

Bern University of Applied Sciences

# Module BTI7055: Object-Oriented Programming 2

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# Input / Output

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#### **Outline**

- Reading and Writing Text Files
- Text Input and Output
- Command Line Arguments
- I/O Streams
- Readers and Writers
- Binary Input and Output
- File and Directory Operations
- Object Input and Output Streams

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- To read files that contain text, use the java.io.File and the java.util.Scanner classes:
  - First, construct a File object with the name of the input file
  - Then, use the File object to construct a Scanner object
  - Finally, use the Scanner methods (e.g. next, nexLine, nextInt or nextDouble) to read the data from the input file
- Example: Process numbers from an input file

```
File inputFile = new File("input.txt");
Scanner in = new Scanner(inputFile);
while (in.hasNextDouble()) {
   double value = in.nextDouble();
   ... Process value ...
}
```

- To write output to a file, use the PrintWriter class:
  - Construct a PrintWriter object with the name of the output file
  - If the file already exists, it is emptied(!) before the new data are written into it.
  - If the file does not exist, an empty file is created.
- PrintWriter is an enhancement of PrintStream. Hence, you can use the print, println and printf methods with any PrintWriter object.

```
PrintWriter out = new PrintWriter("output.txt");
out.println("Hello, World!");
out.printf("Total: %8.2f\n", total);
```

 When you are done processing a file, be sure to close the Scanner or PrintWriter. That will close the associated files.

```
in.close();
out.close();
```

 However, the easiest way to make sure that the files will be closed when the processing is over is to use the try-withresource statement.

```
try (Scanner in = new Scanner(new File("input.text");
         PrintWriter out = new PrintWriter("output.txt")) {
          // ... Process the files ...
} catch (FileNotFoundException ex) { ... }
```

- When the try block ends, the close method is automatically invoked on the resource(s), whether or not an exception has occured. Note that:
  - In a try-with-resources statement, you may declare more than one resource, separated by semicolons. When the try block ends, they will be closed in the opposite order of their creation.
  - The resource(s) declared in the try-with-resources statement must implement the interface java.lang.AutoCloseable.
  - A try-with-resources statement can have catch and finally clauses just like an ordinary try statement. Any catch or finally block is run after the resources declared have been closed.

#### • **A** Beware:

- If you terminate the program execution without closing the PrintWriter, not all of the output may be written to the disk file.
- Should you want to force the output to be written without closing the file, call:

#### out.flush();

- Example:
  - The following program reads a file containing numbers and writes the numbers, lined up in a column and followed by their total to another file.

• Input file content:

```
32 54 67.5 29 35 80
115 44.5 100 65
```

• Output file:

```
32.00
54.00
67.50
29.00
35.00
80.00
115.00
44.50
100.00
65.00
Total: 622.00
```

#### Total.java

```
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
/**
  This program reads a file with numbers, and writes the numbers to another
  file, lined up in a column and followed by their total.
*/
public class Total {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
   // Prompt for the input and output file names
    Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);
    System.out.print("Input file: ");
    String inputFileName = console.next();
    System.out.print("Output file: ");
    String outputFileName = console.next();
```

#### Total.java (cont.)

```
// Construct the Scanner and PrintWriter objects for reading and writing
File inputFile = new File(inputFileName);
try (Scanner in = new Scanner(inputFile);
     PrintWriter out = new PrintWriter(outputFileName)) {
 // Read the input and write the output
 double total = 0;
 while (in.hasNextDouble()) {
    double value = in.nextDouble();
    out.printf("%15.2f\n", value);
   total += value;
 out.printf("Total: %8.2f\n", total);
} catch (FileNotFoundException ex) {
 // Handle the exception
 System.out.println(ex.getMessage());
```

- Reading Web Pages:
  - You can read the content of a web page as follows:

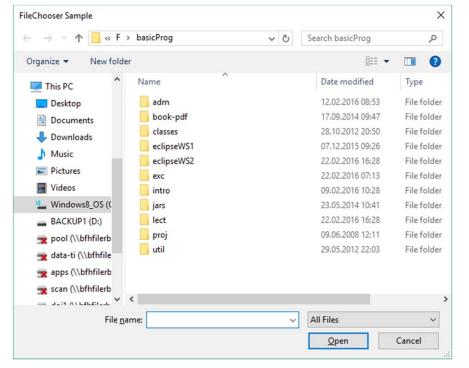
```
String address = "http://horstmann.com/index.html";
URL pageLocation = new URL(address);
Scanner in = new Scanner(pageLocation.openStream());
... Read the web page content with the Scanner ...
```

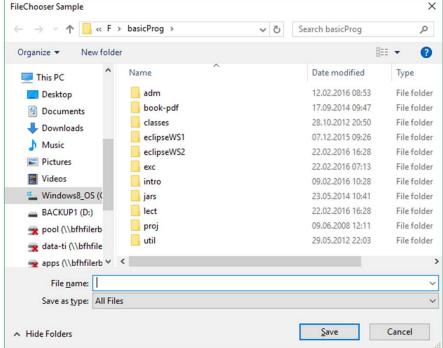
- You will have to import the java.net package and handle the IOException that may thrown by the openStream method.

 In a program with a GUI, you can use the JavaFX FileChooser dialog (in package javafx.stage) to select files:

Opened with showOpenDialog







- To construct a FileChooser, call the showOpenDialog, showOpenMultipleDialog or showSaveDialog method, depending on your need (passing the owner window to them).
  - These methods return the selected file(s), or null if no file has been selected (see API).
  - You can define extension filters, to filter which files can be selected, based on the file name extensions.

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- Reading Words
  - The Scanner.next method reads a word at a time. For example, consider the loop:

```
while (in.hasNext()) {
   String input = in.next();
   System.out.println(input);
}
```

– Applied on the input:

```
Hello, world! How are you?
```

- ... the output will be:

```
Hello,
world!
How
are
you?
```

- A word is any sequence of characters delimited by whitespace.
- Whitespace includes spaces, tab characters and the newline character.
- When the next method is executed, the whitespace characters that precede the word are *consumed* (i.e. removed from input), but they do not become part of the word.
- The first character that is not whitespace becomes the first character of the word. More characters are added until either another white space character occurs, or the end of the input has been reached.

- The scanner can also use delimiters other than whitespace. You can define delimiters by calling the useDelimiter method.
  - For example: to concatenate the sentence:

```
Va, cours, vole, et nous venge!
as follows:
    _Va_cours_vole_et_nous_venge!
```

You could use the following code:

```
Scanner in = new Scanner(...);
// New delimiter: commas + 1 whitespace OR 1 whitespace
in.useDelimiter(", | ");
while (in.hasNext())
    System.out.print("_" + in.next())
```

- Reading Characters:
  - As another example, useDelimiter gives you a simple way to read all characters of a file.

```
Scanner in = new Scanner(...);
in.useDelimiter("");
while (in.hasNext()) {
   char ch = in.next().charAt(0);
   ... Process value ...
}
```

#### Classifying Characters:

 The Character class offers several useful static methods to find out of what kind a character is. For example, Character.isDigit(ch) returns true, if ch is a digit.

Method	Accepted Characters (examples)
isDigit	0, 1, 2
isLetter	A, B, C, a, b, c
isUpperCase	A, B, C
isLowerCase	a, b, c
isWhiteSpace	space, newline, tab

- Reading Lines
  - The nextLine method reads a line of input and consumes the newline character at the end of the line.
  - Example: process a file with population data with lines like this:

```
China 1330044605
India 1147995898
United States 303824646
```

For each data line, you can proceed as follows:

```
// 1. Read the entire line into a string
String line = in.nextLine();
```

Use trim to

remove this space.

i ends here

i starts here

```
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
                   countryName
                                             population
// 2. Find out where the name ends and the number starts.
int i = 0; while (!Character.isDigit(line.charAt(i))) { i++ };
// 3. Extract the country name and population.
String countryName = line.substring(0, i);
String population = line.substring(i);
// 4. Remove spaces at end of the country name and pop.
countryName = countryName.trim();
population = population.trim();
// 5. Convert the population string to a number.
int populationValue = Integer.parseInt(population);
```

Note that the following approach could be easier.

```
// 1. Read the entire input line into a string.
String line = in.nextLine();
// 2. Construct a Scanner object to read the string.
Scanner lineScanner = new Scanner(line);
// 3. Extract country name and population
String countryName = lineScanner.next();
// 4. We must also read the country names which
// consist of more than one word
while (!lineScanner.hasNextInt())
  countryName = countryName + " " + lineScanner.next();
int populationValue = lineScanner.nextInt();
```

- Reading Numbers:
  - To read numbers, use the nextInt, resp. nextDouble, methods. They consume white space and the next word, which must be a properly formatted (int, resp. double) number:

```
double value = in.nextDouble();
```

- If the word read is not a number, an "input mismatch exception" occurs.
- Of course, you can detect if the next item to read is a number by using the predicate methods hasNextInt and hasNextDouble.
- Note that the nextInt, nextDouble, and next methods do not consume the white space that follows the number or word.

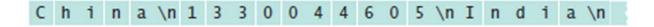
 Example – Suppose a file with country names and population values in this format:

```
China
1330044605
India
1147995898
```

Use the following loop:

```
while (in.hasNextLine()) {
   String countryName = in.nextLine();
   int population = in.nextInt();
   in.nextLine(); // Consume the remaining newLine
   ... Process the country name and population...
}
```

Initial input:



Input after first call to nextLine:

```
1 3 3 0 0 4 4 6 0 5 \n I n d i a \n
```

Input after call to nextInt:

```
\n I n d i a \n
```

• → Before reading "India", it is necessary to consume the remaining newline on the left side.

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# Command Line Arguments

- Command line arguments:
  - When you invoke a Java program from the command line, you can enter some additional *command line arguments*.

```
java ProgramClass -v input.dat
```

- These arguments are placed one to one into the args array of the main method. They can then be processed as normal strings by the main method.

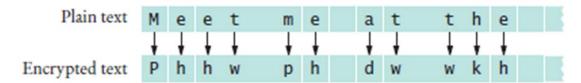
```
args[0] \leftarrow "-v" args[1] \leftarrow "input.dat"
```

If more than one parameter must be assigned to the same args element, enclose them in quote marks " ... ". Also use quote marks, if a parameter has a special meaning for the command line interpreter:

```
java Calculator "Multiplication example" 25 "*" 38
```

# Command Line Arguments

• Example: A program that encrypts a file, using a *Caesar cipher* that replaces A with a D, B with an E, and so on.



- The program will take the following command line arguments:
  - An optional -d flag to indicate decryption instead of encryption
  - ▶ The input file name
  - The output file name
- For example:
  - ▶ Encrypt the file input.txt and place the result into encrypt.txt

```
java CaesarCipher input.txt encrypt.txt
```

▶ Decrypt the file encrypt.txt and place the result into output.txt

```
java CaesarCipher -d encrypt.txt output.txt
```

#### CaesarCipher.java

```
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
/**
  This program encrypts a file using the Caesar cipher.
*/
public class CaesarCipher {
 /**
     Prints a message describing proper usage.
 */
 private static void usage() {
    System.out.println("Usage: java CaesarCipher [-d] <infile> <outfile>");
   System.exit(0); // Terminate execution
 public static void main(String[] args) throws FileNotFoundException {
   final int DEFAULT KEY = 3;
   int key = DEFAULT KEY;
    int argNum = 0; // Number of the current command line argument
```

#### CaesarCipher.java (cont.)

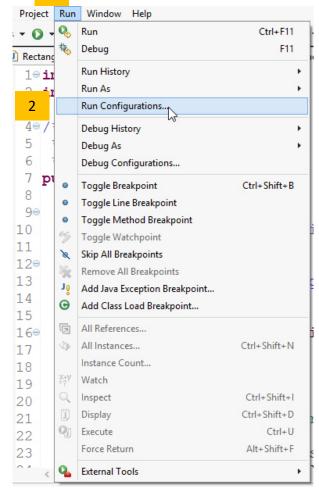
```
if (argNum < args.length && args[argNum].charAt(0) == '-') {</pre>
 // This a command line option
 if (args[argNum].length() == 2 && args[argNum].charAt(1) == 'd') key = -key;
  else usage();
  argNum++;
// Read the file names
if (args.length != argNum + 2) usage();
String inFile = args[argNum++];
String outFile = args[argNum];
try (Scanner in = new Scanner(new File(inFile));
  PrintWriter out = new PrintWriter(outFile)) {
  in.useDelimiter(""); // Process individual characters
 while (in.hasNext()) {
    char from = in.next().charAt(0);
    char to = encrypt(from, key);
    out.print(to);
```

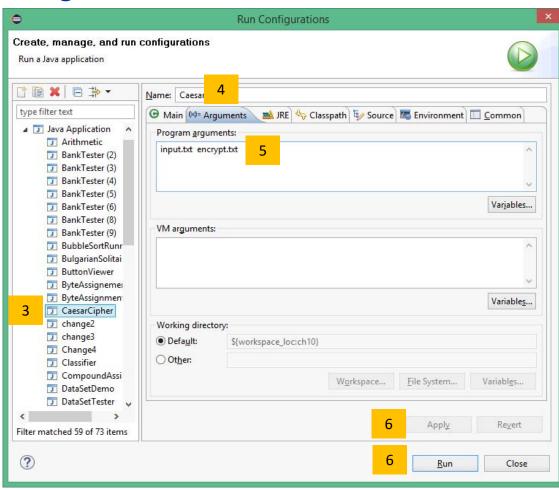
#### CaesarCipher.java (cont.)

```
/**
   Encrypts upper- and lowercase characters by shifting them
   according to a key.
  @param ch the letter to be encrypted
  @param key the encryption key
  @return the encrypted letter
*/
private static char encrypt(char ch, int key) {
 int base = 0;
 if ('A' <= ch && ch <= 'Z') base = 'A';
  else if ('a' <= ch && ch <= 'z') base = 'a';
  else return ch; // Not a letter
 int offset = ch - base + key;
 final int LETTERS = 26; // Number of letters in the Roman alphabet
 if (offset >= LETTERS)
   offset -= LETTERS;
  else if (offset < 0)</pre>
    offset += LETTERS;
  return (char) (base + offset);
```

# **Command Line Arguments**

**Eclipse: Command line arguments** 





# **Command Line Arguments**

- Command line arguments with JavaFX:
  - To read command line arguments in a JavaFX application, you can use the Application.Parameters class:

```
public class MyFXApplication extends Application {
   public void start(Stage stage) {
     Parameters params = getParameters();
     List<String> paramList = params.getRaw();
     ...
   }
}
```

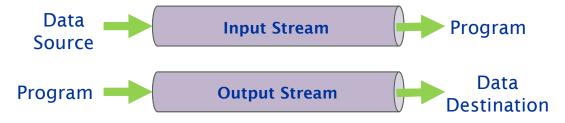
- The arguments are stored in paramList in a similar way as before in the args array. The list can be empty, but is never null.

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## I/O Streams

- Most applications need to process some input and produce some output based on that input. The purpose of the classes in the java.io package is to make that possible in Java.
- To execute IO operations, Java uses the concept of IO streams, which are flows of data that can either be read from or written to.
- Streams are typically connected to a data source or data destination, like a file, network connection, memory buffer, etc.
- A stream is a continuous flow of data that can be read or written sequentially. You cannot move back and forth in a stream.



## I/O Streams

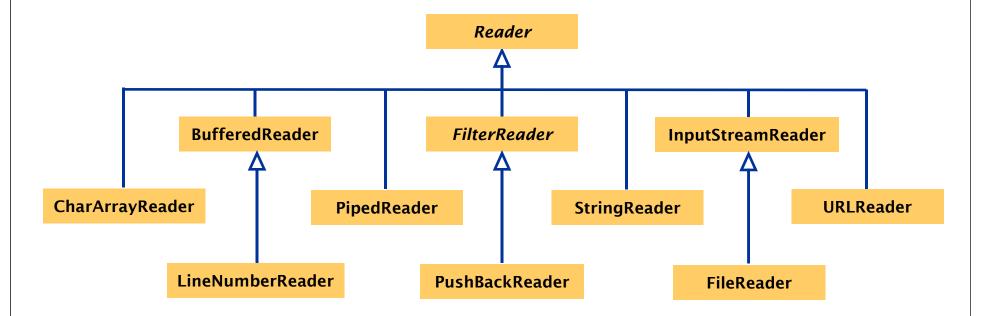
- There are two fondamentally different ways to store data:
  - In text format
  - In binary format
- In text form, the data items are represented in human readable form, as a sequence of characters
  - Example: 12345 is stored '1' '2' '3' '4' '5' (five characters)
- In binary form, the data items are represented in bytes
  - Example: 12345 (int) is stored as 0 0 48 57 (four bytes)
- These two kind of data formats are handled in Java by two different groups of classes:
  - The character stream classes (for the text format)
  - The byte stream classes (for the binary format)

#### **Outline**

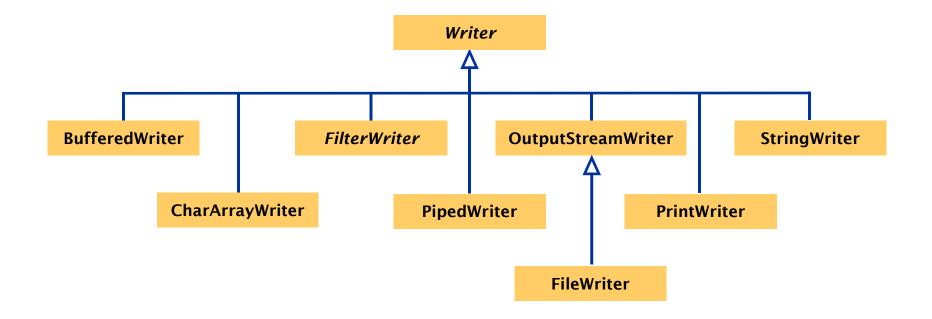
- Reading and Writing Text Files
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- Text format
  - To process input and output of information stored in text form, the Java library provides the Reader and Writer class sets.
- The *Reader* Character Streams



• The Writer Character Streams



- For reading text, however, it is in most cases more convenient to use the Scanner class instead of Reader classes.
  - Internally, the Scanner class makes use of readers to read characters.
  - You can construct a Scanner object for any object of type File,
     InputStream, Reader (more exactly: Readable) or String.
- For writing text and numbers in text format, the most convenient class is the PrintWriter class.
  - You can construct a PrintWriter object for any object of type
     File, OutputStream, Writer or String.

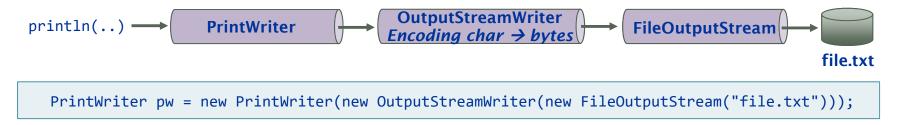
- When manipulating text strings, you need to consider the character encoding.
- Example of Unicode character encoding
  - In the table below, UTF-8 and UTF-16 are two different encoding schemata for Unicode characters

Character	UTF-8: hex (dec)	UTF-16: hex (dec)
е	65 (101)	00 65 (0 101)
é	C3 A9 (195 169)	00 E9 (0 233)

- The Reader and Writer hierarchies have one class each that is responsible for converting between bytes and characters.
- By default, these classes use the default character encoding of the computer executing the program.

- The following classes perform the conversions between bytes and characters.
  - The OutputStreamWriter class turns a stream of Unicode characters into a stream of bytes, using a chosen encoding.
  - Conversely, the InputStreamReader class turns a byte stream that contains bytes specifying characters in some encoding into a Unicode character stream.
- To achieve the input or output operations, the appropriate Reader or Writer streams must be chained together.
- However, in most cases, this chaining can remain transparent to the programmer if approriate classes or constructors are used.

• Example 1: To store data into a text file, you had to chain the following output character streams together:



 By selecting a convenient PrintWriter constructor, you can store the data as follows (e.g. by using the UTF-16 encoding):

```
String[] text = {.......};
// Write text lines into "file.txt" with UTF-16 encoding
PrintWriter pw = new PrintWriter("file.txt", "UTF-16"));
for (String s : text)
   pw.println(s);
```

• Example 2: To read lines of text from a file in a program, you had to chain the following input character streams together:



 To read a text stored in a file, use preferably a Scanner as follows (e.g. to read data encoded in UTF-16):

```
// Read "file.txt" using UTF-16 encoding
Scanner in = new Scanner(new File("file.txt"), "UTF-16");
while(in.hasNext()) {
   String s = in.next();
   ... Process the data ...
}
```

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- Binary format:
  - The binary format allows a more compact representation and a more efficient handling of the data as the text format.
  - To process input and output use the byte streams supported by the InputStream and OutputStream classes and their subclasses.
  - The InputStream, resp. OutputStream, class has a method, read, resp. write, to process a single byte at a time

- Example 1 Read data from a disk file as a sequence of bytes
  - By each call, the read method returns the next byte from the file.
     At the end of file, -1 is returned

```
InputStream in = new FileInputStream("input.dat");
int next = in.read();
while (next != -1) {
    ... Process "next" ...
    next = in.read();
}
```

Note that you can read some number of bytes from an InputStream and store them into a buffer as follows:

```
byte[] buffer = new byte[...];
int numberOfBytesRead = in.read(buffer); //Try to fill up the buffer
```

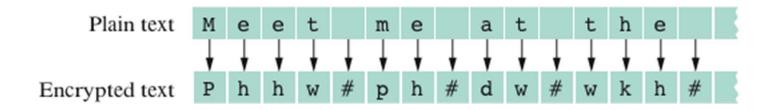
Example 2 - Write data to a disk file as a sequence of bytes

```
OutputStream out = new FileOutputStream("output.dat");
while (more data to process) {
  byte b = ...;
  out.write(b);
}
```

Note that you can write an array of bytes to an OutputStream as follows:

```
byte[] buffer = new byte[...];
... Fill the buffer ...
out.write(buffer);
```

- · A complete example: An encryption program
  - The program scrambles the bytes in a file so that it is readable only to those who know the encryption method and secret keyword
  - We use again the Caesar cipher, but now we encode all bytes, making the file unreadable by a text editor
  - We choose encryption key, a number between 1 and 25, that indicates the shift to be used in encrypting each byte



To decrypt, use the negative of the encryption key.

#### CaesarCipher.java

```
import java.io.*;
/**
  This class encrypts files using the Caesar cipher.
   For decryption, use an encryptor whose key is the
   negative of the encryption key.
*/
public class CaesarCipher {
 private int key;
  /**
     Constructs a cipher object with a given key.
    @param aKey the encryption key
 public CaesarCipher(int aKey) {
    key = aKey;
```

# CaesarCipher.java (cont.)

```
/**
   Encrypts the contents of a stream.
  @param in the input stream
  @param out the output stream
*/
public void encryptStream(InputStream in, OutputStream out)
                                                    throws IOException {
  boolean done = false;
  while (!done) {
    int next = in.read();
    if (next == -1)
      done = true;
    else {
      int encrypted = encrypt(next);
      out.write(encrypted);
```

## CaesarCipher.java (cont.)

```
/**
    Encrypts a value.
   @param b the value to encrypt (between 0 and 255)
   @return the encrypted value
*/
public int encrypt(int b) {
  return (b + key) % 256;
```

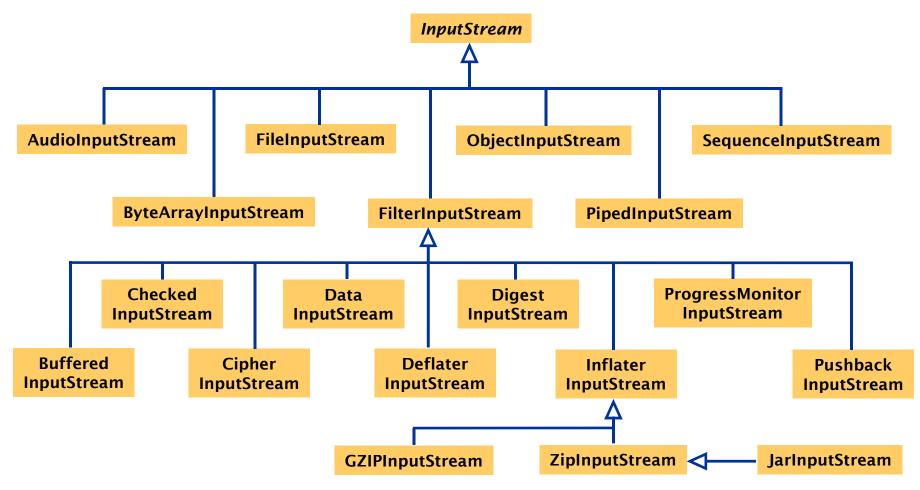
#### CaesarEncryptor.java

```
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
/**
  This program encrypts a file, using the Caesar cipher.
*/
public class CaesarEncryptor {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
    Scanner in = new Scanner(System.in);
    System.out.print("Input file: ");
    String inFile = in.next();
    System.out.print("Output file: ");
   String outFile = in.next();
    System.out.print("Encryption key: ");
   int key = in.nextInt();
```

#### CaesarEncryptor.java (cont.)

```
try (InputStream inStream = new FileInputStream(inFile);
    OutputStream outStream = new FileOutputStream(outFile)) {
    CaesarCipher cipher = new CaesarCipher(key);
     cipher.encryptStream(inStream, outStream);
   } catch (IOException ex) {
    System.out.println("Error processing file: " + ex);
```

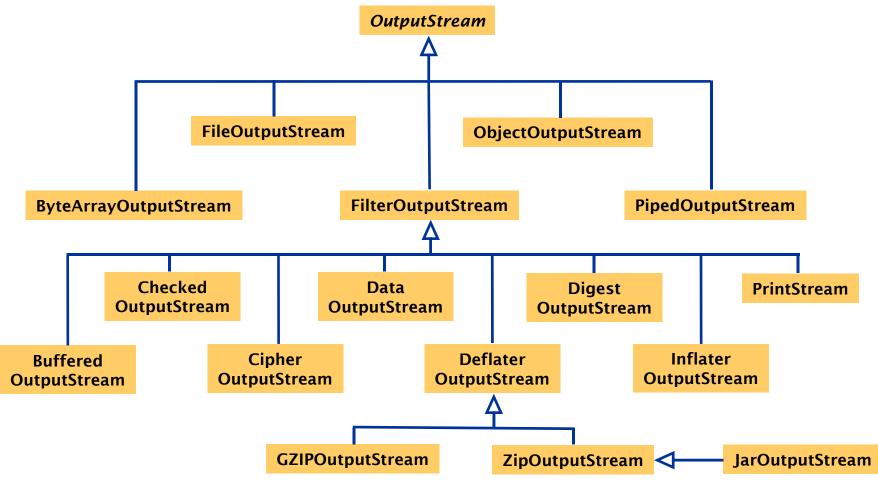
• The *InputStream* byte Streams



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The OutputStream byte Streams



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- Read the Java API to find out the exact functionality of the input and output streams. Some examples:
  - The ByteArrayInputStream allows you to read data from byte arrays as streams; the ByteArrayOutputStream allows you to capture data written to a stream in an array.
  - The BufferedInputStream and BufferedOutputStream provide buffering to your byte streams. Buffering can speed up IO quite a bit, especially for disk access and larger data amounts. You can specify the size of the buffer in the constructor.

```
InputStream bis = new BufferedInputStream(
    new FileInputStream("input.dat"), 8 * 1024);// Buffer: 8 kB

OutputStream bos = new BufferedOutputStream(
    new FileOutputStream("output.dat"));// Buffer: Default size
```

 The DataOutputStream contains methods for writing, numbers, characters, boolean values or strings in binary format. The DataInputStream contains the corresponding read methods (except for strings).

- The PushbackInputStream adds the ability to another input stream to "push back" or "unread" one byte, so that the next read operation on the input stream will reread the byte that was pushed back.
- The SequenceInputStream, concatenates two or more other input streams. First, all bytes from the first input stream are read, then the bytes of the second one, etc.

```
InputStream input1 = new FileInputStream("file1.dat");
InputStream input2 = new FileInputStream("file2.dat");
SequenceInputStream sis = new SequenceInputStream(input1, input2);
```

- As by the character streams, you can chain the appropriate streams together to achieve the input or output operations you need.
  - Example: Output stream to store buffered int values into a file:

- Input stream to read these values again:



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- File and Directory Operations
- Object input and Output Streams

• To execute file or directory operations, you can use the File class. However, the Path interface and the Files and Paths classes (in package java.nio.file) offer more operations and overcome some limitations of the File class.

#### Paths

A Path describes the location of a file or directory:

```
Path sourcePath = Paths.get("IODemo.java");
Path dirPath = Paths.get("/basicProg/oop2/examples");
```

 A Path can also be specified as a sequence of directory names, optionally followed by a file name:

```
Path dirPath = Paths.get("/basicProg", "oop2", "examples");
```

- Note that a Path instance does not have to correspond to an existing file. It is merely an abstract sequence of names.
- You combine paths with the resolve method. The argument to resolve can be a Path or a string:

```
// fullPath is: /basicProg/oop2/examples/IODemo.java
Path fullPath = dirPath.resolve(sourcePath);
```

– With toAbsolutePath, you can turn a relative directory into an absolute one:

```
// absolutePath is: c:/basicProg/oop2/examples/IODemo.java
Path absolutePath = Paths.get("IODemo.java").toAbsolutePath();
```

- There are also methods for taking paths apart:

```
// parent is the path: /basicProg/oop2/examples
Path parent = fullPath.getParent();
// filename is the path: IODemo.java
Path filename = fullPath.getFileName();
```

- As Path extends the Iterable<Path> interface, you can also use the enhanced for loop with a Path:

```
for (Path p : fullPath) {
    ...p is set to basicProg, oop2, examples and IODemo.java ...
}
```

- Creating and Deleting Files and Directories
  - Create a directory or a file (path is a Path object).
    - ▶ Note that if you try to create a file or directory that already exists, an exception is thrown:

```
// Create a new directory
// (all but the last component in the path must exist)
Files.createDirectory(path);
// Create a directory path
Files.createDirectories(path);
// Create an empty file
Files.createFile(path);
```

– Test if a file or a directory exists:

```
boolean exists = Files.exists(path);
```

- Find out whether an existing path is a file or a directory:

```
boolean isDirectory = Files.isDirectory(path);
boolean isFile = Files.isRegularFile(path);
```

– Delete a file or an empty directory:

```
Files.delete(path);
```

If the file could possibly not exist, use:

```
boolean deleted = Files.deleteIfExists(path);
```

- Useful File Operations
  - Yield the size of a file in bytes:

```
long size = Files.size(path)
```

 Read an entire file into a list of lines (text file) or a byte array (binary file):

```
List<String> lines = Files.readAllLines(path);
byte[] bytes = Files.readAllBytes(path);
```

- Write / Append a collection of lines or an array of bytes to a file:

```
Files.write(path, lines); // Write to a new file
Files.write(path, bytes);
Files.write(path, lines, StandardCopyOption.APPEND); // Append
Files.write(path, bytes, StandardCopyOption.APPEND);
```

 Read a file into a single string. If necessary, you can give the appropriate file encoding (e.g. UTF-8):

```
String contents = new String(Files.readAllBytes(path), "UTF-8");
```

- Save a string to a (e.g. UTF-8) file:

```
Files.write(path, contents.getBytes("UTF-8"));
```

– Get a byte or a character stream:

```
InputStream inputStream = Files.newInputStream(path);
OutputStream outputStream = Files.newOutputStream(path);
Reader reader = Files.newBufferedReader(path);
Writer writer = Files.newBufferedWriter(path);
```

 Copy or move a file (to move a non-empty directory, you have to move all ist descendants):

```
Files.copy(fromPath, toPath);
Files.copy(inputStream, toPath);
Files.copy(fromPath, outputStream);
Files.move(fromPath, toPath);

// You can also specify various options. For example,
// to overwrite an existing target by copying use:
Files.copy(fromPath, toPath, StandardCopyOption.REPLACE_EXISTING);
```

- Example:
  - Store a Web page to a file

```
URL url = new URL("http://horstmann.com/index.html");
URLConnection connection = url.openConnection();
InputStream in = connection.getInputStream();
Path path = Paths.get("Horstmann.html");
Files.copy(in, path);
```

## File and Directory Operations

- Visiting Directories
  - To get a list of the files and directories contained in a directory, proceed as follows (Stream and Collectors are in the package java.util.stream):

```
try (Stream<Path> entries = Files.list(dirPath)) {
   List<Path> paths = entries.collect(Collectors.toList());
   ... Process the list paths ...
}
```

 Files.list does not visit subdirectories. In order to get all descendant files and directories, call Files.walk.

#### **Outline**

- Reading and Writing Text Files
- Text Input and Output
- Command Line Arguments
- I/O Streams
- Readers and Writers
- Binary Input and Output
- File and Directory Operations
- Object input and Output Streams

- The Java language supports a very general mechanism called object serialization, that makes it possible to write any object to a stream and read it again later.
- To serialize an object in an output file, simply instantiate an appropriate ObjectOutputStream object and call its writeObject method:

```
BankAccount acc = ...;
ObjectOutputStream oos =
  new ObjectOutputStream(new FileOutputStream("accounts.ser"));
oos.writeObject(acc);
```

 To read the object back in, instantiate an ObjectInputStream object and call its readObject method:

```
ObjectInputStream ois =
    new ObjectInputStream(new FileInputStream("accounts.ser"));
BankAccount acc = (BankAccount)ois.readObject();
```

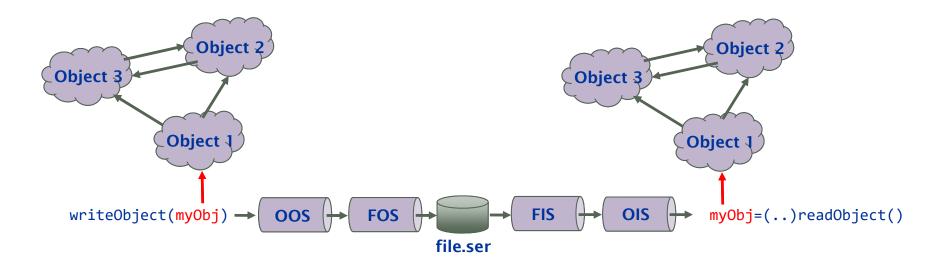
To be serialized, the object's class must implement the (empty) interface Serializable.

```
public class BankAccount implements Serializable {...}
```

Note: Arrays are serializable.

- During the serialization process the content of all instance variables of the object are saved in the ObjectOutputStream.
- If the object contains references to other objects, these objects will be serialized, too (insofar they are also serializable)
  - For example, if a list or an array of bank accounts is serialized:
    - all bank account objects contained in the list or the array, as well as
    - all the objects (directly or indirectly) referenced by these objects will be serialized.

The serialization process does not modify the objects graph,
 i.e. the existing references between the objects are not lost and
 no object is wrongly duplicated.



Example – Serializing two arrays containing two bank accounts :

```
BankAccount acc1 = new BankAccount(1000); // Only..
BankAccount acc2 = new BankAccount(1000); // .. two objects
BankAccount[] accounts1 = {acc1, acc2, acc1};
BankAccount[] accounts2 = {acc2, acc1, acc1};
System.out.println("Out 1:" + Arrays.toString(accounts1));
System.out.println("Out 2:" + Arrays.toString(accounts2));

ObjectOutputStream out =
   new ObjectOutputStream(new FileOutputStream("accounts.ser"));
out.writeObject(accounts1);
out.writeObject(accounts2);
...
```

Getting the bank accounts back:

```
ObjectInputStream in =
   new ObjectInputStream(new FileInputStream("accounts.ser"));
accounts1 = (BankAccount[])in.readObject();
accounts2 = (BankAccount[])in.readObject();
System.out.println("In 1:" + Arrays.toString(accounts1));
System.out.println("In 2:" + Arrays.toString(accounts2));
```

- Output:
  - The correct object graph has been reconstituted

```
Out 1:[BankAccount@503bbcfd, BankAccount@1f4af32, BankAccount@503bbcfd]
Out 2:[BankAccount@1f4af32, BankAccount@503bbcfd, BankAccount@503bbcfd]
In 1:[BankAccount@39890510, BankAccount@52ab7af2, BankAccount@39890510]
In 2:[BankAccount@52ab7af2, BankAccount@39890510, BankAccount@39890510]
```

- If an object *may* be serialized, it does not mean that it *can* be serialized. The serialization process will abort if:
  - A non-serializable superclass of the object's class has no no-arg.
     constructor.
    - ▶ In that case, a no-arg. constructor is invoked when the object is deserialized, in order to restore the full object state. If it is missing, the object cannot be deserialized.
  - A NotSerializableException is thrown.
    - ▶ Doing this, it is possible to prevent, in a subclass, the serialization of an object even if one of its superclasses implements Serializable.
    - ▶ Note that, to generate an exception during the serialization process, you have to interfere with the serialization mechanism (see below).

- The object being serialized references a non-serializable object
  - ► You can avoid this by declaring the reference variable as transient.

    Transient objects are skipped by the serialization process.
  - ► Example: To be able to serialize the following class, the reference to the (non-serializable) PrintWriter object must be made transient.

```
public class BankAccount implements Serializable {
   private double balance;
   private transient PrintWriter out; // "out" is not serializable
   ...
}
```

 Note that static variables are ignored by the serialization process (they are not part of the object).

#### Versioning

- When an object is serialized, the state of the object and the name of the object's class(es) are stored, but not the whole class byte codes.
- Therefore, there is no guarantee that the serialized object will be deserialized using the same class. It could be a another version, for example:
  - if some time elapsed between the serialization and the deserialization of the object, and/or
  - if the object was moved to another location through Internet
- For that purpose, a class can indicate if it is *compatible* with the original version of itself, by using a long number called *Serial version Unique IDentifier* (SUID).

- The SUID represents a "fingerprint" of the class, obtained by selecting relevant information about the class and applying a special hash algorithm (Secure Hash Algorithm: SHA) on it.
- Two classes are compatible, only if the SUID stored in the object stream during the serialization step is equal to the SUID of the current class. This is the condition for an object to be deserialized.
- However, you can deactivate the default calculation of the SUID, by specifying your own SUID. When a class had a static data field named serialVersionUID, it will not compute the "fingerprint" manually but will use that value instead, allowing the programmer to control the class compatibilities.

private static final long serialVersionUID = ...; // User SUID

- You can obtain the SUID of a (serializable) class by calling the JDK utility serialver (a GUI version exists, too).
  - Example: obtaining the SUID for the class string:
    - Input

```
serialver java.lang.String
```

Output

java.lang.String: private static final long serialVersionUID = -6849794470754667710L;

- That utility is automatically called in Eclipse, when needed.

- Simple Serialization example:
  - The following program demonstrates the serialization of a Bank object, that contains a few bank accounts in an array list. If a file with serialized data exists, then it is loaded. Otherwise the program starts with a new bank.
  - Note that the Bank and BankAccount classes, both implement the Serializable interface.

#### BankAccount.java

```
import java.io.*;
  A bank account has a balance that can be changed by deposits and withdrawals.
*/
public class BankAccount implements Serializable {
  private int accountNumber;
 private String owner;
 private double balance;
  /**
    Constructs a bank account with a given balance
    @param anAccountNumber the account number for this account
    @param anOwner the owner for this account
    @param initialBalance the initial balance
  */
 public BankAccount(int anAccountNumber, String anOwner, double initialBalance) {
    accountNumber = anAccountNumber;
   owner = anOwner;
   balance = initialBalance;
    Gets the account number of this bank account.
    @return the account number
 public int getAccountNumber() {    return accountNumber; }
```

#### BankAccount.java (cont.)

```
/**
   Gets the owner of this bank account.
   @return the account owner
 */
public int getOwner() { return owner; }
 /**
   Deposits money into the bank account.
   @param amount the amount to deposit
 */
public void deposit(double amount) { balance += amount; }
/**
   Withdraws money from the bank account.
   @param amount the amount to withdraw
 */
public void withdraw(double amount) { balance -= amount; }
/**
   Gets the current balance of the bank account.
   @return the current balance
public double getBalance() { return balance; }
```

#### Bank.java

```
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
   This bank contains a collection of bank accounts.
public class Bank implements Serializable {
  private ArrayList<BankAccount> accounts;
  /**
     Constructs a bank with no bank accounts.
  public Bank() {
     accounts = new ArrayList<>();
     Adds an account to this bank.
    @param acc the account to add
  */
   public void addAccount(BankAccount acc) {
     accounts.add(acc);
```

#### Bank.java (cont.)

```
/**
   Finds a bank account with a given number.
  @param accountNumber the number to find
  @return the account with the given number, or null if there
   is no such account
*/
public BankAccount find(int accountNumber) {
  for (BankAccount acc : accounts)
    if (acc.getAccountNumber() == accountNumber) // Found a match
      return acc;
  return null; // No match in the entire array list
```

#### SerialDemo.java

```
import java.io.*;
/**
  This program demonstrates serialization of a Bank object.
  Bank accounts are added to the bank. Then the bank
  object is saved.
public class SerialDemo {
  public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException, ClassNotFoundException {
    Bank firstBankOfJava;
    String filename = "bank.ser";
    if (Files.exists(Paths.get(filename)))
     try (ObjectInputStream in = new ObjectInputStream(new FileInputStream(filename))){
       firstBankOfJava = (Bank)in.readObject();
    else {
     firstBankOfJava = new Bank();
     firstBankOfJava.addAccount(new BankAccount(1001, "E. Dijkstra", 20000));
     firstBankOfJava.addAccount(new BankAccount(1015, "E. Gamma", 10000));
```

#### SerialDemo.java (cont.)

```
// Deposit some money in one account and print the accounts.
BankAccount acc = firstBankOfJava.find(1001);
acc.deposit(100);
System.out.println(acc.getAccountNumber() + ": " + acc.getOwner() +
                   " - " + acc.getBalance());
acc = firstBankOfJava.find(1015);
  System.out.println(acc.getAccountNumber() + ": " + acc.getOwner() +
                     " - " + acc.getBalance());
try (ObjectOutputStream out =
                  new ObjectOutputStream(new FileOutputStream(filename))) {
 out.writeObject(firstBankOfJava);
```

# SerialDemo.java

Program Run

1001:20100.0 1015:10000.0

Second Program Run

1001:20200.0 1015:10000.0

- Object streams methods:
  - Besides writeObject and readObject, the object stream classes also have other methods, in particular to serialize/deserialize primitive data types. These methods have identical names as by the DataOutputStream and DataInputStream classes

- Customizing serialization process:
  - You can customize the default Java serialization process, by "overriding" the writeObject and readObject methods with private(!) methods in the serializable class.
  - Overriding the serialization process can be sometimes very useful.
     For example to serialize attributes of non-serializable objects or to "hide" data inside the serialized stream.
  - Example: Obscuring the account number of a bank account during the serialization process, so that this sensitive data cannot be directly accessible from the serialization stream.
    - ► To obscure the account number, we convert it to a string and encrypt it with the "Caesar cipher" algorithm.
    - ▶ For that, we define in the BankAccount class convenient writeObject and readObject methods, and declare accountNumber as transient.

```
public class BankAccount implements Serializable {
 private static final int KEY = 5; // Encryption key
 private transient int accountNumber;
 private String owner;
 private double balance;
 private void writeObject(ObjectOutputStream out) throws IOException {
   // Convert the account number into a char array
    char[] array = ("" + accountNumber).toCharArray();
   out.writeInt(array.length); // Write the account number length
   // Encrypt and write each account number character
   for (char ch : array) out.writeChar(encrypt(ch, KEY));
   // Write all non-static and non-transient fields of this BankAccount
   out.defaultWriteObject();
```

```
private void readObject(ObjectInputStream in)
                    throws IOException, ClassNotFoundException {
  int numberLength = in.readInt(); // Read the account number length
 // Read and decrypt each number character, convert them to int,
 // and rebuild the account number
  accountNumber = 0;
 for (int i = 0; i < numberLength; i++) {
    int nextDigit =
        Integer.parseInt("" + (char)encrypt(in.readChar(), -KEY));
    accountNumber = accountNumber * 10 + nextDigit;
 // Read all non-static and non-transient fields from the BankAccount
  in.defaultReadObject();
```

```
private int encrypt(int x, int key) {
   return (x + key) % 256; // Encrypt a value and return it
  }
}
```

Note that this example only assumes that you want to obscure some serialized data using a very simple algorithm. Java offers other tools to encrypt data with a high level of security without having to stress about the details of the encryption.