

Object-Oriented Programming: Inheritance

Introduction

- Inheritance
 - A form of software reuse in which a new class is created by absorbing an existing class's members and embellishing them with new or modified capabilities.
 - Can save time during program development by basing new classes on existing proven and debugged high-quality software.
 - Increases the likelihood that a system will be implemented and maintained effectively.

Introduction (Cont.)

- When creating a class, rather than declaring completely new members, you can designate that the new class should inherit the members of an existing class.
 - Existing class is the **superclass**
 - New class is the **subclass**
- Each subclass can be a superclass of future subclasses.
- A subclass can add its own fields and methods.
- A subclass is more specific than its superclass and represents a more specialized group of objects.
- The subclass exhibits the behaviors of its superclass and can add behaviors that are specific to the subclass.
 - This is why inheritance is sometimes referred to as **specialization**.

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Introduction (Cont.)

- The **direct superclass** is the superclass from which the subclass explicitly inherits.
- An **indirect superclass** is any class above the direct superclass in the **class hierarchy**.
- The Java class hierarchy begins with class **Object** (in package **java.lang**)
 - *Every class in Java directly or indirectly extends* (or “inherits from”) **Object**.
- Java supports only **single inheritance**, in which each class is derived from exactly one direct superclass.

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Introduction (Cont.)

- We distinguish between the **is-a relationship** and the **has-a relationship**
- *Is-a* represents inheritance
 - In an *is-a* relationship, an object of a subclass can also be treated as an object of its superclass
- *Has-a* represents composition
 - In a *has-a* relationship, an object contains as members references to other objects

5

Superclasses and Subclasses

- Figure 9.1 lists several simple examples of superclasses and subclasses
 - Superclasses tend to be “more general” and subclasses “more specific.”
- Because every subclass object *is an* object of its superclass, and one superclass can have many subclasses, the set of objects represented by a superclass is typically larger than the set of objects represented by any of its subclasses.

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Superclass	Subclasses
Student	GraduateStudent, UndergraduateStudent
Shape	Circle, Triangle, Rectangle, Sphere, Cube
Loan	CarLoan, HomeImprovementLoan, MortgageLoan
Employee	Faculty, Staff
BankAccount	CheckingAccount, SavingsAccount

Fig. 9.1 | Inheritance examples.

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Superclasses and Subclasses (Cont.)

- A superclass exists in a hierarchical relationship with its subclasses.
- Fig. 9.2 shows a sample university community class hierarchy
 - Also called an **inheritance hierarchy**.
- Each arrow in the hierarchy represents an *is-a relationship*.
- Follow the arrows upward in the class hierarchy
 - an Employee *is a* CommunityMember”
 - “a Teacher *is a* Faculty member.”
- CommunityMember is the direct superclass of Employee, Student and Alumnus and is an indirect superclass of all the other classes in the diagram.
- Starting from the bottom, you can follow the arrows and apply the *is-a* relationship up to the topmost superclass.

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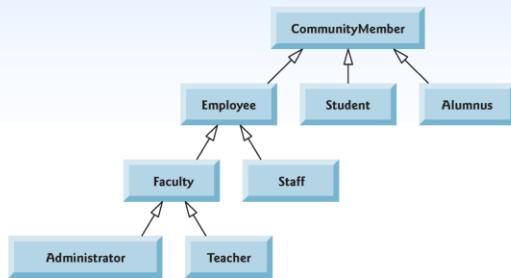


Fig. 9.2 | Inheritance hierarchy for university CommunityMembers.

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Superclasses and Subclasses (Cont.)

- Fig. 9.3 shows a **Shape** inheritance hierarchy.
- You can follow the arrows from the bottom of the diagram to the topmost superclass in this class hierarchy to identify several *is-a* relationships.
 - A **Triangle** *is a* **TwoDimensionalShape** and *is a* **Shape**
 - A **Sphere** *is a* **ThreeDimensionalShape** and *is a* **Shape**.

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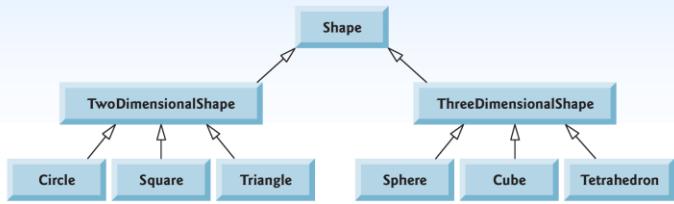


Fig. 9.3 | Inheritance hierarchy for Shapes.

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Superclasses and Subclasses (Cont.)

- Not every class relationship is an inheritance relationship.
- *Has-a* relationship
 - Create classes by composition of existing classes.
 - Example: Given the classes **Employee**, **BirthDate** and **PhoneNumber**, it's improper to say that an **Employee** *is a* **BirthDate** or that an **Employee** *is a* **PhoneNumber**.
 - However, an **Employee** *has a* **BirthDate**, and an **Employee** *has a* **PhoneNumber**.

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Superclasses and Subclasses (Cont.)

- Objects of all classes that extend a common superclass can be treated as objects of that superclass.
 - Commonality expressed in the members of the superclass.
- Inheritance issue
 - A subclass can inherit methods that it does not need or should not have.
 - Even when a superclass method is appropriate for a subclass, that subclass often needs a customized version of the method.
 - The subclass can **override** (redefine) the superclass method with an appropriate implementation.

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protected Members

- A class's **public** members are accessible wherever the program has a reference to an object of that class or one of its subclasses.
- A class's **private** members are accessible only within the class itself.
- **protected** access is an intermediate level of access between **public** and **private**.
 - A superclass's **protected** members can be accessed by members of that superclass, by members of its subclasses and by members of other classes in the same package
 - **protected** members also have package access.
 - All **public** and **protected** superclass members retain their original access modifier when they become members of the subclass.

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protected Members (Cont.)

- A superclass's **private** members are hidden in its subclasses
 - They can be accessed only through the **public** or **protected** methods inherited from the superclass
- Subclass methods can refer to **public** and **protected** members inherited from the superclass simply by using the member names.
- When a subclass method overrides an inherited superclass method, the superclass method can be accessed from the subclass by preceding the superclass method name with keyword **super** and a dot (.) separator.

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Software Engineering Observation 9.1

*Methods of a subclass cannot directly access **private** members of their superclass. A subclass can change the state of **private** superclass instance variables only through **non-private** methods provided in the superclass and inherited by the subclass.*

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Software Engineering Observation 9.2

Declaring private instance variables helps you test, debug and correctly modify systems. If a subclass could access its superclass's private instance variables, classes that inherit from that subclass could access the instance variables as well. This would propagate access to what should be private instance variables, and the benefits of information hiding would be lost.

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Relationship between Superclasses and Subclasses

- Inheritance hierarchy containing types of employees in a company's payroll application
- Commission employees are paid a percentage of their sales
- Base-salaried commission employees receive a base salary plus a percentage of their sales.

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Creating and Using a CommissionEmployee Class

- Class **CommissionEmployee** (Fig. 9.4) **extends** class **Object** (from package **java.lang**).
 - **CommissionEmployee** inherits **Object**'s methods.
 - If you don't explicitly specify which class a new class extends, the class extends **Object** implicitly.

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```
1 // Fig. 9.4: CommissionEmployee.java
2 // CommissionEmployee class represents an employee paid a
3 // percentage of gross sales.
4 public class CommissionEmployee extends Object {
5 {
6     private String firstName;
7     private String lastName;
8     private String socialSecurityNumber;
9     private double grossSales; // gross weekly sales
10    private double commissionRate; // commission percentage
11
12    // five-argument constructor
13    public CommissionEmployee( String first, String last, String ssn,
14        double sales, double rate )
15    {
16        // implicit call to Object constructor occurs here
17        firstName = first;
18        lastName = last;
19        socialSecurityNumber = ssn;
20        setGrossSales( sales ); // validate and store gross sales
21        setCommissionRate( rate ); // validate and store commission rate
22    } // end five-argument CommissionEmployee constructor
```

extends Object not required; this will
be done implicitly

Fig. 9.4 | **CommissionEmployee** class represents an employee paid a percentage of gross sales. (Part I of 5.)

20

```
23 // set first name
24 public void setFirstName( String first )
25 {
26     firstName = first; // should validate
27 } // end method setFirstName
28
29 // return first name
30 public String getFirstName()
31 {
32     return firstName;
33 } // end method getFirstName
34
35 // set last name
36 public void setLastName( String last )
37 {
38     lastName = last; // should validate
39 } // end method setLastName
40
41
```

Fig. 9.4 | CommissionEmployee class represents an employee paid a percentage of gross sales. (Part 2 of 5.)

21

```
42 // return last name
43 public String getLastname()
44 {
45     return lastName;
46 } // end method getLastname
47
48 // set social security number
49 public void setSocialSecurityNumber( String ssn )
50 {
51     socialSecurityNumber = ssn; // should validate
52 } // end method setSocialSecurityNumber
53
54 // return social security number
55 public String getSocialSecurityNumber()
56 {
57     return socialSecurityNumber;
58 } // end method getSocialSecurityNumber
59
60 // set gross sales amount
61 public void setGrossSales( double sales )
62 {
63     grossSales = ( sales < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : sales;
64 } // end method setGrossSales
```

Fig. 9.4 | CommissionEmployee class represents an employee paid a percentage of gross sales. (Part 3 of 5.)

22

```

65 // return gross sales amount
66 public double getGrossSales()
67 {
68     return grossSales;
69 } // end method getGrossSales
70
71 // set commission rate
72 public void setCommissionRate( double rate )
73 {
74     commissionRate = ( rate > 0.0 && rate < 1.0 ) ? rate : 0.0;
75 } // end method setCommissionRate
76
77 // return commission rate
78 public double getCommissionRate()
79 {
80     return commissionRate;
81 } // end method getCommissionRate
82
83

```

Fig. 9.4 | CommissionEmployee class represents an employee paid a percentage of gross sales. (Part 4 of 5.)

23

```

84 // calculate earnings
85 public double earnings()
86 {
87     return commissionRate * grossSales;
88 } // end method earnings
89
90 // return String representation of CommissionEmployee object
91 @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
92 public String toString()
93 {
94     return String.format( "%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",
95             "commission employee", firstName, lastName,
96             "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,
97             "gross sales", grossSales,
98             "commission rate", commissionRate );
99 } // end method toString
100 } // end class CommissionEmployee

```

Overridden `toString` customizes how this method works for a `CommissionEmployee`. `@Override` helps compiler ensure that the method has the same signature as a method in the superclass.

Fig. 9.4 | CommissionEmployee class represents an employee paid a percentage of gross sales. (Part 5 of 5.)

24

Creating and Using a CommissionEmployee Class (Cont.)

- Constructors are not inherited.
- The first task of a subclass constructor is to call its direct superclass's constructor explicitly or implicitly
 - Ensures that the instance variables inherited from the superclass are initialized properly.
- If the code does not include an explicit call to the superclass constructor, Java implicitly calls the superclass's default or no-argument constructor.
- A class's default constructor calls the superclass's default or no-argument constructor.

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Creating and Using a CommissionEmployee Class (Cont.)

- `toString` is one of the methods that every class inherits directly or indirectly from class `Object`.
 - Returns a `String` representing an object.
 - Called implicitly whenever an object must be converted to a `String` representation.
- Class `Object`'s `toString` method returns a `String` that includes the name of the object's class.
 - This is primarily a placeholder that can be overridden by a subclass to specify an appropriate `String` representation.

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Creating and Using a CommissionEmployee Class (Cont.)

- To override a superclass method, a subclass must declare a method with the same signature as the superclass method
- `@Override` annotation
 - Indicates that a method should override a superclass method with the same signature.
 - If it does not, a compilation error occurs.

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Common Programming Error 9.1

Using an incorrect method signature when attempting to override a superclass method causes an unintentional method overload that can lead to subtle logic errors.

28



Error-Prevention Tip 9.1

Declare overridden methods with the `@Override` annotation to ensure at compilation time that you defined their signatures correctly. It's always better to find errors at compile time rather than at runtime.

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Common Programming Error 9.2

It's a syntax error to override a method with a more restricted access modifier—a `public` method of the superclass cannot become a `protected` or `private` method in the subclass; a `protected` method of the superclass cannot become a `private` method in the subclass. Doing so would break the is-a relationship in which it's required that all subclass objects be able to respond to method calls that are made to `public` methods declared in the superclass. If a `public` method, for example, could be overridden as a `protected` or `private` method, the subclass objects would not be able to respond to the same method calls as superclass objects. Once a method is declared `public` in a superclass, the method remains `public` for all that class's direct and indirect subclasses.

30

```

1 // Fig. 9.5: CommissionEmployeeTest.java
2 // CommissionEmployee class test program.
3
4 public class CommissionEmployeeTest
5 {
6     public static void main( String[] args )
7     {
8         // instantiate CommissionEmployee object
9         CommissionEmployee employee = new CommissionEmployee(
10             "Sue", "Jones", "222-22-2222", 10000, .06 );
11
12     // get commission employee data
13     System.out.println(
14         "Employee information obtained by get methods: \n");
15     System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "First name is",
16         employee.getFirstName() );
17     System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Last name is",
18         employee.getLastName() );
19     System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Social security number is",
20         employee.getSocialSecurityNumber() );
21     System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Gross sales is",
22         employee.getGrossSales() );
23     System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Commission rate is",
24         employee.getCommissionRate() );

```

Fig. 9.5 | CommissionEmployee class test program. (Part 1 of 2.)

31

```

25     employee.setGrossSales( 500 ); // set gross sales
26     employee.setCommissionRate( .1 ); // set commission rate
27
28     System.out.printf( "\n%s:\n%s\n",
29         "Updated employee information obtained by toString", employee );
30     } // end main
31 } // end class CommissionEmployeeTest

```

Implicit `toString` call occurs here

Employee information obtained by get methods:

First name is Sue
 Last name is Jones
 Social security number is 222-22-2222
 Gross sales is 10000.00
 Commission rate is 0.06

Updated employee information obtained by `toString`:

commission employee: Sue Jones
 social security number: 222-22-2222
 gross sales: 500.00
 commission rate: 0.10

Fig. 9.5 | CommissionEmployee class test program. (Part 2 of 2.)

32

Creating and Using a BasePlusCommissionEmployee Class

- Class `BasePlusCommissionEmployee` (Fig. 9.6) contains a first name, last name, social security number, gross sales amount, commission rate and base salary.
 - All but the base salary are in common with class `CommissionEmployee`.
- Class `BasePlusCommissionEmployee`'s public services include a constructor, and methods `earnings`, `toString` and `get` and `set` for each instance variable
 - Most of these are in common with class `CommissionEmployee`.

33

```
1 // Fig. 9.6: BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java
2 // BasePlusCommissionEmployee class represents an employee that receives
3 // a base salary in addition to commission.
4
5 public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee
6 {
7     private String firstName;
8     private String lastName;
9     private String socialSecurityNumber;
10    private double grossSales; // gross weekly sales
11    private double commissionRate; // commission percentage
12    private double baseSalary; // base salary per week
13
14    // six-argument constructor
15    public BasePlusCommissionEmployee( String first, String last,
16                                         String ssn, double sales, double rate, double salary )
17    {
18        // implicit call to Object constructor occurs here
19        firstName = first;
20        lastName = last;
21        socialSecurityNumber = ssn;
22        setGrossSales( sales ); // validate and store gross sales
23
24    }
25
26    // get and set methods
27    // ...
28
29    // toString method
30    // ...
31
32    // earnings method
33    // ...
34
35}
```

The only new piece of data in class `BasePlusCommissionEmployee`

Fig. 9.6 | `BasePlusCommissionEmployee` class represents an employee who receives a base salary in addition to a commission. (Part I of 6.)

34

```

23     setCommissionRate( rate ); // validate and store commission rate
24     setBaseSalary( salary ); // validate and store base salary
25 } // end six-argument BasePlusCommissionEmployee constructor
26
27 // set first name
28 public void setFirstName( String first )
29 {
30     firstName = first; // should validate
31 } // end method setFirstName
32
33 // return first name
34 public String getFirstName()
35 {
36     return firstName;
37 } // end method getFirstName
38
39 // set last name
40 public void setLastName( String last )
41 {
42     lastName = last; // should validate
43 } // end method setLastName
44

```

Fig. 9.6 | `BasePlusCommissionEmployee` class represents an employee who receives a base salary in addition to a commission. (Part 2 of 6.)

35

```

45 // return last name
46 public String getLastname()
47 {
48     return lastName;
49 } // end method getLastname
50
51 // set social security number
52 public void setSocialSecurityNumber( String ssn )
53 {
54     socialSecurityNumber = ssn; // should validate
55 } // end method setSocialSecurityNumber
56
57 // return social security number
58 public String getSocialSecurityNumber()
59 {
60     return socialSecurityNumber;
61 } // end method getSocialSecurityNumber
62
63 // set gross sales amount
64 public void setGrossSales( double sales )
65 {
66     grossSales = ( sales < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : sales;
67 } // end method setGrossSales

```

Fig. 9.6 | `BasePlusCommissionEmployee` class represents an employee who receives a base salary in addition to a commission. (Part 3 of 6.)

36

```

68 // return gross sales amount
69 public double getGrossSales()
70 {
71     return grossSales;
72 } // end method getGrossSales
73
74 // set commission rate
75 public void setCommissionRate( double rate )
76 {
77     commissionRate = ( rate > 0.0 && rate < 1.0 ) ? rate : 0.0;
78 } // end method setCommissionRate
79
80 // return commission rate
81 public double getCommissionRate()
82 {
83     return commissionRate;
84 } // end method getCommissionRate
85
86

```

Fig. 9.6 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee class represents an employee who receives a base salary in addition to a commission. (Part 4 of 6.)

37

```

87 // set base salary
88 public void setBaseSalary( double salary )
89 {
90     baseSalary = ( salary < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : salary;
91 } // end method setBaseSalary
92
93 // return base salary
94 public double getBaseSalary()
95 {
96     return baseSalary;
97 } // end method getBaseSalary
98
99 // calculate earnings
100 public double earnings()
101 {
102     return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );
103 } // end method earnings
104

```

Similar to
Commission-
Employee's earnings
method

Fig. 9.6 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee class represents an employee who receives a base salary in addition to a commission. (Part 5 of 6.)

38

```

105 // return String representation of BasePlusCommissionEmployee
106 @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
107 public String toString() {
108 {
109     return String.format(
110         "%s %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",
111         "base-salaried commission employee", firstName, lastName,
112         "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,
113         "gross sales", grossSales, "commission rate", commissionRate,
114         "base salary", baseSalary );
115 } // end method toString
116 } // end class BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```

Similar to
Commission-
Employee's toString
method

Fig. 9.6 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee class represents an employee who receives a base salary in addition to a commission. (Part 6 of 6.)

39

Creating and Using a BasePlus-CommissionEmployee Class (Cont.)

- Class **BasePlusCommissionEmployee** does not specify “extends Object”
 - Implicitly extends Object.
- **BasePlusCommissionEmployee**'s constructor invokes class **Object**'s default constructor implicitly.

40

```

1 // Fig. 9.7: BasePlusCommissionEmployeeTest.java
2 // BasePlusCommissionEmployee test program.
3
4 public class BasePlusCommissionEmployeeTest
5 {
6     public static void main( String[] args )
7     {
8         // instantiate BasePlusCommissionEmployee object
9         BasePlusCommissionEmployee employee =
10            new BasePlusCommissionEmployee(
11                "Bob", "Lewis", "333-33-3333", 5000, .04, 300 );
12
13        // get base-salaried commission employee data
14        System.out.println(
15            "Employee information obtained by get methods: \n" );
16        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "First name is",
17            employee.getFirstName() );
18        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Last name is",
19            employee.getLastName() );
20        System.out.printf( "%s %s\n", "Social security number is",
21            employee.getSocialSecurityNumber() );
22        System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Gross sales is",
23            employee.getGrossSales() );

```

Fig. 9.7 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee test program. (Part I of 3.)

41

```

24        System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Commission rate is",
25            employee.getCommissionRate() );
26        System.out.printf( "%s %.2f\n", "Base salary is",
27            employee.getBaseSalary() );
28
29        employee.setBaseSalary( 1000 ); // set base salary
30
31        System.out.printf( "\n%s:\n%s\n",
32            "Updated employee information obtained by toString",
33            employee.toString() );
34    } // end main
35 } // end class BasePlusCommissionEmployeeTest

```

Fig. 9.7 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee test program. (Part 2 of 3.)

42

```
Employee information obtained by get methods:
```

```
First name is Bob  
Last name is Lewis  
Social security number is 333-33-3333  
Gross sales is 5000.00  
Commission rate is 0.04  
Base salary is 300.00
```

```
Updated employee information obtained by toString:
```

```
base-salaried commission employee: Bob Lewis  
social security number: 333-33-3333  
gross sales: 5000.00  
commission rate: 0.04  
base salary: 1000.00
```

Fig. 9.7 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee test program. (Part 3 of 3.)

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Creating and Using a BasePlus-CommissionEmployee Class (Cont.)

- Much of **BasePlusCommissionEmployee**'s code is similar, or identical, to that of **CommissionEmployee**.
- **private** instance variables **firstName** and **lastName** and methods **setFirstName**, **getFirstName**, **setLastName** and **getLastName** are identical.
 - Both classes also contain corresponding *get* and *set* methods.
- The constructors are almost identical
 - **BasePlusCommissionEmployee**'s constructor also sets the **baseSalary**.
- The **toString** methods are nearly identical
 - **BasePlusCommissionEmployee**'s **toString** also outputs instance variable **baseSalary**

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Creating and Using a BasePlusCommissionEmployee Class (Cont.)

- We literally *copied* CommissionEmployee's code, pasted it into BasePlusCommissionEmployee, then modified the new class to include a base salary and methods that manipulate the base salary.
 - This “copy-and-paste” approach is often error prone and time consuming.
 - It spreads copies of the same code throughout a system, creating a code-maintenance nightmare.

45



Software Engineering Observation 9.3

With inheritance, the common instance variables and methods of all the classes in the hierarchy are declared in a superclass. When changes are made for these common features in the superclass—subclasses then inherit the changes. Without inheritance, changes would need to be made to all the source-code files that contain a copy of the code in question.

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Creating a CommissionEmployee– BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy

- Class **BasePlusCommissionEmployee** class extends class **CommissionEmployee**
- A **BasePlusCommissionEmployee** object *is a* **CommissionEmployee**
 - Inheritance passes on class **CommissionEmployee**'s capabilities.
- Class **BasePlusCommissionEmployee** also has instance variable **baseSalary**.
- Subclass **BasePlusCommissionEmployee** inherits **CommissionEmployee**'s instance variables and methods
 - Only the superclass's public and protected members are directly accessible in the subclass.

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CSE212 Software Development Methodologies

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```
1 // Fig. 9.8: BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java
2 // private superclass members cannot be accessed in a subclass.
3
4 public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee
5 {
6     private double baseSalary; // base salary per week
7
8     // six-argument constructor
9     public BasePlusCommissionEmployee( String first, String last,
10                                         String ssn, double sales, double rate, double salary )
11    {
12        // explicit call to superclass CommissionEmployee constructor
13        super( first, last, ssn, sales, rate );
14
15        setBaseSalary( salary ); // validate and store base salary
16    } // end six-argument BasePlusCommissionEmployee constructor
17
18    // set base salary
19    public void setBaseSalary( double salary )
20    {
21        baseSalary = ( salary < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : salary;
22    } // end method setBaseSalary
```

New subclass of
CommissionEmployee

Must call superclass
constructor first

Fig. 9.8 | private superclass members cannot be accessed in a subclass. (Part I of 5.)

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CSE212 Software Development Methodologies

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```

23 // return base salary
24 public double getBaseSalary()
25 {
26     return baseSalary;
27 } // end method getBaseSalary
28
29 // calculate earnings
30 @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
31 public double earnings()
32 {
33     // not allowed: commissionRate and grossSales private in superclass
34     return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );
35 } // end method earnings
36
37

```

CommissionEmployee
private instance
variables are not
accessible here

Fig. 9.8 | private superclass members cannot be accessed in a subclass. (Part 2 of 5.)

49

```

38 // return String representation of BasePlusCommissionEmployee
39 @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
40 public String toString()
41 {
42     // not allowed: attempts to access private superclass members
43     return String.format(
44         "%s %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",
45         "base-salaried commission employee", firstName, lastName,
46         "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,
47         "gross sales", grossSales, "commission rate", commissionRate,
48         "base salary", baseSalary );
49 } // end method toString
50 } // end class BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```

CommissionEmployee
private instance
variables are not
accessible here

Fig. 9.8 | private superclass members cannot be accessed in a subclass. (Part 3 of 5.)

50

```
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:35: commissionRate has private access in
CommissionEmployee
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );
           ^
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:35: grossSales has private access in
CommissionEmployee
    return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales );
           ^
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:45: firstName has private access in
CommissionEmployee
    "base-salaried commission employee", firstName, lastName,
           ^
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:45: lastName has private access in
CommissionEmployee
    "base-salaried commission employee", firstName, lastName,
           ^
```

Fig. 9.8 | private superclass members cannot be accessed in a subclass. (Part 4 of 5.)

51

```
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:46: socialSecurityNumber has private access
in CommissionEmployee
    "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,
           ^
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:47: grossSales has private access in
CommissionEmployee
    "gross sales", grossSales, "commission rate", commissionRate,
           ^
BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java:47: commissionRate has private access in
CommissionEmployee
    "gross sales", grossSales, "commission rate", commissionRate,
           ^
7 errors
```

Fig. 9.8 | private superclass members cannot be accessed in a subclass. (Part 5 of 5.)

52

Creating a CommissionEmployee– BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy (Cont.)

- Each subclass constructor must implicitly or explicitly call its superclass constructor to initialize the instance variables inherited from the superclass.
 - **Superclass constructor call syntax**—keyword super, followed by a set of parentheses containing the superclass constructor arguments.
 - Must be the first statement in the subclass constructor's body.
- If the subclass constructor did not invoke the superclass's constructor explicitly, Java would attempt to invoke the superclass's no-argument or default constructor.
 - Class CommissionEmployee does not have such a constructor, so the compiler would issue an error.
- You can explicitly use super() to call the superclass's no-argument or default constructor, but this is rarely done.

53



Common Programming Error 9.3

A compilation error occurs if a subclass constructor calls a superclass constructor with arguments that do not match the number and types of parameters in one of the superclass's constructors.

54

Creating a CommissionEmployee– BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy (Cont.)

- Compilation errors occur when the subclass attempts to access the superclass's **private** instance variables.
- These lines could have used appropriate *get* methods to retrieve the values of the superclass's instance variables.

55

CommissionEmployee– BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using **protected** Instance Variables

- To enable a subclass to directly access superclass instance variables, we can declare those members as **protected** in the superclass.
- New CommissionEmployee class modified only lines 6–10 as follows:

```
protected String firstName;
protected String lastName;
protected String socialSecurityNumber;
protected double grossSales;
protected double commissionRate;
```
- With **protected** instance variables, the subclass gets access to the instance variables, but classes that are not subclasses and classes that are not in the same package cannot access these variables directly.

56

CommissionEmployee–BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using protected Instance Variables (Cont.)

- Class `BasePlusCommissionEmployee` (Fig. 9.9) extends the new version of class `CommissionEmployee` with **protected** instance variables.
 - These variables are now **protected** members of `BasePlusCommissionEmployee`.
- If another class extends this version of class `BasePlusCommissionEmployee`, the new subclass also can access the **protected** members.
- The source code in Fig. 9.9 (47 lines) is considerably shorter than that in Fig. 9.6 (116 lines)
 - Most of the functionality is now inherited from `CommissionEmployee`
 - There is now only one copy of the functionality.
 - Code is easier to maintain, modify and debug—the code related to a commission employee exists only in class `CommissionEmployee`.

57

```
1 // Fig. 9.9: BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java
2 // BasePlusCommissionEmployee inherits protected instance
3 // variables from CommissionEmployee.
4
5 public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee
6 {
7     private double baseSalary; // base salary per week
8
9     // six-argument constructor
10    public BasePlusCommissionEmployee( String first, String last,
11                                         String ssn, double sales, double rate, double salary )
12    {
13        super( first, last, ssn, sales, rate );
14        setBaseSalary( salary ); // validate and store base salary
15    } // end six-argument BasePlusCommissionEmployee constructor
16
17    // set base salary
18    public void setBaseSalary( double salary )
19    {
20        baseSalary = ( salary < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : salary;
21    } // end method setBaseSalary
22}
```

Fig. 9.9 | `BasePlusCommissionEmployee` inherits **protected** instance variables from `CommissionEmployee`. (Part I of 3.)

58

```

23  // return base salary
24  public double getBaseSalary()
25  {
26      return baseSalary;
27  } // end method getBaseSalary
28
29 // calculate earnings
30 @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
31 public double earnings()
32 {
33     return baseSalary + ( commissionRate * grossSales ); ←
34 } // end method earnings
35

```

CommissionEmployee
protected instance
variables are accessible
here

Fig. 9.9 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee inherits protected instance variables from CommissionEmployee. (Part 2 of 3.)

59

```

36 // return String representation of BasePlusCommissionEmployee
37 @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
38 public String toString()
39 {
40     return String.format(
41         "%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f",
42         "base-salaried commission employee", firstName, lastName,
43         "social security number", socialSecurityNumber,
44         "gross sales", grossSales, "commission rate", commissionRate,
45         "base salary", baseSalary );
46 } // end method toString
47 } // end class BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```

CommissionEmployee
protected instance
variables are accessible
here

Fig. 9.9 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee inherits protected instance variables from CommissionEmployee. (Part 3 of 3.)

60

CommissionEmployee—BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using protected Instance Variables (Cont.)

- Inheriting **protected** instance variables slightly increases performance, because we can directly access the variables in the subclass without incurring the overhead of a *set or get method call*.
- In most cases, it's better to use **private** instance variables to encourage proper software engineering, and leave code optimization issues to the compiler.
 - Code will be easier to maintain, modify and debug.

CommissionEmployee—BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using protected Instance Variables (Cont.)

- Using **protected** instance variables creates several potential problems.
- The subclass object can set an inherited variable's value directly without using a *set method*.
 - A subclass object can assign an invalid value to the variable, possibly leaving the object in an inconsistent state.
- Subclass methods are more likely to be written so that they depend on the superclass's data implementation.
 - Subclasses should depend only on the superclass services and not on the superclass data implementation.

CommissionEmployee—BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using protected Instance Variables (Cont.)

- With **protected** instance variables in the superclass, we may need to modify all the subclasses of the superclass if the superclass implementation changes.
 - Such software is said to be **fragile** or **brittle**, because a small change in the superclass can “break” subclass implementation.
 - You should be able to change the superclass implementation while still providing the same services to the subclasses.
 - If the superclass services change, we must reimplement our subclasses.
- A class’s **protected** members are visible to all classes in the same package as the class containing the **protected** members—this is not always desirable.

63



Software Engineering Observation 9.4

*Use the **protected** access modifier when a superclass should provide a method only to its subclasses and other classes in the same package, but not to other clients.*

64



Software Engineering Observation 9.5

*Declaring superclass instance variables **private** (as opposed to **protected**) enables the superclass implementation of these instance variables to change without affecting subclass implementations.*

65



Error-Prevention Tip 9.2

*When possible, do not include **protected** instance variables in a superclass. Instead, include **non-private** methods that access **private** instance variables. This will help ensure that objects of the class maintain consistent states.*

66

CommissionEmployee–BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using private Instance Variables

- Hierarchy reengineered using good software engineering practices.
- Class **CommissionEmployee** declares instance variables **firstName**, **lastName**, **socialSecurityNumber**, **grossSales** and **commissionRate** as **private** and provides **public** methods for manipulating these values.

67

CommissionEmployee–BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using private Instance Variables (Cont.)

- **CommissionEmployee** methods **earnings** and **toString** use the class's *get* methods to obtain the values of its instance variables.
 - If we decide to change the internal representation of the data (e.g., variable names) only the bodies of the *get and set methods that directly manipulate the instance variables will need to change*.
 - These changes occur solely within the superclass—no changes to the subclass are needed.
 - Localizing the effects of changes like this is a good software engineering practice.
- Subclass **BasePlusCommissionEmployee** inherits **CommissionEmployee**'s non-private methods and can access the **private** superclass members via those methods.

68

```

1 // Fig. 9.10: CommissionEmployee.java
2 // CommissionEmployee class uses methods to manipulate its
3 // private instance variables.
4 public class CommissionEmployee
5 {
6     private String firstName; ← Data is private for best encapsulation;
7     private String lastName;
8     private String socialSecurityNumber;
9     private double grossSales; // gross weekly sales
10    private double commissionRate; // commission percentage
11
12    // five-argument constructor
13    public CommissionEmployee( String first, String last, String ssn,
14        double sales, double rate )
15    {
16        // implicit call to Object constructor occurs here
17        firstName = first;
18        lastName = last;
19        socialSecurityNumber = ssn;
20        setGrossSales( sales ); // validate and store gross sales
21        setCommissionRate( rate ); // validate and store commission rate
22    } // end five-argument CommissionEmployee constructor
23

```

Fig. 9.10 | CommissionEmployee class uses methods to manipulate its **private** instance variables. (Part I of 5.)

69

```

24    // set first name
25    public void setFirstName( String first )
26    {
27        firstName = first; // should validate
28    } // end method setFirstName
29
30    // return first name
31    public String getFirstName()
32    {
33        return firstName;
34    } // end method getFirstName
35
36    // set last name
37    public void setLastName( String last )
38    {
39        lastName = last; // should validate
40    } // end method setLastName
41
42    // return last name
43    public String getLastname()
44    {
45        return lastName;
46    } // end method getLastname

```

Fig. 9.10 | CommissionEmployee class uses methods to manipulate its **private** instance variables. (Part 2 of 5.)

70

```

47 // set social security number
48 public void setSocialSecurityNumber( String ssn )
49 {
50     socialSecurityNumber = ssn; // should validate
51 } // end method setSocialSecurityNumber
52
53 // return social security number
54 public String getSocialSecurityNumber()
55 {
56     return socialSecurityNumber;
57 } // end method getSocialSecurityNumber
58
59 // set gross sales amount
60 public void setGrossSales( double sales )
61 {
62     grossSales = ( sales < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : sales;
63 } // end method setGrossSales
64
65 // return gross sales amount
66 public double getGrossSales()
67 {
68

```

Fig. 9.10 | CommissionEmployee class uses methods to manipulate its `private` instance variables. (Part 3 of 5.)

71

```

69     return grossSales;
70 } // end method getGrossSales
71
72 // set commission rate
73 public void setCommissionRate( double rate )
74 {
75     commissionRate = ( rate > 0.0 && rate < 1.0 ) ? rate : 0.0;
76 } // end method setCommissionRate
77
78 // return commission rate
79 public double getCommissionRate()
80 {
81     return commissionRate;
82 } // end method getCommissionRate
83
84 // calculate earnings
85 public double earnings()
86 {
87     return getCommissionRate() * getGrossSales(); ← No longer accessing instance variables
88 } // end method earnings
89

```

Fig. 9.10 | CommissionEmployee class uses methods to manipulate its `private` instance variables. (Part 4 of 5.)

72

```

90     // return String representation of CommissionEmployee object
91     @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
92     public String toString()
93     {
94         return String.format( "%s: %s %s\n%s: %s\n%s: %.2f\n%s: %.2f"
95             "commission employee", getFirstName(), getLastName(),
96             "social security number", getSocialSecurityNumber(),
97             "gross sales", getGrossSales(),
98             "commission rate", getCommissionRate() );
99     } // end method toString
100 } // end class CommissionEmployee

```

Fig. 9.10 | CommissionEmployee class uses methods to manipulate its **private** instance variables. (Part 5 of 5.)

73

CommissionEmployee–BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using private Instance Variables (Cont.)

- Class **BasePlusCommissionEmployee** (Fig. 9.11) has several changes that distinguish it from Fig. 9.9.
- Methods **earnings** and **toString** each invoke their superclass versions and do not access instance variables directly.

74

```

1 // Fig. 9.11: BasePlusCommissionEmployee.java
2 // BasePlusCommissionEmployee class inherits from CommissionEmployee
3 // and accesses the superclass's private data via inherited
4 // public methods.
5
6 public class BasePlusCommissionEmployee extends CommissionEmployee
7 {
8     private double baseSalary; // base salary per week
9
10    // six-argument constructor
11    public BasePlusCommissionEmployee( String first, String last,
12                                         String ssn, double sales, double rate, double salary )
13    {
14        super( first, last, ssn, sales, rate );
15        setBaseSalary( salary ); // validate and store base salary
16    } // end six-argument BasePlusCommissionEmployee constructor
17
18    // set base salary
19    public void setBaseSalary( double salary )
20    {
21        baseSalary = ( salary < 0.0 ) ? 0.0 : salary;
22    } // end method setBaseSalary

```

Fig. 9.11 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee class inherits from CommissionEmployee and accesses the superclass's private data via inherited public methods. (Part I of 2.)

```

23
24    // return base salary
25    public double getBaseSalary()
26    {
27        return baseSalary;
28    } // end method getBaseSalary
29
30    // calculate earnings
31    @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
32    public double earnings()
33    {
34        return getBaseSalary() + super.earnings();
35    } // end method earnings
36
37    // return String representation of BasePlusCommissionEmployee
38    @Override // indicates that this method overrides a superclass method
39    public String toString()
40    {
41        return String.format( "%s %s\n%s: %.2f", "base-salaried",
42                             super.toString(), "base salary", getBaseSalary() );
43    } // end method toString
44 } // end class BasePlusCommissionEmployee

```

Fig. 9.11 | BasePlusCommissionEmployee class inherits from CommissionEmployee and accesses the superclass's private data via inherited public methods. (Part 2 of 2.)

CommissionEmployee–BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using private Instance Variables (Cont.)

- Method **earnings** overrides class the superclass's **earnings** method.
- The new version calls **CommissionEmployee**'s **earnings** method with **super.earnings()**.
 - Obtains the earnings based on commission alone
- Placing the keyword **super** and a dot (.) separator before the superclass method name invokes the superclass version of an overridden method.
- Good software engineering practice
 - If a method performs all or some of the actions needed by another method, call that method rather than duplicate its code.

77



Common Programming Error 9.4

When a superclass method is overridden in a subclass, the subclass version often calls the superclass version to do a portion of the work. Failure to prefix the superclass method name with the keyword **super** and a dot (.) separator when calling the superclass's method causes the subclass method to call itself, potentially creating an error called infinite recursion. Recursion, used correctly, is a powerful capability discussed in Chapter 18, Recursion.

78

CommissionEmployee—BasePlusCommissionEmployee Inheritance Hierarchy Using private Instance Variables (Cont.)

- BasePlusCommissionEmployee's `toString` method overrides class CommissionEmployee's `toString` method.
- The new version creates part of the String representation by calling CommissionEmployee's `toString` method with the expression `super.toString()`.

79

Constructors in Subclasses

- Instantiating a subclass object begins a chain of constructor calls
 - The subclass constructor, before performing its own tasks, invokes its direct superclass's constructor
- If the superclass is derived from another class, the superclass constructor invokes the constructor of the next class up the hierarchy, and so on.
- The last constructor called in the chain is always class Object's constructor.
- Original subclass constructor's body finishes executing last.
- Each superclass's constructor manipulates the superclass instance variables that the subclass object inherits.

80



Software Engineering Observation 9.6

When a program creates a subclass object, the subclass constructor immediately calls the superclass constructor (explicitly, via `super`, or implicitly). The superclass constructor's body executes to initialize the superclass's instance variables that are part of the subclass object, then the subclass constructor's body executes to initialize the subclass-only instance variables. Java ensures that even if a constructor does not assign a value to an instance variable, the variable is still initialized to its default value (e.g., 0 for primitive numeric types, `false` for booleans, `null` for references).

81

Software Engineering with Inheritance

- When you extend a class, the new class inherits the superclass's members—though the `private` superclass members are hidden in the new class.
- You can customize the new class to meet your needs by including additional members and by overriding superclass members.
 - Doing this does not require the subclass programmer to change (or even have access to) the superclass's source code.
 - Java simply requires access to the superclass's .class file.

82



Software Engineering Observation 9.7

Although inheriting from a class does not require access to the class's source code, developers often insist on seeing the source code to understand how the class is implemented. Developers in industry want to ensure that they are extending a solid class—for example, a class that performs well and is implemented robustly and securely.

83



Software Engineering Observation 9.8

At the design stage in an object-oriented system, you'll often find that certain classes are closely related. You should "factor out" common instance variables and methods and place them in a superclass. Then use inheritance to develop subclasses, specializing them with capabilities beyond those inherited from the superclass.

84



Software Engineering Observation 9.9

Declaring a subclass does not affect its superclass's source code. Inheritance preserves the integrity of the superclass.

85



Software Engineering Observation 9.10

Just as designers of non-object-oriented systems should avoid method proliferation, designers of object-oriented systems should avoid class proliferation. Such proliferation creates management problems and can hinder software reusability, because in a huge class library it becomes difficult to locate the most appropriate classes. The alternative is to create fewer classes that provide more substantial functionality, but such classes might prove cumbersome.

86



Performance Tip 9.1

If subclasses are larger than they need to be (i.e., contain too much functionality), memory and processing resources might be wasted. Extend the superclass that contains the functionality closest to what you need.

87

Object Class

- All classes in Java inherit directly or indirectly from `Object`, so its 11 methods are inherited by all other classes.
- Figure 9.12 summarizes `Object`'s methods.
- Can learn more about `Object`'s methods in the online API
- Every array has an overridden `clone` method that copies the array.
 - If the array stores references to objects, the objects are not copied—a shallow copy is performed.
- For more information about the relationship between arrays and class `Object`, see *Java Language Specification, Chapter 10*

88

Method	Description
<code>clone</code>	This protected method, which takes no arguments and returns an <code>Object</code> reference, makes a copy of the object on which it's called. The default implementation performs a so-called shallow copy —instance-variable values in one object are copied into another object of the same type. For reference types, only the references are copied. A typical overridden <code>clone</code> method's implementation would perform a deep copy that creates a new object for each reference-type instance variable. Implementing <code>clone</code> correctly is difficult. For this reason, its use is discouraged. Many industry experts suggest that object serialization should be used instead. We discuss object serialization in Chapter 17, Files, Streams and Object Serialization.
<code>equals</code>	This method compares two objects for equality and returns <code>true</code> if they are equal and <code>false</code> otherwise. The method takes any <code>Object</code> as an argument. When objects of a particular class must be compared for equality, the class should override method <code>equals</code> to compare the <i>contents</i> of the two objects.

Fig. 9.12 | Object methods. (Part 1 of 3.)

89

Method	Description
<code>equals (cont.)</code>	For the requirements of implementing this method, refer to the method's documentation at java.sun.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/lang/Object.html#equals(java.lang.Object) . The default <code>equals</code> implementation uses operator <code>==</code> to determine whether two references <i>refer to the same object</i> in memory. Section 16.3.3 demonstrates class <code>String</code> 's <code>equals</code> method and differentiates between comparing <code>String</code> objects with <code>==</code> and with <code>equals</code> .
<code>finalize</code>	This protected method (introduced in Section 8.10) is called by the garbage collector to perform termination housekeeping on an object just before the garbage collector reclaims the object's memory. Recall that it's unclear whether, or when, method <code>finalize</code> will be called. For this reason, most programmers should avoid method <code>finalize</code> .
<code>getClass</code>	Every object in Java knows its own type at execution time. Method <code>getClass</code> (used in Sections 10.5, 14.5 and 24.3) returns an object of class <code>Class</code> (package <code>java.lang</code>) that contains information about the object's type, such as its class name (returned by <code>Class</code> method <code>getName</code>). For more about class <code>Class</code> visit java.sun.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/lang/Class.html .

Fig. 9.12 | Object methods. (Part 2 of 3.)

90

Method	Description
<code>hashCode</code>	Hashcodes are <code>int</code> values that are useful for high-speed storage and retrieval of information stored in a data structure that is known as a hashtable (discussed in Section 20.11). This method is also called as part of class <code>Object</code> 's default <code>toString</code> method implementation.
<code>wait</code> , <code>notify</code> , <code>notifyAll</code>	Methods <code>notify</code> , <code>notifyAll</code> and the three overloaded versions of <code>wait</code> are related to multithreading, which is discussed in Chapter 26.
<code>toString</code>	This method (introduced in Section 9.4.1) returns a <code>String</code> representation of an object. The default implementation of this method returns the package name and class name of the object's class followed by a hexadecimal representation of the value returned by the object's <code>hashCode</code> method.

Fig. 9.12 | `Object` methods. (Part 3 of 3.)

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