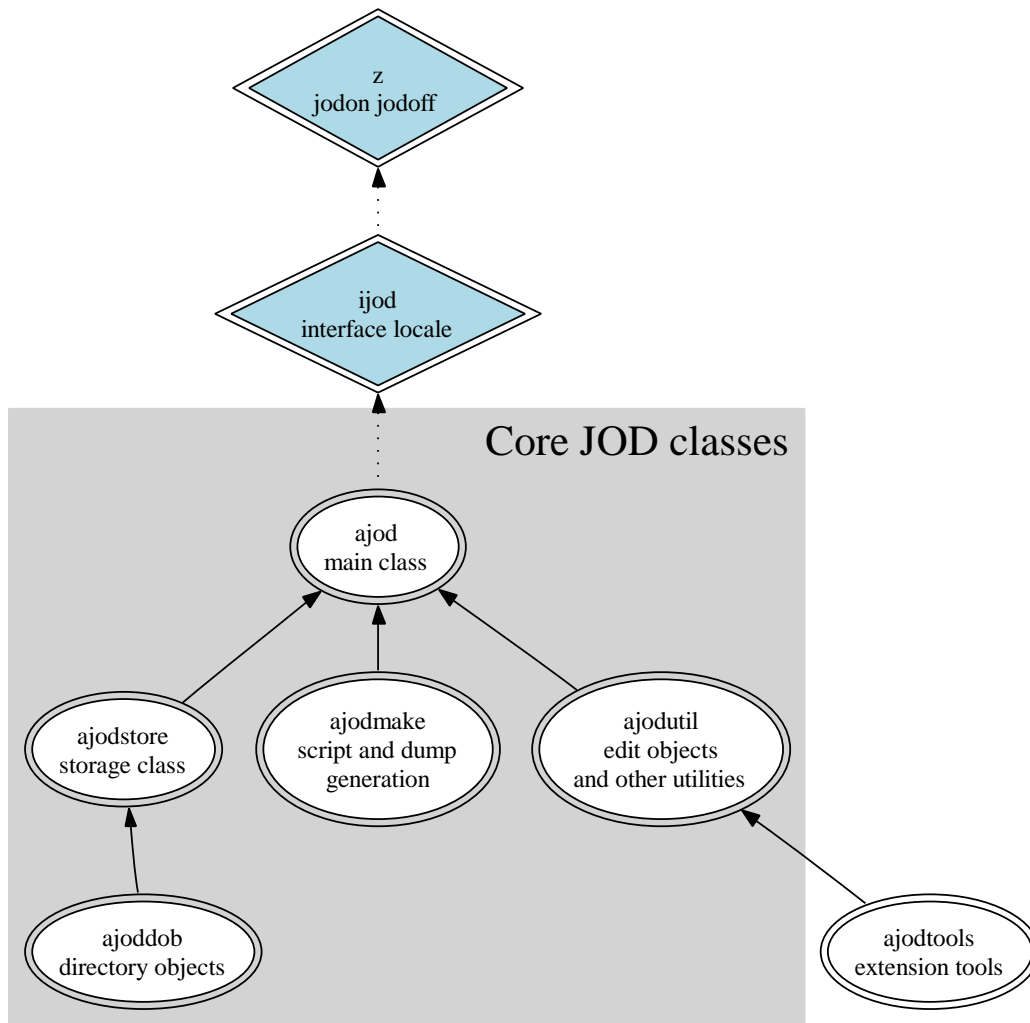


Figure 4: This diagram shows how JOD classes are related. JOD classes are loaded into J addon **a** locales. The arrows indicate how J names are resolved. *Diagram Generated by Graphviz [8].*

## C Reference Path

JOD groups and suites, (see [grp](#) on page 31), are defined with respect to a particular path. This path is called the *reference path*. The reference path is stored when the first put dictionary group or suite is defined. Group and suite generation with [make](#), [mls](#) and [lg](#), (see pages 36, 38, 35), check the current path against the reference path. If the paths do not match an error is returned.

Reference paths display current dictionary names but the path is stored as a unique list of extended dictionary identification numbers: DIDNUMs. On Windows and Linux systems the DIDNUM is based on GUIDs. DIDNUMs insure reference paths are unique.

A reference path can only be reset by clearing the put dictionary path, opening desired dictionaries and recreating a group or suite: see [dpset](#) on page 24.

*NB. open first five dictionaries*

```
od 5 { . } . od ''
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|1|opened (rw/rw/ro/rw/rw) ->|budget|cbh|flick|flickdev|gps|
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

*NB. display dictionary information - reference paths in last column*

```
did ~ 0
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|1|+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| | | -- |Words|Tests|Groups*|Suites*|Macros|*Path |
| +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| | |budget |rw|14 |0 |2 |0 |0 | /budget |
| +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| | |cbh |rw|145 |0 |6 |0 |6 | /cbh/utils |
| +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| | |flick |ro|296 |3 |9 |0 |9 | /flick/utils |
| +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| | |flickdev|rw|96 |2 |2 |0 |2 | /flickdev/flick/utils|
| +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| | |gps |rw|11 |0 |0 |0 |0 | /gps/utils |
| +-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

## D JOD Argument Codes

The left, and some right, arguments of JOD verbs are specified with *object*, *qualifier* and *option* codes. Object codes are typically the first argument code while options and qualifiers usually occupy the second and third positions. Options and qualifiers are sometimes negative. Negative values modify codes: see tables 10, 11 and 12 on pages 63, 63 and 64.

Object Codes			
Noun	Code	Use	Example
WORD	0	word code	0 dnl '' <i>NB. list all words on path</i>
TEST	1	test case code	1 put 'test';'test code..' <i>NB. store test</i>
GROUP	2	group code	2 put 'name';'group header ...' <i>NB. store group header</i>
SUITE	3	suite code	3 grp 'suite' <i>NB. get suite members, list of test names</i>
MACRO	4	macro code	4 disp 'test' <i>NB. display macro</i>
DICTIONARY	5	dictionary code	5 get '' <i>NB. get dictionary documentation</i>

Table 10: JOD Object Codes

Qualifier Codes			
Noun	Code	Use	Example
DEFAULT	7	default action	0 7 get 'this' <i>NB. default behaviour</i>
EXPLAIN	8	short explanation text	0 8 put 'name';'explain name'
DOCUMENT	9	documentation text	2 9 put 'group';'very long group document ...'
NVTABLE	10	name value table	0 10 get }. dnl '' <i>NB. return all words in table</i>
REFERENCE	11	reference code	11 del 'earthdist' <i>NB. delete word references</i>
JSCRIPT	21	J script code	4 1 21 dnl 'POST_' <i>NB. list postprocessors</i>
LATEX	22	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X 2 <sub>ε</sub> text code	4 get }. 4 3 22 dnl 'TEX' <i>NB. get LaTeX macros</i>
HTML	23	HTML text code	4 put 'htmltxt';23;'<a>hello world</a>' <i>NB. store html</i>
XML	24	XML text code	4 put 'xmltxt';24;'<p>baby step xml</p>' <i>NB. store xml</i>
TEXT	25	ASCII text code	4 3 25 dnl 'EPS' <i>NB. texts ending with EPS</i>
BYTE	26	BYTE characters	4 put 'BYTEME';a.
UTF8	28	Unicode UTF8 text	4 put 'UTF8TEXT';UTF8_ajod;(8 u: 4 u: 56788 4578,65+i.5)

Table 11: JOD Qualifier Codes



The meaning of negative option and qualifier codes depends on the word. For `dn1` a negative option requests a *path order list*.

Negative Codes		
Code	Use	Example
<code>_1</code>	path order list	<code>0 _1 dn1 ' ' NB. path order list of words</code>
<code>_2</code>	path order list	<code>1 _2 dn1 'boo' NB. path order list of test names containing boo</code>

Table 12: JOD Negative Codes

## E jodparms.ijs

jodparms.ijs is read when the master file jmaster.ijf is created and is used to set dictionary parameters.

Dictionary parameters are distributed to dictionary files and runtime objects. New parameters can be added by editing jodparms.ijs and recreating the master file. The last few lines of the following example show how to add COPYRIGHT and MYPARAMETER.

When a parameter is added its value will appear in the directory objects of all dictionaries but will only be **dpset**'able in new dictionaries.

To change default master dictionary parameters:

1. Exit J
2. Delete the files

```
~addons/general/jod/jmaster.ijf
~addons/general/jod/jod.ijn
```
3. Edit

```
~addons/general/jod/jodparms.ijs
```
4. Restart J and reload JOD with

```
load 'general/jod'
```

*NB.\*jodparms s-- default dictionary parameters.*

*NB.*

*NB. This file is used to set the default dictionary parameters  
NB. table in the master file. When a new dictionary is created  
NB. the parameters in the master file are used to specify the  
NB. parameters for a particular dictionary. The verb (dpset) can  
NB. be used to modify parameter settings in individual  
NB. dictionaries. Master file parameters can only be changed by  
NB. editing this file and recreating the master file.*

*NB.*

*NB. WARNING: all the parameters currently listed are required by  
NB. the JOD system. If you remove any of them JOD will crash. You  
NB. can safely add additional parameters but you cannot safely  
NB. remove current parameters.*

MASTERPARMS =: 0 : 0

*NB. The format of this parameter file is:*

*NB. jname ; (type) description ; value*

*NB.*

*NB. jname is a valid J name*



NB. (type) description documents the parameter - type is required  
NB. only (+integer) is currently executed other types will  
NB. be passed as character lists (see dptable).  
NB. value is an executable J expression that produces a value

PUTFACTOR ; (+integer) words stored in one loop pass (10<y<2048) ; 100  
GETFACTOR ; (+integer) words retrieved in one loop pass (10<y<2048) ; 250  
COPYFACTOR ; (+integer) components copied in one loop pass (1<y<240) ; 100  
DUMPFATOR ; (+integer) objects dumped in one loop pass (1<y<240) ; 50  
DOCUMENTWIDTH ; (+integer) width of justified document text (20<y<255) ; 61  
ASCII85 ; (+integer) when 1 ascii85 used in dumps - default 0 ; 0

NB. Any added parameters are stored in the master file when  
NB. created and distributed to JOD directory objects.

NB. WARNING: when defining J expressions be careful about the ; character  
NB. the JOD code (dptable) that parses this string is rudimentary.  
NB. VISITOR ; (character) executed by directory object visitor ; dropdir 0

NB. COPYRIGHT ; (character) ; All rights reserved  
NB. MYPARAMETER ; (+integer) the answer ; 42  
)



## F jodprofile.ijs

jodprofile.ijs is an optional user profile script; it runs after JOD loads and can be used to customize your working environment. The following is an example profile script.

```
NB.*jodprofile s-- JOD dictionary profile.
NB.
NB. An example JOD profile script. Save this script in
NB.
NB. ~addons/general/jod
NB.
NB. with the name jodprofile.ijs
NB.
NB. This script is executed AFTER all dictionary objects have
NB. been created. It can be used to set up your default JOD
NB. working environment.
NB.
NB. WARNING: Do not dpset 'RESETME' if more than one JOD task is
NB. active. If only one task is active RESETME's prevent annoying
NB. already open messages that frequently result from forgetting
NB. to close dictionaries upon exiting J.

NB. set white space preservation on
9!:41 [ 1

NB. do not reset if you are running more than one JOD instance
dpset 'RESETME'

NB. project shortcuts - use explicit
NB. definitions so it's easy to reset the group/suite
ag_ijod=: 3 : 'jodg addgrp y'
dg_ijod=: 3 : 'jodg delgrp y'

NB. referenced group words not in group
nx_ijod=: 3 : '(allrefs }. gn) -. gn=. grp jodg'

NB. short help for group words
hg_ijod=: [: hlpnl [: }. grp

NB. regenerate put dictionary word cross references
reref_ijod=: 3 : '(n,.s) #~ -. ;0{"1 s=.0 globs&>n=.}.revo''' [ y'

NB. open working dictionaries and run project macros
NB. set up current project (1 suppress IO, 0 or elided display)
NB. 1 rm 'prjThumbutilsSetup' [ smoutput od ;: 'imagedev image utils'
NB. 1 rm 'prjjod' [ smoutput od ;:'joddev jod utils'
```



## G joduserconfigbak.ijs

joduserconfigbak.ijs is an optional configuration script. joduserconfigbak.ijs is in the directory.

~addons/general/jod/jodbak

joduserconfigbak.ijs can be used to redefine class words before any JOD objects are created.

*NB.\*joduserconfigbak s-- example JOD user configuration script.*

*NB.*

*NB. This script is executed BEFORE JOD objects are created. It*

*NB. can be used to redefine and customize various class nouns. To*

*NB. make this script active rename it to joduserconfig.ijs and*

*NB. copy it, with your edits, to the main jod directory:*

*NB.*

*NB. ~addons/general/jod*

*NB.*

*NB. The nouns listed below are good candidates for redefinition.*

*NB. smoutput 'joduserconfig.ijs executing ...'*

*NB. PDF reader in jodutil class*

*NB. Reset for new versions or other PDF readers*

*NB. PDFREADER\_ajodutil\_='C:\Program Files\Adobe\Reader 8.0\Reader\acrord32.exe'*

*NB. alternative Ghostscript compatible reader*

*PDFREADER\_ajodutil\_='C:\Program Files\Ghostgum\gsview\gsview32.exe'*

*NB. Preferred web browser in jodutil class*

*WWW0\_ajodutil\_='c:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe'*

*NB. Secondary web browser in jodutil class*

*WWW1\_ajodutil\_='C:\Program Files\Internet Explorer\IEXPLORE.EXE'*

*NB. Note: PDF reader and web browser values set with J's*

*NB. configuration utility take precedence over these nouns.*



## H JOD startup.ijs entries

startup.ijs is J's optional user startup script. startup.ijs is in the directory.

~config

JOD uses startup.ijs to store load scripts generated by [mls](#): see page [38](#).

*NB. WARNING: JOD managed section do not edit!*

*NB.<JOD\_Load\_Scripts>*

```
buildpublic_j_ 0 : 0
bstats c:/jod/j701/utils/script/bstats
xmlutils c:/jod/j701/utils/script/xmlutils
analystgraphs c:/jod/j701/franklin/script/analystgraphs
exif c:/jod/j701/smugdev/script/exif
jodtester c:/jod/j701/joddev/script/jodtester
waypoints c:/jod/j701/gps/script/waypoints
Weeks c:/jod/j701/docs/script/Weeks
MweccTeXPreprocess c:/jod/j701/docs/script/MweccTeXPreprocess
DudTeXPreprocess c:/jod/j701/docs/script/DudTeXPreprocess
BiblioHelper c:/jod/j701/docs/script/BiblioHelper
RecodeSchedZ c:/jod/j701/mwecc/script/RecodeSchedZ
)
```

*NB.</JOD\_Load\_Scripts>*



## I JOD and Version Control Systems

Despite JOD's backup and restore facilities, see `bnl`, `bget`, `packd` and `restd` on pages 16, 16, 43 and 46, JOD is not a source code version control system like `Git` [12] or `Subversion` [14]. JOD's primary purpose is efficiently refactoring, shuffling and recombining J words not tracking their detailed histories. *Traditional version control systems focus on the history of source code* and provide detailed merge, security and multiuser network facilities that JOD lacks. However, since JOD generates standard J source code scripts it's easy to use JOD with version control systems. The main difficulty is choosing a suitable level of detail: *dictionary*, *script* or *word*. The following shows how `Git` can be used for each of these levels. `Git` has a number of graphical GUI interfaces these examples use bash shell commands.

1. **Dictionary:** `make`, see page 36, can dump entire dictionaries as a single J script. Dump scripts contain all<sup>15</sup> dictionary word definitions, test scripts, groups, suites and macros. Storing dump scripts in version control systems is an effective and simple way of tracking dictionary changes. To create dump scripts I run the macro `dumpput`. `dumpput` is stored in the `utils` dictionary; it dumps the `put` dictionary and copies the generated script to a common local directory and a `Dropbox` [11] staging directory that I use for moving JOD dictionaries between various machines.

```
NB. Step 1: J session commands - open dictionaries
od ;:'docs utils' [ 3 od ''
+-----+
|1|opened (rw/ro) ->|docs|utils|
+-----+

1 rm 'dumpput' NB. run dump macro - (utils) must be on path
+-----+
|1|object(s) on path dumped ->|c:/jod/j701/docs/dump/docs.ijs|
+-----+
+-----+
|c:/jod/j701/joddumps/docs.ijs|
+-----+
+-----+
|c:/db/Dropbox/joddumps/docs.ijs|
+-----+
```

```
$ echo Step 2: Bash shell commands > /dev/null

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/joddumps (master)
$ pwd
/c/jod/j701/joddumps
```

<sup>15</sup>Word references are not present in dump scripts. They can be easily regenerated with `globs`, see page 30.



```

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/joddumps (master)
$ git status -s
M docs.ijs
M joddev.ijs
M utils.ijs

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/joddumps (master)
$ git commit -m 'recent changes to docs.ijs dictionary'
[master 1577d1a] recent changes to docs.ijs dictionary
1 files changed, 46 insertions(+), 4 deletions(-)

```

2. **Script:** Word and test scripts generated by JOD are stored in a dictionary's script and suite subdirectories, see Figure 3 on page 55. In the following a Git repository has been created in the script subdirectory and the contents of the exif group have been edited and regenerated.

```

NB. Step 1: J session commands - open dictionaries
od ;:'smugdev smug image utils' [ 3 od ''
+-----+
|1|opened (rw/ro/ro/ro) ->|smugdev|smug|image|utils|
+-----+

NB. edit (exif) content and save changes ...

NB. regenerate (exif) script
mls 'exif'
+-----+
|1|load script saved ->|c:/jod/j701/smugdev/script/exif.ijs|
+-----+

$ echo Step 2: Bash shell commands > /dev/null

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/smugdev/script (master)
$ pwd
/c/jod/j701/smugdev/script

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/smugdev/script (master)
$ git status -s
M exif.ijs

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/smugdev/script (master)
$ git add exif.ijs

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/smugdev/script (master)
$ git commit -m '(masspixels) added to description of (exif) interface'
[master e93ffe5] (masspixels) added to description of (exif) interface
1 files changed, 13 insertions(+), 11 deletions(-)

```





3. **Word:** JOD does not directly generate individual word scripts but it is easy to define a simple utility that does. `pwf`<sup>16</sup> writes individual JOD put dictionary word files. `pwf` is stored in the `utils` dictionary.

```
pwf=: 3 : 0
```

```
NB.*pwf v-- write put dictionary words as script files.
NB.
NB. monad: pwf clPattern
NB.
NB.   pwf 're' NB. write put dictionary words with prefix 're'
NB.   pwf ''   NB. write all put dictionary words
NB.
NB. dyad:   clPath pwf clPattern
NB.
NB.   'c:/temp' pwf 'de' NB. write to given directory

'' pwf y
:
NB. JOD references !(*)=. dnl get badrc_ajod_ ok_ajod_
NB. !(*)=. isempty_ajod_ jpathsep_ajod_ mkdir_ajod_ write_ajod_
pk=. >@{
tsl=. ] , ('\'_'_ = {:) }. '\'_
if.      badrc_ajod_ ws=. 0 _1 dnl y      do. ws return.
elseif. badrc_ajod_ ws=. 0 10 get 1 pk ws do. ws return.
NB. individual word scripts using short description text for tacits
elseif. badrc_ajod_ ws=. 0 0 1 wtext__MK__JODobj 1 pk ws do. ws return.
elseif.do.
try.
  NB. if (x) path is empty use put dictionary directory (alien\words)
  if. isempty_ajod_ x do.
    DL=. {:{.DPATH__ST__JODobj NB. !(*)=. DL
    NB. insure subdirectory when (x) is empty
    NB. when (x) is nonempty assume it exists
    mkdir_ajod_ <jpathsep_ajod_ tsl x=. ALI__DL,'words'
  end.
  NB. write individual word files
  ws=. 1 pk ws
  wpf=. (<jpathsep_ajod_ tsl x) ,&.> (0 {"1 ws) ,&.> <' .ijs'
  ok_ajod_ wpf [ (toHOST&.> 1 {"1 ws) write_ajod_&.> wpf
  catchd. jderr_ajod_ 'unable to write all word file(s)'
  end.
end.
)
```

<sup>16</sup> `pwf` is not a complete solution to exporting individual JOD objects as scripts. It only exports words and ignores tests, groups, macros and other objects. It does not address the issue of synchronizing exported objects with dictionary state. For example, dictionary word deletions are not propagated. If you wish to track dictionary state use the **Dictionary** (70) level method.



Using pwf is a simple matter of getting and running it. The following exports joddev words to joddev/alien/words and then commits differences in Git.

```

NB. Step 1: J session commands - open dictionaries
od ;:'joddev jod utils' [ 3 od ''
+-----+
|1|opened (rw/ro/ro) ->|joddev|jod|utils|
+-----+

NB. load (pwf, showpass) into the (ijod) locale
'ijod' get ;:'pwf showpass'
+-----+
|1|2 word(s) defined|
+-----+

NB. edit/modify/create words and save changes ...

#showpass pwf '' NB. write and count word files
+-----+...
|1|c:/jod/j701/joddev/alien/words/ASCII85.ijs|...
+-----+...
121

```

```

$ echo Step 2: Bash shell commands > /dev/null

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/joddev/alien/words (master)
$ pwd
/c/jod/j701/joddev/alien/words

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/joddev/alien/words (master)
$ git status -s
M pwf.ijs

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/joddev/alien/words (master)
$ git add pwf.ijs

bakerjd99@NINJA /c/jod/j701/smugdev/script (master)
$ git commit -m '(pwf) comments added'
[master e93fga4] (pwf) comments added
1 files changed, 3 insertions(+), 2 deletions(-)

```

## J Hungarian Notation for J



Figure 5: Zippy [2] isn't the only one challenged by the *awesome* power of J.

### J.1 Whither Hungarian

J is a *dynamically typed* language! What this means is that you do not have to declare the types of arguments and that types can change during program execution. Discarding the type declaration machinery found in other programming languages simplifies J coding but it can impose its own problems. Without declarations it's not always clear *what is a valid argument*. J does not require that you provide hints and, in J's *tacit* case, it does not even require that you provide arguments! Given the language's terse nature this quickly leads to an incomprehensible style that J detractors have dubbed *line noise*.

To distinguish my J code from line noise I have adapted a documentation style known as **Hungarian notation** [15]. Hungarian notation inspires devotion and disgust. Many swear by it and many swear at it. For me a convention is worthwhile if it *helps me* understand code. The style outlined here helps me understand and maintain J code. It might help you too.

### J.2 J Noun Types

There are two broad classes of arguments in J: nouns and verbs. Nouns are data; they correspond to arguments found in other programming languages. Verbs are programs. J adverbs and conjunctions take verb arguments.<sup>17</sup> Adverbs and conjunctions roughly correspond to the higher order functions

<sup>17</sup>Adverbs and conjunctions also take noun arguments.

found in languages like **LISP** [10] and **Scheme** [13]. J *explicit* definition syntax reserves the characters `x y m n u v` for arguments: see Table 13 on page 75.<sup>18</sup> The Hungarian notation described here focuses on noun arguments, (`x` and `y`), because they are the most common.

J Explicit Arguments	
<code>x</code>	<i>left verb noun argument</i>
<code>y</code>	<i>right verb noun argument</i>
<code>m</code>	<i>left conjunction noun argument</i>
<code>n</code>	<i>right conjunction noun argument</i>
<code>u</code>	<i>left adverb/conjunction verb argument</i>
<code>v</code>	<i>right conjunction verb argument</i>

Table 13: Characters reserved for J *explicit* definition arguments. *Tacit* definitions do not directly refer to arguments.

To succinctly describe a J noun you need to be mindful of:

- Type
- Rank
- Boxing

**J types** are congruent to simple types in other languages. The standard J utility verb `datatype` enumerates primitive J noun types.

```
datatype=: 3 : 0
n=. 1 2 4 8 16 32 64 128 1024 2048 4096 8192 16384 32768 65536 131072
t=. '/boolean/literal/integer/floating/complex/boxed/extended/rational'
t=. t, '/sparse boolean/sparse literal/sparse integer/sparse floating'
t=. t, '/sparse complex/sparse boxed/symbol/unicode'
(n i. 3!0 y) pick <:._1 t
)
```

```
NB. types of list items
datatype&.> (2x^128);1;'char';(s: ' symbol minded');7 %~ i. 4 5
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|extended|boolean|literal|symbol|floating|
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

**Rank** has a precise technical meaning in J but in this context it can be loosely thought of as array dimension. Typical ranks in J are:

<sup>18</sup> Earlier versions of J used `x. y. m. n. u. v.` for arguments. This inflected syntax has been deprecated.

- Single numbers like 42 and characters 'a' are called atoms. They have *rank 0*.<sup>19</sup>
- Lists like 1 2 3 and 'characters' correspond to *1-dimensional* arrays in most languages and have *rank 1*.
- Tables like i. 3 2 are *2-dimensional* arrays and have *rank 2*.
- *n* dimensional arrays have rank *n*.

**Boxing** is structural. J nouns are either boxed or simple. A simple noun has one of the types, (excluding boxed), listed by the datatype verb. To mix types in a J array you must box.

*NB. you must box < to mix types in J arrays*  
 (<u: 'unicode me'),(<i. 2 3),<'types to mix'

### J.3 Hungarian Noun Descriptions

To describe J nouns I use the following rules:<sup>20</sup>

1. For basic descriptions I use *TypeRank[Name]* where *Type* comes from Figure 6 on page 77, *Rank* is one of:

```
a      atom - rank 0
l      list - rank 1
t      table - rank 2
[n]    general rank n
```

and *Name* is an optional descriptive name. The *TypeRank* prefix uses the case of Figure 6 on page 77 and *Name* begins with an uppercase letter.

```
paSwitch    boolean (proposition) Switch
ilColors    integer list Colors
ctDocument  character table Document
jt          complex numerix table or matrix
s[3]Xref    rank 3 array of Xref symbols
Rl          extended rational list
bt          boxed table
SclRare     sparse character list Rare
wlPersian   unicode list Persian
ztHolder    empty table Holder
ulWhatever  universal list - any J list
uu          universal universal - any J argument
```

<sup>19</sup>Rank 0, or 0-dimensional objects occur in in all programming languages but are *rarely recognized*. This leads to mountains of ugly special case code. J is more than a programming language; it's a comprehensive and rigorous way to *think* about arrays.

<sup>20</sup>As in the film *Pirates of the Caribbean* these rules are more like *guidelines*!



J Native Type Prefixes		
Prefix	Native Type	(3! : 0) code
p	<i>boolean</i>	1
c	<i>literal</i>	2
i	<i>integer</i>	4
f	<i>floating</i>	8
j	<i>complex</i>	16
b	<i>boxed</i>	32
X	<i>extended</i>	64
R	<i>rational</i>	128
SP	<i>sparse boolean</i>	1024
SC	<i>sparse literal</i>	2048
SI	<i>sparse integer</i>	4096
SF	<i>sparse floating</i>	8192
SJ	<i>sparse complex</i>	16384
SB	<i>sparse boxed</i>	32768
s	<i>symbol</i>	65536
w	<i>unicode</i>	131072

(a) J native type prefixes

Generic Prefixes	
Prefix	Description
n	<i>any numeric type including boolean</i>
N	<i>any extended numeric type</i>
u	<i>universal - any J type</i>
z	<i>empty - has at least one 0 axis</i>

(b) Generic prefixes

Figure 6: Hungarian type prefixes.

2. For boxed nouns of depth one I use a *TypeRankTypeRank[Name]* where the right most pairing describes the boxed types. Boxed nouns of depth one occur often.

```

blcl      boxed list of character lists
blit      boxed list of integer tables
bljtCoord boxed list of complex tables
blul      boxed list any lists
b[3]s[4]Maps  boxed rank 3 array of rank 4 symbol array Maps

```

3. For more complex nouns, when it's helpful to expose some external structure, I use a mixture of more basic noun descriptions and J syntax.

```

(<blcl),<jtPlane      two item list
pa;ftXy;<btuu         three item list
cl;ia;(<blcl),<blcl   see Table 9 page 59
itYYYYMMDD;slWords;(<bt),<clName  four item list
saRed,saGreen,saBlue  emphasize items of simple noun

```

4. Finally, when more than one description is needed I separate individual descriptions with the *or* symbol *✓* and use as many consecutive lines as required.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>21</sup>The *✓* symbol was chosen because it falls outside of J's ASCII vocabulary and suggests "either-or."

*dyadic put argument description see page 43*

```
iaObject put clName V blclNames V btNvalues  
clLocale put clName V blclNames V btNvalues  
(iaObject,iaQualifier) put clName V blclNames  
(iaObject,iaQualifier) put clName btNvalues
```

*dyadic dnl argument description see page 21*

```
iaObject dnl zl V clPstr  
(iaObject,iaOption) dnl zl V clPstr  
(iaObject,iaOption,iaQualifier) dnl zl  
(iaObject,iaOption,iaQualifier) dnl clPstr
```



## K JOD-nemomics

*jodhelp us!*  
*I get it!*  
*dnl is not just a river.*  
*put it where the sun don't shine.*  
*make my day.*  
*globs of gunk.*  
*We're living in a golden jodage.*  
*diddle me this!*  
*grp'ing in the dark.*  
*Am I going to live doc?*  
*It was revolting.*  
*He od'ed man.*  
*et phone home.*  
*It's a brand newd.*  
*He put on a fine display.*  
*Dick uses Jane.*  
*I feel well restd.*  
*All packd up and nowhere to go.*





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