A **java package** is a group of similar types of classes, interfaces and sub-packages.

Package in java can be categorized in two form, built-in package and user-defined package.

There are many built-in packages such as java, lang, awt, javax, swing, net, io, util, sql etc.

Here, we will have the detailed learning of creating and using user-defined packages.

Advantage of Java Package

1) Java package is used to categorize the classes and interfaces so that they can be easily maintained.

2) Java package provides access protection.

3) Java package removes naming collision.

Simple example of java package

The **package keyword** is used to create a package in java.

```
//save as Simple.java
package mypack;
public class Simple{
 public static void main(String args[]){
    System.out.println("Welcome to package");
   }
}
```

How to compile java package

If you are not using any IDE, you need to follow the **syntax** given below:

1. javac -d directory javafilename

For **example**

1. javac -d . Simple.java

The -d switch specifies the destination where to put the generated class file. You can use any directory name like /home (in case of Linux), d:/abc (in case of windows) etc. If you want to keep the package within the same directory, you can use . (dot).

How to run java package program

You need to use fully qualified name e.g. mypack.Simple etc to run the class.

To Compile: javac -d . Simple.java
To Run: java mypack.Simple

```
Output:Welcome to package
```

The -d is a switch that tells the compiler where to put the class file i.e. it represents destinatior folder.

How to access package from another package?

There are three ways to access the package from outside the package.

1. import package.*;
2. import package.classname;
3. fully qualified name.

1) Using packagename.*

If you use package.* then all the classes and interfaces of this package will be accessible but not subpackages.

The import keyword is used to make the classes and interface of another package accessible to the current package.

Example of package that import the packagename.*

```
//save by A.java
package pack;
public class A{
  public void msg(){System.out.println("Hello");}
}
```

```
//save by B.java
package mypack;
import pack.*;

class B{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   A obj = new A();
   obj.msg();
  }
}
```

```
Output:Hello
```

---

2) Using packagename.classname

If you import package.classname then only declared class of this package will be accessible.

Example of package by import package.classname

```
//save by A.java

```

```java
package pack;
public class A{
  public void msg(){System.out.println("Hello");}
}
```

```java
//save by B.java
package mypack;
import pack.A;

class B{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   A obj = new A();
   obj.msg();
  }
}
```

```
Output:Hello
```

3) Using fully qualified name

If you use fully qualified name then only declared class of this package will be accessible. Now there is no need to import. But you need to use fully qualified name every time when you are accessing the class or interface.

It is generally used when two packages have same class name e.g. java.util and java.sql packages contain Date class.

Example of package by import fully qualified name

```java
//save by A.java
package pack;
public class A{
  public void msg(){System.out.println("Hello");}
}
```

```java
//save by B.java
```

```
package mypack;
class B{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   pack.A obj = new pack.A();//using fully qualified name
   obj.msg();
  }
}
```

```
Output:Hello
```

Note: If you import a package, subpackages will not be imported.

If you import a package, all the classes and interface of that package will be imported excluding the classes and interfaces of the subpackages. Hence, you need to import the subpackage as well.

Note: Sequence of the program must be package then import then class.

Subpackage in java

Package inside the package is called the **subpackage**. It should be created **to categorize the package further**.

Let's take an example, Sun Microsystem has definded a package named java that contains many classes like System, String, Reader, Writer, Socket etc. These classes represent a particular group e.g. Reader and Writer classes are for Input/Output operation, Socket and ServerSocket classes are for networking etc and so on. So, Sun has subcategorized the java package into subpackages such as lang, net, io etc. and put the Input/Output related classes in io package, Server and ServerSocket classes in net packages and so on.

The standard of defining package is domain.company.package e.g. com.javatpoint.bean or org.sssit.dao.

Example of Subpackage

```
package com.javatpoint.core;
class Simple{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   System.out.println("Hello subpackage");
  }
}
```

To Compile: javac -d . Simple.java
To Run: java com.javatpoint.core.Simple

```
Output:Hello subpackage
```

How to send the class file to another directory or drive?

There is a scenario, I want to put the class file of A.java source file in classes folder of c: drive. For example:

```
//save as Simple.java
package mypack;
public class Simple{
 public static void main(String args[]){
    System.out.println("Welcome to package");
   }
}
```

To Compile:

e:\sources> javac -d c:\classes Simple.java

To Run:

To run this program from e:\source directory, you need to set classpath of the directory where the

```
e:\sources> set classpath=c:\classes;.;
e:\sources> java mypack.Simple
```

Another way to run this program by -classpath switch of java:

The -classpath switch can be used with javac and java tool.

To run this program from e:\source directory, you can use -classpath switch of java that tells where to look for class file. For example:

```
e:\sources> java -classpath c:\classes mypack.Simple
```

```
Output:Welcome to package
```

Ways to load the class files or jar files

There are two ways to load the class files temporary and permanent.

- Temporary
  - By setting the classpath in the command prompt
  - By -classpath switch
- Permanent
  - By setting the classpath in the environment variables
  - By creating the jar file, that contains all the class files, and copying the jar file in the jre/lib/ext folder.

Rule: There can be only one public class in a java source file and it must be saved by the public class name.

```
//save as C.java otherwise Compilte Time Error

```

```
class A{}
class B{}
public class C{}
```

How to put two public classes in a package?

If you want to put two public classes in a package, have two java source files containing one pub
name same. For example:

```
//save as A.java

package javatpoint;
public class A{}
```

```
//save as B.java

package javatpoint;
public class B{}
```

Access Modifiers in Java

There are two types of modifiers in Java: **access modifiers** and **non-access modifiers**.

The access modifiers in Java specifies the accessibility or scope of a field, method, constructor, or class. We can change the access level of fields, constructors, methods, and class by applying the access modifier on it.

There are four types of Java access modifiers:

1. **Private**: The access level of a private modifier is only within the class. It cannot be accessed from outside the class.
2. **Default**: The access level of a default modifier is only within the package. It cannot be accessed from outside the package. If you do not specify any access level, it will be the default.
3. **Protected**: The access level of a protected modifier is within the package and outside the package through child class. If you do not make the child class, it cannot be accessed from outside the package.
4. **Public**: The access level of a public modifier is everywhere. It can be accessed from within the class, outside the class, within the package and outside the package.

There are many non-access modifiers, such as static, abstract, synchronized, native, volatile, transient, etc. Here, we are going to learn the access modifiers only.

Understanding Java Access Modifiers

Let's understand the access modifiers in Java by a simple table.

Access Modifier	within class	within package	outside package by subclass only
Private	Y	N	N
Default	Y	Y	N
Protected	Y	Y	Y
Public	Y	Y	Y

1) Private

The private access modifier is accessible only within the class.

Simple example of private access modifier

In this example, we have created two classes A and Simple. A class contains private data member and private method. We are accessing these private members from outside the class, so there is a compile-time error.

```
class A{
private int data=40;
private void msg(){System.out.println("Hello java");}
}

```

```
public class Simple{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   A obj=new A();
   System.out.println(obj.data);//Compile Time Error
   obj.msg();//Compile Time Error
   }
}
```

Role of Private Constructor

If you make any class constructor private, you cannot create the instance of that class from outside the class. For example:

```
class A{
private A(){}//private constructor
void msg(){System.out.println("Hello java");}
}
public class Simple{
 public static void main(String args[]){
   A obj=new A();//Compile Time Error
 }
}
```

Note: A class cannot be private or protected except nested class.

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2) Default

If you don't use any modifier, it is treated as **default** by default. The default modifier is accessible only within package. It cannot be accessed from outside the package. It provides more accessibility than private. But, it is more restrictive than protected, and public.

Example of default access modifier

In this example, we have created two packages pack and mypack. We are accessing the A class from outside its package, since A class is not public, so it cannot be accessed from outside the package.

```java
//save by A.java
package pack;
class A{
  void msg(){System.out.println("Hello");}
}
```

```java
//save by B.java
package mypack;
import pack.*;
class B{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   A obj = new A();//Compile Time Error
   obj.msg();//Compile Time Error
  }
}
```

In the above example, the scope of class A and its method msg() is default so it cannot be accessed from outside the package.

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3) Protected

The **protected access modifier** is accessible within package and outside the package but through inheritance only.

The protected access modifier can be applied on the data member, method and constructor. It can't be applied on the class.

It provides more accessibility than the default modifer.

Example of protected access modifier

In this example, we have created the two packages pack and mypack. The A class of pack package is public, so can be accessed from outside the package. But msg method of this package is declared as protected, so it can be accessed from outside the class only through inheritance.

```
//save by A.java
package pack;
public class A{
protected void msg(){System.out.println("Hello");}
}
```

```
//save by B.java
package mypack;
import pack.*;

class B extends A{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   B obj = new B();
   obj.msg();
  }
}
```

```
Output:Hello
```

---

4) Public

The **public access modifier** is accessible everywhere. It has the widest scope among all other modifiers.

Example of public access modifier

```java
//save by A.java

package pack;
public class A{
public void msg(){System.out.println("Hello");}
}
```

```java
//save by B.java

package mypack;
import pack.*;

class B{
  public static void main(String args[]){
   A obj = new A();
   obj.msg();
  }
}
```

```
Output:Hello
```

Java Access Modifiers with Method Overriding

If you are overriding any method, overridden method (i.e. declared in subclass) must not be more restrictive.

```java
class A{
protected void msg(){System.out.println("Hello java");}
}

public class Simple extends A{
void msg(){System.out.println("Hello java");}//C.T.Error
 public static void main(String args[]){
    Simple obj=new Simple();
    obj.msg();
    }
}
```