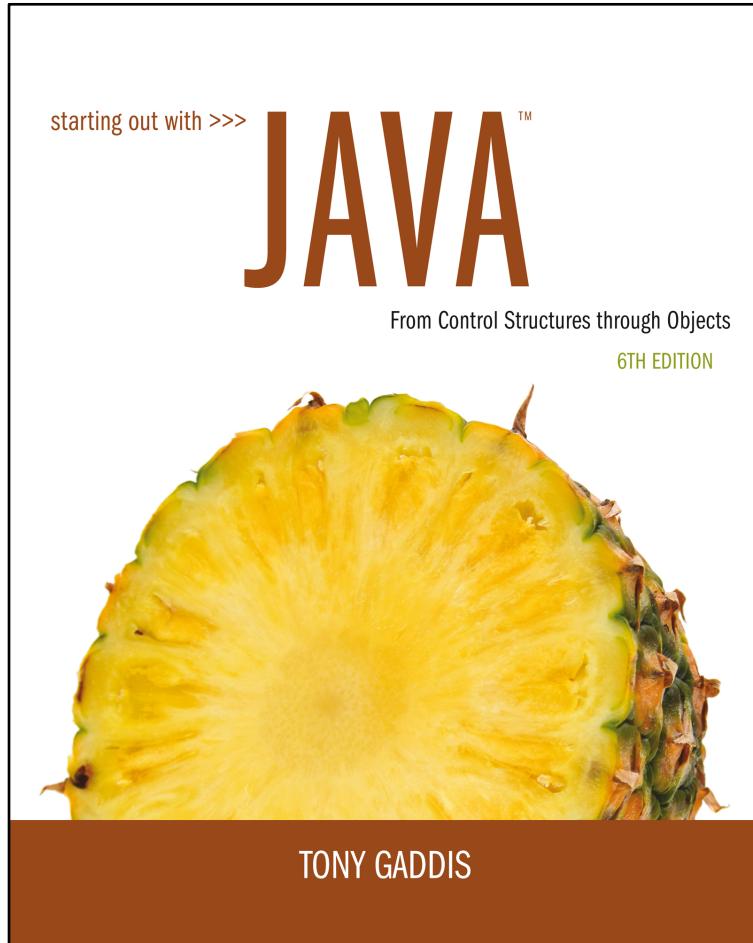


Starting Out with Java: From Control Structures Through Objects

Sixth Edition



Chapter 12

A First Look at GUI Applications

Chapter Topics

12.1 Introduction

12.2 Creating Windows

12.3 Equipping GUI Classes with a main method

12.4 Layout Managers

12.5 Radio Buttons and Check Boxes

12.6 Borders

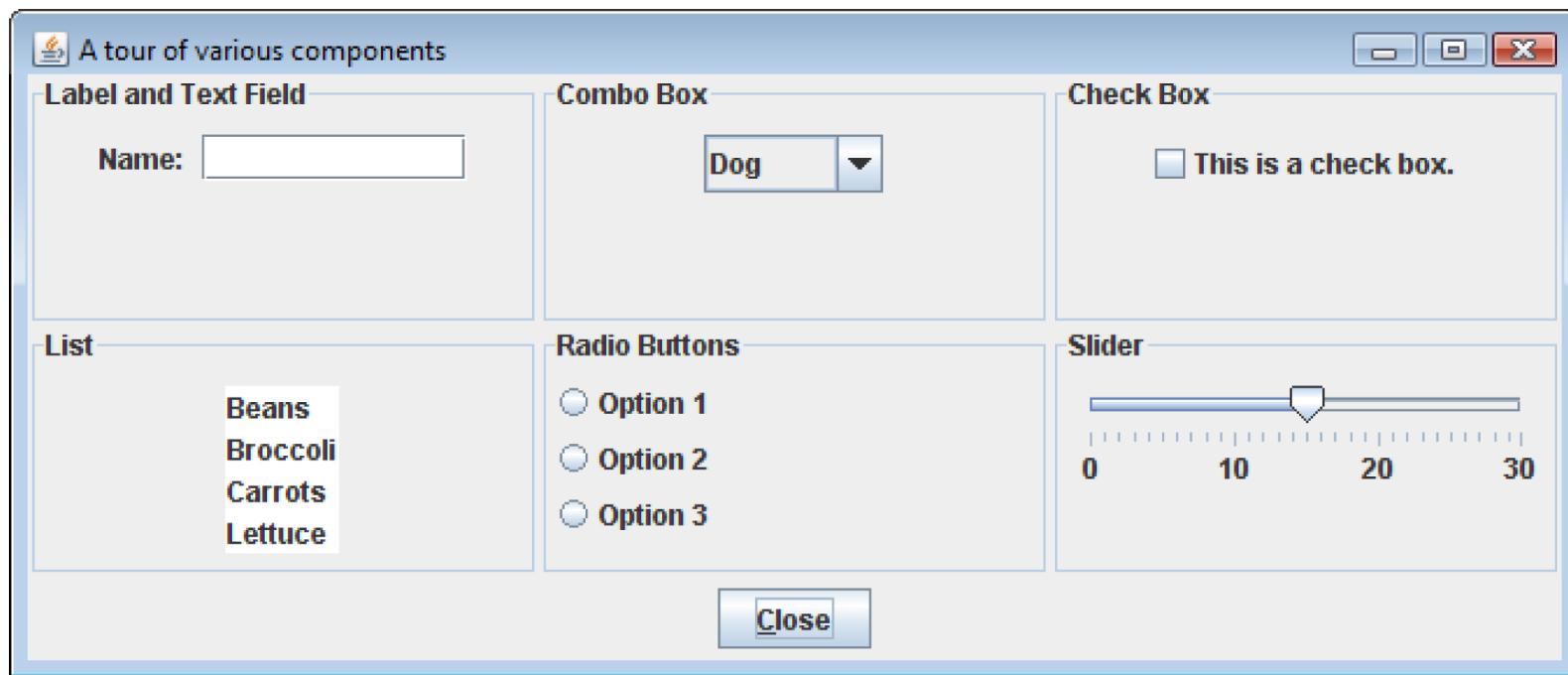
12.7 Focus on Problem Solving: Extending Classes from JPanel

12.1 Introduction (1 of 2)

- Many Java application use a **graphical user interface** or **GUI** (pronounced “gooey”).
- A GUI is a graphical window or windows that provide interaction with the user.
- GUI's accept input from:
 - the keyboard
 - a mouse.
- A window in a GUI consists of **components** that:
 - present data to the user
 - allow interaction with the application.

12.1 Introduction (2 of 2)

- Some common GUI components are:
 - buttons, labels, text fields, check boxes, radio buttons, combo boxes, and sliders.



JFC, AWT, Swing

- Java programmers use the **Java Foundation Classes (JFC)** to create GUI applications.
- The JFC consists of several sets of classes, many of which are beyond the scope of this book.
- The two sets of JFC classes that we focus on are **AWT** and **Swing** classes.
- Java is equipped with a set of classes for drawing graphics and creating graphical user interfaces.
- These classes are part of the **Abstract Windowing Toolkit (AWT)**.

Javax . Swing and Java . Awt

- In an application that uses Swing classes, it is necessary to use the following statement:

```
import javax.swing.*;
```

- Note the letter `x` that appears after the word `java`.

- Some of the AWT classes are used to determine when events, such as the clicking of a mouse, take place in applications.
- In an application that uses an AWT class, it is necessary to use the following statement.

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

Note that there is no `x` after `java` in this package name.

12.2 Creating Windows (1 of 7)

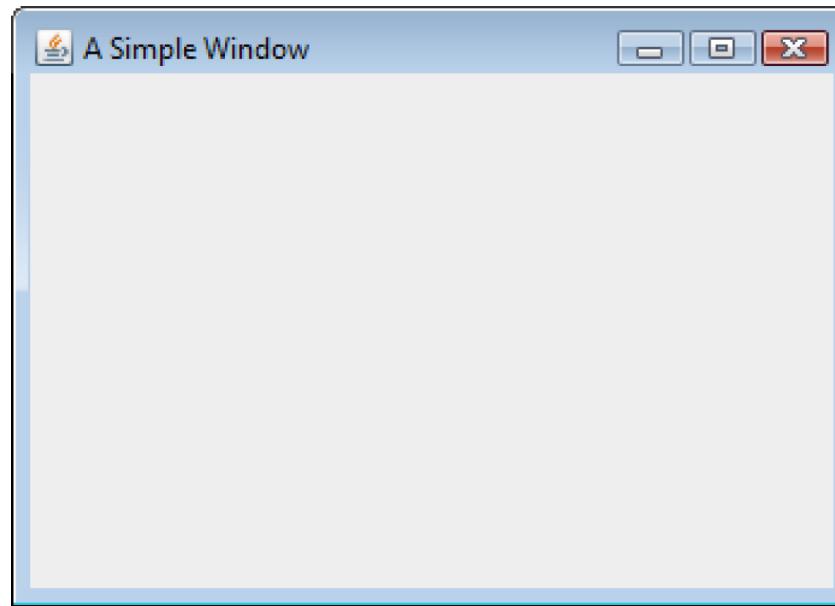
- Often, applications need one or more windows with various components.
- A window is a **container**, which is simply a component that holds other components.
- A container that can be displayed as a window is a **frame**.
- In a Swing application, you create a frame from the `JFrame` class.

12.2 Creating Windows (2 of 7)

- A frame is a basic window that has:
 - a border around it,
 - a title bar, and
 - a set of buttons for:
 - minimizing,
 - maximizing, and
 - closing the window.
- These standard features are sometimes referred to as **window decorations**.

12.2 Creating Windows (3 of 7)

- See example: ShowWindow.java



12.2 Creating Windows (4 of 7)

- The following `import` statement is needed to use the swing components:

```
import javax.swing.*;
```

- In the `main` method, two constants are declared:

```
final int WINDOW_WIDTH = 350;  
final int WINDOW_HEIGHT = 250;
```

- We use these constants later in the program to set the size of the window.
- The window's size is measured in pixels.
- A **pixel (picture element)** is one of the small dots that make up a screen display.

12.2 Creating Windows (5 of 7)

- An instance of the `JFrame` class needs to be created:

```
JFrame window = new JFrame();
```

- This statement:
 - creates a `JFrame` object in memory and
 - assigns its address to the `window` variable.
- The string that is passed to the `setTitle` method will appear in the window's title bar when it is displayed.

```
window.setTitle("A Simple Window");
```

- A `JFrame` is initially invisible.

12.2 Creating Windows (6 of 7)

- To set the size of the window:

```
window.setSize(WINDOW_WIDTH, WINDOW_HEIGHT);
```

- To specify the action to take place when the user clicks on the close button.

```
window.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
```

- The `setDefaultCloseOperation` method takes an int argument which specifies the action.

- `JFrame.HIDE_ON_CLOSE` - causes the window to be hidden from view, but the application does not end.
 - The default action is `JFrame.HIDE_ON_CLOSE`

12.2 Creating Windows (7 of 7)

- The following code displays the window:

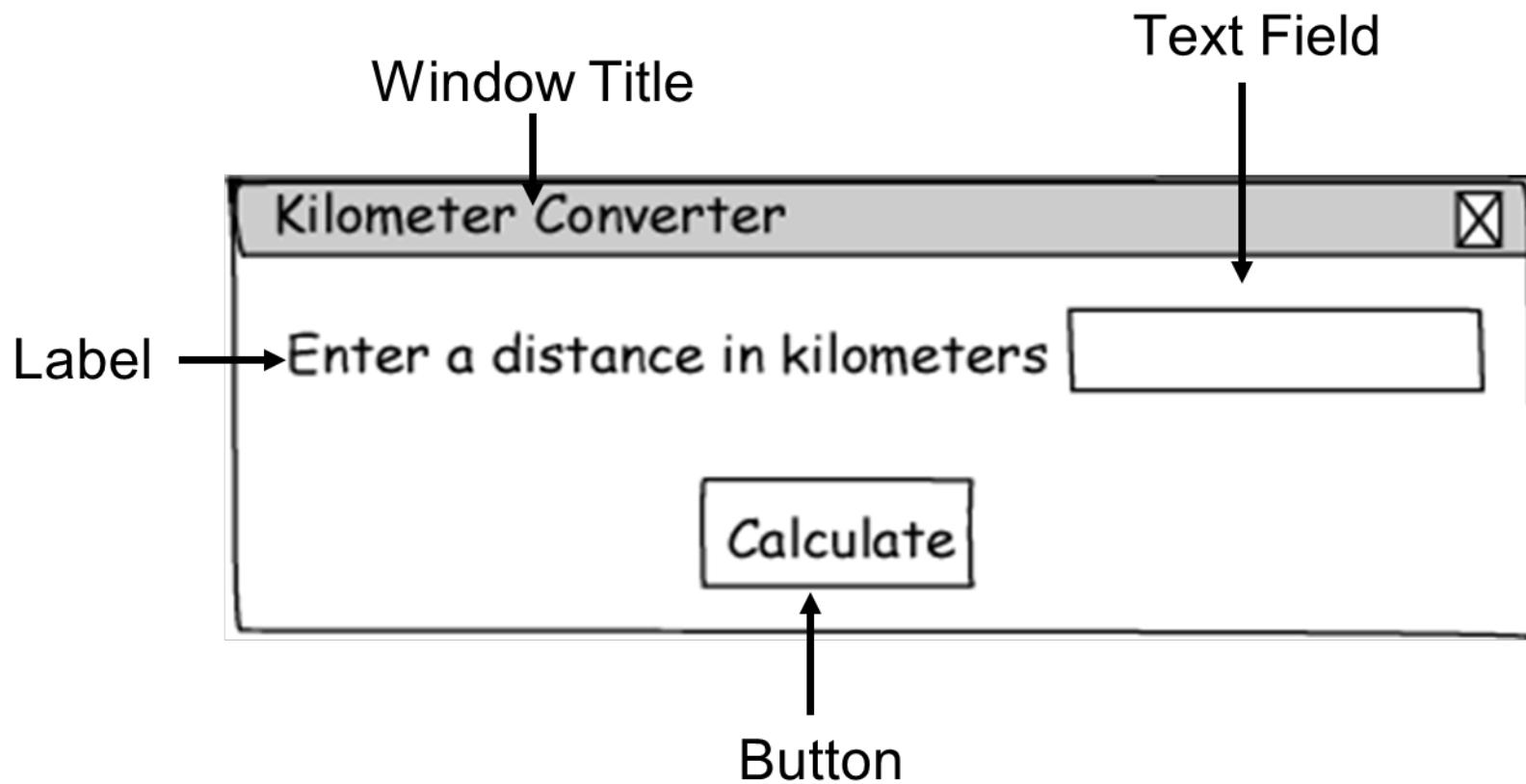
```
window.setVisible(true);
```

- The `setVisible` method takes a boolean argument.
 - `true` - display the window.
 - `false` - hide the window.

Adding Components (1 of 5)

- Swing provides numerous components that can be added to a window.
- Three fundamental components are:
 - JLabel : An area that can display text.
 - JTextField : An area in which the user may type a single line of input from the keyboard.
 - JButton : A button that can cause an action to occur when it is clicked.

Sketch of Kilometer Converter Graphical User Interface



Adding Components (2 of 5)

```
private JLabel message;  
private JTextField kilometers;  
private JButton calcButton;  
...  
message = new JLabel(  
    "Enter a distance in kilometers");  
kilometers = new JTextField(10);  
calcButton = new JButton("Calculate");
```

- This code declares and instantiates three Swing components.

Adding Components (3 of 5)

- A **content pane** is a container that is part of every `JFrame` object.
- Every component added to a `JFrame` must be added to its content pane. You do this with the `JFrame` class's `add` method.
- The content pane is not visible and it does not have a border.
- A **panel** is also a container that can hold GUI components

Adding Components (4 of 5)

- Panels cannot be displayed by themselves.
- Panels are commonly used to hold and organize collections of related components.
- Create panels with the `JPanel` class.

```
private JPanel panel;  
...  
panel = new JPanel();  
panel.add(message);  
panel.add(kilometers);  
panel.add(calcButton);
```

Adding Components (5 of 5)

- Components are typically placed on a panel and then the panel is added to the JFrame's content pane.

```
add(panel);
```

- Examples: KiloConverter.java

Event Driven Programming

- Programs that operate in a GUI environment must be **event-driven**.
- An **event** is an action that takes place within a program, such as the clicking of a button.
- Part of writing a GUI application is creating event listeners.
- An **event listener** is an object that automatically executes one of its methods when a specific event occurs.

Handling Action Events (1 of 4)

- An **event** is an action that takes place within a program, such as the clicking of a button.
- When an event takes place, the component that is responsible for the event creates an **event object** in memory.
- The event object contains information about the event.
- The component that generated the event object is known as the **event source**.
- It is possible that the source component is connected to one or more event listeners.

Handling Action Events (2 of 4)

- An **event listener** is an object that responds to events.
- The source component **fires** an event which is passed to a method in the event listener.
- Event listener classes are specific to each application.
- Event listener classes are commonly written as private inner classes in an application.

Writing Event Listener Classes as Private Inner Classes

A class that is defined inside of another class is known as an inner class

```
public class Outer  
{
```

Fields and methods of the Outer class appear here.

```
    private class Inner  
{
```

Fields and methods of the Inner class appear here.

```
}
```

```
}
```

Event Listeners Must Implement an Interface

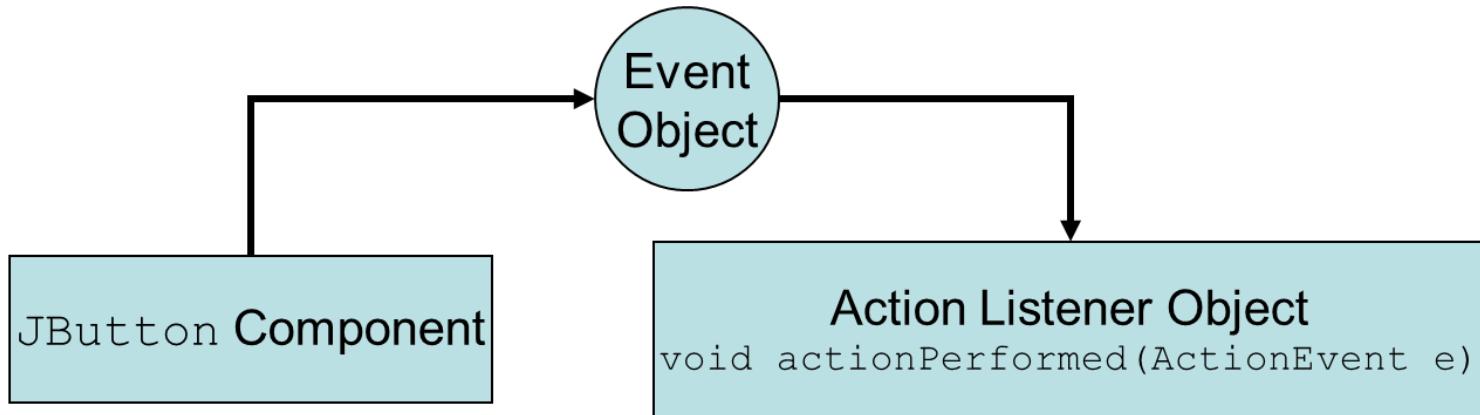
- All event listener classes must **implement an interface**.
- An interface is something like a class containing one or more method headers.
- When you write a class that implements an interface, you are agreeing that the class will have all of the methods that are specified in the interface.

Handling Action Events (3 of 4)

- JButton components generate **action events**, which require an **action listener** class.
- Action listener classes must meet the following requirements:
 - It must implement the ActionListener interface.
 - It must have a method named actionPerformed.
- The actionPerformed method takes an argument of the ActionEvent type.

```
public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e)
{
    Code to be executed when button is pressed goes here.
}
```

Handling Action Events (4 of 4)



When the button is pressed ...

The JButton component generates an event object and passes it to the action listener object's actionPerformed method.

Example: KiloConverter.java

Registering a Listener

- The process of connecting an event listener object to a component is called **registering** the event listener.
- JButton components have a method named addActionListener.

```
calcButton.addActionListener(  
    new CalcButtonListener()) ;
```

- When the user clicks on the source button, the action listener object's actionPerformed method will be executed.

Background and Foreground Colors

- Many of the Swing component classes have methods named `setBackground` and `setForeground`.
- `setBackground` is used to change the color of the component itself.
- `setForeground` is used to change the color of the text displayed on the component.
- Each method takes a color constant as an argument.

Color Constants

- There are predefined constants that you can use for colors.

Color.BLACK

Color.CYAN

Color.GRAY

Color.LIGHT_GRAY

Color.ORANGE

Color.RED

Color.YELLOW

Color.BLUE

Color.DARK_GRAY

Color.GREEN

Color.MAGENTA

Color.PINK

Color.WHITE

- Examples: ColorWindow.java

12.4 Layout Managers (1 of 3)

- An important part of designing a GUI application is determining the layout of the components.
- The term **layout** refers to the positioning and sizing of components.
- In Java, you do not normally specify the exact location of a component within a window.
- A **layout manager** is an object that:
 - controls the positions and sizes of components, and
 - makes adjustments when necessary.

12.4 Layout Managers (2 of 3)

- The layout manager object and the container work together.
- Java provides several layout managers:
 - `FlowLayout` - Arranges components in rows. This is the default for panels.
 - `BorderLayout` - Arranges components in five regions:
 - North, South, East, West, and Center.
 - This is the default layout manager for a `JFrame` object's content pane.
 - `GridLayout` - Arranges components in a grid with rows and columns.

12.4 Layout Managers (3 of 3)

- The `Container` class is one of the base classes that many components are derived from.
- Any component that is derived from the `Container` class can have a layout manager added to it.
- You add a layout manager to a container by calling the `setLayout` method.

```
JPanel panel = new JPanel();  
panel.setLayout(new BorderLayout());
```

- In a `JFrame` constructor you might use:

```
setLayout(new FlowLayout());
```

FlowLayout Manager (1 of 3)

- `FlowLayout` is the default layout manager for `JPanel` objects.
- Components appear horizontally, from left to right, in the order that they were added. When there is no more room in a row, the next components “flow” to the next row.
- See example: Flowlayout Manager

FlowLayout Manager (2 of 3)

- The FlowLayout manager allows you to align components:
 - in the center of each row
 - along the left or right edges of each row.
- An overloaded constructor allows you to pass:
 - `FlowLayout.CENTER`,
 - `FlowLayout.LEFT`, or
 - `FlowLayout.RIGHT`.
- Example:

```
setLayout(new FlowLayout(FlowLayout.LEFT));
```

FlowLayout Manager (3 of 3)

- FlowLayout inserts a gap of five pixels between components, horizontally and vertically.
- An overloaded FlowLayout constructor allows these to be adjusted.
- The constructor has the following format:

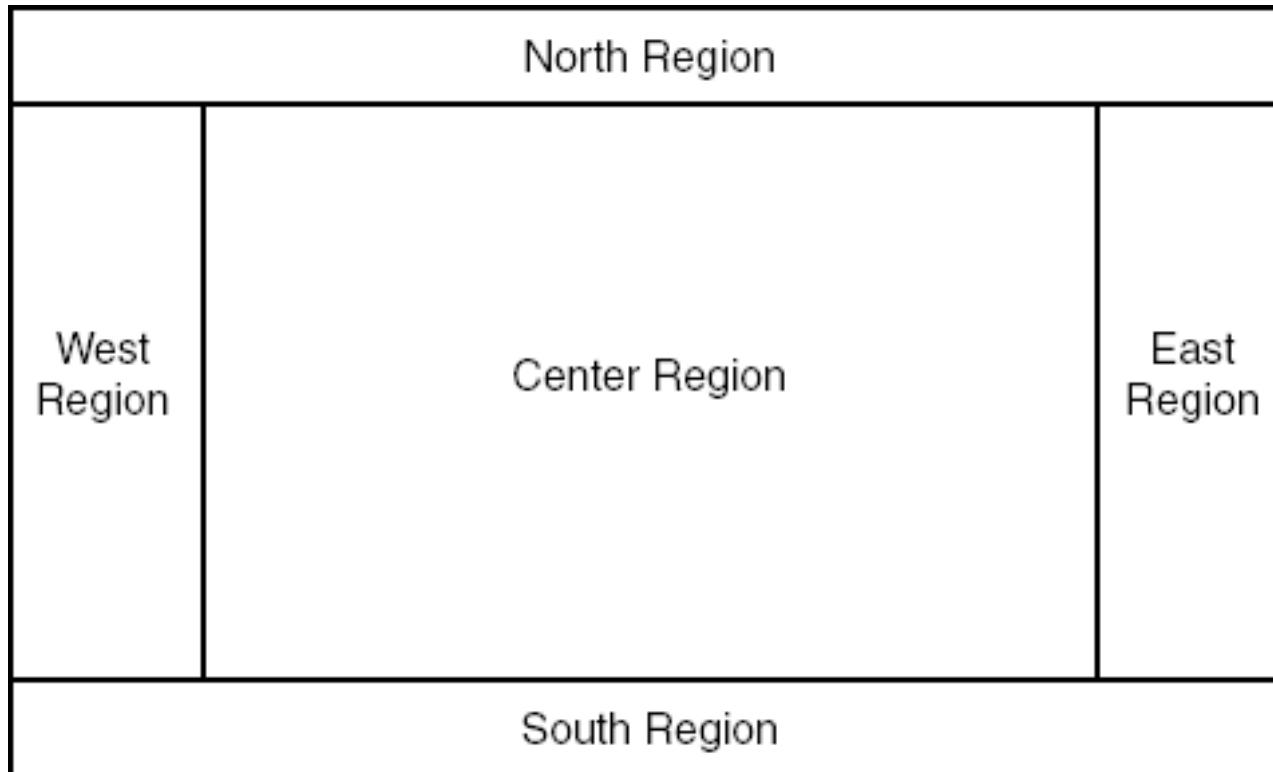
```
FlowLayout(int alignment,  
          int horizontalGap,  
          int verticalGap)
```

- Example:

```
setLayout(new FlowLayout(FlowLayout.LEFT, 10, 7));
```

BorderLayout Manager (1 of 6)

BorderLayout manages five regions where components can be placed.



BorderLayout Manager (2 of 6)

- See example: BorderWindow.java
- A component placed into a container that is managed by a BorderLayout must be placed into one of five regions:
 - BorderLayout.NORTH
 - BorderLayout.SOUTH
 - BorderLayout.EAST
 - BorderLayout.WEST
 - BorderLayout.CENTER

BorderLayout Manager (3 of 6)

- Each region can hold only one component at a time.
- When a component is added to a region, it is stretched so it fills up the entire region.
- BorderLayout is the default manager for JFrame objects.

```
add(button, BorderLayout.NORTH);
```

- If you do not pass a second argument to the add method, the component will be added to the center region.

BorderLayout Manager (4 of 6)

- Normally the size of a button is just large enough to accommodate the text that it displays
- The buttons displayed in BorderLayout region will not retain their normal size.
- The components are stretched to fill all of the space in their regions.

BorderLayout Manager (5 of 6)

- If the user resizes the window, the sizes of the components will be changed as well.
- BorderLayout manager resizes components:
 - placed in the north or south regions may be resized horizontally so it fills up the entire region,
 - placed in the east or west regions may be resized vertically so it fills up the entire region.
 - A component that is placed in the center region may be resized both horizontally and vertically so it fills up the entire region.

BorderLayout Manager (6 of 6)

- By default there is no gap between the regions.
- An overloaded BorderLayout constructor allows horizontal and vertical gaps to be specified (in pixels).
- The constructor has the following format

```
BorderLayout(int horizontalGap, int verticalGap)
```

- Example:

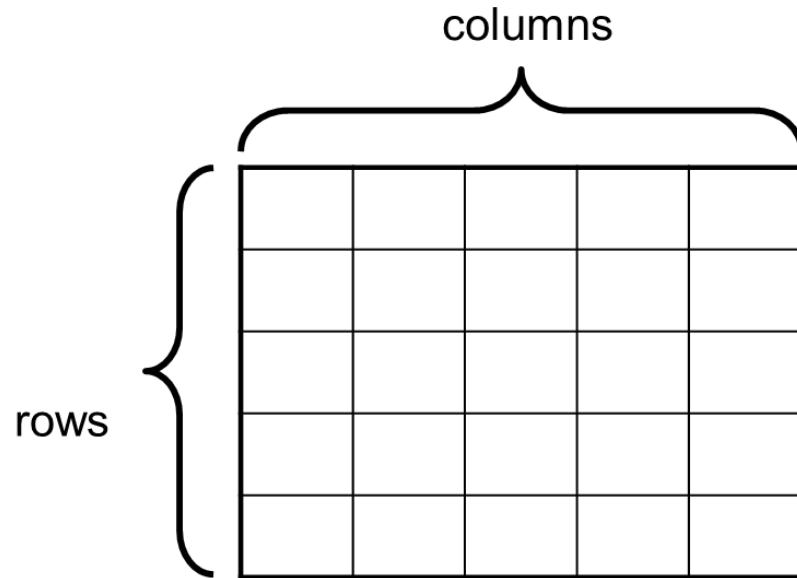
```
setLayout(new BorderLayout(5, 10));
```

Nesting Components in a Layout

- Adding components to panels and then nesting the panels inside the regions can overcome the single component limitation of layout regions.
- By adding buttons to a `JPanel` and then adding the `JPanel` object to a region, sophisticated layouts can be achieved.
- See example: `BorderPanelWindow.java`

GridLayout Manager (1 of 4)

GridLayout creates a grid with rows and columns, much like a spreadsheet. A container that is managed by a GridLayout object is divided into equally sized cells.



GridLayout Manager (2 of 4)

- GridLayout manager follows some simple rules:
 - Each cell can hold only one component.
 - All of the cells are the size of the largest component placed within the layout.
 - A component that is placed in a cell is automatically resized to fill up any extra space.
- You pass the number of rows and columns as arguments to the GridLayout constructor.

GridLayout Manager (3 of 4)

- The general format of the constructor:

```
GridLayout(int rows, int columns)
```

- Example

```
setLayout(new GridLayout(2, 3));
```

- A zero (0) can be passed for one of the arguments but not both.
 - passing 0 for both arguments will cause an `IllegalArgumentException` to be thrown.

GridLayout Manager (4 of 4)

- Components are added to a GridLayout in the following order (for a 5×5 grid):

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25

Example: GridWindow.java

GridLayout also accepts nested components:

Example: JPanelWindow.java

12.5 Radio Buttons

- **Radio buttons** allow the user to select one choice from several possible options.
- The `JRadioButton` class is used to create radio buttons.
- `JRadioButton` constructors:
 - `JRadioButton(String text)`
 - `JRadioButton(String text, boolean selected)`
- Example:

Button appears
already selected
when true

```
JRadioButton radio1 = new JRadioButton("Choice 1");  
or  
JRadioButton radio1 = new JRadioButton(  
                    "Choice 1", true);
```

Button Groups (1 of 3)

- Radio buttons normally are grouped together.
- In a radio button group only one of the radio buttons in the group may be selected at any time.
- Clicking on a radio button selects it and automatically deselects any other radio button in the same group.
- An instance of the `ButtonGroup` class is used to group radio buttons

Button Groups (2 of 3)

- The `ButtonGroup` object creates the **mutually exclusive** relationship between the radio buttons that it contains.

```
JRadioButton radio1 = new JRadioButton("Choice 1",
                                         true);
JRadioButton radio2 = new JRadioButton("Choice 2");
JRadioButton radio3 = new JRadioButton("Choice 3");
ButtonGroup group = new ButtonGroup();
group.add(radio1);
group.add(radio2);
group.add(radio3);
```

Button Groups (3 of 3)

- **ButtonGroup** objects are not containers like **JPanel** objects, or content frames.
- If you wish to add the radio buttons to a panel or a content frame, you must add them individually.

```
panel.add(radio1);  
panel.add(radio2);  
panel.add(radio3);
```

Radio Button Events

- `JRadioButton` objects generate an action event when they are clicked.
- To respond to an action event, you must write an action listener class, just like a `JButton` event handler.
- See example: `MetricConverter.java`

Determining Selected Radio Buttons

- The `JRadioButton` class's `isSelected` method returns a boolean value indicating if the radio button is selected.

```
if (radio.isSelected())
{
    // Code here executes if the radio
    // button is selected.
}
```

Selecting a Radio Button in Code

- It is also possible to select a radio button in code with the `JRadioButton` class's `doClick` method.
- When the method is called, the radio button is selected just as if the user had clicked on it.
- As a result, an action event is generated.

```
radio.doClick();
```

12.5 Check Boxes (1 of 2)

- A **check box** appears as a small box with a label appearing next to it.
- Like radio buttons, check boxes may be selected or deselected at run time.
- When a check box is selected, a small check mark appears inside the box.
- Check boxes are often displayed in groups but they are not usually grouped in a `ButtonGroup`.

12.5 Check Boxes (2 of 2)

- The user is allowed to select any or all of the check boxes that are displayed in a group.
- The `JCheckBox` class is used to create check boxes.
- Two `JCheckBox` constructors:
 - `JCheckBox(String text)`
 - `JCheckBox(String text, boolean selected)`
- Example:

```
JCheckBox check1 = new JCheckBox("Macaroni");
```

or

```
JCheckBox check1 = new JCheckBox("Macaroni",  
                                true);
```

Check appears
in box if true

Check Box Events (1 of 2)

- When a `JCheckBox` object is selected or deselected, it generates an **item event**.
- Handling item events is similar to handling action events.
- Write an **item listener** class, which must meet the following requirements:
 - It must implement the `ItemListener` interface.
 - It must have a method named `itemStateChanged`.
 - This method must take an argument of the `ItemEvent` type.

Check Box Events (2 of 2)

- Create an object of the class
- Register the item listener object with the JCheckBox component.
- On an event, the `itemStateChanged` method of the item listener object is automatically run
 - The event object is passed in as an argument.

Determining Selected Check Boxes

- The `isSelected` method will determine whether a `JCheckBox` component is selected.
- The method returns a boolean value.

```
if (checkBox.isSelected())
{
    // Code here executes if the check
    // box is selected.
}
```

- See example: `ColorCheckBoxWindow.java`

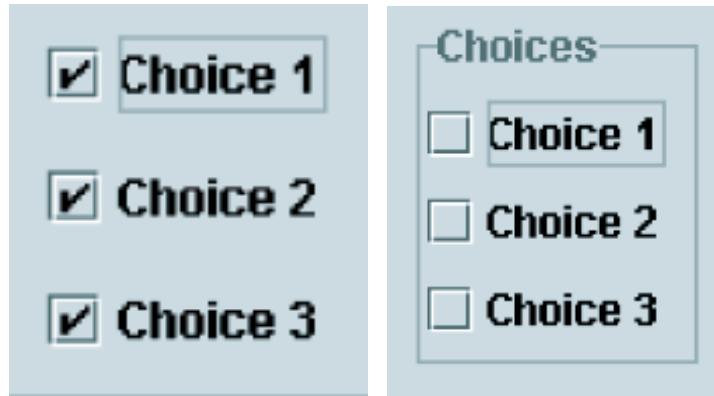
Selecting Check Boxes in Code

- It is possible to select check boxes in code with the `JCheckBox` class's `doClick` method.
- When the method is called, the check box is selected just as if the user had clicked on it.
- As a result, an item event is generated.

```
checkBox.doClick();
```

12.6 Borders (1 of 2)

- Windows have a more organized look if related components are grouped inside borders.



- You can add a border to any component that is derived from the `JComponent` class.
 - Any component derived from `JComponent` inherits a method named `setBorder`

12.6 Borders (2 of 2)

- The `setBorder` method is used to add a border to the component.
- The `setBorder` method accepts a `Border` object as its argument.
- A `Border` object contains detailed information describing the appearance of a border.
- The `BorderFactory` class, which is part of the `javax.swing` package, has static methods that return various types of borders.

Table 12-6 Borders Produced by the BorderFactory Class

Border	BorderFactory Method	Description
Compound border	createCompoundBorder	A border that has two parts: an inside edge and an outside edge. The inside and outside edges can be any of the other borders.
Empty border	createEmptyBorder	A border that contains only empty space.
Etched border	createEtchedBorder	A border with a 3D appearance that looks “etched” into the background.
Line border	createLineBorder	A border that appears as a line.
Lowered bevel border	createLoweredBevelBorder	A border that looks like beveled edges. It has a 3D appearance that gives the illusion of being sunken into the surrounding background.
Matte border	createMatteBorder	A line border that can have edges of different thicknesses.
Raised bevel border	createRaisedBevelBorder	A border that looks like beveled edges. It has a 3D appearance that gives the illusion of being raised above the surrounding background.
Titled border	createTitledBorder	An etched border with a title.

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