

CS 142

Lecture 9: Inheritance



Thanks to Marty Stepp and Stuart Reges for parts of these slides

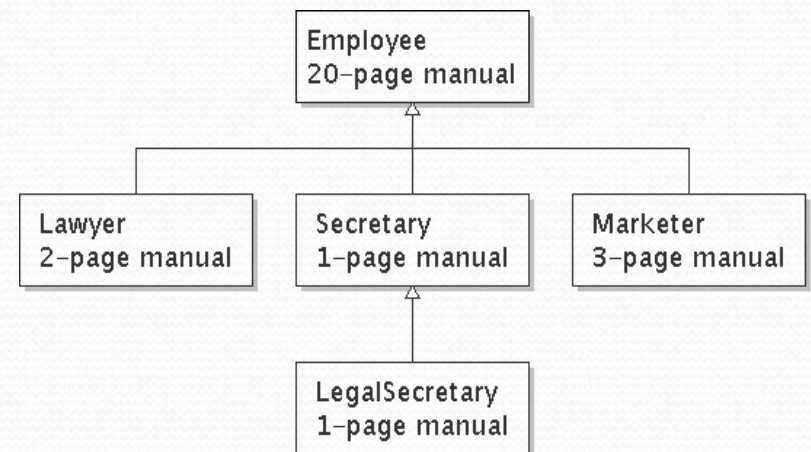
The software crisis

- **software engineering:** The practice of developing, designing, documenting, testing large computer programs.
- Large-scale projects face many issues:
 - programmers working together
 - getting code finished on time
 - avoiding redundant code
 - finding and fixing bugs
 - maintaining, reusing existing code
- **code reuse:** The practice of writing program code once and using it in many contexts.



Law firm employee analogy

- common rules: hours, vacation, benefits, regulations ...
 - all employees attend a common orientation to learn general company rules
 - each employee receives a 20-page manual of common rules
- each subdivision also has specific rules:
 - employee receives a smaller (1-3 page) manual of these rules
 - smaller manual adds some new rules and also changes some rules from the large manual

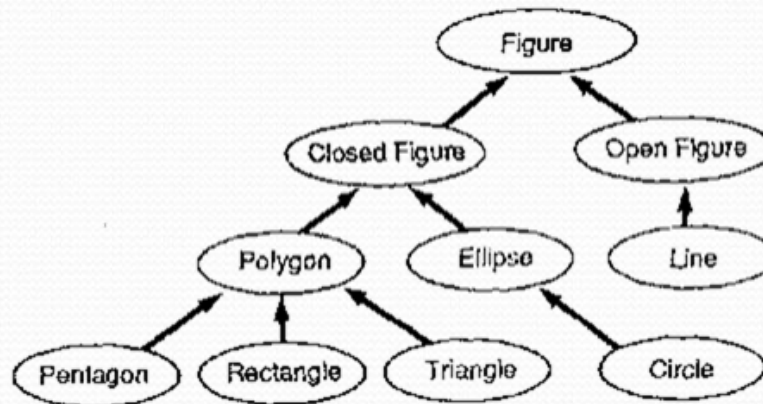


Separating behavior

- Why not just have a 22 page Lawyer manual, a 21-page Secretary manual, a 23-page Marketer manual, etc.?
- Some advantages of the separate manuals:
 - maintenance: Only one update if a common rule changes.
 - locality: Quick discovery of all rules specific to lawyers.
- Some key ideas from this example:
 - General rules are useful (the 20-page manual).
 - Specific rules that may override general ones are also useful.

Is-a relationships, hierarchies

- **is-a relationship:** A hierarchical connection where one category can be treated as a specialized version of another.
 - every marketer *is an* employee
 - every legal secretary *is a* secretary
- **inheritance hierarchy:** A set of classes connected by is-a relationships that can share common code.



Employee regulations

- Consider the following employee regulations:
 - Employees work 40 hours / week.
 - Employees make \$40,000 per year, except legal secretaries who make \$5,000 extra per year (\$45,000 total), and marketers who make \$10,000 extra per year (\$50,000 total).
 - Employees have 2 weeks of paid vacation leave per year, except lawyers who get an extra week (a total of 3).
 - Employees should use a yellow form to apply for leave, except for lawyers who use a pink form.
- Each type of employee has some unique behavior:
 - Lawyers know how to sue.
 - Marketers know how to advertise.
 - Secretaries know how to take dictation.
 - Legal secretaries know how to prepare legal documents.

An Employee class

```
// A class to represent employees in general (20-page manual).
public class Employee {
    public int getHours() {
        return 40;           // works 40 hours / week
    }

    public double getSalary() {
        return 40000.0;     // $40,000.00 / year
    }

    public int getVacationDays() {
        return 10;         // 2 weeks' paid vacation
    }

    public String getVacationForm() {
        return "yellow";   // use the yellow form
    }
}
```

- Exercise: Implement class `Secretary`, based on the previous employee regulations. (Secretaries can take dictation.)

Redundant Secretary class

```
// A redundant class to represent secretaries.
```

```
public class Secretary {  
    public int getHours() {  
        return 40;           // works 40 hours / week  
    }  
  
    public double getSalary() {  
        return 40000.0;      // $40,000.00 / year  
    }  
  
    public int getVacationDays() {  
        return 10;          // 2 weeks' paid vacation  
    }  
  
    public String getVacationForm() {  
        return "yellow";    // use the yellow form  
    }  
  
    public void takeDictation(String text) {  
        System.out.println("Taking dictation of text: " + text);  
    }  
}
```

Desire for code-sharing

- `takeDictation` is the only unique behavior in `Secretary`.
- We'd like to be able to say:

// A class to represent secretaries.

```
public class Secretary {  
    copy all the contents from the Employee class;  
  
    public void takeDictation(String text) {  
        System.out.println("Taking dictation of text: " + text);  
    }  
}
```

Inheritance

- **inheritance:** A way to form new classes based on existing classes, taking on their attributes/behavior.
 - a way to group related classes
 - a way to share code between two or more classes

- One class can *extend* another, absorbing its data/behavior.
 - **superclass:** The parent class that is being extended.
 - **subclass:** The child class that extends the superclass and inherits its behavior.
 - Subclass gets a copy of every field and method from superclass

Inheritance syntax

```
public class name extends superclass {
```

- Example:

```
public class Secretary extends Employee {  
    ...  
}
```

- By extending `Employee`, each `Secretary` object now:
 - receives a `getHours`, `getSalary`, `getVacationDays`, and `getVacationForm` method automatically
 - can be treated as an `Employee` by client code (seen later)

Improved Secretary code

```
// A class to represent secretaries.  
public class Secretary extends Employee {  
    public void takeDictation(String text) {  
        System.out.println("Taking dictation of text: " + text);  
    }  
}
```

- Now we only write the parts unique to each type.
 - Secretary inherits `getHours`, `getSalary`, `getVacationDays`, and `getVacationForm` methods from `Employee`.
 - Secretary adds the `takeDictation` method.

Implementing Lawyer

- Consider the following lawyer regulations:
 - Lawyers who get an extra week of paid vacation (a total of 3).
 - Lawyers use a pink form when applying for vacation leave.
 - Lawyers have some unique behavior: they know how to sue.
- Problem: We want lawyers to inherit *most* behavior from employee, but we want to replace parts with new behavior.

Overriding methods

- **override**: To write a new version of a method in a subclass that replaces the superclass's version.
 - No special syntax required to override a superclass method. Just write a new version of it in the subclass.

```
public class Lawyer extends Employee {  
    // overrides getVacationForm method in Employee class  
    public String getVacationForm() {  
        return "pink";  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

- Exercise: Complete the `Lawyer` class.
 - (3 weeks vacation, pink vacation form, can sue)

Lawyer class

```
// A class to represent lawyers.
public class Lawyer extends Employee {
    // overrides getVacationForm from Employee class
    public String getVacationForm() {
        return "pink";
    }

    // overrides getVacationDays from Employee class
    public int getVacationDays() {
        return 15;           // 3 weeks vacation
    }

    public void sue() {
        System.out.println("I'll see you in court!");
    }
}
```

- Exercise: Complete the `Marketer` class. Marketers make \$10,000 extra (\$50,000 total) and know how to advertise.

Marketer class

```
// A class to represent marketers.
public class Marketer extends Employee {
    public void advertise() {
        System.out.println("Act now while supplies last!");
    }

    public double getSalary() {
        return 50000.0;          // $50,000.00 / year
    }
}
```

Levels of inheritance

- Multiple levels of inheritance in a hierarchy are allowed.
 - Example: A legal secretary is the same as a regular secretary but makes more money (\$45,000) and can file legal briefs.

```
public class LegalSecretary extends Secretary {  
    ...  
}
```

- Exercise: Complete the `LegalSecretary` class.

LegalSecretary class

```
// A class to represent legal secretaries.  
public class LegalSecretary extends Secretary {  
    public void fileLegalBriefs() {  
        System.out.println("I could file all day!");  
    }  
  
    public double getSalary() {  
        return 45000.0;        // $45,000.00 / year  
    }  
}
```

Calling overridden methods

- Subclasses can call overridden methods with `super`

`super.method(parameters)`

- Example:

```
public class LegalSecretary extends Secretary {
    public double getSalary() {
        double baseSalary = super.getSalary();
        return baseSalary + 5000.0;
    }
    ...
}
```

Inheritance and constructors

- Imagine that we want to give employees more vacation days the longer they've been with the company.
 - For each year worked, we'll award 2 additional vacation days.
 - When an Employee object is constructed, we'll pass in the number of years the person has been with the company.
 - This will require us to modify our `Employee` class and add some new state and behavior.
 - Exercise: Make necessary modifications to the `Employee` class.

Modified Employee class

```
public class Employee {  
    private int years;  
  
    public Employee(int initialYears) {  
        years = initialYears;  
    }  
  
    public int getHours() {  
        return 40;  
    }  
  
    public double getSalary() {  
        return 50000.0;  
    }  
  
    public int getVacationDays() {  
        return 10 + 2 * years;  
    }  
  
    public String getVacationForm() {  
        return "yellow";  
    }  
}
```

Problem with constructors

- Now that we've added the constructor to the `Employee` class, our subclasses do not compile. The error:

```
Lawyer.java:2: cannot find symbol
symbol   : constructor Employee()
location: class Employee
public class Lawyer extends Employee {
      ^
```

- The short explanation: Once we write a constructor (that requires parameters) in the superclass, we must now write constructors for our employee subclasses as well.
- The long explanation: (next slide)

The detailed explanation

- Constructors are not inherited.
 - Subclasses don't inherit the `Employee(int)` constructor.
 - Subclasses receive a default constructor that contains:

```
public Lawyer() {  
    super();           // calls Employee() constructor  
}
```

- But our `Employee(int)` replaces the default `Employee()`.
 - The subclasses' default constructors are now trying to call a non-existent default `Employee` constructor.

Calling superclass constructor

```
super (parameters) ;
```

- Example:

```
public class Lawyer extends Employee {  
    public Lawyer(int years) {  
        super(years); // calls Employee constructor  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

- The `super` call must be the first statement in the constructor.
- Exercise: Make a similar modification to the `Marketer` class.

Modified Marketer class

```
// A class to represent marketers.
public class Marketer extends Employee {
    public Marketer(int years) {
        super(years);
    }

    public void advertise() {
        System.out.println("Act now while supplies last!");
    }

    public double getSalary() {
        return super.getSalary() + 10000.0;
    }
}
```

- Exercise: Modify the `Secretary` subclass.
 - Secretaries' years of employment are not tracked.
 - They do not earn extra vacation for years worked.

Modified Secretary class

// A class to represent secretaries.

```
public class Secretary extends Employee {  
    public Secretary() {  
        super(0);  
    }  
  
    public void takeDictation(String text) {  
        System.out.println("Taking dictation of text: " + text);  
    }  
}
```

- Since `Secretary` doesn't require any parameters to its constructor, `LegalSecretary` compiles without a constructor.
 - Its default constructor calls the `Secretary()` constructor.

Inheritance and fields

- Try to give lawyers \$5000 for each year at the company:

```
public class Lawyer extends Employee {  
    ...  
    public double getSalary() {  
        return super.getSalary() + 5000 * years;  
    }  
    ...  
}
```

- Does not work; the error is the following:

```
Lawyer.java:7: years has private access in Employee  
    return super.getSalary() + 5000 * years;  
                                   ^
```

- Private fields cannot be directly accessed from subclasses.
 - One reason: So that subclassing can't break encapsulation.
 - How can we get around this limitation?

Improved Employee code

Add an accessor for any field needed by the subclass.

```
public class Employee {
    private int years;

    public Employee(int initialYears) {
        years = initialYears;
    }

    public int getYears() {
        return years;
    }
    ...
}

public class Lawyer extends Employee {
    public Lawyer(int years) {
        super(years);
    }

    public double getSalary() {
        return super.getSalary() + 5000 * getYears();
    }
    ...
}
```

Revisiting Secretary

- The `Secretary` class currently has a poor solution.
 - We set all Secretaries to 0 years because they do not get a vacation bonus for their service.
 - If we call `getYears` on a `Secretary` object, we'll always get 0.
 - This isn't a good solution; what if we wanted to give some other reward to *all* employees based on years of service?

- Redesign our `Employee` class to allow for a better solution.

Improved Employee code

- Let's separate the standard 10 vacation days from those that are awarded based on seniority.

```
public class Employee {
    private int years;

    public Employee(int initialYears) {
        years = initialYears;
    }

    public int getVacationDays() {
        return 10 + getSeniorityBonus();
    }

    // vacation days given for each year in the company
    public int getSeniorityBonus() {
        return 2 * years;
    }
    ...
}
```

- How does this help us improve the Secretary?

Improved Secretary code

- Secretary can selectively override `getSeniorityBonus`; when `getVacationDays` runs, it will use the new version.
 - Choosing a method at runtime is called *dynamic binding*.

```
public class Secretary extends Employee {
    public Secretary(int years) {
        super(years);
    }

    // Secretaries don't get a bonus for their years of service.
    public int getSeniorityBonus() {
        return 0;
    }

    public void takeDictation(String text) {
        System.out.println("Taking dictation of text: " + text);
    }
}
```

Polymorphism

- **polymorphism:** Ability for the same code to be used with different types of objects and behave differently with each.
 - `System.out.println` can print any type of object.
 - Each one displays in its own way on the console.
 - `CritterMain` can interact with any type of critter.
 - Each one moves, fights, etc. in its own way.

Coding with polymorphism

- A variable of type T can hold an object of any subclass of T .

```
Employee ed = new Lawyer();
```

- You can call any methods from the `Employee` class on `ed`.

- When a method is called on `ed`, it behaves as a `Lawyer`.

```
System.out.println(ed.getSalary());           // 50000.0  
System.out.println(ed.getVacationForm());    // pink
```