

Java Programming

Unit 5

Intro to GUI with Swing. Listeners

AWT => Swing => JavaFX

- First, there was Abstract Windowing Toolkit (AWT)
- Swing library of GUI components replaced AWT.
- JavaFX 8 framework may replace Swing.

HelloWorld with Swing

```
import javax.swing.JFrame;

public class HelloWorld extends JFrame {

    public HelloWorld(){
        setSize(200,300);
        setTitle("Hello World");

        setVisible(true);
    }
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        HelloWorld myHello = new HelloWorld();
    }
}
```



After creating **JFrame** (one of the containers) add UI controls to it, for example:

```
JButton myButton = new JButton ("Click me");
add(myButton);
```

Layout Managers: Arranging UI Components Inside a Container

Use case: add controls to a JPanel and then a panel to a JFrame.

1. Create an instance of `JPanel`
2. Assign a layout manager to it
3. Instantiate some Swing controls and add them to the panel.
4. Add the panel to the top-level container - `JFrame` - by calling `setContentPane()` method.
5. Set the frame's size and make it visible.

Three Main Tasks of GUI Programming

1. Create a nice looking layout of your GUI components.
2. Write the code to react on user-generated and system events.
3. Populate GUI components with the data.

Calculator With FlowLayout

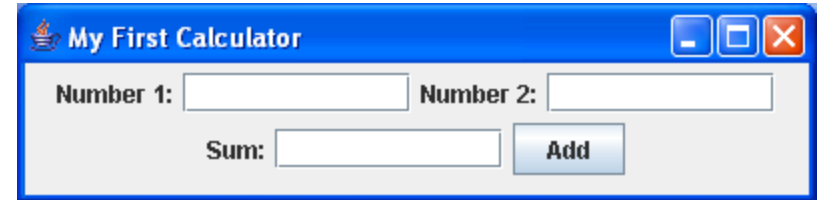
```
import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.FlowLayout;

public class SimpleCalculator {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // 1. Create a panel
        JPanel windowContent= new JPanel();

        // 2. Set a layout manager for this panel
        FlowLayout fl = new FlowLayout();
        windowContent.setLayout(fl);

        // 3. Create controls in memory
        JLabel label1 = new JLabel("Number 1:");
        JTextField field1 = new JTextField(10);
        JLabel label2 = new JLabel("Number 2:");
        JTextField field2 = new JTextField(10);
        JLabel label3 = new JLabel("Sum:");
        JTextField result = new JTextField(10);
        JButton go = new JButton("Add");

        // 4. Add controls to the panel
        windowContent.add(label1);
        windowContent.add(field1);
        windowContent.add(label2);
        windowContent.add(field2);
        windowContent.add(label3);
        windowContent.add(result);
        windowContent.add(go);
```



```
//5. Create the frame and add the panel to it
JFrame frame = new JFrame(
    "My First Calculator");

// 6. Add the panel to top-level container
frame.setContentPane(windowContent);

// 7. set the size and make the window visible
frame.setSize(400,100);
frame.setVisible(true);
}
}
```

Swing Layout Managers

- `FlowLayout`
- `GridLayout`
- `BoxLayout`
- `BorderLayout`
- `CardLayout`
- `GridBagLayout`

First instantiate the layout manager, and then assign its instance to a container by calling `setLayout()`.

GridLayout

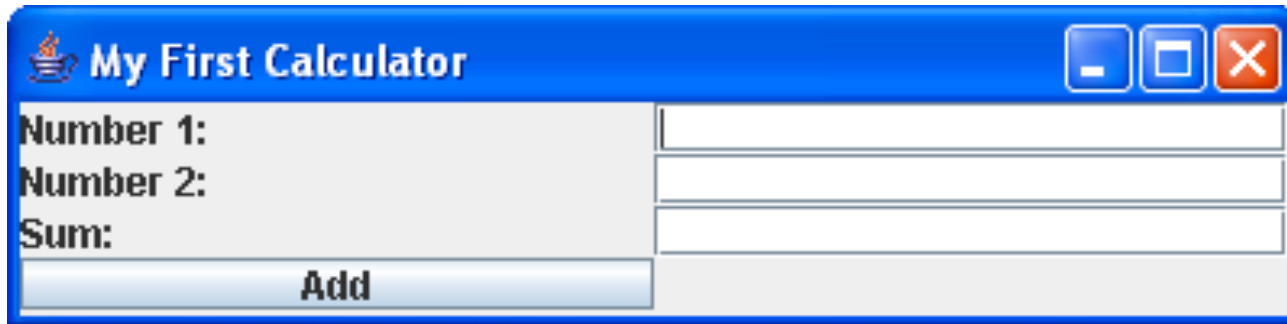
Say, your container needs to allocate 8 elements of the same size.
You may do it in 4 columns and 2 rows: $4 \times 2 = 8$ cells.

```
JPanel windowContent= new JPanel();
```

```
// Set the layout manager for the panel
```

```
GridLayout gl = new GridLayout(4,2);  
windowContent.setLayout(gl);
```

```
// Code to add components to the panel goes here
```



```
// To disable window resizing
```

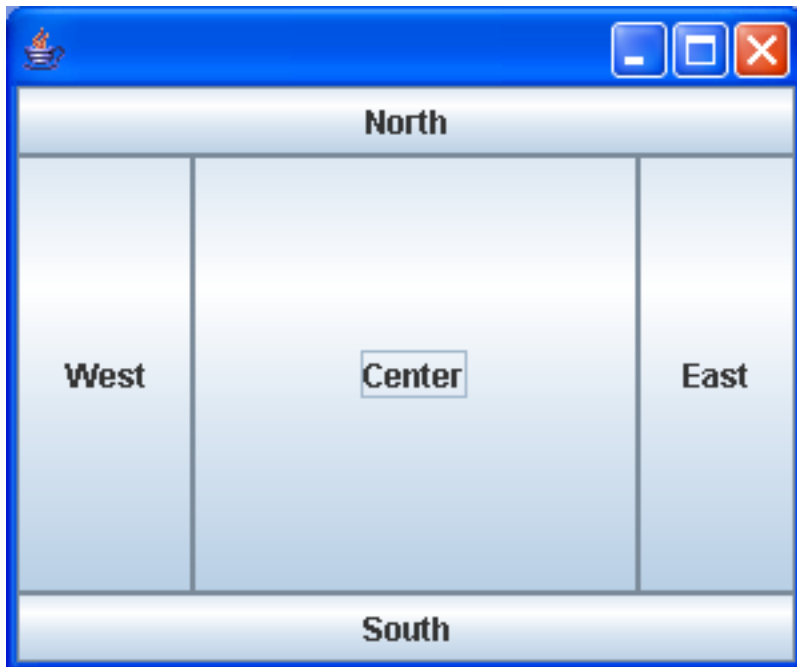
```
frame.setResizable(false);
```


Walkthrough 1

1. Download and import into Eclipse the source code of the Lesson8
2. Run `SimpleCalculator`. Stretch the window and observe the changes in the window layout.
3. Run `SimpleCalculatorGrid`. Stretch the window and observe the changes in the window layout.

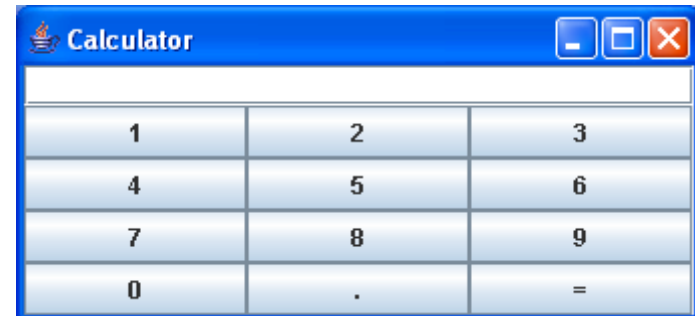
BorderLayout

`BorderLayout` divides a UI container into 5 imaginary areas: **South**, **West**, **North**, **East**, and **Center**. Add components to all or some of these areas in your container.



The calculator below uses only the **North** and **Center**.

The Center area uses `GridLayout` for allocating buttons.



CardLayout

- In a deck of cards only the top card is visible.
- Use `CardLayout` if you need to display several panels one at a time.
- See a `CardLayout` demo at <http://bit.ly/NbmfRs>

Absolute Layout

It's like not having any automatic layout.

```
windowContent.setLayout(null);
```

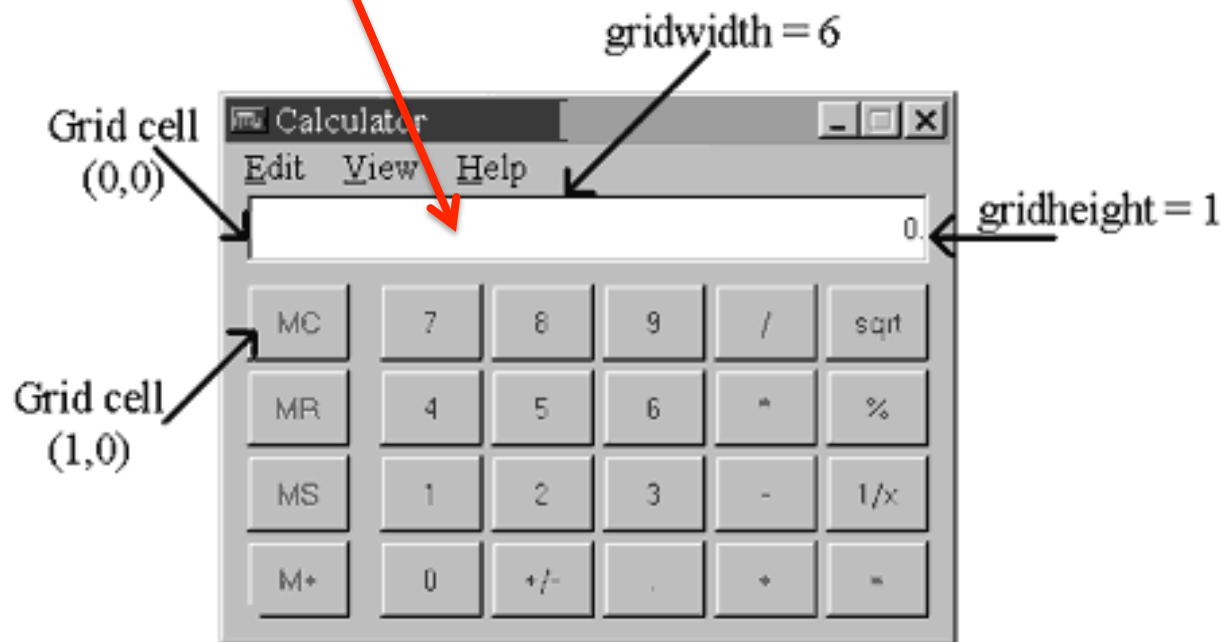
```
JButton myButton = new Button("New Game");
```

```
//Specify X and Y coordinates of each component  
myButton.setBounds(100,200,40,20);
```

GridBagLayout

Allows laying out components of different sizes by assigning constraints to each grid element.

For example this cell will be 6 times wider than other cells in the grid:



Using GridBagConstraints

```
// Set the GridBagLayout for the window's content pane
GridBagLayout gb = new GridBagLayout();
this.setLayout(gb);
```

```
// Create an instance of the GridBagConstraints
// You'll have to repeat these lines for each component
// that you'd like to add to the grid cell
GridBagConstraints constr = new GridBagConstraints();
```

```
//set constraints for the Calculator's displayField:
```

```
constr.gridx=0; // x coordinate of the cell
constr.gridy=0; // y coordinate of the cell
```

```
// this cell has the same height as others
constr.gridheight =1;
```

```
// this cell is as wide as 6 others
constr.gridwidth= 6;
```

```
// fill all space in the cell
constr.fill= constr.BOTH;
```

```
// proportion of horizontal space taken by this
// component
```

```
constr.weightx = 1.0;
```

```
// proportion of vertical space taken by this
// component
```

```
constr.weighty = 1.0;
```

```
// position of the component within the cell
```

```
constr.anchor=constr.CENTER;
```

```
displayField = new JTextField();
```

```
// set constraints for this field
```

```
gb.setConstraints(displayField,constr);
```

```
// add the text field to the window
```

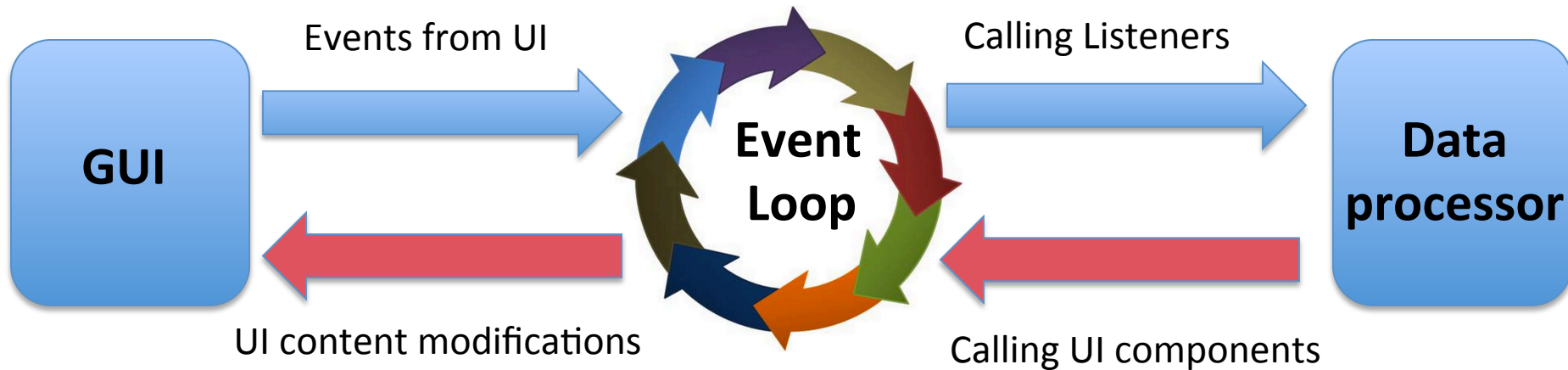
```
windowContent.add(displayField);
```

Events and Listeners

- There are two types of events: user-generated (clicks, mouse moves etc.) and system generated (paint, resize etc.).
- A click on the button dispatches an event, *and if you want to process it*, create an `ActionListener` for this button.
- To process mouse moves, create one of the following:
`MouseListener`, `MouseMotionListener`, or `MouseWheelListener`



The GUI Event Loop



Every request from/to UI is placed to an event queue.

When the event loop becomes available, it'll process the event.

Event handling code runs on the event dispatch thread.

Long running Processes and GUI updates

- Do not start long running processes on the event dispatch thread.
- If an application starts a separate thread and needs to update GUI, it should be done via event dispatching thread using `SwingUtilities.invokeLater()`.
- Swing includes the `SwingWorker` class that simplifies executing long-running processes in a separate thread. N

The ActionListener Interface

This interface declares just one **callback** method `actionPerformed()`:

```
public interface ActionListener extends EventListener

    void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e);

}
```

To process button events in your Calculator, there should be a class that implements the `ActionListener`. It can be the same class or another one, e.g. `CalculatorEngine`

```
public class CalculatorEngine implements ActionListener {

    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e){

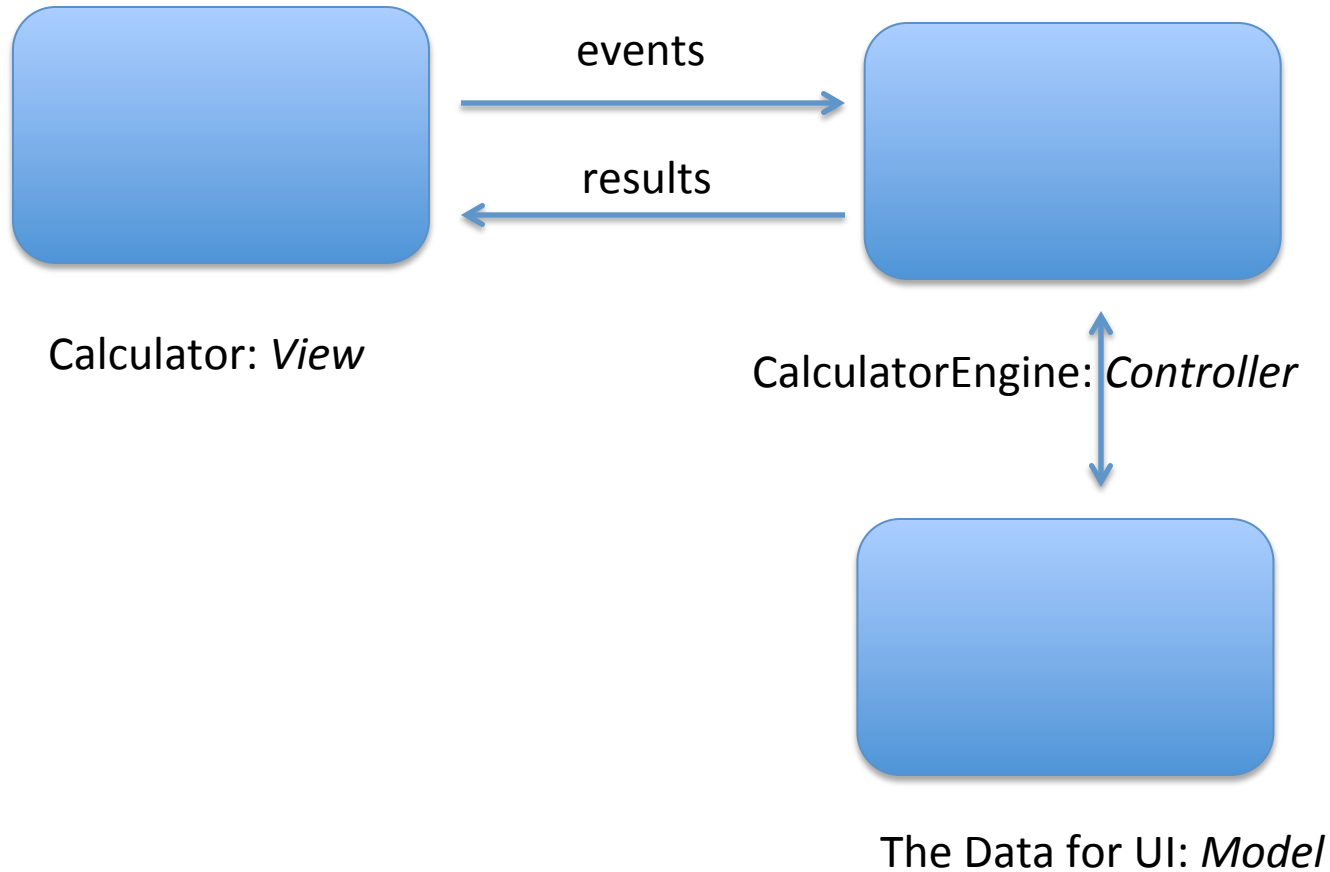
        // Place the click-processing code here

    }

}
```

In Unit 19 you'll see how to implement `ActionListener` using a lambda expression.

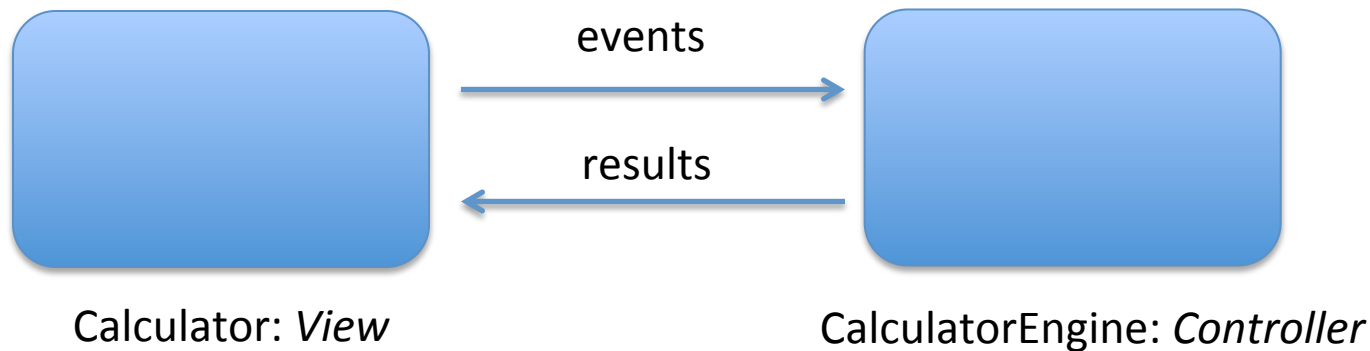
MVC: Model-View-Controller



Register components with listeners

```
CalculatorEngine calcEngine = new CalculatorEngine(this);  
  
button0.addActionListener(calcEngine);  
button1.addActionListener(calcEngine);  
button2.addActionListener(calcEngine);
```

The code above can be located inside the class Calculator.
We pass the reference to the Calculator object using **this**.



You can register more than one listener with a component.

What triggered the event?

```
public class CalculatorEngine implements ActionListener {  
  
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e){  
  
        // Get the source of this action  
        JButton clickedButton=(JButton) e.getSource();  
  
        // Get the button's label  
        String clickedButtonLabel = clickedButton.getText();  
  
        // Concatenate the button's label  
        // to the text of the message box  
        JOptionPane.showConfirmDialog(null,  
            "You pressed " + clickedButtonLabel, "Just a test",  
            JOptionPane.PLAIN_MESSAGE);  
    }  
}
```

Passing Data Between Objects

Say, you need to reach a field in the `Calculator` from the `CalculatorEngine`.

The `Calculator` object passes the reference to itself to the `CalculatorEngine`:

```
CalculatorEngine calcEngine = new CalculatorEngine(this);
```



The engine's constructor stores reference to `Calculator` in its own variable, say **parent**, and uses it in the method `actionPerformed()` to access the calculator's display field.

Bad practice: `parent.displayField.getText();`

Never try to access children of another object directly. Add to `Calculator` public getter and setter methods, for example:

```
getDisplayValue();  
setDisplayValue(String value);
```

Adding Public API to Calculator

```
public class Calculator{  
    private JTextField displayField;  
  
    public void setDisplayValue(String val){  
        displayField.setText(val);  
    }  
  
    public String getDisplayValue() {  
        return displayText.getText();  
    }  
  
    // The rest of the code goes here  
}
```

Do not allow direct access to UI components from other classes.

Walkthrough 2

1. Download and import the code from Lesson 9 and review it with the instructor.
2. Run the Calculator program and see if the buttons react to clicks.

BoxLayout

Arrange GUI components either vertically or horizontally.

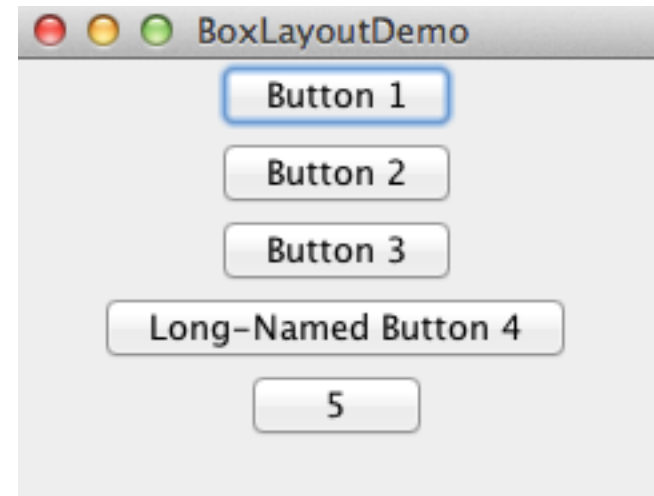
```
JFrame frame = new JFrame("BoxLayoutDemo");
frame.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);

//Set up the content pane.
addComponentsToPane(frame.getContentPane());

public static void addComponentsToPane(Container pane) {
    pane.setLayout(new BoxLayout(pane, BoxLayout.Y_AXIS));

    addAButton("Button 1", pane);
    addAButton("Button 2", pane);
    addAButton("Button 3", pane);
    addAButton("Long-Named Button 4", pane);
    addAButton("5", pane);
}
```

Read about `BoxLayout` and test the above example at <http://bit.ly/NbncJz>



Additional Reading

Observer Design Pattern Tutorial: <http://bit.ly/1crDR1l>

Using `invokeLater()`: <http://bit.ly/1GusA1C>

Using `SwingWorker` class: <http://bit.ly/1E90eG9>

Homework

1. Get familiar with the layout manager `GridBagLayout`.
2. Do the assignment from the Try It section from Lesson 8 and 9 from the textbook.
3. Go over the Java Swing tutorial at <http://bit.ly/1hHLUKZ> .
4. Modify `Calculator.java` to use `BoxLayout`.