Object-Oriented Programming
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What Is Object-Oriented Programming?

- “Computer programming that emphasizes the structure of data and their encapsulation with the procedures that operate upon it.” (Britannica Concise)

- “An object is a software bundle of related variables and methods. Software objects are often used to model real-world objects you find in everyday life.” (Sun’s Java Tutorial)

- “The idea behind object-oriented programming is [...] opposed to a traditional view in which a program may be seen as a collection of [...] procedures.” (Wikipedia)
That's Nice. Why Should We Care?

“Object-oriented programming is claimed to promote greater flexibility and maintainability in programming, and is widely popular in large-scale software engineering.” (Wikipedia)
The Goal of This Course

- Learn how to build and evolve large-scale programs using object-oriented programming
  - Design: How do we think in objects?
  - Primitives: How do we express object orientation?
  - Implementation: How do we realize OO primitives?
How Do We Achieve This Goal?

- In-class lectures and discussions
  - Lectures to introduce topics and techniques
  - Q&A sessions to deepen understanding

Course project: A translator from Java to C++
- Written in Java, using xtc toolkit for source-to-source transformers
- Two versions, with second version improving on first version
- Teams of 4-5 students
From Java to C++

- Input: Java *with* inheritance and virtual methods
  - But without interfaces, nested classes, enums, generics, ...

- Output: C++ *without* inheritance, virtual methods, templates
  - I.e., a better C with namespaces, classes, operator overloading
Two versions

- **Version 1**
  - Challenge: Implement inheritance and virtual methods in translator
  - Due mid-term, with in-class presentation and written report

- **Version 2**
  - Challenge: Implement method overloading in translator
  - Also, integrate automatic memory management
  - Due end-of-term, again with presentation and written report
Don’t Panic

- I draw on translator for most lectures
- We develop basic translation scheme in class, together
- We have plenty of Q&A sessions (almost ⅓ of classes)
- You drive the discussion
- I won’t grade the first version
  - As long as you are pulling your weight
- xtc provides a lot of functionality
  - Though you need to learn how to use it
Some Highlights of xtc

- Facilities for representing and processing ASTs
  - (Abstract Syntax Tree = internal representation of a program)
- Parsers, type checkers, and pretty printers for Java and C
  - Convert from source, determine types, convert to source again
- Generic tool support
  - Command line flags, file search paths, error reporting, …
But Why...?
Translator from Java to C++?

- Is a real, large-scale program (and not just a toy)
  - Domain with biggest promised impact of OOP
- Exposes you to implementation of OOP primitives
  - While also integrating Java and C++
- Touches on (my own and others’) active research
  - How to make source-to-source transformers extensible?
Two Versions of Translator?

- Educational best practice
  - “Students can try, fail, receive feedback, and try again without impact on grade.” (Ken Bains)

- Software engineering best practice
  - “Plan to throw one away.” (Frederick Brooks Jr.)
Teams of Students?

- Places emphasis on collaborative learning
- Prepares you for reality in industry and academia
- Helps me keep the feedback process manageable
More Details on Course
Managing Your Tools

- Personally, I use a text editor and Unix command line tools
  - Powerful, flexible, and easy to automate

- Linux: you are ready to go

- Mac OS: install Apple’s developer tools

- Windows: install Cygwin, a Unix emulation environment
  - http://www.cygwin.com/
Managing Your Tools (cont.)

If you insist on an IDE, I recommend Eclipse

- Java Development Tools (JDT)
  - Visual debugger, more extensive errors/warnings than JDK
  - Know to build xtc

- C Development Tools (CDT)
  - You still need developer tools on Mac OS, Cygwin on Windows
  - I have no experience using them
Managing the Groups

- Each group has an elected speaker
  - Strict term limit: You elect a new speaker mid-term

- Each group provides a weekly progress report
  - What did you accomplish?
  - What did you learn, find surprising, struggle with?
  - What are your plans for next week?
Managing Expectations

- I am quite interactive
  - Be prepared to actively participate in class
- Working with other people can be quite challenging
  - Open and proactive communication is key to success
- The project is quite challenging
  - Be prepared to “cut your losses”
    - You can’t possibly translate all of Java into C++
    - But you can set justifiable priorities
How to Get Started

- Introduce yourself
  - In a few minutes
- Subscribe to the class mailing list
  - By tonight
- Form groups and elect a speaker
  - By Friday, September 7
- Get xtc running on your laptop
  - By Wednesday, September 12 before class
Contract

- I provide the overall structure of the course, introducing topics and techniques, sharing my experiences, and facilitating our conversation.

- You actively participate in all aspects of the course, sharing your ideas, questions, and concerns as well as realizing a significant project.

- Together, we explore how to leverage object-oriented programming to build large-scale programs.