El ACADEMY

What is OOP object oriented programming

Object oriented programming is a concept in programming that is based on objects like the name states according to object oriented programming eveerything is an object and and every other type is built from the object class. It helps structure our code make the code reuseable and gives us this real life feeling attached to it.

Class

What is a class ?

A class is an extendable block of code use to create new instances of an object

What is an attribute?

attributes. These classes define what attributes an instance of this type will have, like color , but not the value of those attributes for a specific object.

Classes can also contain functions, called methods available only to objects of that type. These functions are defined within the class and perform some action helpful to that specific type of object.

Example

class MyCar{

public string $color;

public string $brand;

public string $model;

function \_\_construct(string $color,string $brand,string $model){

$this->color=$color;

$this->brand=$brand;

$this->model=$model;

}

function repaint(string $color){

$this->color=$color;

}

}

Advantages of OOP(object oriented programming)

Codes are reusable

Breaks codes into small segment

Secure and protect variables or attributes through encapsulation

Allows for class-specific behavior through polymorphism Easier to

How to stucture OOP

Let’s take a real world problem, and conceptually design an OOP software program.

Imagine running a dog sitting camp, with hundreds of pets, and you have to keep track of the names, ages, and days attended for each pet. How would you design simple, reusable software to model the dogs?

With hundreds of dogs, it would be inefficient to write unique code for each dog.

Grouping related information together to form a class structure makes the code shorter and easier to maintain.

In the dogsitting example, here’s how a programmer could think about organizing an OOP:

Create a parent class for all dogs as a blueprint of information and behaviors (methods) that all dogs will have, regardless of type.

Create child classes to represent different subcategories of dog under the generic parent blueprint.

Add unique attributes and behaviors to the child classes to represent differences

Create objects from the child class that represent dogs within that subgroup

The Dog class is a generic template, containing only the structure about data and behaviors common to all dogs.

We then create two child classes of Dog, HerdingDog and TrackingDog . These have the inherited behaviors of Dog ( bark() ) but also behavior unique to dogs of that subtype.

Finally,we create objects of the HerdingDog type to represent the individual dogs Fluffy and Maisel .

We can also create objects like Rufus that fit under the broad class of Dog but do not fit under either HerdingDog or TrackingDog .

Building blocks of OOP

Next, we’ll take a deeper look at each of the fundamental building blocks of an OOP program used above:

Classes

Objects

Methods

Attributes

Classes Objects Methods Attributes

Classes

In a nutshell, classes are essentially user defined data types. Classes are where we create a blueprint for the structure of methods and attributes. Individual objects are instantiated, or created from this blueprint.

Classes contain fields for attributes, and methods for behaviors. In our Dog class example, attributes include name & birthday , while methods include bark() and updateAttendance() .

Here’s a code snippet demonstrating how to program a Dog class using the JavaScript language.

class Dog{

public String $name;

public String $birthday;

private int $attendance = 0;

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday){

$this->name=$name;

$this->birthday=$birthday;

}

function getAge(){

return $this->calcAge();

}

private function calcAge(){

return date('Y')-date('Y',strtotime($this->birthday));

}

function updateAttendance(){

$this->attendance++;

}

function getAttendance(){

return $this->attendance;

}

function bark(){

echo "Woof!\n";

}

}

Remember the class is a template for modeling a dog, and an object is instantiated from the class representing an individual real world thing.

OBJECTS

Of course OOP includes objects! Objects are instances of classes created with specific data, for example in the code snippet below Rufus is an instance of the Dog class.

$rufus= new Dog('Rufus','2019-01-01');

echo $rufus->getAge()."\n";

When the new class Dog is called:

A new object is created named rufus

The constructor runs name & birthday arguments, and assigns values

Attributes

Attributes are the information that is stored. Attributes are defined in the Class template. When objects are instantiated individual objects contain data stored in the Attributes field.

The state of an object is defined by the data in the object’s attributes fields. For example, a puppy and a dog might be treated differently at pet camp. The birthday could define the state of an object, and allow the software to handle dogs of different ages differently.

Methods

Methods represent behaviors. Methods perform actions; methods might return information about an object, or update an object’s data. The method’s code is defined in the class definition.

When individual objects are instantiated, these objects can call the methods defined in the class. In the code snippet below, the bark method is defined in Dog class, and the bark() method is called on the Rufus object.

class Dog{

public String $name;

public String $birthday;

private int $attendance=0;

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday){

$this->name=$name;

$this->birthday=$birthday;

}

function getAge(){

return $this->calcAge();

}

private function calcAge(){

return date('Y')-date('Y',strtotime($this->birthday));

}

function updateAttendance(){

$this->attendance++;

}

function getAttendance(){

return $this->attendance;

}

function bark(){

echo "Woof!\n";

}

}

Methods often modify, update or delete data. Methods don’t have to update data though. For example the bark() method doesn’t update any data because barking doesn’t modify any of the attributes of the Dog class: name or birthday .

The updateAttendance() method adds a day the Dog attended the pet sitting camp. The attendance attribute is important to keep track of for billing Owners at the end of the month.

Methods are how programmers promote reusability, and keep functionality encapsulated inside an object. This reusability is a great benefit when debugging. If there’s an error, there’s only one place to find it and fix it instead of many.

The private keyword in attendance denotes that the variable is protected, and shouldn’t be modified directly. The updateAttendance() method is used to change attendance .

Four Principles of OOP

The four pillars of object oriented programming are:

Inheritance: child classes inherit data and behaviors from parent class

Encapsulation: containing information in an object, exposing only selected information

Abstraction: only exposing high level public methods for accessing an object

Polymorphism: many methods can do the same task

Inheritance

Inheritance allows classes to inherit features of other classes. Put another way, parent classes extend attributes and behaviors to child classes. Inheritance supports reusability.

If basic attributes and behaviors are defined in a parent class, child classes can be created extending the functionality of the parent class, and adding additional attributes and behaviors.

For example, herding dogs have the unique ability to herd animals. In other words, all herding dogs are dogs, but not all dogs are herding dogs. We represent this difference by creating a child class HerdingDog from the parent class Dog , and then add the unique herd() behavior.

The benefits of inheritance are programs can create a generic parent class, and then create more specific child classes as needed. This simplifies overall programming, because instead of recreating the structure of the Dog class multiple times, child classes automatically gain access to functionalities within their parent class.

In the following code snippet, child class HerdingDog inherits the method bark from the parent class Dog , and the child class adds an additional method, herd() .

class Dog{

public String $name;

public String $birthday;

private int $attendance=0;

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday){

$this->name=$name;

$this->birthday=$birthday;

}

function getAge(){

return $this->calcAge();

}

private function calcAge(){

return date('Y')-date('Y',strtotime($this->birthday));

}

function updateAttendance(){

$this->attendance++;

}

function getAttendance(){

return $this->attendance;

}

function bark(){

echo "Woof!\n";

}

}

class HerdingDog extends Dog{

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday ){

parent::\_\_construct($name,$birthday);

}

function herd(){

//additional method for HerdingDog

echo "Stay together!\n";

}

}

//instantiate new Herding Dog Object

$herdingDog=new HerdingDog('Rufus','2019-01-01');

$herdingDog->bark();

$herdingDog->herd();

Notice that the HerdingDog class does not have a copy of the bark() method, it inherits the bark() method defined in the parent Dog class.

When the code calls fluffy.bark() method, the bark() method walks up the chain of child to parent classes, to find where the bark method is defined.

The herd() method is defined in the child HerdingDog class, so the two objects, Maisel and Fluffy , instantiated from the HerdingDog class have access to the herd() method.

Encapsulation

Encapsulation means containing all important information inside an object, and only exposing selected information to the outside world. Attributes and behaviors are defined by code inside the class template.

Then, when an object is instantiated from the class, the data and methods are encapsulated in that object. Encapsulation hides the internal software code implementation inside a class, and hides internal data of inside objects.

Encapsulation requires defining some fields as private and some as public.

Private/ Internal interface: methods and properties, accessible from other methods of the same class.

Public / External Interface: methods and properties, accessible also from outside the class.

Let’s use a car as a metaphor for encapsulation. The information the car shares with the outside world, using blinkers to indicate turns, are public interfaces. In contrast, the engine is hidden under the hood.

It’s a private, internal interface. When you’re driving a car down the road, other drivers require information to make decisions, like whether you’re turning left or right. However, exposing internal, private data like the engine temperature, would just confuse other drivers.

Encapsulation adds security. Attributes and methods can be set to private, so they can’t be accessed outside the class. To get information about data in an object, public methods & properties are used to access or update data.

have public, protected, and private sections. Public is the limited selection of methods available to the outside world, or other classes within the program. Protected is only accessible to child classes.

Private code can only be accessed from within that class. To go back to our dog/owner example, encapsulation is ideal so owners can’t access private information about other people’s dogs.

class Dog{

public String $name;

public String $birthday;

private int $attendance=0;

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday){

$this->name=$name;

$this->birthday=$birthday;

}

function getAge(){

return $this->calcAge();

}

private function calcAge(){

return date('Y')-date('Y',strtotime($this->birthday));

}

function updateAttendance(){

$this->attendance++;

}

function getAttendance(){

return $this->attendance;

}

function bark(){

echo "Woof!\n";

}

}

//rufus is the object gotten from the dog class

$rufus= new Dog('Rufus','2019-01-01');

echo $rufus->getAge()."\n";

echo $rufus->getAttendance()."\n";

Consider the getAge() method in our example code, the calculation details are hidden inside the Dog class. The rufus object uses the getAge() method to calculate Rufus’s age.

Encapsulating & updating data: Since methods can also update an object’s data, the developer controls what values can be changed through public methods.

This allows us to hide important information that should not be changed from both phishing and the more likely scenario of other developers mistakenly changing important data.

Encapsulation adds security to code and makes it easier to collaborate with external developers. When you’re programming to share information with an external company, you wouldn’t want to expose the classes’ templates or private data because your company owns that intellectual property.

Instead, developers create public methods that allow other developers to call methods on an object. Ideally, these public methods come with documentation for the external developers.

The benefits of encapsulation are summarized here:

Adds security: Only public methods and attributes are accessible from the outside

Protects against common mistakes: Only public fields & methods accessible, so developers don’t accidentally change something dangerous

Protects IP: Code is hidden in a class, only public methods are accessible by the outside developers

Supportable: Most code undergoes updates and improvements Hides complexity: No one can see what’s behind the object’s curtain!

Abstraction

Abstraction means that the user interacts with only selected attributes and methods of an object. Abstraction uses simplified, high level tools, to access a complex object.

Using simple things to represent complexity

Hide complex details from user

Abstraction is using simple classes to represent complexity. Abstraction is an extension of encapsulation. For example, you don’t have to know all the details of how the engine works to drive a car.

A driver only uses a small selection of tools: like gas pedal, brake, steering wheel, blinker. The engineering is hidden from the driver. To make a car work, a lot of pieces have to work under the hood, but exposing that information to the driver would be a dangerous distraction.

Abstraction also serves an important security role. By only displaying selected pieces of data, and only allowing data to be accessed through classes and modified through methods, we protect the data from exposure. To continue with the car example, you wouldn’t want an open gas tank while driving a car.

The benefits of abstraction are summarized below:

Simple, high level user interfaces Complex code is hidden

Security

Easier software maintenance

Code updates rarely change abstraction

Polymorphism

Polymorphism means designing objects to share behaviors. Using inheritance, objects can override shared parent behaviors, with specific child behaviors. Polymorphism allows the same method to execute different behaviors in two ways: method overriding and method overloading.

Method Overriding

Runtime polymorphism uses method overriding. In method overriding, a child class can provide a different implementation than its parent class. In our dog example, we may want to give

class Dog{

public String $name;

public String $birthday;

private int $attendance=0;

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday){

$this->name=$name;

$this->birthday=$birthday;

}

function getAge(){

return $this->calcAge();

}

private function calcAge(){

return date('Y')-date('Y',strtotime($this->birthday));

}

function updateAttendance(){

$this->attendance++;

}

function getAttendance(){

return $this->attendance;

}

function bark(){

echo "Woof!\n";

}

}

$rufus= new Dog('Rufus','2019-01-01');

echo $rufus->getAge()."\n";

echo $rufus->getAttendance()."\n";

//this overrides bark method in Dog class

class TrackingDog extends Dog{

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday){

parent::\_\_construct($name,$birthday);

}

function track(){

echo "searching...\n";

}

function bark(){

echo "found it!\n";

}

}

$duke=new TrackingDog('Duke','2019-01-01');

$duke->bark()."\n";

TrackingDog a specific type of bark different than the generic dog class.

Method overriding could create a bark method in the child method that overrides the bark() method in the parent dog class.

Method Overloading

Compile Time polymorphism uses method overloading. Methods or functions may have the same name, but a different number of parameters passed into the method call. Different results may occur depending on the number of parameters passed in.

class OverloadedDog{

public String $name;

public String $birthday;

private int $attendance;

function \_\_construct(string $name,string $birthday){

$this->name=$name;

$this->birthday=$birthday;

}

function getAge(){

return $this->calcAge();

}

private function calcAge(){

return date('Y')-date('Y',strtotime($this->birthday));

}

//method overloading not in php

// function updateAttendance(){

// $this->attendance++;

// }

// function updateAttendance(int $x){

// $this->attendance+=x;

// }

function bark(){

echo "Woof!\n";

}

}

The commented code is an example of method overloading unfourtuately PHP does not support method overloading so if that code was to bee uncommented it will lead to an error .

But if it does allow?, if no parameters are passed into the updateAttendance() method. One day is added to the count. If a parameter is passed in updateAttendance(4) , then 4 is passed into the x parameter in updateAttendance(x) , and 4 days are added to the count.

The benefits of Polymorphism are:

Objects of different types can be passed through the same interface

Method overriding

Method overloading

Conclusion

Object Oriented programming requires thinking about the structure of the program and planning at the beginning of coding. Looking at how to break up the requirements into simple, reusable classes that can be used to blueprint instances of objects. Overall, implementing OOP allows for better data structures and reusability, saving time in the long run.