



APACHE POI-WORD

java word library

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About the Tutorial

This tutorial provides a basic understanding of Apache POI library and its features. Here we will learn how to read, write, and manage MS-Word documents using Java programs.

Audience

This tutorial is designed for the readers working on Java and especially those who want to create, read, write, and modify Word files using Java.

Prerequisites

A general awareness of Java programming with JDK 1.5 or later versions and IO concepts in Java are the only prerequisites to understand this tutorial.

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The API of Apache POI contains a number of methods and classes. In this tutorial, we have used only some of those for demonstration purpose. We encourage the readers to refer the complete API document for a comprehensive understanding.

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1. Apache POI Word – Overview

Many a time, a software application is required to generate reference documents in Microsoft Word file format. Sometimes, an application is even expected to receive Word files as input data.

Any Java programmer who wants to produce MS-Office files as output must use a predefined and read-only API to do so.

What is Apache POI?

Apache POI is a popular API that allows programmers to create, modify, and display MS-Office files using Java programs. It is an open source library developed and distributed by Apache Software Foundation to design or modify MS-Office files using Java program. It contains classes and methods to decode the user input data or a file into MS-Office documents.

Components of Apache POI

Apache POI contains classes and methods to work on all OLE2 Compound documents of MS-Office. The list of components of this API is given below:

- **POIFS** (Poor Obfuscation Implementation File System): This component is the basic factor of all other POI elements. It is used to read different files explicitly.
- **HSSF** (Horrible SpreadSheet Format): It is used to read and write .xls format of MS-Excel files.
- **XSSF** (XML SpreadSheet Format): It is used for .xlsx file format of MS-Excel.
- **HPSF** (Horrible Property Set Format): It is used to extract property sets of the MS-Office files.
- **HWPF** (Horrible Word Processor Format): It is used to read and write .doc extension files of MS-Word.
- **XWPF** (XML Word Processor Format): It is used to read and write .docx extension files of MS-Word.
- **HSLF** (Horrible Slide Layout Format): It is used to read, create, and edit PowerPoint presentations.
- **HDGF** (Horrible DiaGram Format): It contains classes and methods for MS-Visio binary files.
- **HPBF** (Horrible PuBlisher Format): It is used to read and write MS-Publisher files.

This tutorial guides you through the process of working on MS-Word files using Java. Therefore the discussion is confined to HWPF and XWPF components.

Note: Older versions of POI support binary file formats such as doc, xls, ppt, etc. Version 3.5 onwards, POI supports ooxml file formats of MS-Office such as docx, xlsx, pptx, etc.

2. Apache POI Word – Installation

This chapter takes you through the process of setting up Apache POI on Windows and Linux based systems. Apache POI can be easily installed and integrated with your current Java environment, following a few simple steps without any complex setup procedures. User administration is required while installation.

System Requirements

JDK	Java SE 2 JDK 1.5 or above
Memory	1 GB RAM (recommended)
Disk Space	No minimum requirement
Operating System Version	Windows XP or above, Linux

Let us now proceed with the steps to install Apache POI.

Step 1: Verify your Java Installation

First of all, you need to have Java Software Development Kit (SDK) installed on your system. To verify this, execute any of the two commands mentioned below, depending on the platform you are working on.

If the Java installation has been done properly, then it will display the current version and specification of your Java installation. A sample output is given in the following table:

Platform	Command	Sample Output
Windows	Open command console and type: \>java -version	Java version "1.7.0_60" Java (TM) SE Run Time Environment (build 1.7.0_60-b19) Java Hotspot (TM) 64-bit Server VM (build 24.60-b09,mixed mode)
Linux	Open command terminal and type: \$java -version	java version "1.7.0_25" Open JDK Runtime Environment (rhel-2.3.10.4.el6_4-x86_64) Open JDK 64-Bit Server VM (build 23.7-b01, mixed mode)

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