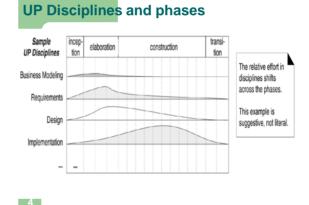
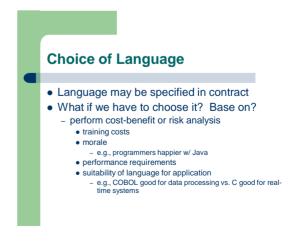


# Contents Implementation Choice of language General Principles Coding Standards Documentation Name Convention



# Implementation • Any issues with implementation?



# **General Princ**iples in Programming Practice

- 1. TRY TO RE-USE FIRST
- 2. ENFORCE INTENTIONS

If your code is intended to be used in particular ways only, write it so that the code cannot be used in any other way.

# General Principles in Programming Practice

- Applications of "Enforce Intentions"
  - If a member is not intended to be used by other functions, enforce this by making it private or protected etc.
  - Use qualifiers such as final and abstract etc. to enforce intentions

# **General Princ**iples in Programming **Practice**

- "Think Globally, Program Locally"

  Make all members ...
  - ... as local as possible
  - ... as invisible as possible
    - attributes private:
    - access them through more public accessor methods if required.

• Visualization?

# **Coding Standards**

- What are Coding Standards
  - Coding standards are guidelines for code style and documentation
  - The dream is that any developer familiar with the guidelines can work on any code that followed them.
  - Why Have Coding Standards
    - Greater consistency between developers
    - Easier to develop and maintain
    - Saves time and money

# **Areas Typically Covered**

- Documentation
- Naming Conventions
- Formatting Conventions

#### **Documentation**

#### Self-documenting code

- code w/o comments that is easily understood
- Code should be clearly documented so that
- it can be understood easily & unambiguously
   Techniques
- never write code first & then say you will comment later
- write comments first (as spec) & then write code to implement it change comments as needed
- good prologue comments at top of every module
- good comments within the module
  - explain what is happening at a high level or anything non-obvious

## **Good Programming Practice**

- Prologue comments
  - brief description of module
  - programmer's name
  - date coded
  - parameters & description
  - variable names & description
  - files accessed/updated
  - error handling
  - name of file of test data (for regression testing)
  - list of modifications made, date, & by whom
  - known faults
  - Code layout
    - use indentation
    - use blank lines to break-up large blocks of code

#### **Class comments**

- · what do users of the class need to know about it?
  - purpose & status of the class
  - information about the instance variables
  - collaboration with other classes
  - example usage
  - what do subclasses have to redefine
  - ....
- Information about the author
- history of changes
- [see javadoc conventions for detail]
  - http://java.sun.com/docs/codeconv/html/CodeConvTOC.doc.html

#### **Method comments**

#### Member Functions/methods Documentation

- What and why member function does what it does
- Parameters / return value
- How function modifies object
- Preconditions /Postconditions
- Concurrency issues
- Restrictions
- Internal Documentation
  - Control Structures
  - Why as well as what the code does
  - Difficult or complex code
  - Processing order

# **Good Coding Style**

#### Names

- Use full English descriptors
- Use mixed case to make names readable
- Use abbreviations sparingly and consistently
- Avoid long names
- Avoid leading/trailing underscores

# Naming variables & parameters

#### Use consistent & meaningful variable names

- who is the audience for your variable names?
- the future maintenance programmers!
- bad example
  - module contains vars freqAverage, frequenceyMax, minFr, frqncyTotl
  - do freq, frequency, fr, frqncy all refer to the same thing????
  - ordering is inconsistent!
  - if so, use identical/meaningful word (e.g., frequency)
    - frequencyAverage, frequencyMaximum, frequencyMinimum, frequencyTotal

## Naming variables & parameters

- name reflects type of parameter
  - addTask(Task aTask)
  - assignTask(Task aTask, Agent anAgent)
- multiple parts: initial letter of every word capital

## **Naming conventions**

- Class variable: All upper case
- Class names: Initial capital (Noun)
- Temporary variables: Lower case
- Instance variables: Lower case
- Method parameters: Lower case

# Naming methods

- Name should illustrate the purpose ((Verb))
- choose name so that one can read expressions as a sentence anAccount.deposit(100) aTask.addInput(anInput)
- Predicates (return boolean): verb like "is" or "equals" concatenated with whatever is being tested isWaiting(anObject) equals(anObject)

### **Methods**

- as high up in the inheritance hierarchy as possible
  - code reuse
  - if method does not access any aspect of the class: move it
- method: single function (do one thing only)
  - split into several methods if not
- length: readable without scrolling the screen (10-20 lines)
- use accessor methods to access instance variables
- method should send messages to a limited set of other objects
- many messages send to some other object (not: this): maybe method should be moved to the other class

# File layout

- package statement & import list
- 1. comment
- 2. class name
- 3. class variables
- 4. instance variables
- 5. constructors
- 6. main method
- 7. class methods

# **Import list**

- Minimize \* import
  - No: import java.util.\*
  - Yes: import java.util.Vector
- · Check if all imports are really used

### Main method

- Main method: simple test of demo
  - testing & examples
- applications should have an own class containing a main method separate from the normal classes

# **Visibility**

- Hide your members as much as useful
- Never declare instance variables as public

# **Exception handling**

- Use throw and catch to handle errors
- Methods should return an appropriate object OR throw an exception to indicate a problem
   do not return a specific value to indicate an error
- Use exception handling only for handling problems NOT for normal behavior

• More on visualization