

Nested Classes

CS 272 Software Development

Nested Classes

- A class defined within another class
 - Not defined in a separate *.java file
 - Only accessible through outer class
- Can improve maintainability
 - Reduces number of files (but not number of classes)
 - Groups together related classes into one file

<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/javaOO/nested.html>



Nested Classes

- Increases encapsulation/information hiding for small classes used by only one other class
- Can combine composition and inheritance relationships
 - Outer class is-a other class
 - Outer class has-a inner class
 - Inner class is-a other class

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Types of Nested Classes

- **Inner Class**
 - A non-static nested class **dependent** on a specific instance of the outer class
- **Static Nested Class**
 - A static nested class that is **independent** of an instance of the outer class

<https://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/java/javaOO/nested.html>



Nested Class Initialization

- Inner Class
 - Must have instance of outer class to initialize
 - `Outer outer = new Outer();`
`Outer.Inner in = outer.new Inner();`
- Static Nested Class
 - May initialize without an instance of outer class
 - `Outer.Static in = new Outer.Static();`

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Outer Member Access

- Inner Classes
 - May access private instance members of outer class
 - May access private class members of outer class
- Static Nested Classes
 - May *not* access any instance members of outer class
 - May access any class members of outer class

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Anonymous Classes

- A nested, local class without an explicit name
 - Declared, defined, and instantiated at same time
 - Specify one class or interface to extend/implement
 - Give implementations of abstract methods
- Used for classes defined and used only once
 - Commonly used to create `Comparator` objects
 - Commonly used in multithreading

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Example Anonymous Class

```
1. Runnable r = new Runnable() {  
2.     public void run() {  
3.         System.out.println("Hello!");  
4.     }  
5. }; // note semicolon!
```



Questions?

