

AWT Components: Simple User Interfaces

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Topics in This Section

- Available GUI libraries in Java
- Basic AWT windows
 - Canvas, Panel, Frame
- Closing frames
- Processing events in GUI controls
- Basic AWT user interface controls
 - Button, checkbox, radio button, list box

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GUI Libraries in Java SE



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GUI Libraries in Java

Part of Java SE

- AWT (Abstract Window Toolkit)
 - The original GUI library in Java
 1.02. Native Look and Feel (LAF).
 - · Covered in this lecture
 - Purposes
 - Easy building of simple-looking interfaces
 - Often for internal purposes only. Not seen by end users.
 - First step toward learning Swing
- Swing
 - GUI library added to Java starting in Java 1.1
 - · Covered in later lectures
 - Purposes
 - Professional looking GUIs that follow standard
 - GUIs with the same look and feel on multiple platforms

Extensions

- SWT (Standard Widget Toolkit)
 - GUI from the Eclipse foundation.
 Native LAF ala AWT.
 - See http://www.eclipse.org/swt/
 - Purposes
 - Higher-performance professional looking GUIs
 - Native LAF
 - Interaction with the Eclipse Rich Client Platform
- Java FX
 - GUI library and tools now standardized separately
 - See http://javafx.com/
 - Part of Java SE starting in Java 8
 - Purposes
 - XML-based layout
 - · Mobile platforms
 - · Rich media: audio, video, etc.

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Background



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Windows and Layout Management

Containers

 Most windows are a Container that can hold other windows or GUI components. Canvas is the major exception.

Layout Managers

- Containers have a LayoutManager that automatically sizes and positions components that are in the window
- You can change the behavior of the layout manager or disable it completely. Details in next lecture.

Events

 Windows and components can receive mouse and keyboard events, just as in previous lecture.

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Windows and Layout Management (Continued)

Drawing in Windows

- To draw into a window, make a subclass with its own paint method
- Having one window draw into another window is not usually recommended

Popup Windows

- Some windows (Frame and Dialog) have their own title bar and border and can be placed at arbitrary locations on the screen
- Other windows (Canvas an Panel) are embedded into existing windows only



Foundational AWT Window Types



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Summary

Canvas

- Purpose:
 - Reusable picture or drawing area. Basis for custom component.
- Code
 - Allocate Canvas, give it a size, add it to existing window.

Panel

- Purpose
 - To group other components into rectangular regions.
- Code
 - Allocate Panel, put other components in it, add to window.

Frame

- Purpose
 - Core popup window. Main window for your application.
- Code
 - Allocate Frame, give it a size, add stuff to it, pop it up.

Canvas

Major purposes

- A drawing area
- A custom component that does not need to contain any other component (e.g., an image button)

Default layout manager: none

Canvas is not a Container, so cannot enclose components

Creating and using

- Allocate it
 - Canvas c = new Canvas();
- Since Canvas is often the starting point for a component that has a custom paint method or event handlers, you often do

 MySpecializedCanvas c = new MySpecializedCanvas(...).

- Give it a size
 - c.setSize(width, height);
- Drop it in existing window
 - someWindow.add(c); If this code is in the main window, then "someWindow" is "this" and can be omitted. I.e, the init method of an applet would add a Carvas to itself just with "add(c);".

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Canvas Example

```
import java.awt.*;

/** A Circle component built using a Canvas. */

public class Circle extends Canvas {
   private int width, height;

public Circle(Color foreground, int radius) {
    setForeground(foreground);
    width = 2*radius;
    height = 2*radius;
    setSize(width, height);
}

public void paint(Graphics g) {
    g.fillOval(0, 0, width, height);
}

public void setCenter(int x, int y) {
    setLocation(x - width/2, y - height/2);
}
```

Canvas Example (Continued)

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.applet.Applet;

public class CircleTest extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT_GRAY);
    add(new Circle(Color.WHITE, 30));
    add(new Circle(Color.GRAY, 40));
    add(new Circle(Color.BLACK, 50));
}

CircleTest-MozillaFirefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Iools Help
CircleTest

Done
```

Canvases are Rectangular and Opaque: Example

```
public class CircleTest2 extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT GRAY);
    setLayout(null); // Turn off layout manager.
    Circle circle;
    int radius = getSize().width/6;
    int deltaX = round(2.0 * (double)radius / Math.sqrt(2.0));
    for (int x=radius; x<6*radius; x=x+deltaX) {</pre>
      circle = new Circle(Color.BLACK, radius);
                                     add(circle);
      circle.setCenter(x, x);
                                     CircleTest2
    }
  }
  private int round(double num) {
    return((int)Math.round(num));
```

Lightweight Components

Idea

- Regular AWT windows are native windows behind the scenes. So, they are rectangular and opaque.
- You can make "lightweight components" components that are really pictures, not windows, behind the scenes.
 - These don't have the rectangular/opaque restrictions, but building them is usually more trouble than it is worth in the AWT library. The Swing library makes it simple with a "setOpaque" method.

Code

- If you really want to do it yourself in AWT, you have to tell Java how to calculate the minimum and preferred sizes (see later section on layout managers).
 - Even so, it can have tricky interactions if the enclosing window has a custom paint method. Use Swing instead!

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Lightweight Components: Example

```
public class BetterCircle extends Component {
  private Dimension preferredDimension;
  private int width, height;
  public BetterCircle(Color foreground, int radius) {
    setForeground(foreground);
    width = 2*radius; height = 2*radius;
    preferredDimension = new Dimension(width, height);
    setSize(preferredDimension);
                                             🥙 BetterCircleTest - Mozilla Fi... 👝 🔳 💽
                                             File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools
                                             BetterCircleTest
  public void paint(Graphics g) {
    g.setColor(getForeground());
    g.fillOval(0, 0, width, height);
  public Dimension getPreferredSize() {
    return(preferredDimension);
   public Dimension getMinimumSize() {
    return(preferredDimension);
```

Component Class

Idea

 Ancestor of all graphical components in Java (even Swing). So, methods here are shared by all windows and controls.

Useful methods

- getBackground/setBackground
- getForeground/setForeground
 - Change/lookup the default foreground color
 - Color is inherited by the Graphics object of the component
- getFont/setFont
 - Returns/sets the current font
 - Inherited by the Graphics object of the component
- paint
 - Called whenever the user call repaint or when the component is obscured and reexposed

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Component Class (Continued)

Useful methods

- setVisible
 - Exposes (true) or hides (false) the component
 - Especially useful for frames and dialogs
- setSize/setBounds/setLocation
- getSize/getBounds/getLocation
 - Physical aspects (size and position) of the component
- list
 - Prints out info on this component and any components it contains; useful for debugging
- invalidate/validate
 - · Tell layout manager to redo the layout
- getParent
 - Returns enclosing window (or null if there is none)

Panel

Major purposes

- To group/organize components
- A custom component that requires embedded components

Default layout manager: FlowLayout

- Shrinks components to their preferred (minimum) size
- Places them left to right in centered rows

Creating and using

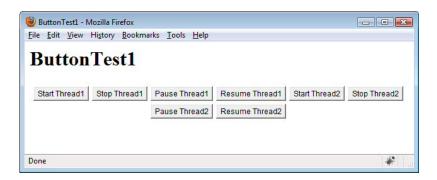
- Allocate it
 - Panel p = new Panel();
- Put stuff into it
 - p.add(someButton);
 - p.add(someOtherWidget);
- Drop the Panel in an existing window
 - someWindow.add(p);

Note the lack of an explicit setSize. The size of a Panel is usually determined by a combination of what the Panel contains and the layout manager of the window that contains the Panel.

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No Panels: Example

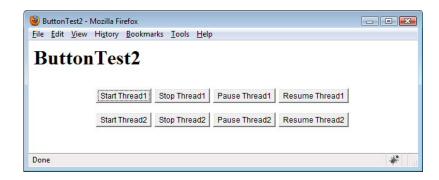
No Panels: Result



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Panels: Example

Panels: Result



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Container Class

Idea

 Ancestor of all window types except Canvas. So, these methods are common among almost all windows.

Useful Container methods

- add
 - Add a component to the container (in the last position in the component array)
 - If using BorderLayout, you can also specify in which region to place the component
- remove
 - Remove the component from the window (container)
- getComponents
 - Returns an array of components in the window
 - Used by layout managers
- setLayout
 - Changes the layout manager associated with the window

Frame Class

Major Purpose

- A stand-alone window with its own title and menu bar, border, cursor, and icon image
 - · Can contain other GUI components

Default layout manager: BorderLayout

- BorderLayout
 - Divides the screen into 5 regions: North, South, East, West, and Center
- To switch to the applet's layout manager use
 - setLayout(new FlowLayout());

Creating and using – two approaches:

- A fixed-size Frame
- A Frame that stretches to fit what it contains

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Creating a Fixed-Size Frame

Approach

```
Frame frame = new Frame(titleString);
frame.add(somePanel, BorderLayout.CENTER);
frame.add(otherPanel, BorderLayout.NORTH);
...
frame.setSize(width, height);
frame.setVisible(true);
```

Note: be sure you pop up the frame last

 Odd behavior results if you add components to a window that is already visible (unless you call doLayout on the frame)

Creating a Frame that Stretches to Fit What it Contains

Approach

```
Frame frame = new Frame(titleString);
frame.setLocation(left, top);
frame.add(somePanel, BorderLayout.CENTER);
...
frame.pack();
frame.setVisible(true);
```

Note

 Again, be sure to pop up the frame after adding the components

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Frame Example 1

Creating the Frame object in main

```
public class FrameExample1 {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    Frame f = new Frame("Frame Example 1");
    f.setSize(400, 300);
    f.setVisible(true);
  }
}
```

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Frame Example 2

Using a Subclass of Frame

```
public class FrameExample2 extends Frame {
  public FrameExample2() {
    super("Frame Example 2");
    setSize(400, 300);
    setVisible(true);
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    new FrameExample2();
}

The 'main' method that instantiates the Frame need not reside in FrameExample2. The idea is that you make a reusable Frame class, and then that class can be popped up various different ways (from main, when the user clicks a button, when certain events occur in your app, etc.)
```

•

A Closeable Frame

CloseableFrame.java

```
public class CloseableFrame extends Frame {
  public CloseableFrame(String title) {
    super(title);
    addWindowListener(new ExitListener());
  }
}
```

ExitListener.java

```
public class ExitListener extends WindowAdapter {
  public void windowClosing(WindowEvent event) {
    System.exit(0);
  }
}
```

Download these two classes from the source code in the tutorial, then use CloseableFrame wherever you would have used Frame.

Frame Example 3

Using a Subclass of CloseableFrame

```
public class FrameExample3 extends CloseableFrame {
  public FrameExample3() {
    super("Frame Example 3");
    setSize(400, 300);
    setVisible(true);
  }
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    new FrameExample3();
  }
}
```

Same as previous example, but now the Frame closes when you click on the x.

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AWT GUI Controls and Event Processing



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AWT GUI Controls

Characteristics (vs. windows)

- Automatically drawn you don't override paint
- Positioned by layout manager
- Use native window-system controls (widgets)
 - Controls adopt look and feel of underlying window system
- Higher level events typically used
 - For example, for buttons you don't monitor mouse clicks, since most OS's also let you trigger a button by hitting RETURN when the button has the keyboard focus

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GUI Event Processing Strategies

Decentralized event processing

- Component (e.g., Button) has its own event handler
 - Harder to call methods in the main app, so works best when operations are relatively independent

Centralized event processing

- Have main app implement listener. Send all events there.
 - Easier for handler to call methods from the main app
 - But, if you have multiple buttons, you will need if/then/else in the event-handler method

Semi-centralized event processing

- Use inner class for event handling
 - · Better than interface if you have many different buttons

Decentralized Event Processing: Example

```
import java.awt.*;

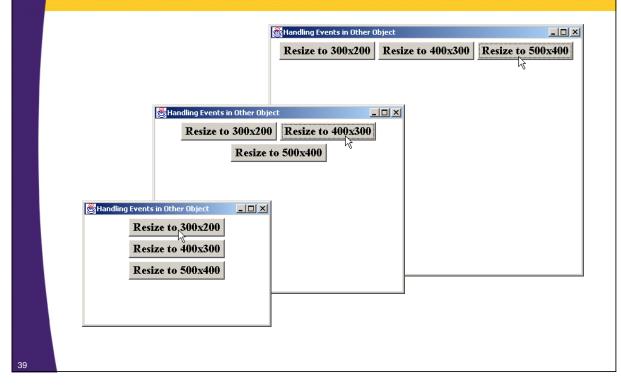
public class ActionExample1 extends CloseableFrame {
   public ActionExample1() {
      super("Handling Events in Component");
      setLayout(new FlowLayout());
      setFont(new Font("Serif", Font.BOLD, 18));
      add(new SetSizeButton(300, 200));
      add(new SetSizeButton(400, 300));
      add(new SetSizeButton(500, 400));
      setSize(400, 300);
      setVisible(true);
   }

   public static void main(String[] args) {
      new ActionExample1();
   }

   Very closely analogous to the first approach from the event-handling lecture (separate classes for event handlers).
```

Decentralized Event Processing: Example (Continued)

Decentralized Event Processing: Result



Centralized Event Processing: Example

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Centralized Event Processing: Example (Continued)

```
public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
    if (event.getSource() == button1) {
      updateLayout(300, 200);
    } else if (event.getSource() == button2) {
      updateLayout(400, 300);
    } else if (event.getSource() == button3) {
      updateLayout(500, 400);
 }
 private void updateLayout(int width, int height) {
   setSize(width, height);
   invalidate();
   validate();
 }
public static void main(String[] args) {
   new ActionExample2();
                                                 Very closely analogous to the second approach from the event-handling lecture (main class implements interface)
```

Semi-Centralized Event Processing: Example

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public class ActionExample3 extends CloseableFrame {
  private Button button1, button2, button3;

public ActionExample3() {
    super("Handling Events in Other Object");
    setLayout(new FlowLayout());
    setFont(new Font("Serif", Font.BOLD, 18));
    button1 = new Button("Resize to 300x200");
    button1.addActionListener(new ResizeHandler(300, 200));
    add(button1);
    // Add button2 and button3 in the same way...
    ...
    setSize(400, 300);
    setVisible(true);
}
```

Semi-Centralized Event Processing: Example (Cont)

```
private void updateLayout(int width, int height) {
    setSize(width, height);
    invalidate();
    validate();
}

private class ResizeHandler implements ActionListener {
    private int width, height;

    public ResizeHandler(int width, int height) {
        this.width= width;
        this.height = height;
    }

    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
        updateLayout(width, height);
    }
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    new ActionExample3();
}
```

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Basic AWT GUI Controls



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Buttons

Constructors

Button()Button(String buttonLabel)

 The button size (preferred size) is based on the height and width of the label in the current font, plus some extra space determined by the OS

Useful Methods

- getLabel/setLabel
 - Retrieves or sets the current label
 - If the button is already displayed, setting the label does not automatically reorganize its Container
 - The containing window should be invalidated and validated to force a fresh layout

```
someButton.setLabel("A New Label");
someButton.getParent().invalidate();
someButton.getParent().validate();
```

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Buttons (Continued)

Event processing methods

- addActionListener/removeActionListener
 - Add/remove an ActionListener that processes ActionEvents in actionPerformed
- processActionEvent
 - Low-level event handling

General methods inherited from component

- getForeground/setForeground
- getBackground/setBackground
- getFont/setFont

Button: Example

```
public class Buttons extends Applet {
  private Button button1, button2, button3;
  public void init() {
    button1 = new Button("Button One");
    button2 = new Button("Button Two");
    button3 = new Button("Button Three");
    add(button1);
                       Buttons - Mozilla Firefox
                                                  add(button2);
                       File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help
    add(button3);
                       Buttons
}
                              Button One Button Two Button Three
                       Done
```

Handling Button Events

 Attach an ActionListener to the Button and handle the event in actionPerformed

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Checkboxes

Constructors

- These three constructors apply to checkboxes that operate independently of each other (i.e., not radio buttons)
- Checkbox()
 - Creates an initially unchecked checkbox with no label
- Checkbox(String checkboxLabel)
 - Creates a checkbox (initially unchecked) with the specified label; see setState for changing it
- Checkbox(String checkboxLabel, boolean state)
 - Creates a checkbox with the specified label
 - The initial state is determined by the boolean value provided
 - A value of true means it is checked

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Checkbox, Example

```
public class Checkboxes extends CloseableFrame {
  public Checkboxes() {
    super("Checkboxes");
    setFont(new Font("SansSerif", Font.BOLD, 18));
    setLayout(new GridLayout(0, 2));
    Checkbox box;
    for(int i=0; i<12; i++) {
      box = new Checkbox("Checkbox " + i);
      if (i%2 == 0) {
                                  Checkboxes
        box.setState(true);

☑ Checkbox 0 □ Checkbox 1

☑ Checkbox 2 ☐ Checkbox 3

      add(box);
                                  ☑ Checkbox 4 ☐ Checkbox 5
    pack();

☑ Checkbox 6 ☐ Checkbox 7.

    setVisible(true);

    □ Checkbox 8 □ Checkbox 9

☑ Checkbox 10 □ Checkbox 11
```

Other Checkbox Methods

getState/setState

 Retrieves or sets the state of the checkbox: checked (true) or unchecked (false)

getLabel/setLabel

- Retrieves or sets the label of the checkbox
- After changing the label invalidate and validate the window to force a new layout

```
someCheckbox.setLabel("A New Label");
someCheckbox.getParent().invalidate();
someCheckbox.getParent().validate();
```

addltemListener/removeltemListener

Add or remove an ItemListener to process
 ItemEvents in itemStateChanged

processItemEvent(ItemEvent event)

Low-level event handling

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Handling Checkbox Events

Attach an ItemListener

 Add it with addItemListener and process the ItemEvent in itemStateChanged

```
public void itemStateChanged(ItemEvent event) {
```

}...

- The ItemEvent class has a getItem method which returns the item just selected or deselected
- The return value of getItem is an Object so you should cast it to a String before using it

Ignore the event

- With checkboxes, it is relatively common to ignore the select/deselect event when it occurs
- Instead, you look up the state (checked/unchecked) of the checkbox later using the getState method of Checkbox when you are ready to take some other sort of action

Checkbox Groups (Radio Buttons)

CheckboxGroup Constructors

- CheckboxGroup()
 - Creates a non-graphical object used as a "tag" to group checkboxes logically together
 - Checkboxes with the same tag will look and act like radio buttons
 - Only one checkbox associated with a particular tag can be selected at any given time

Checkbox Constructors

- Checkbox(String label, CheckboxGroup group, boolean state)
 - Creates a radio button associated with the specified group, with the given label and initial state
 - If you specify an initial state of true for more than one Checkbox in a group, the last one will be shown selected

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CheckboxGroup: Example

```
import java.applet.Applet;
import java.awt.*;
public class CheckboxGroups extends Applet {
 public void init() {
    setLayout(new GridLayout(4, 2));
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT GRAY);
    setFont(new Font("Serif", Font.BOLD, 16));
    add(new Label("Flavor", Label.CENTER));
    add(new Label("Toppings", Label.CENTER));
    CheckboxGroup flavorGroup = new CheckboxGroup();
    add(new Checkbox("Vanilla", flavorGroup, true));
    add(new Checkbox("Colored Sprinkles"));
    add(new Checkbox("Chocolate", flavorGroup, false));
    add(new Checkbox("Cashews"));
    add(new Checkbox("Strawberry", flavorGroup, false));
    add(new Checkbox("Kiwi"));
```

CheckboxGroup: Result



By tagging Checkboxes with a CheckboxGroup, the Checkboxes in the group function as radio buttons

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Other Methods for Radio Buttons

CheckboxGroup

- getSelectedCheckbox
 - Returns the radio button (Checkbox) that is currently selected or null if none is selected

Checkbox

- In addition to the general methods described in Checkboxes, Checkbox has the following two methods specific to CheckboxGroup's:
- getCheckboxGroup/setCheckboxGroup
 - Determines or registers the group associated with the radio button
- Note: Event-handling is the same as with Checkboxes

List Boxes

Constructors

- List(int rows, boolean multiSelectable)
 - Creates a listbox with the specified number of visible rows (not items)
 - Depending on the number of item in the list (addItem or add), a scrollbar is automatically created
 - The second argument determines if the List is multiselectable
 - The preferred width is set to a platform-dependent value, and is typically not directly related to the width of the widest entry
- List()
 - Creates a single-selectable list box with a platform-dependent number of rows and a platform-dependent width
- List(int rows)
 - Creates a single-selectable list box with the specified number of rows and a platform-dependent width

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List Boxes: Example

```
import java.awt.*;
public class Lists extends CloseableFrame {
  public Lists() {
    super("Lists");
    setLayout(new FlowLayout());
    setBackground(Color.LIGHT_GRAY);
    setFont(new Font("SansSerif", Font.BOLD, 18));
    List list1 = new List(3, false);
    list1.add("Vanilla");
    list1.add("Chocolate");
    list1.add("Strawberry");
    add(list1);
    List list2 = new List(3, true);
    list2.add("Colored Sprinkles");
    list2.add("Cashews");
    list2.add("Kiwi");
    add(list2);
    pack();
    setVisible(true);
```

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List Boxes: Result



A list can be single-selectable or multi-selectable

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Other List Methods

add

- Add an item at the end or specified position in the list box
- All items at that index or later get moved down

isMultipleMode

Determines if the list is multiple selectable (true) or single selectable (false)

remove/removeAll

- Remove an item or all items from the list

getSelectedIndex

- For a single-selectable list, this returns the index of the selected item
- Returns –1 if nothing is selected or if the list permits multiple selections

getSelectedIndexes

- Returns an array of the indexes of all selected items
 - Works for single- or multi-selectable lists
 - If no items are selected, a zero-length (but non-null) array is returned

Other List Methods (Continued)

getSelectedItem

- For a single-selectable list, this returns the label of the selected item
- Returns null if nothing is selected or if the list permits multiple selections

getSelectedItems

- Returns an array of all selected items
- Works for single- or multi-selectable lists
 - If no items are selected, a zero-length (but non-null) array is returned

select

- Programmatically selects the item in the list
- If the list does not permit multiple selections, then the previously selected item, if any, is also deselected

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Handling List Events

addItemListener/removeItemListener

- ItemEvents are generated whenever an item is selected or deselected (single-click)
- Handle ItemEvents in itemStateChanged

addActionListener/removeActionListener

- ActionEvents are generated whenever an item is doubleclicked or RETURN (ENTER) is pressed while selected
- Handle ActionEvents in actionPerformed

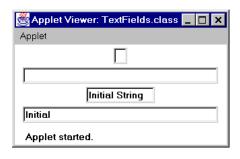
Other GUI Controls

Choice Lists (Combo Boxes)





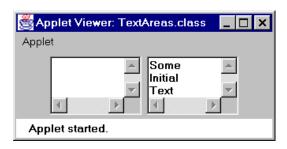
Textfields



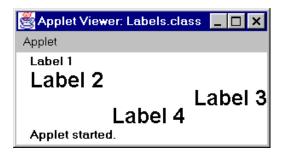
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Other GUI Controls (Continued)

Text Areas



Labels



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Summary

Native components behind the scenes

 So, all windows and graphical components are rectangular and opaque, and take look-and-feel of underlying OS.

Windows

- Canvas: drawing area or custom component
- Panel: grouping other components
- Frame: popup window

GUI Controls

- Button: handle events with ActionListener
- Checkbox, radio button: handle events with ItemListener
- List box: handle single click with ItemListener, double click with ActionListener
- To quickly determine the event handlers for a component, simply look at the online API
 - addXxxListener methods are at the top

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Questions?

More info:

http://courses.coreservlets.com/Course-Materials/java.html - General Java programming tutoris

http://courses.coreservlets.com/java-training.html – Customized Java training courses, at public venues or onsite at *your* organization

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