

Subject: Re: [ap-compsci] String literals and ==

Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 7:41 AM

From: Michael Kölling <M.Kolling@kent.ac.uk>

Reply-To: "AP Computer Science" <ap-compsci@lyris.collegeboard.com>

To: AP Computer Science <ap-compsci@lyris.collegeboard.com>

Conversation: [ap-compsci] String literals and ==

If the statement says that "name1 == name2 will return false" it is not strictly correct, but "name1 == name2 may return false" is correct.

The language specification leaves it undefined whether two string literals refer to the same object, or different objects. So either case is a correct Java implementation, and no Java code should depend on this behaviour.

The current Sun Java JDK will refer to the same object in this case, so == will return true, but this is just an implementation detail. Other Java VMs may implement this differently (and so could future versions of the JDK).

In other words: All user code that depends on this being true is buggy code.

Regards,

Michael

On 16 Dec 2009, at 03:49, Stephanie Allen wrote:

> This is my first year teaching APCS and we are using the 2nd edition of Java Software Solutions by Lewis, Loftus and Cocking.

>

> I've looked in the errata for this question but it is not listed. On the bottom of page 267 in Chapter 5 the author states if:

>

> String name1 = "John";

> String name2 = "John";

>

> then the expression name1 == name2 will return false. I thought it would return true since the references would be the same because Java will only make one String object for equivalent string literals.

>

> I also thought that if:

>

> String name1 = "John";

> String name2 = new String("John");

>

> then the expression name1 == name 2 would be false.
>
> Is this correct? Is it an error in the text?
>
> Thank you.
>
> =====
> Course related websites:
> <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/compscia>
> <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/compsciab>
> ---
> To unsubscribe click here:
> http://lyris.collegeboard.com/read/my_forums/?forum=ap-compsci
> To change your subscription address or other settings click here:
> http://lyris.collegeboard.com/read/my_account/edit

=====
Course related websites:
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/compscia>
<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/compsciab>

To unsubscribe click here:
http://lyris.collegeboard.com/read/my_forums/?forum=ap-compsci
To change your subscription address or other settings click here:
http://lyris.collegeboard.com/read/my_account/edit