

Bern University of Applied Sciences

Module BTI7055: Object-Oriented Programming 2

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BFH-TI: Computer Science Division / 2017-2018

Graphical User Interfaces

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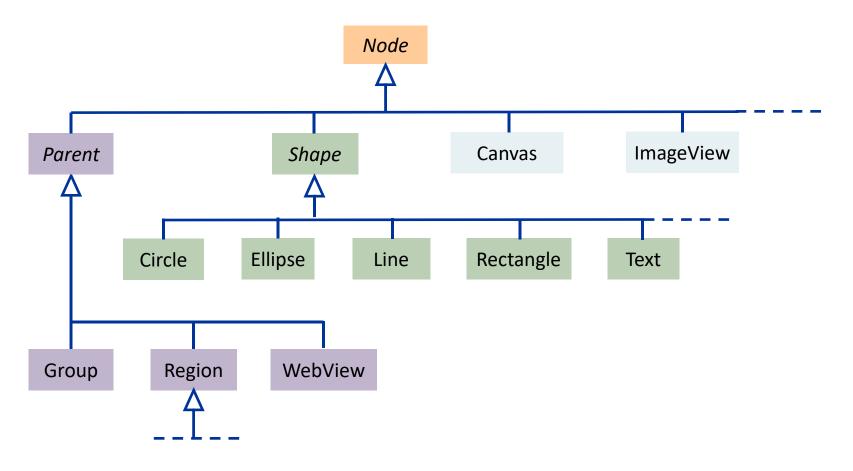
Outline

- Layout Management
- UI Controls
- Events
- Properties and Bindings
 - The JavaFX Properties
 - Bindings
 - Listeners
- Model-View-Controller (MVC)

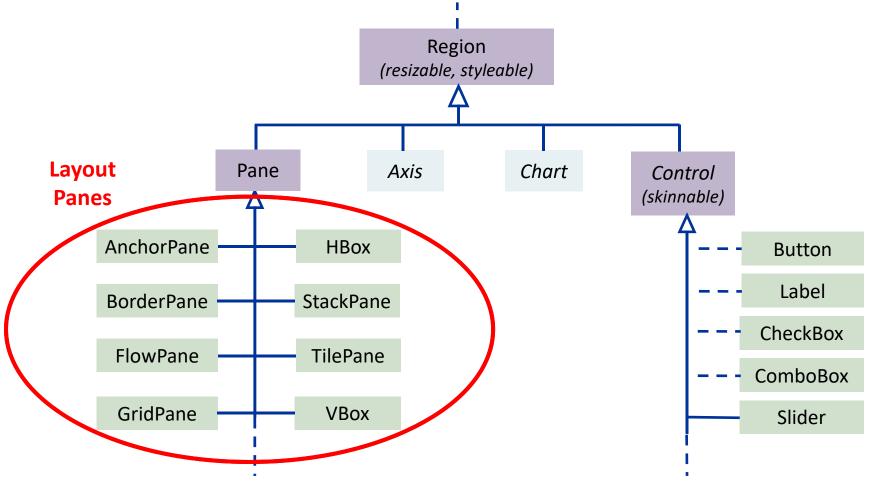
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JavaFX Node Hierarchy (excerpt)



JavaFX Node Hierarchy 2 (excerpt)



- User-interface components are arranged by placing them inside layout panes
- JavaFX provides several built-in layout panes for the easy setup and management of its components.
 - Layout panes can be nested, allowing you to combine freely various layouts in one window.
- As a window is resized, the layout pane automatically repositions and resizes the nodes that it contains according to the properties for the nodes.
- The JavaFX built-in layout panes (in javafx.scene.layout) are:

HBox VBox BorderPane AnchorPane

FlowPane StackPane TilePane GridPane

- HBox
 - Allows to arrange a series of nodes in a single row.
 - ▶ Padding: distance between the nodes and the edges of the pane
 - Spacing: distance between the nodes

```
Button b1 = new Button("Button 1");
Button b2 = new Button("Button 2");
Button b3 = new Button("Button 3");
HBox pane = new HBox(b1, b2, b3);
pane.setPadding(new Insets(10,40,20,40)); // Top, right, bottom, left
pane.setSpacing(15);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane);
```



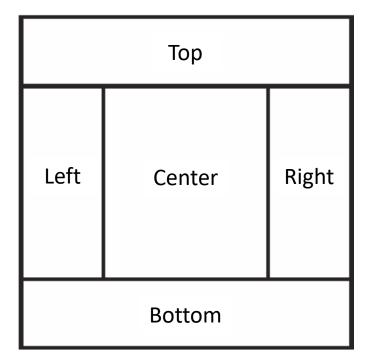
- VBox
 - similar to HBox, but the nodes are arranged in a single column.
 - Alignment: position of the nodes inside the pane

```
Button b1 = new Button("Button 1");
Button b2 = new Button("Button 2");
Button b3 = new Button("Button 3");
VBox pane = new VBox(b1, b2, b3);
pane.setSpacing(15);
pane.setAlignment(Pos.BOTTOM_CENTER);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane, 100, 200);
```

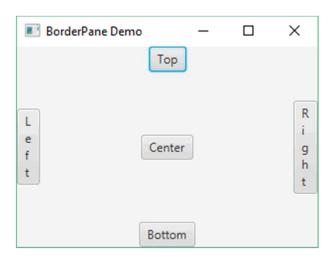


BorderPane

- Provides 5 regions in which to place nodes: top, bottom, left, right, and center.
 - The center region can expand horizontally and vertically
 - ► The border regions (top, right, bottom, left) expand only horizontally, resp. vertically
 - ► The regions can be any size. If you don't need one of the regions, you don't need to define it.
- Often used as basic layout for the main window

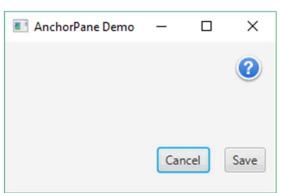


```
Button top = new Button("Top");
BorderPane.setAlignment(top, Pos.CENTER);
Button right = new Button("R\ni\ng\nh\nt");
BorderPane.setAlignment(right, Pos.CENTER);
Button bottom = new Button("Bottom");
BorderPane.setAlignment(bottom, Pos.CENTER);
Button left = new Button("L\ne\nf\nt");
BorderPane.setAlignment(left, Pos.CENTER);
Button center = new Button("Center");
BorderPane pane = new BorderPane();
pane.setTop(top);
pane.setRight(right);
pane.setBottom(bottom);
pane.setLeft(left);
pane.setCenter(center);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane, 300, 200);
```



AnchorPane

- To anchor nodes to the top, bottom, left side or right side of the pane.
- As the window is resized, the nodes maintain their position relative to their anchor point.



- FlowPane
 - Lays out all nodes consecutively and wraps at the pane boundary
 - Nodes can flow horizontally (in rows) or vertically (in columns)
 - Vgap / Hgap: Spacing between rows (vert.) and columns (hor.)
 - prefWrapLength: Preferred with/height where content should wrap

```
Button b1 = new Button("This is the first button\nPlease, click me!");
Button b2 = new Button("The second done");
Button b3 = new Button("Third Button\nClick to EXIT!");
Button b4 = new Button("Fourth button");
                                                               FlowPane Demo
Button b5 = new Button("... and the last one");
FlowPane pane = new FlowPane(b1, b2, b3, b4, b5);
                                                               This is the first button
                                                                              The second one
                                                               Please, click me!
pane.setPadding(new Insets(10));
pane.setVgap(15);
                                                               Third button
                                                                         Fourth button
                                                               Click to EXIT!
pane.setHgap(5);
pane.setPrefWrapLength(280);
                                                                ... and the last one
Scene scene = new Scene(pane);
```

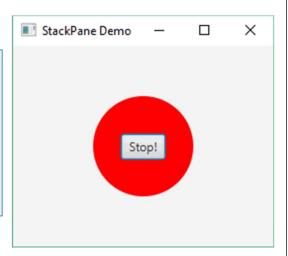
- TilePane
 - Like FlowPane, but each cell (tile) has the same size
 - The cells have the size to put the biggest object in
 - ▶ PrefRows / PrefColumns: preferred number of rows / columns for a vertical / horizontal TilePane

```
Button b1 = new Button("This is the first button\nPlease, click me!");
Button b2 = new Button("The second done");
Button b3 = new Button("Third Button\nClick to EXIT!");
Button b4 = new Button("Fourth button");
Button b5 = new Button("... and the last one");
                                                             TilePane Demo
                                                                                       X
TilePane pane = new TilePane(
                                                              This is the first button
      Orientation. VERTICAL, b1, b2, b3, b4, b5);
                                                                              Fourth button
                                                              Please, click me!
pane.setPadding(new Insets(10));
pane.setVgap(15);
                                                                The second one
                                                                             ... and the last one
pane.setHgap(5);
pane.setPrefRows(3);
                                                                Third button
                                                                Click to EXIT!
Scene scene = new Scene(pane);
```

StackPane

- Places all of the nodes within a single stack with each new node added on top of the previous node.
- Per default, in a StackPane the nodes are centered

```
Button button = new Button("Stop!");
Circle circle = new Circle(50);
circle.setFill(Color.RED);
StackPane pane = new StackPane(circle, button);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane, 260, 200);
```



GridPane

- Allows to built flexible layouts that are organized in rows and columns.
- Consists on a flexible grid of rows and columns
- The nodes can be placed in any cell in the grid
- The nodes can span cells
- The cells adapt dynamically to the size of the nodes
- The cells may be empty
- To help debugging, the grid lines can be made visible

- Adding a node to a GridPane:
 - To add a node in the grid, specify the column (first) and the row (last) indices (counting from 0):

```
pane.add(image, 3, 0); // Place image at position (0;3)
```

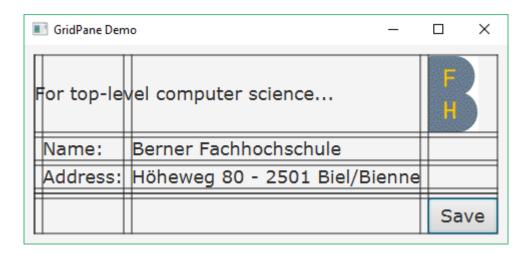
 If the node spans cells, also specify the number of columns (first) and the number of rows (last) it should span

```
// Place a label that spans 1 row and 3 columns at pos. (0;0)
pane.add(label, 0, 0, 3, 1);
```

 As for other layout panes, you can specify padding values and gaps between the row and columns

```
pane.setVgap(5); // 5 pixels between rows
pane.setHgap(8); // 8 pixels between columns
pane.setPadding(new Insets(10)); // 10 pixels around the grid
```

- A GridPane with visible grid lines
 - Note that the 3rd line is empty



A GridPane with visible grid lines (code excerpt)

```
GridPane pane = new GridPane();
pane.setVgap(5);
pane.setHgap(8);
pane.setPadding(new Insets(10));
pane.setStyle("-fx-font: 18 Verdana"); // Set pane font
ImageView logo = new ImageView(getClass()
                              .getResource("logo bfh.gif").toExternalForm());
pane.add(logo, 3, 0);
Label heading = new Label("For top-level computer science...");
pane.add(heading, 0, 0, 3, 1);
pane.add(new Label("Name:"), 1, 1);
pane.add(new Label("Berner Fachhochschule"), 2, 1);
pane.add(new Label("Address:"), 1, 2);
pane.add(new Label("Höheweg 80 - 2501 Biel/Bienne"), 2, 2);
pane.add(new Button("Save"), 3, 4);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane);
pane.setGridLinesVisible(true); // Make the grid lines visible
```

- Row and Column Constraints:
 - You can change the standard behavior of the GridPane by specifying row or column constraints
 - Examples:
 - Specify a fixed height for row #0

```
pane.getRowConstraints().add(0, new RowConstraints(50));
```

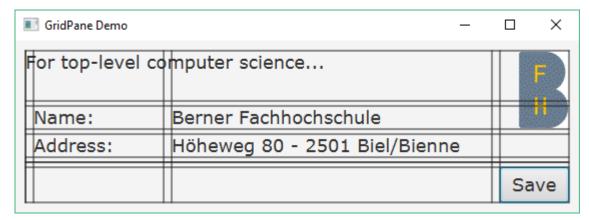
► Column #1 should be resized to 25% of the GridPane's available width and the remaining space attributed to columns #2.

```
ColumnConstraints cc = new ColumnConstraints();
cc.setPercentWidth(25);
ColumnConstraints cc2 = new ColumnConstraints();
cc2.setHgrow(Priority.ALWAYS)
pane.getColumnConstraints()
    .addAll(new ColumnConstraints(), cc, cc2);
```

 You can also specify the horizontal and vertical alignment of the nodes in the GridPane

```
GridPane.setHalignment(logo, HPos.RIGHT);
GridPane.setValignment(logo, VPos.TOP);
GridPane.setHalignment(heading, HPos.LEFT);
GridPane.setValignment(heading, VPos.TOP);
```

Layout with the given constraints and alignment (and increased width):

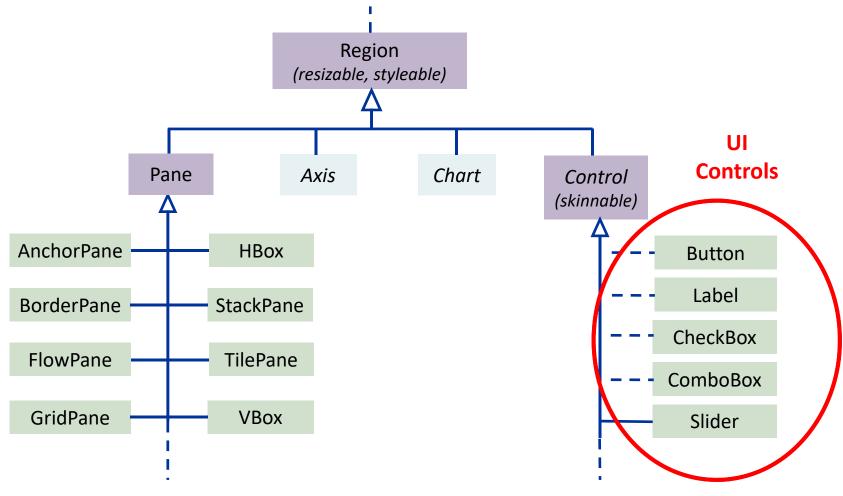


- The calculation of the size of a layout panes and its children according to the selected layout can be rather complicated, It is based on the following values:
 - minWidth / minHeight
 - prefWidth / prefHeight
 - maxWidth / maxHeight

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JavaFX Node Hierarchy 2 (excerpt)

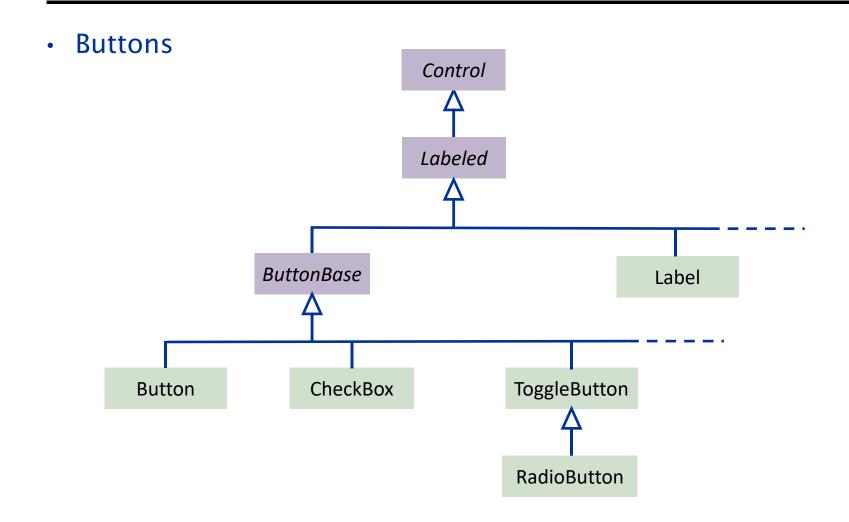


- Controls are UI components that allow user input or output.
- Some simple controls are presented hereafter, defined (in javafx.scene.control) with the classes:
 - Label, Button, CheckBox, RadioButton
 - TextField, PasswordField, TextArea
 - ComboBox
 - Menu
- For deeper explanations and more JavaFX controls, please look at:

http://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/javafx/user-interface-tutorial/ui_controls.htm

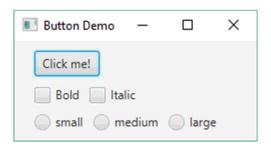
Labels

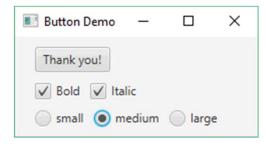
 Labels can contain a text and another node for decoration (mostly an image).



- Buttons
 - Buttons inherit from the same base class Labeled as labels
 - They can also contain a text and another node for decoration.
 - When clicked (or selected), a button generates an ActionEvent
 - JavaFX provides various types of buttons
 - ▶ Simple buttons, check boxes, radio buttons, ...
 - Check boxes and radio buttons allow to select options
 - Radio buttons can be grouped together.

```
Button simpleButton = new Button("Click me!");
simpleButton.setOnAction(e -> simpleButton.setText("Thank you!"));
CheckBox boldCheckBox = new CheckBox("Bold");
CheckBox italicCheckBox = new CheckBox("Italic");
RadioButton smallButton = new RadioButton("small");
RadioButton mediumButton = new RadioButton("medium");
RadioButton largeButton = new RadioButton("large");
ToggleGroup group = new ToggleGroup();
smallButton.setToggleGroup(group);
mediumButton.setToggleGroup(group);
largeButton.setToggleGroup(group);
VBox root = new VBox(10, simpleButton,
                     new HBox(10, boldCheckBox, italicCheckBox),
                     new HBox(10, smallButton, mediumButton, largeButton));
root.setPadding(new Insets(10, 40, 10, 20));
Scene scene = new Scene(root);
```





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- Note that:
 - In a group of radio buttons:
 - Only one button can be selected at a time
 - When a button is selected, the previously selected button in the group is automatically turned off
 - You can programmatically select or unselect a radio button or a check box:

```
largeButton.setSelected(true); // Select button
```

- To test whether a radio button or a check box is selected, use:

```
if (largeButton.isSelected()) ...
```

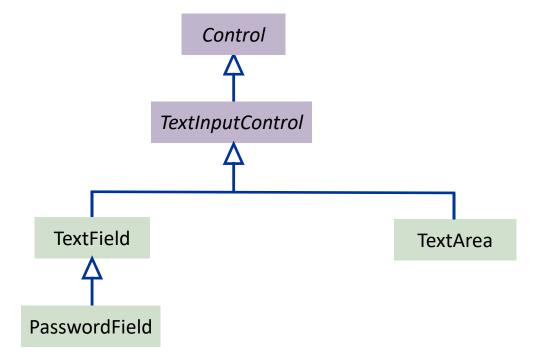
- Check boxes can provide three states:
 - ► **Selected**
 - Unselected
 - ▶ Indeterminate
- To allow the use of the indeterminate state, call:

```
boldCheckBox.setAllowIndeterminate(true);
```

To work with the indeterminate state, use:

```
// Select/Unselect indeterminate state
boldCheckBox.setIndeterminate(...);
// Test indeterminate state
if (boldCheckBox.isIndeterminate()) ...
```

Text input controls

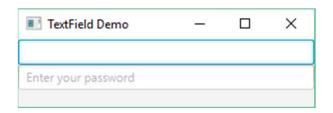


- Text Input Controls
 - To process a single line of text, use a TextField
 - A PasswordField is a text field that allows to enter a password
 - TextField's (and PasswordField's) generate an ActionEvent when the Enter key is typed
 - To process a *multiline text*, use a TextArea
 - TextArea's support text scrolling

- Some useful methods:
 - For TextField's and TextArea's:
 - String getText(): returns the text string contained in the control
 - setText(String s): writes a string into the control
 - appendText(String s): appends a string into the control
 - replaceText(int from, int to, String s): replaces a range of character with the given string
 - replaceSelection(String s): replaces the selection with the given replacement string
 - setEditable(boolean b): determines if the control is editable
 - setPrefColumnCount(int v): defines the preferred control width
 - For TextArea's only:
 - setPrefRowCount(int v): defines the preferred control height
 - setWrapText(boolean b): determines if the text has to be wrapped on a new line when it exceeds the width of the TextArea

Showing TextFields:

```
TextField textField = new TextField();
textField.setPrefColumnCount(25);
PasswordField passwordField = new PasswordField();
passwordField.setPromptText("Enter your password");
Label label = new Label();
passwordField.setOnAction(e ->
    label.setText("Your password: " + passwordField.getText()));
VBox pane = new VBox(textField, passwordField, label);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane);
```

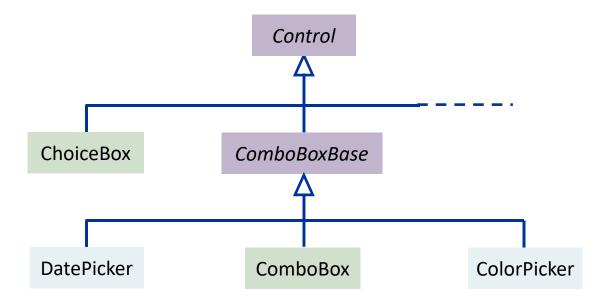




Showing a TextArea:

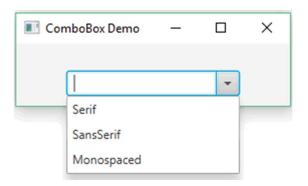
```
TextArea textArea = new TextArea();
textArea.setPrefRowCount(10);
textArea.setPrefColumnCount(20);
textArea.setText("This is the very very very very"
                      + " long first line");
for (int i = 2; i < 12; i++)
  textArea.appendText("\n ...and this is line #" + i);
textArea.setWrapText(true);
                                                          TextArea Demo
                                                                                  X
textArea.setEditable(false);
                                                          This is the very very very very long
Scene scene = new Scene(textArea);
                                                          first line
                                                          ...and this is line #2
                                                          ...and this is line #3
                                                          ...and this is line #4
                                                          ...and this is line #5
                                                          ...and this is line #6
                                                          ...and this is line #7
                                                          ...and this is line #8
                                                          ...and this is line #9
```

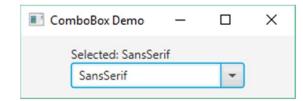
Combo Boxes



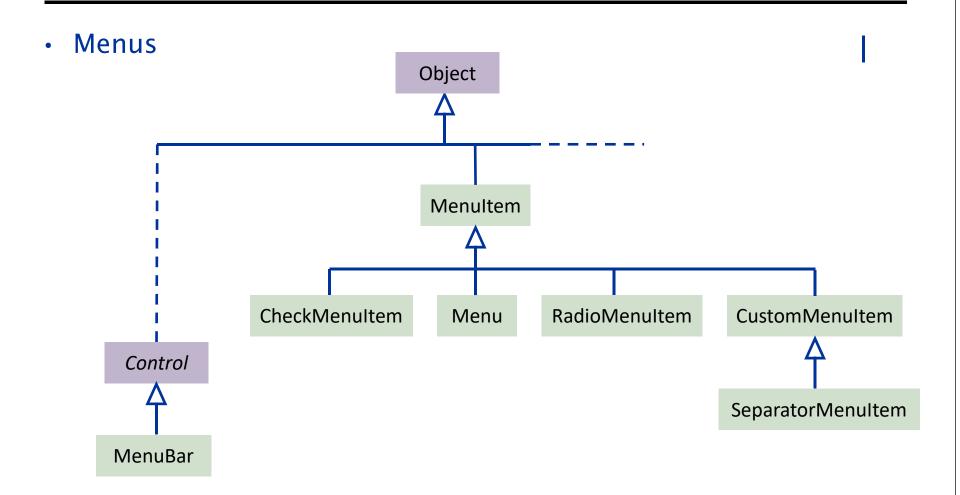
- Combo Boxes:
 - When you have to select one of a large set of choices, use a ComboBox
 - A combo box is a combination of a drop-down list and a field
 - ► The user can select a value from the list, which appears on the user's request.
 - The current selection is displayed in the field
 - ComboBox is a generic class. Give as type parameter, the type of the objects that are stored in the combo box
 - When a value is selected, or a value entered in the field (editable combo box), a combo box generates an ActionEvent
 - A ChoiceBox is a simpler form of a ComboBox

Showing a ComboBox:

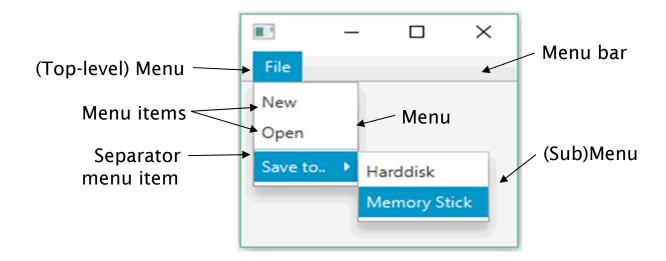




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- The menu bar can be placed "anywhere" in a layout pane
- The menu bar contains menus
- A menu contains submenus and menu items
- A menu item has no further submenus



Building a menu structure

```
MenuBar menuBar = new MenuBar();
                                                                     ×
Menu fileMenu = new Menu("File");
                                                        New
MenuItem newItem = new MenuItem("New");
                                                        Open
MenuItem openItem = new MenuItem("Open");
                                                        Save to..
                                                               Harddisk
Menu saveMenu = new Menu("Save to..");
                                                               Memory Stick
MenuItem hdItem = new MenuItem("Harddisk");
MenuItem msItem = new MenuItem("Memory Stick");
fileMenu.getItems().addAll(newItem, openItem,
                            new SeparatorMenuItem(), saveMenu);
saveMenu.getItems().addAll(hdItem, msItem);
menuBar.getMenus().add(fileMenu);
BorderPane pane = new BorderPane();
pane.setTop(menuBar);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane, 190, 160);
```

- CheckMenuItem's and RadioMenuItem's:
 - They are menu items that can be toggled between selected and unselected states, in a similar way as the corresponding button types (CheckMenuItem's have no indeterminate state).
 - You can insert them in a menu structure like the MenuItem's.

Accelerators:

 Accelerators are keyboard shortcuts that let you activate menu items from the keyboard.

Decorators:

Menus and menu items can be decorated with another (mostly graphic) node, just like labels or buttons.

```
Menu fileMenu = new Menu("File");
                                                                X
MenuItem newItem = new MenuItem("New", new ImageView(...));
                                                                    Help
newItem.setAccelerator(KeyCombination.valueOf("Ctrl+N"));
                                                                   New Ctrl+N
MenuItem openItem = new MenuItem("Open", new ImageView(...));
openItem.setAccelerator(KeyCombination.valueOf("Alt+0"));
                                                                     Open Alt+O
                                                                 ✓ Save Ctrl+S
MenuItem saveItem = new CheckMenuItem("Save",
                                                                     Exit
                                       new ImageView(...));
saveItem.setAccelerator(KeyCombination.valueOf("Shortcut+S"));
MenuItem exitItem = new MenuItem("Exit");
fileMenu.getItems().addAll(newItem, openItem, saveItem,
                           new SeparatorMenuItem(), exitItem);
                                                                               X
MenuItem aboutItem = new MenuItem("About");
                                                                    About
Menu helpMenu = new Menu("Help",
                         new ImageView(...), aboutItem);
MenuBar menuBar = new MenuBar(fileMenu, helpMenu);
VBox pane = new VBox(menuBar);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane, 190, 160);
```

- Key Combinations:
 - The Shortcut modifier is used to represent the key which is commonly used in keyboard shortcuts on the host platform (e.g. "Ctrl" on Windows and "meta" (command key) on Mac).
- Events:
 - When activated, menu items generate Action events. To handle these events, register appropriate event handlers. For example:

```
exitItem.setOnAction(e -> Platform.exit());
```

Outline

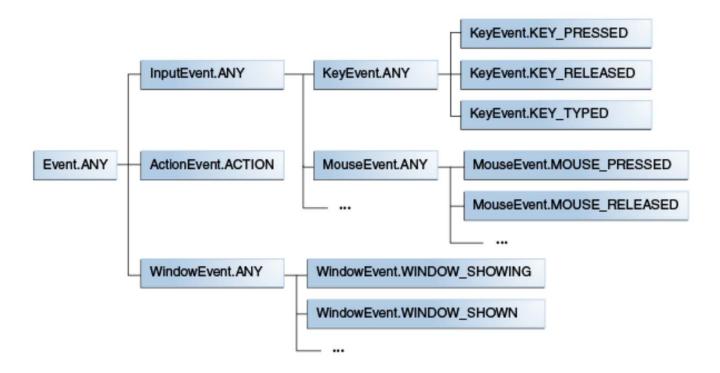
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• Event:

- An event is an object that is generated when something of interest for the application happens with one of the UI components, such as a mouse action or a key being pressed. For example:
 - A mouse being moved
 - A key being pressed
 - A window being exposed
- In JavaFX, an event is an instance of the javafx.event.Event class or a subclass threreof.
 - JavaFX provides several event classes, including ActionEvent, MouseEvent, KeyEvent and others
- Every event includes a type, a source, and a target

• Event Type:

 The event type is an instance of the javafx.event.EventType class. It allows the events of a single event class to be classified, so that they can be handled properly.



Event Source:

 The event source specifies for an event handler the object on which that handler has been registered and which sent the event to it.

• Event Target:

 The target of an event is the node on which the action occurred. It can be an instance of any class that implements the javafx.event.EventTarget interface

- Event Delivery Process (4 steps):
 - Target Selection
 - Route Construction
 - Event Capturing Phase
 - Event Bubbling Phase

Target Selection

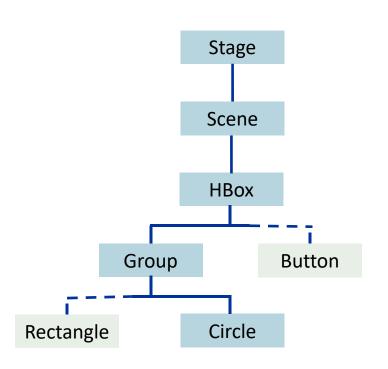
- The system determines which node is the target based on internal rules. For example:
 - For key events, the target is the node that has the focus
 - ▶ For mouse events, the target is the node at the location of the cursor

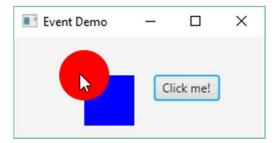
Route Construction

 The initial event route is determined by the event dispatch chain that was created in the implementation of the buildEventDispatchChain method of the selected event target

• Example:

 Initial route construction from the stage to the target node, when the mouse is clicked on the red circle.





```
Rectangle rect = new Rectangle(50, 50);
Circle circle = new Circle(25);
...
Group group = new Group(rect, circle);
HBox pane = new HBox(20, group, button);
Scene scene = new Scene(pane, 250, 100);
stage.setScene(scene);
```

Event Capturing Phase:

- In the event capturing phase, the event is dispatched by the root node of the application and passed down the event dispatch chain to the target node (e.g.: from the Stage to the Circle node)
- If any node in the chain has an event filter registered for the type of event that occurred, that filter is called.

Event Bubbling Phase:

- After the event target is reached and all registered filters have processed the event, the event returns along the dispatch chain from the target to the root node (e.g. from the Circle node to the Stage).
- If any node in the chain has an event handler registered for the type of event encountered, that handler is called.

• Event propagation:

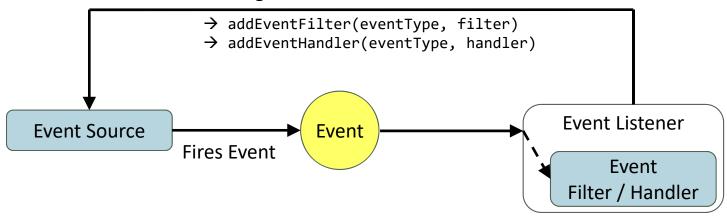
Stage Filter Handler Scene Filter Handler **Event Capturing Phase** Event **Bubbling** Phase → Event **Filters** are called → Event **Handlers** are called **HBox** Filter Handler Group Filter Handler Circle Filter Handler

- Event Handling:
 - Event handling is provided by event filters and event handlers,
 which are both implementations of the EventHandler interface.
 - Das EventHandler interface is a generic functional interface with a single method:

public void handle (T event)

- In order for an event to be delivered to an event filter or handler, that filter or handler must have been registered with the event source
 - ► To register an event filter, resp. handler, use the method addEventFilter, resp. addEventHandler
 - ▶ To unregister them, use removeEventFilter, resp. removeEventHandler
 - ► All these methods accept two arguments: the event type and an event handler

Register Event Filter / Handler



- Event filters or handlers can be implemented as:
 - an (outer) class
 - an inner class (anonymous or not)
 - ▶ a lambda expression

Implementation as an (outer) class:

```
class CircleHandler implements EventHandler<MouseEvent> {
   public void handle(MouseEvent e) {
     System.out.println("I was clicked!");
   }
}
```

- In the main application class, register this handler as follows:

```
public class EventDemo extends Application {
  public void start(Stage stage) {
    Circle circle = new Circle(...);
    EventHandler<MouseEvent> handler = new CircleHandler();
    circle.addEventHandler(MouseEvent.MOUSE_PRESSED, handler);
    ...
  }
}
```

• Implementation as an local inner class (in the start method):

```
public void start(Stage stage) {
 Circle circle = new Circle(...);
 // The event handler class is declared as a local class
 class CircleHandler implements EventHandler<MouseEvent> {
    public void handle(MouseEvent e) {
        System.out.println("I was clicked!");
 EventHandler<MouseEvent> handler = new CircleHandler();
 circle.addEventHandler(MouseEvent.MOUSE PRESSED, handler);
```

Implementation as an anonymous class...

```
circle.addEventHandler(
    MouseEvent.MOUSE_PRESSED, new EventHandler<MouseEvent>() {
    public void handle(MouseEvent e) {
        System.out.println("I was clicked!");
    }
});
...
```

...or a lambda expression

- Convenience methods
 - If you only need to register a single event handler for a given event type, you will achieve the same result by using one of the convenience methods provided by JavaFX:
 - setOnAction
 - setOnMouseClicked
 - setOnMouseDragged
 - setOnKeyPressed
 - **...**
 - Example:

```
...
circle.setOnMousePressed(e -> System.out.println("I was clicked!"));
...
```

- Consuming an Event
 - An event can be consumed at any point in the chain by calling the consume method. This method signals that processing of the event is complete and traversal of the event dispatch chain ends.

```
circle.addEventHandler(MouseEvent.MOUSE_PRESSED,
    e -> { System.out.println("I was clicked!");
    // Event will not execute the bubbling phase
    e.consume();
});
```

 Note that the default handlers for the JavaFX UI controls typically consume most of the input events.

- Please note:
 - To register a filter, just replace addEventHandler with addEventFilter, e.g.:

```
circle.addEventFilter(MouseEvent.ANY, handler);
```

- A single filter/handler can be used for more than one event type.
- A node can register more than one filter/handler. The order in which each filter/handler is called is based on the hierarchy of event types.
 - ► Filters/Handlers for a specific event type are executed before filters/handlers for generic event types
 - ► The order in which two filters/handlers at the same level are executed is not specified. Exception: the handlers registered by a convenience methods are executed last

– Example:

- Some methods of an Event object are:
 - getTarget: returns the target node, i.e. the node where action occurred and the end end in the event dispatch chain
 - getSource: returns the source node, i.e. the node on which the filter/handler has been registered. (The source changes as the event is passed along the chain).
 - getEventType: returns the event type
 - consume: marks an event as consumed, terminating the event processing
- According to the event type, specific methods provide a lot of information about the event, e.g.:
 - the coordinates of the mouse
 - the code of keypad keys;
 - etc.

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- Layout Management
- UI Controls
- Events
- Properties and Bindings
 - The JavaFX Properties
 - Bindings
 - Listeners
- Model-View-Controller (MVC)

- For many years, Java developed the concept of *JavaBeans*Architecture to represent and manipulate the property of an object in a standard way.
- The JavaFX property support is based on the JavaBeans model and consists of both an API and a design pattern. In this model:
 - Data ("properties") are encapsulated in an object("Bean")
 - Properties can be observed (are Observable)
 - Properties can be bind together (→ Bindings)
 - The architecture is based on simple name conventions
- The JavaFX properties and binding methods are mainly stored in the packages:

```
javafx.beans
javafx.beans.property
javafx.beans.value
```

 The package javafx.beans.property contains abstract classes for properties that represent primitive data types, strings, and other objects. Each class has a default implementation, whose name begins with "Simple":

```
BooleanProperty bProp = new SimpleBooleanProperty(this, "b", true);

IntegerProperty iProp = new SimpleIntegerProperty(this, "i", 3);

DoubleProperty dProp = new SimpleDoubleProperty(this, "d", 1.5);

... (analog for other primitive types) ...

StringProperty sProp = new SimpleStringProperty(this, "s", "Hallo");
```

- The constructor arguments are:
 - The object ("bean") that contains the property, e.g. this
 - The property name, e.g. "b"
 - The property initial value, e.g. true

In an ObjectProperty instance, you can wrap an arbitrary object.
 For example:

```
ObjectProperty<Image>
  objProp = new SimpleObjectProperty<>(this, "img", new Image(...));
```

• Each property implementation class also provides convenience constructors. For example:

```
BooleanProperty bProp = new SimpleBooleanProperty();
BooleanProperty bProp = new SimpleBooleanProperty(true);
BooleanProperty bProp = new SimpleBooleanProperty(this, "b");
BooleanProperty bProp = new SimpleBooleanProperty(this, "b", true);
```

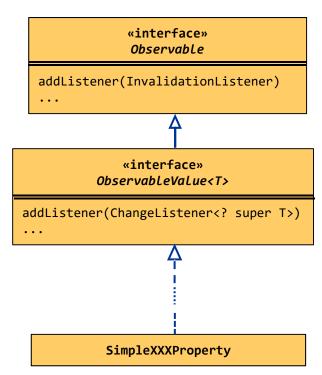
The Property Pattern applied to a BankAccount class:

```
public class BankAccount {
  private StringProperty owner = new SimpleStringProperty();
  private DoubleProperty balance = new SimpleDoubleProperty();

public final void setOwner(String value) { owner.set(value); }
  public final String getOwner() { return owner.get(); }
  public final StringProperty ownerProperty() { return owner; }

public final void setBalance(double value) { balance.set(value); }
  public final double getBalance() { return balance.get(); }
  public final DoubleProperty balanceProperty() { return balance; }
}
```

- The property classes implement the ObservableValue and Observable interfaces, allowing you to register two event listeners on a property, using the corresponding addListener registration methods:
 - An InvalidationListener, which is an Observable listener
 - A ChangeListener, which is an ObservableValue listener



• The InvalidationListener has a single method invalidated that is notified when the current property value is no longer valid (more explanations: see section *Bindings*).

```
public interface InvalidationListener {
   public void invalidated(Observable obs);
}
```

• The ChangeListener has a single method changed that is notified when the property value changes. The method parameters contain the previous and the new values.

Using lambda expressions make the code simpler!

Output:

```
Invalidated - DoubleProperty [value: 1500.0]
Changed - DoubleProperty [value: 1500.0]: 1000.0->1500.0
```

The JavaFX Properties

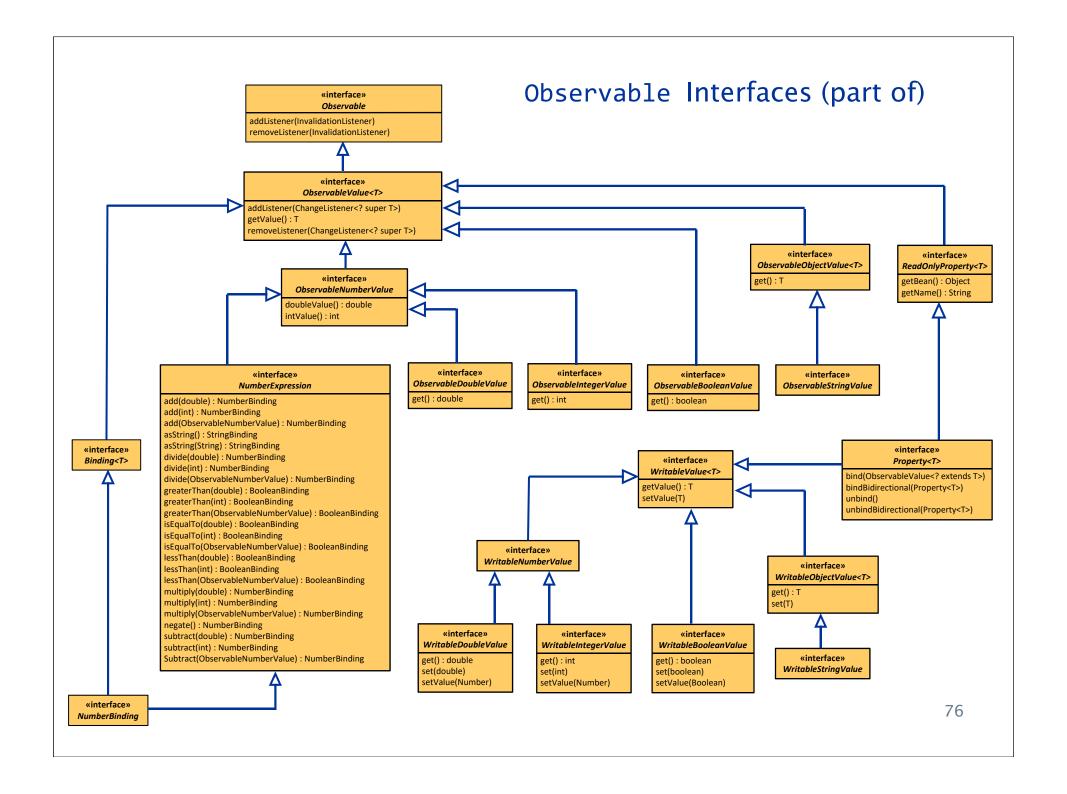
 Note that you can also define read-only properties by using corresponding wrapper classes:

```
public class Person {
 private ReadOnlyStringWrapper name; // For read-only property
 public Person(String n) {
    name = new ReadOnlyStringWrapper(n);
 // No setName method
 public final String getName() { return name.get(); }
 public final ReadOnlyStringProperty nameProperty() {
    return name.getReadOnlyProperty();
```

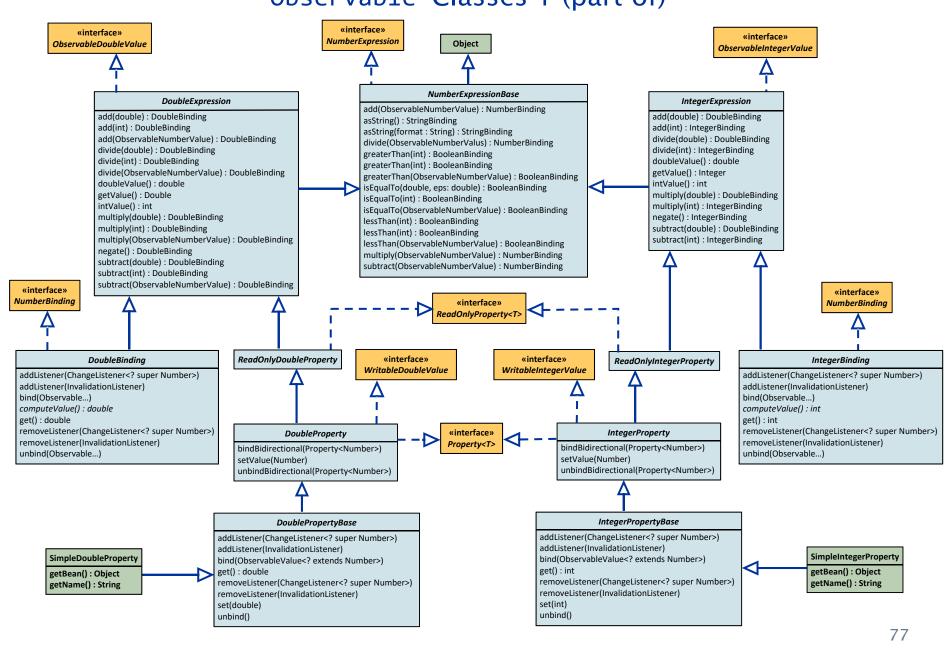
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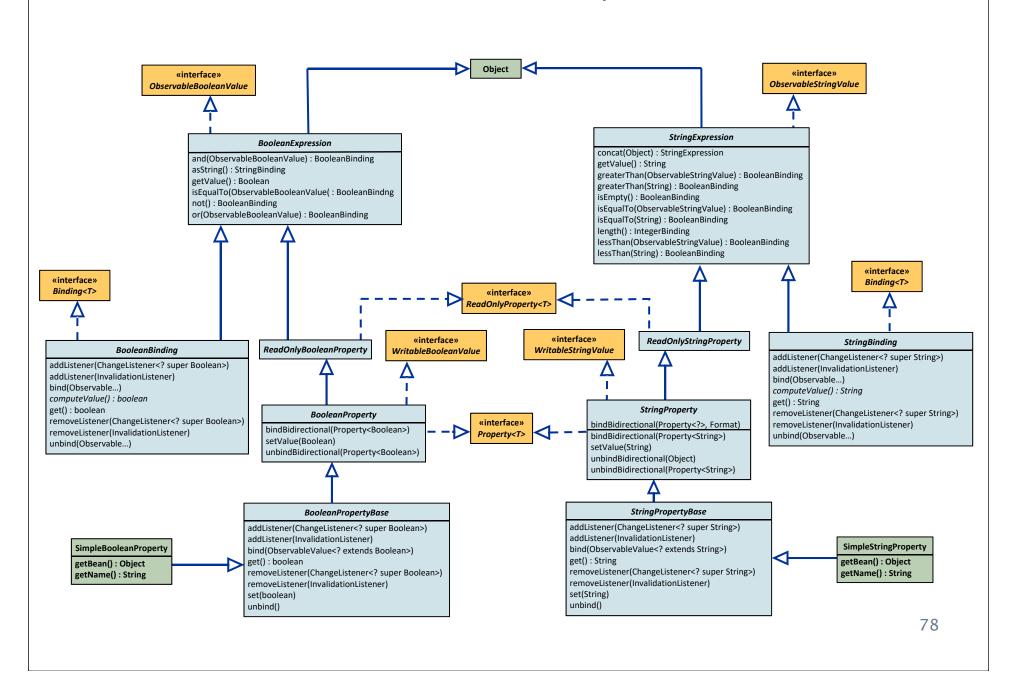
- For this section, it can be helpful to have an overview of the Observable interface hierarchy and of some of its implementing classes.
- The following diagrams are not exhaustive. Some interfaces, as well as classes or methods are missing. These diagrams only aim at giving a superficial understanding of the overall structure of the interfaces and classes involved in the Property and Binding API.
- For an in-depth understanding, look at the API documentation (package javafx.beans and sub-packages).



Observable Classes 1 (part of)



Observable Classes 2 (part of)



- Very frequently, when the value of a property changes, it is necessary to react by updating the values of one or more other properties that depends on the first one.
- This could be implemented by using a ChangeListener.

```
BankAccount acc1 = new BankAccount();
BankAccount acc2 = new BankAccount();

acc1.ownerProperty()
   .addListener((obsVal, oldVal, newVal) -> acc2.setOwner(newVal));

acc1.setOwner("Harry"); // Set owner "Harry" by acc1 AND acc2
acc1.setOwner("Harry Potter"); // Dito for "Harry Potter"
```

- However, this mechanism is already implemented in the API.
 Properties can be bind together, in order to provide automatic monitoring and linking of dependencies
- Methods:
 - bind(ObservableValue<? extends T> obsVal): creates a unidirectional binding for this property to an observable value
 - unbind(): removes the unidirectional binding for this property
 - bindBidirectional(Property<T> other): creates a bidirectional binding for this property to another one
 - unbindBidirectional(Property<T> other): removes a unidirectional binding for this property to another one

```
BankAccount acc1 = new BankAccount();
BankAccount acc2 = new BankAccount();
acc2.ownerProperty().bind(acc1.ownerProperty());
acc1.setOwner("Harry");
System.out.println(acc2.getOwner()); // Prints "Harry"
acc1.setOwner("Harry Potter");
System.out.println(acc2.getOwner()); // Prints "Harry Potter"
acc2.ownerProperty().unbind();
acc2.ownerProperty().bindBidirectional(acc1.ownerProperty());
acc1.setOwner("Harry");
System.out.println(acc2.getOwner()); // Prints "Harry"
acc2.setOwner("Harry Potter");
System.out.println(acc1.getOwner()); // Prints "Harry Potter"
acc2.ownerProperty().unbindBidirectional(acc1.ownerProperty());
acc1.setOwner("Harry");
System.out.println(acc2.getOwner()); // Prints "Harry Potter"
```

- With the Binding API, it is possible to monitor automatically much more complex value dependencies together. This API defines a set of interfaces that enable objects to be notified when a value change or invalidation takes place.
 - For example, you can perform arithmetic operations with numeric property values
- According to the complexity of the dependencies, JavaFX provides a high-level and a low-level API to handle them.
- The high-level API itself consists of two parts:
 - The Fluent-API, which exposes methods on the various dependency objects; and
 - The Bindings class, which provide static factory methods instead

 Note that the JavaFX binding and property implementations all support lazy evaluation, which means that when a change occurs, the value is not immediately recomputed. Recomputation happens later, if and when the value is subsequently requested.

• Example:

 Calculate the total amount of money contained in two bank accounts (Currency: CHF) and give the result in Euros.

Using the Fluent-API

```
BankAccount acc1 = new BankAccount(); acc1.setBalance(1000);
BankAccount acc2 = new BankAccount(); acc2.setBalance(2000);
// Exchange rate CHF -> EUR
DoubleProperty rate = new SimpleDoubleProperty(0.90);
// Binding to compute the total in EUR (fluent API)
NumberBinding total =
    rate.multiply(acc1.balanceProperty().add(acc2.balanceProperty()));
// total is NOT computed until explicitely requested (LAZY Binding)
System.out.println(total); // Prints "DoubleBinding [invalid]"
System.out.println("Total: " + total.getValue()); // Prints "Total: 2700.0"
System.out.println(total); // Prints "DoubleBinding [value: 2700.0]"
acc1.setBalance(8000);
rate.setValue(0.91);
System.out.println("Total: " + total.getValue()); // Prints "Total: 9100.0"
```

Using the Bindings class

- Other numeric operations are supported:
 subtract divide negate max (*) min (*)
- (*): Only in Bindings

- Using the Low-level API
 - This API provides much more flexibility. It involves extending one
 of the binding classes (e.g. DoubleBinding) and overriding its
 computeValue method to return the current value of the binding.

- Note that for similar binding operations, the Bindings class also provides static convenience methods. For example:

```
To make double value "Callable"

// Binding to compute the total in EUR (Bindings class)

NumberBinding total = Bindings.createDoubleBinding(() ->

rate.get() * (acc1.getBalance() + acc2.getBalance()),

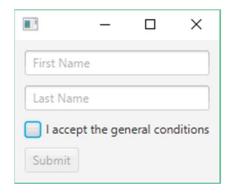
acc1.balanceProperty(), acc2.balanceProperty(), rate);

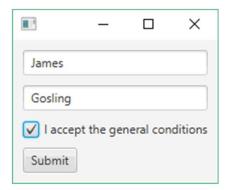
...
```

Other similar methods are:

```
    IntegerBinding createIntegerBinding(Callable<Integer> func, ...)
    StringBinding createStringBinding(Callable<String> func, ...)
    <T> ObjectBinding<T> createObjectBinding(Callable<T> func, ...)
    ...
```

- Numerical, string or object properties can be combined in useful logical expressions of type BooleanBinding.
- In the following example, the "submit" button will only be enabled if:
 - A first name and a last name (with at least 3 char.) has been entered; and
 - The check box has been selected





```
TextField firstName = new TextField();
firstName.setPromptText("First Name");
TextField lastName = new TextField();
lastName.setPromptText("Last Name");
CheckBox accept = new CheckBox("I accept the general conditions");
Platform.runLater(() -> accept.requestFocus());
Button submit = new Button("Submit");
VBox rootPane = new VBox(10, firstName, lastName, accept, submit);
rootPane.setPadding(new Insets(10));
BooleanBinding nameEntered = firstName.textProperty().isNotEmpty()
   .and(lastName.textProperty().length().greaterThan(2));
submit.disableProperty()
  .bind(nameEntered.and(accept.selectedProperty()).not());
Scene scene = new Scene(rootPane);
```

 Other methods that return BooleanBindings are: lessThan, isEqualTo, isNotEqualTo, ...

• With the When class, you can even select a binding according to a condition. Basically, a "When-expression" has the form:

new When(condition).then(value1).otherwise(value2)

- condition is an ObservableBooleanValue (e.g. a BooleanProperty or a BooleanBinding)
- value1 and value2 have both to be of the same type (and should both be present)
 - ► They can be constant values or implementations of an ObservableValue (e.g. a Property or a Binding)
 - ► They determine the type of the "When-expression" (e.g. a StringBinding, if they are a String or an ObservableStringValue)

• Example:

```
... declare two Textfields, a CheckBox and a Button
.....(see previous example) ......
Label message = new Label();
VBox rootPane = new VBox(10, firstName, lastName, accept, message, submit);
rootPane.setPadding(new Insets(10));
BooleanBinding nameEntered = firstName.textProperty().isNotEmpty()
  .and(lastName.textProperty().length().greaterThan(2));
submit.disableProperty()
  .bind(nameEntered.and(accept.selectedProperty()).not());
StringBinding helpInfo =
  new When(nameEntered.and(accept.selectedProperty().not()))
  .then("Please, accept the conditions")
                                                                      .otherwise("Submit your data");
message.textProperty().bind(helpInfo);
                                                First Name
                                                                                            James
                                                                       James
                                                 Last Name
                                                                       Gosling
                                                                                             Gosling
Scene scene = new Scene(rootPane);
                                                I accept the general conditions
                                                                      I accept the general conditions
                                                                                            I accept the general conditions
                                                                      Please, accept the conditions
                                                                                            Submit your data
                                                Submit your data
                                                                       Submit
                                                                                            Submit
                                                 Submit
```

• With the asString method, you can convert a NumberBinding or a BooleanBinding expression to a StringBinding:

• For a NumberBinding, you can also specify a formatting string

```
Slider input = new Slider(0, 100, 50);
Label display = new Label();
display.textProperty()
   .bind(input.valueProperty().asString("%5.2f"));
...
```

 Sometimes, you will need to build an ObservableValue by concatenating a few objects together. For this purpose, the Bindings class provide the method:

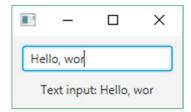
public static StringExpression concat(Object... args)

- This method returns a StringExpression (which is an ObservableValue) that holds the value of the concatenation of multiple objects.
- If one of its arguments implements ObservableValue and the value of this ObservableValue changes, the change is automatically reflected in the StringExpression.

• For example, use Bindings.concat if you need to insert a given string in a binding operation:

```
TextField input = new TextField();
Label display = new Label();
display.textProperty()
   .bind(Bindings.concat("Text input: ", input.textProperty()));

VBox rootPane = new VBox(10, input, display);
...
```



• Remember that the Bindings class contains a lot of convenient methods. Another example is the format method:

```
public static StringExpression format(String format, Object... args)
```

- This method returns a StringExpression that holds the value of one or several objects formatted according to a format string.
- You could use it to format the slider value in our previous example:

```
Slider input = new Slider(0, 100, 50);
Label display = new Label();
display.textProperty()
    .bind(Bindings.format("%5.2f", input.valueProperty()));
...
```

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- As the property classes, the binding classes also implement the ObservableValue and Observable interfaces.
- Therefore, you can also register event listeners on a binding object. Note that:
 - The InvalidationListener is called when the binding becomes invalid, i.e. when the binding value may have changed. However, the new value will not be re-calculated, as long as it has not been explicitly requested ("lazy evaluation").
 - The ChangeListener is called when the binding value has changed, passing the old and the new values as parameters

Using the InvalidationListener:

```
BankAccount acc1 = new BankAccount(); acc1.setBalance(1000);
BankAccount acc2 = new BankAccount(); acc2.setBalance(2000);
// Exchange rate CHF -> EUR
DoubleProperty rate = new SimpleDoubleProperty(0.90);
// Binding to compute the total in EUR
NumberBinding total =
     rate.multiply(acc1.balanceProperty().add(acc2.balanceProperty()));
System.out.println("Total: " + total.getValue()); // Prints "Total: 2700.0"
// Register an InvalidationListener
total.addListener(obs -> System.out.println(obs));
acc1.setBalance(2000); // Listener prints "DoubleBinding [invalid]"
acc2.setBalance(1000); // No listener call
rate.setValue(0.91); // No listener call
System.out.println("Total: " + total.getValue()); // Prints "Total: 2730.0"
```

Using the ChangeListener:

```
BankAccount acc1 = new BankAccount(); acc1.setBalance(1000);
BankAccount acc2 = new BankAccount(); acc2.setBalance(2000);
// Exchange rate CHF -> EUR
DoubleProperty rate = new SimpleDoubleProperty(0.90);
// Binding to compute the total in EUR
NumberBinding total =
     rate.multiply(acc1.balanceProperty().add(acc2.balanceProperty()));
System.out.println("Total: " + total.getValue()); // Prints "Total: 2700.0"
// Register an ChangeListener
total.addListener((obsVal, oldVal, newVal) ->
                   System.out.println("Value: " + oldVal + "->" + newVal));
acc1.setBalance(2000); // Listener prints "Values: 2700.0->3600.0"
acc2.setBalance(1000); // Listener prints "Values: 3600.0->2700.0"
rate.setValue(0.91); // Listener prints "Values: 2700.0->2730.0"
System.out.println("Total: " + total.getValue()); // Prints "Total: 2730.0"
```

- Which listener should I use?
 - The ChangeListener (ObservableValue listener) is more "comfortable", because it always provides the old and new values of the modified binding value. But it is activated for each modification of that value.
 - On the other side, the InvalidationListener (Observable Listener) is only called once when a binding value may have changed. It will not be activated again as long as the (new) value of that binding has not been requested. This could be important by performance issues.

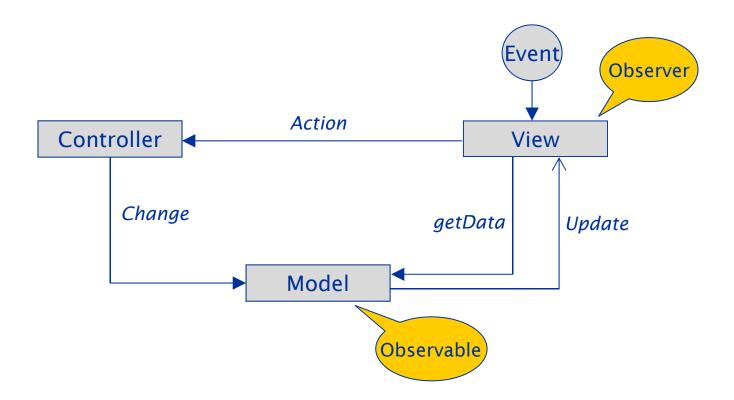
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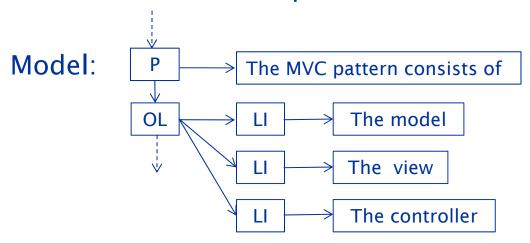
- The MVC is an architectural concept designed to implement user interfaces.
- It teaches to group the functionalities of these applications in three separated categories of interconnected objects:
 - The *Model*, which maintains the data
 - The View, which represents of the data
 - The *Controller*, which handles the user input
- For example, any JavaFX control typically has:
 - A content, such as the state of a button (pushed in or not), or the text in a text field
 - A visual appearance (color, size, and so on)
 - A behavior (reaction to events)

- Therefore, the MVC model :
 - is responsible for storing and maintaining data
 - provide corresponding methods to access and modify data
 - If necessary, notify the view, when a data change occurs (typically using the *Observer pattern*)
- ... the MCV view:
 - provides a visual representation of the model's data
 - updates itself based on the model changes
- ... and the MVC controller:
 - handles input events such as mouse clicks or key strokes and decides whether to translate these events into changes in the model or the view.

• Although the communication ways between the three MVC components may vary, a typical communication scheme is:



 One of the important advantages of the MVC pattern is that a model can have multiple views



WYSIWYG View:

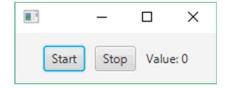
The MVC pattern consists of

- 1. The model
- 2. The view
- 3. The controller

Tag View:

```
<P> The MVC pattern consists of </P>
<OL>
    <LI> The model </LI>
    <LI> The view </LI>
    <LI> The controller </LI>
```

- Example: An simple counter
 - When the start button is pressed, the counter is incremented by one each second, until the stop button is pressed



- MVC Architecture:
 - Model: the counter
 - ▶ It stores the current value and allows to increment it
 - View: the GUI
 - Controller: a timer
 - ▶ It starts or stops the counter according to the button commands.

- There are many ways to implement the MVC architecture in Java.
 We show here a few examples that use the JavaFX properties concept
- Implementation 1: using a ChangeListener
 - In this implementation, the view registers a ChangeListener with the model
 - When the model changes, the listener is notified and transmits the changed data with the notification ("push-variant")

The Counter Model

```
public class CounterModel {
                                                         The value
  private ReadOnlyIntegerWrapper value;
                                                       property is read-
                                                       only for the view.
  public CounterModel() {
    value = new ReadOnlyIntegerWrapper(0);
  public int getValue() {
    return value.get();
  public void inc() {
                                                             Allows the view to
    value.setValue(value.get() + 1);
                                                           register a listener with
                                                             the counterValue
                                                                 property
  public void addObserver(ChangeListener<Number> li) {
    value.getReadOnlyProperty().addListener(li);
```

The Counter View (GUI)

```
Gets model
                                                            and controller
public class CounterView extends Stage {
                                                             references
  public CounterView(CounterModel model, CounterController controller) {
    Label label = new Label("Value: " + model.getValue());
    Button start = new Button("Start");
                                                              Activates the
    start.setOnAction(e -> controller.start());
                                                               Controller
    ... // Build the GUI
    model.addObserver((obsVal, oldVal, newVal) ->
                       label.setText("Value: " + newVal));
               Registers a
             ChangeListener
             with the model
```

– The Counter Controller:

```
public class CounterController {
                                                       Gets the model
  private AnimationTimer timer;
                                                         reference
  public CounterController(CounterModel model) {
    timer = new AnimationTimer() {
    private long currentTime;
    public void handle(long now) {
      if (now > currentTime + 1_000_000_000) { // One second elapsed
        currentTime = now;
        model.inc(); _____
                                  Changes
                                  the model
      }}};
  public void start() { timer.start(); }
                                                             Activated by the
                                                              button event
  public void stop() { timer.stop(); }
                                                                handlers
```

- The Main Class:

```
public class MVCCounter extends Application {
   public void start(Stage stage) {
      CounterModel model = new CounterModel();
      CounterController controller = new CounterController(model);
      new CounterView(model, controller);
   }
}
```

- Implementation 2: using an InvalidationListener
 - In this implementation, the view registers an InvalidationListener with the model
 - When the model changes, the listener is notified but does not transmit the changed data.
 - Therefore, the model must provide a method (→ getValue) for the view to fetch the data ("pull variant").

- Changes against implementation 1 are:
 - ▶ In CounterModel, redefine the addObserver method as:

```
public void addObserver(InvalidationListener<Number> li) { ... }
```

▶ In CounterView, invoke the addObserver method as:

```
model.addObserver(obs -> label.setText("Value: " + model.getValue()));
```

The other classes are not modified

- Implementation 3: using property bindings
 - Changes against implementation 1 and 2 are:
 - ▶ In CounterModel, replace the addObserver method with:

```
public ReadOnlyIntegerProperty valueProperty() {
   return value.getReadOnlyProperty();
}
```

► In CounterView, replace the invocation of the addObserver method with:

The other classes are not modified

 Note that the MVC communication flow can also be found in different variants, such as:

```
The controller also
                                                              updates/informs
public class ... Main Class ... {
                                                                  the view
  public ... Main method ... {
    CounterModel model = new CounterModel();
    CounterView view = new CounterView(model);
    CounterController controller = new CounterController(model, view);
                                                                  The whole
                                                                communication
                                                               goes through the
public class ... Main Class ... {
                                                                  controller
  public ... Main method ... {
    CounterModel model = new CounterModel();
    CounterView view = new CounterView();
    CounterController controller = new CounterController(model, view);
```