Lab04: Skills - Using a Debugger

***Getting Ready:*** Before going any further, you should:

# Setup your development environment.

1. Download the following files:

PhoneDriver.java

PhoneCard.java

to an appropriate directory/folder. (In most browsers/OSs, the easiest way to do this is by right-clicking/control-clicking on each [of the links above.)](https://users.cs.jmu.edu/bernstdh/web/common/labs/experimenting_unit-testing/using-objects/GiftCard.java)

1. If you don't already have one from earlier in the semester, create a project named eclipseskills.
2. Drag the file PhoneCard.java and PhoneDriver.java into the default package (using the "Copy files" option).
3. Open PhoneCard.java and PhoneDriver.java.

***Part 1.* Review*:*** This part of the lab will review a few topics related to object-oriented programming in Java.

* 1. In the main() method in the PhoneDriver class, what kind of objects are end, now, and start?
  2. In the main() method in the PhoneDriver class, what kind of object is card?
  3. Where is the code for the PhoneCard class?
  4. Where is the code for the Date class?
  5. Read the documentation for the Date (<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/api/java/util/Date.html>). Make sure you find the documentation for the Date class that is in java.util. (There are several Date classes in the Java library.)
  6. When you construct a Date object using the default constructor (i.e., the constructor that has no parameters), what properties will it have?

***Part 2.* Setting a Breakpoint**: One of the nice things about running an application in a debugger is that you can stop the execution at one or more pre-defined locations (called breakpoints). This part of the lab will teach you how.

1. Click on the tab containing PhoneDriver.java to make sure that it has the focus.
2. Right-click in line 29 of PhoneDriver.java and pull down to Toggle Breakpoint.
3. (this line# may be different for some of you with a probability chance of less than 0.05%. The line# should match :

if (availableMillis > 0)

1. What happened?
2. Click on debug.png. This will run PhoneDriver and stop the execution at the breakpoint (i.e., line 29). Note: If prompted, allow Eclipse to enter the "Debug Perspective".
3. What happened?

***Part 3. Checking State Information:*** Another nice thing about running an application in a debugger is that, once you stop the execution at a breakpoint, you can check state information (e.g., the value of attributes and variables). This part of the lab will teach you how.

1. Click on the "Variables" tab on the left side of the debug window.
2. Click on the "tree icon" next to "Locals" to expand it.
3. What is the current value of availableMillis?

***Part 4. Stepping Over Lines***: When running an application in a debugger, once you stop the execution at a breakpoint, you can continue the execution one "step" at a time. This part of the lab will teach you how.

1. Click on debug.png. This will run PhoneDriver again and stop the execution at the breakpoint (i.e., line 29).
2. Click on the step-over.png button.
3. What happened?
4. Click on the step-over.png button until the next if statement is highlighted.
5. What is the current value of availableMillis? (Hint: Look in the "Variables" tab. You may need to scroll.)
6. Click on the resume.png button to run to the end of the application.

***Part 5: Stepping Into Lines:***So far, all of the "stepping" you have done has been in one method in one class. This is called "stepping over". You can also "step into" a line of code to see what happens there. This part of the lab will teach you how.

1. Click on debug.png. This will run PhoneDriver and stop the execution at the breakpoint (i.e., line 29).
2. Click on the step-into.png button.
3. What happened?
4. Click on the step-into.png button again.
5. What happened?
6. Look at the call stack in the "Debug" tab. It tells you what class and method you are in and where this method was called from.
7. What method is currently being executed (and what class is it in)?
8. What line is currently being executed?
9. Where was this method called from?
10. Click on the "triangle icon" next to this to expand it.
11. What is the current value of balance?
12. Click on the step-over.png button.
13. Click on the "triangle icon" next to callNumbers to expand it.
14. What is the current value of callNumbers[0]?
15. Click on the "triangle icon" next to callStarts to expand it.
16. What is the current value of callStarts[0]?

[ If the variable's value says null, press the **Step Over** button or **F6** one more time so it shows. ]

1. Why does it have that value?
2. Click on the step-over.png button twice.
3. What happened?
4. Add a breakpoint at line 41 in PhoneDriver.java (i.e., the line that constructs a Date).
5. Click on the resume.png button. This will run the application to the next breakpoint (i.e., line 41).
6. Click on the step-into.png button.
7. Why didn't the debugger step into the Date constructor?
8. Click on the resume.png button to run to the end.
9. Click on Window+Perspective+Close Perspective to close the "Debug Perspective".

***Part 6: Advanced Topics:***This part of the lab will help you use the debugger more efficiently.

1. How can you display all of the breakpoints?
2. What is a conditional breakpoint?
3. How can you see variable references while debugging?