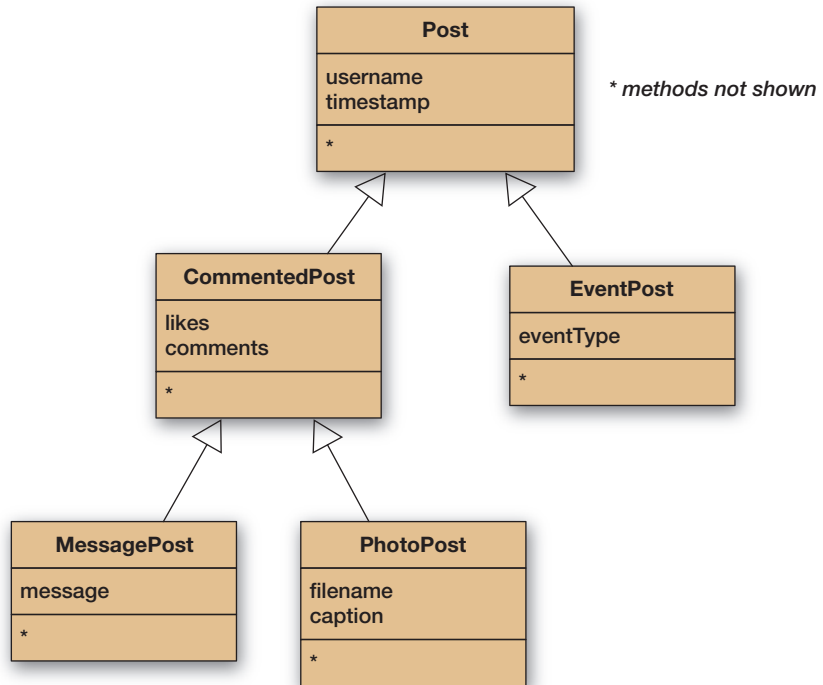


Figure 10.8

Adding more post
types to *network*



Classes that are not intended to be used to create instances, but whose purpose is exclusively to serve as superclasses for other classes (such as **Post** and **CommentedPost**), are called *abstract classes*. We shall investigate this in more detail in Chapter 12.

Exercise 10.8 Open the *network-v2* project. Add a class for event posts to the project. Create some event-post objects and test that all methods work as expected.

10.6

Advantages of inheritance (so far)

We have seen several advantages of using inheritance for the *network* application. Before we explore other aspects of inheritance, we shall summarize the general advantages we have encountered so far:

- **Avoiding code duplication** The use of inheritance avoids the need to write identical or very similar copies of code twice (or even more often).
- **Code reuse** Existing code can be reused. If a class similar to the one we need already exists, we can sometimes subclass the existing class and reuse some of the existing code, rather than having to implement everything again.