Java Arrays

Normally, an array is a collection of similar type of elements which has contiguous memory location.

**Java array** is an object which contains elements of a similar data type. Additionally, The elements of an array are stored in a contiguous memory location. It is a data structure where we store similar elements. We can store only a fixed set of elements in a Java array.

Array in Java is index-based, the first element of the array is stored at the 0th index, 2nd element is stored on 1st index and so on.

Unlike C/C++, we can get the length of the array using the length member. In C/C++, we need to use the sizeof operator.

In Java, array is an object of a dynamically generated class. Java array inherits the Object class, and implements the Serializable as well as Cloneable interfaces. We can store primitive values or objects in an array in Java. Like C/C++, we can also create single dimentional or multidimentional arrays in Java.

Moreover, Java provides the feature of anonymous arrays which is not available in C/C++.



Advantages

* **Code Optimization:** It makes the code optimized, we can retrieve or sort the data efficiently.
* **Random access:** We can get any data located at an index position.

Disadvantages

* **Size Limit:** We can store only the fixed size of elements in the array. It doesn't grow its size at runtime. To solve this problem, collection framework is used in Java which grows automatically.

Types of Array in java

There are two types of array.

* Single Dimensional Array
* Multidimensional Array

Single Dimensional Array in Java

**Syntax to Declare an Array in Java**

1. dataType[] arr; (or)
2. dataType []arr; (or)
3. dataType arr[];

**Instantiation of an Array in Java**

1. arrayRefVar=**new** datatype[size];

Example of Java Array

Let's see the simple example of java array, where we are going to declare, instantiate, initialize and traverse an array.

1. //Java Program to illustrate how to declare, instantiate, initialize
2. //and traverse the Java array.
3. **class** Testarray{
4. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
5. **int** a[]=**new** **int**[5];//declaration and instantiation
6. a[0]=10;//initialization
7. a[1]=20;
8. a[2]=70;
9. a[3]=40;
10. a[4]=50;
11. //traversing array
12. **for**(**int** i=0;i<a.length;i++)//length is the property of array
13. System.out.println(a[i]);
14. }}

Output:

10

20

70

40

50

Declaration, Instantiation and Initialization of Java Array

We can declare, instantiate and initialize the java array together by:

1. **int** a[]={33,3,4,5};//declaration, instantiation and initialization

Let's see the simple example to print this array.

1. //Java Program to illustrate the use of declaration, instantiation
2. //and initialization of Java array in a single line
3. **class** Testarray1{
4. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
5. **int** a[]={33,3,4,5};//declaration, instantiation and initialization
6. //printing array
7. **for**(**int** i=0;i<a.length;i++)//length is the property of array
8. System.out.println(a[i]);
9. }}

Output:

33

3

4

5

For-each Loop for Java Array

We can also print the Java array using **for-each loop**. The Java for-each loop prints the array elements one by one. It holds an array element in a variable, then executes the body of the loop.

The syntax of the for-each loop is given below:

1. **for**(data\_type variable:array){
2. //body of the loop
3. }

Let us see the example of print the elements of Java array using the for-each loop.

1. //Java Program to print the array elements using for-each loop
2. **class** Testarray1{
3. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
4. **int** arr[]={33,3,4,5};
5. //printing array using for-each loop
6. **for**(**int** i:arr)
7. System.out.println(i);
8. }}

Output:

33

3

4

5

Passing Array to a Method in Java

We can pass the java array to method so that we can reuse the same logic on any array.

Let's see the simple example to get the minimum number of an array using a method.

1. //Java Program to demonstrate the way of passing an array
2. //to method.
3. **class** Testarray2{
4. //creating a method which receives an array as a parameter
5. **static** **void** min(**int** arr[]){
6. **int** min=arr[0];
7. **for**(**int** i=1;i<arr.length;i++)
8. **if**(min>arr[i])
9. min=arr[i];
11. System.out.println(min);
12. }
14. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
15. **int** a[]={33,3,4,5};//declaring and initializing an array
16. min(a);//passing array to method
17. }}

Output:

3

Returning Array from the Method

We can also return an array from the method in Java.

1. //Java Program to return an array from the method
2. **class** TestReturnArray{
3. //creating method which returns an array
4. **static** **int**[] get(){
5. **return** **new** **int**[]{10,30,50,90,60};
6. }
8. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
9. //calling method which returns an array
10. **int** arr[]=get();
11. //printing the values of an array
12. **for**(**int** i=0;i<arr.length;i++)
13. System.out.println(arr[i]);
14. }}

Output:

10

30

50

90

60

Multidimensional Array in Java

In such case, data is stored in row and column based index (also known as matrix form).

**Syntax to Declare Multidimensional Array in Java**

1. dataType[][] arrayRefVar; (or)
2. dataType [][]arrayRefVar; (or)
3. dataType arrayRefVar[][]; (or)
4. dataType []arrayRefVar[];

**Example to instantiate Multidimensional Array in Java**

1. **int**[][] arr=**new** **int**[3][3];//3 row and 3 column

**Example to initialize Multidimensional Array in Java**

1. arr[0][0]=1;
2. arr[0][1]=2;
3. arr[0][2]=3;
4. arr[1][0]=4;
5. arr[1][1]=5;
6. arr[1][2]=6;
7. arr[2][0]=7;
8. arr[2][1]=8;
9. arr[2][2]=9;

Example of Multidimensional Java Array

Let's see the simple example to declare, instantiate, initialize and print the 2Dimensional array.

1. //Java Program to illustrate the use of multidimensional array
2. **class** Testarray3{
3. **public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){
4. //declaring and initializing 2D array
5. **int** arr[][]={{1,2,3},{2,4,5},{4,4,5}};
6. //printing 2D array
7. **for**(**int** i=0;i<3;i++){
8. **for**(**int** j=0;j<3;j++){
9. System.out.print(arr[i][j]+" ");
10. }
11. System.out.println();
12. }
13. }}

Output:

1 2 3

2 4 5

4 4 5