

Encapsulation

10/26/2015

Hsuan-Tien Lin (林軒田)
htlin@csie.ntu.edu.tw

Department of Computer Science
& Information Engineering

National Taiwan University
(國立台灣大學資訊工程系)



Recall: Basic OOP Needs

Decompose computation into interactions of “computing parts” called *objects*, each containing its own data (to be manipulated by itself) and own code (to be called by other objects)

- designing object (what variables? what methods?)
- creating “first” object and calling its first action
- creating other objects
- calling other objects
- manipulating object status
- deleting objects

Encapsulation

Decompose computation into interactions of “computing parts” called *objects*, each containing its own data (**to be manipulated by itself**) and own code (**to be called by other objects**)

- preventing others from manipulating the object
- letting others call the allowed code

Encapsulation (1/5)

```
1 class Record{  
2     String name;  
3     String password;  
4 }  
5  
6 public class RecordDemo{  
7     public static void main(String [] argv){  
8         Record r;  
9         String s, p;  
10        s = getLoginNameFromUser();  
11        r = getRecordFromFile(s);  
12        System.out.println(r.password);  
13        p = getPasswordFromUser();  
14        if (p.equals(r.password)){  
15            // ...  
16        }  
17    }  
18 }
```

- if password not encoded, the SYSOP might easily get your password by `getRecordFromFile`

Encapsulation (2/5)

```
1 class Record{  
2     String name;  
3     String encoded_password;  
4 }  
5  
6 public class RecordDemo{  
7     public static void main(String [] argv){  
8         Record r;  
9         String s, p;  
10        s = getLoginNameFromUser();  
11        r = getRecordFromFile(s);  
12        p = getPasswordFromUser();  
13        if (YOUR_ENODING(p).equals(r.encoded_password)){  
14            // ...  
15        }  
16        //A new and careless programmer adds this line  
17        r.encoded_password = null;  
18    }  
19 }
```

- even when password encoded, a careless programmer may make stupid bugs

Encapsulation (3/5)

```
1  class Record{
2      private String encoded_password;
3      public String get_encoded_password(){
4          return encoded_password;
5      }
6  }
7  public class RecordDemo{
8      public static void main(String [] argv){
9          Record r;
10         String s, p;
11         s = getLoginNameFromUser();
12         r = getRecordFromFile(s);
13         p = getPasswordFromUser();
14         if (YOUR_ENODING(p).equals(r.get_encoded_password())){
15             // ...
16         }
17         //A new and careless programmer adds this line
18         r.encoded_password = null; //won't work
19     }
20 }
```

- what if you want to set a new password?

Encapsulation (4/5)

```
1 class Record{  
2     String name;  
3     private String encoded_password;  
4     public String get_encoded_password(){  
5         return encoded_password;  
6     }  
7     public void set_encoded_password( String raw_password){  
8         if (blahblah)  
9             encoded_password = YOUR_ENCODING(raw_password);  
10    }  
11 }
```

- **separate implementation and use:** you implement the Record class, and other people (possibly you after two years) use it
- **don't trust other people:** silly mistakes can happen
- **hide unnecessary details** (a.k.a. instance variables)
- **think about possible correct/incorrect use of your class:** check them in the methods

Encapsulation (5/5)

```
1 public class RecordDemo{  
2     public static void main(String [] argv){  
3         Record r;  
4         String s, p;  
5         s = getLoginNameFromUser();  
6         r = getRecordFromFile(s);  
7         p = getPasswordFromUser();  
8         if (r.match_password(p)){  
9             //no need to show encoding to the outside  
10        }  
11        r.set_encoded_password(old_password, new_password);  
12        //don't want this to happen  
13        r.encoded_password = null;  
14    }  
15 }
```

- freedom on making assignments: a potential hole to do bad and/or make bugs

Encapsulation: Key Point

as a designer, you should avoid giving the users of your code too much freedom to do bad and/or make bugs

Hiding Variables from All Classes (1/3)

```
1 class Record{  
2     private String encoded_password;  
3 }
```

- `private`: hiding from all classes (except myself, of course)

```
1 class Record{  
2     private String encoded_password;  
3     public boolean compare_password(Record another_record){  
4         return (  
5             this.encoded_password ==  
6             another_record.encoded_password  
7         ); // okay?  
8     }  
9 }
```

Hiding Variables from All Classes (2/3)

```
1 class Record{  
2     private String name;  
3     public String get_name(){  
4         return name;  
5     }  
6     public String get_copied_name(){  
7         return new String(name);  
8     }  
9 }
```

- **public**: accessible by all classes
- **accessor**: get the content of the instance

Hiding Variables from All Classes (3/3)

```
1 class Record{  
2     private String name;  
3     public void set_name(String name){  
4         if (name != null)  
5             this.name = name;  
6     }  
7 }
```

- **mutator:** check and set the instance variable to a value

Hiding Variables from All Classes: Key Point

private instance variables
public accessor/mutator instance methods

More on Hiding Details (1/3)

```
1 class Date{ // implemented for your desktop
2     private int month, day;
3     public int get_month(){ return month; }
4     public int get_day(){ return day; }
5 }
6 class Date_TWO{ // implemented on a small-memory machine
7     private short encoded_month_and_day;
8     public int get_month(){
9         return encoded_month_and_day / 100;
10    }
11    public int get_day(){
12        return encoded_month_and_day % 100;
13    }
14 }
```

- two implementations, same behavior—easy for users to switch on different machines
- trade-offs: memory usage, computation, etc.

More on Hiding Details (2/3)

```
1 class Distance{  
2     private double mile;  
3     public double get_mile(){  
4         return mile;  
5     }  
6     public double get_km(){  
7         return mile * 1.6;  
8     }  
9     public void set_by_km(double km){  
10        this.mile = km / 1.6;  
11    }  
12    public void set_by_mile(double mile){  
13        this.mile = mile;  
14    }  
15 }
```

- one storage, different information from different mutator/accessor

More on Hiding Details (3/3)

Some rules of thumb:

- make all instance variables private
- use mutators/accessors for safely manipulate the variables

Cons:

- accessing requires method calls, slower

Pros:

- less chance of misuse by other users
- flexibility

More on Hiding Details (Yet Another Case)

```
1 class Solver{  
2     public void read_in_case(){}
3     public void compute_solution(){}
4     public void output_solution(){}
5     public void solve(){  
6         read_in_case();  
7         compute_solution();  
8         output_solution();  
9     }  
10 }
```

- should the three utility functions be public?

More on Hiding Details: Key Point

hiding details: don't directly access internal stuff to gain flexibility and avoid misuse

Java Member Encapsulation (1/2)

```
1 class Distance{  
2     private double mile;  
3     public double get_mile(){  
4         return mile;  
5     }  
6     private double get_ratio(){  
7         return 1.6;  
8     }  
9     public double get_km(){  
10        return mile * ratio;  
11    }  
12 }
```

- **private:** hidden, on variables and methods that you do not want anyone to see
- **public:** on variables and methods that you want everyone to see

Java Member Encapsulation (2/2)

```
1 class Demo{  
2     private double mile;  
3     default int a; //imagine, but not correct grammar  
4     int b;  
5     public double get_mile(){  
6         return mile;  
7     }  
8     private double get_ratio(){  
9         return 1.6;  
10    }  
11    double get_km(){  
12        return mile * ratio;  
13    }  
14 }  
15 class Another{  
16     void lalala(){ int lulu = new Demo().b + 1; }  
17 }
```

- default: classes in the same source file (et al.) can access it
- a “gray-area” usage

Java Member Encapsulation: Key Point

- public/private:
the more common pair for OO
programmers
- default:
for laziness of beginners, or real-advanced
use (later)