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Jan Tyler Applegate • Instructor • Temple University CIS

Figure 8-3 An example implementation in heritance. The left column depicts a questionable

implementation of MySet using inheritance. The right class depicts an

improved implementation using delegation (UML class diagram and Java)

Delegation and Inheritance



```
1  /* Implementation of MySet using inheritance */
2  class MySet extends Hashtable {
3      /* Constructor omitted */
4      MySet() {
5      }
6      void put(Object element) {
7          if (!containsKey(element)) {
8              put(element, this);
9          }
10     }
11     boolean containsValue (Object element){
12         return containsKey(element);
13     }
14     /* Other methods omitted */
15 }
```

Delegation

enstruitor. This address is:

is private. Hence, we change the internal

The only significant change is the privatized field

a List) without impacting any client's of MySet.

table and its initialization in the `MySet()`

Hashtable client code. Previously using

• ***Subtyping***: `MySet` doesn't inherit from

representation of MySystem to an other class (e.g.,

• ***Extenibility:*** The MySet contains the right column

Hashtable, so it can't be substituted for a

method in its interface and the new field table

does not include the contentsKey()

Hashtables still works as expected.



```
1  /* Implementation of MySet using delegation */
2  class MySet {
3      private Hashtable table;
4      MySet() {
5          table = Hashtable();
6      }
7      void put(Object element) {
8          if (!containsValue(element)){
9              table.put(element, this);
10         }
11     }
12     boolean containsValue(Object element) {
13         return (table.containsKey(element));
14     }
15     /* Other methods omitted */
16 }
```




```
1  /* Implementation of MySet using delegation */
2  class MySet {
3      private Hashtable table;
4      MySet() {
5          table = Hashtable();
6      }
7      void put(Object element) {
8          if (!containsValue(element)){
9              table.put(element, this);
10         }
11     }
12     boolean containsValue(Object element) {
13         return (table.containsKey(element));
14     }
15     /* Other methods omitted */
16 }
```