

More on Abstraction in Java

Deadly Diamond of Death

Produced Mairead Meagher
by: Dr. Siobhán Drohan
 Siobhán Roche

RECAP ON ABSTRACTION

Abstract vs Concrete

- Abstract
 - Implementation delayed
 - abstract method has no code
 - cannot instantiate an abstract class (it has, by definition “unfinished” methods)
- Concrete
 - Ready to go.
 - Everything up to now has been concrete.

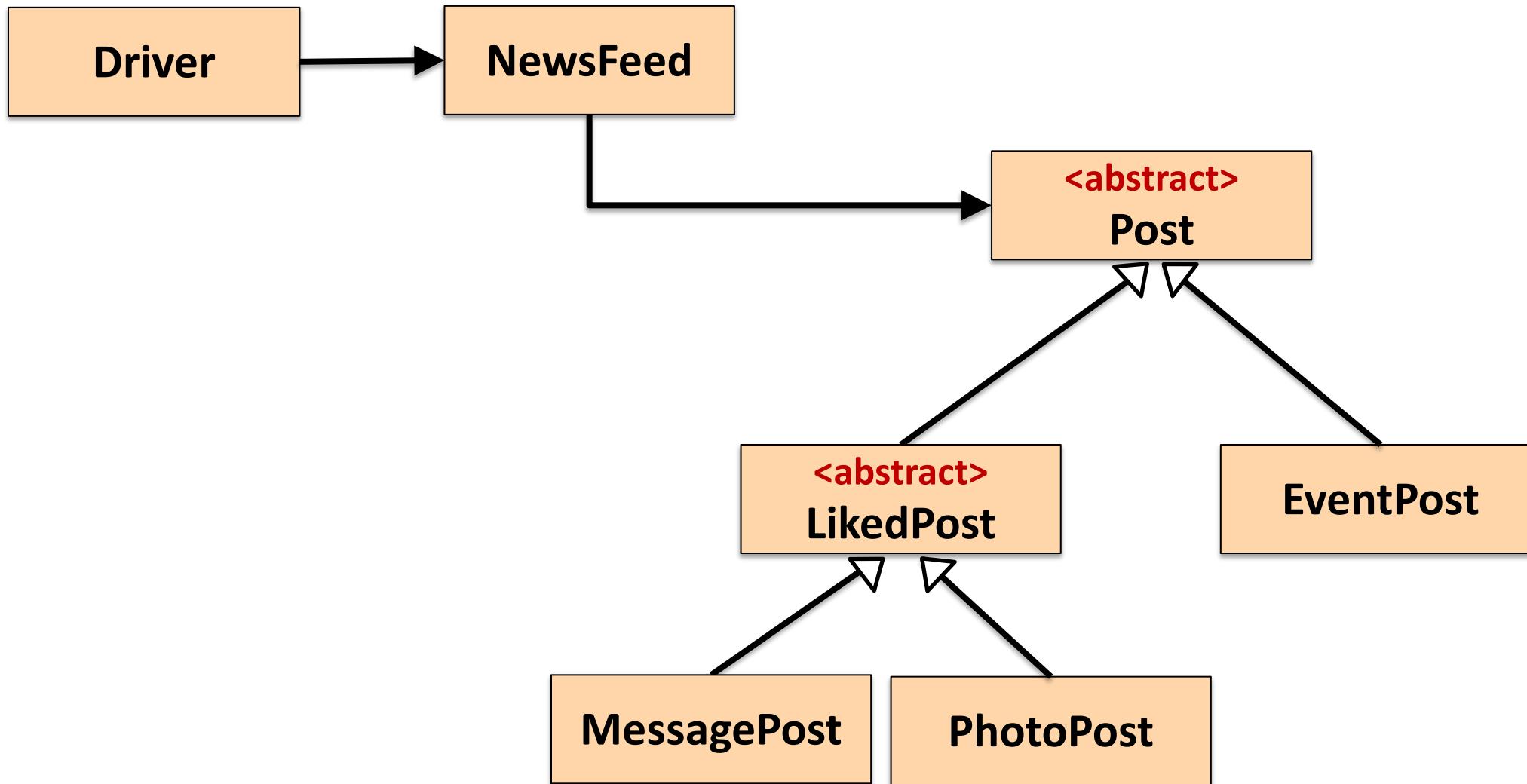
Abstract Methods

- Abstract methods have `abstract` in the signature.
- Abstract methods have no body.
 - ‘We promise to write this later. Every (concrete) subclass of this class will have this implemented in the subclass.’
- Abstract methods make the class abstract.
 - Think about why this is?

Abstract Classes

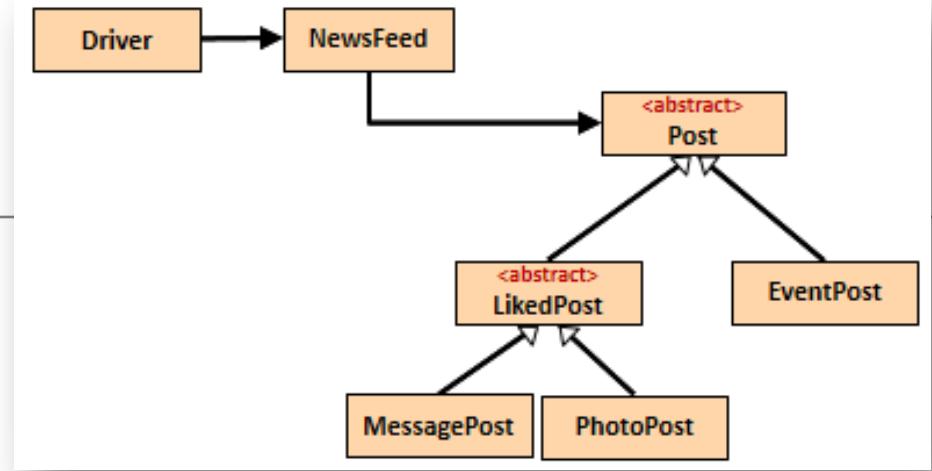
- An abstract class is a class that contains zero or more abstract methods.
- A class that has an abstract method must be declared abstract.
- Abstract classes cannot be instantiated.
- Abstract classes function as a “base” for subclasses.
→ abstract classes can be subclassed.
- Concrete subclasses complete the implementation.

RECAP - Social Network V8.0 – Post and LikedPost Abstract



RECAP - Syntax for abstract classes

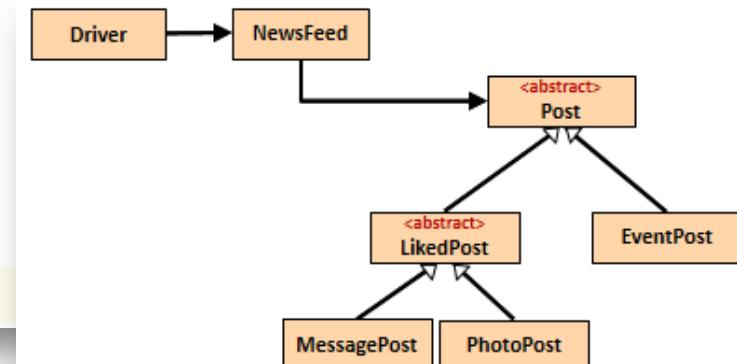
```
//code omitted  
  
public abstract class Post {  
  
    private String author = "";  
  
    public Post(String author) {  
        this.author = Utilities.truncateString(author, 10);  
    }  
  
    //code omitted  
}
```



```
//code omitted  
  
public abstract class LikedPost extends Post {  
  
    private int likes = 0;  
  
    public LikedPost(String author){  
        super(author);  
    }  
  
    //code omitted
```

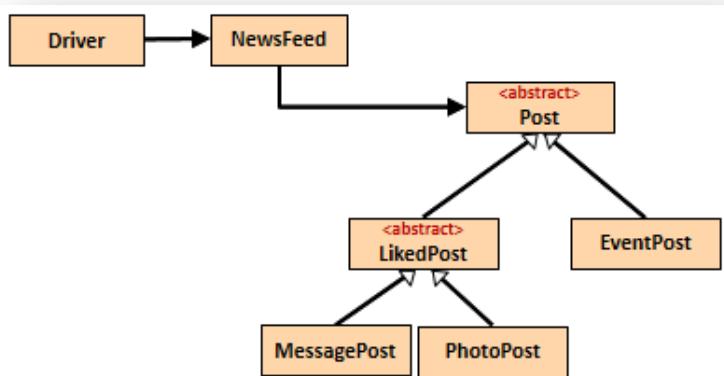
displayCondensed() in Post

```
Post.java ×  
1 package models;  
2  
3 import utils.Utilities;  
4  
1 related problem  
5 public abstract class Post { ←  
6  
7     private String author = "";  
8  
9     public Post(String author) { this.author = Utilities.truncateString(author, length: 10); }  
12  
13     public abstract String displayCondensed(); ←  
14  
15     public String getAuthor() { return author; }  
18  
19     public void setAuthor(String author) {...}  
24  
25     public String display() { return (author + "\n"); } ←  
28  
29 }
```



displayCondensed() in EventPost

The compiler is complaining that the concrete classes in the hierarchy have no implementation of **displayCondensed()**



The screenshot shows an IDE interface with two tabs: "Post.java" and "EventPost.java". The "EventPost.java" tab is active. The code in "EventPost.java" is as follows:

```
package models;  
import utils.Utilities;  
public class EventPost extends Post {  
    // ...  
}
```

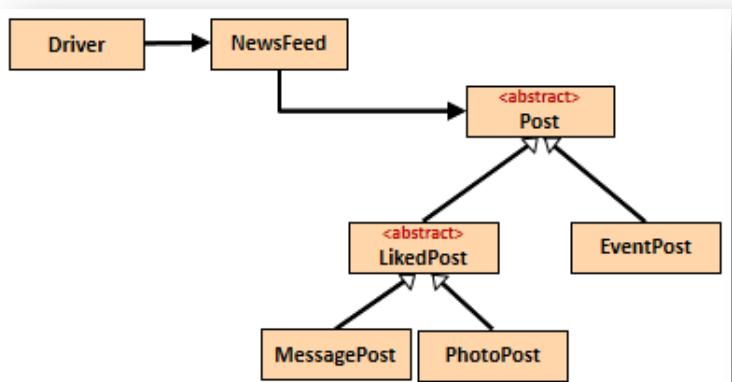
A code completion tooltip is displayed over the line "public class EventPost extends Post {". The tooltip contains the following options:

- Implement methods
- Make 'EventPost' abstract
- Create Test
- Create subclass
- Make 'EventPost' package-private

Below the tooltip, a message says "Press Ctrl+Shift+I to open preview". The code continues below the tooltip:

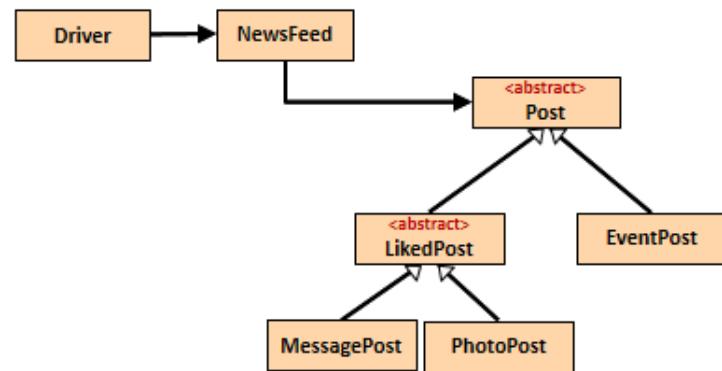
```
    // ...  
    String eventCost;  
    String author, String eventTitle;  
    String truncatedString;  
    Utilities.truncateString(eventTitle, 100);  
    setEventCost(eventCost);  
}
```

displayCondensed() in EventPost



```
(c) Post.java x (c) EventPost.java x
1 package models;
2
3 import utils.Utilities;
4
5 public class EventPost extends Post {
6
7     private String eventName = "";
8     private double eventCost = 0;
9
10    public EventPost (String author, String eventName, double eventCost){...}
11
12
13
14
15
16    @Override
17    public String displayCondensed() {
18        return super.getAuthor() + ": Event(" + eventName + ", €" + eventCost + ")";
19    }
20
21    public String getEventName() { return eventName; }
22
23
24
25    public void setEventName(String eventName) {...}
26
27
28
29    public double getEventCost() { return eventCost; }
30
31
32
33    public void setEventCost(double eventCost) {...}
34
35
36
37    public String display() {...}
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52 }
```

displayCondensed() in PhotoPost



```
c PhotoPost.java x
1 package models;
2
3 import utils.Utilities;
4
5 public class PhotoPost extends LikedPost{
6
7     private String caption = "";
8     private String filename = "";
9
10    public PhotoPost(String author, String caption, String filename) {...}
11
12    @Override
13    public String displayCondensed() {
14        return super.displayCondensed() + ": Photo(" + caption + ", " + filename + ")";
15    }
16
17    public String getCaption() { return caption; }
18
19    public void setCaption(String caption) {...}
20
21    public void setFilename(String filename) {...}
22
23    public String getFilename() { return filename; }
24
25    public String display() {...}
26
27}
```

displayCondensed() in MessagePost

c MessagePost.java ×

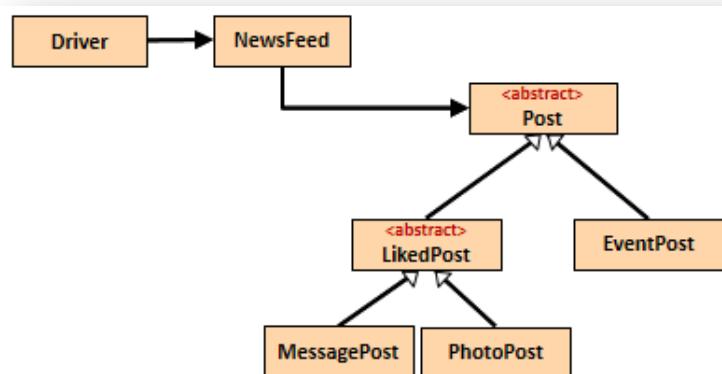
```
1 package models;
2
3 import utils.Utilities;
4
5 public class MessagePost extends LikedPost{
6
7     private String message = "";
8
9     public MessagePost(String author, String message) {...}
13
14     @Override
15     public String displayCondensed() {
16         return super.displayCondensed() + ": Message(" + message + ")";
17     }
18
19     public String getMessage() { return message; }
22
23     public void setMessage(String message) {...}
28
29     public String display() {...}
37
38 }
```

A red arrow points from the word "displayCondensed" in the UML diagram below to the method definition in the code above.

```
graph LR; Driver --> NewsFeed; NewsFeed --> Post[Post<br/><small><abstract></abstract></small>]; Post --> LikedPost[LikedPost<br/><small><abstract></abstract></small>]; Post --> EventPost[EventPost]; LikedPost --> MessagePost[MessagePost]; LikedPost --> PhotoPost[PhotoPost]
```

displayCondensed() in NewsFeed

```
==>>1  
List of All Posts are:  
0: Siobhan (0 likes) : Message(My message is Hi There)  
1: Mairead (0 likes) : Photo(Hi all, photo7hello.jpg)  
2: Siobhan: Event(Coding Event, €5.0)
```



```
c NewsFeed.java x  
1 package controllers;  
2  
3 import ...  
4  
5 public class NewsFeed {  
6  
7     private ArrayList<Post> posts;  
8  
9     public NewsFeed() { posts = new ArrayList<Post>(); }  
10  
11    public boolean addPost(Post post) { return posts.add(post); }  
12  
13    public String show() {  
14        String str = "";  
15  
16        for(Post post: posts) {  
17            str += posts.indexOf(post) + ": " + post.displayCondensed() + "\n";  
18        }  
19  
20        if (str.isEmpty()){  
21            return "No Posts";  
22        }  
23        else {  
24            return str;  
25        }  
26    }  
27  
28}
```

DEADLY DIAMOND OF DEATH

Deadly Diamond of Death!

- Recall that multiple inheritance is not allowed in Java.
- Any idea why the Java designers decided to not allow multiple inheritance?

Deadly Diamond of Death!

- Recall that multiple inheritance is not allowed in Java.
- Any idea why the Java designers decided to not allow multiple inheritance?
- It is because of the Deadly Diamond of Death problem!

Deadly Diamond of Death!

- This is easiest explained by example.
- Let's pretend that Java allows multiple inheritance and we will see really quickly what the Deadly Diamond of Death is!

Deadly Diamond of Death - Example

- Suppose that we have an abstract super class, with an abstract method in it.

```
public abstract class AbstractSuperClass{  
    abstract void do();  
}
```

Deadly Diamond of Death - Example

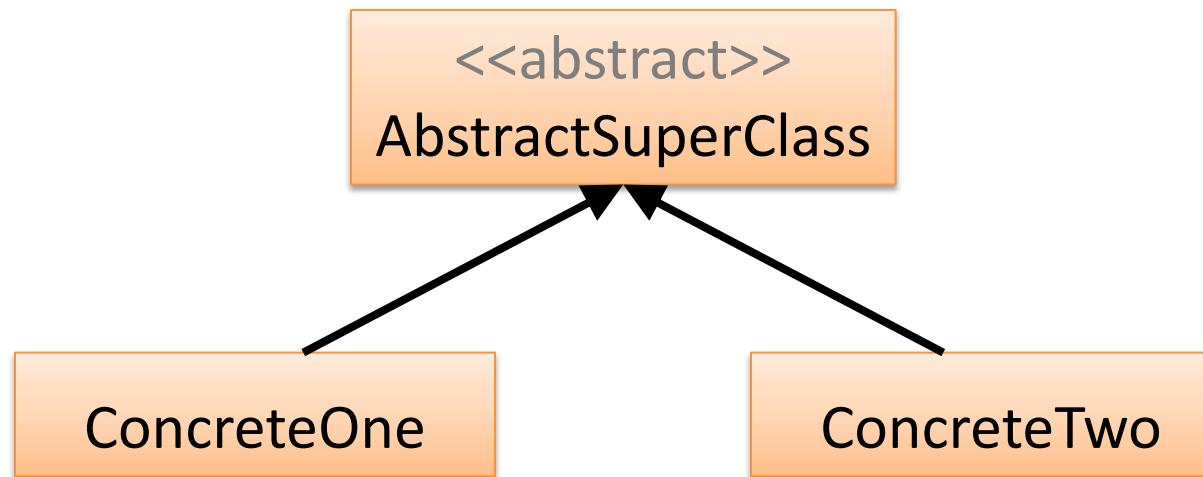
- Now two concrete classes extend this abstract super class.
- Each classes provides their own implementation of the abstract method defined in the super class.

```
public class ConcreteOne extends AbstractSuperClass{
    void do(){
        System.out.println("I am testing multiple Inheritance");
    }
}
```

```
public class ConcreteTwo extends AbstractSuperClass{
    void do(){
        System.out.println("I will cause the Deadly Diamond of Death");
    }
}
```

Deadly Diamond of Death - Example

- So far, our class diagram looks like this:



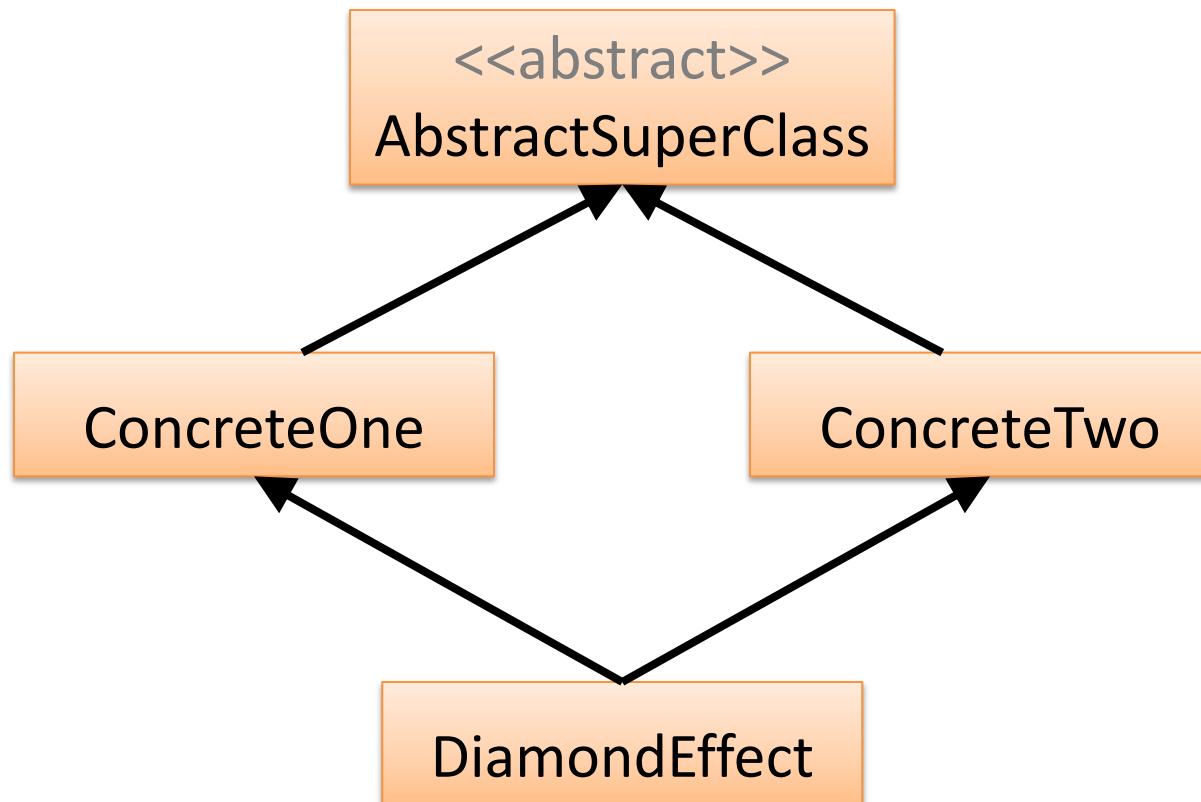
Deadly Diamond of Death - Example

- Now a fourth class comes into picture which **extends** the above two concrete classes.

```
public class DiamondEffect extends ConcreteOne, ConcreteTwo{  
    //Some methods of this class  
}
```

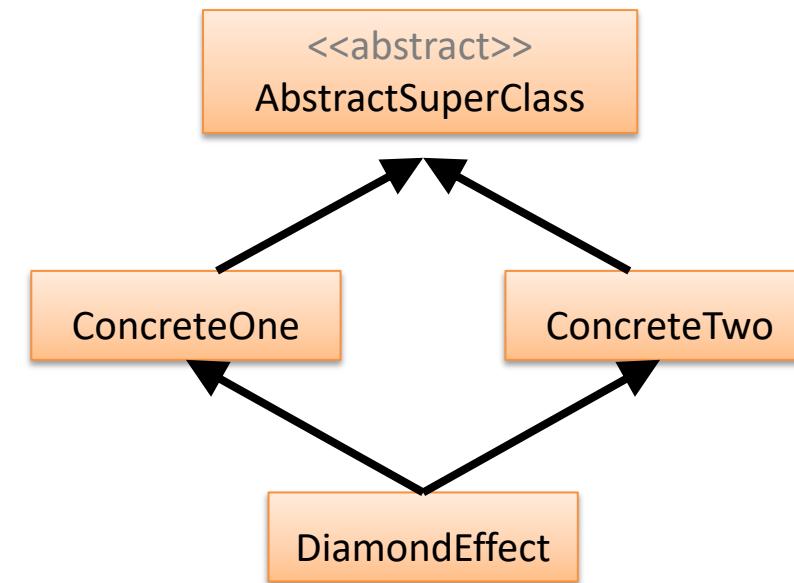
Deadly Diamond of Death - Example

- Note that our class diagram is a diamond shape.



Deadly Diamond of Death - Example

- The DiamondEffect class inherits all the methods of the parent classes.
- BUT we have a common method (`void do()`) in the two concrete classes, each with a different implementation.
- So which **void do()** implementation will be used for the DiamondEffect class as it inherits both these classes?



Deadly Diamond of Death - Example

- Actually no one has got the answer to the above question, and so to avoid this sort of critical issue, **Java banned multiple inheritance.**
- The class diagram which is formed above is like that of a diamond, but with no solution or outcome, and so it is called Deadly Diamond of Death.

Any
Questions?

