

Indian National Theatre Trust

4, Safdar Hashmi Marg, New Delhi-110001
Telephone: 011-23714307

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Now as you can see that whenever we create a HashSet, it internally creates a HashMap and if we insert an element into this HashSet using add() method, it actually call put() method on internally created HashMap object with element you have specified as it's key and constant Object called "PRESENT" as it's value. So we can say that a Set achieves uniqueness internally through HashMap. Now the whole story comes around how a HashMap and put() method internally works.

As we know in a HashMap each key is unique and when we call put(Key, Value) method, it returns the previous value associated with key, or null if there was no mapping for key. So in add() method we check the return value of map.put(key, value) method with null value.

If map.put(key, value) returns null, then the statement "map.put(e, PRESENT) == null" will return true and element is added to the HashSet(internally HashMap).

If map.put(key, value) returns old value of the key, then the statement "map.put(e, PRESENT) == null" will return false and element is not added to the HashSet(internally HashMap).

As LinkedHashSet extends HashSet, so it internally calls constructors of HashSet using super(). Similarly creating an object of TreeSet class internally creates object of Navigable Map as backing map.

Related Article : How HashMap internally works in Java.

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