

What is Java

- Java started as a programming language for embedded systems (toasters, microwave ovens, washers, etc.)
 - needed to be portable
 - had to be reliable
- The original language was called oak (rumor has it that Gosling has a large oak tree outside the window of his office).

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Sun's Slant

- According to Sun:
 - Java is a simple, object-oriented, distributed, interpreted, robust, secure, architecture neutral, portable, high-performance, multithreaded, and dynamic language
- Java is a lot like C/C++ but there are a number of important differences

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How is Java Different

- Java differs from other *popular* languages:
 - It is interpreted
 - Architecture neutral
 - There are no C/C++ style pointers, only references
 - Garbage collected
 - Comes with a sophisticated class library
 - Includes support for concurrency, networking, and graphics

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Java Versions

- Java has gone through 3 major revisions
 - 1.0
 - initial release
 - 1.1
 - major modifications in AWT
 - inner classes
 - 1.2 (or as Sun calls it *Java2*)
 - Collection classes
 - Swing
 - Javadoc
 - 1.3
 - Looks like an upgrade...

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Spotless

- The Java Virtual Machine for Palm™ Devices
- Design for small appliances
 - Java should help here by making the appliances software "softer"
- Goal is to keep complete JVM: dynamic loading, garbage collection, multithreading
- Allow for possible future use of Jini™

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Java Environments

- There are lots of commercial Java programming environments
 - IBM's Visual Age
 - SUN's Java Workshop
 - Visual J++
 - Semantic Café
 - many others (most of which cost money)
- Sun provides the JDK (Java development Kit) for free.

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The JDK

- The JDK consists of the following:
 - The Java development tools, including the compiler, debugger and the Java Interpreter
 - The Java class libraries organized as a collection of packages.
 - A number of demonstration programs
 - Various supporting tools and components, including the source code of the classes in the library
- Get it from <http://www.java.sun.com>

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Java Resources

- Java Home Page
 - <http://www.java.sun.com> (<http://www.javasoft.com>)
- The Java Tutorial
 - <http://www.java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial>
- Java Developer Connection
 - <http://developer.java.sun.com>
- The Swing Connection
 - <http://java.sun.com/products/jfc/tsc>

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Other Resources

- RIT Course Pages
 - <http://www.cs.rit.edu/~cs1>
 - <http://www.cs.rit.edu/~cs2>
 - <http://www.cs.rit.edu/~cs3>
- NT-EMACS
 - <http://www.cs.washington.edu/homes/voelker/ntemacs.html>
- JDE
 - <http://sunsite.auc.dk/jde/>

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Applications and Applets

- Java programs come in two forms:
 - Applications
 - Applets
- Applets typically are downloaded into a browser and are run by the Java Virtual Machine that is part of the browser.
 - Usually are restricted as to what they can do
- Applications are standalone programs that can do just about anything.

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Basic Java Syntax

- The Java language will be described by working through its features:
 - variable types and expressions
 - selection and iteration
 - classes
 - exceptions
- Small sample programs will be provided to illustrate how each feature is used.

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Program Structure

- A program in Java consists of one or more class definitions. One of these classes must define a method *main()*, which is where the program starts running

```
// A Java Hello World Program  
  
public class HelloWorld {  
    public static void main( String args[] ) {  
        System.out.println( "Hello World" );  
    }  
}
```

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Comments

- Comments come in three forms:

```
// single line comments

/* multi
   line
   comment
*/

/** a
 * Javadoc
 * comment
 */
```

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Javadoc

- A tool that comes with the JDK that produces HTML-based documentation from Java Source code.
- Within a Javadoc comment, various tags can appear which allow additional information to be processed.
- Each tag is marked by an @ symbol and should start on a new line.

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Javadoc Tags

Tag	Description
@author	Name the author(s) of the code: @author Paul Tymann @author Paul Tymann, Jim Gosling
@deprecated	Indicates that the following method will be removed in future versions
@exception	Information on exceptions thrown by a method
@param	Provide information about method and constructor parameters. The tag is followed by a parameter name and a comment @param count number of elements
@return	Return value for non-void methods
@see	Provide cross reference to another class, interface, method, variable or URL. @see java.lang.Integer
@since	When a particular feature was included (i.e. since when it has been available) @since JDK 1.0
@version	Version information about the current revision of the code being documented

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Example

```
/**
 * A class that manages a circle given the radius
 * @see java.lang.Math
 * @version 1.0
 * @author Paul Tymann
 */

public class Circle {
    private double radius;

    /**
     * Constructor for a circle.
     *
     * @param radius radius of the circle being created. Must be
     *           positive and greater than 0.
     */
    public Circle( double radius ) {
        this.radius = radius;
    }
}
```

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The Result

- The result is a set of HTML pages.
- The documentation that is produced is meant to be part of the overall documentation that comes with the JDK.
- The 1.1 version of Javadoc did not support local modifications to the Java documentation well.
- A much improved version of Javadoc is provided with Java2.

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Primitive Types

- Java has two categories of types: primitive types and reference types.
- The primitive types represent the basic, built-in types that are part of the Java language.
- Two basic categories:
 - Boolean - `boolean`
 - Numeric
 - Interal-byte, `short`, `int`, `long`, `char`
 - Floating point - `float`, `double`

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Primitive Types

Type	Description
boolean	Has two values, <code>true</code> and <code>false</code>
byte	8-bit signed 2's complement integers, range: -128 to 127
short	16-bit signed 2's complement integers, range: -32768 to 32767
int	32-bit signed 2's complement integers, range: -2147483648 to 2147483647
long	64-bit signed 2's complement integers, range: -9223372036854775808 to 9223372036854775807
char	16-bit unsigned values from 0 to 65535, representing Unicode characters
float	Single precision, 32-bit format IEEE 754 floating-point values, range: 1.40239846e-45 to 3.40282347e+38
double	Double precision, 64-bit format IEEE 754 floating-point values, range: 4.9406564581246544e-324 to 1.79769313486231570e+308

There are special floating point values: 'positive infinity', 'negative infinity', and 'not a number' (NaN).

Note: these types are platform independent

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Unicode

- An International Standard that defines the representation of characters from a wide range of alphabets.
- Unicode stores characters as 16-bit values providing 65,536 different characters.
- ASCII happens to be the first 127 characters in the Unicode standard.
- Java uses Unicode as opposed to ASCII.

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Unicode Escapes

- Unicode escapes allow any character to be represented regardless of the editor being used
- A Unicode escape stands for a character and is represented using the `\u` escape sequence followed by the hexadecimal digits of the character code
- Examples:

`\u0343`, `\u2f4`, `\uabcd`

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Literals

Type	Examples
Integer	0, 123, -456, 55665, ... 00, 0123, 0777, -045323, ... 0x0, 0x125, -0xffed, 0xffff Literals of type long (64-bit) are denoted by appending L or l to any integer literal.
Floating point	1.2345, 1234.423, 0.1, -1.23, ... By default floating point literals are of type double. If the literal is suffixed with F or f it will be of type float.
Boolean	true, false
Characters	'a', 'A', '1', ... '\b', '\f', '\n', '\r', '\t', '\\', '\''
Strings	"This is a string", "Hello World\n"
Null	null

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Automatic Type Conversion

- Java provides a variety of automatic type conversions.
- The following conversions are supported:
 - *Widening primitive conversions*
 - byte to short, int, long, float, or double
 - short to int, long, float, or double
 - int to long, float, or double
 - long to float or double
 - float to double

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Automatic Type Conversions

- *Widening Reference Conversions*
 - these allow a reference of a subclass type to be treated as a reference of a superclass type.
- *String conversion*
 - when the '+' (string concatenation) operator has one argument of type String the other argument can be converted from any other type to type String
- Conversions like these are performed during assignment and parameter passing.

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Identifiers

- Variables, methods, classes and interfaces all need to be named.
- Identifiers
 - start with an alphabetic character
 - can contain letters, digits, or “_”
 - are unlimited in length
- Examples

```
Answer, total, last_total, relativePosition, gridElement  
Person, Place, Stack, Queue
```

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Declaring Variables

- The basic syntax for declaring variables is:

```
typename identifier;
```

or

```
typename identifier = expression;
```

- It is possible to declare two or more variables of the same type in a single declaration statement.

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Categories of Variables

- There are two categories of variables:
 - Variables of primitive type which directly contain a representation of a value of a primitive type.
 - Variables of a reference type which hold a *reference* to an object *conforming* to the named type or the value `null` (which is the null reference).
- All variables must be declared *and* initialized before being used.

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Initialization

- Local Variables
 - must, either directly or indirectly, be *explicitly* initialized before use
- Parameter Variables
 - are always initialized to be a copy of the argument (note that objects are passed by reference, so the object reference is copied, not the object itself)
- Class and Instance Variables
 - default initialization is possible

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Default Initialization

Type	Value
byte	(byte)0
short	(short)0
int	0
long	0l
float	0.0f
double	0.0d
char	'\u0000' (the null character)
boolean	false
reference types	null

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Example

```
public class var1 {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        int i=1;
        String s = "hello";
        int j;

        // j cannot be used yet since it does not have a value
        j = 4;
        System.out.println( j );

        float a = 1.0f, b = 2.0f, c = 3.0f;
        double pi = 3.14;
        System.out.println( pi );
        System.out.println( s );
    }
}
```

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Operators

Description	Syntax
unary postfix	[] . () ++ --
unary prefix	++ -- + - ~ !
creation and cast	new (type)
multiplicative	* / %
additive	+ -
shift	<< >> >>> (unsigned right shift)
relational	< > >= <= instanceof
equality	== !=
and	&
xor	^
or	
boolean and	&&
boolean or	
conditional	?:
assignment	= += -= *= /= %= >>= <<=
	>>>= &= ^= =

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And and Or

- The &&, ||, &, and | operators operate differently from C
 - && and || can only be applied to boolean values
- What happens with & and | depends on the types of the arguments:
 - if used with integral values the operations are bitwise
 - if used with boolean values the operations are boolean and are *NOT* short-circuited

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Statement

- The statement is the main building block from which code sequences are constructed.
- Statements are executed in the order listed and are always terminated by a semicolon.

```
expr ;
```

```
or
```

```
{ expr1; expr2; ... exprn; }
```

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The if Statement

- Syntax:

```
if ( booleanExpression ) statement
or
if ( booleanExpression )
  statement
else
  statement
```

- Note you can layout code in any way you want.

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The switch statement

- Syntax:

```
switch ( expression ) {
  case char/byte/short/int constant : statementSequence
  ...
  default: statementSequence
```

- As in C, break statements are needed to *jump* out of a switch statement.
- The default case is optional.

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Example

```
int z;
switch ( i ) {
  case 1:
    z = 1;
    break;
  case 2:
    z = 2;
  case 3:
    z = 3;
    break;
  default:
    z = 0;
}
```

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The while Loop

- Syntax:

```
while ( booleanExpression )  
    statement
```

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The do Loop

- Syntax:

```
    do  
        statement  
    while ( booleanExpression );
```

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The for Loop

- Syntax:

```
for ( initExpr; booleanExpr; updateExpr )  
    statement
```

- Each of the expressions is optional, the semicolons are not.
- A for loop is basically a while loop with initialization and updating thrown in.

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Transfer Statements

- The `break` statement can occur anywhere within a `switch`, `for`, `while` or `do` statement and causes execution to jump to the next statement.
- The `continue` statement can occur anywhere within a `for`, `while` or `do` statement and causes execution to jump to the end of the loop body.
- The `return` statement causes the execution of the current method, with control returning to the caller.

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Objects

- An object is a structure that represents a state and knows methods to manipulate it. The structure components are called instance variables.
- Given a class, one normally creates objects.
- Objects are created dynamically with operator `new` which in turn calls a constructor method to initialize the instance variables.
- Methods mostly access the instance variables of the receiver.

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Java Classes

- The Java system comes with an extensive set of classes from which you may create objects.
- Lets start with a familiar class `String`.
- To find out what you can do to Java strings you need to refer to the documentation that comes with the JDK

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Name.java

```
// A simple program that exercises some basic methods
// in the String class. Note: Strings are constant.

public class Name {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        String name;
        int midLoc;

        name = "Paul";
        name = name.concat( " Tymann" );

        midLoc = name.indexOf( " " );
        name = name.substring( 0, midLoc ) + " Thomas" +
            name.substring( midLoc );

        System.out.println( name );

        for ( int i=0; i<name.length() && name.charAt(i) != ' '; i++ )
            System.out.println( name.charAt(i) );
    }
}
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```

Reverse.java

```
// This program reverses a given string

public class Reverse {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        String orig = "Hello World";
        String reverse = "";

        for ( int i=0; i<orig.length(); i++ )
            reverse = orig.charAt( i ) + reverse;

        System.out.println( reverse );
    }
}
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```

StringBuffer

- The `String` class provides string objects that cannot be changed.
- The `StringBuffer` class provides mutable string objects.

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Reverse2

```
// Another way to reverse a string

public class Reverse2 {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {

        StringBuffer rev = new StringBuffer ( "Hello World" );
        char tmp;

        for (int i=0,j=rev.length()-1; i<j; i++,j-- ) {
            tmp = rev.charAt( i );
            rev.setCharAt(i, rev.charAt(j) );
            rev.setCharAt(j, tmp );
        }

        System.out.println( rev );
    }
}

3/14/01                Basic Java                46
```

Palin

```
// This program checks a given string to see if it is a palindrome

public class Palin {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        String orig = "mom", reverse = "";

        // Reverse it
        for (int i=0; i<orig.length(); i++)
            reverse = orig.charAt( i ) + reverse;

        // Now check it ( note that orig == reverse does not work )
        if (orig.equalsIgnoreCase( reverse ))
            System.out.println( "Palindrome" );
        else
            System.out.println( "Not a palindrome" );
    }
}

3/14/01                Basic Java                47
```

Arrays

- Arrays are represented by objects but there is no class that array objects are instances of.
- Variables of array type are declared using bracket ([]) notation:

```
typename[] varname ;
or
typename[] varname = arrayInitExpr;
or
typename varname[];
or
typename varname[] = arrayInitExpr;
```

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Arrays

- Multi-dimension arrays can be declared by repeating pairs of brackets up to the required dimension.
- The length instance variable holds the size or length of the array:

```
String[] words = new String[100];
System.out.println( words.length );

int [][] twoD = new int[10][20];
System.out.println( twoD.length ); // gives 10
System.out.println( twoD[0].length ); // gives 20
```

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Array Initialization

- It is possible to directly initialize the values of the array elements using an initializer list:

```
int[] n = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 };
int [][] m = { { 1, 2, 3, 4 }, { 4, 5, 6, 7 } };
int [][] w = { { 1, 2, 3 }, { 4, 5 } };
```

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CmdLineEcho

```
// Echo the contents of the command line
public class CmdLineEcho {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        for (int i=0; i<args.length; i++)
            System.out.println( args[i] );
    }
}
```

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Classes

- The class declaration introduces a new class.
- A class describes the structure and behavior of its instance objects in terms of instance variables and methods.
- Like variables, classes may be declared at different scopes. The scope of a class directly affects certain properties of the class.
- We will start with top-level classes.

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Class Syntax

```
modifier class identifier {  
    constructorDeclarations  
    methodDeclarations  
    staticMemberDeclarations  
    instanceVariableDeclarations  
    staticVariableDeclarations  
}
```

Note: Top-level classes must be stored in a file named *identifier.java*

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Class Modifiers

- Top-level classes can optionally be declared as:
 - **public**
 - a public class is globally accessible. A single source file can have only *one* public class or interface.
 - **abstract**
 - an abstract class can have no instance objects.
 - **final**
 - a final class cannot be subclassed.
- A class that does not have a modifier, can only be accessed by classes in the same package.

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Public, Private and Protected

- Any declaration can be preceded by :
 - `public`
 - a declaration is accessible by any class
 - `protected`
 - a declaration is accessible to any subclass, or to any class in the same package.
 - `private`
 - a declaration is only accessible within the class in which it is declared.
- Default accessibility is package scope.

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Instance Variables

- Instance variables form the state of an object.
- An instance variable can be declared as `final`, meaning that it is a constant.

```
class Class1 {
    public String hello = "Hello";
    public final String world = "World";
    protected int count = 0;
    private float length = 2.345f;
}
```

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Methods

- Class methods define the behavior of the object.
- A method name is an identifier. Following the method name is a parenthesized formal parameter list, which may be empty (the parenthesis are still required).
- Each parameter consists of a type name followed by a parameter variable name.

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Constructors

- A constructor is a method that can be used to control initialization.
- A constructor is declared like a method:
 - constructors have no return type
 - the constructor name is the same as the class
- A constructor with an empty parameter list is known as a *default* constructor.
- If a class does not define a constructor, the compiler will automatically insert one.

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ArrayIntStack

```
public class ArrayIntStack {
    private int data[]; private int tos;

    public ArrayIntStack( int cap ) {
        data = new int[ cap ]; tos = -1;
    }

    public void push( int newValue ) {
        if ( !isFull() ) { tos++; data[ tos ] = newValue; }
    }

    public int top() {
        if ( !isEmpty() )
            return data[ tos ];
        else
            return 0;
    }

    public void pop() { if ( !isEmpty() ) tos--; }
    public boolean isEmpty() { return tos == -1; }
    public boolean isFull() { return tos == ( data.length - 1 ); }
}
```

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this

- **this** is a final variable that holds a reference to the object in which it exists (i.e. this points to the *current* object)
- The type of **this** is the reference type of the object
- It is sometimes necessary to pass a reference to the current object as a parameter to another method.

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StackNode

```
public class StackNode {
    private Object data;
    private StackNode next;

    public StackNode( Object o ) {
        this( o, null );
    }

    public StackNode( Object data, StackNode n ) {
        this.data = data;
        next = n;
    }

    public StackNode getNext() { return next; }

    public Object getData() { return data; }
}
```

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LinkedStack

```
public class LinkedStack {
    private StackNode tos = null;

    public boolean isEmpty() { return tos == null; }

    public boolean isFull() { return false; }

    public void push( Object o ) {
        tos = new StackNode( o, tos );
    }

    public void pop() { tos = tos.getNext(); }

    public Object top() { return tos.getData(); }
}
```

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TestStack

```
public class testStack {

    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        int i;
        LinkedStack stack=new LinkedStack();

        for (i=0; i<10; i++)
            stack.push( new Integer( i ) );

        while (!stack.isEmpty()) {
            System.out.println( stack.top() );
            stack.pop();
        }
    }
}
```

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Static or Class Variables

- A static variable belongs to a class and is not part of the state of individual instance objects.
- Only one copy of each static variable exists.
- Class variables have several uses:
 - they are global to the class and can be shared by all objects of the class.
 - class constants (using `final`)
- Static variables must be explicitly initialized (because no constructor can do it).

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Elevator

```
public class Elevator {
    private static int nextId = 0;

    public final static int UP = 0;
    public final static int DOWN = 1;

    private int direction = UP;
    private int myId;

    public Elevator() { myId = nextId++; }
    public int getId() { return myId; }
    public int getDirection() { return direction; }

    public void setDirection( int dir ) {
        switch ( dir ) {
            case UP:
            case DOWN:
                direction = dir;
        }
    }
}
```

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TestElevator

```
public class TestElevator {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        Elevator a = new Elevator();
        Elevator b = new Elevator();
        Elevator c = new Elevator();

        a.setDirection( a.DOWN ); // access through an object
        b.setDirection( Elevator.DOWN ); // access through the class

        System.out.println(
            "Elevator A: Id=" + a.getId() + ", Dir=" + a.getDirection() );
        System.out.println(
            "Elevator B: Id=" + b.getId() + ", Dir=" + b.getDirection() );
        System.out.println(
            "Elevator C: Id=" + c.getId() + ", Dir=" + c.getDirection() );
    }
}
```

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Static Methods

- Static methods generally follow the same rules as methods:
 - a static method belongs to a class not its instance objects.
 - a static method can be called both directly and for an object of the same class
 - a static method cannot access any instance variables or methods (since it does not belong to an instance object)
 - `this` cannot be used

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Static Methods

- There is one special use of static methods in the form of `static main`.
- When a class defines a public static method `main`, it provides a starting point for execution of a program using that class.
- Any class can have a static `main` method.
- Static methods are generally used to provide utility or helper methods. For examples see `java.lang.Math`.

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Inheritance

- Inheritance provides a mechanism for extending an existing class to create a new class.
- The new class has all the features of the old class and adds its own features.
- The class that inherits is known as the *subclass*, while the class that is inherited from is known as the *superclass*.

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Conformance

- A crucial consequence of inheritance is the idea of *substitutability*, at the programming language level this is implemented as the idea of *assignment compatibility*
- This makes it possible to assign a reference to a subclass to a reference of the superclass.
- Thus it is possible to let a subclass *stand in* for the superclass.

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Syntax

- A subclass inherits from a superclass using the `extends` keyword

```
class subClassName extends superClassName {  
    variable and method declarations  
}
```

- Inheritance is applicable to top-level classes, nested top-level classes, member classes, local classes and anonymous classes

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Inheritance

- A class can inherit from any class that is not final.
- Objects of the subclass contain all the instance variables and methods declared by the superclass.
- The accessibility rules are still enforced which means a subclass cannot access the private parts of the superclass.
- Subclassing can be repeated as many times as desired. A class can have only one superclass, but may have many subclasses.

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Scope Rules

- Inheritance increases the number of scopes that need to be searched (both static and instance declarations are searched)
 - check the local scope and any local scopes
 - check the class scope
 - check each superclass scope in turn up to the top of the inheritance chain
- If variables with the same identifier are declared in several scopes, the first one found is used.

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Method Overloading

- Methods can be *overloaded*, meaning that two or methods in the same class can have the same name provided they have different parameter lists.
- The return type for all overloaded methods must be the same.
- Operator overloading is not supported in Java.

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Method Overriding

- A subclass can *override* an inherited method by providing a new method declaration that has the same name, the same number and types of parameters and the same result type as the one inherited.
- Method overriding relies on dynamic binding, so the type of the object determines which method gets called.

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Abstract Classes

- An abstract class is a place holder for declaring shared methods and variables for use by subclasses.
- An abstract class cannot have instance objects and so exists as a class that other classes can inherit from.
- A concrete class is a class that is not abstract

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Abstract Methods

- A method can be declared abstract so that it must be overridden by subclasses.
- An abstract class does not have a method body; the declaration ends with a semi-colon not a compound statement.
- A class declaring one or more abstract methods must be declared as an abstract class
- Private and static methods cannot be abstract

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Stack

```
abstract class Stack {
    protected int count = 0;

    public abstract void push( Object o );
    public abstract void pop();
    public abstract Object top();
    public abstract boolean isFull();

    public boolean isEmpty() {
        return count==0;
    }
}
```

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ArrayStack

```
public class ArrayStack extends Stack {
    private Object data[];
    private tos = -1;

    public ArrayStack() { data = new Object[ 100 ]; }

    public void push( Object o ) {
        if ( !isFull() ) {
            tos++; data[ tos ] = o; count++;
        }
    }

    public void pop() {
        if ( !isEmpty() ) { tos--; count--; }
    }

    public Object top() { return data.lastElement(); }
    public boolean isFull() {
        return tos == ( data.length - 1 );
    }
}
```

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LinkedStack

```
public class LinkedStack extends Stack {
    private StackNode tos = null;

    private static class StackNode {
        private Object data;
        private StackNode next, prev;

        public StackNode( Object o ) { this( o, null ); }
        public StackNode( Object o, StackNode n ) {
            data = o;
            next = n;
        }
        public StackNode getNext() { return next; }
        public Object getData() { return data; }
    }

    public void push( Object o ) { tos = new StackNode( o, tos ); }
    public void pop() { tos = tos.getNext(); }
    public Object top() { return tos.getData(); }
    public boolean isFull() { return false; }
    public boolean isEmpty() { return tos == null; }
}
```

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PolyStack

```
public class PolyStack {
    public static void main( String args[] ) {
        Stack x = null;

        if ( args.length == 1 ) {
            if ( args[0].equals( "ArrayStack" ) )
                x = new ArrayStack();
            else if ( args[0].equals( "LinkedStack" ) )
                x = new LinkedStack();
            else {
                System.out.println( "Invalid command line argument" );
                System.exit(1);
            }
        }

        for ( int i=0; i<10; i++) x.push( new Integer( i ) );

        while ( !x.isEmpty() ) {
            System.out.println( Integer.parseInt( x.top() ) );
            x.pop();
        }
    }
}
```

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Final Methods

- A final instance method cannot be overridden (but can still be overloaded).
- A final static method cannot be re-declared in a subclass.
- Final methods prevent a method that has the same name and parameter types from being declared in a subclass.
- This takes into account both static and instance variables.

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Constructors and Inheritance

- The guarantee of proper initialization must be maintained in the presence of inheritance.
- Java forces the constructors for each superclass to be called and provides syntax for explicitly controlling which constructors are called.
- The keyword `super` can be used to explicitly call a superclass constructor
 - `super (argumentList) ;`
- `super` must be the first statement in a constructor

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Methods Inherited from Class Object

- Class Object declares the following methods that can be overwritten:
 - `public boolean equals(Object obj);`
 - `public String toString();`
 - `public final native int hashCode();`
 - `protected native Object clone();`
 - `protected void finalize();`
 - `public final Class getClass ();`

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Interfaces

- An interface declaration allows the specification of a reference type without providing an implementation.
- A type can conform to another type if it specifies at least the same set of methods as the other type (and possibly more).
- The two types do not have to be related by inheritance which gives more freedom as to which types may conform to other types.

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Syntax

- An interface is declared as shown below:

```
interface Modifier interface identifier {  
    interfaceMethodDeclarations;  
    interfaceVariableDeclarations;  
}
```

- The optional modifier allows an interface to be declared public.
- Any variables declared are implicitly constants and are also static

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Implements

- The implements keyword allows a class to implement (or conform to) one or more interfaces.
- A class can implement any number of interfaces (and also extend a class at the same time).
- Any variables defined in the interface become static variables of the class.
- A method declared in a public interface must be public in an implementing class.

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