Classes and Objects: A Deeper Look

10.6 Time Class Case Study: Overloaded Constructors (Cont.)

Notes Regarding Class Time2's Methods, Properties and Constructors

- Consider changing the representation of the time to a single int value representing the total number of seconds that have elapsed since midnight.
 - Only the bodies of the methods that access the private data directly would need to change.
 - There would be no need to modify the bodies of methods
 SetTime, ToUniversalString or ToString.

10.7 Default and Parameterless Constructors

- Every class must have at least one constructor. If you do not provide any constructors in a class's declaration, the compiler creates a default constructor that takes no arguments when it is invoked.
- The compiler will not create a default constructor for a class that explicitly declares at least one constructor.
- If you have declared a constructor, but want to be able to invoke the constructor with no arguments, you must declare a parameterless constructor.

• A class can have references to objects of other classes as members. This is called **composition** and is sometimes referred to as a *has-a relationship*.

Date.cs

Software Engineering Observation 10.6

(1 of 4)

One form of software reuse is composition, in which a class has as members references to objects of other classes.

• Class Date (Fig. 10.9) declares instance variables month and day, and auto-implemented property Year (line 11) to represent a date.

```
1 // Fig10.9: Date.cs
2 // Date class declaration.
3 usingSystem;
4
5 public class Date
6 {
7  private int m onth; // 1-12
8  private int day; // 1-31 based on month
9
```

5

```
10
      // auto-implemented property Year
                                                                                     Date.cs
     public int Year { get; set; }
11
12
                                                                                     (2 \text{ of } 4)
13
      // constructor: use property Month to confirm proper value for month;
      // use property Day to confirm proper value for day
14
     public Date (int the Month, int the Day, int the Year)
15
16
17
      Month = theMonth; // validate month
      Year = theYear; // could validate year
18
19
      Day = theDay;// validate day
      Console W riteLine ("Date object constructor for date this);
20
21
     } // end Date constructor
22
      // property that gets and sets the month
23
     public int Month
24
25
26
      get
27
28
        return m onth;
29
      } // end get
      private set// make writing inaccessible outside the class
30
```

Fig. 10.9 | Date class declaration. (Part 2 of 4.)



```
Date.cs
431
     //property that gets and sets the day
42
43
     public int Day
                                                                                               (3 \text{ of } 4)
44
45
       get
46
          return day;
47
48
       } //end get
       private set //m ake w riting inaccessable outside the class
49
50
51
          int[] daysPerM onth = { 0, 31, 28, 31, 30, 31, 30,
52
                          31, 31, 30, 31, 30, 31 };
```

Fig. 10.9 | Date class declaration. (Part 3 of 4.)



```
Date.cs
623
           Console.W riteLine( "hvalid day ({0}) set to 1.", value );
63
64
           day = 1; //m antan object in consistent state
                                                                                            (4 \text{ of } 4)
         } //end else
65
       } //end set
66
     } //end property Day
67
68
69
     // return a string of the form m onth/day/year
     public override string ToString()
70
71
72
       return string. Form at ( (0)/(1)/(2) , Month, Day, Year);
     } //end m ethod ToString
73
74 } // end class Date
```

Fig. 10.9 | Date class declaration. (Part 4 of 4.)



• Class Employee (Fig. 10.10) has instance variables firstName, lastName, birthDate and hireDate.

Employee.cs

```
(1 \text{ of } 2)
  // Fig10.10: Employee.cs
      Employee class with references to other objects.
   public class Em ployee
4
     private string firstNam e;
5
                                                                        Members birthDate and hireDate are
     private string lastNam e;
6
                                                                        references to Date objects, demonstrating that a
     private Date birthDate;
                                                                        class can have as instance variables references to
     private Date hireDate;
8
                                                                        objects of other classes.
9
10
      // constructor to initialize name, birth date and hire date
     public Em ployee (string first, string last,
11
12
       Date date 0 fB irth, Date date 0 fH ire )
13
       firstNam e = first:
14
       lastNam e = last;
15
16
       birthDate = dateOfBirth;
       hireDate = dateOfHire;
17
     } // end Employee constructor
18
```

Fig. 10.10 | Employee class with references to other objects. (Part 1 of 2.)



Employee.cs

```
19
20  // convert Employee to string format
21  public override string ToString()
22  {
23    return string.Form at("{0}, {1} Hired: {2} Birthday; {3}"
24    lastNam e, firstNam e, hireDate, birthDate );
25  } // end method ToString
26 } // end class Employee
```

Fig. 10.10 | Employee class with references to other objects. (Part 2 of 2.)

10

• Class Employee-Test (Fig. 10.11) creates two Date objects to represent an Employee's birthday and hire date, respectively.

EmployeeTest.cs

```
1 // Fig10.11: EmployeeTest.cs
2 // Composition demonstration.
  usingSystem;
4
   public class Em ployeeTest
6
    public static void Main (string [] args)
8
      Date birth = new Date (7, 24, 1949);
9
      Date hire = new Date (3, 12, 1988);
10
                                                                                     Pass the names and two
11
      Em ployee em ployee = new Em ployee ("Bob", "Ble", birth, hire );
                                                                                     Date objects to the
                                                                                     Employee constructor.
12
      Console.W riteLine(em ployee);
13
    } // end Main
15 } // end class EmployeeTest
Date object constructor for date 7/24/1949
Date object constructor for date 3/12/1988
Blue, Bob Hired: 3/12/1988 Birthday: 7/24/1949
```

Fig. 10.11 | Composition demonstration.



10.9 Garbage Collection and Destructors

- Every object you create uses various system resources, such as memory.
- In many programming languages, these system resources are reserved for the object's use until they are explicitly released by the programmer.
- If all the references to the object that manages the resource are lost before the resource is explicitly released, it can no longer be released. This is known as a resource leak.
- The Common Language Runtime (CLR) uses a **garbage collector** to reclaim the memory occupied by objects that are no longer in use.
- When there are no more references to an object, the object becomes eligible for destruction.

10.9 Garbage Collection and Destructors (Cont.)

- Every object has a **destructor** that is invoked by the garbage collector to perform **termination housekeeping** before its memory is reclaimed.
- A destructor's name is the class name, preceded by a tilde, and it has no access modifier in its header.
- After an object's destructor is called, the object becomes eligible for garbage collection—the memory for the object can be reclaimed by the garbage collector.
- Memory leaks are less likely in C# than languages like C and C++ (but some can still happen in subtle ways).

10.9 Garbage Collection and Destructors (Cont.)

- Other types of resource leaks can occur, for example if an application fails to close a file that it has opened.
- A problem with the garbage collector is that it is not guaranteed to perform its tasks at a specified time. For this reason, destructors are rarely used.
 - C# does not guarantee when, or even whether, the garbage collector will execute.
 - When the garbage collector does run, it is possible that no objects or only a subset of the eligible objects will be collected.

10.10 static Class Members

- A static variable is used when only one copy of a particular variable should be shared by all objects of a class.
- A static variable represents classwide information—all objects of the class share the same piece of data.
- The declaration of a static variable begins with the keyword static.

Software Engineering Observation 10.8

Use a **Static** variable when all objects of a class must use the same copy of the variable.

10.10 static Class Members (Cont.)

- The scope of a **static** variable is the body of its class.
- A class's public static members can be accessed by qualifying the member name with the class name and the member access (.) operator, as in Math.PI.
- A class's private static class members can be accessed only through the methods and properties of the class.
- static class members exist even when no objects of the class exist—they are available as soon as the class is loaded into memory at execution time.
- To access a private static member from outside its class, a public static method or property can be provided.

10.10 static Class Members (Cont.)

- string objects in C# are immutable—they cannot be modified after they are created. Therefore, it is safe to have many references to one string object.
- String-concatenation operations result in a new string object containing the concatenated values. The original string objects are not modified.

10.10 static Class Members (Cont.)

- A method declared static cannot access non-static class members directly, because a static method can be called even when no objects of the class exist.
- The this reference cannot be used in a static method.

Common Programming Error 10.8

A compilation error occurs if a Static method calls an instance (non-Static) method in the same class by using only the method name. Similarly, a compilation error occurs if a Static method attempts to access an instance variable in the same class by using only the variable name.

Common Programming Error 10.9

Referring to the this reference in a static method is a syntax error.

10.11 readonly Instance Variables

- The principle of least privilege states that code should be granted only the amount of privilege and access needed to accomplish its designated task, but no more.
- Constants declared with const must be initialized to a constant value when they are declared.
- C# provides keyword **readonly** to specify that an instance variable of an object is not modifiable and that any attempt to mod-ify it after the object is constructed is an error.
- Like constants, readonly variables are declared with all capital letters by convention
- readonly instance variables can be initialized when they are declared, but this is not required.

10.11 readonly Instance Variables (Cont.)

• A readonly instance variable doesn't become unmodifiable until after the constructor completes execution.

Software Engineering Observation 10.10

Declaring an instance variable as readonly helps enforce the principle of least privilege. If an instance variable should not be modified after the object is constructed, declare it to be readonly to prevent modification.

- Members that are declared as **const** must be assigned values at compile time, whereas members declared with keyword **readonly**, can be initialized at execution time.
- Variables that are readonly can be initialized with expressions that are not contsants, such as an array initializer or a method call.



• If a class provides multiple constructors, every constructor should initialize a readonly variable.

 If a constructor does not initialize the readonly variable, the variable receives the same default value as any other instance variable, and the compiler generates a warning.

• Application class IncrementTest (Fig. 10.15) demonstrates class Increment.

IncrementTest.cs (1 of 3)

- As applications become more complex, namespaces help you manage the complexity of application components.
- Class libraries and namespaces also facilitate software reuse by enabling applications to add classes from other namespaces.

Steps for Declaring and Using a Reusable Class

- Before a class can be used in multiple applications, it must be placed in a class library to make it reusable.
- The steps for creating a reusable class are:
 - Declare a public class. If the class is not public, it can be used only by other classes in the same assembly.
 - Choose a namespace name and add a namespace declaration to the source-code file for the reusable class declaration.
 - Compile the class into a class library.
 - Add a reference to the class library in an application.
 - Specify a using directive for the namespace of the reusable class and use the class.

Step 1: Creating a public Class

• We use the public class Time1 declared in Fig. 10.1. No modifications have been made to the implementation of the Time1.cs class.

Step 2: Adding the namespace Declaration

• The new version of the Time1 class with the namespace declaration is shown in Fig. 10.16.

```
1 // Fig10.16: Time1.cs
2 // Timel class declaration in a namespace.
                                                                                    Declares a namespace
  namespace Chapter10 ←
                                                                                    named Chapter 10.
4 {
    public class Tim e1
5
6
      private inthour; // 0 - 23
      private int m inute; // 0 - 59
8
      private int second; // 0 - 59
9
10
         // set a new time value using universal time; ensure that
11
         // the data remains consistent by setting invalid values to zero
12
13
      public void SetTim e(inth, intm ,ints)
14
```

Fig. 10.16 | Time1 class declaration in a namespace. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
Time1.cs
              hour = ( ( h\& = h < 24 )? h : 0 ); // validate hour
15
16
         m inute = ((m > = 0 \& \& m < 60)? m : 0); // validate m inute
                                                                                           (2 \text{ of } 2)
         second = ((s > = 0 \& \& s < 60))?s:0); // validate second
17
       } //end m ethod SetTim e
18
19
       // convert to string in universal-time from at (HH:MM:SS)
20
21
       public string ToUniversa's tring()
22
23
         return string .Form at( "{0:D2}:{1:D2}:{2:D2};,
           hour, m inute, second );
24
       } // end m ethod ToUniversa String
25
26
27
       // convert to string in standard-time form at (H:MM:SSAM or PM)
       public override string ToString()
28
29
30
         return string .Form at( "{0}:{1:D2}:{2:D2} {3};
           ((hour = 0 || hour = 12)? 12 : hour % 12),
31
           m inute, second, (hour < 12 ? "AM" : "PM"));</pre>
32
       } //end m ethod ToString
33
     } //end cbss Tim el
34
35 } // end namespace Chapter10
```

Fig. 10.16 | Time1 class declaration in a namespace. (Part 2 of 2.)



- Placing a class inside a namespace declaration indicates that the class is part of the specified namespace.
- The namespace name is part of the fully qualified class name, so the name of class Time1 is actually-Chapter10. Time1.
- You can use this fully qualified name in your applications, or you can write a using directive and use its simple name (Time1) in the application.
- If another namespace also contains a Time1 class, use fully qualified class names to prevent a name conflict (also called a name collision).

- Most language elements must appear inside the braces of a type declaration (e.g., classes and enumerations).
- Some exceptions are namespace declarations, using directives, comments and C# attributes.
- Only class declarations declared public will be reusable by clients of the class library.
- Non-public classes are typically placed in a library to support the public reusable classes in that library.

Step 3: Compiling the Class Library

• To create a class library in Visual C# Express, we must create a new project and choose **Class Library** from the list of templates, as shown in Fig. 10.17.

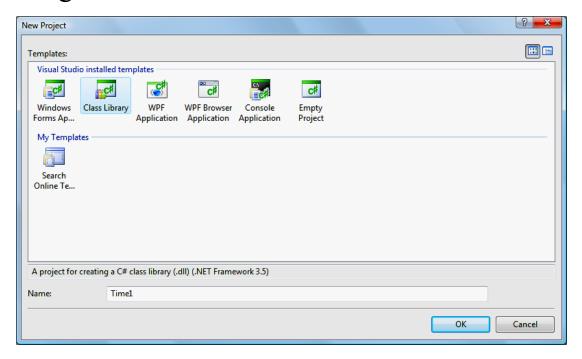


Fig. 10.17 | Creating a Class Library Project.



- Then add the code for the class, including the namespace declaration, into the project.
- When you compile a Class Library project, the compiler creates a .dll file, known as a dynamically linked library—a type of assembly that you can reference from other applications.

Step 4: Adding a Reference to the Class Library

- The library can now be referenced from any application by indicating to the Visual C# Express IDE where to find the class library file.
- To add a reference to your class library to a project as shown in Fig. 10.18, right-click the project name in the **Solution Explorer** window and select **Add Reference...**

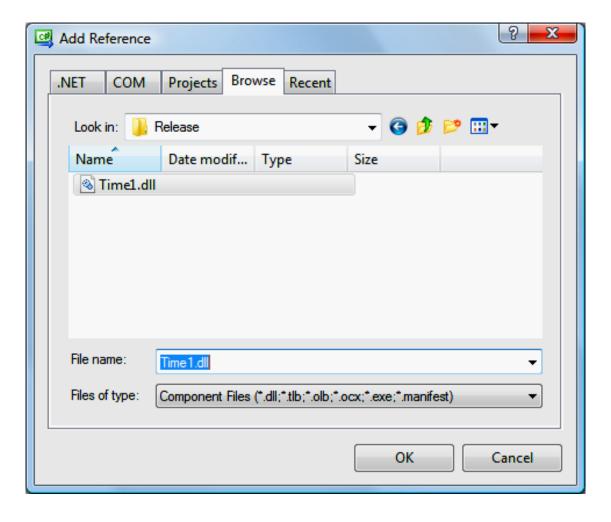


Fig. 10.18 | Adding a Reference.

Step 5: Using the Class from an Application

• Add a new code file to your application and enter the code for class Time1NamespaceTest (Fig. 10.19).

Time1Namespace Test.cs

```
(1 \text{ of } 3)
1 // Fig10.19: Time1NamespaceTest.cs
2 // Timel object used in an application.
                                                                                      Specify that we'd like to use
  using Chapter10; ←
                                                                                      the class(es) of namespace
                                                                                      Chapter 10 in this file.
   usingSystem;
5
   public class Tim e1Nam espaceTest
7
     public static void Main( string[] args )
8
9
         // create and initialize a Time1 object
10
      Tim e1 tim e = new Tim e1();// calls Time1 constructor
11
12
         // output string representations of the time
13
      Console W rite ( "The initial universal time; is: "
14
      Console.W riteLine(time.ToUniversalString());
15
      Console.W rite ("The initial standard time); is:
16
      Console.W riteLine(time.ToString());
17
18
      Console W riteLine(); // output a blank line
19
```

Fig. 10.19 | Time1 object used in an application. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
20
         // change time and output updated time
21
         time.SetTime(6, 27, 6);
      Console.W rite ( "Universal time after SetTime is: " );
22
      Console.W riteLine(time.ToUniversalString());
23
                                                                                     Time1Namespace
24
      Console.W rite ("Standard time after SetTime is:");
                                                                                     Test.cs
25
      Console.W riteLine(time.ToString());
      Console.W riteLine(); // output a blank line
26
                                                                                     (2 \text{ of } 3)
27
28
         // set time with invalid values; output updated time
29
      tim e.SetTim e(99,99,99);
      Console W riteLine ( "After attem pting invalid settings:" );
30
      Console W rite ( "Universal time: " );
31
32
      Console.W riteLine(time.ToUniversalString());
      Console W rite ( "Standard time: " );
33
34
      Console.W riteLine(time.ToString());
    } // end Main
35
36 } // end class Time1NamespaceTest
The initial universal time is: 00:00:00
The initial standard time is: 12:00:00 AM
Universal time after SetTime is: 13:27:06
Standard time after SetTime is: 1:27:06 PM
After attempting invalid settings:
Universal time: 00:00:00
Standard time: 12:00:00 AM
```

(3 of 3)

- Your Time1 class can now be used by Time1NamespaceTest without adding the Time1.cs source-code file to the project.
- A class is in the global namespace of an application if the class's file does not contain a namespace declaration.
- A using directive allows you to use classes in different namespaces as if they were in the same namespace.

10.15 internal Access

- Classes like the ones we've defined so far—called top-level classes—can be declared with only two access modifiers—public and internal.
- C# also supports nested classes—classes defined inside other classes.
- Nested classes may also be declared private or protected.
- If there is no access modifier in a class declaration, the class defaults to internal access.
- Internal access allows the class to be used by all code in the same assembly as the class, but not by code in other assemblies.
- Methods, instance variables and other members of a class declared internal are only accessible to all code compiled in the same assembly.

• The application in Fig. 10.20 demonstrates internal access.

```
InternalAccess
                                                                                     Test.cs
1 // Fig10.20: InternalAccessTest.cs
2 // Members declared internal in a class are accessible by other classes
                                                                                     (1 \text{ of } 3)
  // in the same assembly.
   usingSystem;
   public class InternalAccessTest
     public static void Main( string[] args )
8
9
      InternalData internalData = new InternalData();
10
11
12
         // output string representation of internalData
13
      Console W riteLine ("After instantiation:\n, intermal ata);
14
      // change internal-access data in internal ata
15
      internalData.num ber = 77;
16
17
      internalData m essage = "Goodbye";
18
```

Fig. 10.20 | Members declared internal in a class are accessible by other classes in the same assembly. (Part 1 of 3.)



```
InternalAccess
          // output string representation of internalData
19
20
          Console.WriteLine(\(\Omega\) After changing values:\\(\n(\Omega\) ", in termalData);
                                                                                             Test.cs
     } // end Main
22 } // end class InternalAccessTest
                                                                                             (2 \text{ of } 3)
23
24 // class with internal- access instance variables
25 classInternalData
26 {
     interna int num ber; // internal-access instance variable
27
     internal string m essage; // internal-access instance variable
28
29
30
     // constructor
     public InternalData()
31
32
33
       num ber = 0:
       m essage = "Helb";
34
     } //end InternaData constructor
35
36
     // return Internal Data object string representation
37
38
     public override string ToString()
```

Fig. 10.20 | Members declared internal in a class are accessible by other classes in the same assembly. (Part 2 of 3.)

```
InternalAccess
Test.cs

40 return string.Form at(
41 "number: {0}; message: {1} hum ber, m essage);

42 } // end method ToString

43 } // end class InternalData

After instantiation:
number: 0; message: Hello

After changing values:
number: 77; message: Goodbye
```

Fig. 10.20 | Members declared internal in a class are accessible by other classes in the same assembly. (Part 3 of 3.)

10.16 Class View and Object Browser

Using the Class View Window

- The **Class View** displays the fields and methods for all classes in a project. To access this feature, select **Class View** from the **View** menu.
- Figure 10.21 shows the **Class View** for the **Time1** project of Fig. 10.1 (class **Time1**) and Fig. 10.2 (class **TimeTest1**).

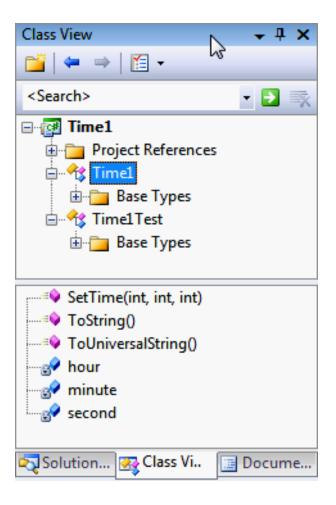


Fig. 10.21 | Class View of class Time1 (Fig. 10.1) and class TimeTest (Fig. 10.2).



- The view follows a hierarchical structure, with the project name as the root.
- When a class is selected, its members appear in the lower half of the window.
- Lock icons next to instance variables specify that the variables are private.

Using the Object Browser

- You can use the **Object Browser** to learn about the functionality provided by a specific class.
- To open the **Object Browser**, select **Other Windows** from the **View** menu and click **Object Browser**.
- Figure 10.22 depicts the **Object Browser** when the user navigates to the Math class in namespace System in the assembly mscorlib.dll (Microsoft Core Library).

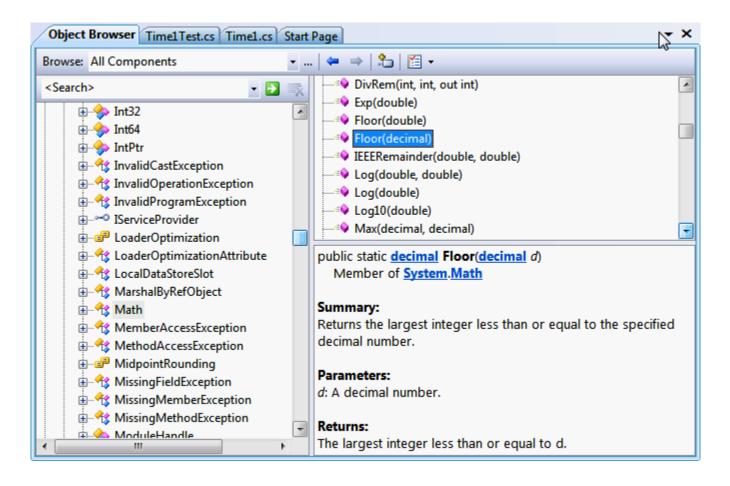


Fig. 10.22 | Object Browser for class Math.



- The **Object Browser** lists all methods provided by class Math in the upper-right frame.
- If you click the name of a member in the upper-right frame, a description of that member appears in the lower-right frame.
- The **Object Browser** lists all classes of the Framework Class Library.

• Visual C# 2008 provides a new feature—object initializers—that allow you to create an object and

initialize its properties in the same statement.

- Time.cs
- Object initializers are useful when a class does not provide an appropriate constructor to meet your needs.
- For this example, we created a version of the Time class (Fig. 10.23) in which we did not define any constructors.

```
1 // Fig10.23: Time.cs
2 // Time class declaration maintains the time in 24-hour format.
3 public class Time e
4 {
5    private int hour; // 0 - 23
6    private int m inute; // 0 - 59
7    private int second; // 0 - 59
```

Fig. 10.23 | Time class declaration maintains the time in 24-hour format. (Part 1 of 4.)

```
// set a new time value using universal time; ensure that
                                                                                   Time.cs
      // the data remains consistent by setting invalid values to zero
10
    public void SetTim e(inth,intm,ints)
11
                                                                                   (2 \text{ of } 4)
12
      Hour = h;// validate hour
13
      Minute = m:// validate minute
14
15
      Second = s;// validate second
    } // end method SetTime
16
17
      // convert to string in universal-time format (HH:MM:SS)
18
19
    public string ToUniversalString()
20
21
      return string .Form at("{0:D2}:{1:D2}:{2:D2},"
        hour, m inute, second );
22
    } // end method ToUniversalString
23
24
      // convert to string in standard-time format (H:MM:SS AM or PM)
25
26
     public override string ToString()
27
28
      return string Form at("{0}:{1:D2}:{2:D2} {3},"
        ((hour = 0 || hour = 12)? 12 : hour % 12),
29
```

Fig. 10.23 | Time class declaration maintains the time in 24-hour format. (Part 2 of 4.)



```
30
             minute, second, ( hour ?<"AM " : "PM " ) );
                                                                                        Time.cs
31
     } // end method ToString
32
                                                                                        (3 \text{ of } 4)
      // Properties for getting and setting
33
          property that gets and sets the hour
34
     public int Hour
35
36
37
       get
38
         retum hour;
39
       } // end get
40
       set
41
42
         hour = ((value > = 0 \& \& value < 24)? value : 0);
43
       } // end set
44
     } // end property Hour
45
46
         property that gets and sets the minute
47
     public int M inute
48
49
50
       get
```

Fig. 10.23 | Time class declaration maintains the time in 24-hour format. (Part 3 of 4.)



```
51
                                                                                       Time.cs
52
         retum m inute;
53
       } // end get
                                                                                       (4 \text{ of } 4)
       set
54
55
         m inute = ((value > = 0 \& \& value < 60)? value : 0);
56
       } // end set
57
     } // end property Minute
58
59
      // property that gets and sets the second
60
     public int Second
61
62
63
       get
64
         return second;
65
66
       } // end get
67
       set
68
         second = ((value > = 0 \& \& value < 60)? value : 0);
69
       } // end set
70
     } // end property Second
72 } // end class Time
```

Fig. 10.23 | Time class declaration maintains the time in 24-hour format. (Part 4 of 4.)



• Figure 10.24 demonstrates object initializers.

```
ObjectInitializer
                                                                                             Test.cs
1 // Fig10.24: ObjectInitializerTest.cs
  // Demonstrate object initializers using class Time.
                                                                                            (1 \text{ of } 2)
   usingSystem;
4
   class0 bjectInitializerTest
   {
6
     staticvoid Main( string[] args )
8
       Console W riteLine ( "Time object created with object initializer"
9
                                                                                             The class name is
10
                                                                                            immediately followed by an
       // create a Tin e object and in it is lize its properties
11
                                                                                             object-initializer list—a
       Tim e aTim e = new Tim e { Hour = 14, M in ute = 145, Second = 12 };
12
                                                                                            comma-separated list in
13
                                                                                            curly braces ({ }) of
14
       //display the time in both standard and universal form at
                                                                                             properties and their values.
15
       Console.W riteLine( "Standard tin e: {0} ", aTin e.ToString());
       Console W riteLine ( "Universal time: {0} \n",
16
         aTim e.ToUniversalString());
17
18
```

Fig. 10.24 | Demonstrate object initializers using class Time. (Part 1 of 2.)



```
Console.WriteLine(in e object created with Minute property set");
19
                                                                                      ObjectInitializer
20
                                                                                      Test.cs
21
      // create a Time object and initialize its Minute property only
      Time another Time = new Time { Minute = 45 };
22
                                                                                      (2 \text{ of } 2)
23
24
      //display the time in both standard and universal form at
25
      Console.W riteLine("Standard time: {0}", anotherTime.ToString());
      Console W riteLine ( "Universal time: {0}",
26
         anotherTim e.ToUniversa1String());
27
28
     } //end Man
29 } // end class ObjectInitializerTest
Time object created with object initializer
Standard time: 2:00:12 PM
Universal time: 14:00:12
Time object created with Minute property set
Standard time: 12:45:00 AM
Universal time: 00:45:00
```

Fig. 10.24 | Demonstrate object initializers using class Time. (Part 2 of 2.)

10.17 Object Initializers (Cont.)

- The class name is immediately followed by an object-initializer list—a comma-separated list in curly braces ({ }) of properties and their values.
- Each property name can appear only once in the object-initializer list.
- The object-initializer list cannot be empty.
- The object initializer executes the property initializers in the order in which they appear.
- An object initializer first calls the class's constructor, so any values not specified in the object initializer list are given their values by the constructor.