

What algorithm does isCOBOL use to load framework properties (runtime config variables)?

In isCOBOL, the runtime configuration file is a Java properties file and is referred to in the documentation as the isCOBOL framework properties file.

The Java virtual machine allows you to specify properties with the `-D` command line option. The isCOBOL runtime properties file can be specified with the value of the `iscobol.conf` property.

For example:

```
java -Discobol.conf=myapp.cfg com.iscobol.invoke.Isrun MYAPP
```

or simply:

```
java -Discobol.conf=myapp.cfg MYAPP
```

With the wrapper: `isrun -c myapp.cfg MYAPP`

or

```
isrun -J-Discobol.conf=myapp.cfg MYAPP
```

isCOBOL uses the following algorithm for loading properties from the environment and/or the isCOBOL properties file. Properties read in each step override those read in previous steps:

1. Read system environment variables such as those set with `SET VAR=VAL`. In this case the prefix "iscobol." is stripped from the name before it is looked up for the environment.
2. Read properties from `/etc/iscobol.properties` if it exists
3. Read properties from `%HOMEPATH%/iscobol.properties` if it exists
4. Read the first `iscobol.properties` found in `CLASSPATH`
5. Read the file specified in the command line as the value of the `iscobol.conf` property if it exists. `iscobol.conf` cannot be set in the environment (i.e. isCOBOL does not read the `CONF` environment variable).
6. Read `iscobol.properties` file found in `$ISCOBOL` directory, if it exists.
7. Read properties specified directly with `-Discobol.*` on the java command line

In the above, `%HOMEPATH%` is the user's home directory, and the `iscobol.conf` value can be the path of a regular disk file, a URL or the name of a class. When the name of a class is specified, isCOBOL searches for a file called `iscobol.properties` in the same directory or jar file that the class is located in.

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