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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(" " STUDENT INFORMATION " );
    System.out.println(" " );
    System.out.println("Name: " + name);      System.out.println("Age: " + age);
    System.out.println("Student ID: " + id);     System.out.println("Email: " + email);
    System.out.println("Major: " + major);       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("✓ Data saved successfully to " + DATA_FILE);
        } catch (IOException e) {
            System.out.println("✗ 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_HHmmss");
    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("✗ 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) {
            if (firstLine) { lineNumber++; 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("V 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("V 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");
    System.out.println(" ");
    int choice;           do {           displayMenu();
        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.");
}

```

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

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](#)
-

SOON 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