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## AWT Components: Simple User Interfaces

Originals of Slides and Source Code for Examples: http://courses.coreservlets.com/Course-Materials/java.html



## **Topics in This Section**

- GUI libraries in Java
- Basic AWT windows
  - Canvas, Panel, Frame
- Closing frames
- Processing events in GUI controls
- Basic AWT user interface controls
  - Button, checkbox, radio button, list box



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## GUI Libraries in Java SE

## **GUI Libraries in Java**

#### Part of Java SE

#### AWT (Abstract Window Toolkit)

- The original GUI library in Java 1.02. Native Look and Feel (LAF).
   Covered in this lecture
- Purposes
  - Easy building of simple-looking interfaces
    - Often for internal purposes
    - only. Not seen by end users.
  - First step toward learning Swing

#### Swing

- GUI library added to Java starting in Java 1.1
  - Covered in later lectures
- Purposes
  - Professional looking GUIs that follow standard
  - GUIs with the same look and feel on multiple platforms

#### **Extensions**

#### SWT (Standard Widget Toolkit)

- GUI from the Eclipse foundation. Native LAF ala AWT.
  - See http://www.eclipse.org/swt/
- Purposes
  - Higher-performance professional looking GUIs
  - Native LAF
  - Interaction with the Eclipse Rich Client Platform

#### Java FX

- GUI library and tools now standardized separately
  - See http://javafx.com/
- Purposes
  - XML-based layout
  - · Mobile platforms
  - Rich media: audio, video, etc.

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## Background

## Windows and Layout Management

#### Containers

 Most windows are a Container that can hold other windows or GUI components. Canvas is the major exception.

#### Layout Managers

- Containers have a LayoutManager that automatically sizes and positions components that are in the window
- You can change the behavior of the layout manager or disable it completely. Details in next lecture.

#### Events

- Windows and components can receive mouse and keyboard events, just as in previous lecture.

### Windows and Layout Management (Continued)

#### Drawing in Windows

- To draw into a window, make a subclass with its own paint method
- Having one window draw into another window is not usually recommended

#### Popup Windows

- Some windows (Frame and Dialog) have their own title bar and border and can be placed at arbitrary locations on the screen
- Other windows (Canvas an Panel) are embedded into existing windows only

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## Foundational AWT Window Types

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## Summary

#### Canvas

- Purpose:
  - Reusable picture or drawing area. Basis for custom component.
- Code
  - Allocate Canvas, give it a size, add it to existing window.

#### Panel

– Purpose

- To group other components into rectangular regions.
- Code
  - Allocate Panel, put other components in it, add to window.

#### Frame

- Purpose

- Core popup window. Main window for your application.
- Code
  - Allocate Frame, give it a size, add stuff to it, pop it up.

## Canvas

#### Major purposes

- A drawing area
- A custom component that does not need to contain any other component (e.g., an image button)

#### Default layout manager: none

- Canvas is not a Container, so cannot enclose components

#### Creating and using

- Allocate it
  - Canvas c = new Canvas();

Since Canvas is often the starting point for a component that has a custom paint method or event handlers, you often do

MySpecializedCanvas c = new MySpecializedCanvas(...)

- Give it a size

- c.setSize(width, height);
- Drop it in existing window
  - someWindow.add(c); If this code is in the main window, then "someWindow" is "this" and can be omitted. I.e, the init method of an applet would add a Canvas to itself just with "add(c);".

## **Canvas Example**

```
import java.awt.*;
/** A Circle component built using a Canvas. */
public class Circle extends Canvas {
  private int width, height;
  public Circle(Color foreground, int radius) {
    setForeground(foreground);
    width = 2*radius;
    height = 2*radius;
    setSize(width, height);
  }
  public void paint(Graphics g) {
    g.fillOval(0, 0, width, height);
  }
  public void setCenter(int x, int y) {
    setLocation(x - width/2, y - height/2);
  }
```

### **Canvas Example (Continued)**

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.applet.Applet;
public class CircleTest extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT GRAY);
    add(new Circle(Color.WHITE, 30));
    add(new Circle(Color.GRAY, 40));
    add(new Circle(Color.BLACK, 50));
  }
                CircleTest - Mozilla Firefox
                                   }
                <u>File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help</u>
                CircleTest
                Done
                                        *
```

# Canvases are Rectangular and Opaque: Example

```
public class CircleTest2 extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT GRAY);
    setLayout(null); // Turn off layout manager.
    Circle circle;
    int radius = getSize().width/6;
    int deltaX = round(2.0 * (double)radius / Math.sqrt(2.0));
    for (int x=radius; x<6*radius; x=x+deltaX) {</pre>
       circle = new Circle(Color.BLACK, radius);
                                           OircleTest2 - Mozilla Firefox 
File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools
       add(circle);
       circle.setCenter(x, x);
                                           CircleTest2
    }
  }
  private int round(double num) {
    return((int)Math.round(num));
  }
}
                                           Done
```

## **Lightweight Components**

#### Idea

- Regular AWT windows are native windows behind the scenes. So, they are rectangular and opaque.
- You can make "lightweight components" components that are really pictures, not windows, behind the scenes.
  - These don't have the rectangular/opaque restrictions, but building them is usually more trouble than it is worth in the AWT library. The Swing library makes it simple with a "setOpaque" method.

#### Code

- If you really want to do it yourself in AWT, you have to tell Java how to calculate the minimum and preferred sizes (see later section on layout managers).
  - Even so, it can have tricky interactions if the enclosing window has a custom paint method. Use Swing instead!

### Lightweight Components: Example

```
public class BetterCircle extends Component {
  private Dimension preferredDimension;
  private int width, height;
  public BetterCircle(Color foreground, int radius) {
    setForeground(foreground);
    width = 2*radius; height = 2*radius;
    preferredDimension = new Dimension(width, height);
    setSize(preferredDimension);
                                              🥹 BetterCircleTest - Mozilla Fi... 👝 🔲 🎫
  }
                                              <u>File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools</u>
                                              BetterCircleTest
  public void paint(Graphics g) {
    g.setColor(getForeground());
    g.fillOval(0, 0, width, height);
  }
  public Dimension getPreferredSize() {
    return(preferredDimension);
  }
   public Dimension getMinimumSize() {
    return(preferredDimension);
  }
                                              Done
  . . .
```

## **Component Class**

#### • Idea

 Ancestor of all graphical components in Java (even Swing). So, methods here are shared by all windows and controls.

#### Useful methods

- getBackground/setBackground
- getForeground/setForeground
  - · Change/lookup the default foreground color
  - Color is inherited by the Graphics object of the component
- getFont/setFont
  - Returns/sets the current font
  - · Inherited by the Graphics object of the component
- paint
  - Called whenever the user call repaint or when the component is obscured and reexposed

## **Component Class (Continued)**

#### Useful methods

- setVisible
  - Exposes (true) or hides (false) the component
  - · Especially useful for frames and dialogs
- setSize/setBounds/setLocation
- getSize/getBounds/getLocation
  - · Physical aspects (size and position) of the component
- list
  - Prints out info on this component and any components it contains; useful for debugging
- invalidate/validate
  - Tell layout manager to redo the layout
- getParent
  - Returns enclosing window (or null if there is none)

## Panel

#### Major purposes

- To group/organize components
- A custom component that requires embedded components

#### Default layout manager: FlowLayout

- Shrinks components to their preferred (minimum) size
- Places them left to right in centered rows

#### Creating and using

- Allocate it
  - Panel p = new Panel();
- Put stuff into it
  - p.add(someButton);
  - p.add(someOtherWidget);
- Drop the Panel in an existing window
  - someWindow.add(p);

## No Panels: Example

Note the lack of an explicit setSize. The size of a Panel is usually determined by a combination of what the Panel contains and the layout manager of the window that contains the Panel.

ButtonTest1 - Mozilla Firefox File Edit View Higtory Bookmarks Ioo	s <u>H</u> elp	
Start Thread1 Stop Thread1 Pause Pause	hread1 Resume Thread1 Sta hread2 Resume Thread2	It Thread2 Stop Thread2
Done		*
Done		*

### **Panels: Example**

```
import java.applet.Applet;
import java.awt.*;
public class ButtonTest2 extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    String[] labelPrefixes = { "Start", "Stop", "Pause",
                                "Resume" };
    Panel p1 = new Panel();
    for (int i=0; i<4; i++) {</pre>
      pl.add(new Button(labelPrefixes[i] + " Thread1"));
    }
    Panel p2 = new Panel();
    for (int i=0; i<4; i++) {</pre>
      p2.add(new Button(labelPrefixes[i] + " Thread2"));
    }
    add(p1);
    add(p2);
  }
```

Pan	els: Result	
	ButtonTest2 - Mozilla Firefox         File       Edit       Yiew       Higtory       Bookmarks       Iools       Help         ButtonTest2         StartThread1       Stop Thread1       Pause Thread1       Resume Thread1         Start Thread2       Stop Thread2       Pause Thread2       Resume Thread2	
	Done	
25		

## **Container Class**

#### Idea

 Ancestor of all window types except Canvas. So, these methods are common among almost all windows.

#### Useful Container methods

- add
  - Add a component to the container (in the last position in the component array)
  - If using BorderLayout, you can also specify in which region to place the component

#### – remove

- Remove the component from the window (container)
- getComponents
  - · Returns an array of components in the window
  - Used by layout managers
- setLayout
  - Changes the layout manager associated with the window



## **Creating a Fixed-Size Frame**

#### Approach

```
Frame frame = new Frame(titleString);
frame.add(somePanel, BorderLayout.CENTER);
frame.add(otherPanel, BorderLayout.NORTH);
...
frame.setSize(width, height);
frame.setVisible(true);
```

#### Note: be sure you pop up the frame last

 Odd behavior results if you add components to a window that is already visible (unless you call doLayout on the frame)

# Creating a Frame that Stretches to Fit What it Contains

#### Approach

```
Frame frame = new Frame(titleString);
frame.setLocation(left, top);
frame.add(somePanel, BorderLayout.CENTER);
...
frame.pack();
frame.setVisible(true);
```

#### Note

Again, be sure to pop up the frame *after* adding the components

## Frame Example 1

Creating the Frame object in main

```
public class FrameExample1 {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
     Frame f = new Frame("Frame Example 1");
     f.setSize(400, 300);
     f.setVisible(true);
   }
}
```

#### Frame Example 2 Using a Subclass of Frame public class FrameExample2 extends Frame { public FrameExample2() { super("Frame Example 2"); setSize(400, 300); setVisible(true); } public static void main(String[] args) { new FrameExample2(); } } The "main" method that instantiates the Frame need not reside in FrameExample2. The idea is that you make a reusable Frame class, and then that class can be popped up various different ways (from main, when the user clicks a button, when certain events occur in your app, etc.)



## Frame Example 3

#### Using a Subclass of CloseableFrame

```
public class FrameExample3 extends CloseableFrame {
   public FrameExample3() {
      super("Frame Example 3");
      setSize(400, 300);
      setVisible(true);
   }
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      new FrameExample3();
   }
}
Same as previous example, but now the Frame
closes when you click on the x.
```



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## AWT GUI Controls and Event Processing

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## AWT GUI Controls

#### Characteristics (vs. windows)

- Automatically drawn you don't override paint
- Positioned by layout manager
- Use native window-system controls (widgets)
  - Controls adopt look and feel of underlying window system
- Higher level events typically used
  - For example, for buttons you don't monitor mouse clicks, since most OS's also let you trigger a button by hitting RETURN when the button has the keyboard focus

## **GUI Event Processing Strategies**

#### Decentralized event processing

- Component (e.g., Button) has its own event handler
  - Harder to call methods in the main app, so works best when operations are relatively independent

#### Centralized event processing

- Have main app implement listener. Send all events there.
  - Easier for handler to call methods from the main app
  - But, if you have multiple buttons, you will need if/then/else in the event-handler method

#### Semi-centralized event processing

- Use inner class for event handling
  - · Better than interface if you have many different buttons

### Decentralized Event Processing: Example

```
import java.awt.*;
```

```
public class ActionExample1 extends CloseableFrame {
    public ActionExample1() {
        super("Handling Events in Component");
        setLayout(new FlowLayout());
        setFont(new Font("Serif", Font.BOLD, 18));
        add(new SetSizeButton(300, 200));
        add(new SetSizeButton(400, 300));
        add(new SetSizeButton(500, 400));
        setSize(400, 300);
        setVisible(true);
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
            new ActionExample1();
        }
    }
    /// Yey doedy analogues to the first approach from the event-
        handing before (assess for event handlers).
```

## **Decentralized Event Processing: Example (Continued)**

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
public class SetSizeButton extends Button
                            implements ActionListener {
  private int width, height;
  public SetSizeButton(int width, int height) {
    super("Resize to " + width + "x" + height);
    this.width = width;
    this.height = height;
    addActionListener(this);
  }
  public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
    Container parent = getParent();
    parent.setSize(width, height);
    parent.invalidate();
    parent.validate();
```



## **Centralized Event Processing: Example**

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
public class ActionExample2 extends CloseableFrame
                             implements ActionListener {
  private Button button1, button2, button3;
  public ActionExample2() {
    super("Handling Events in Other Object");
    setLayout(new FlowLayout());
    setFont(new Font("Serif", Font.BOLD, 18));
    button1 = new Button("Resize to 300x200");
    button1.addActionListener(this);
    add(button1);
    // Add button2 and button3 in the same way...
    . . .
    setSize(400, 300);
    setVisible(true);
  }
```

40



### Semi-Centralized Event Processing: Example

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
public class ActionExample3 extends CloseableFrame {
  private Button button1, button2, button3;
  public ActionExample3() {
    super("Handling Events in Other Object");
    setLayout(new FlowLayout());
    setFont(new Font("Serif", Font.BOLD, 18));
    button1 = new Button("Resize to 300x200");
    button1.addActionListener(new ResizeHandler(300, 200));
    add(button1);
    // Add button2 and button3 in the same way...
    . . .
    setSize(400, 300);
    setVisible(true);
  }
```

#### Semi-Centralized Event **Processing: Example (Cont)** private void updateLayout(int width, int height) { setSize(width, height); invalidate(); validate(); } private class ResizeHandler implements ActionListener { private int width, height; public ResizeHandler(int width, int height) { this.width= width; this.height = height; } public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) { updateLayout(width, height); 1 } public static void main(String[] args) { new ActionExample3(); } Very closely analogous to the third approach from the event-handling lecture (inner classes for event handlers).



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## Basic AWT GUI Controls

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## Buttons

#### Constructors

- Button()
  - Button(String buttonLabel)
    - The button size (preferred size) is based on the height and width of the label in the current font, plus some extra space determined by the OS

#### Useful Methods

- getLabel/setLabel
  - Retrieves or sets the current label
  - If the button is already displayed, setting the label does not automatically reorganize its Container
    - The containing window should be invalidated and validated to force a fresh layout

```
someButton.setLabel("A New Label");
someButton.getParent().invalidate();
```

someButton.getParent().validate();

## **Buttons (Continued)**

#### Event processing methods

- addActionListener/removeActionListener
  - Add/remove an ActionListener that processes ActionEventS in actionPerformed
- processActionEvent
  - Low-level event handling
- General methods inherited from component
  - getForeground/setForeground
  - getBackground/setBackground
  - getFont/setFont

public class Button	ns extends Applet {
private Button b	utton1, button2, button3;
public void init	() {
button1 = new 1	Button("Button One");
button2 = new 1	Button("Button Two");
button3 = new 1	Button("Button Three");
<pre>add(button1);</pre>	
<pre>add(button2);</pre>	Buttons - Mozilla Firefox     File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
<pre>add(button3);</pre>	The Fact Ten History Bookman's Tools Teb
}	Buttons
}	
	Button One Button Two Button Three

## **Handling Button Events**

 Attach an ActionListener to the Button and handle the event in actionPerformed

## Checkboxes

#### Constructors

- These three constructors apply to checkboxes that operate independently of each other (i.e., not radio buttons)
- Checkbox()
  - · Creates an initially unchecked checkbox with no label
- Checkbox(String checkboxLabel)
  - Creates a checkbox (initially unchecked) with the specified label; see setState for changing it
- Checkbox(String checkboxLabel, boolean state)
  - · Creates a checkbox with the specified label
    - The initial state is determined by the boolean value provided
    - A value of true means it is checked

## **Checkbox, Example**

```
public class Checkboxes extends CloseableFrame {
  public Checkboxes() {
    super("Checkboxes");
    setFont(new Font("SansSerif", Font.BOLD, 18));
    setLayout(new GridLayout(0, 2));
    Checkbox box;
    for(int i=0; i<12; i++) {</pre>
      box = new Checkbox("Checkbox " + i);
      if (i%2 == 0) {
                                   📥 Checkboxes
                                                       _ 🗆 ×
        box.setState(true);
                                   🗹 Checkbox 0 🛛 🗆 Checkbox 1
      }
                                  🗹 Checkbox 2 🛛 🗆 Checkbox 3
      add(box);
                                  🗹 Checkbox 4 🛛 🗆 Checkbox 5
    }
    pack();
                                  🗹 Checkbox 6 🛛 Checkbox 7
    setVisible(true);
                                  🗹 Checkbox 8 🛛 Checkbox 9
  }
                                  🗹 Checkbox 10 🗆 Checkbox 11
```



### **Handling Checkbox Events**

#### Attach an ItemListener

Add it with addItemListener and process the ItemEvent in itemStateChanged

public void itemStateChanged(ItemEvent event) {

#### The ItemEvent class has a getItem method which returns the item just selected or deselected

 The return value of getItem is an Object so you should cast it to a String before using it

#### Ignore the event

- With checkboxes, it is relatively common to ignore the select/deselect event when it occurs
- Instead, you look up the state (checked/unchecked) of the checkbox later using the getState method of Checkbox when you are ready to take some other sort of action



### **CheckboxGroup: Example**

```
import java.applet.Applet;
import java.awt.*;
public class CheckboxGroups extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    setLayout(new GridLayout(4, 2));
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT GRAY);
    setFont(new Font("Serif", Font.BOLD, 16));
    add(new Label("Flavor", Label.CENTER));
    add(new Label("Toppings", Label.CENTER));
    CheckboxGroup flavorGroup = new CheckboxGroup();
    add(new Checkbox("Vanilla", flavorGroup, true));
    add(new Checkbox("Colored Sprinkles"));
    add(new Checkbox("Chocolate", flavorGroup, false));
    add(new Checkbox("Cashews"));
    add(new Checkbox("Strawberry", flavorGroup, false));
    add(new Checkbox("Kiwi"));
  }
```

🕘 CheckboxGroups - Mozilla F	Firefox
<u>File Edit View History Bo</u>	okmarks <u>T</u> ools <u>H</u> elp
CheckboxG	roups
Flavor	Toppings
• Vanilla	Colored Sprinkles
C Chocolate	Cashews
C Strawberry	☐ Kiwi

## Other Methods for Radio Buttons

#### CheckboxGroup

- getSelectedCheckbox
  - Returns the radio button (Checkbox) that is currently selected or null if none is selected

#### Checkbox

- In addition to the general methods described in Checkboxes, Checkbox has the following two methods specific to CheckboxGroup's:
- getCheckboxGroup/setCheckboxGroup
  - Determines or registers the group associated with the radio button
- Note: Event-handling is the same as with Checkboxes



### **List Boxes: Example**

```
import java.awt.*;
public class Lists extends CloseableFrame {
  public Lists() {
    super("Lists");
    setLayout(new FlowLayout());
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT GRAY);
    setFont(new Font("SansSerif", Font.BOLD, 18));
    List list1 = new List(3, false);
    list1.add("Vanilla");
    list1.add("Chocolate");
    list1.add("Strawberry");
    add(list1);
    List list2 = new List(3, true);
    list2.add("Colored Sprinkles");
    list2.add("Cashews");
    list2.add("Kiwi");
    add(list2);
    pack();
    setVisible(true);
```

```
58
```



## **Other List Methods**

- add
  - Add an item at the end or specified position in the list box
  - All items at that index or later get moved down

#### isMultipleMode

Determines if the list is multiple selectable (true) or single selectable (false)

#### remove/removeAll

- Remove an item or all items from the list

#### getSelectedIndex

- For a single-selectable list, this returns the index of the selected item
- Returns –1 if nothing is selected or if the list permits multiple selections

#### getSelectedIndexes

- Returns an array of the indexes of all selected items
  - · Works for single- or multi-selectable lists
  - If no items are selected, a zero-length (but non-null) array is returned

## **Other List Methods (Continued)**

#### getSelectedItem

- For a single-selectable list, this returns the label of the selected item
- Returns null if nothing is selected or if the list permits multiple selections

#### getSelectedItems

- Returns an array of all selected items
- Works for single- or multi-selectable lists
  - If no items are selected, a zero-length (but non-null) array is returned

#### select

61

- Programmatically selects the item in the list
- If the list does not permit multiple selections, then the previously selected item, if any, is also deselected

## **Handling List Events**

- addltemListener/removeltemListener
  - ItemEvents are generated whenever an item is selected or deselected (single-click)
  - Handle ItemEvents in itemStateChanged

#### addActionListener/removeActionListener

- ActionEvents are generated whenever an item is doubleclicked or RETURN (ENTER) is pressed while selected
- Handle ActionEvents in actionPerformed

Choice List Choice 1	s (Combo Boxes)  Choice 1 Choice 2 Choice 3
• Textfields	Applet Viewer: TextFields.class
Other GL	Il Controls (Continued)
Other GL • Text Areas	U Controls (Continued)

## Summary

#### Native components behind the scenes

- So, all windows and graphical components are rectangular and opaque, and take look-and-feel of underlying OS.

#### Windows

- Canvas: drawing area or custom component
- Panel: grouping other components
- Frame: popup window

#### GUI Controls

- Button: handle events with ActionListener
- Checkbox, radio button: handle events with ItemListener
- List box: handle single click with ItemListener, double click with ActionListener
- To quickly determine the event handlers for a component, simply look at the online API
  - addXxxListener methods are at the top



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## **Questions?**

JSF 2, PrimeFaces, Java 7, Ajax, jQuery, Hadoop, RESTful Web Services, Android, Spring, Hibernate, Servlets, JSP, GWT, and other Java EE training.