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Browsing Javadoc API Reference Documentation in Sun Java Studio Creator

By Po-ting Wu, January 2005

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Javadoc tool delivers an important and useful resource for developing Java applications: It generates, from source code in HTML format, API reference documentation on classes, interfaces, constructors, methods, and fields. With Sun Java Studio Creator (henceforth, Java Studio Creator), you can browse the preinstalled API reference documentation for the following technologies through a well-designed, simple interface:

- Sun Java Development Kit (JDK)
- JavaServer Faces technology
- JavaServer Faces Component Library (JSFCL)
- Java Database Connectivity (JDBC) Rowset

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This article explains how to use that interface.

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How to Access API Reference Documentation

To access the API reference documentation in Java Studio Creator, do either of the following from the main window:

- Choose Javadoc API References from the Help menu and then choose the reference you desire from the submenu. See Figure 1.

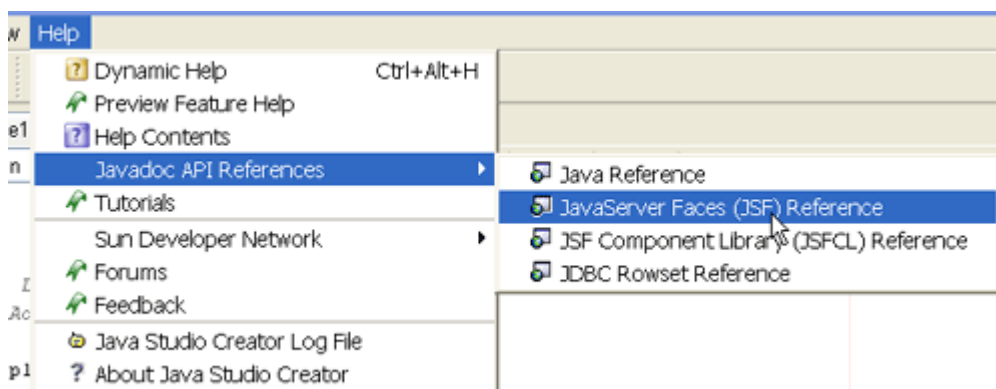


Figure 1: Javadoc API References Item in Help Menu

- In the Dynamic Help window on the right pane, click to expand Javadoc API References and double-click the reference you desire. See Figure 2.

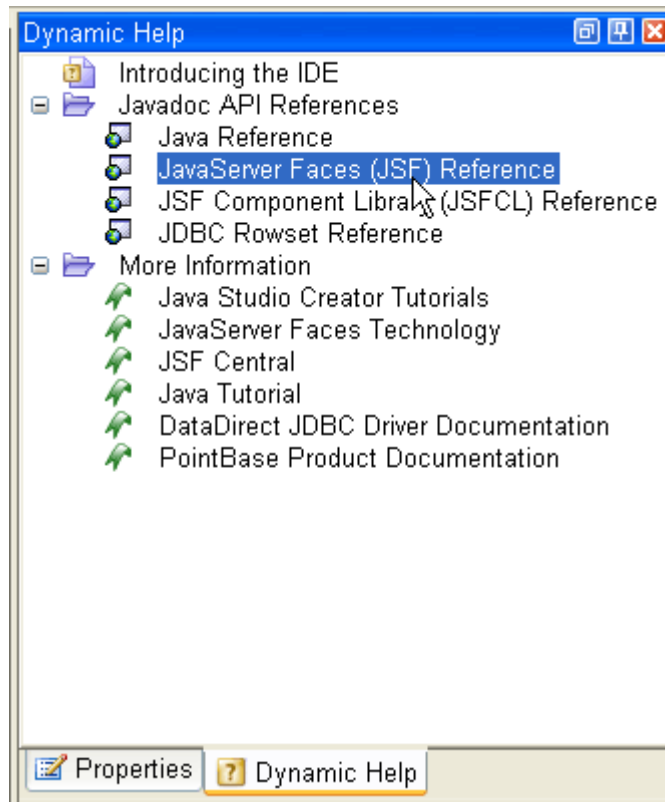
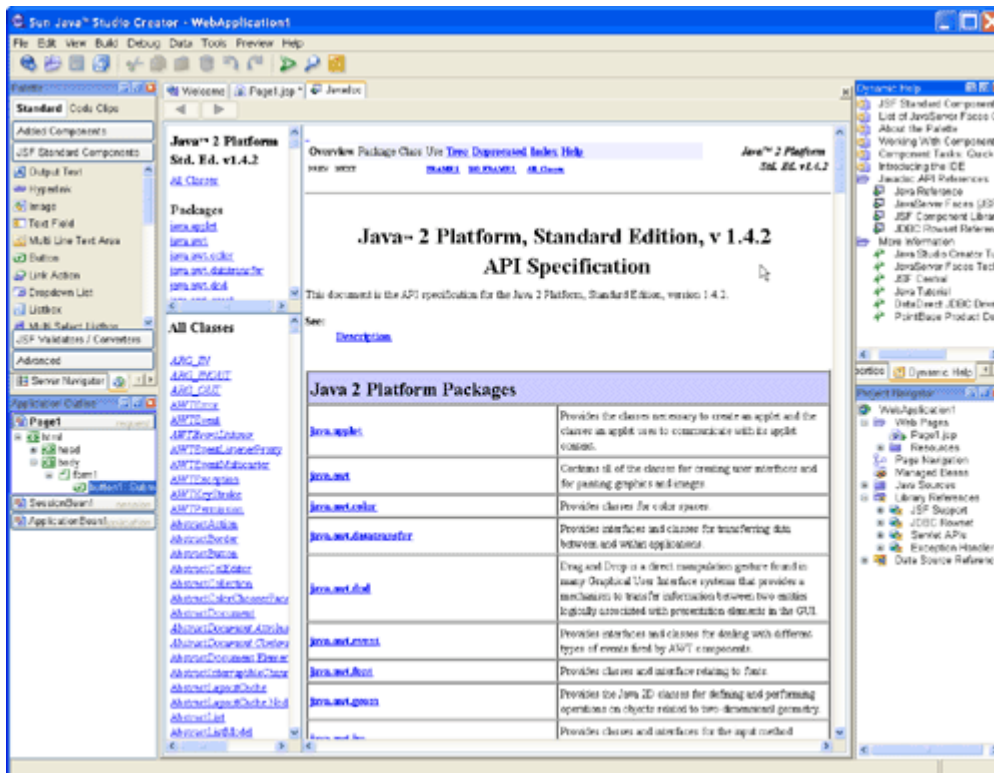


Figure 2: Dynamic Help Window in Java Studio Creator

Java Studio Creator displays API reference documentation in a Swing HTML viewer in the center pane. See Figure 3 for an example.

Figure 3: Example of Display of Javadoc API Reference Documentation in Swing HTML Viewer
Click to enlarge

How to Display Javadoc API Reference Documentation From Source Code

Conveniently, while you are typing a method name in source code, Java Studio Creator's autocompletion function displays a list of relevant methods and variables in a pop-up window. You can then select an item from that list and have its API reference documentation displayed in a mini-viewer, whose top bar contains four buttons:

- Back
- Forward
- Show javadoc in browser
- Open source in editor

Figure 4 is an example.

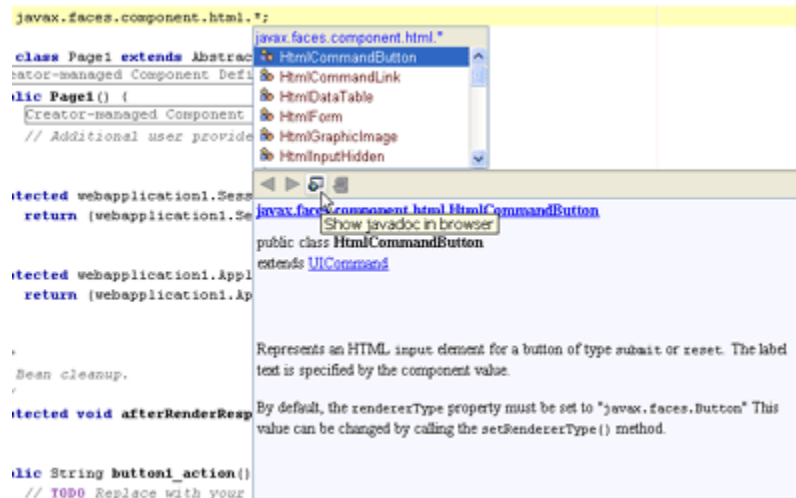


Figure 4: Example of List of Methods and Variables and Mini-Viewer
[Click to enlarge](#)

The class extensions, such as `javax.faces.component.UICommand` for the `javax.faces.component.html.HtmlCommandButton` class, are all hot links.

Also, if your cursor is at an arbitrary spot in the source code, you can display any relevant API reference documentation by pressing Control and the space bar.

How to View External Javadoc API Reference Documentation

For added convenience, you can create a class's compiled API reference documentation in Java Studio Creator for browsing in the Swing HTML viewer.

Do the following:

1. From the Project Navigator window, right-click Library References and then choose Create New Library Reference.

The Create New References dialog box is displayed. See Figure 5.

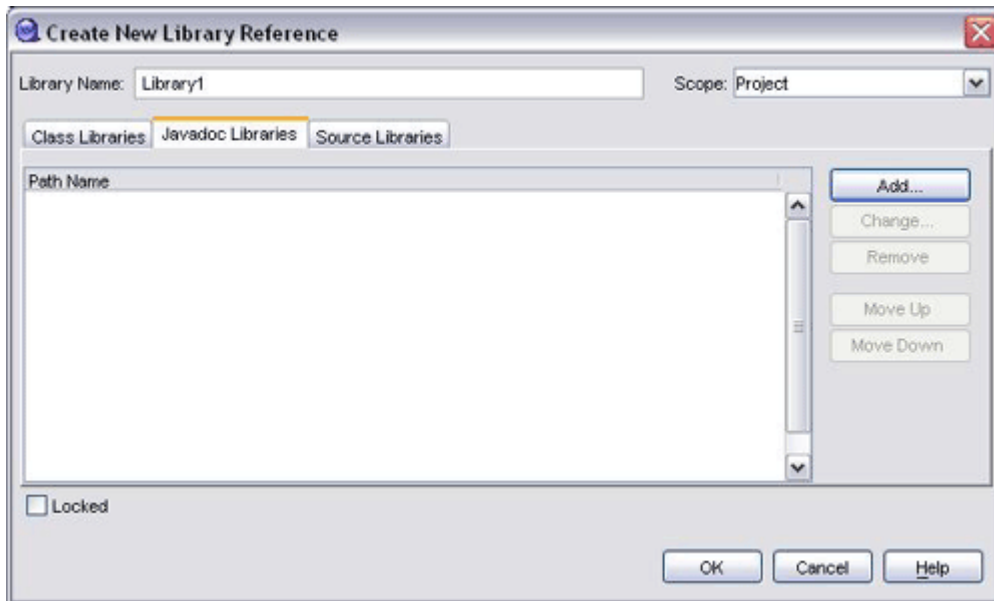


Figure 5: Create New Library Reference Dialog Box

2. Click Javadoc Libraries.

A file browser is displayed.

3. Navigate to and specify the library whose references you want to create. Click OK.

Java Studio Creator adds a node at the bottom of Library References in the Project Navigator window. Afterwards, you can browse the API reference documentation for this library from your source code.

Acknowledgment

Thanks to Winston Prakash of the Sun Java Studio Creator development team for his valuable assistance and suggestions for this article.

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