The Complete Reference

Java™ 2

Chapter 20

Event Handling

This chapter examines an important aspect of Java that relates to applets: events. As explained in Chapter 19, applets are event-driven programs. Thus, event handling is at the core of successful applet programming. Most events to which your applet will respond are generated by the user. These events are passed to your applet in a variety of ways, with the specific method depending upon the actual event. There are several types of events. The most commonly handled events are those generated by the mouse, the keyboard, and various controls, such as a push button. Events are supported by the **java.awt.event** package.

The chapter begins with an overview of Java's event handling mechanism. It then examines the main event classes and interfaces, and develops several examples that demonstrate the fundamentals of event processing. This chapter also explains how to use adapter classes, inner classes, and anonymous inner classes to streamline event handling code. The examples provided in the remainder of this book make frequent use of these techniques.

Two Event Handling Mechanisms

Before beginning our discussion of event handling, an important point must be made: The way in which events are handled by an applet changed significantly between the original version of Java (1.0) and modern versions of Java, beginning with version 1.1. The 1.0 method of event handling is still supported, but it is not recommended for new programs. Also, many of the methods that support the old 1.0 event model have been deprecated. The modern approach is the way that events should be handled by all new programs, including those written for Java 2, and thus is the method employed by programs in this book.

The Delegation Event Model

The modern approach to handling events is based on the *delegation event model*, which defines standard and consistent mechanisms to generate and process events. Its concept is quite simple: a *source* generates an event and sends it to one or more *listeners*. In this scheme, the listener simply waits until it receives an event. Once received, the listener processes the event and then returns. The advantage of this design is that the application logic that processes events is cleanly separated from the user interface logic that generates those events. A user interface element is able to "delegate" the processing of an event to a separate piece of code.

In the delegation event model, listeners must register with a source in order to receive an event notification. This provides an important benefit: notifications are sent only to listeners that want to receive them. This is a more efficient way to handle events than the design used by the old Java 1.0 approach. Previously, an event was propagated up the containment hierarchy until it was handled by a component. This required components to receive events that they did not process, and it wasted valuable time. The delegation event model eliminates this overhead.

Note *Java also allows you to process events without using the delegation event model. This can be done by extending an AWT component. This technique is discussed at the end of Chapter 22. However, the delegation event model is the preferred design for the reasons just cited.*

The following sections define events and describe the roles of sources and listeners.

Events

In the delegation model, an *event* is an object that describes a state change in a source. It can be generated as a consequence of a person interacting with the elements in a graphical user interface. Some of the activities that cause events to be generated are pressing a button, entering a character via the keyboard, selecting an item in a list, and clicking the mouse. Many other user operations could also be cited as examples.

Events may also occur that are not directly caused by interactions with a user interface. For example, an event may be generated when a timer expires, a counter exceeds a value, a software or hardware failure occurs, or an operation is completed. You are free to define events that are appropriate for your application.

Event Sources

A *source* is an object that generates an event. This occurs when the internal state of that object changes in some way. Sources may generate more than one type of event.

A source must register listeners in order for the listeners to receive notifications about a specific type of event. Each type of event has its own registration method. Here is the general form:

public void add*Type*Listener(*Type*Listener *el*)

Here, *Type* is the name of the event and *el* is a reference to the event listener. For example, the method that registers a keyboard event listener is called **addKeyListener( )**. The method that registers a mouse motion listener is called **addMouseMotionListener( )**. When an event occurs, all registered listeners are notified and receive a copy of the event object. This is known as *multicasting* the event. In all cases, notifications are sent only to listeners that register to receive them.

Some sources may allow only one listener to register. The general form of such a method is this:

public void add*Type*Listener(*Type*Listener *el*)
  throws java.util.TooManyListenersException

Here, *Type* is the name of the event and *el* is a reference to the event listener. When such an event occurs, the registered listener is notified. This is known as *unicasting* the event.

A source must also provide a method that allows a listener to unregister an interest in a specific type of event. The general form of such a method is this:

public void remove*Type*Listener(*Type*Listener *el*)

Here, *Type* is the name of the event and *el* is a reference to the event listener. For example, to remove a keyboard listener, you would call **removeKeyListener( )**.

The methods that add or remove listeners are provided by the source that generates events. For example, the **Component** class provides methods to add and remove keyboard and mouse event listeners.

Event Listeners

A *listener* is an object that is notified when an event occurs. It has two major requirements. First, it must have been registered with one or more sources to receive notifications about specific types of events. Second, it must implement methods to receive and process these notifications.

The methods that receive and process events are defined in a set of interfaces found in **java.awt.event**. For example, the **MouseMotionListener** interface defines two methods to receive notifications when the mouse is dragged or moved. Any object may receive and process one or both of these events if it provides an implementation of this interface. Many other listener interfaces are discussed later in this and other chapters.

Event Classes

The classes that represent events are at the core of Java's event handling mechanism. Thus, we begin our study of event handling with a tour of the event classes. As you will see, they provide a consistent, easy-to-use means of encapsulating events.

At the root of the Java event class hierarchy is **EventObject**, which is in **java.util**. It is the superclass for all events. Its one constructor is shown here:

EventObject(Object *src*)

Here, *src* is the object that generates this event.

EventObject contains two methods: **getSource( )** and **toString( )**. The **getSource( )** method returns the source of the event. Its general form is shown here:

Object getSource( )

As expected, **toString( )** returns the string equivalent of the event.

The class **AWTEvent**, defined within the **java.awt** package, is a subclass of **EventObject**. It is the superclass (either directly or indirectly) of all AWT-based events used by the delegation event model. Its **getID( )** method can be used to determine the type of the event. The signature of this method is shown here:

int getID( )

Additional details about **AWTEvent** are provided at the end of Chapter 22. At this point, it is important to know only that all of the other classes discussed in this section are subclasses of **AWTEvent**.

To summarize:

- **EventObject** is a superclass of all events.
- **AWTEvent** is a superclass of all AWT events that are handled by the delegation event model.

The package **java.awt.event** defines several types of events that are generated by various user interface elements. Table 20-1 enumerates the most important of these event classes and provides a brief description of when they are generated. The most commonly used constructors and methods in each class are described in the following sections.

Event Class	Description
ActionEvent	Generated when a button is pressed, a list item is double-clicked, or a menu item is selected.
AdjustmentEvent	Generated when a scroll bar is manipulated.
ComponentEvent	Generated when a component is hidden, moved, resized, or becomes visible.
ContainerEvent	Generated when a component is added to or removed from a container.
FocusEvent	Generated when a component gains or loses keyboard focus.
InputEvent	Abstract super class for all component input event classes.
ItemEvent	Generated when a check box or list item is clicked; also occurs when a choice selection is made or a checkable menu item is selected or deselected.

Table 20-1. *Main Event Classes in* java.awt.event

Event Class	Description
KeyEvent	Generated when input is received from the keyboard.
MouseEvent	Generated when the mouse is dragged, moved, clicked, pressed, or released; also generated when the mouse enters or exits a component.
MouseWheelEvent	Generated when the mouse wheel is moved. (Added by Java 2, version 1.4)
TextEvent	Generated when the value of a text area or text field is changed.
WindowEvent	Generated when a window is activated, closed, deactivated, deiconified, iconified, opened, or quit.

Table 20-1. *Main Event Classes in* java.awt.event (continued)

The ActionEvent Class

An **ActionEvent** is generated when a button is pressed, a list item is double-clicked, or a menu item is selected. The **ActionEvent** class defines four integer constants that can be used to identify any modifiers associated with an action event: **ALT_MASK**, **CTRL_MASK**, **META_MASK**, and **SHIFT_MASK**. In addition, there is an integer constant, **ACTION_PERFORMED**, which can be used to identify action events.

ActionEvent has these three constructors:

ActionEvent(Object *src*, int *type*, String *cmd*)
ActionEvent(Object *src*, int *type*, String *cmd*, int *modifiers*)
ActionEvent(Object *src*, int *type*, String *cmd*, long *when*, int *modifiers*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the object that generated this event. The type of the event is specified by *type*, and its command string is *cmd*. The argument *modifiers* indicates which modifier keys (ALT, CTRL, META, and/or SHIFT) were pressed when the event was generated. The *when* parameter specifies when the event occurred. The third constructor was added by Java 2, version 1.4.

You can obtain the command name for the invoking **ActionEvent** object by using the **getActionCommand( )** method, shown here:

String getActionCommand( )

For example, when a button is pressed, an action event is generated that has a command name equal to the label on that button.

The **getModifiers( )** method returns a value that indicates which modifier keys (ALT, CTRL, META, and/or SHIFT) were pressed when the event was generated. Its form is shown here:

int getModifiers( )

Java 2, version 1.4 added the method **getWhen( )** that returns the time at which the event took place. This is called the event's *timestamp*. The **getWhen( )** method is shown here.

long getWhen( )

Timestamps were added by **ActionEvent** to help support the improved input focus subsystem implemented by Java 2, version 1.4.

The AdjustmentEvent Class

An **AdjustmentEvent** is generated by a scroll bar. There are five types of adjustment events. The **AdjustmentEvent** class defines integer constants that can be used to identify them. The constants and their meanings are shown here:

BLOCK_DECREMENT	The user clicked inside the scroll bar to decrease its value.
BLOCK_INCREMENT	The user clicked inside the scroll bar to increase its value.
TRACK	The slider was dragged.
UNIT_DECREMENT	The button at the end of the scroll bar was clicked to decrease its value.
UNIT_INCREMENT	The button at the end of the scroll bar was clicked to increase its value.

In addition, there is an integer constant, **ADJUSTMENT_VALUE_CHANGED**, that indicates that a change has occurred.

Here is one **AdjustmentEvent** constructor:

AdjustmentEvent(Adjustable *src*, int *id*, int *type*, int *data*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the object that generated this event. The *id* equals **ADJUSTMENT_VALUE_CHANGED**. The type of the event is specified by *type*, and its associated data is *data*.

The **getAdjustable( )** method returns the object that generated the event. Its form is shown here:

Adjustable getAdjustable( )

The type of the adjustment event may be obtained by the **getAdjustmentType( )** method. It returns one of the constants defined by **AdjustmentEvent**. The general form is shown here:

int getAdjustmentType( )

The amount of the adjustment can be obtained from the **getValue( )** method, shown here:

int getValue( )

For example, when a scroll bar is manipulated, this method returns the value represented by that change.

The ComponentEvent Class

A **ComponentEvent** is generated when the size, position, or visibility of a component is changed. There are four types of component events. The **ComponentEvent** class defines integer constants that can be used to identify them. The constants and their meanings are shown here:

COMPONENT_HIDDEN	The component was hidden.
COMPONENT_MOVED	The component was moved.
COMPONENT_RESIZED	The component was resized.
COMPONENT_SHOWN	The component became visible.

ComponentEvent has this constructor:

ComponentEvent(Component *src*, int *type*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the object that generated this event. The type of the event is specified by *type*.

ComponentEvent is the superclass either directly or indirectly of **ContainerEvent**, **FocusEvent**, **KeyEvent**, **MouseEvent**, and **WindowEvent**.

The **getComponent( )** method returns the component that generated the event. It is shown here:

Component getComponent( )

The ContainerEvent Class

A **ContainerEvent** is generated when a component is added to or removed from a container. There are two types of container events. The **ContainerEvent** class defines **int** constants that can be used to identify them: **COMPONENT_ADDED** and **COMPONENT_REMOVED**. They indicate that a component has been added to or removed from the container.

ContainerEvent is a subclass of **ComponentEvent** and has this constructor:

ContainerEvent(Component *src*, int *type*, Component *comp*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the container that generated this event. The type of the event is specified by *type*, and the component that has been added to or removed from the container is *comp*.

You can obtain a reference to the container that generated this event by using the **getContainer( )** method, shown here:

Container getContainer( )

The **getChild( )** method returns a reference to the component that was added to or removed from the container. Its general form is shown here:

Component getChild( )

The FocusEvent Class

A **FocusEvent** is generated when a component gains or loses input focus. These events are identified by the integer constants **FOCUS_GAINED** and **FOCUS_LOST**.

FocusEvent is a subclass of **ComponentEvent** and has these constructors:

FocusEvent(Component *src*, int *type*)
FocusEvent(Component *src*, int *type*, boolean *temporaryFlag*)
Focus Event(Component *src*, int *type*, boolean *temporaryFlag*, Component *other*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the component that generated this event. The type of the event is specified by *type*. The argument *temporaryFlag* is set to **true** if the focus event is temporary. Otherwise, it is set to **false**. (A temporary focus event occurs as a result of another user interface operation. For example, assume that the focus is in a text field. If the user moves the mouse to adjust a scroll bar, the focus is temporarily lost.)

The other component involved in the focus change, called the *opposite component*, is passed in *other*. Therefore, if a **FOCUS_GAINED** event occurred, *other* will refer to the component that lost focus. Conversely, if a **FOCUS_LOST** event occurred, *other* will refer to the component that gains focus. The third constructor was added by Java 2, version 1.4.

You can determine the other component by calling **getOppositeComponent( )**, shown here.

Component getOppositeComponent( )

The opposite component is returned. This method was added by Java 2, version 1.4.

The **isTemporary( )** method indicates if this focus change is temporary. Its form is shown here:

boolean isTemporary( )

The method returns **true** if the change is temporary. Otherwise, it returns **false**.

The InputEvent Class

The abstract class **InputEvent** is a subclass of **ComponentEvent** and is the superclass for component input events. Its subclasses are **KeyEvent** and **MouseEvent**.

InputEvent defines several integer constants that represent any modifiers, such as the control key being pressed, that might be associated with the event. Originally, the **InputEvent** class defined the following eight values to represent the modifiers.

ALT_MASK	**BUTTON2_MASK**	**META_MASK**
ALT_GRAPH_MASK	**BUTTON3_MASK**	**SHIFT_MASK**
BUTTON1_MASK	**CTRL_MASK**	

However, because of possible conflicts between the modifiers used by keyboard events and mouse events, and other issues, Java 2, version 1.4 added the following extended modifier values.

ALT_DOWN_MASK	**ALT_GRAPH_DOWN_MASK**	**BUTTON1_DOWN_MASK**
BUTTON2_DOWN_MASK	**BUTTON3_DOWN_MASK**	**CTRL_DOWN_MASK**
META_DOWN_MASK	**SHIFT_DOWN_MASK**	

When writing new code, it is recommended that you use the new, extended modifiers rather than the original modifiers.

To test if a modifier was pressed at the time an event is generated, use the **isAltDown( )**, **isAltGraphDown( )**, **isControlDown( )**, **isMetaDown( )**, and **isShiftDown( )** methods. The forms of these methods are shown here:

```
boolean isAltDown( )
boolean isAltGraphDown( )
boolean isControlDown( )
boolean isMetaDown( )
boolean isShiftDown( )
```

You can obtain a value that contains all of the original modifier flags by calling the **getModifiers( )** method. It is shown here:

```
int getModifiers( )
```

You can obtain the extended modifiers by called **getModifiersEx( )**, which is shown here.

```
int getModifiersEx( )
```

This method was also added by Java 2, version 1.4.

The ItemEvent Class

An **ItemEvent** is generated when a check box or a list item is clicked or when a checkable menu item is selected or deselected. (Check boxes and list boxes are described later in this book.) There are two types of item events, which are identified by the following integer constants:

DESELECTED	The user deselected an item.
SELECTED	The user selected an item.

In addition, **ItemEvent** defines one integer constant, **ITEM_STATE_CHANGED**, that signifies a change of state.

ItemEvent has this constructor:

ItemEvent(ItemSelectable *src*, int *type*, Object *entry*, int *state*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the component that generated this event. For example, this might be a list or choice element. The type of the event is specified by *type*. The specific item that generated the item event is passed in *entry*. The current state of that item is in *state*.

The **getItem( )** method can be used to obtain a reference to the item that generated an event. Its signature is shown here:

Object getItem( )

The **getItemSelectable( )** method can be used to obtain a reference to the **ItemSelectable** object that generated an event. Its general form is shown here:

ItemSelectable getItemSelectable( )

Lists and choices are examples of user interface elements that implement the **ItemSelectable** interface.

The **getStateChange( )** method returns the state change (i.e., **SELECTED** or **DESELECTED**) for the event. It is shown here:

int getStateChange( )

The KeyEvent Class

A **KeyEvent** is generated when keyboard input occurs. There are three types of key events, which are identified by these integer constants: **KEY_PRESSED**, **KEY_RELEASED**, and **KEY_TYPED**. The first two events are generated when any key is pressed or released. The last event occurs only when a character is generated. Remember, not all key presses result in characters. For example, pressing the SHIFT key does not generate a character.

There are many other integer constants that are defined by **KeyEvent**. For example, **VK_0** through **VK_9** and **VK_A** through **VK_Z** define the ASCII equivalents of the numbers and letters. Here are some others:

VK_ENTER	**VK_ESCAPE**	**VK_CANCEL**	**VK_UP**
VK_DOWN	**VK_LEFT**	**VK_RIGHT**	**VK_PAGE_DOWN**
VK_PAGE_UP	**VK_SHIFT**	**VK_ALT**	**VK_CONTROL**

The **VK** constants specify *virtual key codes* and are independent of any modifiers, such as control, shift, or alt.

KeyEvent is a subclass of **InputEvent**. Here are two of its constructors:

KeyEvent(Component *src*, int *type*, long *when*, int *modifiers*, int *code*)
KeyEvent(Component *src*, int *type*, long *when*, int *modifiers*, int *code*, char *ch*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the component that generated the event. The type of the event is specified by *type*. The system time at which the key was pressed is passed in *when*. The *modifiers* argument indicates which modifiers were pressed when this key event occurred. The virtual key code, such as **VK_UP**, **VK_A**, and so forth, is passed in *code*. The character equivalent (if one exists) is passed in *ch*. If no valid character exists, then *ch* contains **CHAR_UNDEFINED**. For **KEY_TYPED** events, *code* will contain **VK_UNDEFINED**.

The **KeyEvent** class defines several methods, but the most commonly used ones are **getKeyChar( )**, which returns the character that was entered, and **getKeyCode( )**, which returns the key code. Their general forms are shown here:

char getKeyChar( )
int getKeyCode( )

If no valid character is available, then **getKeyChar( )** returns **CHAR_UNDEFINED**. When a **KEY_TYPED** event occurs, **getKeyCode( )** returns **VK_UNDEFINED**.

The MouseEvent Class

There are eight types of mouse events. The **MouseEvent** class defines the following integer constants that can be used to identify them:

MOUSE_CLICKED	The user clicked the mouse.
MOUSE_DRAGGED	The user dragged the mouse.
MOUSE_ENTERED	The mouse entered a component.
MOUSE_EXITED	The mouse exited from a component.
MOUSE_MOVED	The mouse moved.
MOUSE_PRESSED	The mouse was pressed.
MOUSE_RELEASED	The mouse was released.
MOUSE_WHEEL	The mouse wheel was moved (Java 2, v1.4).

MouseEvent is a subclass of **InputEvent**. Here is one of its constructors.

MouseEvent(Component *src*, int *type*, long *when*, int *modifiers*,
int *x*, int *y*, int *clicks*, boolean *triggersPopup*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the component that generated the event. The type of the event is specified by *type*. The system time at which the mouse event occurred is passed in *when*. The *modifiers* argument indicates which modifiers were pressed when a mouse event occurred. The coordinates of the mouse are passed in *x* and *y*. The click count is passed in *clicks*. The *triggersPopup* flag indicates if this event causes a pop-up menu to appear on this platform. Java 2, version 1.4 adds a second constructor which also allows the button that caused the event to be specified.

The most commonly used methods in this class are **getX( )** and **getY( )**. These return the X and Y coordinates of the mouse when the event occurred. Their forms are shown here:

int getX( )
int getY( )

Alternatively, you can use the **getPoint( )** method to obtain the coordinates of the mouse. It is shown here:

Point getPoint( )

It returns a **Point** object that contains the X, Y coordinates in its integer members: **x** and **y**.

The **translatePoint( )** method changes the location of the event. Its form is shown here:

void translatePoint(int *x*, int *y*)

Here, the arguments *x* and *y* are added to the coordinates of the event.

The **getClickCount( )** method obtains the number of mouse clicks for this event. Its signature is shown here:

int getClickCount( )

The **isPopupTrigger( )** method tests if this event causes a pop-up menu to appear on this platform. Its form is shown here:

boolean isPopupTrigger( )

Java 2, version 1.4 added the **getButton( )** method, shown here.

int getButton( )

It returns a value that represents the button that caused the event. The return value will be one of these constants defined by **MouseEvent**.

NOBUTTON	BUTTON1	BUTTON2	BUTTON3

The **NOBUTTON** value indicates that no button was pressed or released.

The MouseWheelEvent Class

The **MouseWheelEvent** class encapsulates a mouse wheel event. It is a subclass of **MouseEvent** and was added by Java 2, version 1.4. Not all mice have wheels.

If a mouse has a wheel, it is located between the left and right buttons. Mouse wheels are used for scrolling. **MouseWheelEvent** defines these two integer constants.

WHEEL_BLOCK_SCROLL	A page-up or page-down scroll event occurred.
WHEEL_UNIT_SCROLL	A line-up or line-down scroll event occurred.

MouseWheelEvent defines the following constructor.

MouseWheelEvent(Component *src*, int *type*, long *when*, int *modifiers*,
int *x*, int *y*, int *clicks*, boolean *triggersPopup*,
int *scrollHow*, int *amount*, int *count*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the object that generated the event. The type of the event is specified by *type*. The system time at which the mouse event occurred is passed in *when*. The *modifiers* argument indicates which modifiers were pressed when the event occurred. The coordinates of the mouse are passed in *x* and *y*. The number of clicks the wheel has rotated is passed in *clicks*. The *triggersPopup* flag indicates if this event causes a pop-up menu to appear on this platform. The *scrollHow* value must be either **WHEEL_UNIT_SCROLL** or **WHEEL_BLOCK_SCROLL**. The number of units to scroll is passed in *amount*. The *count* parameter indicates the number of rotational units that the wheel moved.

MouseWheelEvent defines methods that give you access to the wheel event. To obtain the number of rotational units, call **getWheelRotation( )**, shown here.

int getWheelRotation( )

It returns the number of rotational units. If the value is positive, the wheel moved counterclockwise. If the value is negative, the wheel moved clockwise.

To obtain the type of scroll, call **getScrollType( )**, shown next.

int getScrollType( )

It returns either **WHEEL_UNIT_SCROLL** or **WHEEL_BLOCK_SCROLL**.

If the scroll type is **WHEEL_UNIT_SCROLL**, you can obtain the number of units to scroll by calling **getScrollAmount( )**. It is shown here.

int getScrollAmount( )

The TextEvent Class

Instances of this class describe text events. These are generated by text fields and text areas when characters are entered by a user or program. **TextEvent** defines the integer constant **TEXT_VALUE_CHANGED**.

The one constructor for this class is shown here:

TextEvent(Object *src*, int *type*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the object that generated this event. The type of the event is specified by *type*.

The **TextEvent** object does not include the characters currently in the text component that generated the event. Instead, your program must use other methods associated with the text component to retrieve that information. This operation differs from other event objects discussed in this section. For this reason, no methods are discussed here for the **TextEvent** class. Think of a text event notification as a signal to a listener that it should retrieve information from a specific text component.

The WindowEvent Class

There are ten types of window events. The **WindowEvent** class defines integer constants that can be used to identify them. The constants and their meanings are shown here:

WINDOW_ACTIVATED	The window was activated.
WINDOW_CLOSED	The window has been closed.
WINDOW_CLOSING	The user requested that the window be closed.
WINDOW_DEACTIVATED	The window was deactivated.
WINDOW_DEICONIFIED	The window was deiconified.
WINDOW_GAINED_FOCUS	The window gained input focus.
WINDOW_ICONIFIED	The window was iconified.
WINDOW_LOST_FOCUS	The window lost input focus.
WINDOW_OPENED	The window was opened.
WINDOW_STATE_CHANGED	The state of the window changed. (Added by Java 2, version 1.4.)

WindowEvent is a subclass of **ComponentEvent**. It defines several constructors. The first is

WindowEvent(Window *src*, int *type*)

Here, *src* is a reference to the object that generated this event. The type of the event is *type*. Java 2, version 1.4 adds the next three constructors.

WindowEvent(Window *src*, int *type*, Window *other*)
WindowEvent(Window *src*, int *type*, int *fromState*, int *toState*)
WindowEvent(Window *src*, int *type*, Window *other*, int *fromState*, int *toState*)

Here, *other* specifies the opposite window when a focus event occurs. The *fromState* specifies the prior state of the window and *toState* specifies the new state that the window will have when a window state change occurs.

The most commonly used method in this class is **getWindow( )**. It returns the **Window** object that generated the event. Its general form is shown here:

Window getWindow( )

Java 2, version 1.4, adds methods that return the opposite window (when a focus event has occurred), the previous window state, and the current window state. These methods are shown here:

Window getOppositeWindow()
int getOldState()
int getNewState()

Sources of Events

Table 20-2 lists some of the user interface components that can generate the events described in the previous section. In addition to these graphical user interface elements, other components, such as an applet, can generate events. For example, you receive key and mouse events from an applet. (You may also build your own components that generate events.) In this chapter we will be handling only mouse and keyboard events, but the following two chapters will be handling events from the sources shown in Table 20-2.

Event Source	Description
Button	Generates action events when the button is pressed.
Checkbox	Generates item events when the check box is selected or deselected.
Choice	Generates item events when the choice is changed.
List	Generates action events when an item is double-clicked; generates item events when an item is selected or deselected.
Menu Item	Generates action events when a menu item is selected; generates item events when a checkable menu item is selected or deselected.
Scrollbar	Generates adjustment events when the scroll bar is manipulated.
Text components	Generates text events when the user enters a character.
Window	Generates window events when a window is activated, closed, deactivated, deiconified, iconified, opened, or quit.

Table 20-2. *Event Source Examples*

Event Listener Interfaces

As explained, the delegation event model has two parts: sources and listeners. Listeners are created by implementing one or more of the interfaces defined by the **java.awt.event** package. When an event occurs, the event source invokes the appropriate method defined by the listener and provides an event object as its argument. Table 20-3 lists commonly used listener interfaces and provides a brief description of the methods that they define. The following sections examine the specific methods that are contained in each interface.

Interface	Description
ActionListener	Defines one method to receive action events.
AdjustmentListener	Defines one method to receive adjustment events.
ComponentListener	Defines four methods to recognize when a component is hidden, moved, resized, or shown.
ContainerListener	Defines two methods to recognize when a component is added to or removed from a container.
FocusListener	Defines two methods to recognize when a component gains or loses keyboard focus.
ItemListener	Defines one method to recognize when the state of an item changes.
KeyListener	Defines three methods to recognize when a key is pressed, released, or typed.
MouseListener	Defines five methods to recognize when the mouse is clicked, enters a component, exits a component, is pressed, or is released.
MouseMotionListener	Defines two methods to recognize when the mouse is dragged or moved.
MouseWheelListener	Defines one method to recognize when the mouse wheel is moved. (Added by Java 2, version 1.4)
TextListener	Defines one method to recognize when a text value changes.
WindowFocusListener	Defines two methods to recognize when a window gains or loses input focus. (Added by Java 2, version 1.4)
WindowListener	Defines seven methods to recognize when a window is activated, closed, deactivated, deiconified, iconified, opened, or quit.

Table 20-3. *Commonly Used Event Listener Interfaces*

The ActionListener Interface

This interface defines the **actionPerformed( )** method that is invoked when an action event occurs. Its general form is shown here:

void actionPerformed(ActionEvent *ae*)

The AdjustmentListener Interface

This interface defines the **adjustmentValueChanged( )** method that is invoked when an adjustment event occurs. Its general form is shown here:

void adjustmentValueChanged(AdjustmentEvent *ae*)

The ComponentListener Interface

This interface defines four methods that are invoked when a component is resized, moved, shown, or hidden. Their general forms are shown here:

void componentResized(ComponentEvent *ce*)
void componentMoved(ComponentEvent *ce*)
void componentShown(ComponentEvent *ce*)
void componentHidden(ComponentEvent *ce*)

Note *The AWT processes the resize and move events. The **componentResized( )** and **componentMoved( )** methods are provided for notification purposes only.*

The ContainerListener Interface

This interface contains two methods. When a component is added to a container, **componentAdded( )** is invoked. When a component is removed from a container, **componentRemoved( )** is invoked. Their general forms are shown here:

void componentAdded(ContainerEvent *ce*)
void componentRemoved(ContainerEvent *ce*)

The FocusListener Interface

This interface defines two methods. When a component obtains keyboard focus, **focusGained( )** is invoked. When a component loses keyboard focus, **focusLost( )** is called. Their general forms are shown here:

void focusGained(FocusEvent *fe*)
void focusLost(FocusEvent *fe*)

The ItemListener Interface

This interface defines the **itemStateChanged( )** method that is invoked when the state of an item changes. Its general form is shown here:

void itemStateChanged(ItemEvent *ie*)

The KeyListener Interface

This interface defines three methods. The **keyPressed( )** and **keyReleased( )** methods are invoked when a key is pressed and released, respectively. The **keyTyped( )** method is invoked when a character has been entered.

For example, if a user presses and releases the A key, three events are generated in sequence: key pressed, typed, and released. If a user presses and releases the HOME key, two key events are generated in sequence: key pressed and released.

The general forms of these methods are shown here:

void keyPressed(KeyEvent *ke*)
void keyReleased(KeyEvent *ke*)
void keyTyped(KeyEvent *ke*)

The MouseListener Interface

This interface defines five methods. If the mouse is pressed and released at the same point, **mouseClicked( )** is invoked. When the mouse enters a component, the **mouseEntered( )** method is called. When it leaves, **mouseExited( )** is called. The **mousePressed( )** and **mouseReleased( )** methods are invoked when the mouse is pressed and released, respectively.

The general forms of these methods are shown here:

void mouseClicked(MouseEvent *me*)
void mouseEntered(MouseEvent *me*)
void mouseExited(MouseEvent *me*)
void mousePressed(MouseEvent *me*)
void mouseReleased(MouseEvent *me*)

The MouseMotionListener Interface

This interface defines two methods. The **mouseDragged( )** method is called multiple times as the mouse is dragged. The **mouseMoved( )** method is called multiple times as the mouse is moved. Their general forms are shown here:

void mouseDragged(MouseEvent *me*)
void mouseMoved(MouseEvent *me*)

The MouseWheelListener Interface

This interface defines the **mouseWheelMoved( )** method that is invoked when the mouse wheel is moved. Its general form is shown here.

void mouseWheelMoved(MouseWheelEvent *mwe*)

MouseWheelListener was added by Java 2, version 1.4.

The TextListener Interface

This interface defines the **textChanged( )** method that is invoked when a change occurs in a text area or text field. Its general form is shown here:

void textChanged(TextEvent *te*)

The WindowFocusListener Interface

This interface defines two methods: **windowGainedFocus( )** and **windowLostFocus( )**. These are called when a window gains or losses input focus. Their general forms are shown here.

void windowGainedFocus(WindowEvent *we*)
void windowLostFocus(WindowEvent *we*)

WindowFocusListener was added by Java 2, version 1.4.

The WindowListener Interface

This interface defines seven methods. The **windowActivated( )** and **windowDeactivated( )** methods are invoked when a window is activated or deactivated, respectively. If a window is iconified, the **windowIconified( )** method is called. When a window is deiconified, the **windowDeiconified( )** method is called. When a window is opened or closed, the **windowOpened( )** or **windowClosed( )** methods are called, respectively. The **windowClosing( )** method is called when a window is being closed. The general forms of these methods are

void windowActivated(WindowEvent *we*)
void windowClosed(WindowEvent *we*)
void windowClosing(WindowEvent *we*)
void windowDeactivated(WindowEvent *we*)
void windowDeiconified(WindowEvent *we*)
void windowIconified(WindowEvent *we*)
void windowOpened(WindowEvent *we*)

Using the Delegation Event Model

Now that you have learned the theory behind the delegation event model and have had an overview of its various components, it is time to see it in practice. Applet programming using the delegation event model is actually quite easy. Just follow these two steps:

1. Implement the appropriate interface in the listener so that it will receive the type of event desired.
2. Implement code to register and unregister (if necessary) the listener as a recipient for the event notifications.

Remember that a source may generate several types of events. Each event must be registered separately. Also, an object may register to receive several types of events, but it must implement all of the interfaces that are required to receive these events.

To see how the delegation model works in practice, we will look at examples that handle the two most commonly used event generators: the mouse and keyboard.

Handling Mouse Events

To handle mouse events, you must implement the **MouseListener** and the **MouseMotionListener** interfaces. (You may also want to implement **MouseWheelListener**, but we won't be doing so, here.) The following applet demonstrates the process. It displays the current coordinates of the mouse in the applet's status window. Each time a button is pressed, the word "Down" is displayed at the location of the mouse pointer. Each time the button is released, the word "Up" is shown. If a button is clicked, the message "Mouse clicked" is displayed in the upper-left corner of the applet display area.

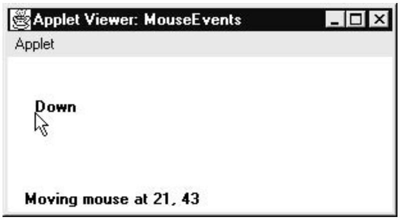
As the mouse enters or exits the applet window, a message is displayed in the upper-left corner of the applet display area. When dragging the mouse, a * is shown, which tracks with the mouse pointer as it is dragged. Notice that the two variables, **mouseX** and **mouseY**, store the location of the mouse when a mouse pressed, released, or dragged event occurs. These coordinates are then used by **paint( )** to display output at the point of these occurrences.

```
// Demonstrate the mouse event handlers.
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.applet.*;
/*
  <applet code="MouseEvents" width=300 height=100>
  </applet>
*/
```

```
public class MouseEvents extends Applet
  implements MouseListener, MouseMotionListener {

  String msg = "";
  int mouseX = 0, mouseY = 0; // coordinates of mouse

  public void init() {
     addMouseListener(this);
     addMouseMotionListener(this);
  }

  // Handle mouse clicked.
  public void mouseClicked(MouseEvent me) {
    // save coordinates
    mouseX = 0;
    mouseY = 10;
    msg = "Mouse clicked.";
    repaint();
  }

  // Handle mouse entered.
  public void mouseEntered(MouseEvent me) {
    // save coordinates
    mouseX = 0;
    mouseY = 10;
    msg = "Mouse entered.";
    repaint();
  }

  // Handle mouse exited.
  public void mouseExited(MouseEvent me) {
    // save coordinates
    mouseX = 0;
    mouseY = 10;
    msg = "Mouse exited.";
    repaint();
  }

  // Handle button pressed.
```

```
  public void mousePressed(MouseEvent me) {
    // save coordinates
    mouseX = me.getX();
    mouseY = me.getY();
    msg = "Down";
    repaint();
  }


  // Handle button released.
  public void mouseReleased(MouseEvent me) {
    // save coordinates
    mouseX = me.getX();
    mouseY = me.getY();
    msg = "Up";
    repaint();
  }

  // Handle mouse dragged.
  public void mouseDragged(MouseEvent me) {
    // save coordinates
    mouseX = me.getX();
    mouseY = me.getY();
    msg = "*";
    showStatus("Dragging mouse at " + mouseX + ", " + mouseY);
    repaint();
  }

  // Handle mouse moved.
  public void mouseMoved(MouseEvent me) {
    // show status
    showStatus("Moving mouse at " + me.getX() + ", " + me.getY());
  }

  // Display msg in applet window at current X,Y location.
  public void paint(Graphics g) {
    g.drawString(msg, mouseX, mouseY);
  }
}
```

Sample output from this program is shown here:



Let's look closely at this example. The **MouseEvents** class extends **Applet** and implements both the **MouseListener** and **MouseMotionListener** interfaces. These two interfaces contain methods that receive and process the various types of mouse events. Notice that the applet is both the source and the listener for these events. This works because **Component**, which supplies the **addMouseListener( )** and **addMouseMotionListener( )** methods, is a superclass of **Applet**. Being both the source and the listener for events is a common situation for applets.

Inside **init( )**, the applet registers itself as a listener for mouse events. This is done by using **addMouseListener( )** and **addMouseMotionListener( )**, which, as mentioned, are members of **Component**. They are shown here:

```
void addMouseListener(MouseListener ml)
void addMouseMotionListener(MouseMotionListener mml)
```

Here, *ml* is a reference to the object receiving mouse events, and *mml* is a reference to the object receiving mouse motion events. In this program, the same object is used for both.

The applet then implements all of the methods defined by the **MouseListener** and **MouseMotionListener** interfaces. These are the event handlers for the various mouse events. Each method handles its event and then returns.

Handling Keyboard Events

To handle keyboard events, you use the same general architecture as that shown in the mouse event example in the preceding section. The difference, of course, is that you will be implementing the **KeyListener** interface.

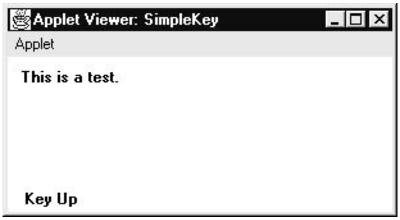
Before looking at an example, it is useful to review how key events are generated. When a key is pressed, a **KEY_PRESSED** event is generated. This results in a call to the **keyPressed( )** event handler. When the key is released, a **KEY_RELEASED** event is generated and the **keyReleased( )** handler is executed. If a character is generated by the keystroke, then a **KEY_TYPED** event is sent and the **keyTyped( )** handler is invoked. Thus, each time the user presses a key, at least two and often three events are generated. If all you care about are actual characters, then you can ignore the information passed by the key press and release events. However, if your program needs to handle special keys, such as the arrow or function keys, then it must watch for them through the **keyPressed( )** handler.

There is one other requirement that your program must meet before it can process keyboard events: it must request input focus. To do this, call **requestFocus( )**, which is defined by **Component**. If you don't, then your program will not receive any keyboard events.

The following program demonstrates keyboard input. It echoes keystrokes to the applet window and shows the pressed/released status of each key in the status window.

```
// Demonstrate the key event handlers.
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.applet.*;
/*
  <applet code="SimpleKey" width=300 height=100>
  </applet>
*/

public class SimpleKey extends Applet
  implements KeyListener {

  String msg = "";
  int X = 10, Y = 20; // output coordinates

  public void init() {
    addKeyListener(this);
    requestFocus(); // request input focus
  }

  public void keyPressed(KeyEvent ke) {
    showStatus("Key Down");
  }

  public void keyReleased(KeyEvent ke) {
    showStatus("Key Up");
  }

  public void keyTyped(KeyEvent ke) {
    msg += ke.getKeyChar();
    repaint();
  }

  // Display keystrokes.
  public void paint(Graphics g) {
    g.drawString(msg, X, Y);
  }
}
```

Sample output is shown here:

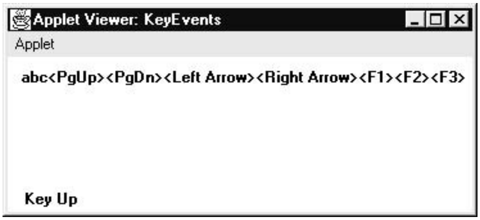


If you want to handle the special keys, such as the arrow or function keys, you need to respond to them within the **keyPressed( )** handler. They are not available through **keyTyped( )**. To identify the keys, you use their virtual key codes. For example, the next applet outputs the name of a few of the special keys:

```
// Demonstrate some virtual key codes.
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.applet.*;
/*
  <applet code="KeyEvents" width=300 height=100>
  </applet>
*/

public class KeyEvents extends Applet
  implements KeyListener {

  String msg = "";
  int X = 10, Y = 20; // output coordinates

  public void init() {
    addKeyListener(this);
    requestFocus(); // request input focus
  }

  public void keyPressed(KeyEvent ke) {
    showStatus("Key Down");

    int key = ke.getKeyCode();
    switch(key) {
```

```
        case KeyEvent.VK_F1:
          msg += "<F1>";
          break;
        case KeyEvent.VK_F2:
          msg += "<F2>";
          break;
        case KeyEvent.VK_F3:
          msg += "<F3>";
          break;
        case KeyEvent.VK_PAGE_DOWN:
          msg += "<PgDn>";
          break;
        case KeyEvent.VK_PAGE_UP:
          msg += "<PgUp>";
          break;
        case KeyEvent.VK_LEFT:
          msg += "<Left Arrow>";
          break;
        case KeyEvent.VK_RIGHT:
          msg += "<Right Arrow>";
          break;
      }

      repaint();
    }

    public void keyReleased(KeyEvent ke) {
      showStatus("Key Up");
    }

    public void keyTyped(KeyEvent ke) {
      msg += ke.getKeyChar();
      repaint();
    }

    // Display keystrokes.
    public void paint(Graphics g) {
      g.drawString(msg, X, Y);
    }
  }
```

Sample output is shown here:



The procedures shown in the preceding keyboard and mouse event examples can be generalized to any type of event handling, including those events generated by controls. In later chapters, you will see many examples that handle other types of events, but they will all follow the same basic structure as the programs just described.

Adapter Classes

Java provides a special feature, called an *adapter class*, that can simplify the creation of event handlers in certain situations. An adapter class provides an empty implementation of all methods in an event listener interface. Adapter classes are useful when you want to receive and process only some of the events that are handled by a particular event listener interface. You can define a new class to act as an event listener by extending one of the adapter classes and implementing only those events in which you are interested.

For example, the **MouseMotionAdapter** class has two methods, **mouseDragged( )** and **mouseMoved( )**. The signatures of these empty methods are exactly as defined in the **MouseMotionListener** interface. If you were interested in only mouse drag events, then you could simply extend **MouseMotionAdapter** and implement **mouseDragged( )**. The empty implementation of **mouseMoved( )** would handle the mouse motion events for you.

Table 20-4 lists the commonly used adapter classes in **java.awt.event** and notes the interface that each implements.

The following example demonstrates an adapter. It displays a message in the status bar of an applet viewer or browser when the mouse is clicked or dragged. However, all other mouse events are silently ignored. The program has three classes. **AdapterDemo** extends **Applet**. Its **init( )** method creates an instance of **MyMouseAdapter** and registers that object to receive notifications of mouse events. It also creates an instance of **MyMouseMotionAdapter** and registers that object to receive notifications of mouse motion events. Both of the constructors take a reference to the applet as an argument.

MyMouseAdapter implements the **mouseClicked( )** method. The other mouse events are silently ignored by code inherited from the **MouseAdapter** class. **MyMouseMotionAdapter** implements the **mouseDragged( )** method. The other mouse motion event is silently ignored by code inherited from the **MouseMotionAdapter** class.

Adapter Class	Listener Interface
ComponentAdapter	ComponentListener
ContainerAdapter	ContainerListener
FocusAdapter	FocusListener
KeyAdapter	KeyListener
MouseAdapter	MouseListener
MouseMotionAdapter	MouseMotionListener
WindowAdapter	WindowListener

Table 20-4. *Commonly Used Listener Interfaces Implemented by Adapter Classes*

Note that both of our event listener classes save a reference to the applet. This information is provided as an argument to their constructors and is used later to invoke the **showStatus( )** method.


```
// Demonstrate an adapter.
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.applet.*;
/*
  <applet code="AdapterDemo" width=300 height=100>
  </applet>
*/

public class AdapterDemo extends Applet {
  public void init() {
     addMouseListener(new MyMouseAdapter(this));
     addMouseMotionListener(new MyMouseMotionAdapter(this));
  }
}

class MyMouseAdapter extends MouseAdapter {

  AdapterDemo adapterDemo;
  public MyMouseAdapter(AdapterDemo adapterDemo) {
```

```
    this.adapterDemo = adapterDemo;
  }

  // Handle mouse clicked.
  public void mouseClicked(MouseEvent me) {
    adapterDemo.showStatus("Mouse clicked");
  }
}

class MyMouseMotionAdapter extends MouseMotionAdapter {
  AdapterDemo adapterDemo;
  public MyMouseMotionAdapter(AdapterDemo adapterDemo) {
    this.adapterDemo = adapterDemo;
  }

  // Handle mouse dragged.
  public void mouseDragged(MouseEvent me) {
    adapterDemo.showStatus("Mouse dragged");
  }
}
```

As you can see by looking at the program, not having to implement all of the methods defined by the **MouseMotionListener** and **MouseListener** interfaces saves you a considerable amount of effort and prevents your code from becoming cluttered with empty methods. As an exercise, you might want to try rewriting one of the keyboard input examples shown earlier so that it uses a **KeyAdapter**.

Inner Classes

In Chapter 7, the basics of inner classes were explained. Here you will see why they are important. Recall that an *inner class* is a class defined within other class, or even within an expression. This section illustrates how inner classes can be used to simplify the code when using event adapter classes.

To understand the benefit provided by inner classes, consider the applet shown in the following listing. It *does not* use an inner class. Its goal is to display the string "Mouse Pressed" in the status bar of the applet viewer or browser when the mouse is pressed. There are two top-level classes in this program. **MousePressedDemo** extends **Applet**, and **MyMouseAdapter** extends **MouseAdapter**. The **init( )** method of **MousePressedDemo** instantiates **MyMouseAdapter** and provides this object as an argument to the **addMouseListener( )** method.

Notice that a reference to the applet is supplied as an argument to the **MyMouseAdapter** constructor. This reference is stored in an instance variable for later use by the **mousePressed( )** method. When the mouse is pressed, it invokes the **showStatus( )** method of the applet through the stored applet reference. In other words, **showStatus( )** is invoked relative to the applet reference stored by **MyMouseAdapter**.

```
// This applet does NOT use an inner class.
import java.applet.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
/*
  <applet code="MousePressedDemo" width=200 height=100>
  </applet>
*/

public class MousePressedDemo extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    addMouseListener(new MyMouseAdapter(this));
  }
}

class MyMouseAdapter extends MouseAdapter {
  MousePressedDemo mousePressedDemo;
  public MyMouseAdapter(MousePressedDemo mousePressedDemo) {
    this.mousePressedDemo = mousePressedDemo;
  }
  public void mousePressed(MouseEvent me) {
    mousePressedDemo.showStatus("Mouse Pressed.");
  }
}
```

The following listing shows how the preceding program can be improved by using an inner class. Here, **InnerClassDemo** is a top-level class that extends **Applet**. **MyMouseAdapter** is an inner class that extends **MouseAdapter**. Because **MyMouseAdapter** is defined within the scope of **InnerClassDemo**, it has access to all of the variables and methods within the scope of that class. Therefore, the **mousePressed( )** method can call the **showStatus( )** method directly. It no longer needs to do this via a stored reference to the applet. Thus, it is no longer necessary to pass **MyMouseAdapter( )** a reference to the invoking object.

```
// Inner class demo.
import java.applet.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
/*
  <applet code="InnerClassDemo" width=200 height=100>
  </applet>
*/
```

```
public class InnerClassDemo extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    addMouseListener(new MyMouseAdapter());
  }
  class MyMouseAdapter extends MouseAdapter {
    public void mousePressed(MouseEvent me) {
      showStatus("Mouse Pressed");
    }
  }
}
```

Anonymous Inner Classes

An *anonymous* inner class is one that is not assigned a name. This section illustrates how an anonymous inner class can facilitate the writing of event handlers. Consider the applet shown in the following listing. As before, its goal is to display the string "Mouse Pressed" in the status bar of the applet viewer or browser when the mouse is pressed.

```
// Anonymous inner class demo.
import java.applet.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
/*
  <applet code="AnonymousInnerClassDemo" width=200 height=100>
  </applet>
*/

public class AnonymousInnerClassDemo extends Applet {
  public void init() {
    addMouseListener(new MouseAdapter() {
      public void mousePressed(MouseEvent me) {
        showStatus("Mouse Pressed");
      }
    });
  }
}
```

There is one top-level class in this program: **AnonymousInnerClassDemo**. The **init( )** method calls the **addMouseListener( )** method. Its argument is an expression that defines and instantiates an anonymous inner class. Let's analyze this expression carefully.

The syntax **new MouseAdapter( ) { ... }** indicates to the compiler that the code between the braces defines an anonymous inner class. Furthermore, that class extends **MouseAdapter**. This new class is not named, but it is automatically instantiated when this expression is executed.

Because this anonymous inner class is defined within the scope of **AnonymousInnerClassDemo**, it has access to all of the variables and methods within the scope of that class. Therefore, it can call the **showStatus( )** method directly.

As just illustrated, both named and anonymous inner classes solve some annoying problems in a simple yet effective way. They also allow you to create more efficient code.