

COM6516

Object Oriented Programming and Software Design

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7. Graphical User Interfaces (GUI)

Aims

Show how to build simple GUIs in Java and introduce the idea of inner classes in Java

Objectives

At the end of this lecture you will be able to understand the difference between an event, an event source and an event listener and to make a JButton an event source and implement an ActionListener

7. Graphical User Interfaces (GUI)

Outline

- ...

Readings

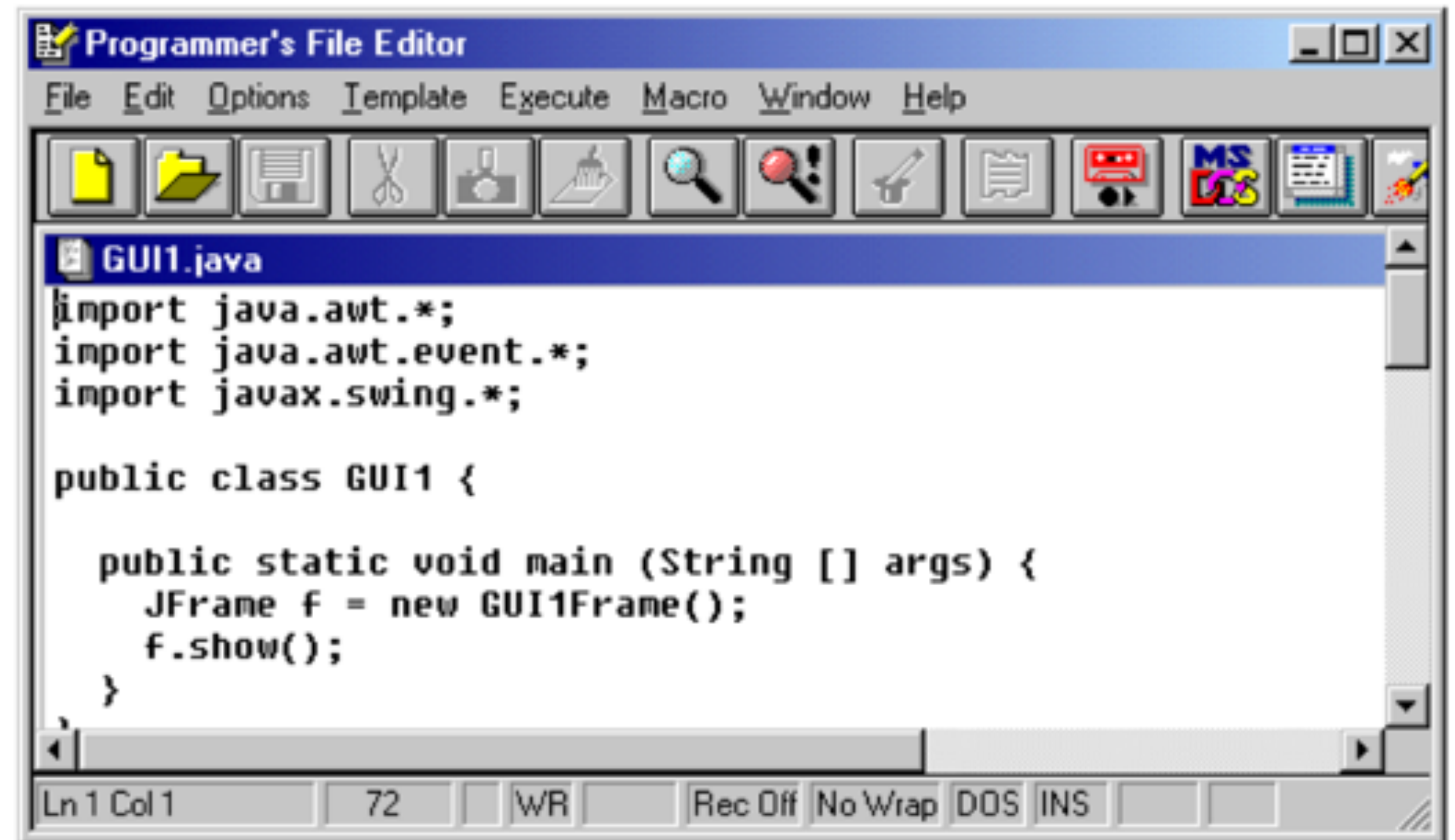
Core Java, vol.1, chapters 7,8, and 9

<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/ui/features/components.html>

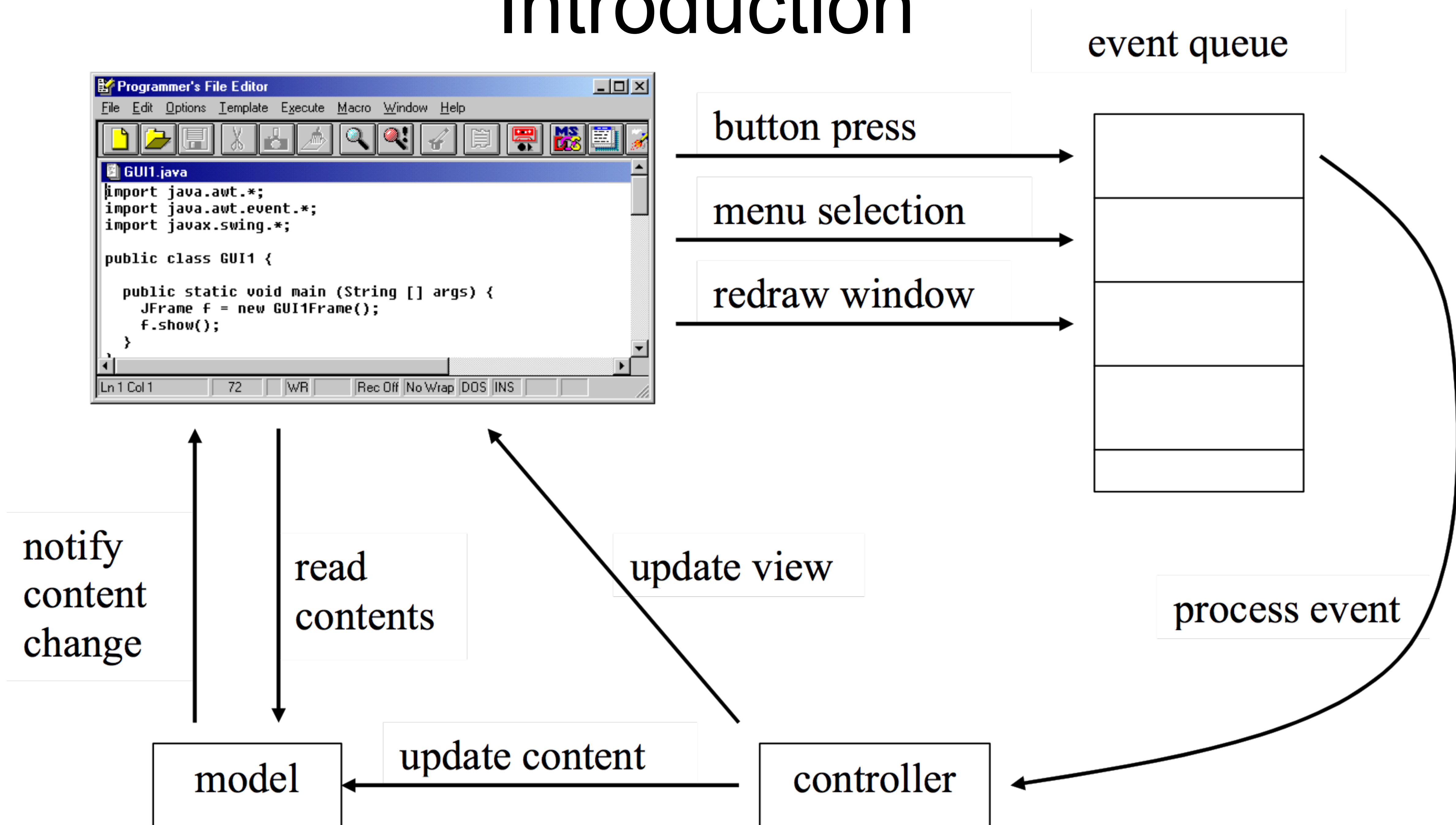
Introduction

To create a Graphical User Interface

- We need to put pieces (***components***) together as part of an interface, e.g. buttons and menus.
- We need to respond to actions (***events***) initiated by the user or as part of the working of the system.

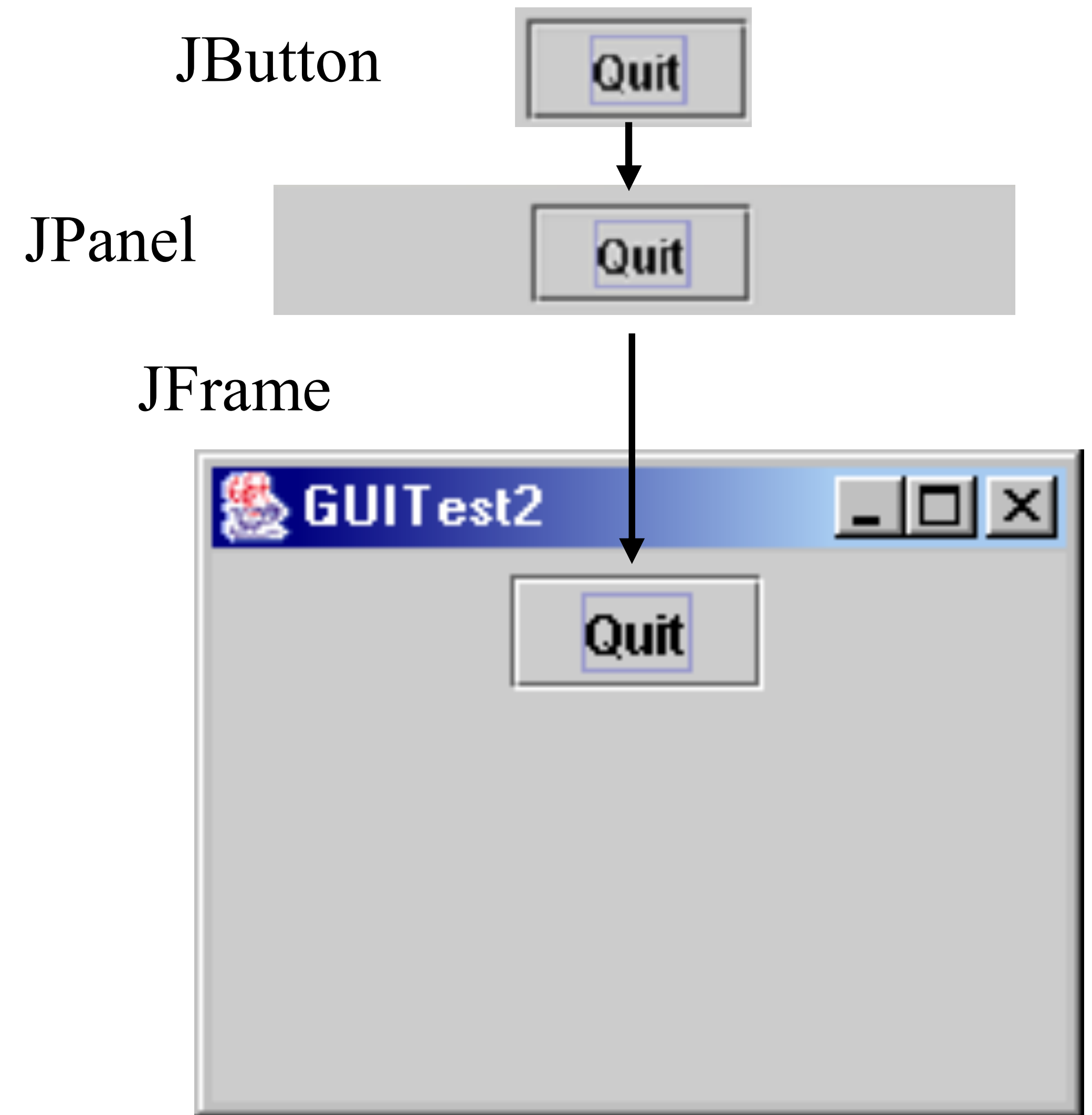


Introduction



Event handling in Java

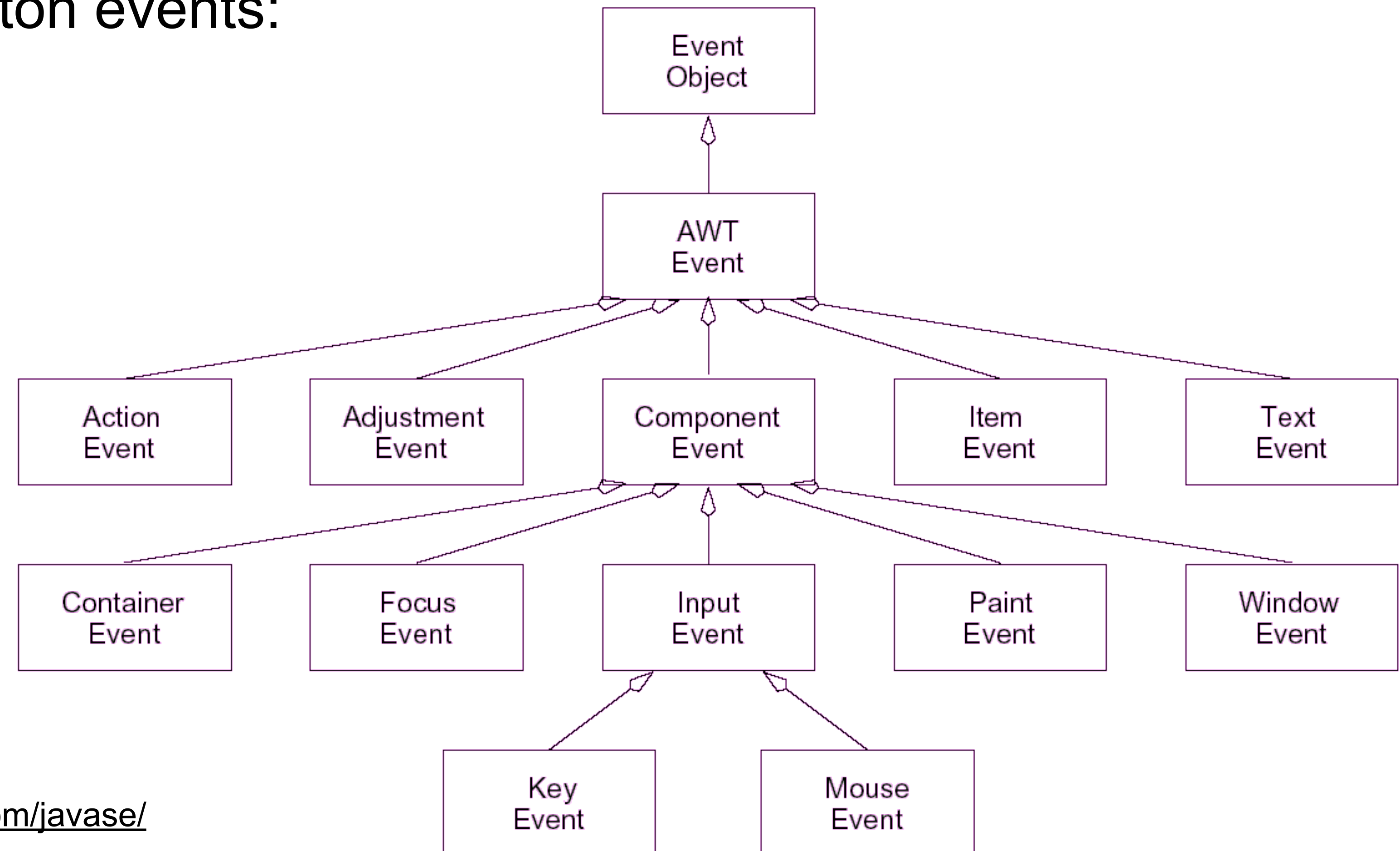
- A listener object implements a **listener interface**
- Event sources have methods to register listener objects
- When an event occurs, an *event object* is sent from the event source to every registered listener
- Each listener object reacts to the event using the information in the event object
- The event handling classes are part of the `java.awt.event` package.



AWT event classes

The different event types used within the AWT classes follow a similar pattern to handling button events:

- An interface must be implemented, so certain methods must be written.
- The parameter, i.e. the event class, returned by each of these methods can be queried.



Stage 1: Matching event source to event listener

Example – a simple quit button (see EventHandlering.java)

An `ActionListener` is associated with the `JButton` and the `JFrame` :

```
class GUIFrame extends JFrame implements ActionListener {
    private JButton quitButton;

    public GUIFrame() {
        Container contentPane = this.getContentPane();
        JPanel p = new JPanel();
        quitButton = new JButton("Quit");    // create Quit button
        quitButton.addActionListener(this); // link button and frame
        p.add(quitButton);                  // add button to JPanel
        contentPane.add(p);                 // add JPanel to JFrame
    }
    // public void actionPerformed (Event e) to be implemented
}
```

The `quitButton` (event source) will notify `this` (event listener) when it is pressed

Stage 2: The method that responds to the event

GUIFrame implements the `ActionListener` interface and so must supply a method called `actionPerformed`:

```
class GUIFrame extends JFrame implements ActionListener {
    private JButton quitButton;
    // constructor for GUIFrame as on previous slide, etc
    // ...

    // respond to an event
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
        Object source = event.getSource();
        if (source == quitButton) {
            System.out.println("Quit button pressed");
            System.exit(0);
        }
    }
}
```

Stage 3: The event loop is started

A call to `f.setVisible(true)` starts a Swing GUI thread for the application :

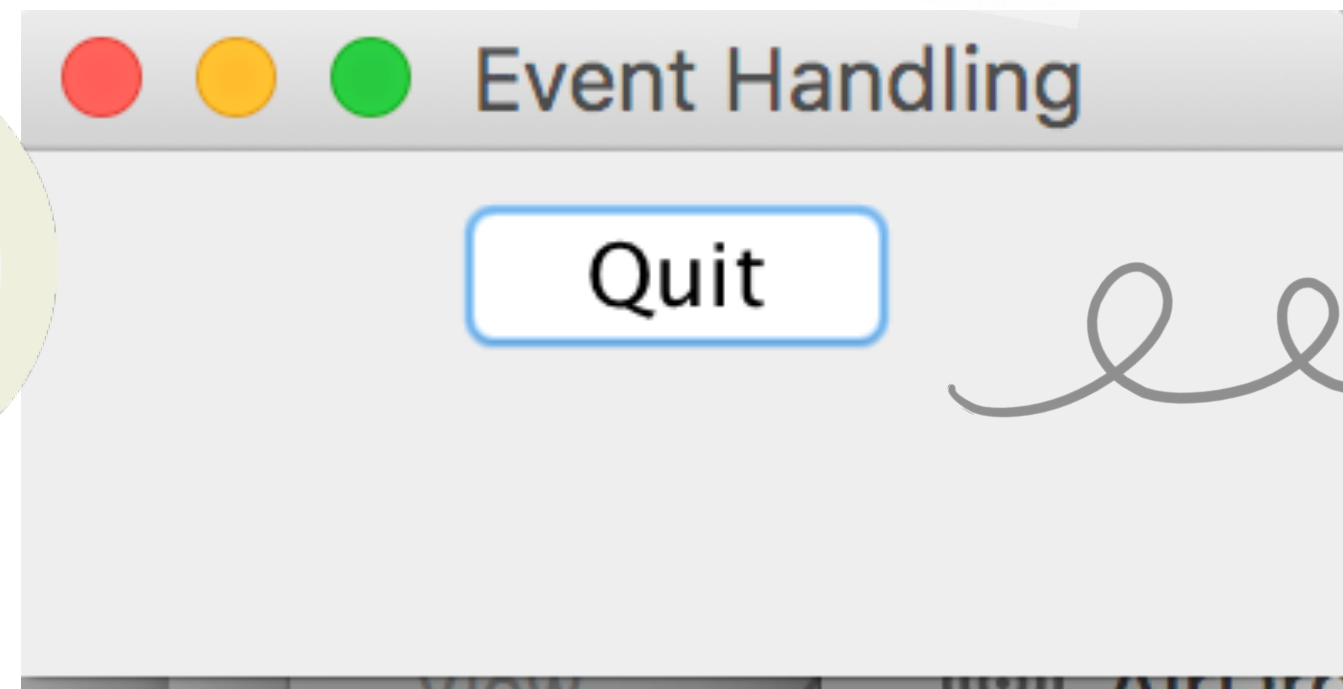
When an action event occurs, i.e. the `JButton` is pressed, the system creates a new instance of the `ActionEvent` class (defined in `java.awt.event.*`) and this is passed to the method `actionPerformed(...)`

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
import javax.swing.*;
public class EventHandlering {
    public static void main (String [] args) {
        JFrame f = new JFrame();
        f.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        f.setVisible(true);
    } ...
}
```

Stage 3: The event loop is started

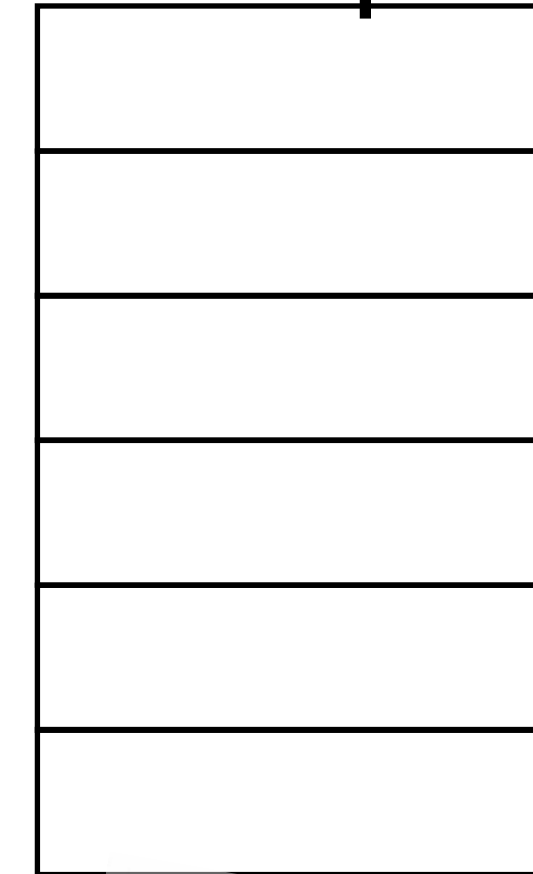
```
f.setVisible(true);
```

Swing GUI thread



Sends off event

Event queue



Actions are carried out

Event listeners

Action Listener

Misc

Paint

Event Dispatcher Thread

Notifies the interested parties

(useful method: factory method for Buttons)

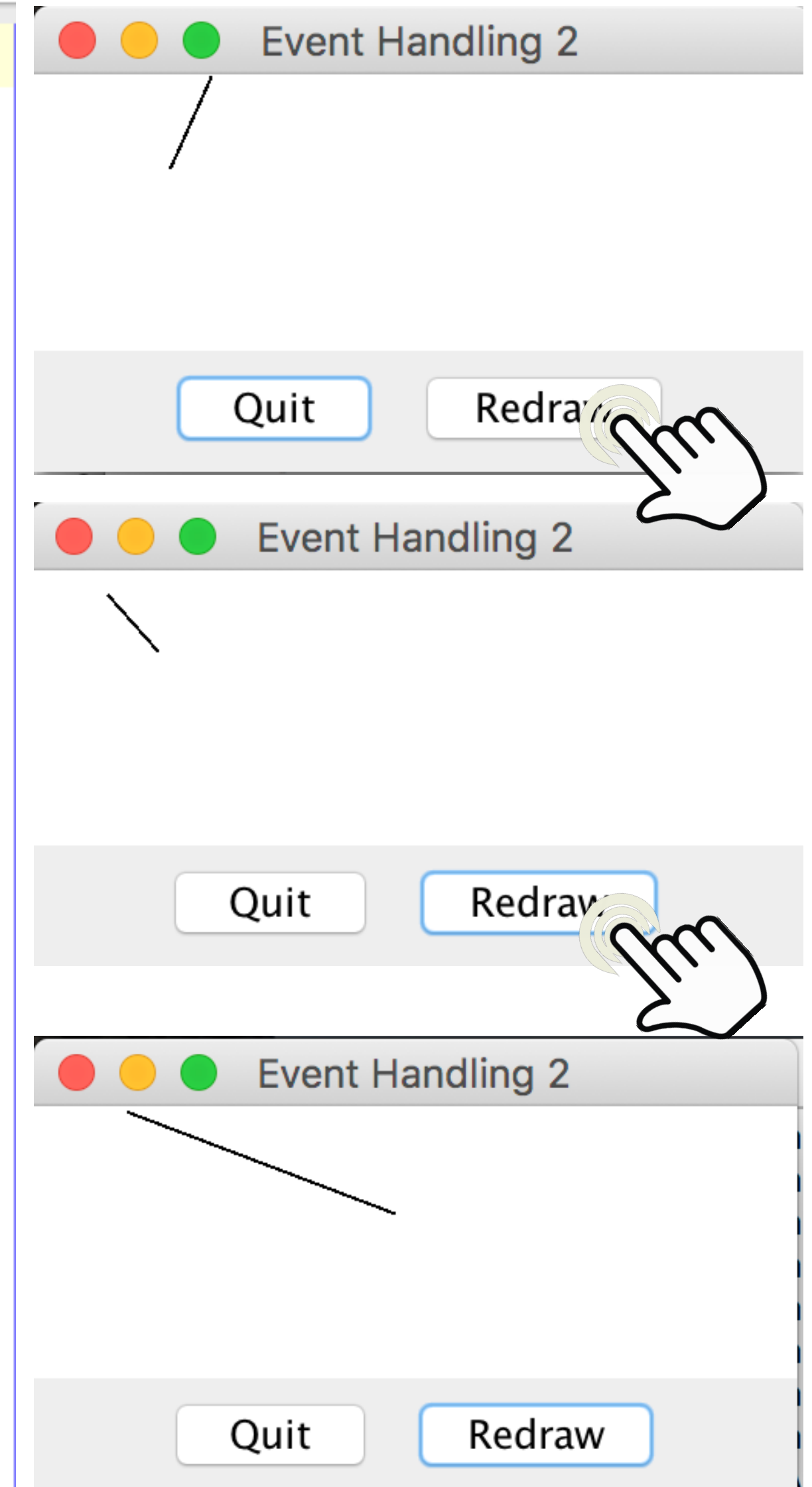
To create a lot of buttons, we can use a **factory method**:

```
...
    JPanel p = new JPanel();
    quitButton = makeJButton("Quit", this);
    p.add(quitButton);
    redrawButton = makeJButton("Redraw", this);
    p.add(anotherButton);
...

private JButton makeJButton(String s, ActionListener a)
{
    JButton b = new JButton(s);
    b.addActionListener(a);
    return b;
}
```

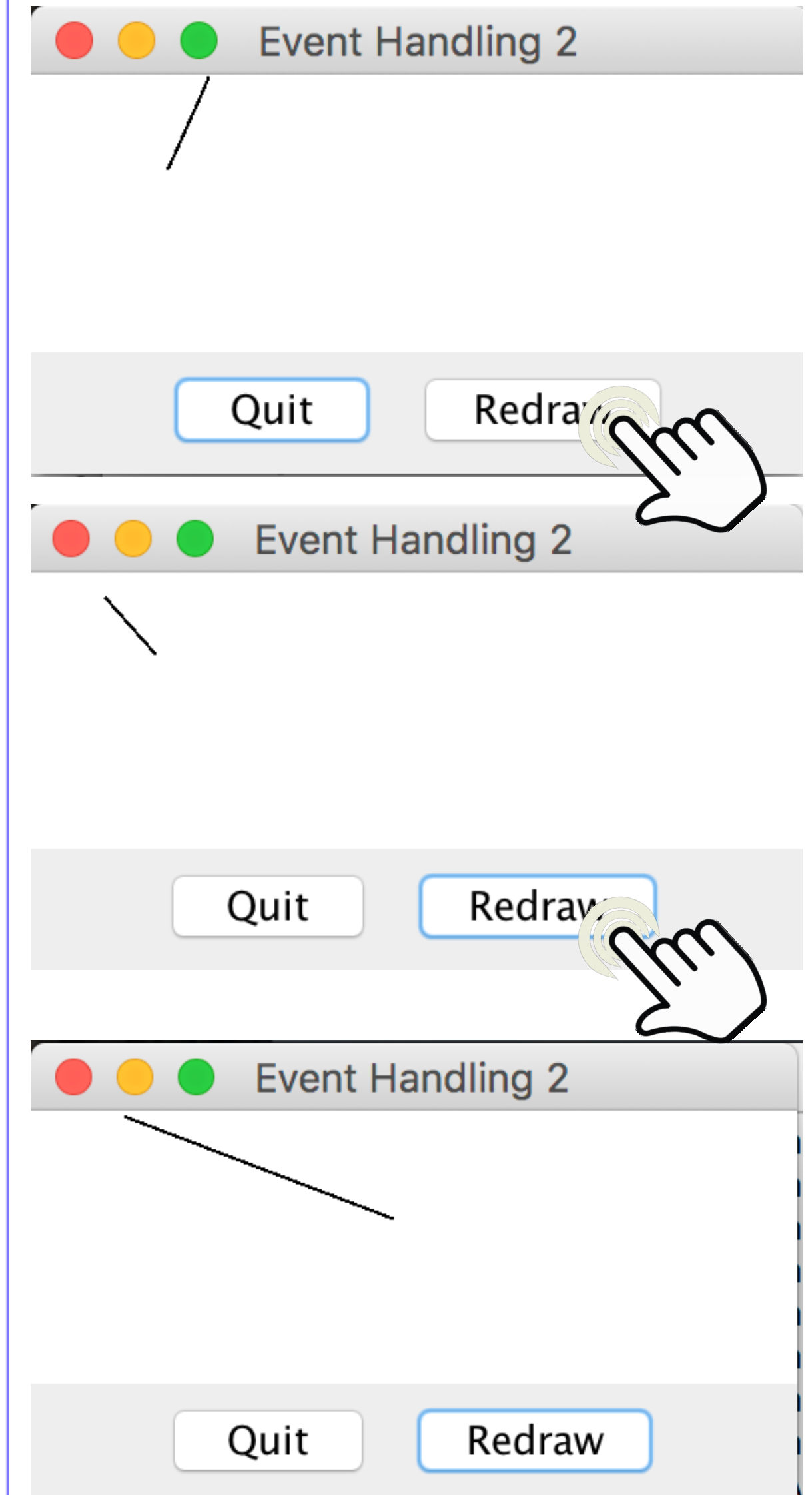
Example - EventHandler2.java

```
1 import java.awt.*;
2 import java.awt.event.*;
3 import javax.swing.*;
4
5 public class EventHandler2 {
6     public static void main (String [] args) {
7         JFrame f = new GUI2Frame();
8         f.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
9         f.setVisible(true);
10    }
11 }
12
13 class GUI2Frame extends JFrame implements ActionListener {
14     private JButton quitButton, redrawButton;
15     private GUI2Panel drawingPanel;
16
17     // constructor
18     public GUI2Frame() {
19         setTitle("Event Handling 2");
20         setSize(250, 150);
21         Container contentPane = this.getContentPane();
22         JPanel p = new JPanel();
23         quitButton = makeJButton("Quit", this);
24         p.add(quitButton);
25         redrawButton = makeJButton("Redraw", this);
```



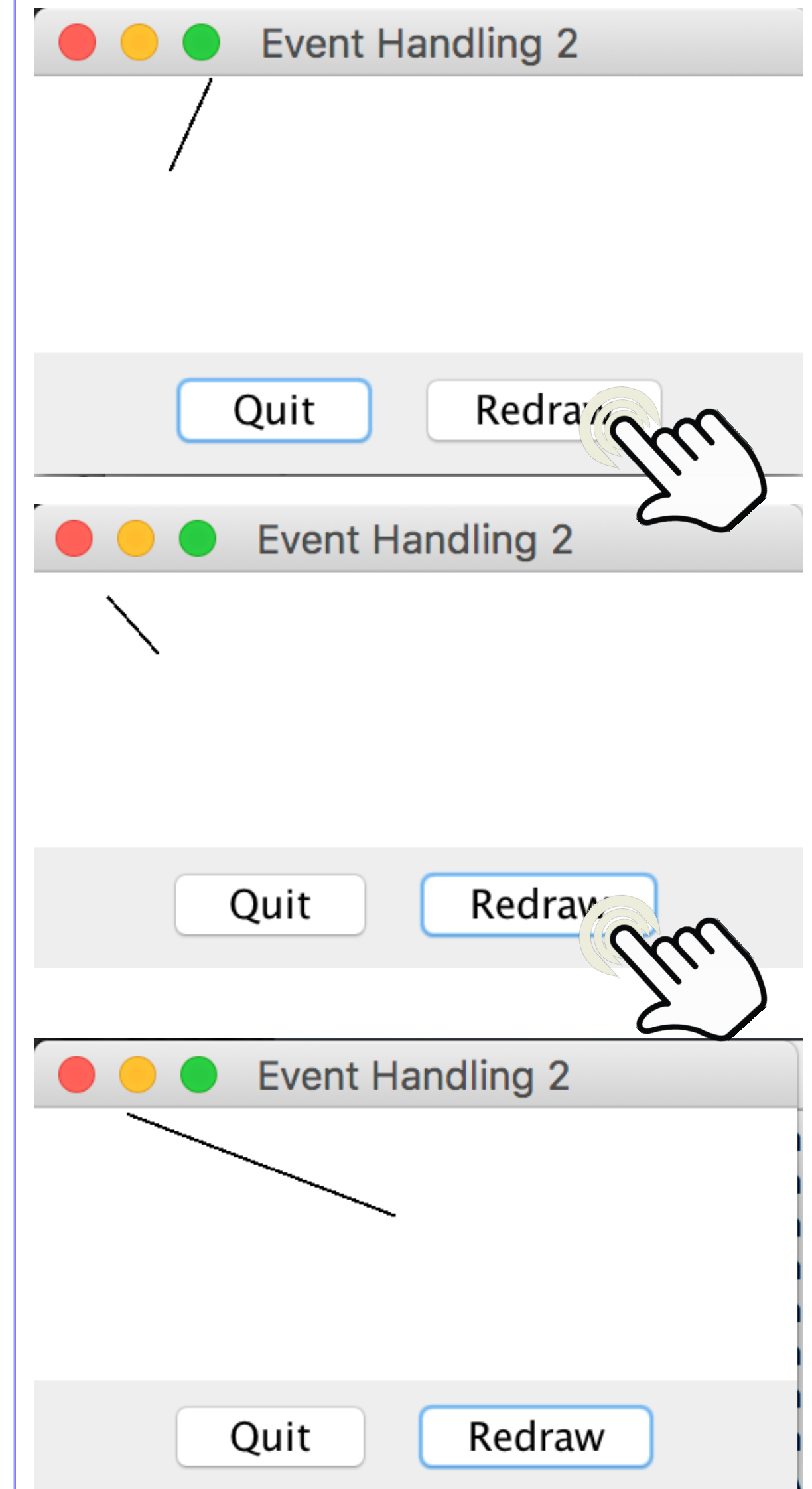
Example - EventHandler2.java

```
13 class GUI2Frame extends JFrame implements ActionListener {
14     private JButton quitButton, redrawButton;
15     private GUI2Panel drawingPanel;
16     // constructor
17     public GUI2Frame() {
18         setTitle("Event Handling 2");
19         setSize(250, 150);
20         Container contentPane = this.getContentPane();
21         JPanel p = new JPanel();
22         quitButton = makeJButton("Quit", this);
23         p.add(quitButton);
24         redrawButton = makeJButton("Redraw", this);
25         p.add(redrawButton);
26         contentPane.add(p, BorderLayout.SOUTH);
27         drawingPanel = new GUI2Panel();
28         contentPane.add(drawingPanel, BorderLayout.CENTER);
29     }
30
31     // create a button
32     private JButton makeJButton(String s, ActionListener a) {
33         JButton b = new JButton(s);
34         b.addActionListener(a);
35         return b;
36     }
37
38     // respond to an event
39     public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
40         Object source = event.getSource();
41         if (source == quitButton) {
42
```

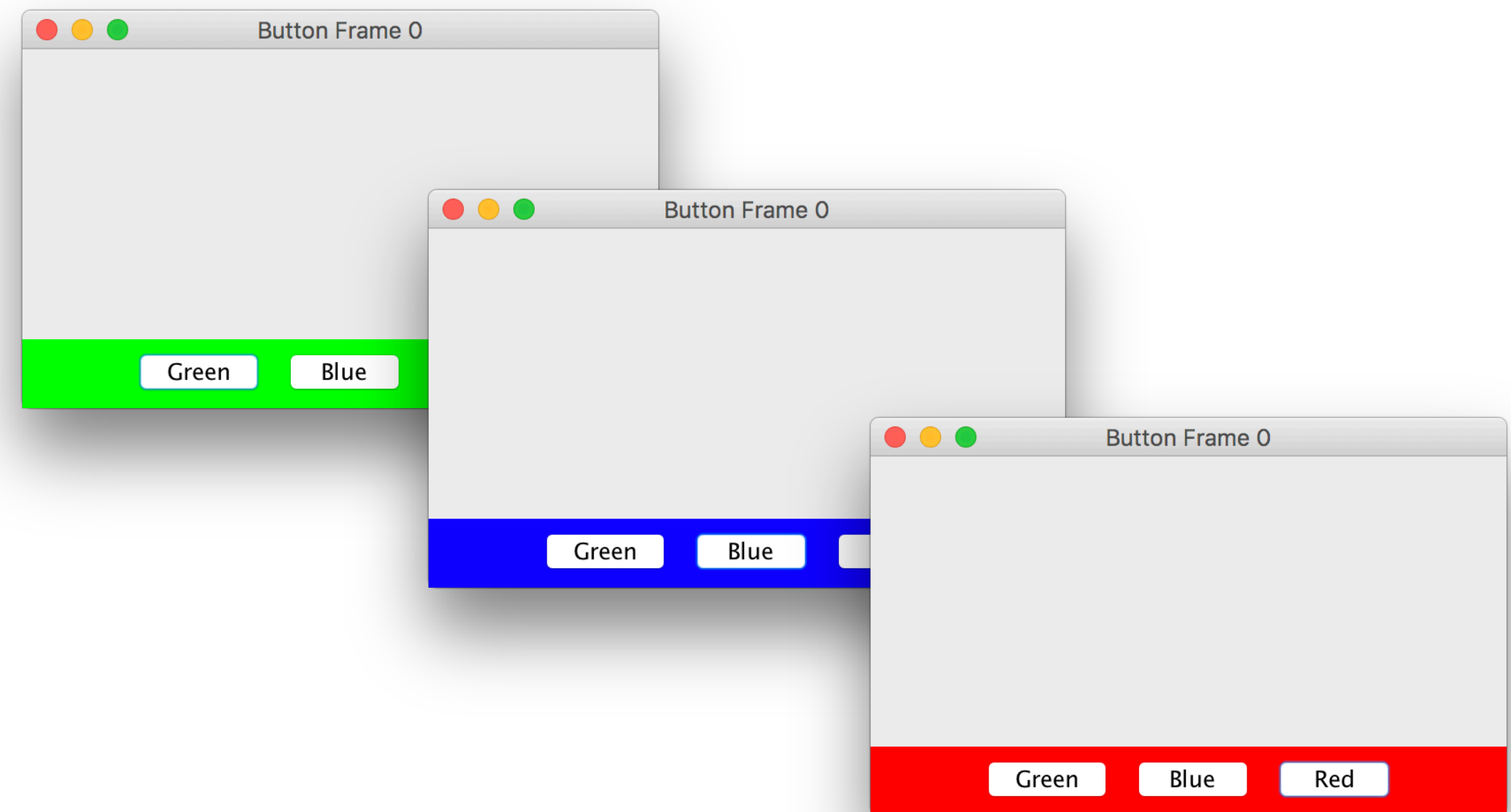
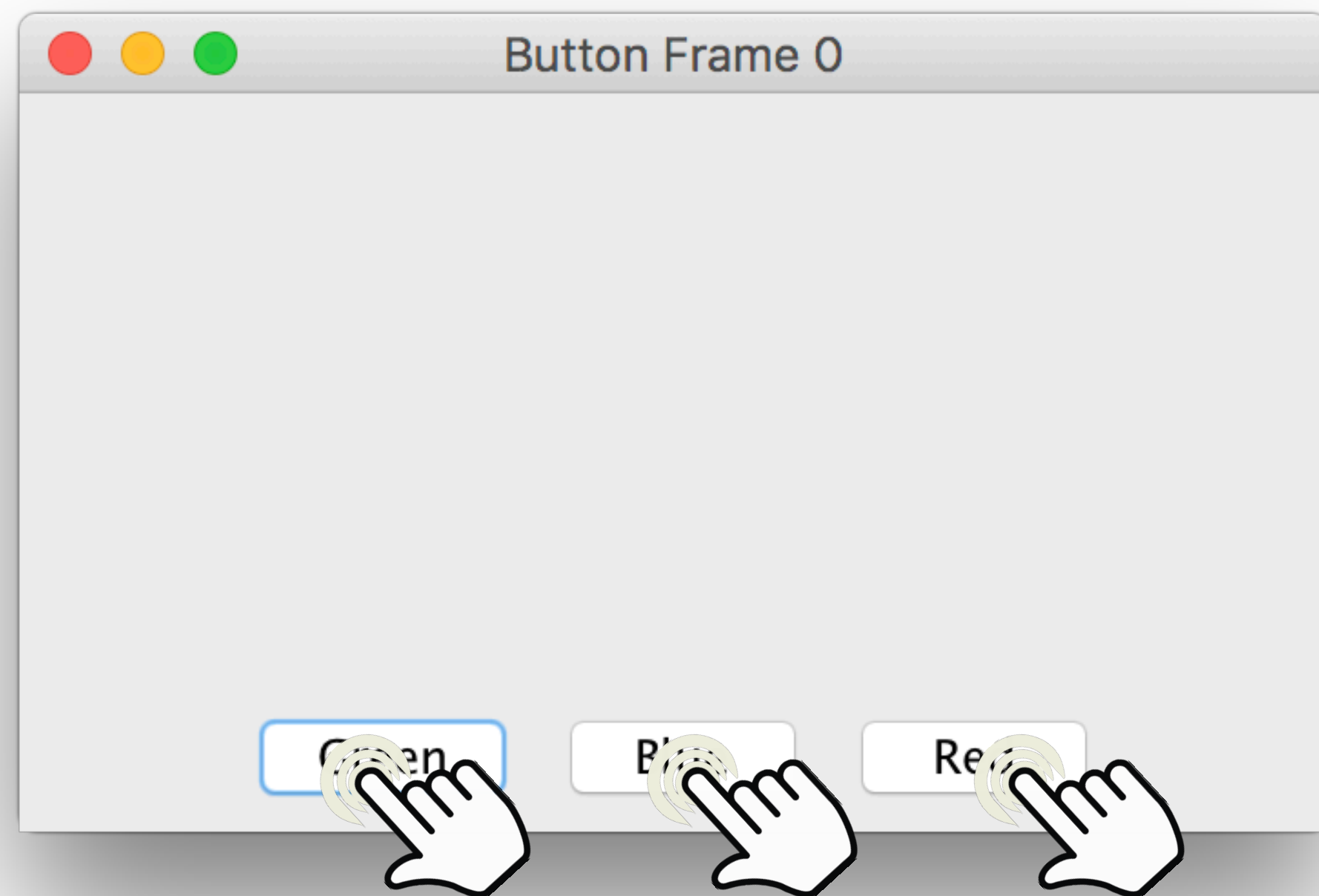


Example - EventHandling2.java

```
21 Container contentPane = this.getContentPane();
22 JPanel p = new JPanel();
23 quitButton = makeJButton("Quit", this);
24 p.add(quitButton);
25 redrawButton = makeJButton("Redraw", this);
26 p.add(redrawButton);
27 contentPane.add(p, BorderLayout.SOUTH);
28 drawingPanel = new GUI2Panel();
29 contentPane.add(drawingPanel, BorderLayout.CENTER);
30 }
31
32 // create a button
33 private JButton makeJButton(String s, ActionListener a) {
34     JButton b = new JButton(s);
35     b.addActionListener(a);
36     return b;
37 }
38
39 // respond to an event
40 public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
41     Object source = event.getSource();
42     if (source == quitButton) {
43         System.exit(0);
44     }
45     else if (source == redrawButton) {
46         drawingPanel.repaint();
47     }
48 }
49 }
50 }
```



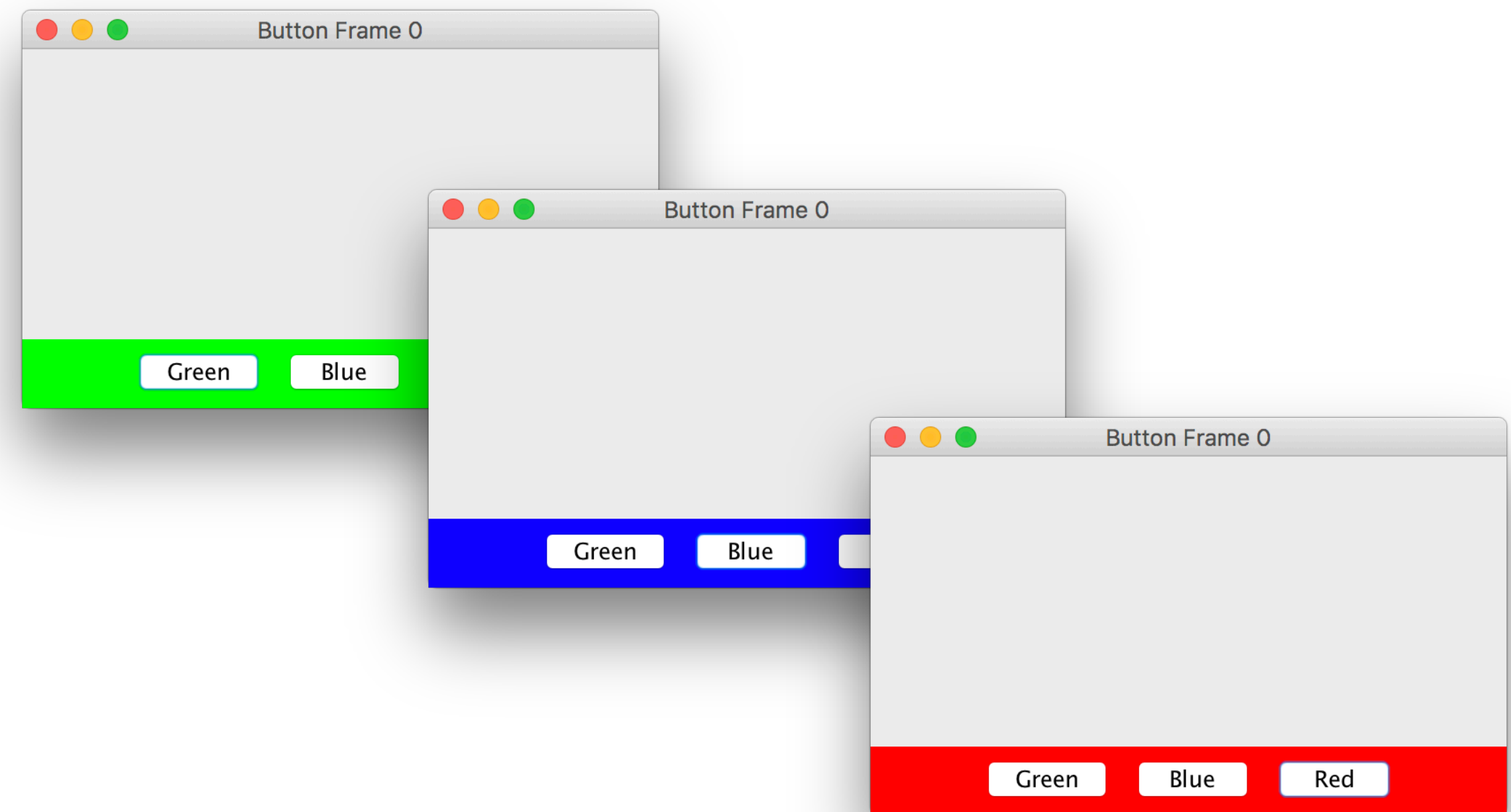
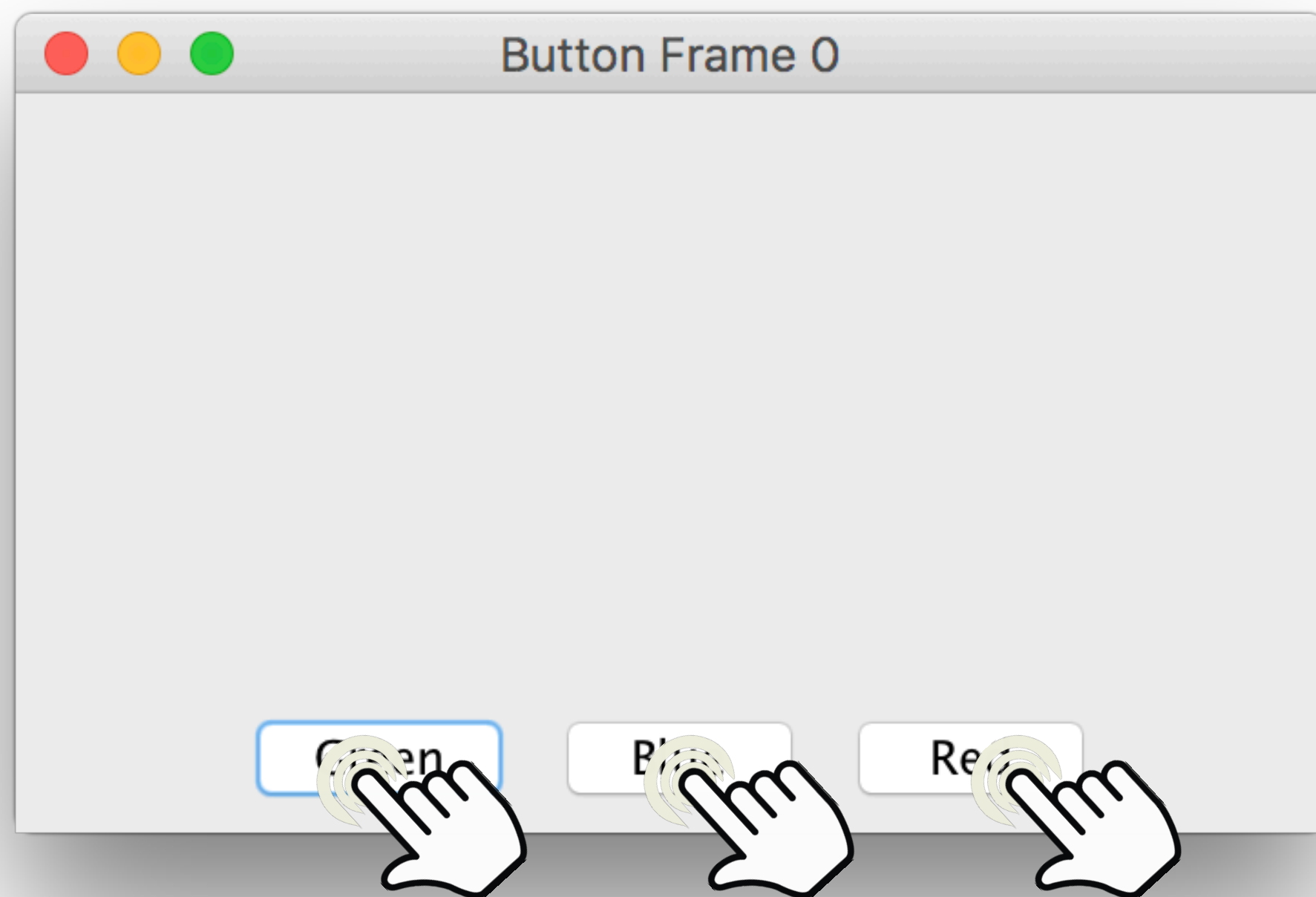
A button panel



What's the best design? A button panel example

The requirement:

- A panel with three buttons, labelled “red”, “blue”, “green”;
- Clicking the red button (for example) changes the background colour of the panel to red.
- To do this *each button (event source) must have an attached listener* to carry out the colour change action.



A button panel

The requirement:

- A panel with three buttons, labelled “red”, “blue”, “green”;
- Clicking the red button (for example) changes the background colour of the panel to red.
- To do this *each button (event source) must have an attached listener* to carry out the colour change action.

Option 0: make the JFrame the ActionListener

- Code in **ButtonFrame0.java**
- Works correctly.
- But

ButtonFrame0.java

```
/*
    ButtonFrame0.java

    Solution for Button Panel problem

    This class sets the JFrame to be the listener for events.
    However, to JFrame ends up with many responsibilities
    (i.e. low coherence), and so it is better to have a
    separate class to handle the event listening. This idea
    is pursued in the ButtonFrame1, 2, and 3 classes

*/

import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public class ButtonFrame0 extends JFrame implements ActionListener {

    private JButton greenButton;
    private JButton redButton;
    private JButton blueButton;
    private Container c;
    private JPanel buttonPanel;
```

```
public class ButtonFrame0 extends JFrame implements ActionListener {
```

ButtonFrame0.java

```
private JButton greenButton;  
private JButton redButton;  
private JButton blueButton;  
private Container c;  
private JPanel buttonPanel;
```

```
public ButtonFrame0() {  
    setTitle("Button Frame 0");  
  
    // size, position and icon  
    Toolkit tk = Toolkit.getDefaultToolkit();  
    Dimension dim = tk.getScreenSize();  
    setSize(dim.width/4, dim.height/4);  
    setLocation(new Point(dim.width/4, dim.height/4));  
  
    c = getContentPane();  
    buttonPanel = new JPanel();  
  
    // create buttons  
    greenButton = new JButton("Green");  
    blueButton = new JButton("Blue");  
    redButton = new JButton("Red");  
  
    // add buttons to panel  
    buttonPanel.add(greenButton);  
    buttonPanel.add(blueButton);  
    buttonPanel.add(redButton);
```


ButtonFrame0.java

```
// associate actions to buttons
greenButton.addActionListener(this);
blueButton.addActionListener(this);
redButton.addActionListener(this);

// add panel to container
c.add(buttonPanel, "South");
}

public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent actionEvent) {
    Object source = actionEvent.getSource();
    System.out.println(actionEvent.getActionCommand());
    if (source == greenButton)
        buttonPanel.setBackground(Color.GREEN);
    else if (source == blueButton)
        buttonPanel.setBackground(Color.BLUE);
    else if (source == redButton)
        buttonPanel.setBackground(Color.RED);
}

public static void main(String args[]) {
    JFrame frm = new ButtonFrame0();
    frm.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    frm.setVisible(true);
}
} // ButtonFrame
```

A button panel

The requirement:

- A panel with three buttons, labelled “red”, “blue”, “green”;
- Clicking the red button (for example) changes the background colour of the panel to red.
- To do this *each button (event source) must have an attached listener* to carry out the colour change action.

Option 0: make the `JFrame` the `ActionListener`

- Code in `ButtonFrame0.java`
- Works correctly.
- But, `ButtonFrame0` has a lot of responsibilities and instance fields.
- Buttons are exposed as instance fields in `ButtonFrame0`.
- Better to have a `ButtonPanel` class, which extends `JPanel`.

A button panel

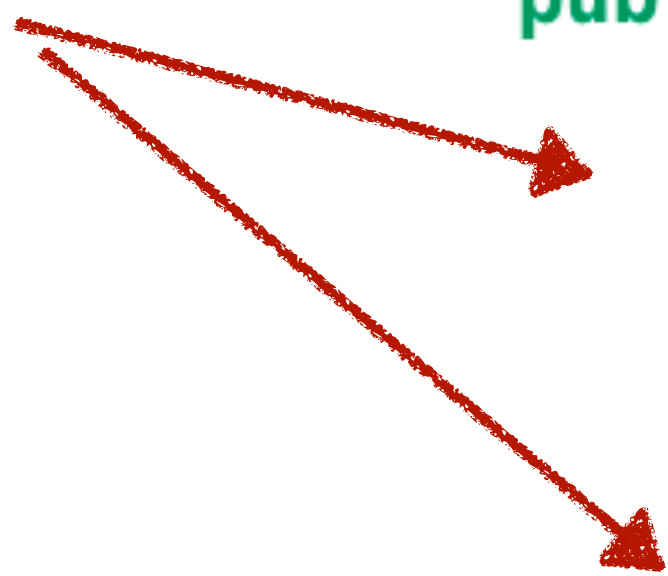
The requirement:

- A panel with three buttons, labelled “red”, “blue”, “green”;
- Clicking the red button (for example) changes the background colour of the panel to red.
- To do this *each button (event source) must have an attached listener* to carry out the colour change action.

Creating buttons and adding them to a panel is straightforward

```
import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.*;
public class ButtonPanel1 extends JPanel {
    public ButtonPanel1(){
        // create buttons
        JButton greenButton = new JButton("Green");
        JButton blueButton = new JButton("Blue");
        JButton redButton = new JButton("Red");

        // add buttons to panel
        this.add(greenButton);
        this.add(blueButton);
        this.add(redButton);
    }
}
```



A button panel

ButtonFrame1 is a test class to put these buttons in a JFrame

```
/*
```

Solution for Button Panel problem

This class reduces the responsibility of the JFrame, and uses a ButtonPanel1 object to hold the three buttons. This class has more coherence than ButtonFrame0, but cannot act as the ActionListener because it does not have a reference to the buttons.

```
*/
```

```
import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.*;

public class ButtonFrame1 extends JFrame {

    public ButtonFrame1() {
        setTitle("Button Frame 1");

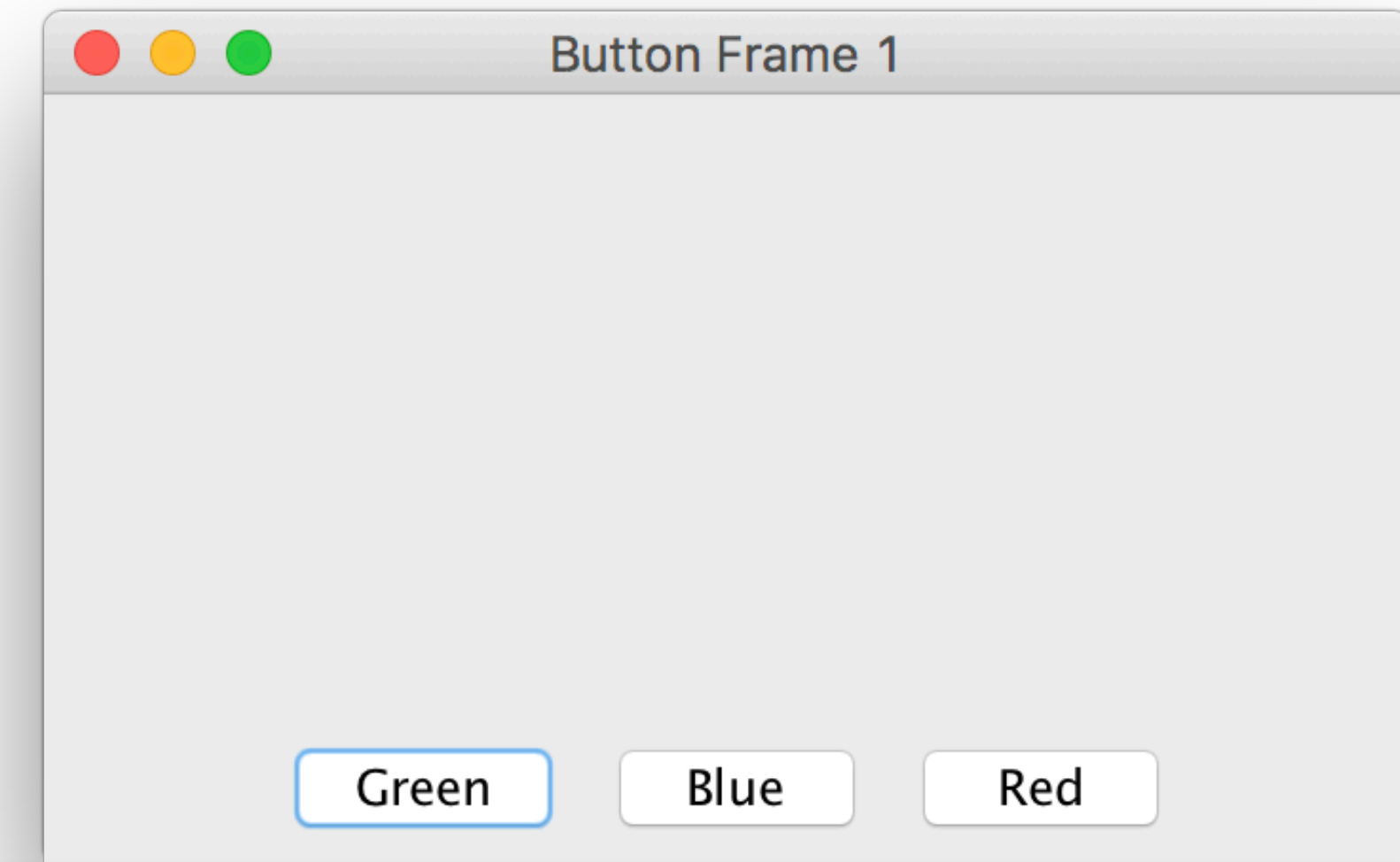
        // size, position and icon
        Toolkit tk = Toolkit.getDefaultToolkit();
        Dimension dim = tk.getScreenSize();
        setSize(dim.width/4, dim.height/4);
        setLocation(new Point(dim.width/4, dim.height/4));
    }
}
```



```
import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.*;

public class ButtonPanel1 extends JPanel {
    public ButtonPanel1(){
        // create buttons
        JButton greenButton = new JButton("Green");
        JButton blueButton = new JButton("Blue");
        JButton redButton = new JButton("Red");

        // add buttons to panel
        this.add(greenButton);
        this.add(blueButton);
        this.add(redButton);
    }
}
```



A button panel

ButtonFrame1 is a test class to put these buttons in a JFrame

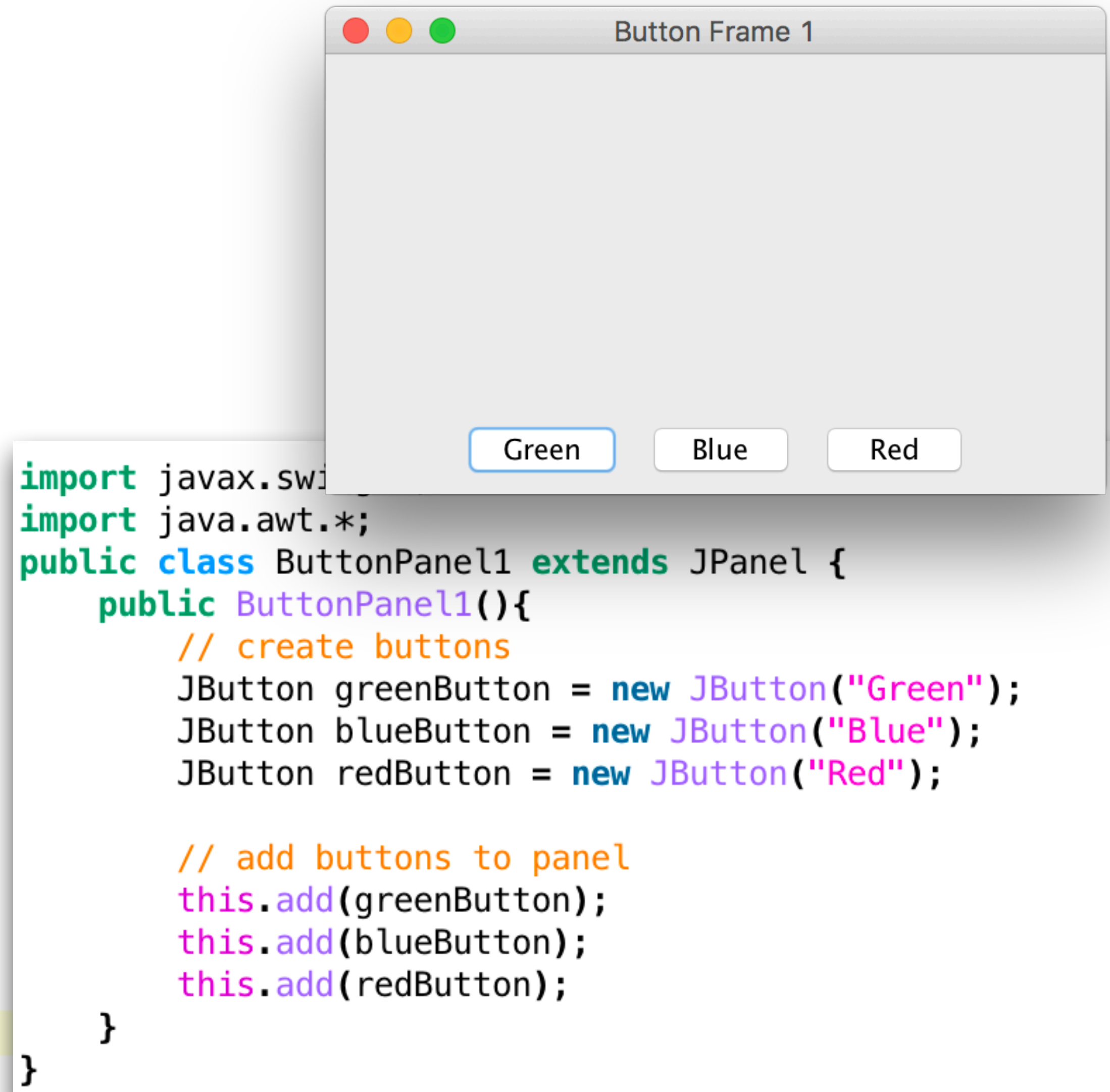
```
public ButtonFrame1() {
    setTitle("Button Frame 1");

    // size, position and icon
    Toolkit tk = Toolkit.getDefaultToolkit();
    Dimension dim = tk.getScreenSize();
    setSize(dim.width/4, dim.height/4);
    setLocation(new Point(dim.width/4, dim.height/4));

    Container c = getContentPane();
    JPanel centrePanel = new JPanel();

    // add panels
    ButtonPanel1 bp1 = new ButtonPanel1();
    c.add(bp1, "South");
    c.add(centrePanel, "Center");
}

public static void main(String args[]) {
    JFrame frm = new ButtonFrame1();
    frm.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
    frm.setVisible(true);
}
} // ButtonFrame
```



The ActionListener

The listener is a class that implements the `ActionListener` interface (in our example it's able to change the colour of the panel)

Which class should be the listener?

1. The `ButtonPanel` itself? Easy, but this breaks encapsulation, giving `ButtonPanel` more responsibilities. Example code : `ButtonPanel2.java` and `ButtonFrame2.java`.
2. A separate `ColorAction` class? This is well encapsulated, but `ColorAction` must refer to the panel it acts on. Example code: `ButtonPanel3.java`, `ButtonFrame3.java`, and `ColorAction3.java`
3. Make `ColorAction` a private ***inner class*** of `ButtonPanel`? Encapsulated and elegant, if `ColorAction` **always acts on** `ButtonPanel`. Example code: `ButtonPanel4.java` and `ButtonFrame4.java`.


```
*/
```

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

```
public class ButtonFrame2 extends JFrame {
```

```
    public ButtonFrame2() {  
        setTitle("Button Test");
```

```
        // size, position and icon  
        Toolkit tk = Toolkit.getDefaultToolkit();  
        Dimension dim = tk.getScreenSize();  
        setSize(dim.width/4, dim.height/4);  
        setLocation(new Point(dim.width/4, dim.height/4));
```

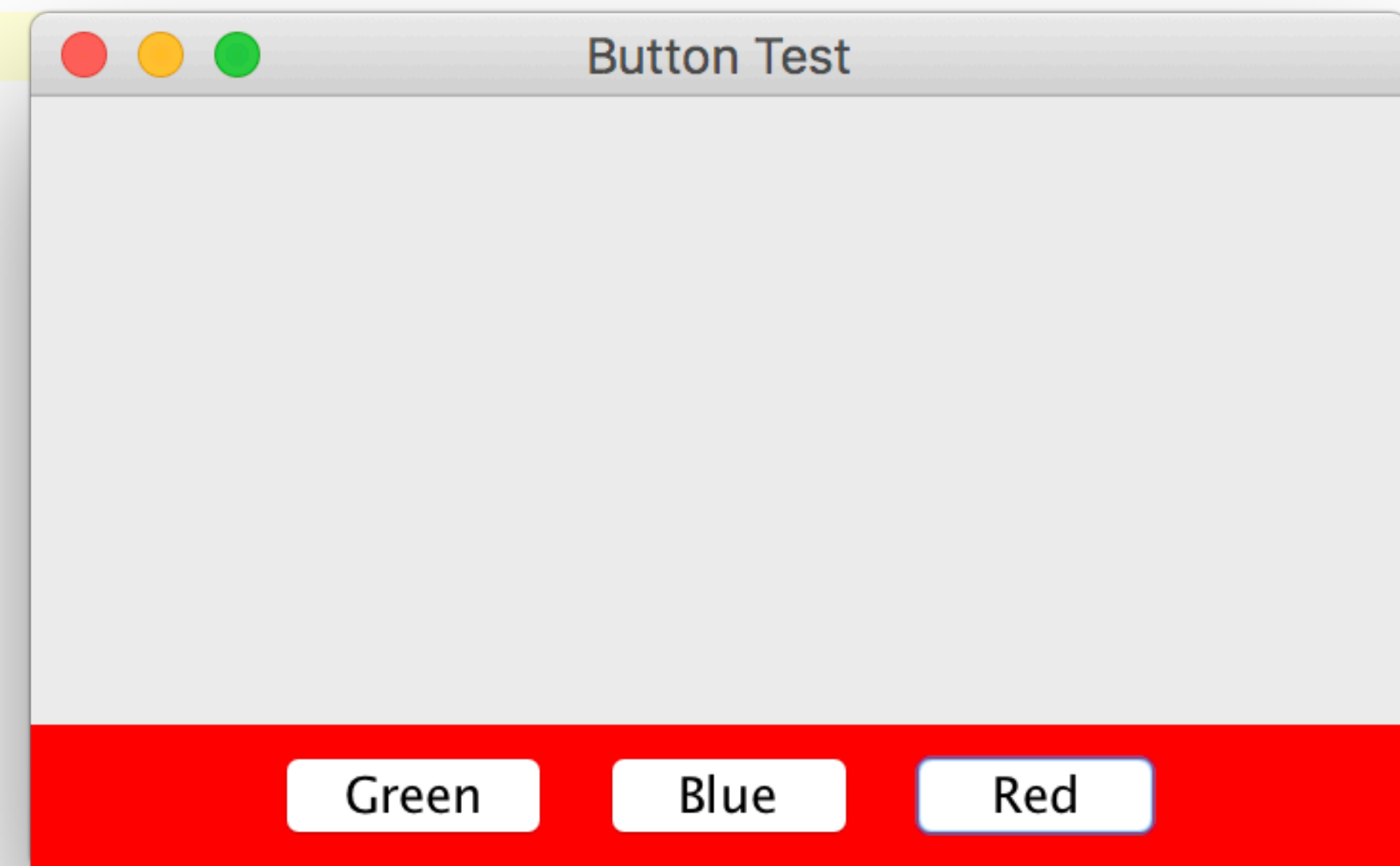
```
        Container c = getContentPane();  
        JPanel centrePanel = new JPanel();
```

```
        // add panels  
        c.add(new ButtonPanel2(), "South");  
        c.add(centrePanel, "Center");  
    }
```

```
    public static void main(String args[]) {  
        JFrame frm = new ButtonFrame2();  
        frm.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);  
        frm.setVisible(true);  
    }
```

```
}// ButtonFrame
```

First option: ButtonPanel2 as listener



First option: ButtonPanel2 as listener

```
/*
```

```
ButtonPanel2.java
```

```
Solution for Button Panel problem
```

```
This class is a ButtonPanel which assembles  
three buttons and adds them to a panel. It  
also acts as a listener, so includes an  
actionPerformed method to take actions  
following a button press.
```

```
*/
```

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

```
public class ButtonPanel2 extends JPanel implements ActionListener {
```

```
    private JButton greenButton;  
    private JButton blueButton;  
    private JButton redButton;
```

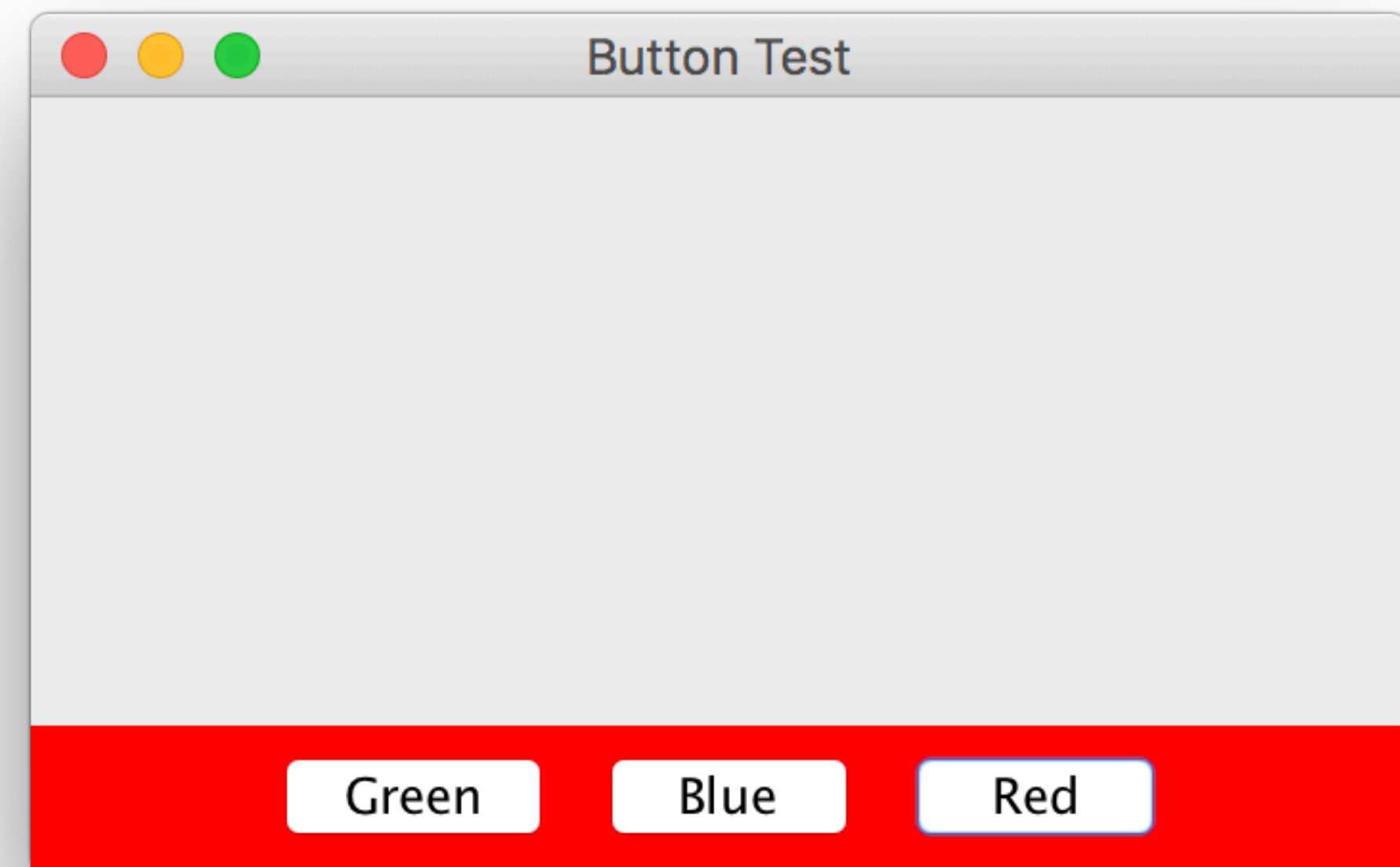
```
    public ButtonPanel2() {
```

```
        // create buttons
```

```
        greenButton = new JButton("Green");
```

```
        blueButton = new JButton("Blue");
```

```
        redButton = new JButton("Red");
```



```
public class ButtonPanel2 extends JPanel implements ActionListener {  
    private JButton greenButton;  
    private JButton blueButton;  
    private JButton redButton;  
    public ButtonPanel2() {
```

First option: ButtonPanel2 as listener

```
        // create buttons
```

```
        greenButton = new JButton("Green");
```

```
        blueButton = new JButton("Blue");
```

```
        redButton = new JButton("Red");
```

```
        // add buttons to panel
```

```
        add(greenButton);
```

```
        add(blueButton);
```

```
        add(redButton);
```

```
        // associate actions to buttons
```

```
        greenButton.addActionListener(this);
```

```
        blueButton.addActionListener(this);
```

```
        redButton.addActionListener(this);
```

```
    }
```

```
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent actionEvent) {
```

```
        Object source = actionEvent.getSource();
```

```
        if (source == greenButton)
```

```
            this.setBackground(Color.GREEN);
```

```
        else if (source == blueButton)
```

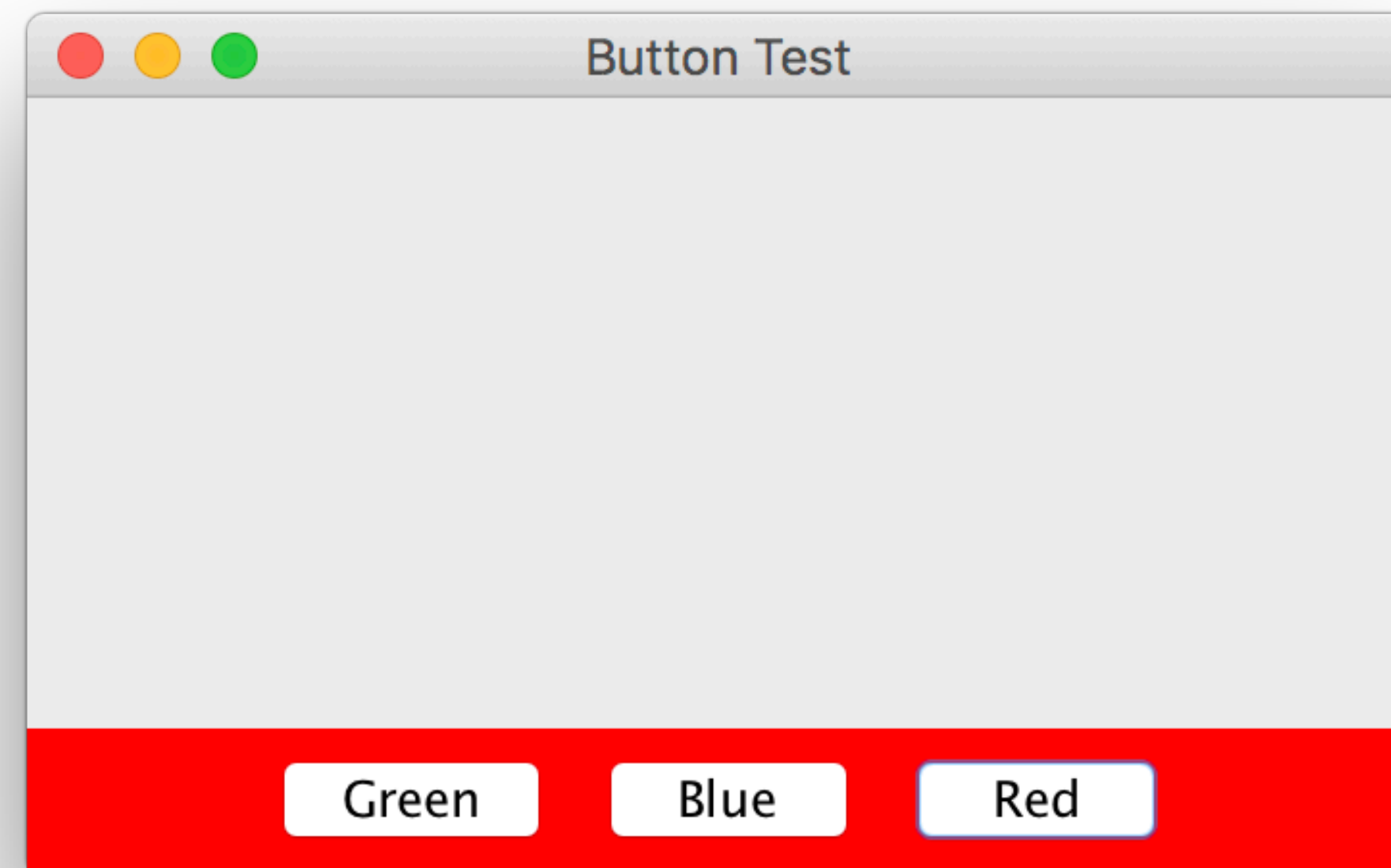
```
            this.setBackground(Color.BLUE);
```

```
        else if (source == redButton)
```

```
            this.setBackground(Color.RED);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```



The ActionListener

The listener is a class that implements the `ActionListener` interface (in our example it's able to change the colour of the panel)

Which class should be the listener?

1. **The `ButtonPanel` itself? Easy, but this breaks encapsulation, giving `ButtonPanel` more responsibilities. Example code : `ButtonPanel2.java` and `ButtonFrame2.java`.**
2. **A separate `ColorAction` class? This is well encapsulated, but `ColorAction` must refer to the panel it acts on. Example code: `ButtonPanel3.java`, `ButtonFrame3.java`, and `ColorAction3.java`**
3. **Make `ColorAction` a private *inner class* of `ButtonPanel`? Encapsulated and elegant, if `ColorAction` **always** acts on `ButtonPanel`. Example code: `ButtonPanel4.java` and `ButtonFrame4.java`.**

Second option: a ColorAction class

```
import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.*;

public class ButtonFrame3 extends JFrame {

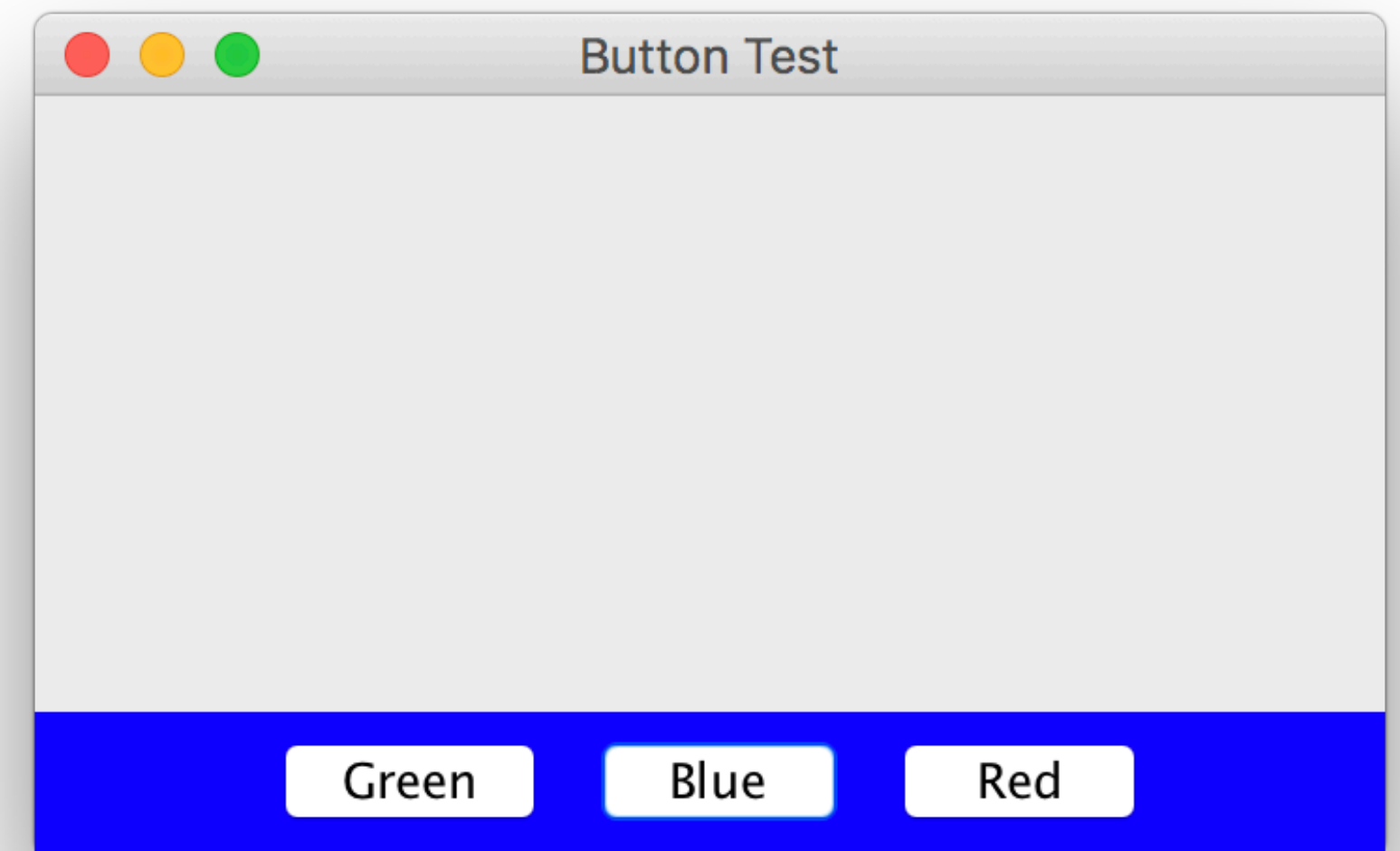
    public ButtonFrame3() {
        setTitle("Button Test");

        // size, position and icon
        Toolkit tk = Toolkit.getDefaultToolkit();
        Dimension dim = tk.getScreenSize();
        setSize(dim.width/4, dim.height/4);
        setLocation(new Point(dim.width/4, dim.height/4));

        Container c = getContentPane();
        JPanel centrePanel = new JPanel();

        // add panels
        c.add(new ButtonPanel3(), "South");
        c.add(centrePanel, "Center");
    }

    public static void main(String args[]) {
        JFrame frm = new ButtonFrame3();
        frm.setDefaultCloseOperation(JFrame.EXIT_ON_CLOSE);
        frm.setVisible(true);
    }
} // ButtonFrame
```

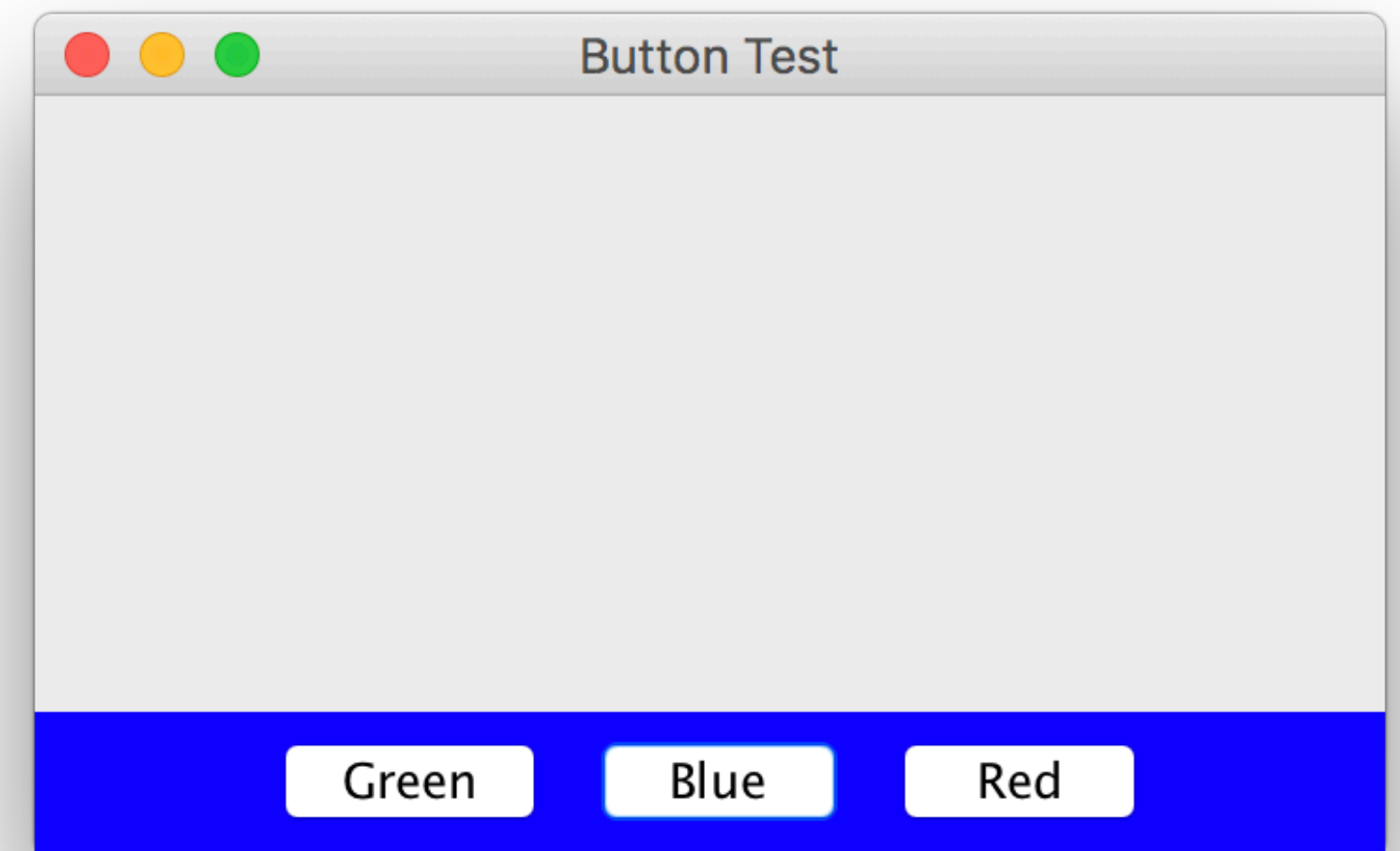


*/

```
import javax.swing.*;  
import java.awt.*;
```

Second option: a ColorAction class

```
public class ButtonPanel3 extends JPanel {  
    public ButtonPanel3() {  
  
        // create buttons  
        JButton greenButton = new JButton("Green");  
        JButton blueButton = new JButton("Blue");  
        JButton redButton = new JButton("Red");  
  
        // add buttons to panel  
        add(greenButton);  
        add(blueButton);  
        add(redButton);  
  
        // create button actions  
        ColorAction3 greenAction = new ColorAction3(Color.GREEN, this);  
        ColorAction3 blueAction = new ColorAction3(Color.BLUE, this);  
        ColorAction3 redAction = new ColorAction3(Color.RED, this);  
  
        // associate actions to buttons  
        greenButton.addActionListener(greenAction);  
        blueButton.addActionListener(blueAction);  
        redButton.addActionListener(redAction);  
    }  
}
```



Second option: a ColorAction class

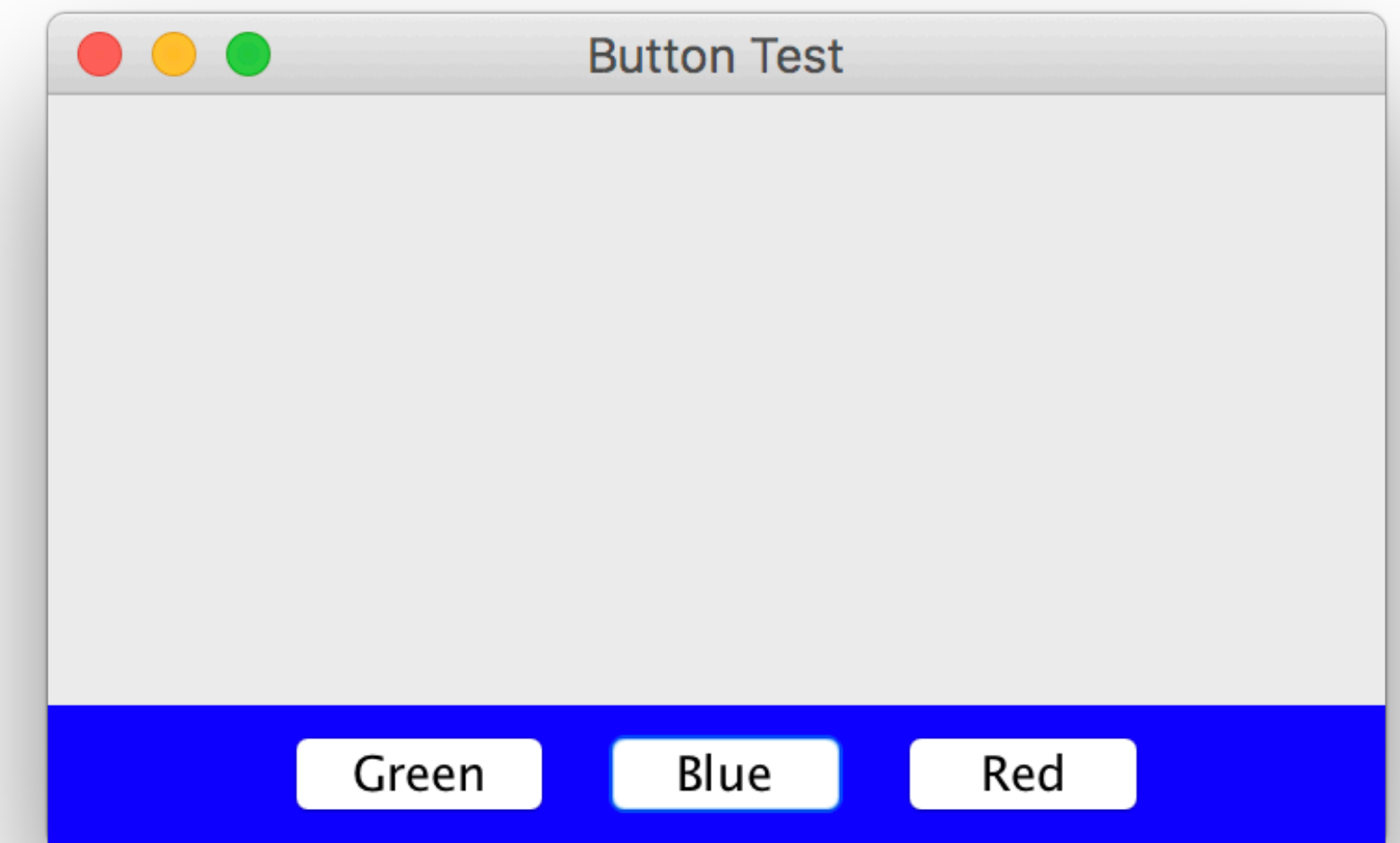
```
/*
    ColorAction3.java
    Listener class for ButtonPanel3
*/

import javax.swing.*;
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public class ColorAction3 implements ActionListener {
    private Color theColor;
    private JComponent theComponent;

    public ColorAction3(Color col, JComponent comp) {
        theColor = col;
        theComponent = comp;
    }

    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent actionEvent) {
        theComponent.setBackground(theColor);
    }
}
```



The ActionListener

The listener is a class that implements the `ActionListener` interface (in our example it's able to change the colour of the panel)

Which class should be the listener?

1. The `ButtonPanel` itself? Easy, but this breaks encapsulation, giving `ButtonPanel` more responsibilities. Example code : `ButtonPanel2.java` and `ButtonFrame2.java`.
2. A separate `ColorAction` class? This is well encapsulated, but `ColorAction` must refer to the panel it acts on. Example code: `ButtonPanel3.java`, `ButtonFrame3.java`, and `ColorAction3.java`
3. Make `ColorAction` a private ***inner class*** of `ButtonPanel`? Encapsulated and elegant, if `ColorAction` **always** acts on `ButtonPanel`. Example code: `ButtonPanel4.java` and `ButtonFrame4.java`.

Third option: an inner class

This class is a ButtonPanel which assembles three buttons and adds them to a panel. It uses a ColorAction class to listen, and this is an inner class

*/


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

```
public class ButtonPanel4 extends JPanel {
    public ButtonPanel4() {
        // create buttons
        JButton greenButton = new JButton("Green");
        JButton blueButton = new JButton("Blue");
        JButton redButton = new JButton("Red");
```

```
        // add buttons to panel
        add(greenButton);
        add(blueButton);
        add(redButton);
```

```
        // create button actions
```

All the buttons are encapsulated in the ButtonPanel 4 constructor



Third option: an inner class

```
add(blueButton);
add(redButton);

// create button actions
ColorAction4 greenAction = new ColorAction4(Color.GREEN);
ColorAction4 blueAction = new ColorAction4(Color.BLUE);
ColorAction4 redAction = new ColorAction4(Color.RED);

// associate actions to buttons
greenButton.addActionListener(greenAction);
blueButton.addActionListener(blueAction);
redButton.addActionListener(redAction);
}
```

ColorAction is an *inner class* that implements the ActionListener interface

```
private class ColorAction4 implements ActionListener {
    private Color theColor;

    public ColorAction4(Color col) {
        theColor = col;
    }

    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent actionEvent) {
        // long reference to method in ButtonPanel4
        // ButtonPanel4.this.setBackground(theColor);
        // short reference to method on ButtonPanel4
        setBackground(theColor);
    }
}
}
```


The ActionListener

The listener is a class that implements the `ActionListener` interface (in our example it's able to change the colour of the panel)

Which class should be the listener?

1. The `ButtonPanel` itself? Easy, but this breaks encapsulation, giving `ButtonPanel` more responsibilities. Example code : `ButtonPanel2.java` and `ButtonFrame2.java`.
2. A separate `ColorAction` class? This is well encapsulated, but `ColorAction` must refer to the panel it acts on. Example code: `ButtonPanel3.java`, `ButtonFrame3.java`, and `ColorAction3.java`
3. **Make `ColorAction` a private *inner class* of `ButtonPanel`? Encapsulated and elegant, if `ColorAction` **always acts on** `ButtonPanel`. Example code: `ButtonPanel4.java` and `ButtonFrame4.java`.**

Inner classes

An *inner class* is a class defined inside another class.

Inner class methods can access data from the scope within which they are defined, and this includes data that would otherwise be private.

Why would you want to do this?

- Some classes are only used by one other class, and it makes sense to group them together.
- Inner classes increase encapsulation as the inner class is hidden.
- Inner classes *can* therefore simplify code – if they are used carefully.

For example: `ColorAction4` enables the display (`ButtonPanel4`) to be separated from the `ActionListener`, without giving the `ButtonPanel` too many responsibilities.

Only `ButtonPanel4` objects can create `ColorAction4` objects.

Inner class example

```
public class ButtonPanel4 extends JPanel {
```

```
    public ButtonPanel4() {
```

```
        // create buttons
```

```
        JButton greenButton = new JButton("Green");
```

```
        JButton blueButton = new JButton("Blue");
```

```
        JButton redButton = new JButton("Red");
```

```
        // add buttons to panel
```

```
        add(greenButton);
```

```
        add(blueButton);
```

```
        add(redButton);
```

```
        // create button actions
```

```
        ColorAction4 greenAction = new ColorAction4(Color.GREEN);
```

```
        ColorAction4 blueAction = new ColorAction4(Color.BLUE);
```

```
        ColorAction4 redAction = new ColorAction4(Color.RED);
```

```
        // associate actions to buttons
```

```
        greenButton.addActionListener(greenAction);
```

```
        blueButton.addActionListener(blueAction);
```

```
        redButton.addActionListener(redAction);
```

```
    }
```

```
    private class ColorAction4 implements ActionListener {
```

```
        private Color theColor;
```

```
        public ColorAction4(Color col) {
```

```
            theColor = col;
```

```
        }
```

```
        public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent actionEvent) {
```

```
            setBackground(theColor);
```

```
        }
```

```
    }
```

ColorAction4 could be public, so we could access methods from another class by
ButtonPanel4.ColorAction4.actionPerformed()

ColorAction4 objects can also access the other private instance fields of ButtonPanel4 objects.

ColorAction4 can access the setBackground method of the JPanel superclass (ButtonPanel4.this.setBackground()).

Local inner classes

- Local inner classes are defined locally in a block of program code, e.g. in a method.
- Local inner classes are ***completely hidden***.
- Local classes are defined without an access specifier (`public` or `private`) because their scope is restricted to the code block where they are declared.
- Local classes are useful for
 - Implementing interfaces locally
 - User interface call-backs – e.g. a specific response to a button press
 - Local extension of an existing class

```
public class OuterClass extends Something{
    public void someMethod() {
        class LocalInnerClass extends SomethingElse{ ... }

        LocalInnerClass c = new LocalInnerClass();
        do stuff with c ...
    }
}
```


Anonymous inner classes

- An anonymous inner class is a local class with no name
- Used when only single objects of a class are needed
- Anonymous inner classes can simplify coding, especially for multiple actions, but can be very confusing

```
public class ButtonPanel15 extends JPanel {  
    public ButtonPanel15() {  
        makeButton("blue", Color.BLUE);  
        makeButton("green", Color.GREEN);  
        makeButton("red", Color.RED);  
    }  
    void makeButton(String name, final Color col) {  
        JButton button = new JButton(name);  
        add(button);  
        button.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {  
            public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent actionEvent) {  
                setBackground(col);  
            }  
        })  
    }  
}
```

This is the most elegant and concise coding for the ButtonPanel problem. But, it is not easy to figure out what the code does at first glance.

Any local variables accessed by an instance of an inner class have to be declared *final*.

Summary

Event objects are transmitted from event sources to event listeners.

Range of approaches to implementing actions

Inner classes:

- Can be used to ‘localise understanding’ of the code;
- May make some parts of the code look ‘messy’;
- Some people like them; some don’t.