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The JDO API provides a dynamic API for defining metadata for classes, as an alternative to using annotations or XML metadata.
Defining Metadata for classes

The basic idea behind the Metadata API is that the developer obtains a metadata object from the `PersistenceManagerFactory`, and adds the definition to that as required, before registering it for use in the persistence process.

```java
PersistenceManagerFactory pmf = JDOHelper.getPersistenceManagerFactory(propsFile);
...
JDOMetadata md = pmf.newMetadata();
```

So we have a `JDOMetadata` object and want to define the persistence for our class `mydomain.MyClass`, so we do as follows

```java
PackageMetadata pmd = md.newPackageMetadata("mydomain");
ClassMetadata cmd = pmd.newClassMetadata("MyClass");
```

So we follow the same structure of the JDO XML Metadata file adding packages to the top level, and classes to the respective package. Note that we could have achieved this by a simple typesafe invocation

```java
ClassMetadata cmd = md.newClassMetadata(MyClass.class);
```

So now we have the class defined, we need to set its key information

```java
cmd.setTable("CLIENT").setDetachableView(true).setIdentityType(IdentityType.DATASTORE);
```

```java
IdentityType
```

```java
ClassPersistenceModifier
```

```java
PERSISTENCE_CAPABLE
```

```java
InheritanceMetadata inhmd = cmd.newInheritanceMetadata();
```

```java
InheritanceStrategy
```

```java
NEW_TABLE
```

```java
DiscriminatorMetadata dmd = inhmd.newDiscriminatorMetadata();
```

```java
DiscriminatorStrategy
```

```java
VALUE_MAP
```

```java
Indexed
```

```java
TRUE
```

```java
VersionMetadata vermd = cmd.newVersionMetadata();
```

```java
VersionStrategy
```

```java
VERSION_NUMBER
```

```java
Indexed
```

```java
TRUE
```

And we define also define fields/properties via the API in a similar way

```java
FieldMetadata fmd = cmd.newFieldMetadata("name");
```

```java
NullValue
```

```java
DEFAULT
```

```java
setColumn("client_name");
```

```java
setIndexed(true).setUnique(true);
```

Note that, just like with XML metadata, we don't need to add information for all fields since they
have their own default persistence settings based on the type of the field.

As you can see from the objects in this API, it follows the exact same structure as the JDO XML metadata, so you should be able to specify all by working your way through the respective javadocs for the API classes.

All that remains is to register the defined metadata with the persistence process

```java
pmf.registerMetadata(md);
```
Accessing Metadata for classes

Maybe you have a class with its persistence defined in XML or annotations and you want to check its persistence information at runtime. With the JDO Metadata API you can do that

```java
TypeMetadata compmd = pmf.getMetadata("mydomain.MyOtherClass");
```

and we can now inspect the information, casting the `compmd` to either `javax.jdo.metadata.ClassMetadata` or `javax.jdo.metadata.InterfaceMetadata`.

You cannot currently change metadata retrieved in this way, only view it.
**MetaData Reference**

**JDOMetadata**
This represents a JDO context (the equivalent of a `package.jdo` file), and contains packages, named queries, fetch plans etc. [javadoc](#)

**PackageMetadata**
This represents a package (the `package` in `package.jdo`), and contains classes/interfaces, sequences etc. [javadoc](#)

**ClassMetadata**
This represents a persistable class (the `class` in `package.jdo`), and contains members (fields/properties), identity, version, indices, unique constraints, FKs, named queries, fetch groups for the class, and unmapped columns. [javadoc](#)

**InterfaceMetadata**
This represents a persistable interface (the `interface` in `package.jdo`), and contains members (fields/properties), identity, version, indices, unique constraints, FKs, named queries, fetch groups for the class, and unmapped columns. [javadoc](#)

**FieldMetadata**
This represents a persistable field (the `field` in `package.jdo`), and contains settings for the field, array/collection/map mapping, as well as any converters, columns etc. [javadoc](#)

**PropertyMetadata**
This represents a persistable property (the `property` in `package.jdo`), and contains settings for the property, array/collection/map mapping, as well as any converters, columns etc. [javadoc](#)

**CollectionMetadata**
This represents a collection member (the `collection` in `package.jdo`), and contains settings for the collection elements. [javadoc](#)

**ArrayMetadata**
This represents an array member (the `array` in `package.jdo`), and contains settings for the array elements. [javadoc](#)
MapMetadata
This represents a map member (the map in package.jdo), and contains settings for the map keys/values.

ElementMetadata
This represents a collection/array element (the element in package.jdo), and contains settings for the collection/array element.

KeyMetadata
This represents a map key (the key in package.jdo), and contains settings for the map key.

ValueMetadata
This represents a map value (the element in package.jdo), and contains settings for the map value.