



Figure 9.7 Software components

depends on Maintenance.java because objects in Hiring.java use the services of objects in Maintenance.java. Both of these components use the database.

Deployment diagrams. Deployment diagrams show the physical arrangement of the hardware elements of a computer system. Each item in a deployment diagram represents a piece of hardware, such as a PC, a workstation or a printer. Figure 9.8 shows one possible hardware arrangement for the Wheels system. It shows a database server linked to two PCs. One PC is located in the reception area, where it will be used to process bike hires and bike returns. The other PC is located in the shop, but at a different desk. This will be used by the Administrator to enter details of new bikes when they are delivered to the shop, and generally to keep the bike list and the customer list up to date. Both PCs will be linked to the database server which will hold the database storing the system's persistent data.

The user interface

One of the most important aspects of any computer system is the interface with its users. An interface that is difficult to cope with, intrusive or irritating, can ruin a system, no matter how efficiently it runs, how reliable it is, or how easy it is to maintain. The interface is what users see and interact with, and if they don't like it they won't use the system. Nobody today can avoid contact with computers, even if this is only receiving a computerized bill or letter. Increasingly, people expect to organize their work, holidays and