GRS Best Practice Guide

DROOLS5 Keywords

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Contents

Drools 5 introduces the concept of hard and soft keywords.

Hard Keywords

Hard keywords are reserved—you cannot use any hard keyword when naming domain objects, properties, methods, functions and other elements that are used in the rule text. The following list of hard keywords must be avoided as identifiers when writing rules:

- true
- false
- null

Soft Keywords

Soft keywords are just recognized in their context, enabling you to use these words in any other place if you wish, although Genesys recommends avoiding them if possible to prevent confusion. The list of soft keywords is:

lock-on-active	activation-group	package	attributes	template	eval	exists	action	init
date-effective	agenda-group	import	rule	query	not	forall	reverse	
date-expires	ruleflow-group	dialect	extend	declare	in	accumulate	result	
no-loop	entry-point	salience	when	function	or	collect	end	
auto-focus	duration	enabled	then	global	and	from	over	

You can use these (hard and soft) words as part of a method name in camel case, for example `notSomething()` or `accumulateSomething()` without any issues.

Escaping Hard Keywords

Although the three hard keywords above are unlikely to be used in your existing domain models, if you absolutely need to use them as identifiers instead of keywords, the DRL language provides the ability to escape hard keywords on rule text. To escape a word, simply enclose it in grave accents, like this:

```
Holiday( `true` == "yes" ) //
```

Please note that Drools will resolve that reference to the method:

```
Holiday.isTrue()
```