

ResourcesUserGuideMessages

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2. Using Message and [MessageList](#)

2.1 Message

[Message](#) is an encapsulation of an individual message stored in a [MessageList](#) object, consisting of a message key (to be used to look up message text in an appropriate [Resources](#) implementation) plus up to four placeholder objects that can be used for parametric replacement in the message text.

[Message](#) defines two methods:

- **getKey()** - return the message key
- **getValues()** - return an array of replacement values

[BasicMessage](#) is a basic implementation of a **Message** and provides convenience constructors for creating a [Message](#) with 1, 2, 3 or 4 replacement values.

For example, to create a message with two replacement values (100 and 200 in this case):

```
Message message = new BasicMessage("error.range", "100", "200");
```

2.2 Message List

[MessageList](#) is a class that encapsulates messages. Messages can be either global or they are specific to a particular bean property. Each individual message is described by a **Message** object. [MessageList](#), as its name implies, has similarities to a *java.util.List* and provides methods for adding and retrieving messages.

[BasicMessageList](#) is a basic implementation of a **MessageList**.

```
MessageList list = new BasicMessageList();
```

Messages can be stored under a **Global Message Key** or they can be stored under a specific **Property Key**

```
list.add(message); // stored for the Global Message Key
list.add("OrderNo", message); // stored for property "OrderNo"
```

Sets of messages can be retrieved from the list either for a property, for the global message key or all messages:

```
Iterator allMsgs = list.get();
Iterator orderNoMsgs = list.get("OrderNo");
Iterator globalMsgs = list.get(getGlobalMessageKey());
```

2.3 Messages

[Messages](#) is a *wrapper* around any [Resources](#) object that performs message string lookups from the [Resources](#) instance, and parameter replacement via [java.text.MessageFormat](#). For convenience, the same functionality is also available via static methods that accept a [Resources](#) parameter.

First you need to create the [Messages](#) object...

```
Resources resources = factory.getResources("Bar", "file:c:/myapp/foo/Bar");
Messages messages = new Messages(resources);
```

For example to retrieve the text for a message key "error.maximum" for the US locale with one replacement argument...

```
String text = messages.get(Locale.US, "error.maximum", 1000);
```

Alternatively you can use the static methods...

```
String text = Messages.get(resources, Locale.US, "error.maximum", 1000);
```

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