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Apache Commons ToStringBuilder styles

I have found the humble Java `toString()` to be one of the most useful and powerful techniques in debugging and troubleshooting Java applications. That is only true, unfortunately, when and if the developers on the team override the `Object.toString()` method to provide useful details. One of the disciplines i try to have while developing Java code is always overriding the default `toString`, `equals`, and `hashCode` methods.

An effective way to implement the **toString** method is using the Apache Commons library **toStringBuilder**

class. According to your needs the library propose five styles. I propose you in this article to take a look at the different styles.

Assists in implementing *Object.toString()* methods. This java class enables a good and consistent *toString()* to be built for any class or object.

ToStringBuilder class aims to simplify the process by:

- allowing field names
- handling all types consistently
- handling nulls consistently
- outputting arrays and multi-dimensional arrays
- enabling the detail level to be controlled for Objects and Collections
- handling class hierarchies

Let's take the following class and apply different to string style using ToStringBuilder :



```
{codecitation class="brush:java"} public class Person implements Comparable { private
long id; private String firstName; private String lastName; .... public String
toString(){ return new ToStringBuilder(this, ToStringStyle.SIMPLE_STYLE)
.appendSuper (super.toString()) .append ("first name", firstName) .append
("last name", lastName) .toString(); } } {/codecitation} Styles availables
```

Styles	Description
DEFAULT_STYLE	The default toString style.
MULTI_LINE_STYLE	The multi line toString style.
NO_FIELD_NAMES_STYLE	The no field names toString style.
SHORT_PREFIX_STYLE	The short prefix toString style.
SIMPLE_STYLE	The simple toString style.;

Styles Output samples

Default style	{codecitation class="brush:java"} ch.javatutorial.Person@4310b053[firs
Multi-line style	{codecitation class="brush:java"} ch.javatutorial.Person@7b11a3ac[fir
No Field name style	{codecitation class="brush:java"} ch.javatutorial.Person@7b11a3ac[John,
Short prefix style	{codecitation class="brush:java"} Person[first name=John,last name=Smit
Simple style	{codecitation class="brush:java"} ch.javatutorial.Person@4310b053,John,

Conclusion

The ToStringBuilder class is just one of many useful utility classes provided by the commons-lang library and the commons-lang library is just one of the useful libraries provided by the Apache Commons project.

Other related Java tutorial articles

- [Hashcode and Equals Java Tutorial](#)

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