Module 11 - Output and Input Streams

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General Notes

Module Content

ZyBooks

Output Streams

- Programs need a way to output data to a screen, file, or elsewhere.
- OutputStream is a class that supports output.
- Provides several overloaded methods for writing a sequence of bytes to a destination.
- The print() and println() methods are overloaded to support standard data types.
- System.out is a predefined OutputStream object reference associated with a system's standard output, usually a computer screen.
- The PrintStream class extends the base functionality of the OutputStream class and provides the print() and println()

- methods for converting different types of data into a sequence of characters.
- The System.out is essentially an object that has been associated with the screen.
 earlier section.

Input Streams

- Programs need to receive input data, whether from a keyboard, touchscreen, or elsewhere.
- InputStream is a class for achieving such input.
- InputStream provides several overloaded read() methods that allow a programmer to extract bytes from a particular source.
- System.in is a predefined input stream object reference that is associated with a system's standard input, which is usually a keyboard.
- The System.in input stream automatically reads the standard input from a memory region, known as a buffer, that the operating system fills with the input data.

Reading one byte at a time:

```
import java.io.IOException;
public class InputStreamReader {
   public static void main (String[] args)
   throws IOException {
      int usrInput;
      // Read 1st byte
      usrInput = System.in.read();
      // Read 2nd byte
      usrInput = System.in.read();
      // Read 3rd byte
      usrInput = System.in.read();
      // Read 4th byte
      usrInput = System.in.read();
      // Read 5th byte (empty buffer)
      usrInput = System.in.read();
}
```

Byte stream, throws clause, and Scanner

- A byte stream is used by programs to input or output 8-bits (a byte).
- System.in is an input byte stream, and thus the read() method reads the first 8-bit ASCII value available from the operating system's buffer.
- When using an InputStream, a programmer must append the clause throws IOException to the definition of main().
 - A throws clause tells the Java virtual machine that the corresponding method may exit unexpectedly due to an exception.
- Instead of directly reading bytes from System.in, a program typically uses the Scanner class as a wrapper that augments
 System.in by automatically scanning a sequence of bytes and converting those bytes to the desired data type.
- To initialize a Scanner object, a programmer can pass an InputStream, such as System.in, as an argument to the constructor.
- System.in.read() returns -1 when data is no longer available.

Exploring Further

- Oracle's OutputStream class specification
- Oracle's PrintStream class specification
- Oracle's System class specification
- Oracle's Java tutorials on I/O Streams
- Oracle's InputStream class specification

Conclusion

- Output and input streams are essential for programs to output and receive data.
- OutputStream and PrintStream classes are used for output and InputStream and Scanner classes are used for input.
- The System.out is an OutputStream object reference that is associated with a system's standard output and System.in is an InputStream object reference associated with a system's standard input.
- The Scanner class is often used to extract strings or integers from an input stream.

Output formatting

printf() and format() methods

- Programmer can adjust the way that a program's output appears, a task known as output formatting
- System.out provides the methods printf() and format() for output formatting
- Both methods are equivalent, so this discussion only refers to printf()
- The first argument of the printf() method, the format string, specifies
 the format of the text to print along with any number of placeholders for
 printing numeric values
- Placeholders are known as format specifiers and specify the type of value to print in its place
- A format specifier begins with the % character followed by another character that indicates the value type to be printed. Ex: %d indicates an integer

Format specifiers for the printf() and format() methods

Format specifier	Data type(s)	Notes
%с	char	Prints a single Unicode character
%d	int, long, short	Prints a decimal integer value
%o	int, long, short	Prints an octal integer value
%h	int, char, long, short	Prints a hexadecimal integer value
%f	float, double	Prints a floating-point value
%e	float, double	Prints a floating-point value in scientific notation
%s	String	Prints the characters in a String variable or literal
%%		Prints the " % " character
%n		Prints the platform-specific new-line character

Floating-point Values & Formatting

- Formatting floating-point output is commonly done using **sub-specifiers**
- A sub-specifier provides formatting options for a format specifier and are included between the % and format specifier character
 - Ex: The .1 sub-specifier in printf("%.1f", myFloat); causes the floating-point variable myFloat to be output with only 1 digit after the decimal point; if myFloat is 12.34, the output would be 12.3
- Format specifiers and sub-specifiers use the following form:
 %(flags)(width)(.precision)specifier

Sub- specifier	Description	Example	
width	Specifies the minimum number of characters to print. If the formatted value has more characters than the width, the value will not be truncated. If the formatted value has fewer characters than the width, the output will be padded with spaces (or 0's if the '0' flag is specified).	printf("Value: %7.2f", 12.3456); prints Value: 12.35 (Note that the number is rounded up)	
.precision	Specifies the number of digits to print following the decimal point. If the precision is not specified, a default precision of 6 is used.	printf("%.4f", 12.3456); prints 12.3456 (Note that the number is not rounded up)	
flags	 (left aligns the output given the specified width, padding the output with spaces) + (prints a preceding + sign for positive values; negative numbers are always printed with the - sign) 0 (pads the output with 0's when the formatted value has fewer characters than the width) space (prints a preceding space for positive value) 	printf("%+f", 12.3456); prints +12.345600 printf("%-7.2f", 12.3456); prints 12.35 (Note the two spaces after the number) printf("%07.2f", 12.3456); prints 0012.35 printf("% f", 12.3456); prints 12.345600 (Note the space before the number)	

• Keep in mind that the . is counted as a character for the width sub-specifier.

Example Output Formatting for Floating-point Numbers

```
import java.util.Scanner;
public class FlyDrive {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);
      double miles;  // User defined distance
double hoursFly;  // Time to fly distance
      double hoursDrive; // Time to drive distance
      // Prompt user for distance
      System.out.print("Enter a distance in miles: ");
      miles = scnr.nextDouble();
      // Calculate the correspond time to fly/drive distance
      hoursFly = miles / 500.0;
      hoursDrive = miles / 60.0;
      // Output resulting values
      System.out.printf("%.2f miles would take:\n", miles);
      System.out.printf("%.2f hours to fly\n", hoursFly);
      System.out.printf("%.2f hours to drive\n", hoursDrive);
}
```

Output:

```
Enter a distance in miles: 10.3
10.30 miles would take:
0.02 hours to fly
0.17 hours to drive
```

Integer Values and Formatting

- Formatting of integer values is also done using sub-specifiers
- The integer sub-specifiers are similar to the floating-point sub-specifiers except no .precision exists

Formatting of integer values is also done using sub-specifiers. The integer sub-specifiers are similar to the floating-point sub-specifiers except

no .precision exists. For the table below, assume myInt is 301.

Sub- specifier	Description	Example
width	Specifies the minimum number of characters to print. If the formatted value has more characters than the width, the value will not be truncated. If the formatted value has fewer characters than the width, the output will be padded with spaces (or 0 's if the 0 flag is specified).	System.out.printf("Value: %7d", myInt); Value: 301
flags	 : Left aligns the output given the specified width, padding the output with spaces. + : Print a preceding + sign for positive values. Negative numbers are always printed with the - sign. 0 : Pads the output with 0's when the formatted value has fewer characters than the width. space : Prints a preceding space for positive value. 	System.out.printf("%+d", myInt); +301 System.out.printf("%08d", myInt); 00000301 System.out.printf("%+08d", myInt); +0000301

Example Output Formatting for Integers

Output:

Earth is 149598000 kilometers from the sun.

Saturn is 1433449370 kilometers from the sun.

Strings

Strings may be formatted using sub-specifiers. For the table below, assume the myString variable is "Formatting".

Sub- specifier	Description	Example
width	Specifies the minimum number of characters to print. If the string has more characters than the width, the value will not be truncated. If the formatted value has fewer characters than the width, the output will be padded with spaces.	printf("%20s String", myString);
precision	Specifies the maximum number of characters to print. If the string has more characters than the precision, the string will be truncated.	printf("%.6s", myString);
flags	-: Left aligns the output given the specified width, padding the output with spaces.	printf("%-20s String", myString);

Flushing output

Importance of Flushing output

- Printing characters from the buffer to the output device (e.g., screen) requires a time-consuming reservation of processor resources.
- Once the resources are reserved, moving characters is fast, whether there is 1 character or 50 characters to print.
- To preserve resources, the system may wait until the buffer is full, or at least has a certain number of characters before moving them to the output device.
- With fewer characters in the buffer, the system may wait until the resources are not busy.

Situations when flushing output may be necessary

- Sometimes a programmer does not want the system to wait.
- For example, in a very processor-intensive program, waiting could cause delayed and/or jittery output.

Flushing the buffer

- The PrintStream method flush() flushes the stream's buffer contents.
 - For example, the statement System.out.flush(); writes the contents of the
 - buffer for System.out to the computer screen.
- Most Java implementations make System.out flush when a newline character is output or println() method is called.

Additional Information

Flushing the output stream is an important concept in programming to ensure timely and accurate output to the user. It is also crucial in situations where the program needs to print output to an external device, such as a file or a network socket. The flush() method should be used judiciously to balance the need for immediate output with the need to preserve system resources.

Exploring Further

Oracle's Java Formatter class specification

Streams using Strings

Scanner object with a String

- The Scanner object can accept different input sources including a String.
- A Scanner object associated with a String is often referred to as an input string stream.
- The Scanner object can use its methods like nextInt() and next() to break apart the String.
- A programmer has to know the String form, like "String String integer" or "integer String double", to parse individual items from

Reading From a String Using a Scanner Object

```
Scanner inSS = null;
                                  // Input string stream
String userInfo;
                                 // Input string
                                  // First name
String firstName;
String lastName;
                                 // Last name
                                  // Age
int userAge;
userInfo = "Amy Smith 19";
// Init scanner object with string
inSS = new Scanner(userInfo);
// Parse name and age values from string
firstName = inSS.next();
lastName = inSS.next();
userAge = inSS.nextInt();
// Output parsed values
System.out.println("First name: " + firstName);
System.out.println("Last name: " + lastName);
System.out.println("Age: " + userAge);
```

Output:

```
First name: Amy
Last name: Smith
Age: 19
```

Using String streams to process input text

- String streams are useful to process user input line-by-line.
- The program reads the input line as a String, then extracts individual data items from that String.
- The program can extract input from the stream using the next() methods.

Using a String Stream to Process a Line of Input Text

```
Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in); // Input stream for standard input
Scanner inSS = null;
                                       // Input string stream
                                       // Holds line of text
String lineString;
String firstName;
                                       // First name
String lastName;
                                      // Last name
int userAge;
                                       // Age
                                       // Flag to indicate next iteration
boolean inputDone;
inputDone = false;
// Prompt user for input
System.out.println("Enter \"firstname lastname age\" on each line");
System.out.println("(\"Exit\" as firstname exits).\n");
// Grab data as long as "Exit" is not entered
while (!inputDone) {
  // Entire line into lineString
   lineString = scnr.nextLine();
  // Create new input string stream
   inSS = new Scanner(lineString);
  // Now process the line
  firstName = inSS.next();
   // Output parsed values
   if (firstName.equals("Exit")) {
      System.out.println(" Exiting.");
      inputDone = true;
   else {
      lastName = inSS.next();
      userAge = inSS.nextInt();
      System.out.println(" First name: " + firstName);
      System.out.println(" Last name: " + lastName);
      System.out.println(" Age: " + userAge);
      System.out.println();
```

```
}
}
```

Output:

```
Enter "firstname lastname age" on each line
("Exit" as firstname exits).

Mary Jones 22
    First name: Mary
    Last name: Jones
    Age: 22

Mike Smith 24
    First name: Mike
    Last name: Smith
    Age: 24

Exit
    Exiting.
```

Using StringWriter and PrintWriter to create String streams

- An output string stream is created using StringWriter and PrintWriter classes.
 - To use these classes, import java.io.StringWriter and java.io.PrintWriter .
- StringWriter provides a character stream that allows a programmer to output characters.
- PrintWriter is a wrapper class that augments character streams, such
 as StringWriter, with print() and println() methods that allow a
 programmer to output various data types (e.g., int, double, String,
 etc.) to the underlying character stream in a similar manner to
 System.out.
- The StringWriter's toString() method can be used to copy the buffer to a String.

Creating a String Using Streams

```
Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);
// Basic character stream for fullname
StringWriter fullnameCharStream = new StringWriter();
// Augments character stream (fullname) with print()
PrintWriter fullnameOSS = new PrintWriter(fullnameCharStream);
// Basic character stream for age
StringWriter ageCharStream = new StringWriter();
// Augments character stream (age) with print()
PrintWriter ageOSS = new PrintWriter(ageCharStream);
                   // First name
String firstName;
String lastName;
                     // Last name
String fullName; // Full name (first and last)
String ageStr;
                     // Age (string)
int userAge;
                     // Age
// Prompt user for input
System.out.print("Enter \"firstname lastname age\": \n ");
firstName = scnr.next();
lastName = scnr.next();
userAge = scnr.nextInt();
// Writes formatted string to buffer, copies from underlying char buffer
fullnameOSS.print(lastName + ", " + firstName);
fullName = fullnameCharStream.toString();
// Output parsed input
System.out.println("\n Full name: " + fullName);
// Writes int age as characters to buffer
ageOSS.print(userAge);
// Appends (minor) to object if less than 21, then
// copies buffer into string
if (userAge < 21) {</pre>
   ageOSS.print(" (minor)");
}
ageStr = ageCharStream.toString();
```

```
// Output string
System.out.println(" Age: " + ageStr);
```

Output:

```
Enter "firstname lastname age":
Mary Jones 22

Full name: Jones, Mary
Age: 22

...

Enter "firstname lastname age":
Sally Smith 14

Full name: Smith, Sally
Age: 14 (minor)
```

Conclusion

- The Scanner class can accept different input sources, including Strings and standard input.
- String streams can process user input line-by-line and are useful when a programmer wishes to read input data from a string rather than from the keyboard.
- StringWriter and PrintWriter classes can be used to create output string streams to output various data types to the underlying character stream in a similar manner to System.out.

File Input

Opening and Reading from a File

- To read file input, a programmer can create a new input stream that comes from a file.
- FileInputStream is used to create a file input stream that opens the file denoted by a String variable, str, for reading.

- A common error is a mismatch between the variable data type and the file data.
- To read varying amounts of data in a file, a program can use a loop that reads until valid data is unavailable or the end of the file has been reached.
- The hasNextInt() method returns true if an integer is available for reading.

Example Input From a File

File Contents:

5

10

Program:

```
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.io.FileInputStream;
import java.io.IOException;
public class FileReadNums {
  public static void main (String[] args) throws IOException {
      FileInputStream fileByteStream = null; // File input stream
     Scanner inFS = null;
                                            // Scanner object
     int fileNum1;
                                          // Data value from file
      int fileNum2;
                                          // Data value from file
     // Try to open file
     System.out.println("Opening file numFile.txt.");
     fileByteStream = new FileInputStream("numFile.txt");
      inFS = new Scanner(fileByteStream);
     // File is open and valid if we got this far
     // (otherwise exception thrown)
     // numFile.txt should contain two integers, else problems
      System.out.println("Reading two integers.");
      fileNum1 = inFS.nextInt();
     fileNum2 = inFS.nextInt();
     // Output values read from file
      System.out.println("num1: " + fileNum1);
      System.out.println("num2: " + fileNum2);
      System.out.println("num1+num2: " + (fileNum1 + fileNum2));
     // Done with file, so try to close it
      System.out.println("Closing file numFile.txt.");
      // close() may throw IOException if fails
     fileByteStream.close();
  }
```

Failure to open file:

```
Opening file numFile.txt.
Exception in thread "main"
java.io.FileNotFoundException:
numFile.txt
(No such file or directory)
...
```

Successfully open file:

```
Opening file numFile.txt.

Reading two integers.

num1: 5

num2: 10

num1 + num2: 15

Closing file numFile.txt.
```

Reading Until the End of the File

- A program can read varying amounts of data in a file by using a loop that reads until valid data is unavailable or the end of the file has been reached.
- The Scanner class offers multiple hasNext() methods for various data types such as int, double, String, etc.

Example: Reading a Varying Amount of Data from a File

```
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.io.FileInputStream;
import java.io.IOException;
public class FileReadVaryingAmount {
   public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
      FileInputStream fileByteStream = null; // File input stream
      Scanner inFS = null;
                                             // Scanner object
      int fileNum;
                                             // Data value from file
      // Try to open file
      System.out.println("Opening file myfile.txt.");
      fileByteStream = new FileInputStream("myfile.txt");
      inFS = new Scanner(fileByteStream);
      // File is open and valid if we got this far (otherwise exception
thrown)
      System.out.println("Reading and printing numbers.");
      while (inFS.hasNextInt()) {
         fileNum = inFS.nextInt();
         System.out.println("num: " + fileNum);
      }
      // Done with file, so try to close it
      System.out.println("Closing file myfile.txt.");
      fileByteStream.close(); // close() may throw IOException if fails
}
```

Example: Counting Instances of a Specific Word

- The following program uses both the hasNext() and next() methods to determine how many times a user entered word (type String) appears in a file.
- The number of words in the file is unknown, so the program extracts words until no more words exist in the file.

```
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.io.FileInputStream;
import java.io.IOException;
public class CountingWords {
   public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
      Scanner scnr = new Scanner(System.in);
      FileInputStream fileByteStream = null; // File input stream
      Scanner inFS = null;
                                            // Scanner object
      String userWord;
      int wordFreq = 0;
      String currWord;
      // Try to open file
      System.out.println("Opening file wordFile.txt.");
      fileByteStream = new FileInputStream("wordFile.txt");
      inFS = new Scanner(fileByteStream);
      // Word to be found
      System.out.print("Enter a word: ");
      userWord = scnr.next();
      while (inFS.hasNext()) {
         currWord = inFS.next();
         if(currWord.equals(userWord)) {
           ++wordFreq;
      }
      System.out.println(userWord + " appears in the file " +
                         wordFreq + " times.");
      // Done with file, so try to close it
      fileByteStream.close(); // close() may throw IOException if fails
}
```

```
twenty
associable
twenty
unredacted
associable
folksay
twenty
```

Output:

```
Opening file wordFile.txt.
Enter a word: twenty
twenty appears in the file 3 times.
```

Exploring Further

- Oracle's Java FileInputStream class specification
- Oracle's Java IOException class specification

Conclusion

- File input can be useful when a program should get input from a file rather than from a user typing on a keyboard.
- A programmer can create a new input stream that comes from a file, rather than the predefined input stream System.in that comes from the standard input (keyboard).
- The FileInputStream class is used to create a file input stream and opens the file denoted by a String variable or String literal for reading.
- A program can read varying amounts of data in a file by using a loop that reads until valid data is unavailable or the end of the file has been reached.
- The hasNextInt() method returns true if an integer is available for reading, and the Scanner class offers multiple hasNext() methods for various data types such as int, double, String, etc.
- While using the hasNext() method, the program extracts data from the file until no more data exists in the file.

Overall, file input is a useful tool for programs that need to read data from a file. By utilizing the FileInputStream and Scanner classes, a program can read

data in various data types, including integers, doubles, and Strings. Using loops and hasNext() methods, a program can read varying amounts of data from a file and extract data from the file until there is no more data available.

File Output

Introduction

- FileOutputStream is a class that allows writing to a file, and it inherits from OutputStream.
- PrintWriter is commonly used to write strings and other data types to a file.

Basic steps for opening and writing a file

Action	Sample code
Open the file helloWorld.txt for writing	FileOutputStream fileStream = new FileOutputStream("helloWorld.txt");
Create a PrintWriter to write to the file	PrintWriter outFS = new PrintWriter(fileStream);
Write the string "Hello World!" to the file	outFS.println("Hello World!");
Close the file after writing all desired data	outFS.close();

Note: The above table is written in Markdown format. Markdown is a lightweight markup language that allows you to format text using plain text syntax. Markdown is commonly used in documentation, README files, and online forums.

Example: Writing a text file

- FileOutputStream constructor throws an exception if the file cannot be opened for writing.
- If no exception is thrown, the file is created and initially empty.
- Data can be written to the file, then the file is closed.

```
import java.io.PrintWriter;
import java.io.FileOutputStream;
import java.io.IOException;
public class TextFileWriteSample {
  public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
     FileOutputStream fileStream = null;
     PrintWriter outFS = null;
     // Try to open file
     fileStream = new FileOutputStream("myoutfile.txt");
     outFS = new PrintWriter(fileStream);
     // Arriving here implies that the file can now be written
     // to, otherwise an exception would have been thrown.
     outFS.println("Hello");
     outFS.println("1 2 3");
     // Done with file, so try to close
     // Note that close() may throw an IOException on failure
     outFS.close();
 }
}
/* Contents of
 * myoutfile.txt:
* Hello
 * 1 2 3
 */
```

Example: Writing a simple HTML file

 An HTML file can be written similar to a text file using PrintWriter.

```
import java.io.PrintWriter;
import java.io.FileOutputStream;
import java.io.IOException;
public class HTMLFileWriteSample {
  static void writeHTMLFile(PrintWriter printer, String innerHTML) {
     printer.println("<!DOCTYPE html>");
    printer.println("<html>");
    printer.println(" <body>");
    printer.println(" " + innerHTML + "");
    printer.println(" </body>");
    printer.println("</html>");
  public static void main(String[] args) throws IOException {
    // Open an output file stream and create a PrintWriter
    FileOutputStream fileStream = new FileOutputStream("simple.html");
    PrintWriter filePrinter = new PrintWriter(fileStream);
    // Write the HTML file, then close filePrinter
    writeHTMLFile(filePrinter, "Hello <b>HTML</b> world!");
    filePrinter.close();
    // Use the same function, writeHTMLFile, to write to the console
    PrintWriter systemOutPrinter = new PrintWriter(System.out);
    writeHTMLFile(systemOutPrinter, "Hello <b>HTML</b> world!");
    systemOutPrinter.close();
 }
}
/* simple.html file contents:
* <!DOCTYPE html>
* <html>
 * <body>
 * Hello <b>HTML</b> world!
 * </body>
 * </html> */
/* Console:
* <!DOCTYPE html>
* <html>
 * <body>
 * Hello <b>HTML</b> world!
```

```
* </body>
* </html> */
```

Conclusion

- FileOutputStream and PrintWriter classes are used to write to a file in Java.
- The FileOutputStream constructor opens a file for writing, while
 PrintWriter is commonly used to write strings and other data types to a file.
- Writing a text file and an HTML file examples are provided.