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Java Foundations

2-2
What is my Program Doing?

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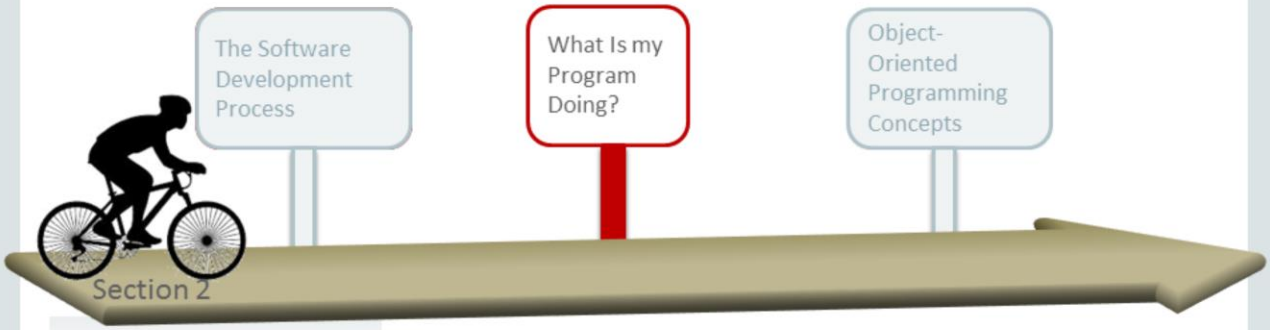
Objectives

This lesson covers the following objectives:

- Understand how Java is read line by line
- Set and use breakpoints
- End statements with semicolons (;)
- Organize code using whitespace and other conventions
- Create comments

Topics

- Breakpoints
- Whitespace and {Curly Braces}
- Comments
- The Main Method



Reading a Program Line by Line

- Each line in a program is read one at a time.

```
1  System.out.println("Line 1");
2  System.out.println("Line 2");
3  System.out.println("Line 3");
4  System.out.println("Line 4");
5  System.out.println("Line 5");
```

- In the example…
  - Line 1 is read…
  - Then Line 2…
  - Then Line 3…
  - Then Line 4…
  - Then Line 5…

Reading Line by Line

- Java is mostly read line by line.
- But there are a few additional points to consider.
- We'll investigate using…
  - A breakpoint
  - Other features of NetBeans

Breakpoints

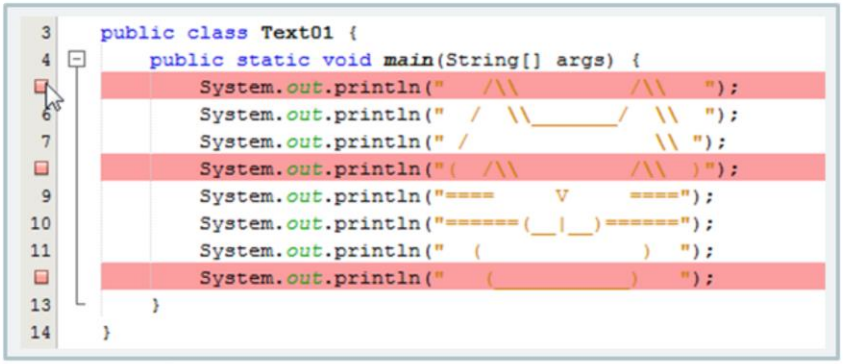
- Set a breakpoint in your code to
  - Pause code execution.
  - Check the current state of the program.
  - Help debug.
- Breakpoints affect code execution …
  - When code is run with the debugger.

- Breakpoints can't affect code execution …
  - When code is run normally.

Setting a Breakpoint Animation

To set a breakpoint …

- Place your cursor over a number in the left margin.
- Click … and you have a breakpoint!
- Click again to remove a breakpoint.
- You can set many breakpoints.



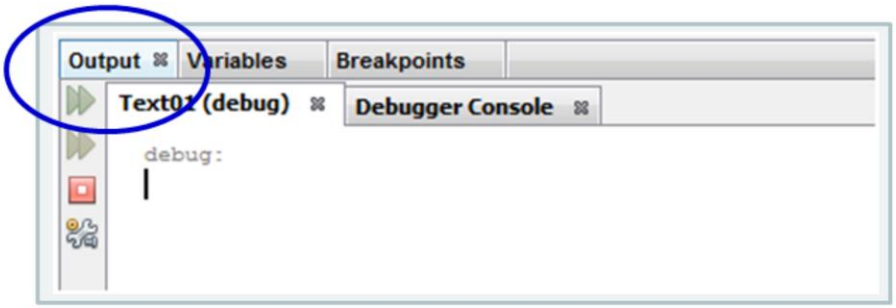
Exercise 1, Part 1

- Import and open the Text01 project.
- Set a breakpoint at Line 5 (the line with the first print statement).
- Run the program normally.
  - Breakpoints should have no affect.

Exercise 1, Part 2

- Run the program with the debugger:
  - Make sure the Output window is showing.
  - Press Step Over to go to each next line.
- Observe the cat appear one line at a time.

Step Over



Select the Output window by clicking the Output button in the lower-left corner of the IDE. Press Step Over repeatedly until you reach the end of the program.

Exercise 1, Part 3

- Modify the code so that the first three print statements all appear on Line 5. (This is called removing whitespace.)
- Run the program with the debugger:
  - Make sure the Output window is showing.
  - Press Step Over Expression to go to each next line.
  - Ignore the complicated code at the end of debugging.

Step Over Expression

- Observe the cat appear one line at a time.
- Try removing a semicolon while debugging the program.

What if you do it before debugging?

Continue pressing Step Over Expression until the complicated code appears. Step Over Expression is similar to Step Over, except that it provides for more fine-grained stepping through code. But this level of detail is sometimes unwanted.

Investigation Results, Part 1

- You could say Java reads code line by line …
- But if multiple statements are on a single line, it's more accurate to say Java reads statement by statement.
- A semicolon (;) is required to end a statement.
  - Forgetting a semicolon is a common mistake.
  - Other languages (Python) may not care about semicolons.

```
System.out.println("Meow") ;
```

- Editing code has no affect while the program is running. You must recompile for changes to take affect.

Investigation Results, Part 2

- Java isn't precise about whitespace.
- Other languages (Python) may be extremely precise.
- You could write an entire program in a single line.
  - But this is messy and almost impossible to work with.
  - Use whitespace to keep code organized.

```
3   public class Text01 {
4       public static void main(String[] args) {
5           System.out.println("   /\\          /\\   ");System.out.println("  /  \\_____/  \\  ");
6       System.out.println(" /              \\ ");
7               System.out.println("(  /\\          /\\  )");
8           System.out.println("====     V     ====");
9             System.out.println("======(__|__)======");
10  System.    out.  println("  (            )  ");
11
12          System.out.println("   (__________)   ");
13      }
14  }
```

This code works... but it's super messy

Topics

- Breakpoints
- Whitespace and {Curly Braces}
- Comments
- The Main Method

Whitespace

Whitespace is any spacing without code:

- Space between words
- Blank lines
- Indentation before a line of code

```
3   public class Text01 {
4       public static void main(String[] args) {
5           System.out.println("   /\\          /\\   ");
6
7
8           System.out.println("  /  \\_____/  \\  ");
9           System.out.println(" /             \\ ");
10      }
11  }
```


Whitespace doesn't include spaces in print statements. (Strings are covered later.)

Effects of Whitespace

- Whitespace helps keep code organized.
- Whitespace doesn't affect how code runs.
- You can use whitespace however you prefer.
- But proper indentation is **strongly** encouraged because it ...
  - Prevents readability difficulties
  - Prevents mistakes while programming

Indentation and Curly Braces

- Indent by an additional tab (4 spaces) following an opening curly brace (**{**).
- Stop indenting by an additional tab (4 spaces) prior to a closing curly brace (**}**).
- Code within curly braces is called a block of code.
  - When you add an opening curly brace (**{**) …
  - You'll eventually need a closing curly brace (**}**).
  - Mismatching or forgetting a curly brace is a common mistake.

Block Example Animation

```
public class Example
{
    public static void main(String[] args){
        System.out.println("Inner code");
        System.out.println("Inner code");
        {
            System.out.println("Inner-inner code");
        }
    }
}
```

These curly braces also create a block within a block ...

Whose code is indented further.

IDE Indentation Assistance

- An IDE may…
  - Color-code the scope of a block (Greenfoot, BlueJ)
  - Automatically indent following a curly brace
  - Highlight a matching curly brace (shown below)
- Some Java commands require curly braces, although you can always add more.

```
public class Example
{
    public static void main(String[] args){
        System.out.println("Inner code");
        System.out.println("Inner code");
        {
            System.out.println("Inner-inner code");
        }
    }
}
```


This lesson adds extra curly braces to code for demonstration purposes. Adding extra curly braces isn't a common practice.

Exercise 2

- Import and open the Text02 project.
- Can you fix this program and produce the following output?

```
1
2
3
4
```

- Hints:
  - NetBeans underlines problematic code.
  - NetBeans can highlight matching curly braces.
  - NetBeans has a shortcut to format whitespace (Alt+Shift+F).

Topics

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Comments

- Neatly spaced programs can grow large and become difficult to read.
- You can add comments to code to …
  - Provide an explanation or additional information to the programmer (**Commenting code**)
  - Disable code and prevent it from executing without erasing it (**Commenting out code**)

Adding Comments to Code

- Single-line comments …
  - Start with two slashes //
  - End when the line ends
- Multi-line comments …
  - Start with a slash-star /*
  - End with a star-slash */

```
//A single line comment automatically ends when the line ends
System.out.println("This line prints");

/*A multi line comment...
continues for many lines...
System.out.println("This line does not print");
until the star-slash appears*/
System.out.println("This line prints");
```

Reading Line by Line

- We can do a little more investigating.
- We'll investigate using …
  - Code blocks
  - Comments
  - Breakpoints
  - Other features of NetBeans

Exercise 3

- Import and open the Text03 project.
- Set a breakpoint at Line 11.
- Run the program with the debugger:
  - Be sure to have the Output window selected.
  - Press Step Over to go to each next line.


Step Over

- Observe the cat face appear, but the legs don't appear.
- Type `drawLegs();` in Line 19 and debug the program.
  - Where could you add a breakpoint to see the legs drawn one line at a time?
  - What happens to the output when lines are commented out?

Investigation Results, Part 3

- When Java reads line by line …
- It starts within the special block of code known as the **main method**.

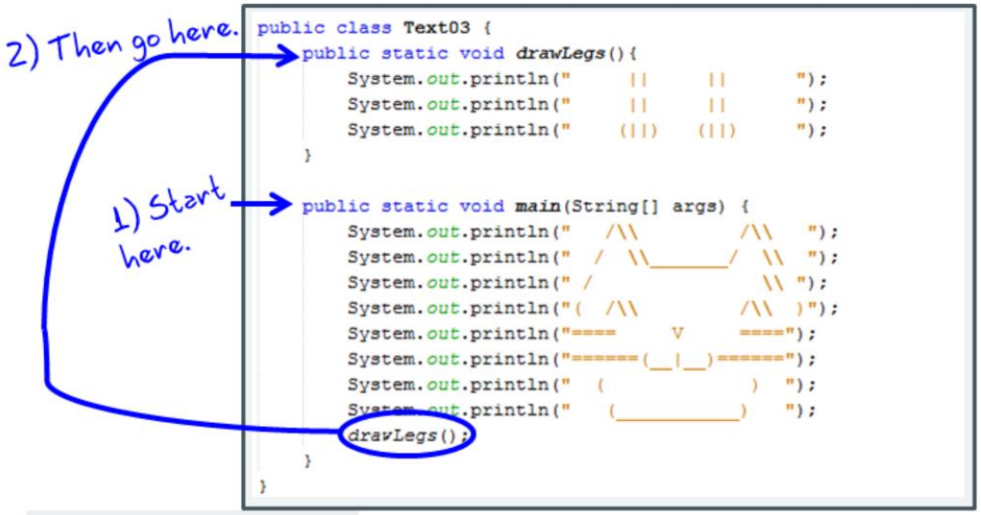
```
public static void main(String[] args){

}
```

- No other code executes unless it's called.
  - In this exercise, the main method must specifically call the block of code that prints legs.
- Commented code is ignored.
  - Comments are removed in bytecode.

The Program's Flow

1. All Java programs start in the main method.
2. No other code executes unless it's called.



Topics

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The Main Method

- The main method is a special block of code.
- All Java programs start in the main method.
- Your programs should have only 1 main method.
- Methods are discussed more in the next lesson.
  - drawLegs() is an example of a method.

```
public static void main(String[] args){
    //Your program starts here.
}
```

Summary

- Common mistakes:
  - Missing semicolon (;)

```
System.out.println("Meow")
```

  - Mismatched {curly braces}

```
{
    System.out.println("Meow");
```

- Keep code organized using:
  - Whitespace
  - Curly Braces ({ })
  - Comments

Summary

In this lesson, you should have learned how to:

- Understand how Java is read line by line
- Set and use breakpoints
- End statements with semicolons (;)
- Organize code using whitespace and other conventions
- Create comments


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