Writing our own Classloader

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Overview

Use the URLClassLoader
  - Understand how this works

Load from a file based URL

Load from a network URL

Write our own classloader
  - Load from a database

Using Interfaces and Implementations

If using our own classloader

- Cannot reference implementation in the code
- This will cause the class to be loaded with the app class loader

Split code into implementation and interface

- Interface definitions go on the classpath
- Implementation is loaded by our classloader

Writing our own Classloader

Will not load all classes
- Delgate to the 'system' classloader

If the parent can't load
- Load the class bytes from the database
- Use ClassLoader's defineClass method to load the class

Example uses SQL Server

Summary

URLClassLoader typically used in your application

– Takes an array or URLs

– Can be file:///, http:// or some other protocol

Can write our own classloader

– Extend java.lang.ClassLoader

– May delegate first