webopedia

Enter a term...

MAIN   BROWSE TERMS   DID YOU KNOW?   REFERENCE   ALL CATEGORIES   STUDY GUIDES   IT CERTIFICATIONS
SPONSORED

Main » TERM » P »

polymorphism

By *Vangie Beal*

Generally, the ability to appear in many forms. In object-oriented programming, *polymorphism* refers to a programming language's ability to process objects differently depending on their data type or class. More specifically, it is the ability to redefine *methods* for *derived classes.* For example, given a base class *shape,* polymorphism enables the programmer to define different *area* methods for any number of derived classes, such as circles, rectangles and triangles. No

Related Terms

- OOP – Object Oriented Programming
- object oriented
- object-oriented graphics
- Java
- polymorphic virus
- aspect-oriented programming - AOP
- Smalltalk
- Enterprise JavaBeans

WEBOPEDIA NEWS

Stay up to date on the latest developments in Internet terminology with a free newsletter from Webopedia. Join to subscribe now.

Email address

Subscribe Now!

matter what shape an object is, applying the *area* method to it will return the correct results. Polymorphism is considered to be a requirement of any true object-oriented programming language (OOPL).

- Dart programming language

- paint program

LATEST ARTICLES

Texting & Chat Abbreviations

From A3 to ZZZ we list 1,559 text message and online chat abbreviations to help you translate and understand today's texting lingo. Includes Top... Read More »

Huge List of Computer Certifications

Have you heard about a computer certification program but can't figure out if it's right for you? Use this handy list to help you decide. Read More »

Related White Papers and Webcasts

It's Time to Rethink CRM

Today's CRM systems have the ability to deliver more than just lead generation. If leveraged correctly, they can be major drivers in loyalty and relationship management. But many companies have yet to unlock their true potential. Learn how you can use CRM to facilitate better communications and grow your business.... Continue Reading...

Download

Ready Your Enterprise for the API Revolution

APIs are changing more than just software architectures. From planning through implementation and beyond, an API-driven business model brings a host of new challenges and

Your IT team understands the importance of securing the network against data breaches from external threats. Regardless of your efforts, data breaches usually begin from inside your network, often due to lax or unenforced security policies … *Continue reading...*
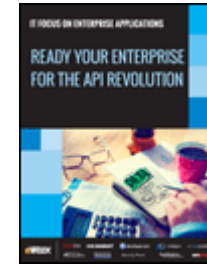
PREVIOUS

polymorphic virus

NEXT

polyphonic ringtone

opportunities to organizations. Download this eBook to learn how to get the most benefit from these agents of change....
Continue Reading...

STUDY GUIDES

Computer Architecture Study Guide

Computer architecture provides an introduction to system design basics for most computer science students. Read More »

Network Fundamentals Study Guide

Networking fundamentals teaches the building blocks of modern network design. Learn different types of networks, concepts, architecture and... Read More »

The Five Generations of Computers

Learn about each of the five generations of computers and major technology developments that have led to the

computing devices that we use...

Browse Technology Definitions:

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J
K
L
M
N
O
P
Q
R
S
T
U
V
W
X
Y
Z

_
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Definitions:
Browse Terms

Articles:

IT Certifications
Did You Know
Quick Reference
Study Guides

webopedia

An eWEEK Property