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Week 5: Exception Handling and File I/O

Teaching Guide & Hands-on Project



Session Overview

Duration: 2 - 3 Hours

Teaching: 90 minutes | **Hands-on Practice:** 50 minutes



Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, students will be able to:

1. Understand exceptions and error handling concepts
 2. Use try-catch-finally blocks effectively
 3. Handle multiple exception types
 4. Throw and create custom exceptions
 5. Read and write text files in Java
 6. Work with CSV (Comma-Separated Values) files
 7. Use try-with-resources for automatic resource management
 8. Implement data persistence in applications using files
-



Quick Review (5 minutes)

Quick Questions:

- What's the difference between ArrayList and HashSet?
- When would you use HashMap instead of ArrayList?
- What does an interface define?
- Can a class implement multiple interfaces?

Key Review Points:

- Collections provide dynamic data structures
- Choose collections based on needs: order, uniqueness, lookup
- Interfaces define contracts for behavior

HANDS-ON PROJECT: Student Management System with File Persistence (50 minutes)

Project Overview

Enhance the Week 4 Student Management System to:

1. **Save data to files** when exiting
 2. **Load data from files** when starting
 3. **Export to CSV** for spreadsheet compatibility
 4. **Import from CSV** to bulk add students
 5. **Handle all file operations** with proper exception handling
 6. **Create backup files** automatically
-

Step-by-Step Implementation

Step 1: Add File Persistence to Student Class

```
public class Student extends Person {
    private String major;
    private double gpa;
    private ArrayList<String> enrolledCourses;

    public Student(String name, int age, String id, String email, String major, double gpa) {
        super(name, age, id, email);
        this.major = major;
        this.gpa = gpa;
        this.enrolledCourses = new ArrayList<>();
    }

    // Convert student to CSV format
    public String toCSV() {
        // Format: name,age,id,email,major,gpa,course1;course2;course3
        String courses = String.join(";", enrolledCourses);
        return String.format("%s,%d,%s,%s,%s,%.2f,%s",
            name, age, id, email, major, gpa, courses);
    }

    // Create student from CSV line
    public static Student fromCSV(String csvLine) throws InvalidDataException {
        try {
            String[] parts = csvLine.split(",");
            if (parts.length < 6) {
                throw new InvalidDataException("Invalid CSV format: insufficient fields");
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        String name = parts[0];
        int age = Integer.parseInt(parts[1]);
        String id = parts[2];
        String email = parts[3];
        String major = parts[4];
        double gpa = Double.parseDouble(parts[5]);
        Student student = new Student(name, age, id, email, major, gpa);
        // Add courses if present
        if (parts.length > 6 && !parts[6].isEmpty()) {
            String[] courses = parts[6].split(";");
            for (String course : courses) {
                student.enrollCourse(course);
            }
        }
        return student;
    } catch (NumberFormatException e) {
        throw new InvalidDataException("Invalid number format in CSV: " + csvLine);
    }
    // Other methods from previous weeks...
    @Override
    public void displayInfo() {
        System.out.println("
        System.out.println("
        System.out.println("
        System.out.println("Name: " + name);
        System.out.println("Student ID: " + id);
        System.out.println("Major: " + major);
        System.out.println("Age: " + age);
        System.out.println("Email: " + email);
        System.out.println("GPA: " + gpa);
        if (!enrolledCourses.isEmpty()) {
            System.out.println("\nEnrolled Courses:");
            for (String course : enrolledCourses) {
                System.out.println(" - " + course);
            }
        }
    }
    @Override
    public String getRole() {
        return "Student";
    }
    public void enrollCourse(String course) {
        if (!enrolledCourses.contains(course)) {
            enrolledCourses.add(course);
        }
    }
    public void dropCourse(String course) {
        enrolledCourses.remove(course);
    }
    public ArrayList<String> getEnrolledCourses() {
        return new ArrayList<>(enrolledCourses);
    }
    // Getters
    public double getGpa() {
        return gpa;
    }
    public String getMajor() {
        return major;
    }
    // Setters
    public void setGpa(double gpa) {
        this.gpa = gpa;
    }
    public void setMajor(String major) {
        this.major = major;
    }
    public boolean isHonorRoll() {
        return gpa ≥ 3.5;
    }
    @Override
    public boolean matches(String keyword) {
        return super.matches(keyword) ||
            major.toLowerCase().contains(keyword.toLowerCase());
    }

```

Step 2: Custom Exception for Invalid Data

```

public class InvalidDataException extends Exception {
    public InvalidDataException(String message) {
        super(message);
    }

    public InvalidDataException(String message, Throwable cause) {
        super(message, cause);
    }
}

```

```
} }
```

Step 3: File Manager Class

```
import java.io.*;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;
import java.util.Date;

public class FileManager {
    private static final String DATA_FILE = "students.csv";
    private static final String BACKUP_DIR = "backups/";

    // Save all students to file
    public static void saveStudents(ArrayList<Student> students) throws IOException {
        // Create backup first
        createBackup();

        try (BufferedWriter writer = new BufferedWriter(new FileWriter(DATA_FILE))) {
            // Write header
            writer.write("Name,Age,ID,Email,Major,GPA,Courses");
            writer.newLine();

            // Write student data
            for (Student student : students) {
                writer.write(student.toCSV());
                writer.newLine();
            }

            System.out.println("\n Data saved successfully to " + DATA_FILE);

        } catch (IOException e) {
            System.out.println("X Error saving data: " + e.getMessage());
            throw e;
        }
    }

    // Load all students from file
    public static ArrayList<Student> loadStudents() {
        ArrayList<Student> students = new ArrayList<>();

        File file = new File(DATA_FILE);
        if (!file.exists()) {
            System.out.println("No existing data file found. Starting fresh.");
            return students;
        }

        try (BufferedReader reader = new BufferedReader(new FileReader(DATA_FILE))) {
```

```

        String line;                boolean firstLine = true;                int lineNumber = 1;
        while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {
            lineNumber++;                // Skip header
            if (firstLine) {                firstLine = false;
                continue;                }
            // Skip empty lines                if (line.trim().isEmpty()) {
                continue;                }                try {
                Student student = Student.fromCSV(line);
                students.add(student);                } catch (InvalidDataException e) {
                System.out.println("Warning: Skipping invalid data at line " +
lineNumber);
                System.out.println(" Reason: " + e.getMessage());                }
            }
            System.out.println("/ Loaded " + students.size() + " students from file");
            } catch (FileNotFoundException e) {
                System.out.println("Data file not found. Starting with empty database.");
            } catch (IOException e) {
                System.out.println("Error reading file: " + e.getMessage());                }
        return students;                }                // Create backup of current data
private static void createBackup() {                File dataFile = new File(DATA_FILE);
        if (!dataFile.exists()) {                return;                // Nothing to backup                }
        // Create backup directory if it doesn't exist
        File backupDir = new File(BACKUP_DIR);                if (!backupDir.exists()) {
            backupDir.mkdir();                }
        // Generate backup filename with timestamp
        SimpleDateFormat sdf = new SimpleDateFormat("yyyyMMdd_HHmms");
        String timestamp = sdf.format(new Date());
        String backupFilename = BACKUP_DIR + "students_" + timestamp + ".csv";
        try (BufferedReader reader = new BufferedReader(new FileReader(DATA_FILE));
            BufferedWriter writer = new BufferedWriter(new FileWriter(backupFilename))) {
            String line;                while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {
                writer.write(line);                writer.newLine();                }
            System.out.println("/ Backup created: " + backupFilename);
        } catch (IOException e) {
            System.out.println("Warning: Could not create backup: " + e.getMessage());
        }                }                // Export students to CSV (user-friendly format)
public static void exportToCSV(ArrayList<Student> students, String filename) {
        try (BufferedWriter writer = new BufferedWriter(new FileWriter(filename))) {
            // Write header
            writer.write("Student Name, Age, Student ID, Email, Major, GPA, Number of Courses");
            writer.newLine();                // Write data
            for (Student student : students) {
                writer.write(String.format("%s,%d,%s,%s,%s,%.2f,%d",
                    student.getName(),                student.getAge(),
                    student.getId(),                student.getEmail(),
                    student.getMajor(),                student.getGpa(),
                    student.getEnrolledCourses().size()));                writer.newLine();
            }                System.out.println("/ Data exported to " + filename);
            } catch (IOException e) {
                System.out.println("X Export failed: " + e.getMessage());                }                }

```

```

        // Import students from CSV
public static ArrayList<Student> importFromCSV(String filename) throws IOException,
    InvalidDataException {
    ArrayList<Student> importedStudents = new ArrayList<>();
    try (BufferedReader reader = new BufferedReader(new FileReader(filename))) {
        String line;          boolean firstLine = true;          int lineNumber = 1;
        int successCount = 0;          int errorCount = 0;
        while ((line = reader.readLine()) != null) {              lineNumber++;
            if (firstLine) {                                      firstLine = false;
                continue;          }
            if (line.trim().isEmpty()) {                          continue;          }
            try {
                Student student = Student.fromCSV(line);
                importedStudents.add(student);                    successCount++;
            } catch (InvalidDataException e) {
                System.out.println("Line " + lineNumber + " error: " + e.getMessage());
                errorCount++;          }          }
        System.out.println("\n=== Import Summary ===");
        System.out.println("Successfully imported: " + successCount);
        System.out.println("Errors: " + errorCount);
    } catch (FileNotFoundException e) {
        throw new IOException("Import file not found: " + filename);    }
    return importedStudents;    }    }

```

Step 4: Enhanced Management System with File Operations

```

import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.HashMap;
import java.util.Scanner;
import java.io.IOException;

public class PersistentUniversitySystem {
    private HashMap<String, Student> studentsById;
    private ArrayList<Student> students;
    private Scanner scanner;

    public PersistentUniversitySystem() {
        studentsById = new HashMap<>();
        students = new ArrayList<>();
        scanner = new Scanner(System.in);
        loadData();
    }

    private void loadData() {
        System.out.println("Loading data from file ...");
        students = FileManager.loadStudents();
    }
}

```

```

        studentsById.put(student.getId(), student);    }    }
private void saveData() {    try {    FileManager.saveStudents(students);
    } catch (IOException e) {    System.out.println("Failed to save data!");
    }    }    public void displayMenu() {
System.out.println("\n┌───────────────────────────────────────────┐");
System.out.println("│          STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM v2.0          │");
System.out.println("└───────────────────────────────────────────┘");
System.out.println("1. Add Student");
System.out.println("2. Display All Students");
System.out.println("3. Search Student");
System.out.println("4. Update Student GPA");
System.out.println("5. Delete Student");
System.out.println("6. Display Honor Roll");
System.out.println("7. Save Data");    System.out.println("8. Export to CSV");
System.out.println("9. Import from CSV");    System.out.println("10. Exit");
System.out.println("────────────────────────────────────────");
System.out.print("Enter choice (1-10): ");    }
public void addStudent() {    System.out.println("\n--- Add New Student ---");
    try {    System.out.print("Name: ");
        String name = scanner.nextLine();
        System.out.print("Age: ");    int age = scanner.nextInt();
        scanner.nextLine();    System.out.print("Student ID: ");
        String id = scanner.nextLine();
        if (studentsById.containsKey(id)) {
            System.out.println("X Student ID already exists!");    return;
        }    System.out.print("Email: ");
        String email = scanner.nextLine();
        System.out.print("Major: ");    String major = scanner.nextLine();
        System.out.print("GPA (0.0-4.0): ");
        double gpa = scanner.nextDouble();    scanner.nextLine();
        if (gpa < 0.0 || gpa > 4.0) {
            throw new IllegalArgumentException("GPA must be between 0.0 and 4.0");
        }
        Student student = new Student(name, age, id, email, major, gpa);
        students.add(student);    studentsById.put(id, student);
        System.out.println("✓ Student added successfully!");
    } catch (IllegalArgumentException e) {
        System.out.println("X Invalid input: " + e.getMessage());
        scanner.nextLine(); // Clear buffer    } catch (Exception e) {
        System.out.println("X Error adding student: " + e.getMessage());
        scanner.nextLine(); // Clear buffer    }    }
public void displayAllStudents() {    System.out.println("\n--- All Students ---");
    if (students.isEmpty()) {
        System.out.println("No students in the system.");    return;    }
    for (int i = 0; i < students.size(); i++) {
        System.out.println("\nStudent #" + (i + 1));
        students.get(i).displayInfo();    System.out.println("=".repeat(40));
    }    System.out.println("Total students: " + students.size());    }
    public void searchStudent() {
System.out.println("\n--- Search Student ---");

```



```

System.out.print("Enter search keyword: ");
String keyword = scanner.nextLine();
ArrayList<Student> results = new ArrayList<>();
for (Student student : students) {
    if (student.matches(keyword)) {
        results.add(student);
    }
}
if (results.isEmpty()) {
    System.out.println("No students found.");
} else {
    System.out.println("\nFound " + results.size() + " student(s):");
    for (Student student : results) {
        System.out.println();
        student.displayInfo();
        System.out.println("—".repeat(40));
    }
}

public void updateGPA() {
System.out.println("\n--- Update Student GPA ---");
System.out.print("Enter Student ID: ");
String id = scanner.nextLine();
Student student = studentsById.get(id);
if (student == null) {
    System.out.println("X Student not found.");
    return;
}
try {
    System.out.println("Current GPA: " + student.getGpa());
    System.out.print("Enter new GPA (0.0–4.0): ");
    double newGpa = scanner.nextDouble();
    scanner.nextLine();
    if (newGpa < 0.0 || newGpa > 4.0) {
        throw new IllegalArgumentException("GPA must be between 0.0 and 4.0");
    }
    student.setGpa(newGpa);
    System.out.println("✓ GPA updated successfully!");
} catch (IllegalArgumentException e) {
    System.out.println("X " + e.getMessage());
    scanner.nextLine();
} catch (Exception e) {
    System.out.println("X Invalid input!");
    scanner.nextLine();
}

public void deleteStudent() {
System.out.println("\n--- Delete Student ---");
System.out.print("Enter Student ID: ");
String id = scanner.nextLine();
Student student = studentsById.get(id);
if (student == null) {
    System.out.println("X Student not found.");
    return;
}
System.out.println("\nStudent to delete:");
student.displayInfo();
System.out.print("\nAre you sure? (yes/no): ");
String confirm = scanner.nextLine();
if (confirm.equalsIgnoreCase("yes")) {
    students.remove(student);
    studentsById.remove(id);
    System.out.println("✓ Student deleted successfully!");
} else {
    System.out.println("Deletion cancelled.");
}

public void displayHonorRoll() {
System.out.println("\n--- Honor Roll (GPA ≥ 3.5) ---");
ArrayList<Student> honorStudents = new ArrayList<>();
for (Student student : students) {
    if (student.isHonorRoll()) {
        honorStudents.add(student);
    }
}
if (honorStudents.isEmpty()) {
    System.out.println("No students on honor roll.");
} else {
    for (Student student : honorStudents) {
        student.displayInfo();
        System.out.println("—".repeat(40));
    }
    System.out.println("Total: " + honorStudents.size());
}

public void exportData() {
System.out.println("\n--- Export Data ---");
System.out.print("Enter filename (e.g., export.csv): ");
String filename = scanner.nextLine();
if (!filename.endsWith(".csv")) {
    filename += ".csv";
}

```

```

FileManager.exportToCSV(students, filename);    }
public void importData() {        System.out.println("\n--- Import Data ---");
    System.out.print("Enter filename to import: ");
    String filename = scanner.nextLine();        try {
        ArrayList<Student> importedStudents = FileManager.importFromCSV(filename);
        if (importedStudents.isEmpty()) {
            System.out.println("No valid students to import.");        return;
        }
        System.out.print("\nImport " + importedStudents.size() + " students? (yes/no): ");
        String confirm = scanner.nextLine();
        if (confirm.equalsIgnoreCase("yes")) {        int addedCount = 0;
            int skippedCount = 0;
            for (Student student : importedStudents) {
                if (studentsById.containsKey(student.getId())) {
                    System.out.println("Skipping duplicate ID: " + student.getId());
                    skippedCount++;        } else {
                        students.add(student);
                        studentsById.put(student.getId(), student);
                        addedCount++;        }
            }
            System.out.println("\n Import complete!");
            System.out.println("Added: " + addedCount);
            System.out.println("Skipped (duplicates): " + skippedCount);
        } else {        System.out.println("Import cancelled.");        }
        } catch (IOException e) {
            System.out.println("X Import failed: " + e.getMessage());
        } catch (InvalidDataException e) {
            System.out.println("X Data error: " + e.getMessage());        }    }

public void run() {
    System.out.println("Welcome to Student Management System");
    System.out.println("with File Persistence");
    int choice;    do {        displayMenu();        try {
        choice = scanner.nextInt();        scanner.nextLine();
        switch (choice) {        case 1: addStudent(); break;
            case 2: displayAllStudents(); break;
            case 3: searchStudent(); break;
            case 4: updateGPA(); break;
            case 5: deleteStudent(); break;
            case 6: displayHonorRoll(); break;
            case 7: saveData(); break;        case 8: exportData(); break;
            case 9: importData(); break;        case 10:
                System.out.println("\nSaving data before exit ... ");
                saveData();
                System.out.println("Thank you for using the system!");
                System.out.println("Goodbye!");        break;
            default:
                System.out.println("X Invalid choice! Please enter 1-10.");
        }        } catch (Exception e) {
            System.out.println("X Invalid input! Please enter a number.");
        }
    } while (choice != 0);
}

```

```
        scanner.nextLine(); // Clear invalid input
        choice = 0; // Continue loop
    } while (choice != 10); scanner.close();
}

public static void main(String[] args) {
    PersistentUniversitySystem system = new PersistentUniversitySystem();
    system.run();
}
```



Homework Assignment

Task 1: Add Try-Catch to User Input (Required)

Enhance the system to handle all user input errors gracefully:

- Catch `InputMismatchException` for invalid number inputs
- Validate email format
- Validate age range (16-100)
- Show user-friendly error messages

Task 2: Implement Auto-Save (Required)

Add automatic saving feature:

- Auto-save after every 5 operations
- Show "Auto-saving..." message
- Track number of unsaved changes

Task 3: Advanced File Operations (Challenge)

Implement the following features:

1. **Search in files:** Search without loading entire file into memory
2. **Restore from backup:** Allow user to restore from a backup file
3. **Export filtered data:** Export only honor roll students or students by major
4. **Log file:** Create a log file that records all operations with timestamps



Assessment Checklist

Students should be able to:

- [] Understand exception types and hierarchy
- [] Use try-catch-finally blocks correctly
- [] Handle multiple exception types
- [] Throw exceptions when appropriate
- [] Create custom exception classes

- [] Read text files using Scanner and BufferedReader
- [] Write text files using FileWriter and BufferedWriter
- [] Use try-with-resources for automatic cleanup
- [] Parse CSV files
- [] Implement data persistence in applications
- [] Handle file I/O errors gracefully

Common Student Errors & Solutions

Error 1: File Not Found

```
File file = new File("data.txt"); // Wrong path!
```

Solution: Check file location, use absolute path if needed, or create file first

Error 2: Resource Leak

```
FileWriter writer = new FileWriter("file.txt");  
writer.write("text");  
// Forgot to close!
```

Solution: Use try-with-resources or ensure close() in finally block

Error 3: Buffer Not Flushed

```
BufferedWriter writer = new BufferedWriter(new FileWriter("file.txt"));  
writer.write("text");  
// Data might not be written!
```

Solution: Call flush() or close() to ensure data is written

Error 4: Incorrect Exception Handling Order

```
try {  
    // code  
} catch (Exception e) {  
    // Too general!  
} catch (IOException e) { // Unreachable!
```

```
// Never executed}
```

Solution: More specific exceptions before general ones

Additional Resources

- [Java Exception Handling](#)
- [Java I/O Tutorial](#)
- [Try-With-Resources](#)
- [Working with Files](#)



Preview of Week 6

Next week we'll cover:

- **Database Concepts:** Tables, rows, columns, relationships
- **SQL Fundamentals:** SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE
- **PostgreSQL:** Installation and setup
- **Database Design:** Creating schemas and relationships
- **SQL Joins:** Combining data from multiple tables

Prepare: Install PostgreSQL before next class!



Key Takeaways

"Exceptions = Graceful Error Handling"

Don't let your program crash - handle errors elegantly

"Try-With-Resources = Modern Best Practice"

Automatic resource management prevents leaks

"Files = Data Persistence"

Your data lives beyond program execution

"Always Validate Input"

Never trust user input - validate and handle errors

"Backups Save Lives"

Always create backups before modifying data