2.4.1 String

Java String

In java, string is basically an object that represents sequence of char values. An array of characters works same as java string. For example:

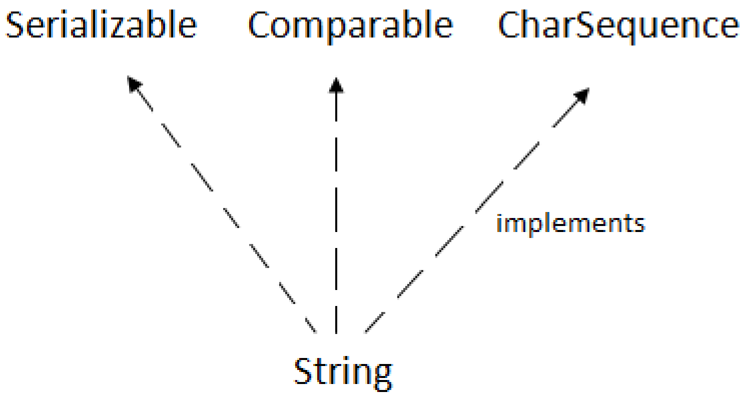
```
1. char[] ch={'j','a','v','a','t','p','o','i','n','t'};
2. String s=new String(ch);
```

is same as:

```
1. String s="javatpoint";
```

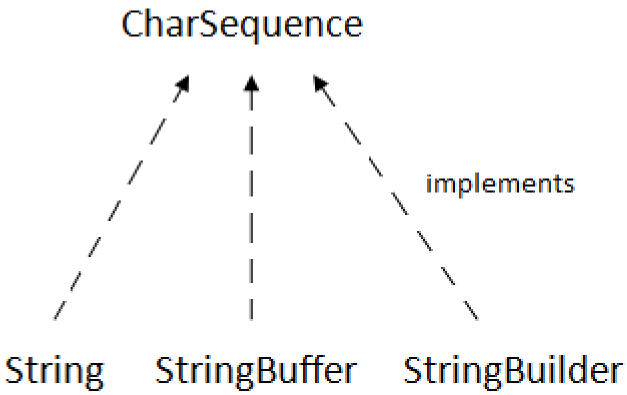
Java String class provides a lot of methods to perform operations on string such as compare(), concat(), equals(), split(), length(), replace(), compareTo(), intern(), substring() etc.

The java.lang.String class implements *Serializable*, *Comparable* and *CharSequence* interfaces.



CharSequence Interface

The CharSequence interface is used to represent sequence of characters. It is implemented by String, StringBuffer and StringBuilder classes. It means, we can create string in java by using these 3 classes.



The java String is immutable i.e. it cannot be changed. Whenever we change any string, a new instance is created. For mutable string, you can use StringBuffer and StringBuilder classes.

We will discuss about immutable string later. Let's first understand what is string in java and how to create the string object.

What is String in java

Generally, string is a sequence of characters. But in java, string is an object that represents a sequence of characters. The java.lang.String class is used to create string object.

How to create String object?

There are two ways to create String object:

1. By string literal
2. By new keyword

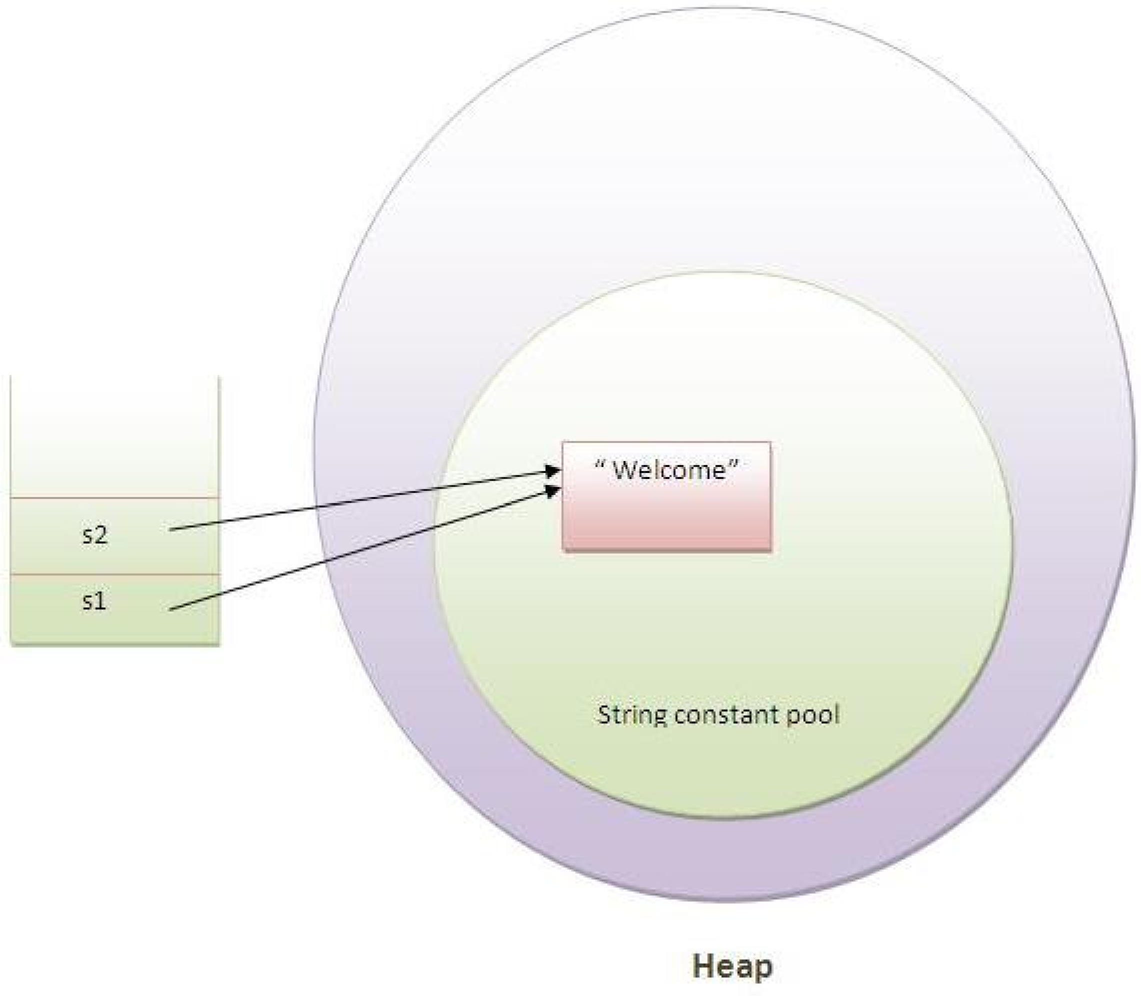
1) String Literal

Java String literal is created by using double quotes. For Example:

```
String s="welcome";
```

Each time you create a string literal, the JVM checks the string constant pool first. If the string already exists in the pool, a reference to the pooled instance is returned. If string doesn't exist in the pool, a new string instance is created and placed in the pool. For example:

```
String s1="Welcome";
String s2="Welcome";//will not create new instance
```



In the above example only one object will be created. Firstly JVM will not find any string object with the value "Welcome" in string constant pool, so it will create a new object. After that it will find the string with the value "Welcome" in the pool, it will not create new object but will return the reference to the same instance.

Note: String objects are stored in a special memory area known as string constant pool.

Why java uses concept of string literal?

To make Java more memory efficient (because no new objects are created if it exists already in string constant pool).

2) By new keyword

```
String s=new String("Welcome");//creates two objects and one reference variable
```

In such case, JVM will create a new string object in normal(non pool) heap memory and the literal "Welcome" will be placed in the string constant pool. The variable s will refer to the object in heap(non pool).

Java String Example

```
public class StringExample{
public static void main(String args[]){
String s1="java";//creating string by java string literal
char ch[]={'s','t','r','i','n','g','s'};
String s2=new String(ch);//converting char array to string
String s3=new String("example");//creating java string by new keyword
System.out.println(s1);
System.out.println(s2);
System.out.println(s3);
}}
```