

Getting started with Maven

Create Java project

```
mvn archetype:generate
-DgroupId=org.yourcompany.project
-DartifactId=application
```

Create web project

```
mvn archetype:generate
-DgroupId=org.yourcompany.project
-DartifactId=application
-DarchetypeArtifactId=maven-archetype-webapp
```

Create archetype from existing project

```
mvn archetype:create-from-project
```

Main phases

clean — delete target directory
validate — validate, if the project is correct
compile — compile source code, classes stored in target/classes
test — run tests
package — take the compiled code and package it in its distributable format, e.g. JAR, WAR
verify — run any checks to verify the package is valid and meets quality criteria
install — install the package into the local repository
deploy — copies the final package to the remote repository

Useful command line options

-DskipTests=true compiles the tests, but skips running them
-Dmaven.test.skip=true skips compiling the tests and does not run them
-T - number of threads:
 -T 4 is a decent default
 -T 2C - 2 threads per CPU
-rf, --resume-from resume build from the specified project
-pl, --projects makes Maven build only specified modules and not the whole project
-am, --also-make makes Maven figure out what modules our target depends on and build them too
-o, --offline work offline
-X, --debug enable debug output
-P, --activate-profiles comma-delimited list of profiles to activate
-U, --update-snapshots forces a check for updated dependencies on remote repositories
-ff, --fail-fast stop at first failure

Essential plugins

Help plugin — used to get relative information about a project or the system.
mvn help:describe describes the attributes of a plugin
mvn help:effective-pom displays the effective POM as an XML for the current build, with the active profiles factored in.
Dependency plugin — provides the capability to manipulate artifacts.
mvn dependency:analyze analyzes the dependencies of this project
mvn dependency:tree prints a tree of dependencies

Compiler plugin — compiles your java code. Set language level with the following configuration:

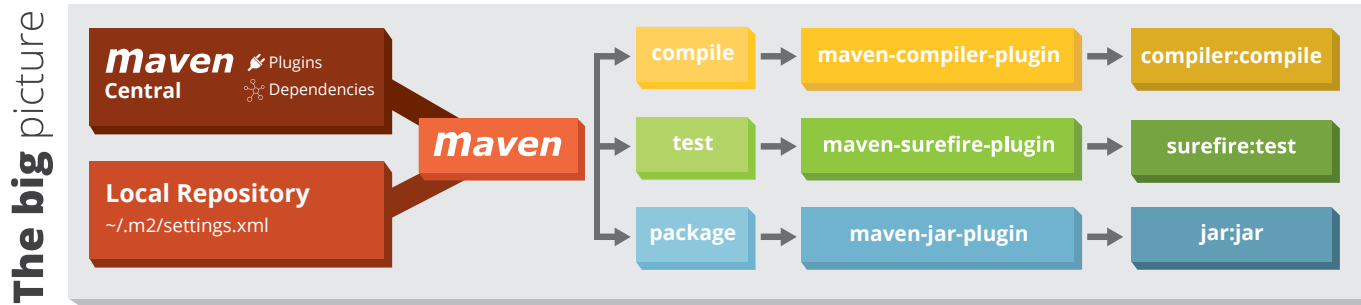
```
<plugin>
  <groupId>org.apache.maven.plugins</groupId>
  <artifactId>maven-compiler-plugin</artifactId>
  <version>3.6.1</version>
  <configuration>
    <source>1.8</source>
    <target>1.8</target>
  </configuration>
</plugin>
```

Version plugin — used when you want to manage the versions of artifacts in a project's POM.

Wrapper plugin — an easy way to ensure a user of your Maven build has everything that is necessary.

Spring Boot plugin — compiles your Spring Boot app, build an executable fat jar.

Exec — amazing general purpose plugin, can run arbitrary commands :)





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Create a Repository

From scratch -- Create a new local repository

```
$ git init [project name]
```

Download from an existing repository

```
$ git clone my_url
```

Observe your Repository

List new or modified files not yet committed

```
$ git status
```

Show the changes to files not yet staged

```
$ git diff
```

Show the changes to staged files

```
$ git diff --cached
```

Show all staged and unstaged file changes

```
$ git diff HEAD
```

Show the changes between two commit ids

```
$ git diff commit1 commit2
```

List the change dates and authors for a file

```
$ git blame [file]
```

Show the file changes for a commit id and/or file

```
$ git show [commit]:[file]
```

Show full change history

```
$ git log
```

Show change history for file/directory including diffs

```
$ git log -p [file/directory]
```

Working with Branches

List all local branches

```
$ git branch
```

List all branches, local and remote

```
$ git branch -av
```

Switch to a branch, my_branch, and update working directory

```
$ git checkout my_branch
```

Create a new branch called new_branch

```
$ git branch new_branch
```

Delete the branch called my_branch

```
$ git branch -d my_branch
```

Merge branch_a into branch_b

```
$ git checkout branch_b
```

```
$ git merge branch_a
```

Tag the current commit

```
$ git tag my_tag
```

Make a change

Stages the file, ready for commit

```
$ git add [file]
```

Stage all changed files, ready for commit

```
$ git add .
```

Commit all staged files to versioned history

```
$ git commit -m "commit message"
```

Commit all your tracked files to versioned history

```
$ git commit -am "commit message"
```

Unstages file, keeping the file changes

```
$ git reset [file]
```

Revert everything to the last commit

```
$ git reset --hard
```

Synchronize

Get the latest changes from origin (no merge)

```
$ git fetch
```

Fetch the latest changes from origin and merge

```
$ git pull
```

Fetch the latest changes from origin and rebase

```
$ git pull --rebase
```

Push local changes to the origin

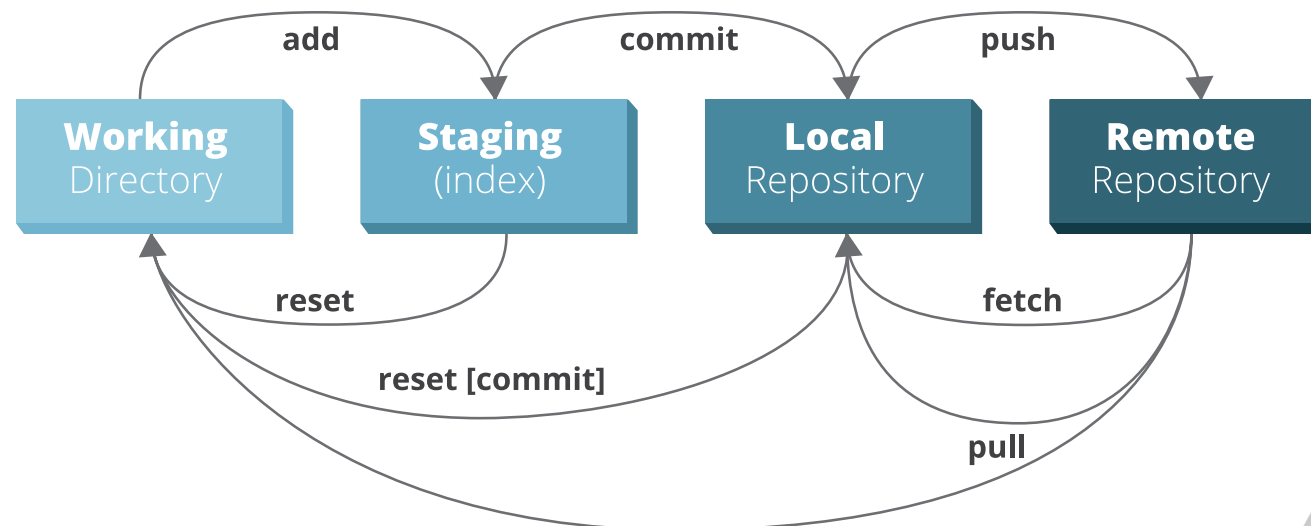
```
$ git push
```

Finally!

When in doubt, use git help

```
$ git command --help
```

Or visit <https://training.github.com/> for official GitHub training.



Java Collections Cheat Sheet

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Notable Java collections libraries

Fastutil

<http://fastutil.di.unimi.it/>

Fast & compact type-specific collections for Java
Great default choice for collections of primitive types, like int or long. Also handles big collections with more than 2^{31} elements well.

Guava

<https://github.com/google/guava>

Google Core Libraries for Java 6+

Perhaps the default collection library for Java projects. Contains a magnitude of convenient methods for creating collection, like fluent builders, as well as advanced collection types.

Eclipse Collections

<https://www.eclipse.org/collections/>

Features you want with the collections you need

Previously known as gs-collections, this library includes almost any collection you might need: primitive type collections, multimaps, bidirectional maps and so on.

JCTools

<https://github.com/JCTools/JCTools>

Java Concurrency Tools for the JVM.

If you work on high throughput concurrent applications and need a way to increase your performance, check out JCTools.

What can your collection do for you?

| Collection class | Thread-safe alternative | Your data | | | | Operations on your collections | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|----------|
| | | Individual elements | Key-value pairs | Duplicate element support | Primitive support | Order of iteration | | | Performant 'contains' check | Random access | | |
| | | | | | | FIFO | Sorted | LIFO | | By key | By value | By index |
| HashMap | ConcurrentHashMap | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| HashBiMap (Guava) | Maps.synchronizedBiMap (new HashBiMap()) | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| ArrayListMultimap (Guava) | Maps.synchronizedMultiMap (new ArrayListMultimap()) | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| LinkedHashMap | Collections.synchronizedMap (new LinkedHashMap()) | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| TreeMap | ConcurrentSkipListMap | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓* | ✓* | ✗ | ✗ |
| Int2IntMap (Fastutil) | | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| ArrayList | CopyOnWriteArrayList | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| HashSet | Collections.newSetFromMap (new ConcurrentHashMap<>()) | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| IntArrayList (Fastutil) | | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| PriorityQueue | PriorityBlockingQueue | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓** | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| ArrayDeque | ArrayBlockingQueue | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓** | ✗ | ✓** | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

* $O(\log(n))$ complexity, while all others are $O(1)$ - constant time

** when using Queue interface methods: offer() / poll()

How fast are your collections?

| Collection class | Random access by index / key | Search / Contains | Insert |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| ArrayList | $O(1)$ | $O(n)$ | $O(n)$ |
| HashSet | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ |
| HashMap | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ | $O(1)$ |
| TreeMap | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ | $O(\log(n))$ |

Remember, not all operations are equally fast. Here's a reminder of how to treat the Big-O complexity notation:

$O(1)$ - constant time, really fast, doesn't depend on the size of your collection

$O(\log(n))$ - pretty fast, your collection size has to be extreme to notice a performance impact

$O(n)$ - linear to your collection size: the larger your collection is, the slower your operations will be

Java Generics cheat sheet

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Basics

Generics don't exist at runtime!

```
class Pair<T1, T2> { /* ... */ }  
-- the type parameter section, in angle  
brackets, specifies type variables.
```

Type parameters are substituted when objects are instantiated.

```
Pair<String, Long> p1 = new  
Pair<String, Long> ("RL", 43L);
```

Avoid verbosity with the diamond operator:

```
Pair<String, Long> p1 =  
new Pair<>("RL", 43L);
```

Wildcards

`Collection<Object>` - heterogenous, any object goes in.

`Collection<?>` - homogenous collection of arbitrary type.

Avoid using wildcards in return types!

Intersection types

```
<T extends Object &  
Comparable<? super T>> T  
max(Collection<? extends T> coll)
```

The return type here is **Object**!

Compiler generates the bytecode for the most general method only.

Producer Extends Consumer Super (PECS)

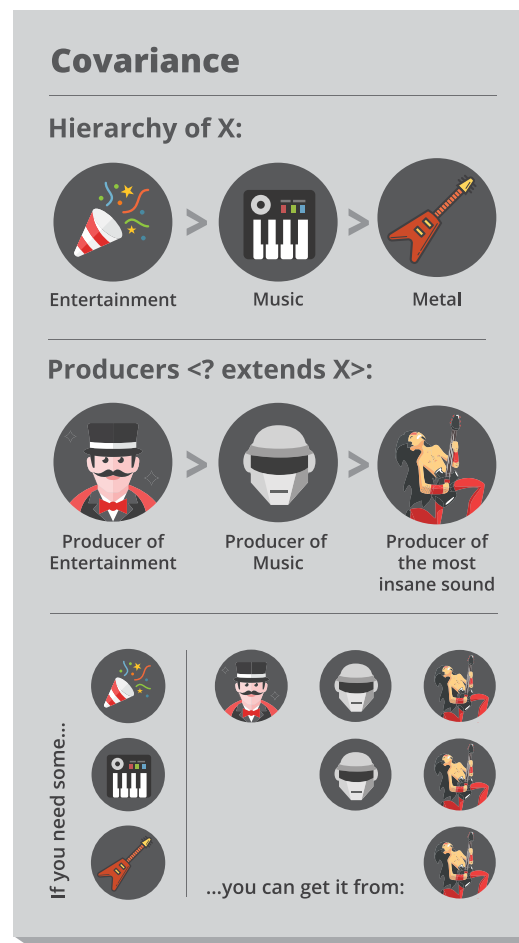
```
Collections.copy(List<? super T> dest, List<? extends T> src)
```

src -- contains elements of type T or its subtypes.

dest -- accepts elements, so defined to use T or its supertypes.

*Consumers are **contravariant** (use super).*

*Producers are **covariant** (use extends).*



Method Overloading

```
String f(Object s) {  
    return "object";  
}  
String f(String s) {  
    return "string";  
}  
<T> String generic(T t) {  
    return f(t);  
}
```

If called `generic("string")` returns "object".

Recursive generics

Recursive generics add constraints to your type variables. This helps the compiler to better understand your types and API.

```
interface Cloneable<T extends  
Cloneable<T>> {  
    T clone();  
}
```

Now `cloneable.clone().clone()` will compile.

Covariance

```
List<Number> > ArrayList<Integer>
```

Collections are not covariant!

Java 8 Best Practices Cheat Sheet

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Default methods

Evolve interfaces & create traits

```
//Default methods in interfaces
@FunctionalInterface
interface Utilities {
    default Consumer<Runnable> m() {
        return (r) -> r.run();
    }
    // default methods, still functional
    Object function(Object o);
}
class A implements Utilities { // implement
    public Object function(Object o) {
        return new Object();
    }
    {
        // call a default method
        Consumer<Runnable> n = new A().m();
    }
}
```

Lambdas

Syntax:

(parameters) -> expression

(parameters) -> { statements; }

```
// takes a Long, returns a String
Function<Long, String> f = (l) -> l.toString();
// takes nothing gives you Threads
Supplier<Thread> s = Thread::currentThread;
// takes a string as the parameter
Consumer<String> c = System.out::println;

// use them with streams
new ArrayList<String>().stream().
// peek: debug streams without changes
peek(e -> System.out.println(e)).
// map: convert every element into something
map(e -> e.hashCode()).
// filter: pass some elements through
filter (hc -> (hc % 2) == 0).
// collect all values from the stream
collect(Collectors.toCollection(TreeSet::new))
```

java.util.Optional

A container for possible null values

```
// Create an optional
Optional<String> optional =
Optional.ofNullable(a);
// process the optional
optional.map(s -> "Rebellabs:" + s);
// map a function that returns Optional
optional.flatMap(s -> Optional.ofNullable(s));

// run if the value is there
optional.ifPresent(System.out::println);
// get the value or throw an exception
optional.get();

// return the value or the given value
optional.orElse("Hello world!");
// return empty Optional if not satisfied
optional.filter(s -> s.startsWith("Rebellabs"));
```

Rules of Thumb

Traits: 1 default method per interface
Don't enhance functional interfaces
Only conservative implementations

Expressions over statements
Refactor to use method references
Chain lambdas rather than growing them

Fields - use plain objects
Method parameters, use plain objects
Return values - use Optional
Use *orElse()* instead of *get()*

Java 8 Streams Cheat Sheet

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Definitions

- ✓ A stream **is** a pipeline of functions that can be evaluated.
- ✓ Streams **can** transform data.
- ✗ A stream **is not** a data structure.
- ✗ Streams **cannot** mutate data.

Intermediate operations

- Always return streams.
- Lazily executed.

Common examples include:

| Function | Preserves count | Preserves type | Preserves order |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>map</i> | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| <i>filter</i> | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>distinct</i> | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| <i>sorted</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| <i>peek</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Stream examples

Get the unique surnames in uppercase of the first 15 book authors that are 50 years old or over.

```
library.stream()
    .map(book -> book.getAuthor())
    .filter(author -> author.getAge() >= 50)
    .distinct()
    .limit(15)
    .map(Author::getSurname)
    .map(String::toUpperCase)
    .collect(toList());
```

Compute the sum of ages of all female authors younger than 25.

```
library.stream()
    .map(Book::getAuthor)
    .filter(a -> a.getGender() == Gender.FEMALE)
    .map(Author::getAge)
    .filter(age -> age < 25)
    .reduce(0, Integer::sum);
```

Terminal operations

- Return concrete types or produce a side effect.
- Eagerly executed.

Common examples include:

| Function | Output | When to use |
|----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| reduce | concrete type | to cumulate elements |
| collect | list, map or set | to group elements |
| forEach | side effect | to perform a side effect on elements |

Parallel streams

Parallel streams use the common ForkJoinPool for threading.

```
library.parallelStream()...
```

or intermediate operation:

```
IntStream.range(1, 10).parallel()...
```

Useful operations

Grouping:

```
library.stream().collect(
    groupingBy(Book::getGenre));
```

Stream ranges:

```
IntStream.range(0, 20)...
```

Infinite streams:

```
IntStream.iterate(0, e -> e + 1)...
```

Max/Min:

```
IntStream.range(1, 10).max();
```

FlatMap:

```
twitterList.stream()
    .map(member -> member.getFollowers())
    .flatMap(followers -> followers.stream())
    .collect(toList());
```

Pitfalls

✗ Don't update shared mutable variables i.e.
`List<Book> myList = new ArrayList<>();`
`library.stream().forEach(e -> myList.add(e));`

✗ Avoid blocking operations when using parallel streams.

JVM Options cheat sheet

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Standard Options

```
$ java
```

List all standard options.

```
-Dblog=Rebellabs
```

Sets a 'blog' system property to 'Rebellabs'.
Retrieve/set it during runtime like this:

```
System.getProperty("blog");  
//Rebellabs
```

```
System.setProperty("blog", "RL");
```

```
-javaagent:/path/to/agent.jar
```

Loads the java agent in agent.jar.

```
-agentpath:pathname
```

Loads the native agent library specified by
the absolute path name.

```
-verbose:[class/gc/jni]
```

Displays information about each loaded
class/gc event/JNI activity.

Non-Standard Options

```
$ java -X
```

List all non-standard options.

```
-Xint
```

Runs the application in interpreted-only
mode.

```
-Xbootclasspath:path
```

Path and archive list of boot class files.

```
-Xloggc:filename
```

Log verbose GC events to filename.

```
-Xms1g
```

Set the initial size (in bytes) of the heap.

```
-Xmx8g
```

Specifies the max size (in bytes) of the heap.

```
-Xnoclassgc
```

Disables class garbage collection.

```
-Xprof
```

Profiles the running program.

Advanced Options

BEHAVIOR

```
-XX:+UseConcMarkSweepGC
```

Enables CMS garbage collection.

```
-XX:+UseParallelGC
```

Enables parallel garbage collection.

```
-XX:+UseSerialGC
```

Enables serial garbage collection.

```
-XX:+UseG1GC
```

Enables G1GC garbage collection.

```
-XX:+FlightRecorder
```

 (requires

```
-XX:+UnlockCommercialFeatures)
```

Enables the use of the Java Flight Recorder.

DEBUGGING

```
-XX:ErrorFile=file.log
```

Save the error data to file.log.

```
-XX:+HeapDumpOnOutOfMemory
```

Enables heap dump when
OutOfMemoryError is thrown.

```
-XX:+PrintGC
```

Enables printing messages during
garbage collection.

```
-XX:+TraceClassLoading
```

Enables Trace loading of classes.

```
-XX:+PrintClassHistogram
```

Enables printing of a class instance histogram
after a **Control+C** event (**SIGTERM**).

PERFORMANCE

```
-XX:MaxPermSize=128m
```

 (Java 7 or earlier)

Sets the max perm space size (in bytes).

```
-XX:ThreadStackSize=256k
```

Sets Thread Stack Size (in bytes).
(Same as -Xss256k)

```
-XX:+UseStringCache
```

Enables caching of commonly
allocated strings.

```
-XX:G1HeapRegionSize=4m
```

Sets the sub-division size of G1 heap
(in bytes).

```
-XX:MaxGCPauseMillis=n
```

Sets a target for the maximum GC
pause time.

```
-XX:MaxNewSize=256m
```

Max size of new generation (in bytes).

```
XX:+AggressiveOpts
```

Enables the use of aggressive performance
optimization features.

```
-XX:OnError="<cmd args>"
```

Run user-defined commands
on fatal error.



Character classes

- `[abc]` matches **a** or **b**, or **c**.
- `[^abc]` negation, matches everything except **a**, **b**, or **c**.
- `[a-c]` range, matches **a** or **b**, or **c**.
- `[a-c[f-h]]` union, matches **a**, **b**, **c**, **f**, **g**, **h**.
- `[a-c&&[b-c]]` intersection, matches **b** or **c**.
- `[a-c&&[^b-c]]` subtraction, matches **a**.

Predefined character classes

- `.` Any character.
- `\d` A digit: `[0-9]`
- `\D` A non-digit: `[^0-9]`
- `\s` A whitespace character: `[\t\n\r\b\f\r]`
- `\S` A non-whitespace character: `[^\s]`
- `\w` A word character: `[a-zA-Z_0-9]`
- `\W` A non-word character: `[^\w]`

Boundary matches

- `^` The beginning of a line.
- `$` The end of a line.
- `\b` A word boundary.
- `\B` A non-word boundary.
- `\A` The beginning of the input.
- `\G` The end of the previous match.
- `\Z` The end of the input but for the final terminator, if any.
- `\z` The end of the input.

Pattern flags

- `Pattern.CASE_INSENSITIVE` - enables case-insensitive matching.
- `Pattern.COMMENTS` - whitespace and comments starting with `#` are ignored until the end of a line.
- `Pattern.MULTILINE` - one expression can match multiple lines.
- `Pattern.UNIX_LINES` - only the `\n` line terminator is recognized in the behavior of `.`, `^`, and `$`.

Useful Java classes & methods

PATTERN

A pattern is a compiler representation of a regular expression.

`Pattern.compile(String regex)`

Compiles the given regular expression into a pattern.

`Pattern.compile(String regex, int flags)`

Compiles the given regular expression into a pattern with the given flags.

`boolean matches(String regex)`

Tells whether or not this string matches the given regular expression.

`String[] split(CharSequence input)`

Splits the given input sequence around matches of this pattern.

`String quote(String s)`

Returns a literal pattern String for the specified String.

`Predicate<String> asPredicate()`

Creates a predicate which can be used to match a string.

MATCHER

An engine that performs match operations on a character sequence by interpreting a Pattern.

`boolean matches()`

Attempts to match the entire region against the pattern.

`boolean find()`

Attempts to find the next subsequence of the input sequence that matches the pattern.

`int start()`

Returns the start index of the previous match.

`int end()`

Returns the offset after the last character matched.

Quantifiers

| Greedy | Reluctant | Possessive | Description |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| <code>X?</code> | <code>X??</code> | <code>X?+</code> | <i>X, once or not at all.</i> |
| <code>X*</code> | <code>X*?</code> | <code>X*+</code> | <i>X, zero or more times.</i> |
| <code>X+</code> | <code>X+?</code> | <code>X++</code> | <i>X, one or more times.</i> |
| <code>X{n}</code> | <code>X{n}?</code> | <code>X{n}+</code> | <i>X, exactly n times.</i> |
| <code>X{n,}</code> | <code>X{n,}?</code> | <code>X{n,}+</code> | <i>X, at least n times.</i> |
| <code>X{n,m}</code> | <code>X{n,m}?</code> | <code>X{n,m}+</code> | <i>X, at least n but not more than m times.</i> |

Greedy - matches the longest matching group.

Reluctant - matches the shortest group.

Possessive - longest match or bust (no backoff).

Groups & backreferences

A group is a captured subsequence of characters which may be used later in the expression with a backreference.

`(...)` - defines a group.

`\N` - refers to a matched group.

`(\d\d)` - a group of two digits.

`(\d\d)/\1` - two digits repeated twice.

`\1` - refers to the matched group.

Logical operations

`XY` **X** then **Y**.

`X|Y` **X** or **Y**.

Markdown Cheat Sheet

Ralph Mason, Author

Headings (Core Markdown)

```
# This is an H1
## This is an H2
### This is an H3
##### This is an H6
```

or...

```
This is an H1
=====
This is an H2
-----
```

Ordered Lists (Core Markdown)

```
1. Top-level item
2. Top-level item
3. Top-level item
  1. Nested item
  2. Nested item
```

- You must include a . after each number
- Markdown will output items in order (1, 2, 3...) even if you write unorderly (1, 3, 2...)

Text Formatting (Core Markdown)

```
*This is em text* and _so is this_
**This is strong text** and __so is this__
*This is **strong text** inside em text*
**This is _em text_ inside strong text**
***This is strong and em combined***
```

Paragraphs (Core Markdown)

Paragraphs don't require markup, but make sure:

- There's a line break before and after it
- There are no spaces or tabs at the start of it

Unordered Lists (Core Markdown)

```
* Top-level item
* Top-level item
  * Nested item
```

- Optionally use + or - instead of *
- Indent nested items by 2 spaces
- Lists must have a line break before and after
- List *items* can be indented by max. three spaces or one tab
- Hanging indents for wrapped lines are supported:

```
- This is nicer to read
  in plain text
```

Paragraphs in List Items (Core Markdown)

Adding line breaks between list items will wrap the list item content in **<p>** tags.

```
- item 1
- item 2
```

For *multiple paragraphs* in a list item, indent each one by four spaces or a tab (first item optional).

```
- Paragraph 1

    Paragraph 2
```

Markdown Cheat Sheet

Ralph Mason, Author

Code Blocks (Core Markdown)

Place three backticks above and below the block

```
...  
.selector {  
  color: red;  
}  
...
```

Or, indent every line by at least 4 spaces/one tab

```
.selector {  
  color: red;  
}
```

- Markdown renders code inside `<pre><code>` tags
- Place one line break above/below the code block

Code Block in a List Item (Core Markdown)

Indent the code block by 8 spaces or 2 tabs

```
* list item:  
  
    console.log("A code block")
```

Inline Code (Core Markdown)

Wrap inline code with single backticks

```
Run `console.log("Hello world");` in the console.
```

Blockquotes (Core Markdown)

```
> One paragraph in  
  a blockquote  
  
> Another paragraph in  
  the same blockquote.
```

Alternatively, use `>` before every line.

```
> One paragraph in  
> a blockquote  
>  
> Another paragraph in  
> the same blockquote.
```

Nested Blockquotes (Core Markdown)

```
> A top-level blockquote  
>  
>> A nested blockquote  
>  
> Top-level blockquote continued.
```

Elements Within a Blockquote (Core Markdown)

```
> ## This is an H2  
>  
> - This is a list  
> - Inside a blockquote  
>  
> ...  
> console.log("Code inside a blockquote");  
> ...
```

Markdown Cheat Sheet

Ralph Mason, Author

Blockquote in a List Item (Core Markdown)

Indent the blockquote by 4 spaces or a tab

* list item:

```
> Blockquote inside a list item.
```

Horizontal Rules/Line Breaks (Core Markdown)

- **
**: hit enter or end the line with two spaces
- **<hr>**: ******* or **---** or **___** on a line on their own

Raw HTML in Markdown

HTML elements can be used in Markdown as long as you don't indent the first/last tags in a HTML block and add a line break before/after the block.

Escaping Markdown Characters

The following Markdown characters can appear literally when escaped with a backslash (e.g. `\#``):

```
\\ \* \_ \{ \} \[ \] \() \# \+ \- \. \!
```

Links (Core Markdown)

```
[Linked text](https://sitepoint.com "Optional title")
```

```
[Reference][id]
```

```
:
```

```
[id]: https://sitepoint.com "Optional title"
```

Visit `<https://sitepoint.com>` for more.

- **[id]** can be any random identifier
- **[id]: reference** can sit on its own line, absolutely anywhere in the document
- Markdown auto-obfuscates email addresses

Images (Core Markdown)

```
![Alt text](path/to/img.jpg "Optional title")
```

```
![Reference alt text][id]
```

```
:
```

```
[id]: path/to/image "Optional title"
```

Visit `<https://sitepoint.com>` for more.

- Links can be absolute (with `http://`) or relative (link to an image within your file structure)

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Extended Markdown

Most Markdown processors support an extended syntax, although syntaxes vary across editors.

Popular flavors include:

Github Flavored Markdown: <https://goo.gl/Pycq8Z>
 Markdown Extra: <https://goo.gl/7f9TuE>

Some widely supported elements follow:

Footnotes (Extended Markdown)

This line ends with a footnote reference.[^id]

[^id]: Place this footnote anywhere.

Strikethrough Text (Extended Markdown)

Let's ~~draw a line though this~~ now

Syntax Highlighting (Extended Markdown)

```
```javascript
 console.log("SitePoint rocks");
```
```

Tables (Extended Markdown)

Creating a table with headers:

```
Header One | Header Two
-----|-----
Content Cell | Content Cell
Content Cell | Content Cell
```

Notes:

- There must be a header row
- There must be a separator line after the header
- There must be at least one pipe per row
- Extra pipes at the start/end of rows are optional
- MD for inline elements is allowed within cells

Set column alignment by adding colons to the separator row:

```
: ----- | ----- : | : ----- :
Left-aligned | Right-aligned | Centered
```

Notes:

- Headers are centered by default
- Columns are left-aligned by default
- Colon alignment affects both header and column

About the Author

Ralph Mason is SitePoint's Web channel editor, administrator of SitePoint's magnificent web forums, and a freelance editor and web designer at Page Affairs.