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Get Internal Comments By Using Eclipse JDT ASTParser

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You may try to use Eclipse JDT ASTParser to parse Java source files, but cannot get the list of internal comments in the .java file. There is a method called `getCommentList` from the `CompilationUnit` class. But if you use it, you find that it returns a list of empty comments.

How to get internal comments by using Eclipse JDT ASTParser?

The answer is that comments return by the `getCommentList` method of `CompilationUnit` does not have the comment body. The comments are not visited. One way to visit the comments is calling `accept` method for each comment in the `Comment List`.

```
for (Comment comment : (List<Comment>) cu.getCommentList()) {  
    comment.accept(new CommentVisitor(cu, sourceString));  
}
```

Below is the jar files required to run the program. This is prerequisite condition, problem will happen if this is not configured right. Here is download link: [lib.zip](#).

- +  org.eclipse.core.resources_3.5.2.R35x_v20091203-1235.jar - FindMethod/lib
- +  org.eclipse.jdt.core_3.5.2.v_981_R35x.jar - FindMethod/lib
- +  org.eclipse.core.runtime_3.5.0.v20090525.jar - FindMethod/lib
- +  org.eclipse.osgi_3.5.2.R35x_v20100126.jar - FindMethod/lib
- +  org.eclipse.core.contenttype_3.4.1.R35x_v20090826-0451.jar - FindMethod/lib
- +  org.eclipse.core.jobs_3.4.100.v20090429-1800.jar - FindMethod/lib
- +  org.eclipse.equinox.common_3.5.1.R35x_v20090807-1100.jar - FindMethod/lib
- +  org.eclipse.equinox.preferences_3.2.301.R35x_v20091117.jar - FindMethod/lib

A complete code example:

```
package ASTParser;

import java.io.BufferedReader;
import java.io.FileReader;
import java.io.IOException;
import java.util.List;

import org.eclipse.jdt.core.dom.AST;
import org.eclipse.jdt.core.dom.ASTParser;
import org.eclipse.jdt.core.dom.ASTVisitor;
import org.eclipse.jdt.core.dom.BlockComment;
import org.eclipse.jdt.core.dom.Comment;
import org.eclipse.jdt.core.dom.CompilationUnit;
import org.eclipse.jdt.core.dom.LineComment;

public class ParseJavaFile {

    public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
        String str = "/workspace/UlimateTest/src/ASTParser/a.java";
        String converted = readFileToString(str);
        parse(converted);
    }

    // use ASTParse to parse string
    public static void parse(final String str) {
        ASTParser parser = ASTParser.newParser(AST.JLS3);
        parser.setSource(str.toCharArray());
        parser.setKind(ASTParser.K_COMPILATION_UNIT);

        final CompilationUnit cu = (CompilationUnit) parser.createAST(null);

        for (Comment comment : (List<Comment>) cu.getCommentList()) {
            comment.accept(new CommentVisitor(cu, str));
        }
    }

    // read file content into a string
    public static String readFileToString(String filePath) throws IOException {
        StringBuilder fileData = new StringBuilder(1000);
        BufferedReader reader = new BufferedReader(new FileReader(filePath));

        char[] buf = new char[10];
        int numRead = 0;
        while ((numRead = reader.read(buf)) != -1) {
            String readData = String.valueOf(buf, 0, numRead);
            fileData.append(readData);
            buf = new char[1024];
        }

        reader.close();
        return fileData.toString();
    }
}
```

```

    }

}

//comment visitor
class CommentVisitor extends ASTVisitor {
    CompilationUnit cu;
    String source;

    public CommentVisitor(CompilationUnit cu, String source) {
        super();
        this.cu = cu;
        this.source = source;
    }

    public boolean visit(LineComment node) {
        int start = node.getStartPosition();
        int end = start + node.getLength();
        String comment = source.substring(start, end);
        System.out.println(comment);
        return true;
    }

    public boolean visit(BlockComment node) {
        int start = node.getStartPosition();
        int end = start + node.getLength();
        String comment = source.substring(start, end);
        System.out.println(comment);
        return true;
    }

}

```

a.java file

```

package ASTParser;

public class a {

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        //VariableDeclarationStatement
        String s = "abc";
        s.toCharArray();

        //EmptyStatement

        /*
         *
         * block comment
         */
    }

}

```

Output:

```

//VariableDeclarationStatement
//EmptyStatement
/*
    *
    * block comment
    */

```



You May Also Like ...

1. [Eclipse JDT tutorial: Parse a Java method by using ASTParser](#)
2. [A complete standalone example of ASTParser](#)
3. [Use ASTParser to Parse a Java Project](#)
4. [Use JDT ASTParser to Parse Single .java files](#)

Category >> [Java Development Tools \(JDT\)](#)

If you want to post syntax highlighted code and let me or someone else review it, please put the code inside `<pre><code>` and `</code></pre>` tags.

For example:

```
<pre><code>
String foo = "bar";
</code></pre>
```

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Program Creek

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