How to Read Excel file using Java
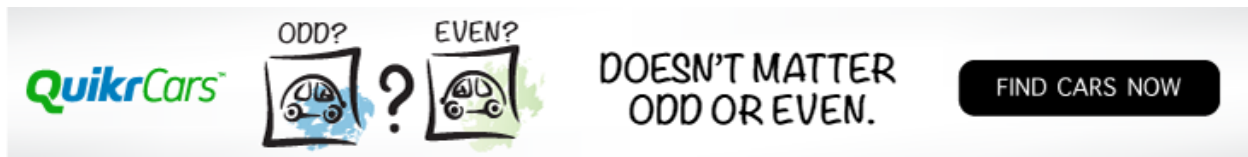
Normally, to read a data in excel, first we should have access to workbook, sheet which we want to read as workbook contains multiple sheets and if you want to read a particular cell we need location of a Cell.

In this article, we will discuss how to access workbook, sheet and a Cell using Jxl library. You can also consider Apache Poi Library to perform read and write operations with excel sheets.

As we know JXL doesn't support Excel 2007 ".xlsx" file format. It only supports the old BIFF (binary) ".xls" format. Where as Apache POI supports both Excel 2003 - xls and Excel 2007 - xlsx file formats.

To start with gaining access to Workbook, we should always remember the below command:

```
String FilePath = "d://filepath.xls";
FileInputStream fs = new FileInputStream(FilePath);
Workbook wb = Workbook.getWorkbook(fs);
```

Or You can also directly send the file as below

```
Workbook wb = Workbook.getWorkbook(new File("samplefile.xls"));
```

Now to get the access to the particular sheet, we should use the below command:

```
Sheet sh = wb.getSheet(0); // this is to get the access to Sheet1.
```

If you want to get the access to sheet2, you should specify as below:

```
Sheet sh = wb.getSheet(1);
```

You can also get the sheet access by sheet name, you should specify as below:

```
Sheet sh = wb.getSheet("sheet1");
```

Now we will get the content in particular location.

```
String CellGetContent = sh.getCell(0,0).getContents();
System.out.println(CellGetContent);
```
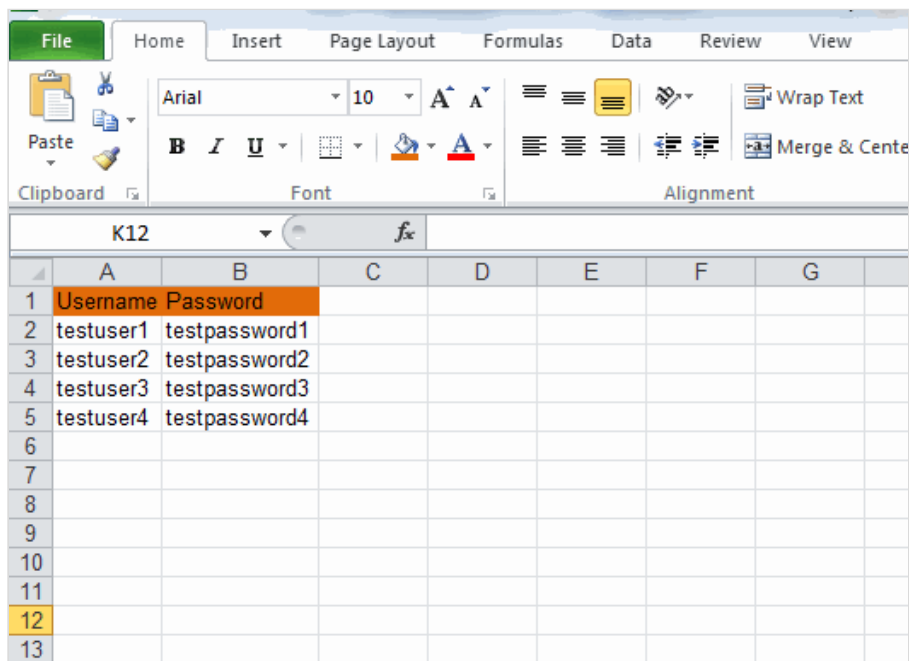
We can also write it as :

```
System.out.println(sh.getCell(0,0).getContents());
```

There is an other style to get the cell contents as below:

```
Cell Row0Col0 = sheet.getCell(0,0);
Cell Row1Col1 = sheet.getCell(1,1);
String FirstRowFirstColumn = Row0Col0.getContents();
String SecondRowSecondColumn = Row1Col1.getcontents();
```

The below is the input sheet for the example program:

Please find the below code in which we will read a data from excel sheet and print using for loop

```java
package com.pack;

import java.io.FileInputStream;
import java.io.IOException;
import jxl.Sheet;
import jxl.Workbook;
import jxl.read.biff.BiffException;

public class ReadExcelFile {

        public void readExcel() throws BiffException, IOException {
                String FilePath = "D:\\sampledoc.xls";
                FileInputStream fs = new FileInputStream(FilePath);
                Workbook wb = Workbook.getWorkbook(fs);

                // TO get the access to the sheet
                Sheet sh = wb.getSheet("Sheet1");

                // To get the number of rows present in sheet
                int totalNoOfRows = sh.getRows();

                // To get the number of columns present in sheet
                int totalNoOfCols = sh.getColumns();

                for (int row = 0; row < totalNoOfRows; row++) {

                        for (int col = 0; col < totalNoOfCols; col++) {
                                System.out.print(sh.getCell(col, row).getContents() + "\t");
                        }
                        System.out.println();
                }
        }

        public static void main(String args[]) throws BiffException, IOException {
                ReadExcelFile DT = new ReadExcelFile();
                DT.readExcel();
        }
}
```

The output of the below program is:

Username password
testuser1 testpassword1
testuser2 testpassword2
testuser3 testpassword3
testuser4 testpassword4

Hope the above code works. Please let me know if you face any problems. Thank you.

Tags:

Excel

Excel API:

JExcel API

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Comments

Reading Data From Excel

Permalink Submitted by Ravi Pratap Jaiswal on Wed, 04/15/2015 - 02:55

Thanks for soo much help.Code worked fine.

reply

selenium

This code to read data from xl is quite simple to understand and easy to use., keep up the good job., keep posting more useful articles like these..

reply

selenium

code to read data from excel is easy and simple to use., keep up the good job

reply

main class

Nice Explanation of Read Excel File , but where is the main Class ,then what is the link between two class's

reply

Thanking

The way you have explained is really good and understable..Thank you dude..it helped me a lot...keep up...!!

reply

Code for different sheets

Pls help with the Code for reading data from different sheets of sigle excel file.

reply

Java

Good explanation for new users thanks a lot man!!
Regards,
Harish

reply

Exception

Exception in thread "main" jxl.read.biff.BiffException: Unable to recognize OLE stream
at jxl.read.biff.CompoundFile.<init>(CompoundFile.java:116)
at jxl.read.biff.File.<init>(File.java:127)
at jxl.Workbook.getWorkbook(Workbook.java:268)
at jxl.Workbook.getWorkbook(Workbook.java:253)
at invoke.browserPackage.ReadExcelFile.readExcel(ReadExcelFile.java:14)
at invoke.browserPackage.ReadExcelFile.main(ReadExcelFile.java:36)

I got above exception

reply

If your using xlsx format of

If your using xlsx format of spreadsheet, jxl will throw that error. Since it doesn't support the latest version xlsx, Instead change your spreadsheet to xls it will work.

reply

Answer to the Exception

Permalink Submitted by Ajay on Wed, 07/22/2015 - 03:20

 save the Excel format to xls instead of xlsx

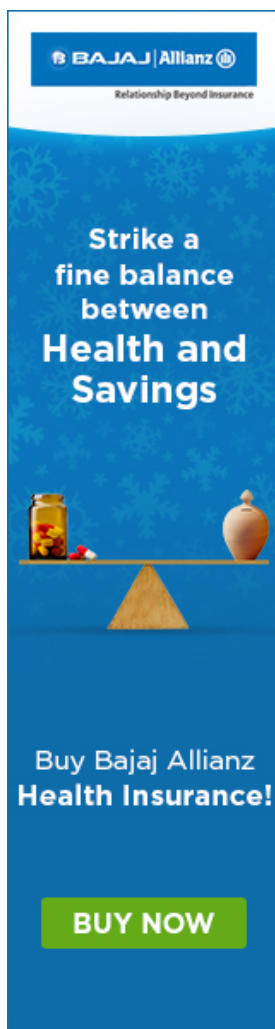reply

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