Inheritance

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- Java, Inheritance is an important pillar of OOP(Object-Oriented Programming).
- It is the mechanism in Java by which one class is allowed to inherit the features(fields and methods) of another class.
- In Java, Inheritance means creating new classes based on existing ones.
- A class that inherits from another class can reuse the methods and fields of that class.
- In addition, you can add new fields and methods to your current class as well.

Why Do We Need Java Inheritance?

- **Code Reusability:** The code written in the Superclass is common to all subclasses. Child classes can directly use the parent class code.
- **Method Overriding:** Method Overriding is achievable only through Inheritance. It is one of the ways by which Java achieves Run Time Polymorphism.
- **Abstraction:** The concept of abstract where we do not have to provide all details is achieved through inheritance. Abstraction only shows the functionality to the user.

Inheritance Basics

- To inherit a class, simply incorporate the definition of one class into another by using the **extends** keyword.
- The following program creates a superclass called **A** and a subclass called **B**.

- The general form of a **class** declaration that inherits a superclass is shown here:

class *subclass-name* extends *superclass-name* {

// body of class

}

```
// A simple example of inheritance.
// Create a superclass.
class A {
int i, j;
void showij() {
System.out.println("i and j: " + i + " " + j);
}
}
// Create a subclass by extending class A.
class B extends A {
int k;
void showk() {
System.out.println("k: " + k);
}
void sum() {
System.out.println("i+j+k: " + (i+j+k));
}
}
```

```
class SimpleInheritance {
public static void main(String args []) {
A superOb = new A();
B subOb = new B();
// The superclass may be used by itself.
superOb.i = 10;
superOb.j = 20;
System.out.println("Contents of superOb:
");
superOb.showij();
System.out.println();
/* The subclass has access to all public
members of
its superclass. */
subOb.i = 7;
subOb.j = 8;
subOb.k = 9;
System.out.println("Contents of subOb:
");
subOb.showij();
subOb.showk();
System.out.println();
System.out.println("Sum of i, j and k
in subOb:");
subOb.sum();
}
}
```

The output from this program is shown here:

```
• Contents of superOb:
• i and j: 10 20
• Contents of subOb:
• i and j: 7 8
• k: 9
• Sum of i, j and k in subOb:
• i+j+k: 24
```

Member Access and Inheritance

- Although a subclass includes all of the members of its superclass, it cannot access those members of the superclass that have been declared as **private**.
- For example, consider the following simple class hierarchy:

```
class A {
int i; // public by default
private int j; // private to A
void setij(int x, int y) {
i = x;
j = y;
}
}
// A's j is not accessible here.
class B extends A {
int total;
void sum() {
total = i + j; // ERROR, j is not accessible here
}
}
```

```
class Access {
public static void main(String args[]) {
B subOb = new B();
subOb.setij(10, 12);
subOb.sum();
System.out.println("Total is " + subOb.total);
}
}
```

```
// This program uses inheritance to extend Box.
class Box {
  double width;
  double height;
  double depth;

  // construct clone of an object
  Box(Box ob) { // pass object to constructor
    width = ob.width;
    height = ob.height;
    depth = ob.depth;
  }

  // constructor used when all dimensions specified
  Box(double w, double h, double d) {
    width = w;
    height = h;
    depth = d;
  }

  // constructor used when no dimensions specified
  Box() {
    width = -1;  // use  -1 to indicate
    height = -1; // an uninitialized
    depth = -1;  // box
  }

  // constructor used when cube is created
  Box(double len) {
    width = height = depth = len;
  }

  // compute and return volume
  double volume() {
    return width * height * depth;
  }
}
```

```
// Here, Box is extended to include weight.
class BoxWeight extends Box {
double weight; // weight of box
// constructor for BoxWeight
BoxWeight(double w, double h, double d, double m) {
width = w;
height = h;
depth = d;
weight = m;
}
}
class DemoBoxWeight {
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        BoxWeight mybox1 = new BoxWeight(10, 20, 15, 34.3);
        BoxWeight mybox2 = new BoxWeight(2, 3, 4, 0.076);
        double vol;
        vol = mybox1.volume();
        System.out.println("Volume of mybox1 is " + vol);
        System.out.println("Weight of mybox1 is " + mybox1.weight);
        System.out.println();
        vol = mybox2.volume();
        System.out.println("Volume of mybox2 is " + vol);
        System.out.println("Weight of mybox2 is " + mybox2.weight);
    }
}
```