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<b>Course</b>	MSc. Computing

<b>Assessment</b>	Task 8: Development Report
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<b>Title</b>	ICA Part 2 – Task 8
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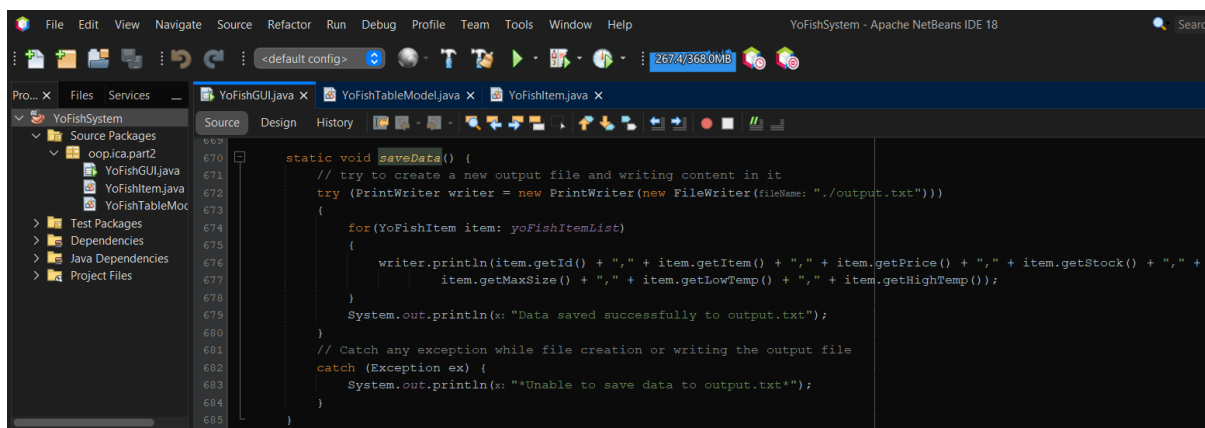
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## Section 1: Discussion of GUI Application

Java Swing API was found as completely new to me. Working with the libraries was a bit of challenge at first. Studied a ML system based on java swing GUI (Saudagar *et al.*, 2023) . However, as the project progressed, I was able to grab a good hold on the GUI. The design mode offered by it helped a lot in development, dragging and dropping elements saved a lot of time and proved to be a low code solution (Calçada and Bernardino, 2022) .

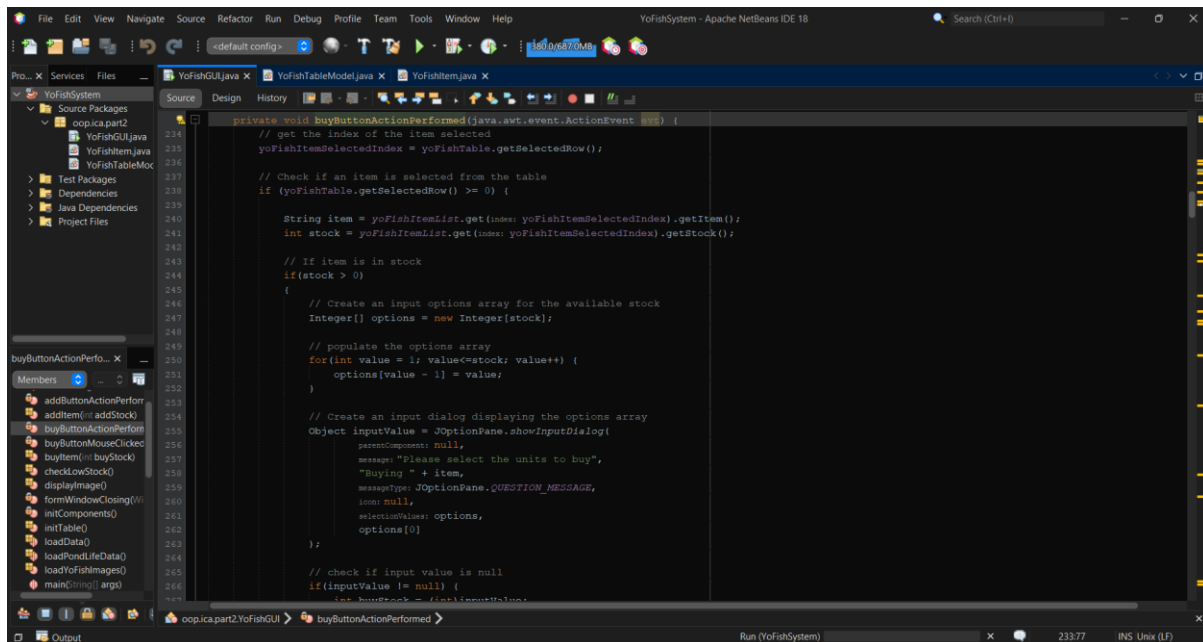
It was discovered that there was some reusable code in Task 3's console application. The code for reading from an input file in task 3, worked in the GUI application with minimum number of alterations. To be precise just the line of code where data read from the file was used to create an 'ArtPrint' object had to be changed to create and 'YoFishItem' object instead. The writing to output file code had no significant changes. Apart from that, also the code used for buying and adding of stock in Task 3 was used as a reference in the application. It was specifically referred for noting how the user selected item would be fetched from the array list and how its fields i.e. stock field would be changed.



**Fig 1:** Saving data to an output file (Reusable code from Task 3)

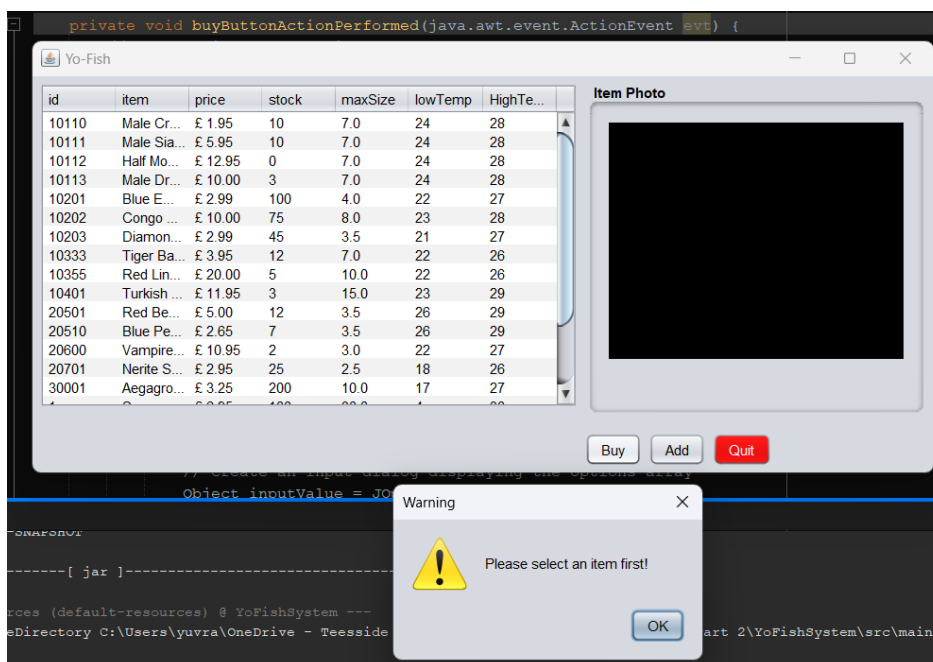
## Section 2: Discussion of Working Application

Buy operation is selected to discuss its functionality in this section. Three cases have been considered while developing the buy option, these would be discussed below:



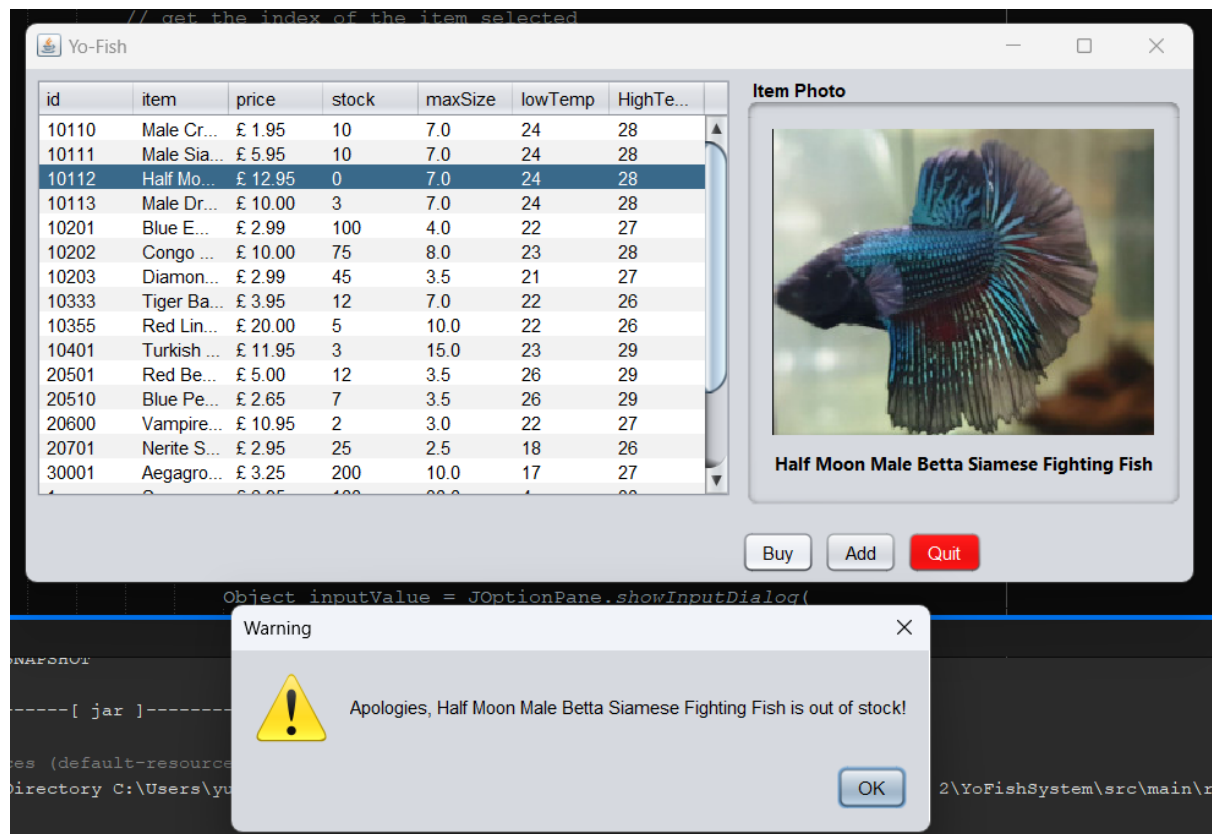
**Fig 2:** Buy button action code

- 1) IF user has selected an item before clicking 'Buy':** If the user has selected an item from the JTable and then clicked buy button, then the 'getSelectedRow()' method on the JTable returns a number greater than 0. If it returns a 0, then a warning dialog has been shown to the user advising him to select an Item before making a purchase.



**Fig 3:** Item not selected before buy (Warning)

- 2) **IF stock of that item is less than or equal to zero:** If the stock field of the selected 'YoFishItem' object has a value less than or equal to 0 i.e. no items are remaining to buy, then a dialog box is made to pop-up warning the user that the item is out of stock.



**Fig 4:** Item out of stock (Warning)

- 3) **IF stock is greater than zero:** If the stock field of the selected 'YoFishItem' object has a value greater than 0 i.e. its in stock, then an input dialog box is shown to the user, asking him to select the quantity of items he wishes to buy. A dropdown input has been chosen over a traditional input box because it eliminates the hassle of placing user input validations by restricting the user to choose amongst a list of valid inputs. In this case a dropdown of integers ranging from 1 to the maximum number of items in stock for the selected YoFish product. This takes away the risk of user entering an invalid input e.g. a senseless integer, alphabets or special characters. At the end of a successful purchase a 'Confirmation of Sale' message box has been displayed to the user showcasing name of the fish bought, its price in pounds, number of units purchased and the stock remaining after the purchase.

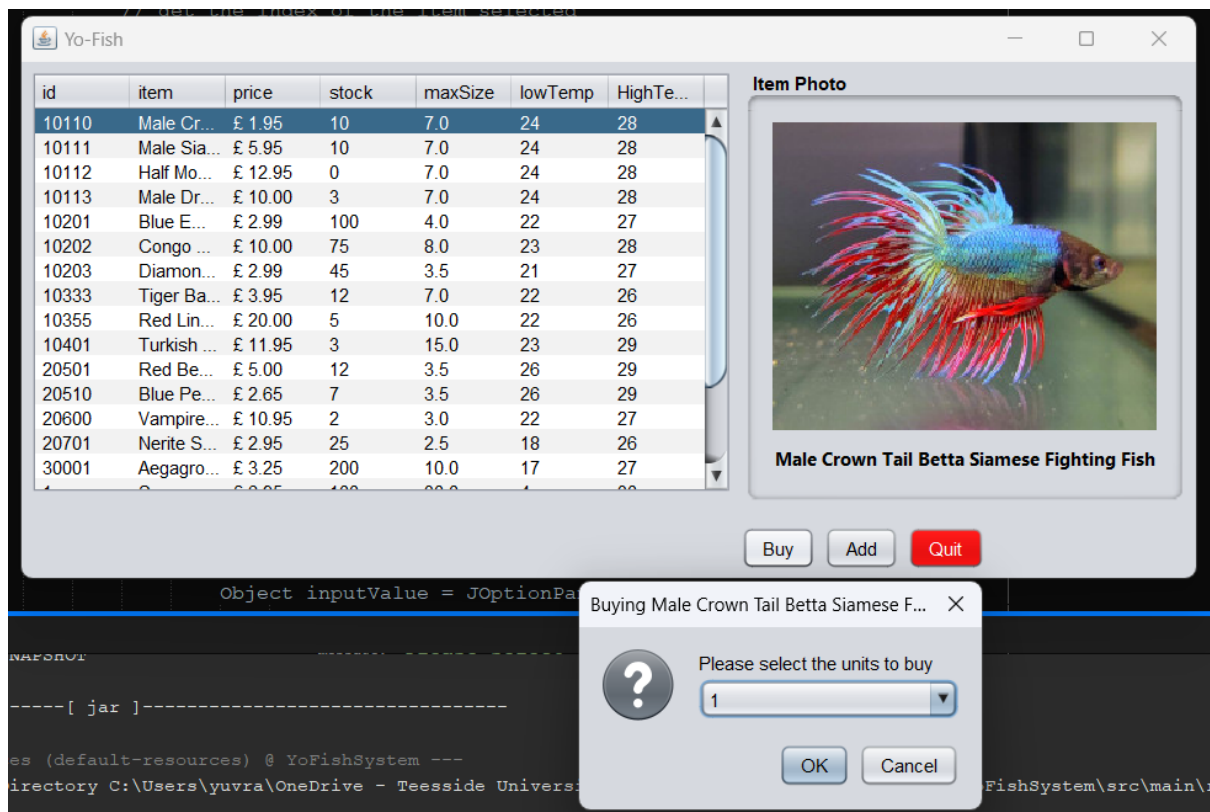


Fig 5: Input dialog for buy operation

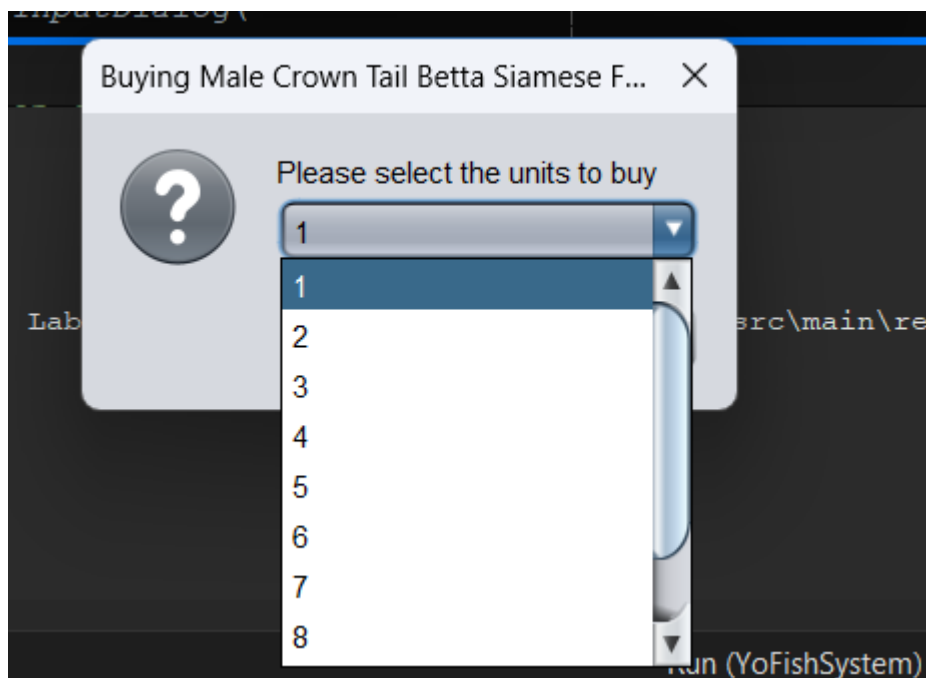


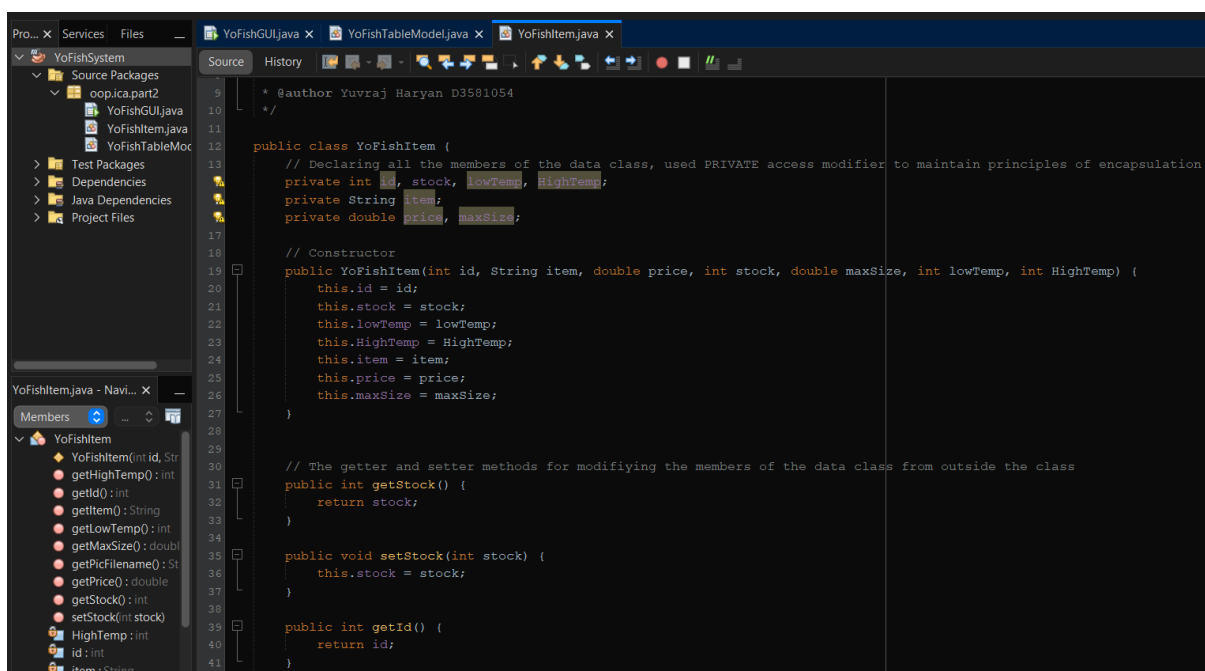
Fig 6: Dropdown input



**Fig 7:** Confirmation of Sale dialog

## Section 3: Discussion of Merged Application

Design principles of both the applications were to be studied to be able to merge them (Hu, 2023). When the data classes of 'YoFishSystem' and 'Pondlife' were compared it was observed that both the classes have members which are similar. To be precise only one field wasn't common in the both the classes, namely the 'notes' field in the Pondlife data class which holds the description of the product being sold. And as the pondlife items were to be translated as YoFish items this field was chosen to be eliminated and rest of the fields for Pondlife products could be read and stored in the corresponding fields of the YoFish item while instantiating an 'YoFishItem' object.



**Fig 8:** Yo-Fish item data class

The code used for reading data from the 'yo-fish.txt' and 'pondlife.txt' input files is almost the same. Minor alterations were required where the application reads the comma separated values from both the input files as the sequence of values in the input file should match the order of parameters of the constructor for the 'YoFishItem' class. This was achieved simply by reading the values in different orders for different input files and adding them in the same sequence to the constructor parameters. 'loadData()' and 'loadPondLifeData()' were the 2 functions created for loading data from the Yo-Fish and Pondlife input files respectively.

## Section 4: Discussion of Improvement

**Improvement:** Not offering the user an option to add new items for sale to the application has made the application rigid and is limiting its use case. User should be provided with a functionality to add new products to the YoFishSystem. This would make the application more useful and fit for the purpose.

**Changes required to the application:** A new button needs to be added to the main GUI menu for user to add a new item to the product list 'Add new item'. An input form in the form of dialog needs to be introduced which would receive data regarding the item e.g. its name, price, stock units, etc. This would be then displayed in the main table on the GUI once the item is successfully added.

**Code implementation:** Event listeners should be set up for the new 'Add new item' button. Code should be written for popping-up a new dialog containing the input form for the item data. The data entered by the user in the input fields needs to be validated at code level to ensure that acceptable data types have been provided. Using valid data a 'YoFishItem' object should be instantiated which will be appended to the main Array List and also to the data object of the 'YoFishTableModel' (AbstractTableModel) so that it will be reflected in the JTable.

**Testing the improvements:** When developing a GUI application testing the event listeners by generating events for the event queue is crucial (Newmarch, 1999). Mainly the input form for receiving the data regarding the new item needs to be tested. Test cases are required to be written focusing on checking the input validations. Application should be inputted with invalid data and edge cases to verify the error handling mechanism. Buying and restocking operations should also be performed once on the newly added items.



## References

Calçada, A. and Bernardino, J. (2022) 'Experimental Evaluation of Low Code development, Java Swing and JavaScript programming', *Proceedings of the 26th International Database Engineered Applications Symposium*, , pp. 103-112. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3548785.3548792>

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