State and Behavior

The second property is object state. The state of an object includes all the information about the object at a particular time. Take a look at the "Back" button on your Web browser. The UML (Unified Modeling Language) object diagram to the right displays a Button object named backButton. A Button object might have attributes like:

- **Position**: where the button is located on the screen
- · Size: the button's width and height
- Caption: any text, such as the word "Back," that the button displays
- Image: any icon or image that is displayed on the button's surface
- Clicked: whether or not the button is currently selected (pressed)

The state of the object is represented by the **values of those attributes**. The **backButton** may display an arrow image but no text, and, if you click on the button with your mouse, its **clicked** state may change from **false** to **true**.

Object Behavior

The third property shared by all objects, and what differentiates them from structure types, is **behavior**. The behavior of an object consists of the messages that it responds to.

In the UML diagram on the right, the behavior is implemented by the **member functions** appearing in the bottom portion of the box. You ask the **backButton** object to change its size, for instance, by sending it a message with the desired size like this:

backButton.setSize(300, 100);

Since the **backButton** object has a **setSize()** member function, (as shown in the UML diagram), it does as you've asked.



backButton:Button

-position: Point = 0,0 -size: Dimension = 35,50 -caption: String = none -image: Image = lb.gif -clicked: boolean = false

backButton:Button

-position: Point = 0,0 -size: Dimension = 35,50 -caption: String = none -image: Image = lb.gif -clicked: boolean = false

+setSize(width:int, height:int) +setPosition(pos: Point)

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