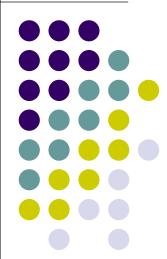
Even More Java



Java Packages



- What is a package?
- **Definition:** A *package* is a grouping of related types providing access protection and name space management. Note that *types* refers to classes, interfaces, enumerations, and annotation types. (Java's Definition)

Java Packages



- Access Protection means that using a package, as I showed last time, we can use different interfacing which can limit usage to within the package
- Name space management essentially means controlling scope. For example there is already a defined Vector class. There is no name conflict with your own because its in the Java.util package

Creating a Package



- Choose a name for your package
- Every source file must have package <name> as the first line of the file.
- Make sure you follow naming conventions on the next slide

Package Naming Conventions



- Packages have a naming convention
 - The name is lower case so it isn't confused with a type or interface
 - Often companies use the reverse of their domain name, ie com.example.orion
 - All provided packages start with java. Or javax.
 - Some cases the plain internet address cannot be used, usually we add an underscore; ie clipart-open.org -> org.clipart_open, free.fonts.int -> int_.fonts.free, poetry.7days.com -> com._7days.poetry





- There are 3 ways to access a public package member from outside the package
 - Use the full qualified name, ie

 Java.util.Vector v = new Java.util.Vector()
 - Import the package member, ie import Java.util.Vector; Vector v = new Vector()
 - Import the package, ie import Java.util.*; Vector v = new Vector()
- The last option is usually discouraged for using a single class.





- Sometimes it appears that some classes are contained in a package when in truth they aren't; ie import java.awt.* will not import java.awt.color
- Therefore always look at your API

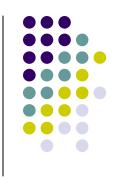




- Should you ever import a package with an identical class name you must then qualify you classes to avoid ambiguity.
- For example, if on your last assignment you had imported java.util.Vector, every time you declared a vector you would have to qualify.

Vector v = new Vector() is now ambiguous.





- If you want to import the static methods and fields of a class you can do this.
- For example, java.lang.Math contains a static PI field. If you wanted to import this simply type import static java.lang.Math.PI or as a group import static java.lang.Math.*
- Overusing static imports tends to make your code unreadable so use them sparingly





- When using packages, the class graphics.Rectangle should be in the directory /graphics/Rectangle
- Both your .java and .class files should be in this directory structure, but they don't have to be the same one
- You can change your classpath

ClassPath



- Both the compiler and the JVM use your classpath
- The compiler will create directories based on packages for you
- You can change your classpath easily
 - To display the current CLASSPATH variable,
 - In Windows: C:\> set CLASSPATH
 - In Unix: % echo \$CLASSPATH
 - To delete the current contents of the CLASSPATH variable
 - In Windows: C:\> set CLASSPATH=
 - In Unix: % unset CLASSPATH; export CLASSPATH
 - To set the CLASSPATH variable,
 - In Windows: C:\> set CLASSPATH=C:\users\george\java\classes
 - In Unix: % CLASSPATH=/home/george/java/classes; export CLASSPATH

Class Naming Conventions



 Class names should be nouns, in mixed case with the first letter of each internal word capitalized. Try to keep your class names simple and descriptive. Use whole wordsavoid acronyms and abbreviations (unless the abbreviation is much more widely used than the long form, such as URL or HTML).





- Variable names should be short yet meaningful. The choice of a variable name should be mnemonic- that is, designed to indicate to the casual observer the intent of its use. One-character variable names should be avoided except for temporary "throwaway" variables. ie., float length, int height
- Some conventions say all private variables should start with an underscore, others don't.
 ie., private float _lentgth; private int _height



Other Naming Conventions

- Methods should be verbs, in mixed case with the first letter lowercase, with the first letter of each internal word capitalized. ie., run(), runFast(), getBackground()
- Constants should be declared in all capitals seperated by underscores. ie., static final int MIN_WIDTH = 4; static final int MAX_WIDTH = 999;