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Learning Java

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Java is an object oriented programming language which involves the creation of classes, objects and then applications. The application uses the objects that have been created as a part of the executable program. Classes act as the blue print for the objects and define the attributes that it possesses within the class definition. To accomplish tasks objects use methods, a self-contained block of code. In Java the attributes of the object and its methods are encapsulated into the object making them more like real world objects.

Besides encapsulation, Java has two other important features which are inheritance and polymorphism. Inheritance allows classes to be created from other classes thus inheriting the attributes and methods that already exist in the class from which it is inheriting from. This allows for greater specialization of the application so time is not wasted rewriting classes, you can take what you want from an existing class by way of inheritance and build it into a custom class. Polymorphism is a feature of the language; the writers of the language allow words and symbols to have different meanings but are interpreted correctly when their context is considered. These features are the difference between traditional procedural programming and object-orientated programming.

Sun Microsystems developed Java for general purpose business applications, and for interactive, Web-based internet applications (Farrell, J. 2010). That all sounds simple when just reading it but the problem was compiling and rendering on one machine and compiling at run time so the contents of the applications could be interactive and reflect changes as they happen. The developers created the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) to accomplish this fantastic task; directly executing on a hypothetical computer instead of a physical computer. Let me also mention that Java code will run on any platform, it is architecturally neutral.

Java has been a great language for a beginning programmer like me, and Mr. Whale teaches the topic in a way that makes the task approachable and understandable. Learning this languages syntax, rules and libraries allows me to read the code, see the logic and to better understand the capabilities whether I use the language on a daily basis or not. As a future Information Security and Data Forensics expert I will use these skills to create Java programs to aid in my duty and to better understand the nature of the programmer from his/ her creation.

In my personal life I plan to work with Java often, probably not creating anything off of the top of my head but exploring and working with examples of more and more complex Java until I feel I have a mastery over the language. Professionally I knew that Java was a language that I would need to know among the many others that I will be learning. This class was important to me personally because I understood it. Java makes sense to me and this class proved to me that I am a programmer, a newbie but still a programmer.

References

Farrell, J. (2010). Java Programming, Fifth Edition. Cengage Learning. Boston, MA