

# Optional Topic: User Input with Scanner

Adapted from:

1) Building Java Programs: A Back to Basics Approach  
by Stuart Reges and Marty Stepp

# Input and `System.in`

- **interactive program:** Reads input from the console.
  - While the program runs, it asks the user to type input.
  - The input typed by the user is stored in variables in the code.
  - Can be tricky; users are unpredictable and misbehave.
  - But interactive programs have more interesting behavior.
- **Scanner:** An object that can read input from many sources.
  - Communicates with `System.in` (the opposite of `System.out`)
  - Can also read from files, web sites, databases, ...

# Scanner syntax

- The `Scanner` class is found in the `java.util` package.

```
import java.util.*;    // so you can use Scanner
```

- Constructing a `Scanner` object to read console input:

```
Scanner name = new Scanner(System.in);
```

- Example:

```
Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);
```

# Scanner methods

Method	Description
<code>nextInt()</code>	reads an <code>int</code> from the user and returns it
<code>nextDouble()</code>	reads a <code>double</code> from the user
<code>next()</code>	reads a one-word <code>String</code> from the user
<code>nextLine()</code>	reads a one- <i>line</i> <code>String</code> from the user

- Each method waits until the user presses Enter.
- The value typed by the user is returned.

```
System.out.print("How old are you? "); // prompt
int age = console.nextInt();
System.out.println("You typed " + age);
```

- **prompt:** A message telling the user what input to type.

# Scanner example

```
import java.util.*;    // so that I can use Scanner
```

```
public class UserInputExample {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);
```

```
        → System.out.print("How old are you? ");
```

age

```
        → int age = console.nextInt();
```



years

```
        → int years = 65 - age;
```

```
        System.out.println(years + " years to retirement!");
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

- Console (user input underlined):

How old are you? 29

36 years until retirement!



# Input tokens

- **token:** A unit of user input, as read by the `Scanner`.
  - Tokens are separated by *whitespace* (spaces, tabs, new lines).
  - How many tokens appear on the following line of input?  
23   John Smith   42.0   "Hello world"   \$2.50   "   19"

- When a token is not the type you ask for, it crashes.

```
System.out.print("What is your age? ");  
int age = console.nextInt();
```

Output:

```
What is your age? Timmy  
java.util.InputMismatchException  
    at java.util.Scanner.next(Unknown Source)  
    at java.util.Scanner.nextInt(Unknown Source)  
    ...
```

# Scanner example 2

```
import java.util.*;    // so that I can use Scanner

public class ScannerMultiply {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);

        System.out.print("Please type two numbers: ");
        int num1 = console.nextInt();
        int num2 = console.nextInt();

        int product = num1 * num2;
        System.out.println("The product is " + product);
    }
}
```

- Valid Outputs (user input underlined):

Please type two numbers: 8 6  
The product is 48

// 2 tokens separated by space

Please type two numbers: 8  
6

The product is 48

// 2 tokens separated by new  
// line

# Strings as user input

- Scanner's `next` method reads a word of input as a `String`.

```
Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);  
System.out.print("What is your name? ");  
String name = console.next();  
System.out.println("Your name is " + name);
```

Output:

```
What is your name? Chelsey  
Your name is Chelsey.
```

- The `nextLine` method reads a line of input as a `String`.

```
System.out.print("What is your address? ");  
String address = console.nextLine();  
System.out.println("Your address is " + address);
```

Output:

```
What is your address? 123 Fake st.  
Your address is 123 Fake st.
```