

# An Introduction To Graphical User Interfaces

The event-driven model

Building simple graphical user interfaces (GUI's)  
in Java

James Tam

## Note: GUI Code Cannot Be Run Through A Text-Only Connection: SSH

```
[csb exampleTwo 45 ]> ls  
Driver.class*  Driver.java      MyListener.class*  MyListener.java
```

```
[csb exampleTwo 46 ]> java Driver  
Exception in thread "main" java.lang.InternalError: Can't connect to X11 window server  
using ':0.0' as the value of the DISPLAY variable.  
at sun.awt.X11GraphicsEnvironment.initDisplay(Native Method)  
at sun.awt.X11GraphicsEnvironment.<clinit>(X11GraphicsEnvironment.java:125)  
at java.lang.Class.forName0(Native Method)  
at java.lang.Class.forName(Class.java:140)  
at  
java.awt.GraphicsEnvironment.getLocalGraphicsEnvironment(GraphicsEnvironment.jav  
a:62)  
at java.awt.Window.init(Window.java:223)  
at java.awt.Window.<init>(Window.java:267)  
at java.awt.Frame.<init>(Frame.java:398)  
at java.awt.Frame.<init>(Frame.java:363)  
at Driver.main(Driver.java:7)
```

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## Components

- They are many types of graphical controls and displays available:
  - Button, Canvas, CheckBox, Dialog, File Dialog, Frame, Label, List, Menu, Panel, PopupMenu, Scrollbar, ScrollPane, TextArea, Window
- Also known as “widgets”
- For Sun’s online documentation refer to the url:
  - <http://java.sun.com/javase/7/docs/api/>

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## Containers

- A special type of component that is used to hold/contain the components (subclass of component)
- Can be used to group components on the screen
- You must have at least one container object for your GUI:
  - Panel, Window, Dialogs, Frame

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## Containers

- A special type of component that is used to hold/contain the components (subclass of component)
- Can be used to group components on the screen
- You must have at least one container object for your GUI:
  - Panel, Window, Dialogs, **Frame**



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## Some Relevant Java GUI libraries

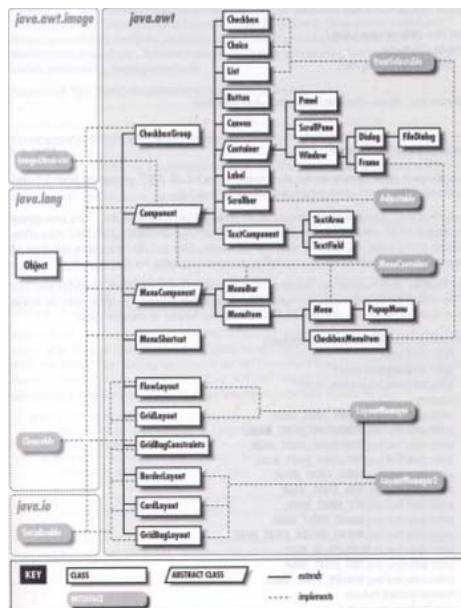
1. Java classes for the components and containers
  - e.g., Button class
  - java.awt (import java.awt.\*)
2. Java classes with the code to react to user-initiated events
  - e.g., code to react when a button is pressed
  - java.awt.event (import java.awt.event.\*)

<- Add

```
class ButtonListener implements ActionListener
{
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e)
    {
        :
        :
    }
}
```

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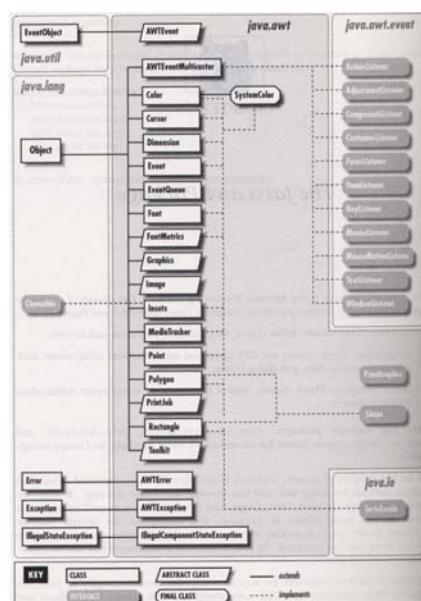
## The AWT Package



From "Java in a Nutshell" 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Edition p. 281

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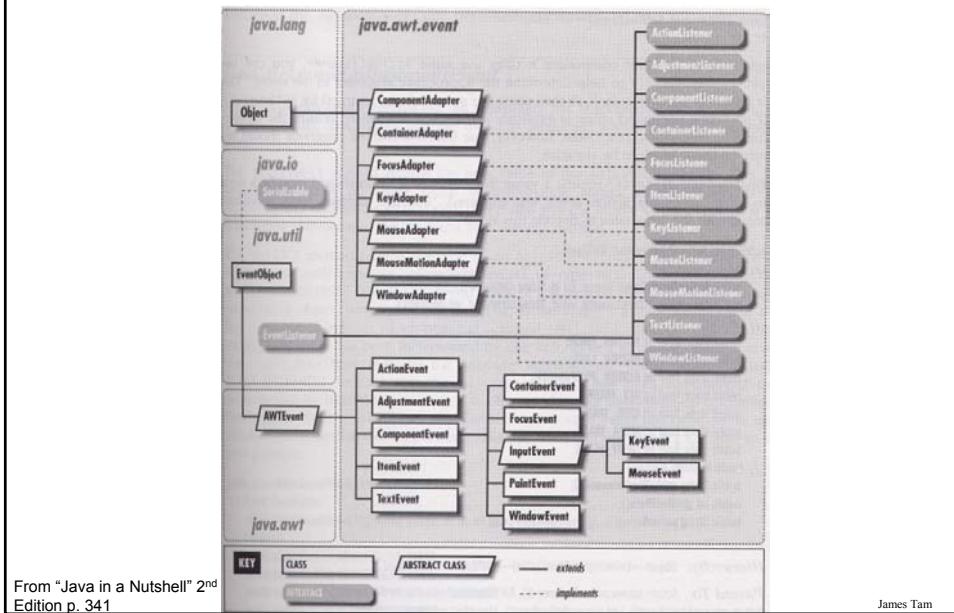
## The AWT Package (2)



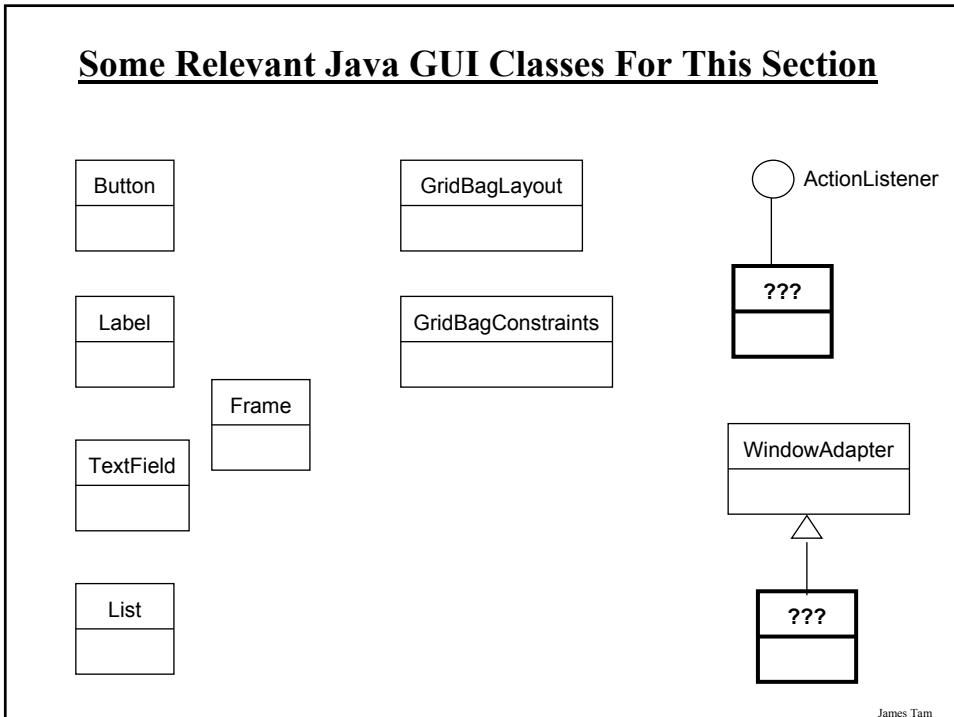
From "Java in a Nutshell" 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Edition p. 280

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## The Java AWT Event Package



## Some Relevant Java GUI Classes For This Section



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## Traditional Software

Program control is largely determined by the program through a series of sequential statements.

### Example

```
:  
if (num >= 0) _____  
{  
    // Statements for the body of the if-_____ When num is  
}  
}  
else  
{  
    // Statements for the body of the else-_____ Num is  
}  
}
```

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## Traditional Software

The user can only provide interact with the program at places that are specified by the program (e.g., when an input statement is encountered).

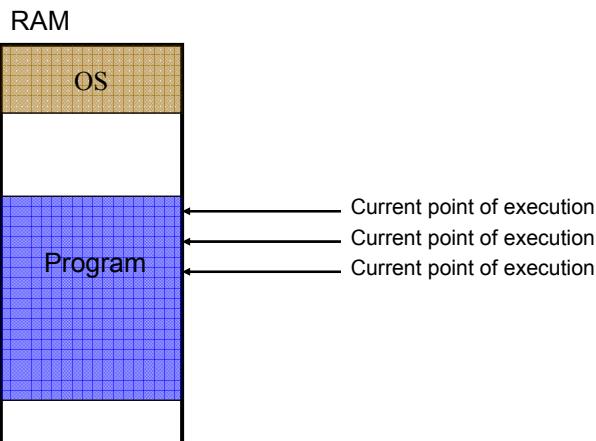
### Example

```
Scanner in = new Scanner (System.in);  
System.out.print("Enter student ID number: ");  
num1 = in.nextInt ();
```

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## Event-Driven Software

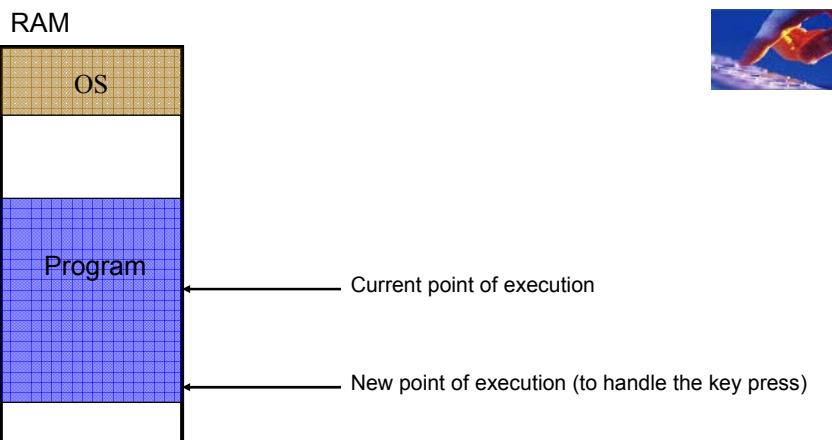
Program control can also be sequential



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## Event-Driven Software

In addition program control *can also* be determined by events



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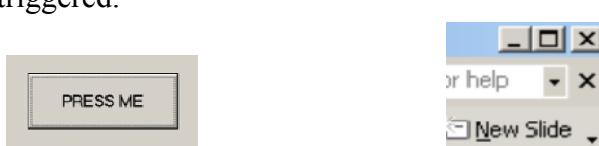
## **Characteristics Of Event Driven Software**

- Program control can be determined by events as well standard program control statements.
- A typical source of these events is the user.
- These events can occur at any time.

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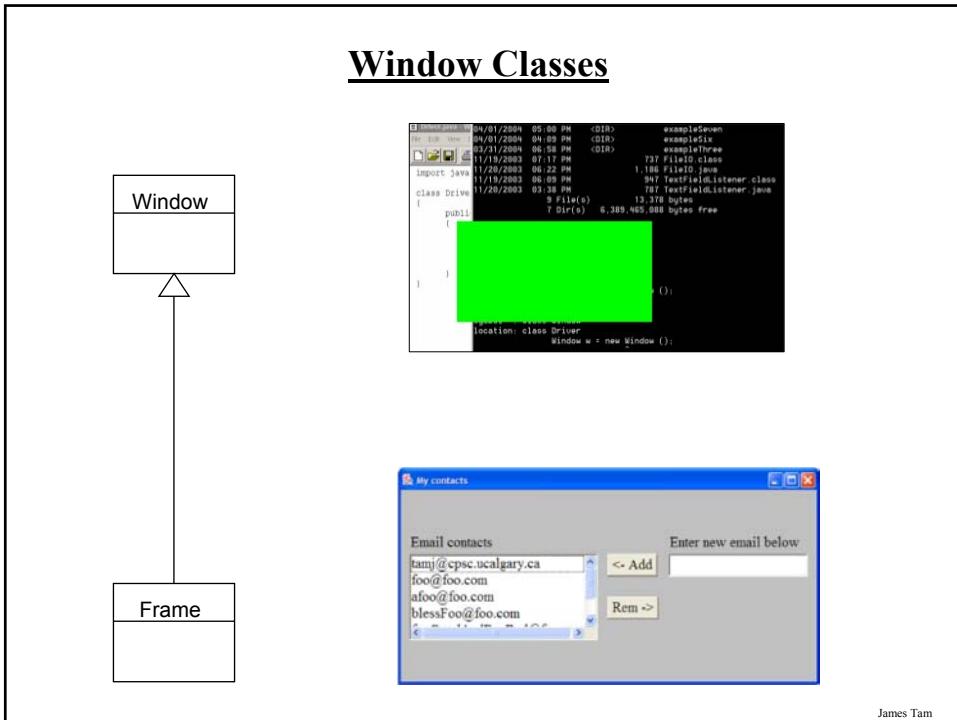
## **Most Components Can Trigger Events**

- Graphical objects can be manipulated by the user to trigger events.
- Each graphical object can have 0, 1 or many events that can be triggered.

A screenshot of a text input field. The placeholder text 'Last name' is followed by the text 'Tam' in a white rectangular input box. The background of the slide is light gray.

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## Window Classes



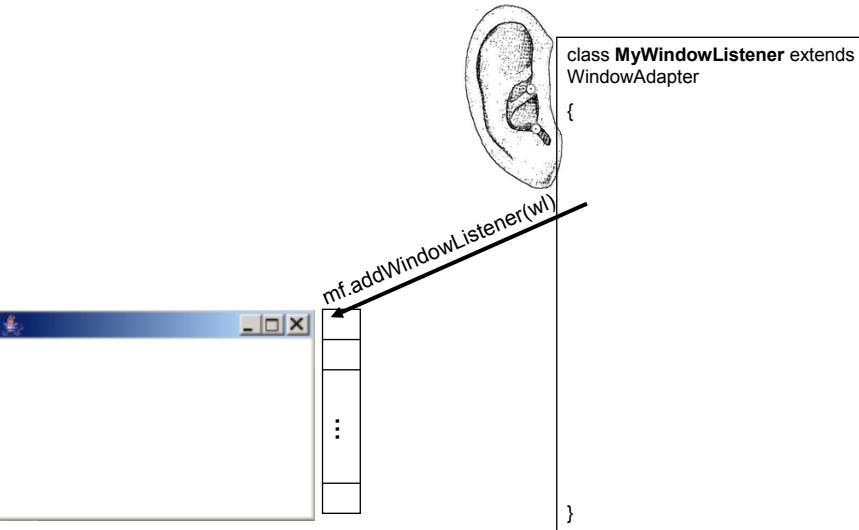
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## Steps In The Event Model For Handling A Frame Event: Window Closing

- 1) The frame must register all interested event listeners.
- 2) The user triggers the event by closing the window
- 3) The window sends a message to all listeners of that event.
- 4) The window event listener runs the code to handle the event.

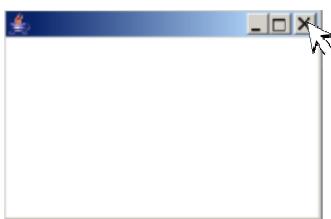
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## **1. The Frame Must Register All Interested Event Listeners.**



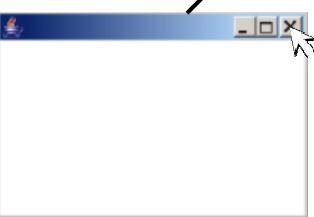
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## **2. The User Triggers The Event By Closing The Window**



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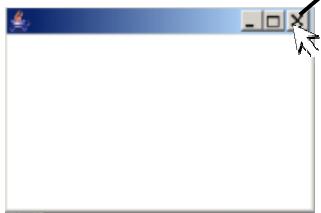
### **3. The Window Sends A Message To All Listeners Of That Event.**



```
public class MyWindowListener extends  
WindowAdapter  
{  
    public void windowClosing (WindowEvent e)  
    {  
    }  
}
```

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### **4. The Event Listener Runs The Code To Handle The Event.**



```
public class MyWindowListener extends  
WindowAdapter  
{  
    public void windowClosing (WindowEvent e)  
    {  
        Frame f = (Frame) e.getWindow();  
        f.setTitle("Closing window...");  
        for (int i = 0; i < 500000000; i++)  
        {  
            f.setVisible(false);  
            f.dispose();  
            System.exit(0);  
        }  
    }  
}
```

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#### **4. The Event Listener Runs The Code To Handle The Event.**

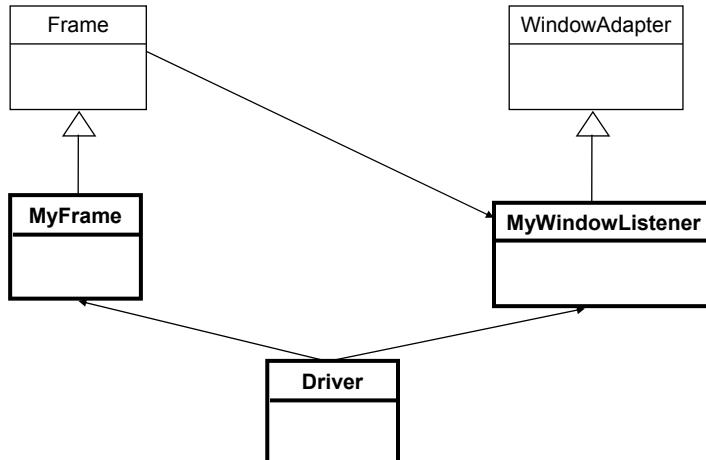


```
public class MyWindowListener extends WindowAdapter
{
    public void windowClosing (WindowEvent e)
    {
        Frame f = (Frame) e.getWindow();
        f.setTitle("Closing window...");
        for (int i = 0; i < 500000000; i++);
        f.setVisible(false);
        f.dispose();
        System.exit(0);
    }
}
```

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#### **An Example Of Handling A Frame Event**

The complete code for this example can be found in UNIX under the path: /home/courses/219/examples/gui/exampleOne



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## **An Example Of Handling A Frame Event: The Driver Class**

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class Driver  
{  
    public static void main (String [] args)  
    {  
        MyFrame mf = new MyFrame ();  
        MyWindowListener mwl = new MyWindowListener() ;  
        mf.addWindowListener(mwl);  
        mf.setSize (300,200);  
        mf.setVisible(true);  
    }  
}
```

James Tam

## **An Example Of Handling A Frame Event: Class MyFrame**

```
import java.awt.*;  
public class MyFrame extends Frame  
{  
    // More code will be added in later examples.  
}
```

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## An Example Of Handling A Frame Event: Class MyWindowListener

```
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.awt.*;

public class MyWindowListener extends WindowAdapter
{
    public void windowClosing (WindowEvent e)
    {
        Frame f = (Frame) e.getWindow();
        f.setTitle("Closing window...");
        for (int i = 0; i < 500000000; i++);
        f.setVisible(false);
        f.dispose();
        System.exit(0);
    }
}
```

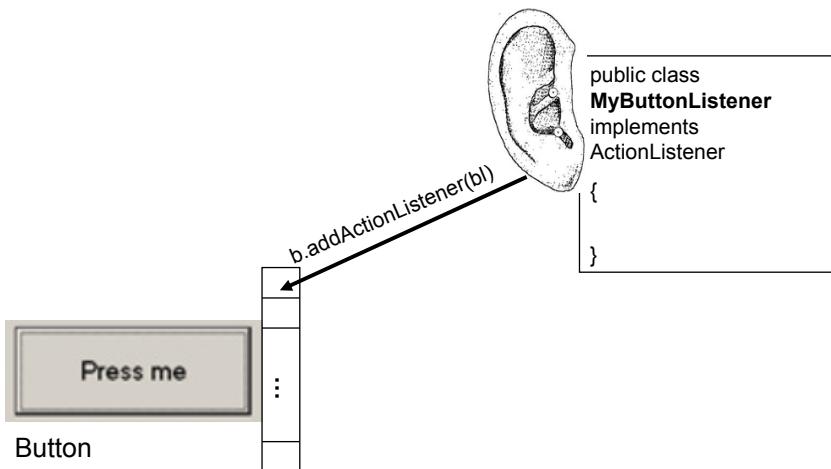
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## Steps In The Event Model For Handling A Button Event

- 1) The button must register all interested event listeners.
- 2) The user triggers an event by pressing a button.
- 3) The button sends a message to all listeners of the button press event.
- 4) The button listener runs the code to handle the button press event.

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## 1. The Graphical Component Must Register All Interested Event Listeners.



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## 2. The User Triggers An Event By Pressing The Button



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### 3. The Button Sends A Message To All Registered Listeners For That Event

```
public class MyButtonListener implements  
ActionListener  
{  
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent e)  
    {  
    }  
}
```



James Tam

### 3. The Component Sends A Message To All Registered Listeners For That Event

```
public class MyButtonListener implements  
ActionListener  
{  
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent e)  
    {  
        Button b = (Button) e.getSource();  
        b.setLabel("Stop pressing me!");  
    }  
}
```



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## 4. The Event Listener Runs The Code To Handle The Event

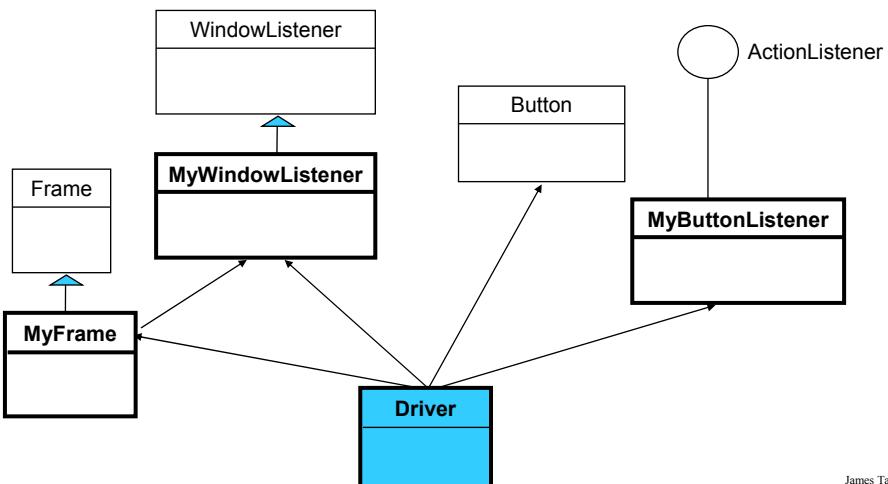
```
public class MyButtonListener implements ActionListener
{
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent e)
    {
        Button b = (Button) e.getSource();
        b.setLabel("Stop pressing me!");
    }
}
```



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## An Example Of Handling A Button Event

The complete code for this example can be found in UNIX under the path: /home/examples/219/examples/gui/exampleTwo



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## An Example Of Handling A Button Event: The Driver Class

```
import java.awt.*;
public class Driver
{
    public static void main (String [] args)
    {
        MyFrame mf = new MyFrame ();
        MyWindowListener mwl = new MyWindowListener();
        mf.addWindowListener(mwl);
        mf.setSize (300,200);
```

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## An Example Of Handling A Button Event: The Driver Class (2)

```
Button b = new Button("Press me.");
MyButtonListener bl = new MyButtonListener();
b.addActionListener(bl);
mf.add(b);
mf.setVisible(true);
}
```

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## An Example Of Handling A Button Event: The ButtonListener Class

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public class MyButtonListener implements ActionListener
{
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent e)
    {
        Button b = (Button) e.getSource();
        b.setLabel("Stop pressing me!");
    }
}
```

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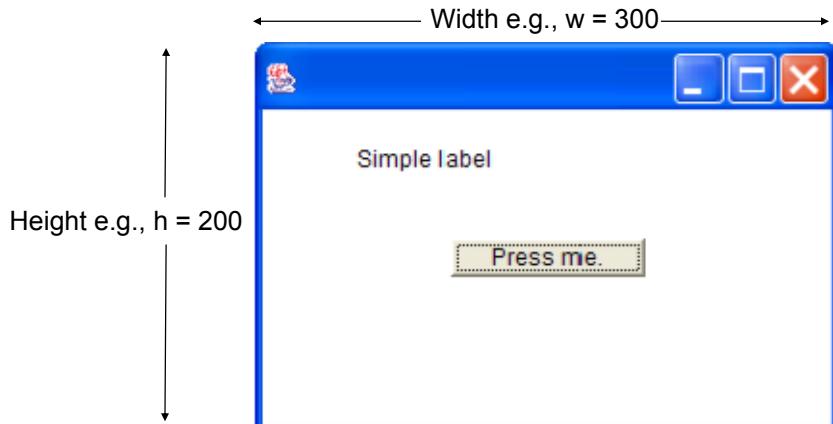
## How To Handle The Layout Of Components

1. Manually set the coordinates yourself
2. Use one of Java's built-in layout manager classes

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## Layout Is Based On Spatial Coordinates

```
e.g. MyFrame my =new MyFrame ();  
my.setSize(300,200);
```



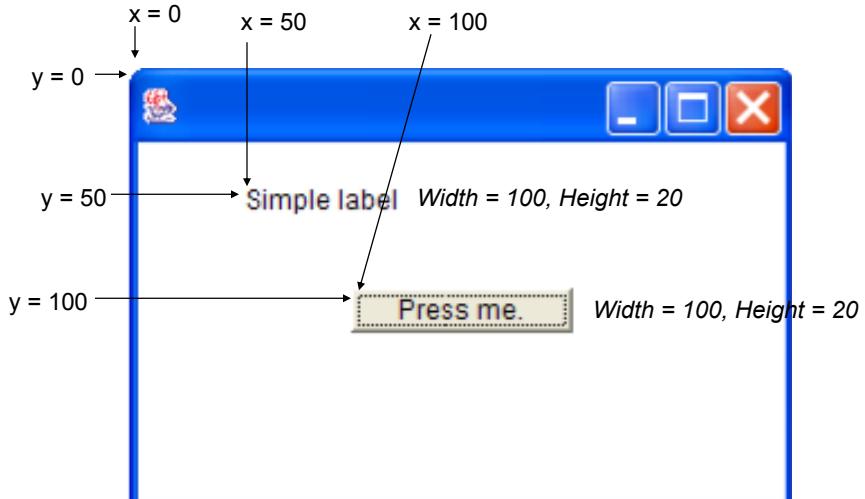
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## Layout Is Based On Spatial Coordinates



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## Coordinates Of Components: Relative To The Container



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## A Example Showing Manual Layout

The complete code for this example can be found in UNIX under the path:

/home/courses/219/examples/gui/exampleThree

James Tam

## An Example Showing Manual Layout: The Driver Class

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class Driver  
{  
    public static void main (String [] args)  
    {  
        MyFrame mf = new MyFrame ();  
        MyWindowListener mwl = new MyWindowListener();  
        mf.addWindowListener(mwl);  
        mf.setLayout(null);  
        mf.setSize (300,200);  
        Button b1 = new Button("Press me.");  
        b1.setBounds(100,100,100,20);  
    }  
}
```

James Tam

## An Example Showing Manual Layout: The Driver Class (2)

```
MyButtonListener bl = new ButtonListener();  
b1.addActionListener(bl);  
  
Label l1 = new Label ("Simple label");  
l1.setBounds(50,50,100,20);  
  
mf.add(b1);  
mf.add(l1);  
mf.setVisible(true);  
}  
}
```

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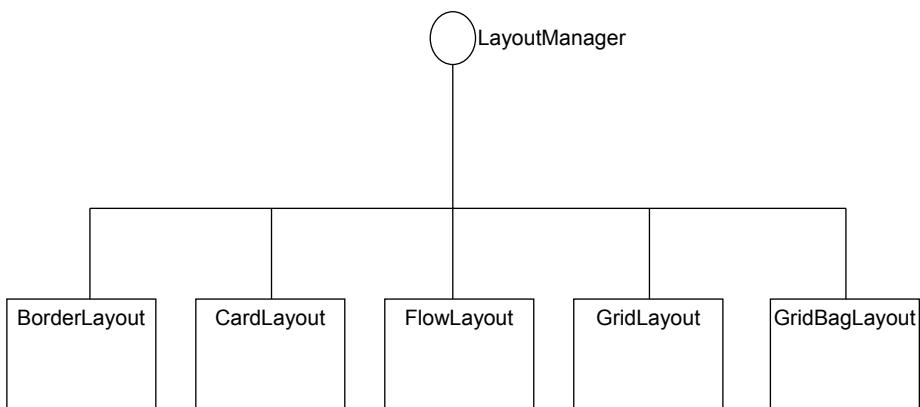
## How To Handle The Layout Of Components

1. Manually set the coordinates yourself
2. Use one of Java's built-in layout manager classes

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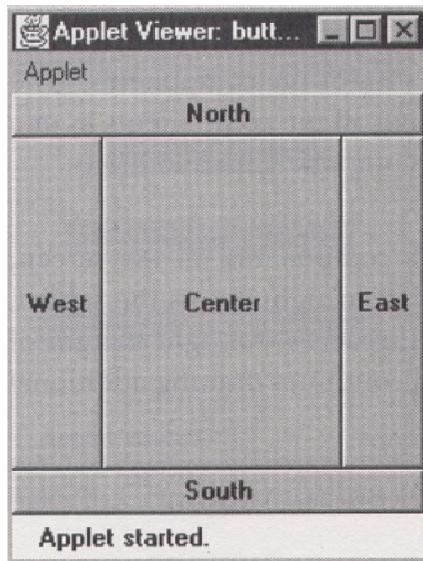
## Java Layout Classes

There are many implementations (this diagram only includes the original classes that were implemented by Sun).



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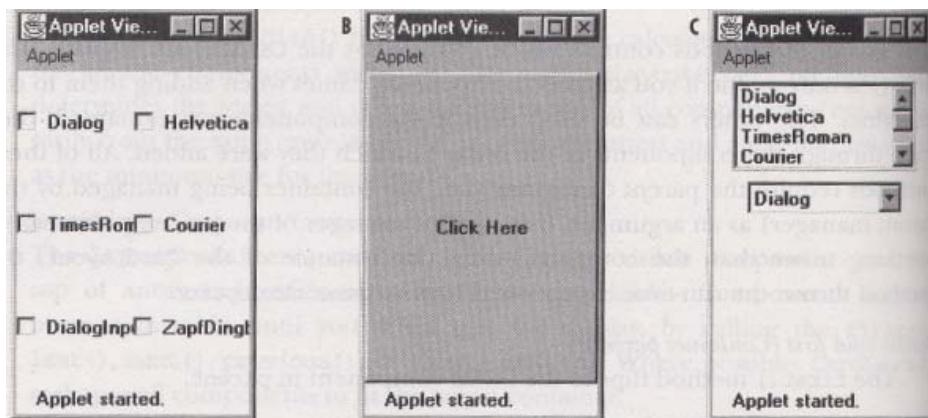
## BorderLayout



From Java: AWT Reference p. 256

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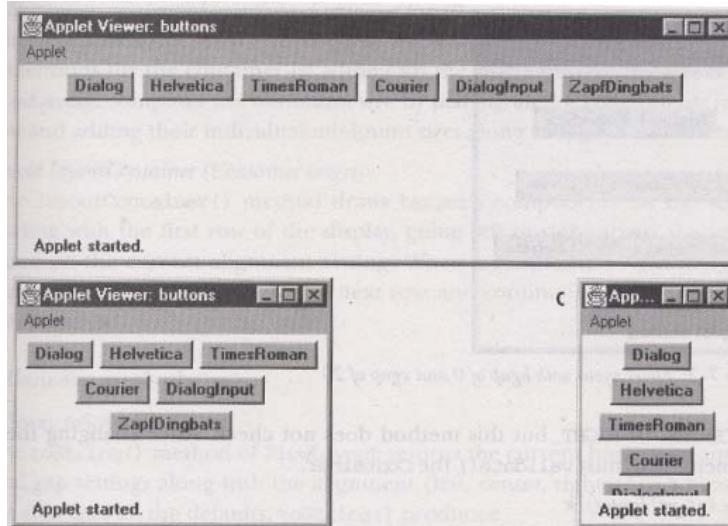
## CardLayout



From Java: AWT Reference p. 264

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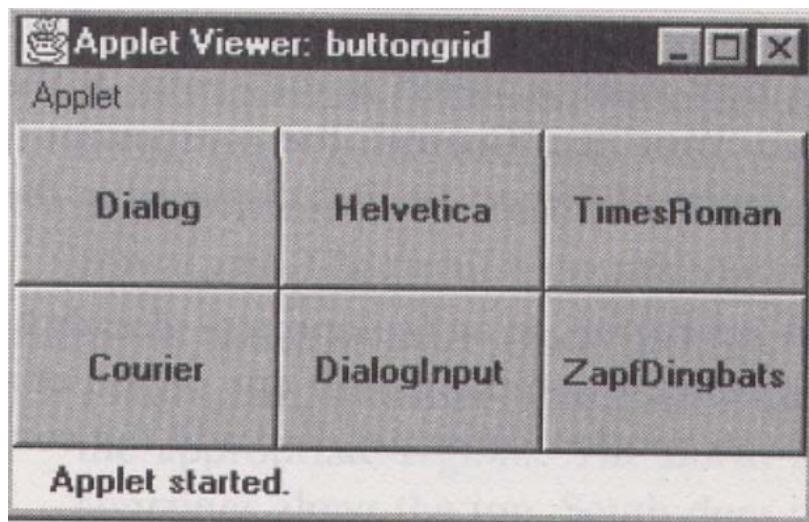
## FlowLayout



From Java: AWT Reference p. 253

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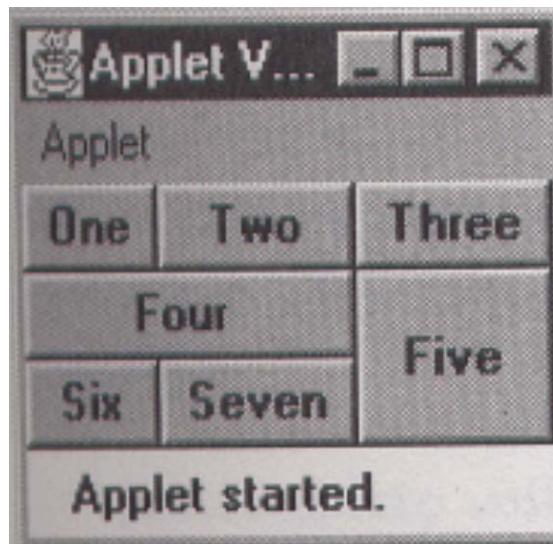
## GridLayout



From Java: AWT Reference p. 260

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## GridBagLayout

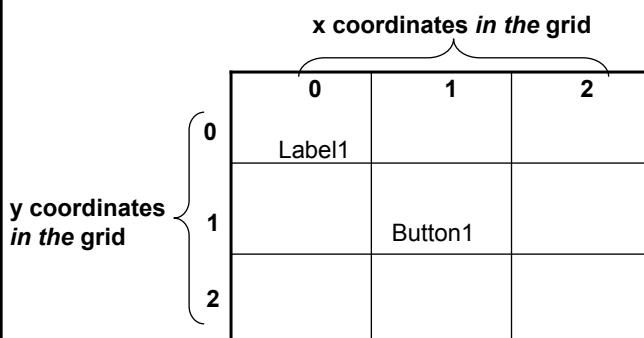


From Java: AWT Reference p. 269

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## Designing A GUI When Using The GridBagLayout

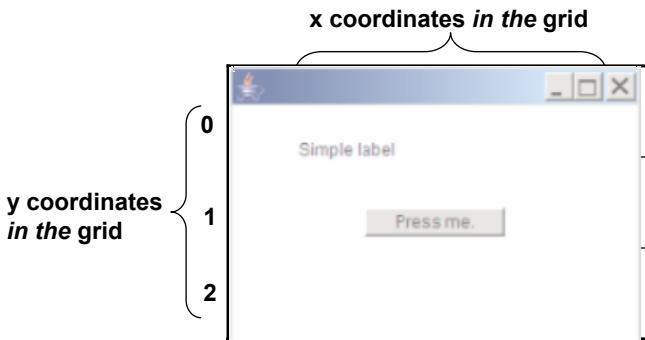
Use graph paper or draw out a table.



James Tam

## Designing A GUI When Using The GridBagLayout

Use graph paper or draw out a table.



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## GridBagConstraints

- Goes with the GridBagLayout class.
- Because the GridBagLayout doesn't know how to display components you also need GridBagConstraints to constrain things (determine the layout).
- GridBagConstraints indicates how components should be displayed within the GridBag.
- For more complete information see:  
-<http://java.sun.com/javase/7/docs/api/java.awt/GridBagConstraints.html>

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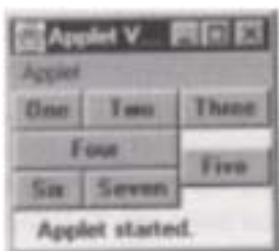
## Some Important Parts Of The GridBagConstraints Class

```
public class GridBagConstraints
{
    // Used in conjunction with the constants below to determine the resize policy
    // of the component
    public int fill;

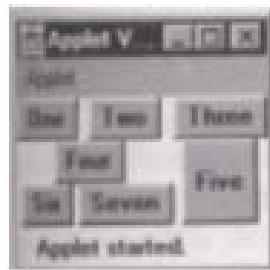
    // Apply only if there is available space.
    // Determine in which direction (if any) that the component expands to fill the
    // space.
    public final static int NONE;
    public final static int BOTH;
    public final static int HORIZONTAL;
    public final static int VERTICAL;
```

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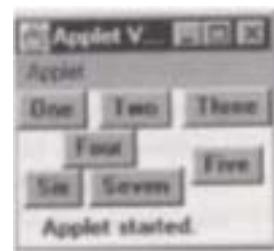
## GridBagConstraints: Fill Values



Horizontal



Vertical



None

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## **Some Important Parts Of The GridBagConstraints Class (2)**

```
// Position within the grid  
public int gridx;  
public int gridy;  
  
// Number of grid squares occupied by a component  
public int gridwidth;  
public int gridheight;
```

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## **Some Important Parts Of The GridBagConstraints Class (3)**

```
// Used in conjunction with the constants below to determine that the  
component  
// drift if the space available is larger than the component.  
public int anchor;  
  
// Apply only if the component is smaller than the available space.  
// Determine in which direction that the component will be anchored there  
public final static int CENTER;□  
public final static int EAST;□  
public final static int NORTH;□  
public final static int NORTHEAST;□  
public final static int NORTHWEST;□  
public final static int SOUTH;□  
public final static int SOUTHEAST;□  
public final static int SOUTHWEST;□  
public final static int WEST;□
```

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## An Example Using The GridBagLayout

The complete code for this example can be found in UNIX under the path: /home/courses/219/examples/gui/exampleFour

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## An Example Using The GridBagLayout: The Driver Class

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class Driver  
{  
    public static void main (String [] args)  
    {  
        MyFrame mf = new MyFrame ();  
        mf.setSize(400,300);  
        mf.setVisible(true);  
    }  
}
```

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## An Example Using The GridBagLayout: Class MyFrame

```
import java.awt.*;
public class MyFrame extends Frame
{
    private MyWindowListener mwl;
    private Button button1;
    private MyButtonListener bl;
    private Label label1;
    private GridBagLayout gbl;
    GridBagConstraints gbc;
```

James Tam

## An Example Using The GridBagLayout: Class MyFrame (2)

```
public MyFrame ()
{
    gbc = new GridBagConstraints();
    mwl = new MyWindowListener ();
    button1 = new Button("Press me");
    bl = new MyButtonListener();
    label1 = new Label("Simple label");
    gbl = new GridBagLayout();
    setLayout(gbl); // Calling method of super class.
    addWidget(label1, 0, 0, 1, 1);
    addWidget(button1, 2, 2, 1, 1);
}
```

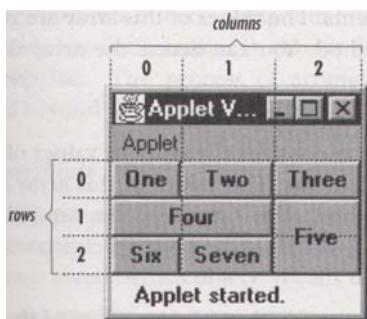
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## An Example Using The GridBagLayout: Class MyFrame (3)

```
public void addWidget (Component widget, int x, int y, int w, int h)
{
    gbc.gridx = x;
    gbc.gridy = y;
    gbc.gridwidth = w;
    gbc.gridheight = h;
    gbl.setConstraints (widget, gbc);
    add(widget);      // Calling method of super class.
}
}
```

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## Advanced Uses Of GridBagLayout



Button	gridx (col)	gridy (row)	grid- width	grid- height
One	0	0	1	1
Two	1	0	1	1
Three	2	0	1	1
Four	0	1	2	1
Five	2	1	1	2
Six	0	2	1	1
Seven	1	2	1	1

From Java: AWT Reference p. 269

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## **Components Effecting The State Of Other Components**

The complete code for this example can be found in UNIX under the path: /home/courses/219/examples/gui/exampleFive

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## **Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: The Driver Class**

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class Driver  
{  
    public static void main (String [] args)  
    {  
        MyFrame mf = new MyFrame ();  
    }  
}
```

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## Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: Class MyFrame

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class MyFrame extends Frame  
{  
    private MyWindowListener mwl;  
    private Button himButton;  
    private Button herButton;  
    private MyButtonListener bl;  
    private Label label1;  
    private GridBagLayout gbl;
```

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## Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: Class MyFrame (2)

```
public MyFrame ()  
{  
    mwl = new MyWindowListener ();  
    addWindowListener(mwl);  
  
    himButton = new Button("Press her not me.");  
    himButton.setActionCommand("him");  
    himButton.setBackground(Color.lightGray);  
  
    herButton = new Button("Press him not me");  
    herButton.setActionCommand("her");  
    herButton.setBackground(Color.lightGray);  
  
    bl = new ButtonListener();  
    himButton.addActionListener(bl);  
    herButton.addActionListener(bl);
```

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## Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: Class MyFrame (3)

```
Label1 = new Label("Simple label");
gbl = new GridBagLayout();
setLayout(gbl); // Calling method of super class.

addWidget(label1, 0, 0, 1, 1);
addWidget(himButton, 0, 1, 1, 1);
addWidget(herButton, 0, 2, 1, 1);
setSize(300,200);
setVisible(true);
}
```

James Tam

## Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: Class MyFrame (4)

```
public void addWidget (Component widget, int x, int y, int w, int h)
{
    GridBagConstraints gbc = new GridBagConstraints();
    gbc.gridx = x;
    gbc.gridy = y;
    gbc.gridwidth = w;
    gbc.gridheight = h;
    gbl.setConstraints(widget, gbc);
    add(widget); // Calling method of super class.
}

public Button getHerButton () { return herButton; }
public Button getHimButton () { return himButton; }
}
```

James Tam

## Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: Class ButtonListener

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public MyButtonListener implements ActionListener
{
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent e)
    {
        Button b = (Button) e.getSource();
        String s = e.getActionCommand();
        MyFrame mf = (MyFrame) b.getParent();
```

James Tam

## Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: Class ButtonListener (2)

```
if (s.equals("her"))
{
    Button himButton = mf.getHimButton();
    himButton.setLabel("Ha! Ha! Ha!");

    himButton.setBackground(Color.green);
    for (int i = 0; i < 500000000; i++);
    himButton.setLabel("Press her not me.");
    himButton.setBackground(Color.lightGray);
}
```

James Tam

## Components Effecting The State Of Other Components: Class ButtonListener (3)

```
else if (s.equals("him"))
{
    Button herButton = mf.getHerButton();
    herButton.setLabel("Ha! Ha! Ha!");

    herButton.setBackground(Color.green);
    for (int i = 0; i < 500000000; i++);
    herButton.setLabel("Press him not me.");
    herButton.setBackground(Color.lightGray);

}
else
{
    :
}
}
```

James Tam

## The List Class

- Used to provide a graphical and interactive control for a list of Strings.
- Scrollbars are automatically included
- For the complete class refer to the url:  
- <http://java.sun.com/javase/7/docs/api/>

James Tam

## Some Important Parts Of The List Class

```
class List
{
    // The data for the list is stored internally as an array of references to Strings.

    // Creates a scrollable list
    public List ()

    // Creates a list with the specified number of visible rows
    public List (int rows)

    // Adds a new element to the end of the list
    public void add (String item)

    // Adds a listener for list events
    addActionListener (ActionListener l)
```

James Tam

## Some Important Parts Of The List Class (2)

```
// Returns a count of the number of elements in the list.
public int getItemCount ()

// Removes the item at the specified position in the list
public void remove (int index)
{
    :
    :
    :
}
```

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List

The complete code for this example can be found in UNIX under the path: /home/courses/219/examples/gui/exampleSix

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List: The Driver Class

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class Driver  
{  
    public static void main (String [] args)  
    {  
        MyFrame mf = new MyFrame ();  
    }  
}
```

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List: Class MyFrame

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class MyFrame extends Frame  
{  
    private MyWindowListener mwl;  
    private Label listLabel;  
    private Label textLabel;  
    private List list;  
    private TextField text;  
    private GridBagLayout gbl;  
    private ListListener listListener;
```

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List: Class MyFrame (2)

```
public MyFrame ()  
{  
    mwl = new MyWindowListener ();  
    addWindowListener(mwl);  
  
    list = new List();  
    initializeList();  
    listListener = new ListListener();  
    list.addActionListener(listListener);  
  
    text = new TextField();  
    text.setText(list.getSelectedItem());  
  
    listLabel = new Label(Integer.toString(list.getItemCount()));  
    textLabel = new Label("Currently selected item");  
    gbl = new GridBagLayout();  
    setLayout(gbl); // Calling method of super class.
```

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List: Class MyFrame (3)

```
addWidget(listLabel, 0, 0, 1, 1, GridBagConstraints.NONE);
addWidget(textLabel, 2, 0, 1, 1, GridBagConstraints.NONE);
addWidget(list, 0, 1, 1, 3, GridBagConstraints.HORIZONTAL);
addWidget(text, 2, 1, 1, 1, GridBagConstraints.HORIZONTAL);

setSize(300,200);
setVisible(true);
}

public void initializeList ()
{
    int i;
    for (i = 1; i <= 10; i++)
    {
        list.add(new String(Integer.toString(i * 10)));
    }
}
```

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List: Class MyFrame (4)

```
public void addWidget (Component widget, int x, int y, int w, int h, int fill)
{
    GridBagConstraints gbc = new GridBagConstraints();
    gbc.gridx = x;
    gbc.gridy = y;
    gbc.gridwidth = w;
    gbc.gridheight = h;
    gbc.fill = fill;
    gbl.setConstraints(widget, gbc);
    add(widget);      // Calling method of super class.
}

public TextField getTextField () { return text; }
public List getList () { return list; }
}
```

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List: Class ListListener

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

public class ListListener implements ActionListener
{
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent e)
    {
        List list = (List) e.getSource ();
        MyFrame mf = (MyFrame) list.getParent();
        TextField text = mf.getTextField();
        text.setText(list.getSelectedItem());
    }
}
```

James Tam

## An Example Employing A List: Class WindowListener

```
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.awt.*;
public class MyWindowListener extends WindowAdapter
{
    public void windowClosing (WindowEvent e)
    {
        MyFrame mf = (MyFrame) e.getWindow();
        List list = mf.getList();

        mf.setTitle("Closing window... ");
        list.removeAll();
        for (int i = 0; i < 500000000; i++)
        {
            mf.setVisible(false);
            mf.dispose();
            System.exit(0);
        }
    }
}
```

James Tam

## **Capturing TextField Events**

The complete code for this example can be found in UNIX under the path: /home/courses/219/examples/gui/exampleSeven

James Tam

## **Capturing TextFieldEvents: Class Driver**

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class Driver  
{  
    public static void main (String [] args)  
    {  
        MyFrame mf = new MyFrame ();  
    }  
}
```

James Tam

## Capturing TextFieldEvents: Class MyFrame

```
import java.awt.*;  
  
public class MyFrame extends Frame  
{  
    private Label instructions;  
    private TextField input;  
    private MyWindowListener mwl = new MyWindowListener();
```

James Tam

## Capturing TextFieldEvents: Class MyFrame (2)

```
public MyFrame ()  
{  
    MyTextFieldListener tfl = new MyTextFieldListener();  
    mwl = new MyWindowListener ();  
    addWindowListener(mwl);  
    setLayout(null);  
    setSize(300,200);  
    instructions = new Label("Enter some text below and hit return");  
    instructions.setBounds(20,100,200,20);  
    input = new TextField();  
    input.setBounds(20,150,200,20);  
    input.addActionListener(tfl);  
    add(instructions);  
    add(input);  
    setVisible(true);  
}  
} // End of class MyFrame
```

James Tam

## Capturing TextFieldEvents: Class MyTextFieldListener

```
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.awt.*;

public class MyTextFieldListener implements ActionListener
{
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent e)
    {
        TextField tf = (TextField) e.getSource ();
        MyFrame mf = (MyFrame) tf.getParent ();
        mf.setTitle(tf.getText());
        System.out.println(tf.getText());
    }
}
```

James Tam

## Capturing TextFieldEvents: Class WindowListener

```
import java.awt.event.*;
import java.awt.*;

public class MyWindowListener extends WindowAdapter
{
    public void windowClosing (WindowEvent e)
    {
        MyFrame mf = (MyFrame) e.getWindow();
        mf.setTitle("Closing window...");
        for (int i = 0; i < 500000000; i++);
        mf.setVisible(false);
        mf.dispose();
        System.exit(0);
    }
}
```

James Tam

## **You Should Now Know**

- The difference between traditional and event driven software
- How event-driven software works
- How some basic AWT controls work
- How to layout components using layout managers and manually using a coordinate system

James Tam