



core J2ME™

Technology & MIDP



▼ Complete coverage of MIDP 1.0.3 for wireless developers

▼ Practical applications of advanced J2ME technology and MIDP technology

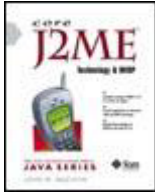
▼ Includes bonus chapter on MIDP for the Palm OS 1.0

THE SUN MICROSYSTEMS PRESS
JAVA SERIES



JOHN W. MUCHOW

Brought to you by ownSky!



Core J2ME™ Technology & MIDP

By [John W. Muchow](#)

Publisher : Prentice Hall PTR

Pub Date : December 21, 2001

ISBN : 0-13-066911-3

Pages : 737

• [Table of Contents](#)

The J2ME platform is designed for devices with limited memory, display, and processing power including cellular phones, PDAs, and pagers. *Core J2ME Technology & MIDP* covers everything you need to develop powerful applications for this rapidly expanding wireless market.

Part I starts with an overview of J2ME, configurations, and profiles, before explaining in detail the Connected Limited Device Configuration (CLDC) and the Mobile Information Device Profile (MIDP). Muchow then walks you through creating a complete development environment-from downloading J2ME to troubleshooting.

Part II details programming with MIDP, including exhaustive coverage of the MIDP programming interface, high-level and low-level user interface components, networking support, and persistent storage.

Table of Content

Table of Content	i
Copyright.....	vii
Dedication	viii
Preface.....	viii
Who Is This Book For	viii
Focus of this Book	ix
Contents	ix
Acknowledgments	xiii
About the Author.....	xiii
Chapter 1. THE BASICS Of J2ME.....	1
Java Editions.....	1
Why J2ME?.....	2
Configurations.....	3
Profiles	3
Java Virtual Machines	4
Big Picture View of the Architecture.....	5
Compatibility between Java Editions	6
Putting all the Pieces Together	7
Chapter 2. CONNECTED, LIMITED DEVICE CONFIGURATION (CLDC).....	8
Hardware Requirements	9
Software Requirements.....	9
The Java Virtual Machine Specification.....	9
Handling Security	11
Class File Verification.....	12
J2SE Inherited Classes.....	12
CLDC Specific Classes	16
K Virtual Machine	17
Chapter 3. MOBILE INFORMATION DEVICE PROFILE (MIDP).....	18
Hardware and Software Requirements	18
MID Profile Architecture	19
The MIDlet Suite.....	20
Accessing JAR/JAD Attributes from a MIDlet.....	24
Chapter 4. DEVELOPMENT ENVIORNMENT	27
Download the Software	27
Install the Software	28
Command Line Development.....	33
Packaging a MIDlet.....	36
Running a MIDlet on an Emulator	39
Download MIDlet onto a Mobile Device.....	41
Project Management Using Java Packages	41
J2ME Wireless Toolkit.....	45
Download	46
Installation	46
Create a New Project	47
Configure the Project Settings	48
Write the Code and Build the Project.....	51
Using Java Packages.....	53
Locating the JAR and JAD Files	54

Configuring the Emulator	55
Toolkit Summary	56
Chapter 5. BASICS OF MIDLETS AND THE DISPLAY	57
MIDlet	57
MIDletStateChangeException	61
Display	66
Displayable	69
Chapter 6. EVENT HANDLING	72
The Big Picture	72
Command Objects	73
Item Objects	74
Command and CommandListener	75
Item and ItemStateListener	87
Chapter 7. HIGH-LEVEL USER INTERFACE: PART I	91
Screen	91
Form	93
Item	94
DateField	98
Gauge	104
StringItem	109
TextField	115
Choice and ChoiceGroup	123
Image and ImageItem	132
Chapter 8. HIGH-LEVEL USER INTERFACE: PART II	146
List	147
TextBox	157
Alert and AlertType	172
Ticker	180
Chapter 9. LOW-LEVEL USER INTERFACE	184
Canvas	184
Graphics	209
Chapter 10. CREATING A DISPLAYER MANAGER	253
Animation MIDlet	254
Display Manager API	257
Animating a Series of Images	260
Source Code	262
Chapter 11. RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)	271
Persistent Storage Through the Record Store	271
Navigating with RecordEnumeration	284
Sorting with RecordComparator	286
Searching with RecordFilter	303
Notification of Changes with RecordListener	316
Exception Handling	320
Chapter 12. TODO LIST EXAMPLE: PART I	322
Using the Todo List	322
Interface Design	325
Data Design	326
Application Logic	331
Source Code	333
Chapter 13. SCHEDULING TASKS	350
Timer	350

TimerTask	353
Example: Timer Template.....	354
Example: Todo List MIDlet Part II—Delay Timer	358
Example: Animation with Timer/TimerTask	361
Chapter 14. GENERIC CONNECTION FRAMEWORK	369
Connection Hierarchy.....	369
HTTP Connection.....	371
Chapter 15. MIDP FOR THE PALM OS	440
Device Requirements	441
Download	442
Installation	442
MIDlets.....	444
Configuring Preferences	450
Example: keyCodes and gameActions.....	455
Appendix A. Over the Air User Initiated Provisioning Recommended Practice.....	468
General Information	468
Device (Client)	469
MIDlet Suite Upgrade	473
MIDlet Suite Removal.....	473
Server	473
WAP	475
Appendix B. CLDC API.....	477
java.io.....	480
ByteArrayInputStream	480
ByteArrayOutputStream.....	481
DataInput.....	481
DataInputStream	482
DataOutput.....	483
DataOutputStream	484
EOFException.....	484
InputStream.....	485
InputStreamReader	485
InterruptedIOException	486
IOException.....	486
OutputStream	486
OutputStreamWriter.....	487
PrintStream	487
Reader	488
UnsupportedEncodingException	489
UTFDataFormatException	489
Writer.....	490
java.lang	490
ArithmeticException	491
ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException	491
ArrayStoreException.....	491
Boolean.....	492
Byte	492
Character.....	493
Class	494
ClassCastException.....	494
ClassNotFoundException	494

Error	495
Exception	495
IllegalAccessException	495
IllegalArgumentException	496
IllegalMonitorStateException	496
IllegalThreadStateException	496
IndexOutOfBoundsException	496
InstantiationException	497
Integer	497
InterruptedException	498
Long	498
Math	499
NegativeArraySizeException	499
NullPointerException	500
NumberFormatException	500
Object	500
OutOfMemoryError	501
Runnable	501
Runtime	501
RuntimeException	502
SecurityException	502
Short	502
String	503
StringBuffer	505
StringIndexOutOfBoundsException	506
System	506
Thread	507
Throwable	508
VirtualMachineError	508
java.util	509
Calendar	509
Date	511
EmptyStackException	511
Enumeration	511
Hashtable	512
NoSuchElementException	512
Random	513
Stack	513
TimeZone	514
Vector	514
javax.microedition.io	515
Connection	516
ConnectionNotFoundException	516
Connector	516
ContentConnection	517
Datagram	517
DatagramConnection	518
InputConnection	518
OutputConnection	519
StreamConnection	519
StreamConnectionNotifier	519

Appendix C. MIDP API	520
Alert: javax.microedition.lcdui.Alert	522
AlertType: javax.microedition.lcdui.AlertType.....	522
Canvas: javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas.....	523
Choice: javax.microedition.lcdui.Choice.....	524
ChoiceGroup: javax.microedition.lcdui.ChoiceGroup.....	524
Command: javax.microedition.lcdui.Command.....	525
CommandListener: javax.microedition.lcdui.CommandListener.....	526
DateField: javax.microedition.lcdui.DateField.....	526
Display: javax.microedition.lcdui.Display.....	527
Displayable: javax.microedition.lcdui.Displayable	527
Font: javax.microedition.lcdui.Font.....	528
Form: javax.microedition.lcdui.Form	528
Gauge: javax.microedition.lcdui.Gauge.....	529
Graphics: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics.....	529
HttpConnection: javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection.....	531
Image: javax.microedition.lcdui.Image.....	536
ImageItem: javax.microedition.lcdui.ImageItem	536
Item: javax.microedition.lcdui.Item	537
ItemStateListener: javax.microedition.lcdui.ItemStateListener	537
List: javax.microedition.lcdui.List	538
MIDlet: javax.microedition.midlet.MIDlet	539
MIDletStateChangeException:	
javax.microedition.midlet.MIDletStateChangeException	539
RecordComparator: javax.microedition.rms.RecordComparator	539
RecordEnumeration: javax.microedition.rms.RecordEnumeration	540
RecordFilter: javax.microedition.rms.RecordFilter	540
RecordListener: javax.microedition.rms.RecordListener	541
RecordStore: javax.microedition.rms.RecordStore.....	541
Record Store Exceptions	542
Screen: javax.microedition.lcdui.Screen	543
StringItem: javax.microedition.lcdui.StringItem	543
TextBox: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextBox	543
TextField: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextField	544
Ticker: javax.microedition.lcdui.Ticker	545
Timer: java.util.Timer	546
TimerTask: java.util.TimerTask.....	546

Copyright

A CIP catalog record for this book can be obtained from the Library of Congress.

© 2002 Sun Microsystems, Inc.—

Printed in the United States of America

901 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, California

94303-4900 U.S.A.

All rights reserved. This product and related documentation are protected by copyright and distributed under licenses restricting its use, copying, distribution, and decompilation. No part of this product or related documentation may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior written authorization of Sun and its licensors, if any.

RESTRICTED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the United States Government is subject to the restrictions set forth in DFARS 252.227-7013 (e)(1)(ii) and FAR 52.227-19. The products described may be protected by one or more U.S. patents, foreign patents, or pending applications.

TRADEMARKS—HotJava, Java, Java Development Kit, Solaris, SPARC, SunOS, and Sunsoft are trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc. All other products or services mentioned in this book are trademarks or service marks of their respective companies or organizations. The publisher offers discounts on this book when ordered in bulk quantities. For more information, contact Corporate Sales Department, Prentice Hall PTR, One Lake Street, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458. Phone 800-382-3419; FAX: 201-236-7141.

E-mail: corpsales@prenhall.com.

Editorial/Production Supervision: *Pine Tree Composition*

Acquisitions Editor: *Gregory G. Doench*

Editorial Assistant: *Brandt Kenna*

Cover Design Director: *Jerry Votta*

Cover Designer: *Nina Scuderi*

Art Director: *Gail Cocker-Bogusz*

Manufacturing Manager: *Alexis Heydt-Long*

Marketing Manager: *Debby vanDijk*

Project Coordinator: *Anne R. Garcia*

Sun Microsystems Press Publisher: *Michael Llwyd Alread*

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Sun Microsystems Press

A Prentice Hall Title

Dedication

This book is dedicated, from the heart, to my Mom and Dad

Preface

It is estimated that in Japan alone over 20 million Java 2 Micro Edition (J2ME) enabled mobile phones were manufactured in 2001. The opportunity for those interested in writing for the J2ME platform speaks for itself. With its support for a broad range of devices and portability across platforms, acceptance among manufacturers and service providers has been astounding.

The focus of this book is on application development using the Mobile Information Device Profile (MIDP) and Connected, Limited Device Configuration (CLDC). Together, these application programming interfaces (API's) form a complete J2ME development toolkit for wireless devices including: mobile phones, pagers and personal organizers.

Who Is This Book For

As a developer at heart, I have often sought a book that covered "all I need to know" to get started with a technology that was of interest. Instead I found myself putting together pieces and parts based on information from various websites, newsgroups, how-to articles, and the like. There was never one definitive guide covering everything: where to find the software, how to install and configure my computer, and learning to write applications from the ground up. Most important of all, there always seemed to be gap between what information I could find and what appeared to be available as part of the specification describing the technology.

I hope this book is as close to one-stop shopping as you will find for learning and developing applications for J2ME and the Mobile Information Device Profile. It has what I feel are the essentials to get up and running, everything from downloading and installing the software to writing applications from simple to comprehensive. The entire programming interface is covered in a logical step-by-step manner, leaving no stone unturned. It also includes a quick reference guide for both MIDP and CLDC.

Although this book takes a step-by-step approach to teaching application development with MIDP, the assumption is made that the reader will have experience as a software developer. Further, as J2ME is a subset of Java 2 Standard Edition, a background in Java programming is essential to make the most of this book.

Focus of this Book

With many years of experience as a developer, and an extensive background in technical training, I've discovered that most people (myself included) learn best by example. With that in mind, this book provides an abundance of source code, with the intention of presenting solutions to real-world programming issues. With over 70 examples, you'll have an excellent base of code to build upon:

- Creating a "clipboard" to share data among components
- Using streams to read and write persistent storage
- Searching and sorting records in persistent storage
- Low-level event handling
- Primitive drawing operations (arcs, rectangles, text, etc.)
- Creating simple animations
- Scheduling timers
- Creating a client request and interpreting a server response using HTTP
- How and when to use HTTP request methods GET and POST
- Managing sessions with a Java Servlet through cookies and URL-rewriting
- Using a thread to download network data in the background
- Download and view files and images
- Many additional examples . . .

Contents

This book is divided into three sections:

Part I: Introduction to J2ME, CLDC, and MIDP

We begin with an overview of Java 2 Micro Edition. This includes information about the architecture of J2ME and how configurations and profiles make it possible for this micro version of Java to support devices with an exceptionally wide range of capabilities. Also included are step-by-step instructions for installing the required software and configuring your computer to develop J2ME applications (MIDlets).

Part II: Programming with MIDP

Here you will find the bulk of information about programming with the MID Profile. Presented in a tutorial fashion, we cover each aspect of the application programming interface. For each topic there is

a brief introduction, information about the API, followed by one or more examples to bring home the concepts presented. Following is a list of the main topics:

- Basics of MIDlets and the Display
- Event Handling
- High-level User Interface
- Low-level User Interface
- Case Study: Building a Display Manager
- Persistent Storage with the Record Management System
- Case Study: Todo-List MIDlet
- Scheduling Timers and Tasks
- Network Communication with the Generic Connection Framework
- MIDP for the Palm OS

The case studies tie together concepts presented throughout the book. The first builds a simple, yet very useful class to facilitate managing objects displayed on a mobile device. You'll learn why such a class is needed, how to design and create the class, and will see the class used within a MIDlet that demonstrates how to animate a series of images.

The second case-study builds a todo-list application. At nearly 900 lines of code this comprehensive example covers many aspects of MIDlet development from interface and data design to the internal application logic. This application also makes extensive use of the persistent storage mechanism provided in MIDP.

Part III: Appendices

There are three appendices:

- Over the Air User Initiated Provisioning Recommended Practice This addendum to the MID Profile covers the recommended procedure for deploying MIDlets
- CLDC Quick Reference

Connected, Limited Device Configuration API divided into the following sections: java.io, java.lang, java.util, javax.microedition.io

- MIDP Quick Reference

Mobile Information Device Profile API

Conventions Used in This Book

The fields and methods for each API are listed in tables as shown:

Table P-1. Form Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.Form	
Method	Description
Constructors	
Form (String title)	Create a form and add Item(s) in the array
...	
Methods	

<code>int append(Image img)</code>	Append an Image to a form
...	

To clarify the hierarchy of classes within MIDP, occasionally I'll show a list of classes along with the declaration of each class. For example:

```
Display          (public class Display)
Displayable      (public abstract class Displayable)
    Screen       (public abstract class Screen extends Displayable)
        TextBox  (public class TextBox extends Screen)
            List  (public class List extends Screen implements Choice)
...

```

The `courier font` will be used when referencing Java source code. For consistency throughout the code examples, I have chosen to name all MIDP objects starting with a two letters acronym, followed by a descriptive name for the use of the field/variable. For example, a `TextBox` soliciting input for a phone number may have the name `tbPhoneNumber`. Whenever possible I have followed the Java convention of using the first two letters of a series of words (such as in `tb` for the word `TextBox`). For those objects that consist of one word (e.g., `Form`) I have chosen a two letter acronym that seems most logical and easy to associate with the object (e.g., `fm` for `Form`).

Whenever you encounter one of the acronyms listed in the following table you will know the field/variable is associated with an MIDP object.

Table . MIDP Naming conventions	
<i>MIDP Object</i>	<i>Acronym</i>
Alert	al
AlertType	at
Canvas	cv
Command	cm
ChoiceGroup	cg
DateField	df
Font	ft
Form	fm
Gauge	ga
Graphics	gr
Image	im
ImageItem	ii
List	ls
RecordStore	rs
StringItem	si
TextBox	tb
TextField	tf
Ticker	tk
Timer	tm
TimerTask	tt

Mobile Information Device Emulators

Sun Microsystems provides two reference implementations of MIDP. These software packages are available for developers to use as a testing ground, and also provide device manufacturers with a model, or starting point, for creating an implementation of MIDP for a device(s).

The implementations available from Sun are:

- MIDP and CLDC as standalone packages

Applications are compiled and run from the command line

- J2ME Wireless Toolkit

Applications are compiled and run within a minimal development environment

The actual look and feel of MIDP components may vary across implementations and/or devices. This has to do with the fact MIDP does not spell out how components are to look, rather, it specifies the functionality they must provide.

For instance, the figure below shows the same application running on three different emulators. Although each looks different, the functionality remains consistent.



Throughout the book, all application screen-shots were created with one of the two Sun Microsystems reference implementations. If you download and install an implementation of MIDP from a device manufacturer, or a third-party source, examples may look different than shown in the book, however, the functionality should be equivalent.

CoreJ2ME.com Website

There is a companion website for this book: www.CoreJ2ME.com. Here you will find the latest source code for the examples in this book, important notes about changes to the MIDP and/or CLDC specification and how this effects the examples (if at all), how-to articles, links to the software, information about J2ME and MIDP training, and a developer resources section that includes links to tools, faqs, discussion areas, newsgroups and mailing lists, as well as other J2ME related websites.

Acknowledgments

Without the tireless efforts of Patty Donovan and her colleagues at Pine Tree Composition, this book would not be in your hands. A sincere thank you for responding to my continuous flood of email and managing all the last minutes changes. Patty, it was truly a pleasure to work with you.

My guess is that there were many people at Prentice Hall who played a part in this project. The few that I worked with directly include Jim Markham and Eileen Clark, my thanks to both of you. Jim, an additional thanks, your positive attitude was most enjoyable and your willingness to help unsurpassed. Greg Doench with Prentice Hall and Rachel Borden with Sun Microsystems Press, thanks for entertaining my proposal for this book. I remember an early conversation and my words "Oh, I think it'll be about 300 pages or so." If you double that and add one hundred, I was pretty close.

Thanks to the technical reviewers, Amy Bannister and Jerry Hoff for finding the time to review the material and provide feedback, suggestions and fixes.

Thank you to Marty Hall, author of *Core Servlets*. Unbeknown to you, your encouragement and enthusiasm early on were pivotal in my decision to write this book.

Now that it is complete, looking back I can honestly say the most enjoyable aspect was exploring the technology and creating the examples. Which leads me to give thanks to the efforts of those at Sun Microsystems and members of the Expert Group for JSR 30 (CLDC) and 37 (MIDP) for making all this a reality. An additional thanks to the development teams at Sun for creating the reference implementations of the software, in all its shapes and forms, including CLDC, MIDP and the J2ME Wireless Toolkit.

To Suze, a most sincere and heartfelt thank you for your patience, love, and support.

John W. Muchow Excelsior, Minnesota

About the Author

John W. Muchow received a Master's Degree in Computer Science in 1988. Since that time he has worked as a software and systems engineer, technical trainer and train-the-trainer program coordinator. John currently works as an independent J2ME trainer and consultant, and is also founder of The Wireless Mind, Inc. a business devoted to training wireless developers, with a specific focus on J2ME and the Mobile Information Device Profile. He can be reached at John@CoreJ2ME.com or John@TheWirelessMind.com

Chapter 1. THE BASICS Of J2ME

Topics in this Chapter

- [Java Editions](#)
- [Why J2ME?](#)
- [Configurations](#)
- [Profiles](#)
- [Java Virtual Machines](#)
- [Big Picture View of the Architecture](#)
- [Compatibility between Java Editions](#)
- [Putting all the Pieces Together](#)

It all started with one version of Java—now known as Java 2 Standard Edition (J2SE)—and the tagline "Write Once, Run Anywhere TM." The idea was to develop a language in which you would write your code once, and then it would run on any platform supporting a Java Virtual Machine.

Since its launch in 1995, the landscape has changed significantly. Java has extended its reach far beyond desktop machines. Two years after the introduction of Java, a new edition was released, Java 2 Enterprise Edition, providing support for large-scale, enterprise-wide applications. The most recent addition to the family is the Micro Edition, targeting "information appliances," ranging from Internet-enabled TV set-top boxes to cellular phones.

Java Editions

Let's begin with a quick summary of the Java platforms currently available:

- **Standard Edition** (J2SE): Designed to run on desktop and workstations computers.
- **Enterprise Edition** (J2EE): With built-in support for Servlets, JSP, and XML, this edition is aimed at server-based applications.
- **Micro Edition** (J2ME): Designed for devices with limited memory, display and processing power.

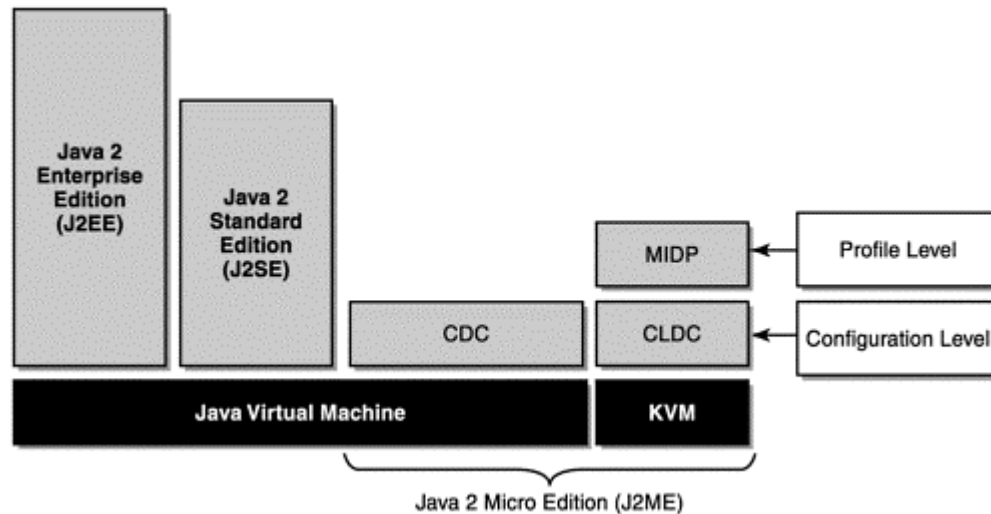
Note



In December of 1998, Sun introduced the name "Java 2" (J2) to coincide with the release of Java 1.2. This new naming convention applies to all editions of Java, Standard Edition (J2SE), Enterprise Edition (J2EE), and Micro Edition (J2ME).

[Figure 1-1](#) shows various Java editions.

Figure 1-1. The various Java editions



Why J2ME?

J2ME is aimed squarely at consumer devices with limited horsepower. Many such devices (e.g., a mobile phone or pager) have no option to download and install software beyond what was configured during the manufacturing process. With the introduction of J2ME, "micro" devices no longer need to be "static" in nature. Not unlike a web browser downloading Java applets, an implementation of J2ME on a device affords the option to browse, download and install Java applications and content.

Small consumer electronics have a way of changing our lives. Mobile phones let us communicate when away from our home or office. Personal digital assistants (PDAs) let us access email, browse the internet and run applications of all shapes and forms. With the introduction of Java for such devices, we now have access to the features inherent to the Java language and platform. That is, a programming language that is easy to master, a runtime environment that provides a secure and portable platform and access to dynamic content, not to mention an estimated developer community of over 2 million people.

Although it would be nice to have the entire J2SE Application Programming Interface (API) available on a micro device, it's not realistic. For example, a mobile phone with its limited display cannot provide all the functionality available in the Abstract Window Toolkit, the first graphical user interface released with Java. The "Micro Edition" was introduced to address the special needs of consumer devices that are outside the scope of J2SE and J2EE.

The capabilities of devices within the "Micro Edition" may vary greatly. An Internet Screenphone (a hardware device designed to provide access to email, news, online banking, etc.) may have a much larger display than a pager. However, even devices that seem similar in size may vary greatly in their capabilities. A cell phone and PDA are both limited in physical size, yet a typical cell phone may have a display with a total resolution of 12,288 pixels (96 x 128), whereas a PDA resolution may start at 20,000 pixels and go up from there.

One Java platform will most definitely not fit all. To better understand how J2ME will accommodate a broad range of consumer electronics and embedded devices, we need to introduce two new concepts, configurations and profiles.

Configurations

To support the broad range of products that fit within the scope of J2ME, Sun introduced the Configuration.

A **Configuration** defines a Java platform for a broad range of devices. A Configuration is closely tied to a Java Virtual Machine (JVM). In fact, a Configuration defines the Java language features and the core Java libraries of the JVM for that particular Configuration.

The dividing line as to what a Configuration applies is for the most part based on the memory, display, network connectivity (or limitations of) and processing power available on a device.

The Sun J2ME FAQ states the following: "The J2ME technology has two design centers—things that you hold in your hand and things you plug into a wall." This may be a good general definition, but that's exactly what it is, general. Don't let this be your sole guide in deciding which Configuration applies.

Following are typical characteristics of devices within the two currently defined Configurations:

Connected Device Configuration (CDC)

- 512 kilobytes (minimum) memory for running Java
- 256 kilobytes (minimum) for runtime memory allocation
- Network connectivity, possibly persistent and high bandwidth

Connected, Limited Device Configuration (CLDC)

- 128 kilobytes memory for running Java
- 32 kilobytes memory for runtime memory allocation
- Restricted user interface
- Low power, typically battery powered
- Network connectivity, typically wireless, with low bandwidth and intermittent access

Although this division seems pretty clear, this won't always be the case. Technology is continually advancing. Remember your first computer? What was "state-of-the-art" in 1985 (when I purchased my first personal computer) pales in comparison to what is available today.

The point is, as technology offers us more processing power, with increased memory and screen capabilities, the overlap between these categories will become larger. This is a nice segue to our next discussion, Profiles.

Profiles

It's all well and good that devices will fall within one Configuration or the other. For example, a typical cellular phone, PDA and pager will all fit the guidelines of the CLDC. However, what seems limiting to one device in a Configuration may be an abundance to another. Recall the analogy of the cellular phone screen size versus that of a PDA.

To address this broad range of capabilities, and to provide for more flexibility as technology changes, Sun introduced the concept of a Profile to the J2ME platform.

A **Profile** is an extension, if you will, to a Configuration. It provides the libraries for a developer to write applications for a particular type of device. For example, the Mobile Information Device Profile (MIDP) defines APIs for user interface components, input and event handling, persistent storage, networking and timers, taking into consideration the screen and memory limitations of mobile devices.

Beginning in [Chapter 3](#), the remainder of this book will focus on MIDP specifically. This will include everything from the hardware and software requirements to complete coverage of all the APIs.

How are Configurations and Profiles Developed?

Excerpt from J2ME FAQ (<http://java.sun.com/j2me/faq.html>): Configurations and Profiles are defined by open industry working groups utilizing Sun's Java Community Process Program. In this way industries can decide for themselves what elements are necessary to provide a complete solution targeted at their industry. For more information on the Sun Community Process Program, see: <http://jcp.org>

Java Virtual Machines

As you well know, the engine behind any Java application (or applet, servlet, etc.) is the JVM.

Once you've compiled your Java source code into a class file(s), and optionally included them in a Java Archive (JAR) file, the JVM translates the class files (more accurately, the byte code in the class files) into machine code for the platform running the JVM. The JVM is also responsible for providing security, allocating and freeing memory and managing threads of execution. It's what makes your Java programs go, so to speak.

For CDC, the virtual machine has the same specification as J2SE. For CLDC, Sun has developed what is referred to as a reference implementation of a virtual machine, known as the [K Virtual Machine](#), or simply KVM. This virtual machine was designed to handle the special considerations of resource-constrained devices. It's clear the KVM is not the "traditional" Java virtual machine:

- The virtual machine itself requires only 40 and 80 kilobytes of memory
- Only 20–40 kilobytes of dynamic memory (heap) are required
- Can run on 16-bit processors clocked at only 25 MHz

The KVM is Sun's implementation of a JVM that fits the guidelines of the CLDC. It is not necessarily the only JVM that is or will be available.

How are the KVM and CLDC Related?

From Sun's documentation: "CLDC is the *specification* for a 'class' of Java virtual machines that can run on the categories of devices targeted by CLDC and support the profiles." Essentially, the CLDC outlines requirements that must be met by the virtual machine. The KVM is what is known as a reference implementation—it is a virtual machine that meets the CLDC requirements.

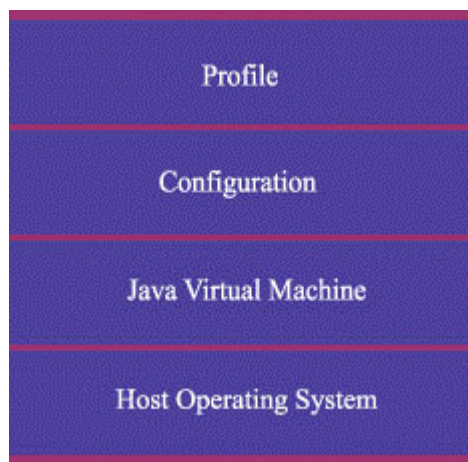
Big Picture View of the Architecture

We've covered an assortment of information about J2ME. Let's put all this together into two separate scenarios. The first is a "generic" software architecture, if you will, of J2ME. The second is the architecture as it will apply to our interests as we progress through the book.

Generic Architecture

It begins with the host Operating System (OS) as the base (see [Figure 1-2](#)), followed by the virtual machine (VM). The VM will take one of two forms:

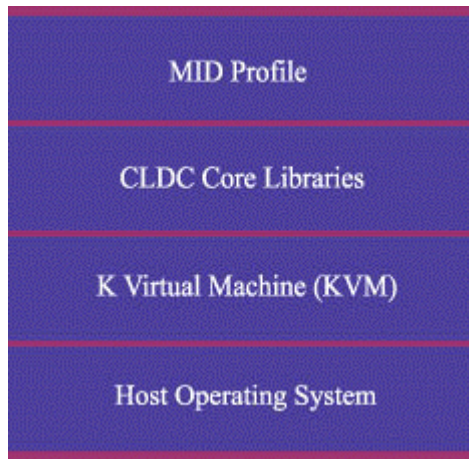
Figure 1-2. "Generic" J2ME architecture



- For systems complying with the CDC, it will be the "traditional" virtual machine; that is, the same feature set as in the Java 2 Standard Edition.
- For systems complying with the CLDC, it will be the KVM or a virtual machine that meets the specifications as required by the CLDC.

CLDC or CDC core libraries are next in the hierarchy. Profiles are the topmost layer, and are designed to provide a toolkit for writing applications for a particular device family.

Figure 1-3. MID Profile architecture



MIDP Architecture

As before, the host OS is the base. The virtual machine will be the KVM. Remember, the KVM is Sun's implementation of a JVM meeting the CLDC specification—it may not be the only implementation available of a virtual machine for MIDP. CLDC core libraries are next, followed by MID Profile.

Compatibility between Java Editions

At the beginning of this section, I introduced Sun's Java tagline: "Write Once, Run Anywhere." Now that we've introduced Configurations, Profiles and a KVM, do you think this still applies? Well, the answer is, sort of.

Will J2SE applications run on J2ME?

J2ME is basically a slimmed down version of J2SE. Many components have been removed to keep the platform small and efficient. An obvious example is that of the Abstract Window Toolkit—many mobile devices do not have the screen capabilities to provide advanced user interface components such as overlapping windows and drop-down menus.

On the other hand, if you write J2SE code that adheres only to the classes that are available within the J2ME Configuration you are targeting, then your programs will run on both platforms. Keep in mind, such applications will most likely be very constrained, with little to no user interface, as J2ME and J2SE offer completely different APIs for handling the display.

Will J2ME applications run on J2SE?

The same rules apply here. If you limit the code to what is common on both platforms, the answer is yes. However, the majority of software you write for a J2ME device will require special interface and event handling code. Thus, you are greatly limited to what types of programs will be appropriate for both platforms.

Putting all the Pieces Together

Sun created the Java 2 Micro Edition to allow development of Java applications for devices that do not have the same processing power and memory found on a typical desktop platform. Products may include cellular phones, PDAs, pagers, entertainment and automotive navigation systems, to name just a few.

J2ME is divided into two broad categories, known as Configurations. CDC is a set of APIs to support "fixed" devices such as a television set-top box. CLDC is a set of APIs targeted at devices that have limited processing power, display and memory. The majority of these devices will also be mobile (e.g., cellular phones and pagers).

A Configuration is closely tied to a Java virtual machine. For CDC, the virtual machine is compatible with the virtual machine of the Java 2 Standard Edition. The KVM, a virtual machine that takes into consideration the limited resources available on devices that fit this configuration, was developed for the CLDC.

On top of Configurations are device Profiles. Here you will find the APIs for user interface design, networking support and persistent storage. The Mobile Device Information Profile and the associated libraries are the main focus of this book.

Chapter 2. CONNECTED, LIMITED DEVICE CONFIGURATION (CLDC)

Topics in this Chapter

- [Hardware Requirements](#)
- [Software Requirements](#)
- [The Java Virtual Machine Specification](#)
- [Handling Security](#)
- [Class File Verification](#)
- [J2SE Inherited Classes](#)
- [CLDC Specific Classes](#)
- [K Virtual Machine](#)

The goal of the CLDC is twofold. The first goal is to define a specification for a JVM and the second is to define a set of Java classes (libraries). Each goal has a common theme: to support a wide range of devices with limited memory, display capabilities and resources. This chapter will cover the CLDC from top to bottom. Here is the breakdown of topics we'll cover:

- Hardware and software: A look at the minimum requirements for the CLDC.
- JVM: The JVM as defined by the CLDC is a subset of the J2SE virtual machine. We will compare the differences in relation to the Java language, as well as the virtual machine itself.
- Security: Important to any discussion on Java, we will cover both low-level and application security.
- Class File Verification: To reduce the memory requirements and application start-up time, an additional class file pre-verification step has been added, which we'll introduce here.
- J2SE Inherited Libraries: A comprehensive list of all the classes that are inherited from J2SE.
- CLDC Specific Libraries: Introduction to the Generic Connection Framework—a set of classes and interfaces to facilitate access to remote storage and network systems.
- KVM: We will conclude this chapter with an overview of the KVM—Sun's reference implementation of a JVM designed to meet the CLDC specification.

CLDC and CLDC Next Generation

Sun's reference implementation of CLDC version 1.0 is based on the following Java Specification Request: <http://jcp.org/jsr/detail/30.jsp>

Features being considered for CLDC "Next Generation" may include support for floating point numbers, additional error handling capabilities, and a minimal security manager. See the Java Specification Request: <http://jcp.org/jsr/detail/139.jsp>

All Java Specification Requests for J2ME: <http://jcp.org/jsr/tech/j2me.jsp>

For additional information about Sun's Java Community Process: <http://jcp.org>

Going Forward

The goal of this book is to cover programming for CLDC and Mobile Information Device Profile (MIDP). From here forward, we will target our discussions and examples to mobile devices. To keep with this theme, I will use the terms "mobile device" or, simply, "device" to refer to products that fall within the specifications set forth by both CLDC and MIDP.

Hardware Requirements

When defining requirements, it is very important to take into consideration the range of hardware (processors, memory, etc.) and software (operating systems and their capabilities) likely to be found on mobile devices. To keep the door open to as many devices as possible, few requirements were set.

With the exception of available memory, the CLDC does not have specific hardware requirements. The minimal memory requirements are as follows:

- 128 kilobytes of memory for running the JVM and the CLDC libraries (more on the libraries later in this chapter). Regardless of the implementation (ROM, Flash, etc.) this memory must preserve its contents, even when the device is powered off. This memory is often referred to as *nonvolatile memory*.
- 32 kilobytes of memory available during application runtime for allocation of objects. This memory is often referred to as *volatile memory* or "the heap."

Although it goes somewhat against the grain of why Java is such a powerful platform on a mobile device, there is no requirement that a manufacturer support dynamic downloading of applications and/or data. If this is the case (i.e., J2ME programs available on the device will be installed during the manufacturing process), then the amount of memory required may be significantly less.

Software Requirements

The software side is not much different—the CLDC has a minimal set of requirements. The host OS must be capable of running the JVM and managing Java applications on the device, including:

- Selecting and launching of applications
- The ability to remove Java applications from the device

The implementation of these features is not specified in the CLDC, and thus is device-dependent and left to the manufacturer.

The Java Virtual Machine Specification

The intention of the JVM is to be as compliant, as is reasonably possible, with the virtual machine of J2SE, given the memory and processing constraints of mobile devices. Instead of stepping through each requirement, let's see how the Java Language and JVM implemented for CLDC differ from that of J2SE.

Java Language Differences

There are three main areas that distinguish the Java Language for CLDC versus that defined in the Java Language Specification. [\[1\]](#)

^[1] *The Java Language Specification* by James Gosling, Bill Joy, and Guy L. Steele. Addison-Wesley, 1996, ISBN 0-201-63451-1.

Floating Point Math

Floating point math is inherently processor intensive. Given this, and the fact that the majority of devices will not have special hardware for handling float point numbers, the CLDC implementation of the Java language does not support floats. This support (or lack thereof) is carried throughout all Java code you write—no float variables, constants, arrays, arithmetic or return values from methods.

Finalization

Within a J2SE class, you can declare a method with the name `finalize()`. This method will be called before the garbage collector frees the object. Although the garbage collector will free memory used by an object, it is not aware of system resources that may have been acquired (file handles, sockets, etc.). The `finalize()` method is where you can place code to clean up allocated resources.

Unfortunately, the CLDC does not support the `finalize()` method. The specification is a bit sketchy on why, but we can make a safe assumption the overhead and/or processor requirements are too steep.

Error Handling

The JVM will support a limited set of error handling exceptions. The reason for the limitations are twofold:

- The exception handling in J2SE is quite comprehensive, and unfortunately, comes with a matching price—a significant demand on the system.
- Often times, embedded systems will provide their own internal error handling. A simple solution for the most serious of errors (from a hardware point of view, most definitely not the convenience of the user) is to perform a reset of the device. In such a case, the error cannot be handed up to you as a developer—it's too late at this point.

The exception classes supported in the CLDC are listed later in this chapter in the section titled "J2SE Inherited Libraries."

Java Virtual Machine Differences

The Java virtual machine supporting CLDC differs from the Java Language Specification as follows:

Floating Point Math

As mentioned earlier, the implementation of the Java language for CLDC lacks support for floating point numbers. This carries over to the JVM as well.

Java Native Interface

To reduce the potential of corruption to system level information, and in keeping with reducing memory requirements, support for invoking native methods and APIs of other programming languages was eliminated. However, an implementation of the JVM may link native code directly into the virtual machine. The drawback is that an application that accesses the native code may not be portable to other JVMs.

Custom Class Loader

The CLDC requires the JVM to implement a class loader. There are tight controls on the loader—it cannot be replaced, overridden or modified. The loader itself is device-dependent (read: defined and implemented by the device manufacturer), including how classes are loaded and in what manner error conditions are handled.

Reflection

In J2SE, you can use Reflection classes to get information about the running VM. This may include information about the class files loaded, as well as their methods and fields. Unfortunately, Reflection is not available on a JVM supporting the CLDC.

Thread Groups

For this JVM implementation, threads are processed on an object-by-object basis. The JVM does not support the `ThreadGroup` class—thus, you cannot perform operations such as starting/stopping a group of threads through one method call.

To mimic this functionality, you could roll your own thread processing code; for example, storing a group of thread objects within a collection class (such as `Vector`) and providing methods to start/stop all objects within the collection.

Finalization

The Java Language in CLDC does not support finalization; accordingly, this JVM lacks support as well.

Weak References

J2SE allows what are known as weak references to objects. This means the garbage collector recognizes that an object is being referenced, yet the object is still a candidate for garbage collection. Now that you understand what a weak reference is, you can set that thought aside. This JVM does not support weak references.

Handling Security

Any device running a Java application needs protection from malicious code (intentional or otherwise) that may access system information or resources. Regardless of the JVM, this type of "low-level" security is implemented using class file verification.

What is different about the JVM running on CLDC is that the verification process is now two steps. We'll cover the specifics of class file verification and the required steps in the next section.

At the application level, programs written using J2SE can load a security manager. The manager does out access, or not, through a series of method calls, checking for proper permissions.

Although this model is sufficient for J2SE, once again the requirements of the JVM to implement this level of security may prove to be beyond the capabilities of many mobile devices. As an alternative, the CLDC defines what is referred to as a "sandbox" model. The idea is that code will be run inside an environment that restricts access outside the scope of the "sandbox." The boundaries are defined by the APIs available through the Configuration and Profile(s)—access is not allowed outside these classes.

Class File Verification

Verifying the integrity of class files is not a trivial operation. Running on J2SE, the verifier code itself takes a minimum of 50 kilobytes, not to mention heap space requirements and processing time. To spread the work load on a mobile device, verification is now done in two steps:

1. **Pre-verification:** As part of the development process, or at a minimum, before a class file is loaded on a device, a software program is run to insert additional attributes into the class file. This information reduces the amount of time and memory necessary when the JVM carries out step 2 of verification. Class files will be approximately 5% larger after pre-verification.

Stack Maps

The attributes added to a class file are referred to as "stack maps," as in this information describes what variables and operands are part of the interpreter stack space.

2. **In-device verification:** Once a device loads a pre-verified class file, the in-device verifier runs through each instruction. There are several checks done to validate the code. At any point, the verifier can report an error and reject the class file.

Memory Savings

The code to verify a class file (once it has been pre-verified) is in the range of 10 kilobytes, with less than 100 bytes of heap space required. This is a significant reduction over that of the "conventional" verifier available as part of J2SE.

J2SE Inherited Classes

In an ideal world, a mobile device would run the same JVM as J2SE and have access to the entire J2SE core libraries, all 1+ megabytes. That would be nice. Now, back to our world.

Near the beginning of this chapter, when describing the hardware requirements, we stated the CLDC implementation requires approximately 160 kilobytes of memory to run the JVM and core libraries (128k and 32k, respectively). We are a few bytes short of the J2SE footprint. Obviously, a few classes had to go. Following is a list of the classes that made the cut.

System Classes

java.lang.Class

java.lang.Object

java.lang.Runnable (interface)

java.lang.Runtime

java.lang.String

java.lang.StringBuffer

java.lang.System

java.lang.Thread

java.lang.Throwable

Data Type Classes

java.lang.Boolean

java.lang.Byte

java.lang.Character

java.lang.Integer

java.lang.Long

java.lang.Short

Collection Classes

java.util.Enumeration (interface)

java.util.Hashtable

java.util.Stack

java.util.Vector

Input/output Classes

java.io.ByteArrayInputStream

java.io.ByteArrayOutputStream

java.io.DataInput (interface)

java.io.DataInputStream

java.io.DataOutput (interface)

java.io.DataOutputStream

java.io.InputStream

java.io.InputStreamReader

java.io.OutputStream

java.io.OutputStreamWriter

java.io.PrintStream

java.io.Reader

java.io.Writer

Calendar and Time Classes

java.util.Calendar

java.util.Date

java.util.TimeZone

Utility Classes

java.lang.Math

java.util.Random

Exception Classes

java.io.EOFException

java.io.InterruptedIOException

java.io.IOException

java.io.UnsupportedEncodingException

java.io.UTFDataFormatException
java.lang.ArithmeticException
java.lang.ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException
java.lang.ArrayStoreException
java.lang.ClassCastException
java.lang.ClassNotFoundException
java.lang.Exception
java.lang.IllegalAccessException
java.lang.IllegalArgumentException
java.lang.IllegalMonitorStateException
java.lang.IllegalThreadStateException
java.lang.IndexOutOfBoundsException
java.lang.InstantiationException
java.lang.InterruptedOperationException
java.lang.NegativeArraySizeException
java.lang.NullPointerException
java.lang.NumberFormatException
java.lang.RuntimeException
java.lang.SecurityException
java.lang.StringIndexOutOfBoundsException
java.util.EmptyStackException
java.util.NoSuchElementException

Error Classes

java.lang.Error
java.lang.OutOfMemoryError

java.lang.VirtualMachineError

Internationalization

java.io.InputStreamReader

java.io.OutputStreamWriter

InputStreamReader and OutputStreamWriter can be used to convert (read/write) sequences of bytes to/from Unicode.

Property Support

There is a very limited set of properties you can query about the system. Below is a list of the properties available, and a sample method call for each:

- Get the host platform / device

```
System.getProperty("microedition.platform")
```

- Get the default character encoding

```
System.getProperty("microedition.encoding")
```

- Get the supported configuration name and version

```
System.getProperty("microedition.configuration")
```

- Get the supported profile(s) names

```
System.getProperty("microedition.profiles")
```

Accessing Runtime Information

All Java programs can access an object named `Runtime` (`java.lang.Runtime`). This class provides access to system information in a device-independent manner. For example, the following code will print the values of total and free memory to the console.

```
Runtime rtime= Runtime.getRuntime();  
System.out.println("Total memory: " + rtime.total Memory());  
System.out.println("Free memory: " + rtime.free Memory());
```

CLDC Specific Classes

Mobile devices may span the gamut as far as support (or lack thereof) for file systems and networking. The Generic Connection Framework (GCF) is a set of classes and interfaces designed to facilitate access to storage and network systems, without specifying hardware and software requirements.

Although the J2SE networking and I/O classes are comprehensive, weighing in at nearly 200 kilobytes, they are also much too large for many mobile devices. The GCF was designed to support many devices and protocols, both current and those yet to be developed.

The first concept to understand is that the GCF does **not** include implementations for any protocols, it simply lays the groundwork. The actual classes providing the implementation(s) are done at the Profile level. For example, any device manufacturer providing support for the MIDP is required to implement the HTTP protocol (using the class `HttpConnection`).

GCF provides one class, `Connector`, to open any type of connection. For example:

```
Connector.open("http://www.corej2me.com");
```

If the call is successful, a `Connection` type is returned. The object returned will implement one of the six interfaces defined by GCF. These are listed below:

```
javax.microedition.io.InputConnection  
javax.microedition.io.OutputConnection  
javax.microedition.io.StreamConnection  
javax.microedition.io.ContentConnection  
javax.microedition.io.StreamConnectionNotifier  
javax.microedition.io.DatagramConnection
```

In [Chapter 14](#) we will provide more detail about the GCF and the `HttpConnection` class.

K Virtual Machine

Let's take a few minutes to look inside Sun's implementation of a JVM that meets the CLDC specification.

The KVM was designed to be as small and efficient as possible, yet steadfast in the core competencies of the Java language. With memory typically a precious commodity on small resource constrained devices, the runtime footprint is only (approximately) 60 kilobytes. Which explains where the K in KVM originates, as in, the virtual machine will run in only a few tens of *kilobytes* of memory.

Sun's reference implementation of the KVM is written in C to facilitate portability. The majority of code comprising the KVM will not change regardless of the platform. Device dependent code is limited to memory management, handling of fatal errors, processing of events, code initialization and cleanup.

Since the KVM is simply a implementation of a virtual machine that meets the CLDC requirements, as we've outlined in this chapter, there is not a great deal of additional information to provide. If you would like to learn more about the specifics of the C code that comprise the KVM or would like to learn the details of how to port the software to another platform, you can find an abundance of information in the KVM Porting Guide, included as part of Sun's CLDC download.

When we get to [Chapter 4](#), we'll download and install the CLDC, which will include Sun's reference implementation of the KVM.

Chapter 3. MOBILE INFORMATION DEVICE PROFILE (MIDP)

Topics in this Chapter

- [Hardware and Software Requirements](#)
- [MID Profile Architecture](#)
- [The MIDlet Suite](#)
- [Accessing JAR/JAD Attributes from a MIDlet](#)

At this point we need to take a closer look at the hardware and software requirements of a device that intends to implement the MIDP. You'll also learn about the architecture of applications running on a mobile device and you will become familiar with the MIDlet Suite as a means to package your programs.

Hardware and Software Requirements

There's no better way to state the hardware requirements than to simply list them out, one by one:

- The screen must support at least 96 x 54 pixels.
- There must be at least one type of user input available: one-handed keyboard (telephone keypad), two-handed keyboard (typical QWERTY keyboard) or a touch screen.
- 128 kilobytes non-volatile memory to run Mobile Information Device (MID) components.
- At least 8 kilobytes of non-volatile memory for applications to store persistent data, such as application settings and data.
- 32 kilobytes of volatile memory to run Java.
- Wireless network connectivity.

The native operating system running on a mobile device may vary as much as the devices themselves. Therefore, it is important to set minimal software requirements, leaving the door open to a wide range of devices that can implement the MID Profile. Here is the final tally of requirements as listed in the specification:

- The operating system running on the device must provide minimal scheduling, exception handling and processing of interrupts. There must also be sufficient capabilities to run a JVM.
- The software must support writing of bitmapped graphics to the display.
- Using any of the three input types described above, the software must accept input and pass the information to the JVM.
- To support persistent data, there must be capabilities to read and write to/from non-volatile memory. Remember, there is no requirement defined for a file system. Any application data that needs to persist when the device is shut off will need to be written to memory.

MIDP and MIDP Next Generation

Sun's reference implementation of MIDP version 1.0 is based on the following Java

Specification Request: <http://jcp.org/jsr/detail/37.jsp>

Features being considered for MIDP "Next Generation" may include support for HTTPS, sockets and datagrams, extensions to the low-level interface, and an XML parser. See the Java Specification Request: <http://jcp.org/jsr/detail/118.jsp>

All Java Specification Requests for J2ME: <http://jcp.org/jsr/tech/j2me.jsp>

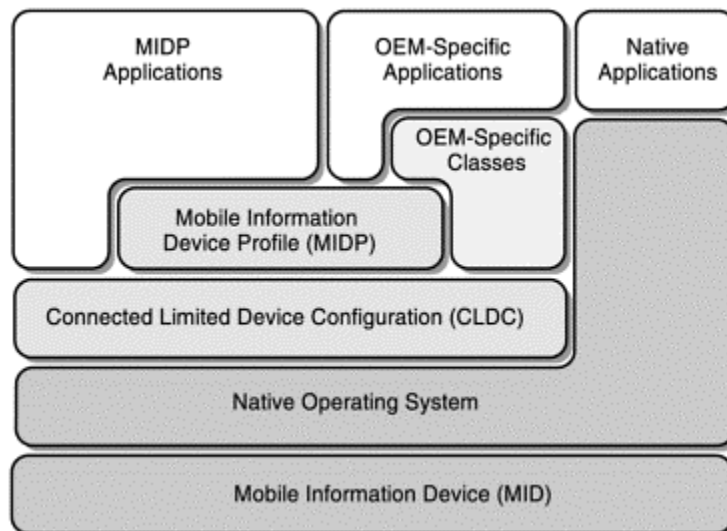
For additional information about Sun's Java Community Process: <http://jcp.org>

- There must be access to the networking features on the device (specifically, the ability to read and write information across a wireless network).

MID Profile Architecture

To visually portray the architecture of an MID we begin with the hardware, which is shown as the bottom-most level in [Figure 3-1](#). One step up, running on the hardware, is the native operating system.

Figure 3-1. Mobile information device architecture



Moving to the upper right of [Figure 3-1](#), you'll notice our first reference to an application running on an MID, the native application. Until the introduction of J2ME, these were typically the only types of programs available on a mobile device. A good example of a native program would be that of the configuration program that comes installed on the device, allowing you to set the type of ring, volume, date and time, and so forth.

The CLDC is installed on the native operating system and is the foundation for MIDP. Notice that MIDP applications have access to both the libraries of CLDC and MIDP.

OEM-specific (original equipment manufacturer) classes are provided by the manufacturer of the device. Functionality added may include options such as the ability to answer incoming calls or to

look up entries in a phone book. The downside is that these classes are specific to the device and as a result, you toss portability out the window.

OEM-specific applications may access MIDP APIs and/or OEM-specific classes. If the latter are used, once again, applications may not be portable to other devices.

The MIDlet Suite

A MIDlet is a Java application designed to be run on a mobile device. More specifically, a MIDlet has as its core Java classes the CLDC and MIDP. A MIDlet suite consists of one or more MIDlets packaged together using a Java Archive (JAR) file.

Before learning the finer points of packaging MIDlets, let's take a minute to learn how applications are managed on a mobile device.

Runtime Environment and Application Management

The Application Manager is the software on a mobile device that is responsible for installing, running and removing MIDlets. This software is device-dependent (i.e., designed and implemented by the manufacturer of the device).

When the application manager starts a MIDlet, it will make all the following available to the application:

- Access to the CLDC and the Java virtual machine: MIDlets can make use of any classes defined within the CLDC. If you recall from the previous chapter, the CLDC classes are a subset of J2SE and also include the GCF (an interface) for supporting input/output and network connectivity.
- Access to MIDP-defined classes: These libraries define and implement the user interface, persistent storage, network support using HTTP, timers and managing user interaction with the device.
- Access to JAR file: If the MIDlet was delivered using a JAR file, any classes or other resources (e.g., images) within the archive must be made available to the MIDlet. We will cover JAR files in the next section.
- Access to the Java Application Descriptor file (JAD): Along with a JAR file, a MIDlet may have access to a JAD file. If a JAD file is available, the contents must be available to the MIDlet. We will show how to access the contents of a JAD file as this chapter progresses.

Sharing Resources

Within a suite, MIDlets can share resources. As an example, it may be beneficial for the MIDlets to have access to a "common" area in persistent storage. One idea is to share the application preferences the user has configured. As the user goes from one MIDlet to another, these preferences are carried along with them, providing a consistent look and feel. We will present more information about MIDlets reading/writing to the same persistent storage area when we look at the Record Management System.

Java Archive File (JAR)

The delivery of a production-packaged application will generally consist of many files. In addition to Java classes, other files such as images and application data, known as resources, are quite common. You bundle all this information together into a single entity known as a JAR file.

Learning about JAR Files

Visit Sun's Java Tutorial online for more information about JAR files:
<http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/jar/index.html>

In addition to class and resource files, a JAR contains a file known as a manifest. This file describes the contents of the JAR. The manifest file has the name `manifest.mf` and is stored as part of the JAR file itself. [Table 3.1](#) lists the system attributes that may be defined within the manifest file.

The manifest file does not require all attributes in [Table 3.1](#) be defined. However, if the following six are not inside the manifest file, the application manager will refuse to load the JAR:

MIDlet-Name

MIDlet-Version

MIDlet-Vendor

MIDlet-<n> (one entry for each MIDlet in the JAR file)

MicroEdition-Profile

MicroEdition-Configuration

Table 3.1. Manifest Attributes

<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Required</i>
MIDlet-Name	Name of the MIDlet suite.	Yes
MIDlet-Version	Version number of the MIDlet.	Yes
MIDlet-Vendor	Who developed the MIDlet.	Yes
MIDlet-<n>	Reference to a specific MIDlet inside a MIDlet suite. This attribute contains up to three pieces of information: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. MIDlet name2. Icon for this MIDlet (optional)3. Class name the application manager will call to load this MIDlet	Yes
MicroEdition-Profile	What J2ME Profile is required by the MIDlet(s).	Yes
MicroEditionConfiguration	What J2ME Configuration is required by the MIDlet(s).	Yes
MIDlet-Icon	Icon used by the application manager. Shown alongside the MIDlet-Name on the device. This must be a PNG image file.	No

MIDlet-Description	Text describing the MIDlet.	No
MIDlet-Info-URL	URL that may have more information about the MIDlet and/or the vendor.	No

Here is an example of a simple manifest file:

MIDlet-Name: Todo List

MIDlet-Version: 1.0

MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME

MIDlet-1: TodoList, /images/ToDo.png, Todo.TODOMIDlet

MicroEdition-Profile: MIDP-1.0

MicroEdition-Configuration: CLDC-1.0

Java Application Descriptor File (JAD)

In addition to a JAR file, a JAD file may be available as part of the MIDlet suite to provide information about the MIDlet(s) within the JAR. The rationale behind including a JAD file is as follows:

1. To provide information to the application manager about the contents of a JAR. With this information, decisions can be made as to whether or not a MIDlet(s) is suitable for running on the device.
2. Provide a means for parameters to be passed to a MIDlets(s) without having to make changes to the JAR file. An example of this will be shown shortly.

The application manager requires the JAD file have an extension of .jad.

[Table 3.2](#) is a list of the system attributes that may be inside a JAD file. You can also define your own attributes as you see necessary for your application. Simply create names that do not start with "MIDlet-" and you are good to go. An example of a custom (user-defined) attribute will be shown in the next section.

As with the manifest file, there is a required set of attributes that must be defined in the JAD file:

MIDlet-Name

MIDlet-Version

MIDlet-Vendor

MIDlet-<n> for each MIDlet

MIDlet-Jar-URL

Table 3.2. Java Application Descriptor (JAD) Attributes

<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Required</i>
MIDlet-Name	Name of the MIDlet suite.	Yes
MIDlet-Version	Version number of the MIDlet.	Yes
MIDlet-Vendor	Who developed the MIDlet.	Yes
MIDlet-<n>	See Table 3.1 .	Yes ^[*] ^[*]
MIDlet-Jar-URL	URL of the JAR file.	Yes
MIDlet-Jar-Size	The JAR file size in bytes.	Yes
MIDlet-Data-Size	The minimum number of bytes required for persistent data storage.	No
MIDlet-Description	Text describing the MIDlet.	No
MIDlet-Delete-Confirm ^[**] ^[**]	Message shown to a user to confirm a request to delete a MIDlet suite.	No
MIDlet-Install-Notify ^[**]	URL to receive installation status report.	No

[*] See the Sidebar "Is MIDlet-<n> required in the JAD file?"

[**] Attributes added as part of the addendum "Over the Air User Initiated Provisioning." See [Appendix A](#).

MIDlet-Name, MIDlet-Version and MIDlet-Vendor must be identical to the attributes with the same name inside the manifest file (of the JAR). If not, the application manager will not load the JAR file. If any other attribute names are duplicated in both files, and the value of those attributes is not the same, those in the application descriptor file will take precedence.

Is MIDlet-<n> Required in the JAD File?

The MIDP specification version 1.0 does not show the MIDlet-n attribute as one that is required in the JAD file. However, without this entry, I was not able to preview MIDlets in the device emulator. Including this attribute in both files is not a problem, and actually, this may provide more clarity as to how these files work together. For completeness, all examples that include a JAD file will specify the MIDlet-n attribute.

A simple JAD file may look as follows:

MIDlet-Name: Todo List

MIDlet-Version: 1.0

MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME

MIDlet-Jar-URL: <http://www.corej2me.com/ToDoMIDlet.jar>

MIDlet-Jar-Size: 17043

MIDlet-1: TodoList, /images/ToDo.png, Todo.ToDoMIDlet

Entering Attributes

The attributes in the manifest and JAD file can be in any order. All entries are "name:value" pairs, with a carriage return separating the entries. Any whitespace after "name:" is ignored.

Accessing JAR/JAD Attributes from a MIDlet

Attributes declared inside the manifest and JAD file are accessible to the MIDlet(s) inside the suite by calling the following method:

```
javax.microedition.midlet.MIDlet.getAppProperty(String name)
```

Examples [3.1](#), [3.2](#), and [3.3](#) are samples that print entries from both files.

Example 3.1 manifest.mf

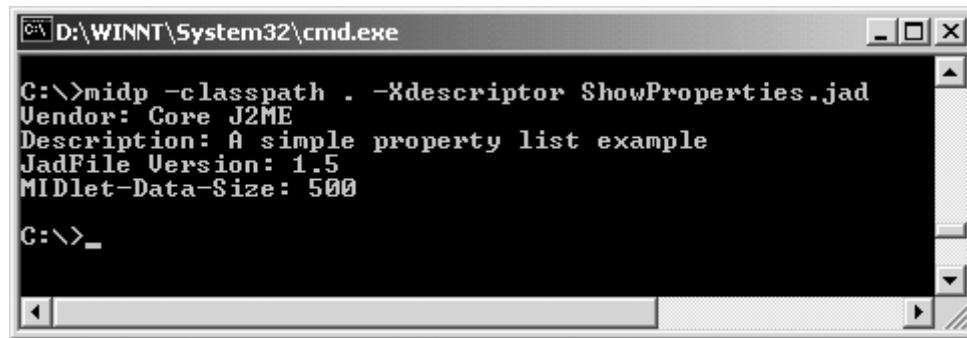
```
MIDlet-Name: Show Properties MIDlet
MIDlet-Version: 1.0.1
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME
MIDlet-1: ShowProps, , ShowProperties
MicroEdition-Profile: MIDP-1.0
MicroEdition-Configuration: CLDC-1.0
MIDlet-Description: A simple property list example
MIDlet-Data-Size: 1500
```

Example 3.2 ShowProperties.jad

```
MIDlet-Name: Show Properties MIDlet
MIDlet-Version: 1.0.1
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME
MIDlet-Jar-URL: ShowProperties.jar
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 1132
MIDlet-1: ShowProps, , ShowProperties
MIDlet-Description: A simple property list example
JadFile-Version: 1.5
MIDlet-Data-Size: 500
```

[Figure 3-2](#) shows the output of the MIDlet. We will go into the details of how to compile the Java code, pre-verify the class files and preview MIDlets in the next chapter.

Figure 3-2. Attributes from the manifest and JAD files



Example 3.3 ShowProperties.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;

public class ShowProperties extends MIDlet
{
    public void startApp() throws MIDletStateChangeException
    {
        System.out.println("Vendor: " +
            getAppProperty("MIDlet-Vendor"));
        System.out.println("Description: " +
            getAppProperty("MIDlet-Description"));
        System.out.println("JadFile Version: " +
            getAppProperty("JadFile-Version"));
        System.out.println("MIDlet-Data-Size: " +
            getAppProperty("MIDlet-Data-Size"));
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }
}
```

To keep from cluttering the code with concepts that we have not yet covered, I've kept this example to the bare minimum. Don't be concerned with any code that looks unfamiliar. What is important are the following points:

- The file `manifest.mf` is stored as part of the JAR file, `ShowProperties.jar`.
- `ShowProperties.jar` is referenced from within the JAD file with this line:

```
MIDlet-Jar-URL: ShowProperties.jar
```

- The attributes `MIDlet-Name`, `MIDlet-Version` and `MIDlet-Vendor` are in both the manifest file and the JAD file. All the values are required to be identical.
- The attribute **MIDlet-Description** optional.
- **JadFile-Version** is a user-defined attribute. We know this based on the fact that it does not appear in either [Table 3.1](#) or [Table 3.2](#). Because attributes inside a JAD file are accessible from within a MIDlet, you can add attributes to the JAD without having to change or rebuild the JAR. Put another way, you can easily change/add parameters to be passed to the MIDlet.

- The attribute **MIDlet-Data-Size** is in both the manifest and the JAD file. As pointed out earlier, when there are attributes in both files that are identical, entries in the JAD file will take precedence. For that reason, the output in [Figure 3–2](#) shows MIDlet-Data-Size as 500, the value from the JAD file. Keep in mind that this does *not* apply to MIDlet-Name, MIDlet-Version and MIDlet-Vendor, which are required to be in both files and MUST be identical.

Chapter 4. DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

Topics in this Chapter

- [Download the Software](#)
- [Install the Software](#)
- [Command Line Development](#)
- [Packaging a MIDlet](#)
- [Running a MIDlet on an Emulator](#)
- [Download MIDlet onto a Mobile Device](#)
- [Project Management Using Java Packages](#)
- [J2ME Wireless Toolkit](#)

Now that we have covered all the background information, there's one last step before learning how to write MIDlets. We need to create the J2ME development environment.

In this chapter you'll learn what software is required, where to download the software, and how to set up the development environment. You'll also become familiar with the command line tools to compile, pre-verify and run a MIDlet.

We'll wrap up this chapter with the J2ME Wireless Toolkit—a free software tool provided by Sun to simplify the J2ME development cycle. This tool offers a basic GUI for project management, previewing and packaging of J2ME programs.

Download the Software

Before going any further, we need to download the software. There are three required software packages.

1. Java Development Kit (JDK)—1.3 or greater:

<http://java.sun.com/products/jdk/1.3>

2. Connected, Limited Device Configuration (CLDC):

<http://java.sun.com/products/cldc>

3. Mobile Information Device Profile (MIDP):

<http://java.sun.com/products/midp/>

Operating System and Software Version Numbers

I will be using Microsoft Windows as the operating system as I describe how to install and configure J2ME. If you are on a different platform that is supported by J2ME, little should

change. Follow the installation instructions that accompany the software and update the system environment variable PATH and MIDP_HOME as indicated below. The installation instructions that follow were written using these software versions: JDK-1.3.1, CLDC-1.0.3, and MIDP-1.0.3

Install the Software

Here we will walk through the installation of each software component, beginning with the Java development kit.

Java Development Kit

We need to install the JDK to have access to the Java compiler and the application for creating Java Archive files (jar.exe).

Install

Install the JDK using the instructions that are supplied as part of the download. If you choose to install to a directory other than the default, make note of the path you select. You will need this as we move through the installation.

Update the PATH Environment Variable

I highly recommend you update the PATH environment variable to point to the directory where the java executable files are located. This allows you to run the Java compiler from any directory without specifying the full path each time.

For Windows 2000 or Windows NT:

- from the Control Panel choose System.
- Click Environment (or Advanced/Environment)

Find the PATH (or Path) entry and at the end, add the location of the `\bin` directory in your JDK install path. Assuming you installed version 1.3.1 of the JDK, and selected the default installation path, you would add the following to the end of the path: `C:\jdk1.3.1\bin`

Separating Path Entries in Microsoft Windows

Windows uses a semi-colon (;) to separate entries in the path. If there is not a semi-colon at the end of the path, you will need to add one, before appending the JDK path.

For Windows 98 or Windows 95

Windows includes a program called the System Configuration Editor. This program is a quick and easy way to update configurations files including: win.ini, system.ini, config.sys, and autoexec.bat. To start the editor from within Windows:

- Click the Start button
- Select Run
- Enter sysedit in the dialog box and click OK

Find your way to the autoexec.bat dialog box. Assuming you installed version 1.3.1 of the JDK and selected the default installation path, enter the following:

If there **is not** an entry for PATH add this line:

```
PATH=C:\jdk1.3.1\bin
```

If there **is** an entry for PATH, find the end of the entry and add:

```
C:\jdk1.3.1\bin
```

CLDC

Install

Open the Zip file you downloaded and extract the files to your hard drive. I recommend you use the path `c:\j2me` (you may need to substitute a different drive letter depending on your disk space availability and system configuration).

If you extract to the path `c:\j2me`, you will now have a directory structure that looks as follows:

```
C:\j2me
|
j2me_cldc
```

Update the PATH Environment Variable

You will also need to update your PATH environment variable to point to the directory where the CLDC executable files are located (the KVM and preverifier). Follow the same steps as outlined above to add to the PATH:

```
C:\j2me\j2me_cldc\bin
```

MIDP

Install

Open the Zip file you downloaded and extract the files to your hard drive. Once again, I recommend you use the path `c:\j2me`. You will now have a directory structure that looks as follows:

```
C:\j2me
|
j2me_cldc
midp1.0.3fcs
```

Update the PATH Environment Variable

You will need to update your PATH to reference the directory where the MIDP executable file is located (this is the emulator for testing your MIDlets). Follow the same steps as outlined above to add to the PATH:

```
C:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\bin
```

Update/Insert the CLASSPATH Environment Variable

CLASSPATH specifies where to search for classes that are not part of the Java (JDK) platform itself. In our case, we need to update CLASSPATH to have a reference to the MIDP classes. You will also need to have a reference to the current directory "." as part of the CLASSPATH. Follow the same steps as outlined above to add/create the CLASSPATH:

```
CLASSPATH=C:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes;.
```

Notice there is a "." at the end to represent the current working directory.

Create MIDP_HOME Environment Variable

This variable points to the location of the \lib directory of your MIDP installation. There are 2 configuration files located here:

```
-internal.config  
-system.config
```

Follow the same step as outlined previously to add/create the MIDP_HOME environment variable:

```
MIDP_HOME=c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs
```

MIDP comes bundled with an emulator that mimics the look and feel of a cellular phone. The emulator can be configured to support color or various shades of black and white (grayscale). [Table 4.1](#) shows the range of values available.

To change the color support for the emulator locate the file `internal.config`. This file is in the \lib directory of your MIDP_HOME. For example, the full path to the file may look as follows:

```
C:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\lib\internal.config
```

Table 4.1. Screen Depth Options		
<i>Value</i>	<i>Number of Colors</i>	<i>Color Type</i>
1	2	Black and white
2	4	Grayscale
4	16	Grayscale
8	256	Color

Inside this file, change the parameter `system.display.screen_depth` to one of the values in [Table 4.1](#):

```
system.display.screen_depth: 8
```

Additional Emulators

In the last section of this chapter we will introduce Sun's J2ME Wireless Toolkit. This J2ME development tool comes packaged with an emulator that can mimic several mobile phones as well as hand-held devices, such as PDAs and pagers.

Installation Checklist

If you've been diligent in following along, your PATH variable (with the exception of entries that may have already been part of your PATH) should look similar to the following:

```
PATH=C:\jdk1.3.1\bin;C:\j2me\j2me_cldc\bin;C:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\bin;
```

The directory hierarchy will be as follows:

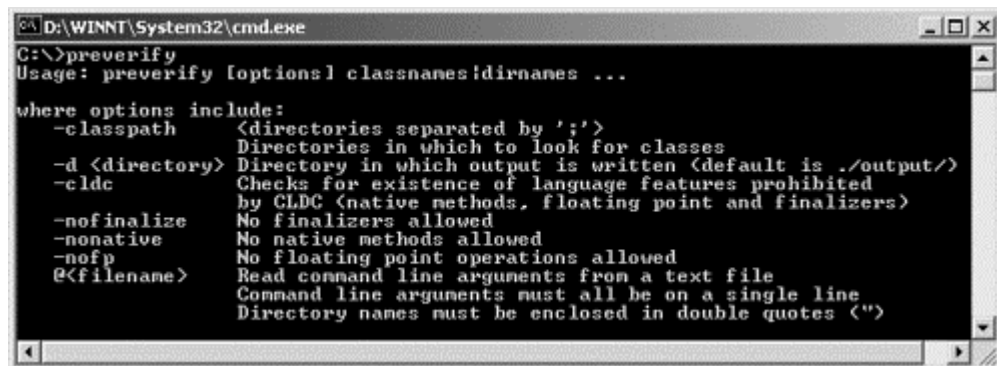
```
c:\jdk1.3.1\bin
c:\j2me
|
j2me_cldc
|
midp1.0.3fcs
```

Test Your Installation

Here are a few steps to quickly verify the CLDC, MIDP and JDK were installed correctly:

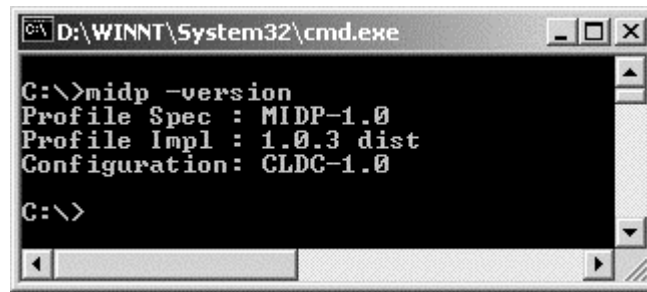
1. Go to a command prompt.
2. To test the CLDC installation, type in "**preverify**" and press enter. You should see a screen that looks similar to the output shown in [Figure 4-1](#).

Figure 4-1. Testing the pre-verifier



3. You can verify the MIDP installation by checking for the mobile device emulator. Type in "**midp -version**" and press enter. You should see a window pop up that looks similar to that of [Figure 4-2](#).

Figure 4-2. Testing the MIDP Emulator



```
D:\WINNT\System32\cmd.exe
C:\>midp -version
Profile Spec : MIDP-1.0
Profile Impl : 1.0.3 dist
Configuration: CLDC-1.0
C:\>
```

4. As a final check, test the JDK installation by typing "**java -version**" and press enter. You should see the output shown in [Figure 4-3](#).

Figure 4-3. Testing the Java Development Kit



```
D:\WINNT\System32\cmd.exe
C:\>java -version
java version "1.3.1"
Java(TM) 2 Runtime Environment, Standard Edition (build 1.3.1-b24)
Java HotSpot(TM) Client VM (build 1.3.1-b24, mixed mode)
C:\>
```

Troubleshooting

If any of the programs fail to run, here are a few things to look for:

- Make sure each program is installed correctly. Use Windows Explorer to find the program causing the problem. For example, locate the program `midp.exe`—for my installation this in the directory: `C:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\bin`. Double-click the program and it should start. If you cannot locate the file or it doesn't run, you may need to uninstall and then reinstall the application.

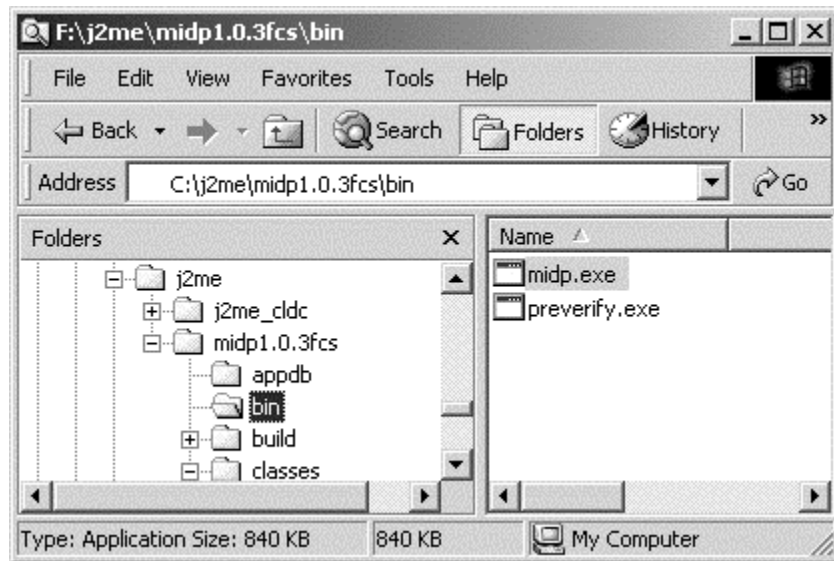
If it does run, but fails when called from the command line, you know that something is not correct in your `PATH` setting. Remember, the `PATH` variable tells Windows where to locate executable files.

- Make sure you have a reference to the current working directory ("`.`") as part of the `CLASSPATH` environment variable. For example:

```
CLASSPATH=C:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes;. ("." at the end)
```

- Verify the directory paths in the `PATH` environment variable are correct. Once again, using Windows Explorer, locate the directory of the executable as shown above and look in the 'Address' inside Explorer (see [Figure 4-4](#)). This is the full directory path to the program. You can copy and paste this directory into the `PATH` variable.

Figure 4-4. Verifying the PATH to the MIDP Emulator



Command Line Development

To learn the command line development process, it's easiest to walk through an example. Let's jump right in and write the code for a simple MIDlet that will display a textbox. You'll also see how to compile, pre-verify and run the resulting program.

Write the Java Code

To get started, create a new directory to hold your MIDlet projects. I prefer to use a directory name something along the lines of `c:\midlets`

Within this directory create a sub-directory called `Welcome`. With a text editor, open a new file with the name `Welcome.java` and enter the Java source code shown in [Example 4.1](#). Save the file in the directory `c:\midlets>Welcome` (or whatever path you choose). The full path to the MIDlet source file should be something similar to:

```
c:\midlets>Welcome>Welcome.java
```

Example 4.1 `Welcome.java`

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Welcome extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display; // Reference to Display object
    private TextBox tbMain; // Textbox to display a message
    private Command cmExit; // Button to exit the MIDlet

    public Welcome()
    {

```

```

display = Display.getDisplay(this);

cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.SCREEN, 1);

tbMain = new TextBox("Welcome", "Core J2ME", 50, 0);
tbMain.addCommand(cmExit);
tbMain.setCommandListener(this);
}

// Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(tbMain);
}

// A required method
public void pauseApp()
{ }

// A required method
public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

// Check to see if Exit command was selected
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

Compile and Pre-verify

Here's how to compile the Java source code and pre-verify the resulting class file.

1. Compile the source code: Go to a command prompt. Change to the project directory where you saved the file. (e.g., `c:\midlets\Welcome`). Compile the program by entering:

```
javac -bootclasspath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes Welcome.java
```

The option `"-bootclasspath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes"` indicates where to locate the Java bootstrap (startup) class files. We must point to the MIDP classes; otherwise, the JDK classes will be used.

The file `Welcome.class` will be created, by default, in the same directory as the Java source file.

2. Pre-verify the class file by entering the following from the command prompt:

```
preverify -classpath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes;. -d . Welcome
```


The option `"-classpath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes;."` specifies where the class files for pre-verification are located. This includes the MIDP classes that are needed as part of the verification process and your class file, `Welcome.class`, which is located in the current directory (specified by `"."`).

The option `"-d."` tells the pre-verifier where to put the verified class files. The `"."` specifies the current directory, the same location as the original class file.

Important Note

Using the above command line options, as written, will overwrite the original Java class file (from the Java compiler) with a new pre-verified class file (from the pre-verifier). You may want to separate the class files into two directories. One reason is, class files that are not pre-verified cannot be loaded by the application manager. I simply chose this option to keep the example simple. I will show you how to maintain separate directories later in this chapter.

Run the MIDlet

We've taken the easy route through compiling and pre-verifying by keeping the command line options simple. Let's continue with the trend. Here's the quickest way to preview your MIDlet. While still at the command prompt, enter:

```
midp -classpath . Welcome
```

There it is—your first, albeit simple, MIDlet (see [Figure 4-5](#)).

Figure 4-5. Welcome MIDlet



Emulator Look and Feel

When running a MIDlet, the look and feel of the emulator is related to the MIDP implementation you have installed. Many of the screen-shots for the examples in this book

were created with Sun Microsystems reference implementation of MIDP, version 1.0.

If you have installed a more current version, or are running an implementation provided by a device manufacturer or third-party, the emulator display may look different than what you see here. However, the base functionality of the MIDlet will not be affected.

The good news is, once you've developed a system for compiling, pre-verifying and previewing, not much changes. I like to put all the steps into a batch file (on Microsoft Windows OS). That way, I can run one program to perform all three steps. For example, here is a simple batch file that I used to create and test this MIDlet:

```
javac -bootclasspath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes Welcome.java
pause
preverify -classpath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes;. -d . Welcome
midp -classpath . Welcome
```

The **pause** command will wait for a keypress before executing the next command in the batch file. This way, if you have an error in your Java source file, you can press Control-C to exit the batch file, skipping pre-verification and running of the MIDlet.

Packaging a MIDlet

The previous example is all well and good if you simply want to write MIDlets and preview them in an emulator. I would venture a guess that is probably not your long-term goal. Let's look at how to package MIDlet(s) using JAR and JAD files.

Before we get into the details, let's make this discussion a little more interesting by creating a second MIDlet. This will give you an opportunity to see how the application manager handles multiple MIDlets within a suite.

MIDlet #2

The code for the second MIDlet is shown in [Example 4.2](#). There are a few changes in the MIDlet; however, the output is quite similar. At this point, concentrate on the development process more than the code itself.

As with the first example, to keep the focus on how to compile and package your MIDlets, we'll save the code explanations for later in the book.

Create a directory to hold the new MIDlet: I used a directory called `WelcomeBack`, created as a subdirectory of `c:\midlets`. Type in the code shown in [Example 4.2](#) and save it in a file called "`WelcomeBack.java`" in your new directory. Here are the steps to compile, pre-verify and run the MIDlet:

Example 4.2 `WelcomeBack.java`

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
```

```

public class WelcomeBack extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display
    private List lsMain;        // List of items
    private Command cmExit;     // Button to exit the MIDlet

    public WelcomeBack()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.SCREEN, 1);

        lsMain = new List("Welcome Back", Choice.IMPLICIT);
        lsMain.append("Core J2ME", null);
        lsMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        lsMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(lsMain);
    }

    // A required method
    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    // A required method
    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    // Check to see if Exit command was selected
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}

1. javac -bootclasspath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes WelcomeBack.java
2. preverify -classpath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes;. -d .
   WelcomeBack
3. midp -classpath . WelcomeBack

```

You can see the output in [Figure 4-6](#).

Figure 4-6. WelcomeBack MIDlet



The MIDlet Suite

Up to this point, we've been running our MIDlets, one at a time, from the command line. This works well for testing and debugging. However, it's time to put all the pieces together and create a MIDlet suite that contains our two MIDlets. Here's the basic process:

1. Package class files and any resources (images, application data, etc.) into a JAR file.
2. Create a JAD file that describes the contents of the MIDlets within the JAR.
3. Run the MIDlet suite by loading the JAD file on an emulator or download the JAR and JAD files onto a device that supports J2ME and the MID Profile.

Here are the steps to create a MIDlet suite for the two examples you just wrote.

Create the JAR File

1. Create a new directory to hold the class files from both examples: I used a directory with the name `WelcomeJar`, which I created as a subdirectory of `c:\midlets`.
2. Copy both class files (`Welcome.class` and `WelcomeBack.class`) into the directory.
3. Create a new file called `manifest.txt` and enter/save the text in [Example 4.3](#).

Example 4.3 `manifest.txt`

```
MIDlet-Name: Welcome Examples
MIDlet-Version: 1.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-1: Example1, /spin.png, Welcome
MIDlet-2: Example2, /spin.png, WelcomeBack
MicroEdition-Profile: MIDP-1.0
MicroEdition-Configuration: CLDC-1.0
```

4. Create a JAR file by running the following command:

```
jar cvfm Welcome.jar manifest.txt
    Welcome.class WelcomeBack.class
```

This will create the file `Welcome.jar` that contains the contents of `manifest.txt` and both class files. I realize this may be redundant, but it warrants being repeated: When stored in the JAR, the manifest file will have the name `manifest.mf`. The above reference to `manifest.txt` tells the jar program to create `manifest.mf` using the contents of the file `manifest.txt`.

Create the JAD File

Create a new file called `Welcome.jad` and enter/save the text in [Example 4.4](#).

Example 4.4 `Welcome.jad`

```
MIDlet-Name: Welcome Examples
MIDlet-Version: 1.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-Description: Two simple MIDlet examples
MIDlet-Jar-URL: Welcome.jar
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 1915
MIDlet-1: Example1,/spin.png, Welcome
MIDlet-2: Example2, /spin.png, WelcomeBack
```

Notice the reference to both the MIDlets:

```
MIDlet-1: Example1,/spin.png,Welcome
MIDlet-2: Example2,/spin.png,WelcomeBack
```

Each line contains the name of the MIDlet that will be displayed on the device; an (optional) image file to associate with each MIDlet, and the class file to load to start the MIDlet (Welcome and WelcomeBack).

Running a MIDlet on an Emulator

We can tie all this together by loading our MIDlet suite from a local file system or over the Internet.

From the File System

Here is the command line syntax to load the JAD file:

```
midp -classpath . -Xdescriptor Welcome.jad
```

In [Figure 4-7](#) notice how application manager has extracted the MIDlet names and the images from the JAR/JAD file and shown them on the device display. Figures [4-8](#) and [4-9](#) show the MIDlets, Example1 and Example 2, respectively.

Figure 4-7. Two MIDlets in a suite presented on device

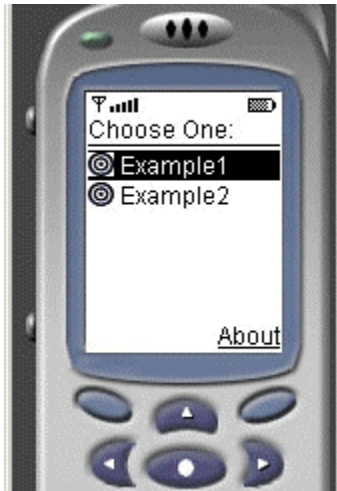


Figure 4-8. MIDlet "Example 1"



Figure 4-9. MIDlet "Example 2"



From a Webserver

If you want to use the emulator to run a MIDlet(s) that is stored on a webserver, you can reference the jad file by changing the url. For example, if I uploaded the MIDlet suite to the website <http://www.corej2me.com>, in the directory ch4/, I could reference the JAD file as follows:

```
midp -transient http://www.corej2me.com/ch4/Welcome.jad
```

The "-transient" option notifies the emulator that you want to run a description and JAR file located at a specified URL.

Download MIDlet onto a Mobile Device

The specifications for MIDP and CLDC do not define the process of downloading and installing MIDlets (deployment) onto a mobile device. However, there is an addendum to the MID Profile, "Over the Air User Initiated

Provisioning Recommended Practice," ^[1] which, as its name implies, outlines the recommended practice to deploy MIDlets.

[1] OTA— <http://java.sun.com/products/midp/OTAProvisioning-1.0.pdf>.

The document is not a how-to or requirements specification. Each device manufacturer will design and implement their own solution. In addition to downloading MIDlets "over the air" (OTA), a manufacturer may also opt to support installation through a cable connection to a computer, such as a serial or usb port.

If you would like to learn more about deploying MIDlets, [Appendix A](#) takes a look inside the OTA recommended practice. Also, visit the various device manufacturers websites to learn about their OTA support.

MIDlet Suite JAD and JAR

A JAD file is not required to be part of a MIDlet suite. The JAD file simply provides a means for an application manager to know what is contained in the JAR file. With this information, the application manager can make decisions about what to download, or not. For example, if the value of the attribute `MIDlet-Jar-Size` specifies a JAR that is too large for the device, the application manager can gracefully refuse to load the MIDlet suite. This would obviously be preferred over simply trying to load each and every MIDlet until a failure occurs.

Project Management Using Java Packages

A Java package is a collection of classes and interfaces. Packages are helpful when your code grows beyond a few simple files. Examples of packages in J2ME include `javax.microedition.rms` for

managing persistent storage and `javax.microedition.lcdui`, which provides user interface components such as forms and textboxes.

As we move forward, it's essential that you understand how Java uses packages to help keep your code organized. Also, it's a good time to introduce a better means of keeping track of class files; that is, knowing which class files are produced by the Java compiler and which are the output of the pre-verifier.

Following, we'll create a new directory hierarchy for our classes and will introduce a package statement into the Java code.

Create the Directory Structure

1. Make a directory for the new project—I used the name `Welcome Package`, which I created as a subdirectory of `c:\midlets`.
2. Within this directory, create three new sub-directories:
 - o `jclasses`
 - o `pclasses`
 - o `resources`

As mentioned previously, it is a good idea to place class files created by the Java compiler in a separate location from those that are created during pre-verification—that's what we've done here. Here's how my system looks:

```
C:\midlets
|
WelcomePackage => Java source code,
                  manifest.txt and jad file
|
jclasses      => Output from the Java compiler
pclasses      => Output from pre-verifier
resources     => Resource files (images, etc)
```

Update the Files

1. Copy the Java source files (`Welcome.java` and `WelcomeBack.java`) into the `WelcomePackage` directory and add the package statement shown in Examples [4.5](#) and [4.6](#) to the top of each file. If you download the source code for this chapter, there will be an image file that you can copy into the `resources` directory.
2. Update `manifest.txt` and the JAD file to reference the new location of the images and the class files.

Example 4.5 `Welcome.java`

```
package corej2me;

import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Welcome extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
```



```
{
  ...
}
```

Example 4.6 WelcomeBack.java

```
package corej2me;

import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class WelcomeBack extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
  ...
}
```

Example 4.7 manifest.txt

```
MIDlet-Name: Welcome Examples
MIDlet-Version: 1.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-1: Example1,/resources/spin.png, corej2me.Welcome
MIDlet-2: Example2,/resources/spin.png, corej2me.WelcomeBack
MicroEdition-Profile: MIDP-1.0
MicroEdition-Configuration: CLDC-1.0
```

Example 4.8 welcome.jad

```
MIDlet-Name: Welcome Examples
MIDlet-Version: 1.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-Description: Two MIDlets in a suite
MIDlet-Jar-URL: Welcome.jar
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 2918
MIDlet-1: Example1,/resources/spin.png, corej2me.Welcome
MIDlet-2: Example2,/resources/spin.png, corej2me.WelcomeBack
```

Note the changes to the MIDlet-1 and MIDlet-2. The class files are now referenced using the package name— `corej2me.Welcome` and `corej2me.WelcomeBack`.

If you choose to leave out the images, simply remove the reference as shown below. Any whitespace between the commas will be ignored.

```
MIDlet-1: Example1, ,corej2me.Welcome
MIDlet-2: Example2, ,corej2me.WelcomeBack
```

Compile and Pre-verify

1. Compile the source:

```
javac -bootclasspath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes -d jclassess *.java
```

"-d" option tells the compiler to write the classes files into the directory that we created, `jclasses`.

2. Pre-verify the Java class files:

```
preverify -classpath c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\classes; -d pclasses jclasses
```

"-d" option tells the pre-verifier to store the verified classes in the directory `pclasses`. The last entry on the line ("`jclasses`") tells the pre-verifier where to look for classes to verify.

Create the JAR

1. Run the jar executable to create the archive file:

```
jar cvfm Welcome.jar manifest.txt -C pclasses . resources
```

This creates a JAR file called `Welcome.jar`, using the file `manifest.txt` as the contents of the manifest file (a file called `manifest.mf` will be stored in the JAR).

"-C `pclasses` ." tells the jar program to change to the `pclasses` directory and archive all (".") the files. "`resources`" informs the jar program to add all the files located in the directory named `resources`

At this point, you will have two files:

- o `Welcome.jad`: Application descriptor file
- o `Welcome.jar`: Java archive containing the MIDlets, manifest and the image files

Run the MIDlets

To view your new MIDlets, once again you have two options:

1. From the File System:

```
midp -classpath pclasses -Xdescriptor Welcome.jad
```

2. From a Webserver:

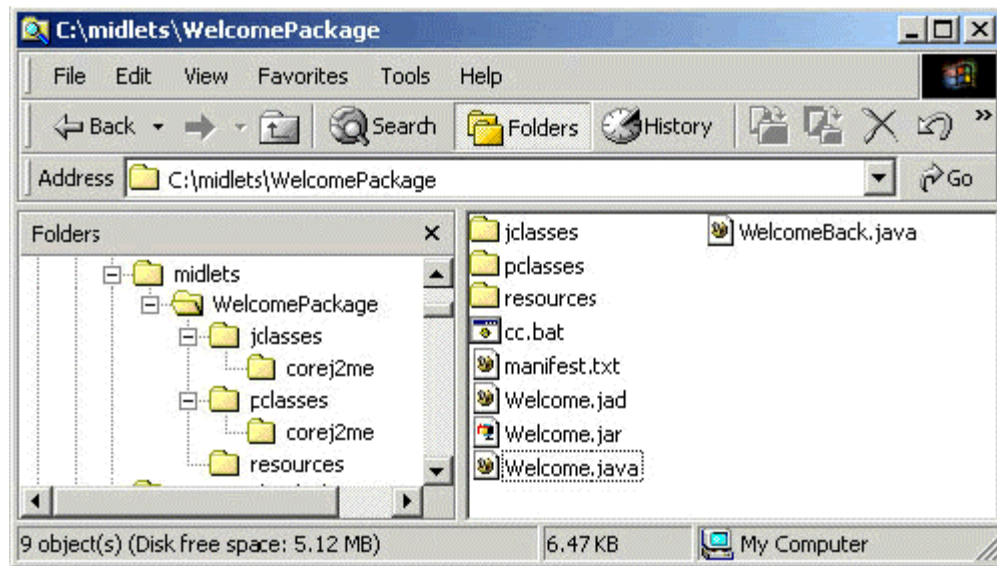
Upload the JAR and JAD files to a webserver and change the URL to point to the new location. For example:

```
midp -transient http://www.corej2me.com/ch4/Welcome.jad
```

What Have We Gained

By going through this exercise we've created a system, if you will, for managing our projects. We now know by looking at the project hierarchy that we can quickly determine what the contents of each directory are; that is, the whereabouts of the source code, Java classes files, pre-verified class files and resources (see [Figure 4-10](#)).

Figure 4-10. Project hierarchy



```
C:\midlets
|
WelcomePackage => Java source code and manifest.txt file
|
jclasses      => Output from the Java compiler
pclasses      => Output from pre-verifier
resources     => Resource files
```

As a further refinement, you may also find it helpful to further break down the `resources` directory; for example, adding subdirectories to organize your image files.

One last note: Refer once again to [Figure 4-10](#) and notice the directory `corej2me` below `jclasses` and `pclasses`. These directories were created by the Java compiler and the pre-verifier, respectively. Because we added the statement `'package corej2me'` to our source files, each program created the directory matching the package name and placed its output in that directory.

Java compiler class files are written to:

```
c:\midlets\WelcomePackage\jclasses\corej2me
```

The pre-verified classes file are written to:

```
c:\midlets\WelcomePackage\pclasses\corej2me
```

J2ME Wireless Toolkit

Although it's not particularly difficult to compile, pre-verify and package your MIDlets, you may want a little help as your projects grow in size and complexity. Sun created the J2ME Wireless Toolkit (from here forward, Toolkit) in an effort to help manage J2ME projects.

The project hierarchy that we just created, with the different directories for source, class files and resources, can be managed by the Toolkit. As we will see, it also includes a GUI interface for making changes to the manifest file and the Java Application Descriptor file.

In this section, we'll download and install the Toolkit, create a project, specify the manifest and JAD attributes, and compile and run a MIDlet. We'll conclude this chapter by looking at the directory structure created and managed by the Toolkit.

Download

Following is the web address where you can download the latest version of the J2ME Wireless Toolkit.
^[2]

^[2] The information presented here pertains to the Wireless Toolkit, Release 1.0.3.

<http://java.sun.com/products/j2mewtoolkit/>

JDK Version Requirement

The Wireless Toolkit requires version 1.3 or higher of the JDK. You can determine which version you have installed by entering "java -version" at a command prompt. If you need to upgrade your JDK software, you can download version 1.3 at <http://java.sun.com/products/jdk/1.3>.

Installation

Run the application that you downloaded to begin the installation. To follow along with the examples covered here, I recommend you use the default paths when installing the Toolkit.

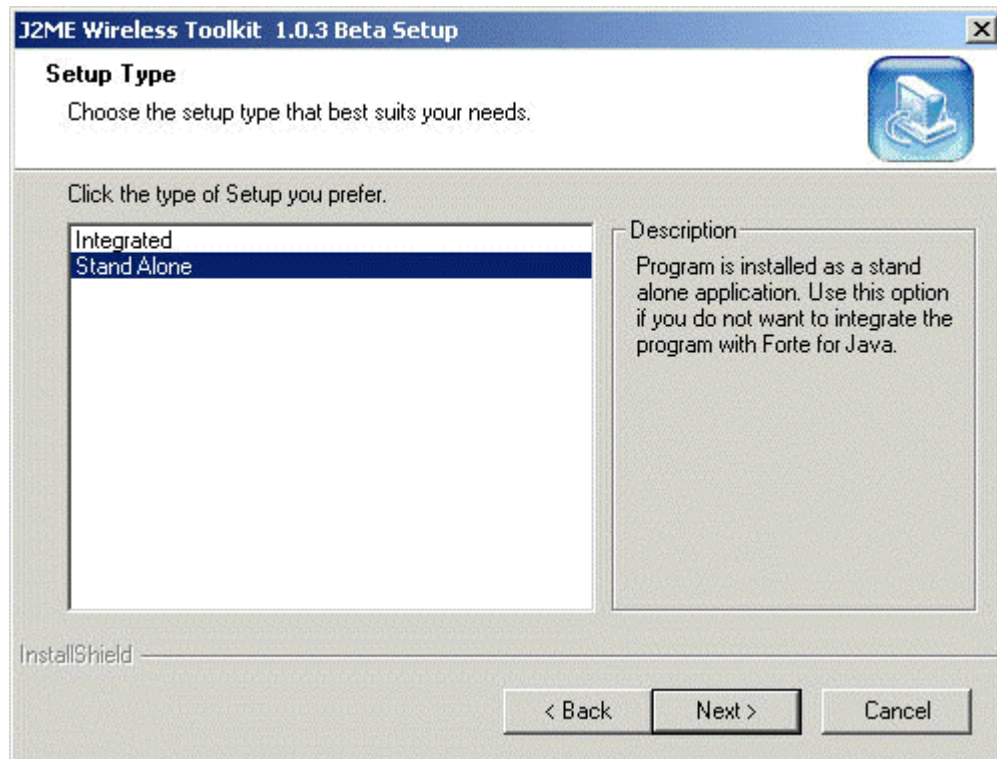
What is Forte

Forte is a comprehensive development environment that comes in various flavors. You can download versions for C, C++ and Java, among others. The Java version of Forte is available in the Community Edition, which is free, or the Internet Edition. Both include a source code editor, compiler, debugger and tools to create and deploy your applications. The Internet Edition adds support for JSP and Servlets, XML, CORBA, RMI, JDBC and complete version control capabilities.

At one point in the installation, you will be prompted as to whether to install the Toolkit as a stand alone application or as an integrated tool with Forte. Choose stand alone. Forte is a complete GUI

development environment available from Sun. Our discussion will apply to using the Toolkit as a stand alone program (see [Figure 4-11](#)).

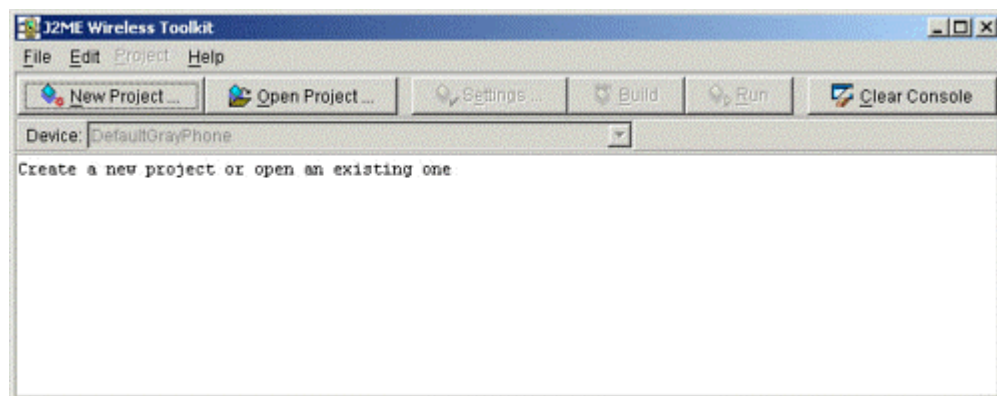
Figure 4-11. Install the Toolkit as a stand alone application



Create a New Project

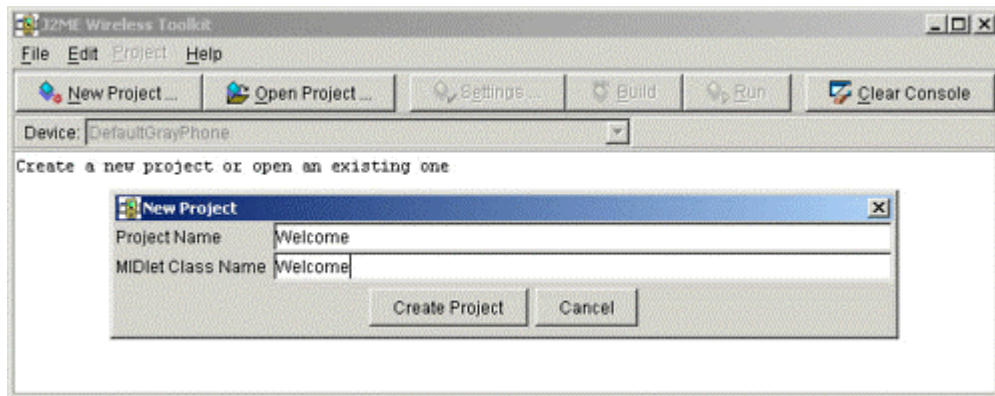
Once the installation is complete, launch the Toolkit. You should see a screen similar to that shown in [Figure 4-12](#).

Figure 4-12. The main project window of the Toolkit



Click on New Project and a dialog box will appear as in [Figure 4-13](#). Enter the Project Name and MIDlet Class Name as shown.

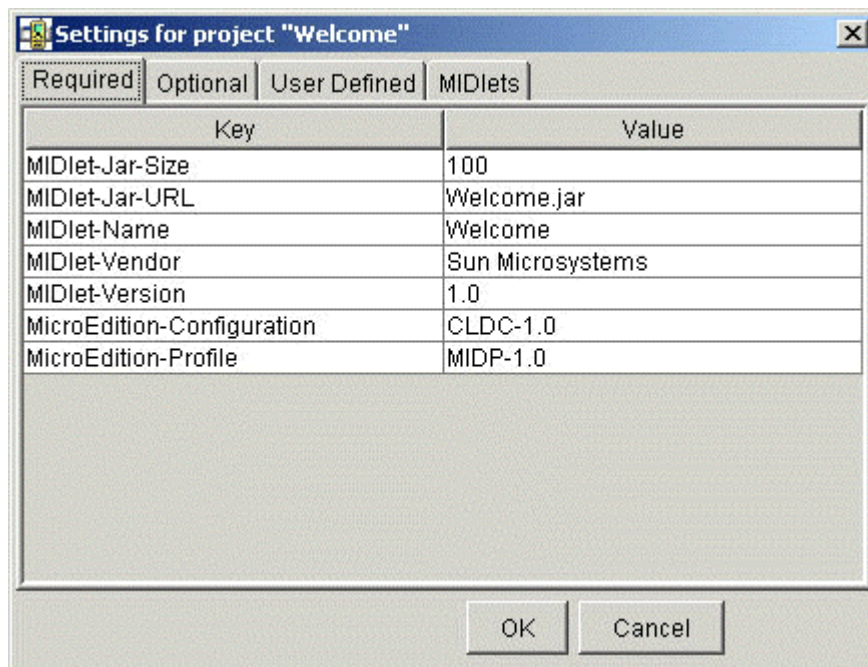
Figure 4-13. Creating a new project



Configure the Project Settings

Once you select Create Project, a new dialog box will appear that will allow you to specify the settings for the JAD and the manifest file (see [Figure 4-14](#)).

Figure 4-14. Choosing the project options



The first tab, labeled *Required*, is a combination of all the attributes that must be defined between the JAR and manifest file. In the previous chapter we learned that the manifest and JAD files must contain the following entries:

Manifest

MIDlet-Name

MIDlet-Version

MIDlet-Vendor

MIDlet-<n> for each MIDlet in the JAR file

MicroEdition-Profile

MicroEdition-Configuration

JAD

MIDlet-Name

MIDlet-Version

MIDlet-Vendor

MIDlet-<n> for each MIDlet

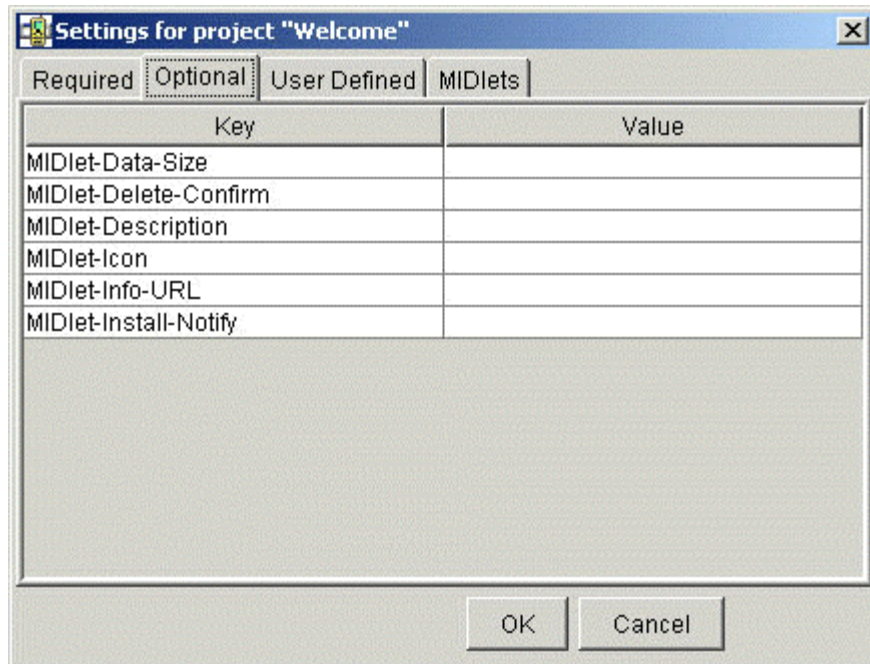
MIDlet-Jar-URL

MIDlet-Jar-Size

The only entry that is not found on the *Required* tab is MIDlet-<n>. This is a required attribute, yet it is found on the *MIDlets* tab, which we'll visit shortly.

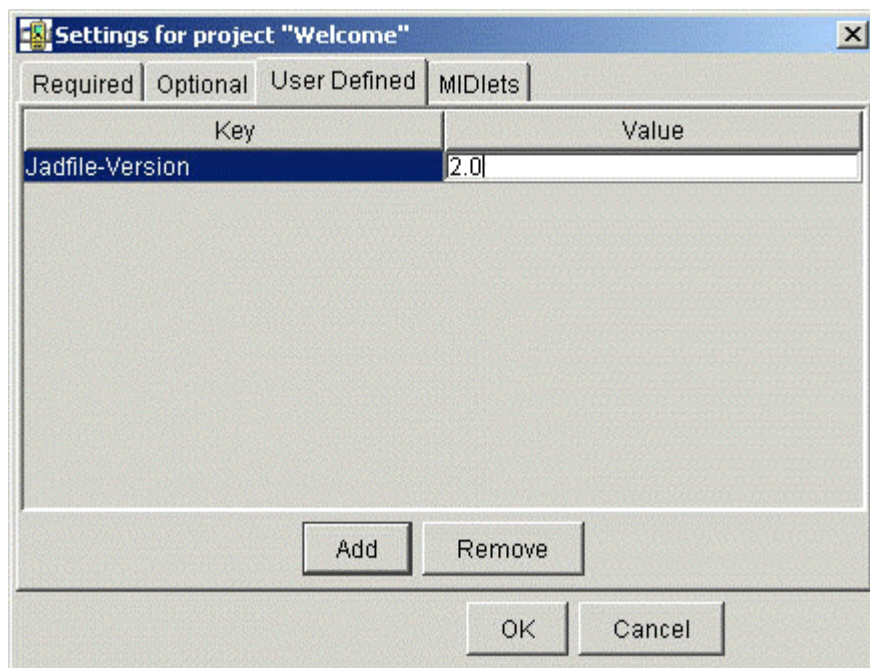
While still on the same dialog box, click on the tab labeled *Optional*. Here you will see the remainder of the attributes we covered in [Chapter 3](#), all of which are optional (see [Figure 4-15](#)).

Figure 4-15. Optional attributes



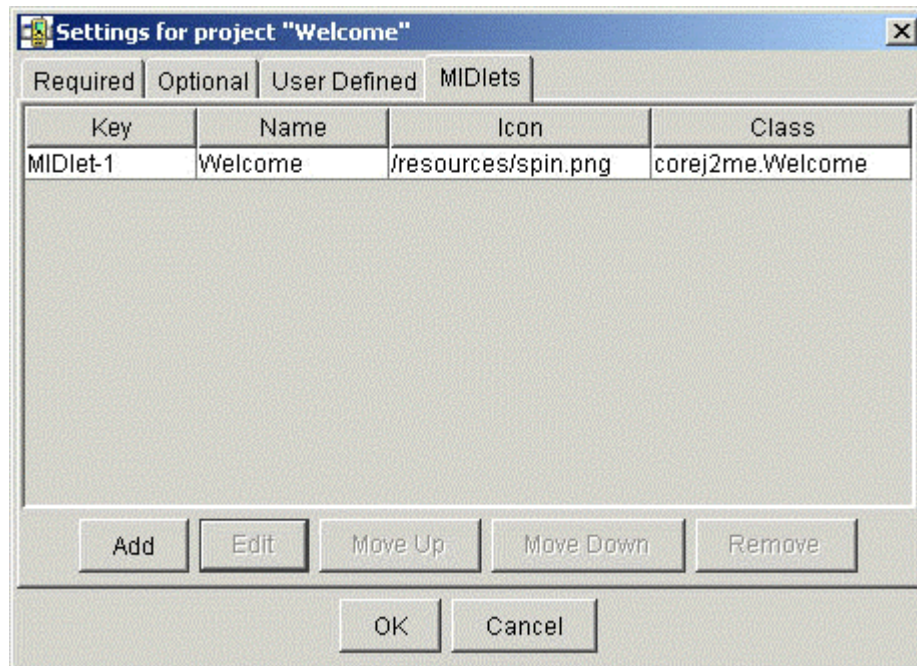
Click on the tab *User Defined* to add your own attributes. For example, in [Figure 4-16](#) I have added an attribute *Jadfile-Version* and assigned it the value 2.0. When you build the project, which we'll do in a minute, this user-defined attribute (as with all other user-defined attributes) will be inserted into the JAD file.

Figure 4-16. User-defined attributes



Finally, click on the *MIDlets* tab. Here is where you add and modify the MIDlet-<n> attributes. Modify the entries to have the same values as those shown in [Figure 4-17](#).

Figure 4-17. Configure specific MIDlet attributes



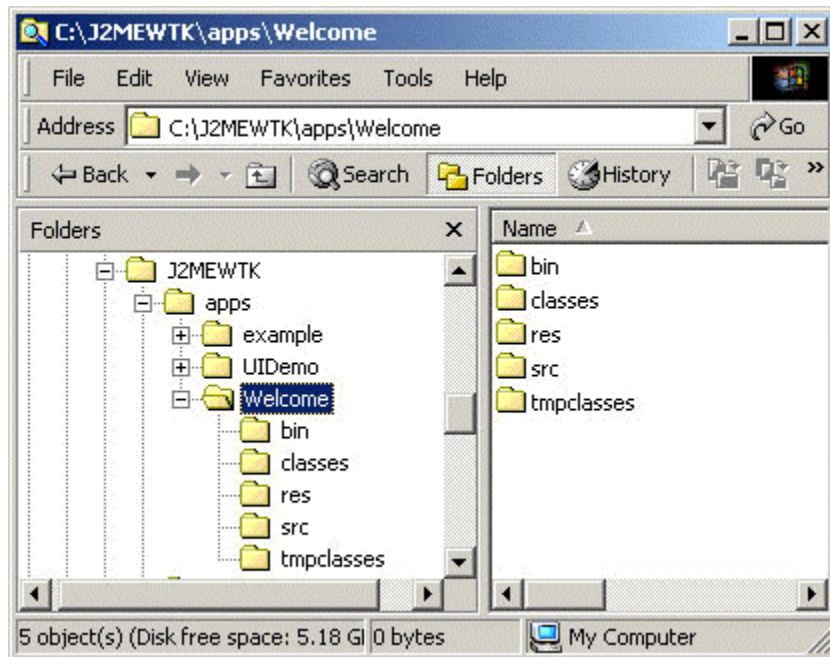
Notice the *Icon* and *Class* entries. In keeping with the same logic of our example in the previous section, I have used the same directory locations. A MIDlet entry has the following information:

- **Key:** Identifies the MIDlet to the application manager.
- **Name:** The name displayed on the device (by the application manager).
- **Icon:** Optional icon to be displayed next to the name (by the application manager).
- **Class:** The class loaded by the application manager when the MIDlet is selected.

Write the Code and Build the Project

Let's take a quick look at the directory structure that the Toolkit has created for us (see [Figure 4-18](#)).

Figure 4-18. Wireless Toolkit project hierarchy



Although not identical, this directory structure has a similar look to the hierarchy we created in the previous section, Project Management Using Java Packages (see [Figure 4-10](#)).

\bin => manifest, JAD and JAR files

\classes => class files generated by the Java compiler

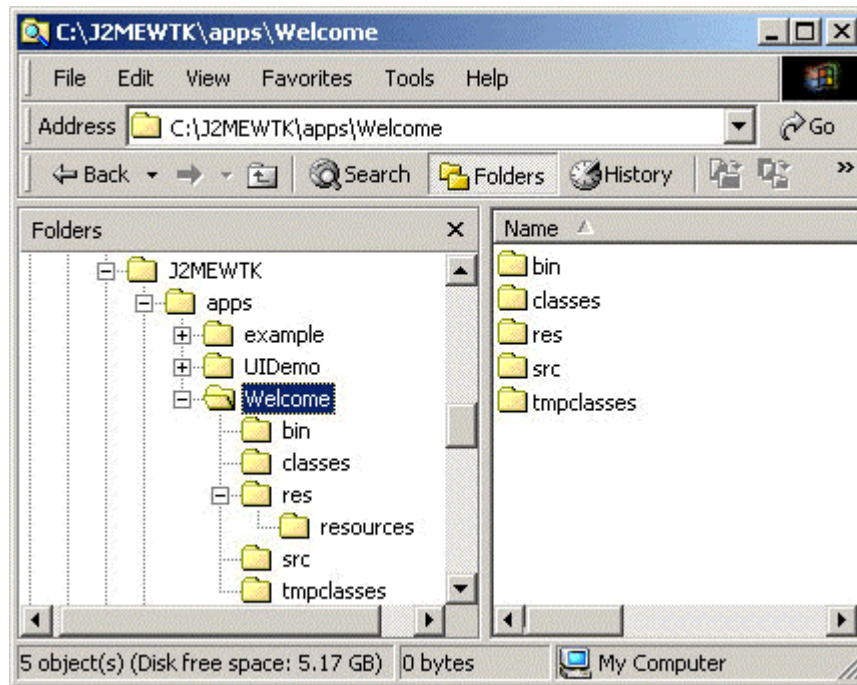
\res => any resource files (images, data, etc)

\src => Java source code

\tmpclasses => pre-verified class files

We need to make one additional directory in the current project structure. In our last example, we stored the MIDlet image files in a directory named `resources`. Go ahead and add this directory below the `\res` directory. The project should now look as in [Figure 4-19](#).

Figure 4-19. Project hierarchy with new subdirectory "resources"



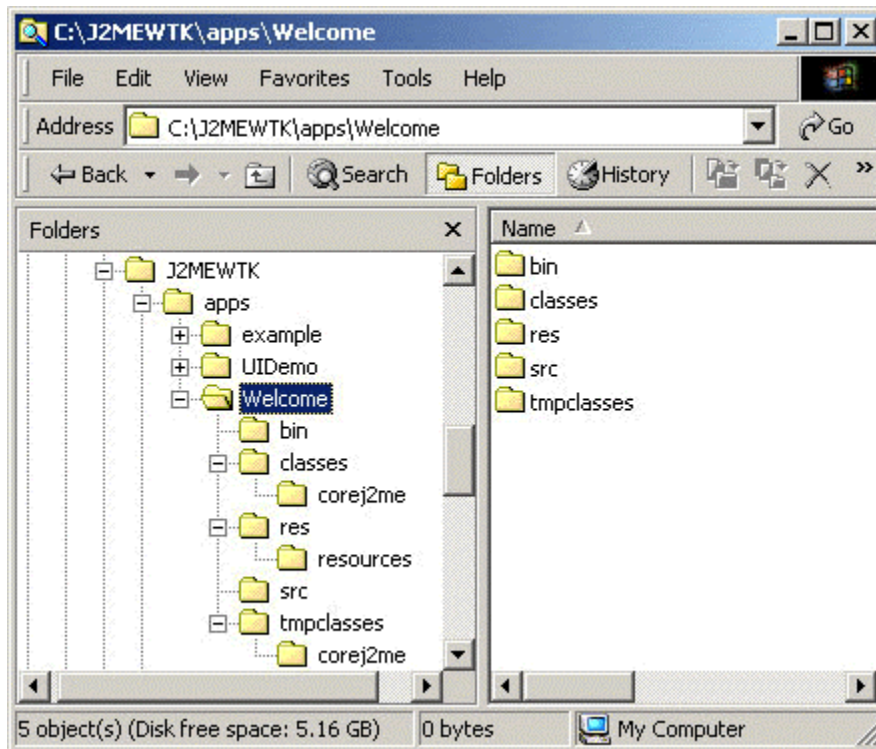
Find the source file named `Welcome.java` that you created in the directory `/WelcomePackage`. Copy this file to the `\src` directory. Also, copy the image file `spin.png` to the `\res\resources` directory.

Now, wander your way back to the Toolkit and choose the *Build* option. This will compile the source code; pre-verify the classes; and create the manifest, JAR and JAD files.

Using Java Packages

Take a moment and page back to [Example 4.5](#). This is where we added a package name to the `welcome.java` file. If you take one last look at the project structure (see [Figure 4-20](#)), you will see that the Toolkit creates the necessary subdirectories for this package; that is:

Figure 4-20. Package directory names have been inserted by the Toolkit



`\classes\corej2me` => class files generated by the Java compiler
`\tmpclasses\corej2me` => pre-verified class files

Locating the JAR and JAD Files

If you look inside the directory `\bin` you will see the manifest, JAD and JAR files the Toolkit created for you. Here are the contents of the manifest and JAD files:

Example 4.9 `manifest.mf`

```

MIDlet-1: Welcome, /resources/spin.png, corej2me.Welcome
MIDlet-Name: Welcome
MIDlet-Vendor: Sun Microsystems
MIDlet-Version: 1.0
MicroEdition-Configuration: CLDC-1.0
MicroEdition-Profile: MIDP-1.0
  
```

Example 4.10 `welcome.jad`

```

Jadfile-Version: 2.0
MIDlet-1: Welcome, /resources/spin.png, corej2me.Welcome
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 2050
MIDlet-Jar-URL: Welcome.jar
MIDlet-Name: Welcome
MIDlet-Vendor: Sun Microsystems
MIDlet-Version: 1.0
  
```

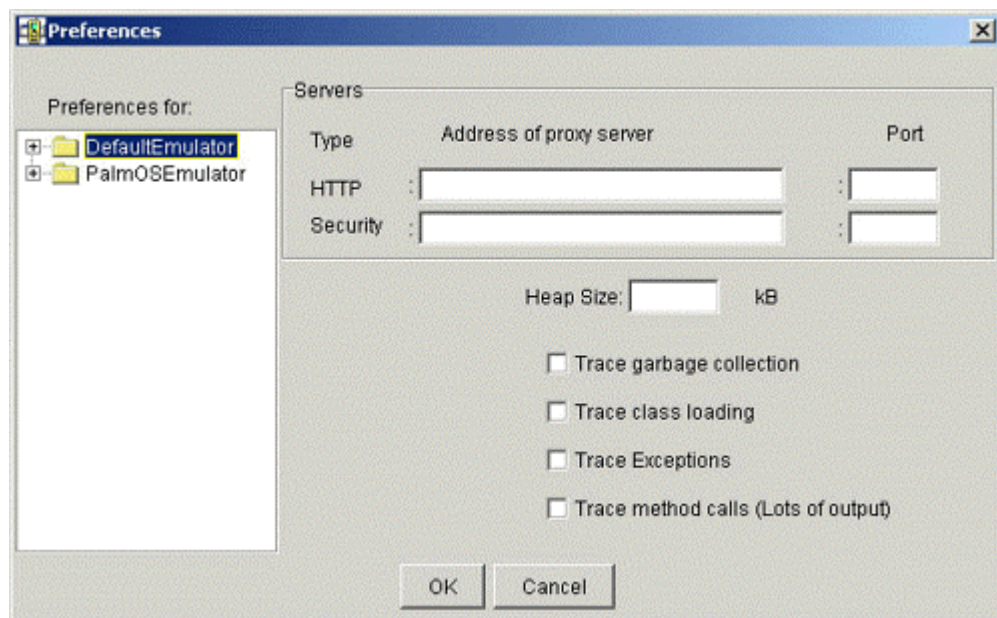
A couple points of clarification about these files:

- Notice the entries that were on the "Required" tab of the settings dialog and how they are written to the correct file.
 - **Both files:** MIDlet-Name, MIDlet-Version, MIDlet-Vendor
 - **Manifest file:** MicroEdition-Profile, MicroEditionConfiguration
 - **JAD file:** MIDlet-Jar-Size, MIDlet-Jar-URL
- The user-defined attribute JadFile-Version is written to the JAD file.
- The MIDlet-1 attribute is written to both files.

Configuring the Emulator

When running MIDlets that access the Internet, you may need to go through a proxy server. If so, the Toolkit allows you to configure the server name and port number. To configure the emulator, select *Preferences* from the Edit menu (see [Figure 4-21](#)).

Figure 4-21. Configuring the Emulator preferences



Are you curious about what's going on inside your MIDlet? You can peer inside by specifying trace options.

- Trace garbage collection: Each time the garbage collector is run you will see information about how many objects are on the heap, the size of the largest free object and the amount of memory allocated to all existing objects.
- Trace class loading: Each class name will be displayed as it is loaded.
- Trace method calls: All objects and their associated method calls are logged. Be forewarned, this requires a great deal of system overhead, and accordingly, generates a lot of output.
- Display exceptions: All caught and uncaught exceptions are displayed.

Toolkit Summary

The Wireless toolkit can be very helpful for providing project management and minimal debugging (tracing) support. In addition, changes to the manifest and JAD files can be done through an intuitive GUI interface. It may be more a matter of personal preference as to whether the command line or Toolkit approach is better.

As far as "integrated development environments" (programs that offer source code editing, line-by-line debugging, "wizards" to speed application development, team development features, etc.) we briefly mentioned Forte, which can be used as an IDE along with the Wireless Toolkit. Several other IDEs that directly target development using MIDP and CLDC are available from third-party vendors. No doubt, as time passes and the technology progresses, so will the availability and sophistication of the development tools.

Chapter 5. BASICS OF MIDLETS AND THE DISPLAY

Topics in this Chapter

- [MIDlet](#)
- [MIDletStateChangeException](#)
- [Display](#)
- [Displayable](#)

With the framework in place for the compiling, pre-verifying and running of MIDlets, let's start the journey to learn the Mobile Information Device Profile API. This chapter will introduce our first four classes, `MIDlet`, `MIDletStateException`, `Display` and `Displayable`.

MIDlet

A MIDlet is an application that is built upon the `MIDlet` class. The application manager communicates with a MIDlet through methods in this class. This communication is a two-way street. As an example, just as the application manager can pause a MIDlet (e.g., to allow a user to answer an incoming phone call), a MIDlet can make a request to be paused (and later restarted).

MIDlet Lifecycle

A MIDlet goes through several phases as part of its lifecycle and is always considered to be in one of three states:

- Paused: A MIDlet is placed in the paused state after the constructor has been called, but prior to being started by the application manager. Once the MIDlet has been started, it may alternate between the Paused and Active states any number of times during its lifecycle.
- Active: The MIDlet is running.
- Destroyed: The MIDlet has released any resources it acquired, and has been shut down by the application manager.

We'll see more about state transitions in an example shown later.

Creating a MIDlet

We create a MIDlet by extending the `MIDlet` class. This class is abstract and includes three abstract methods, `startApp()`, `destroyApp()`, and `pauseApp()`. We'll talk about abstract classes and methods shortly.

Following is the shell of a MIDlet. It includes all the methods required by the `MIDlet` class.

```
public class Shell extends MIDlet
{
    // This method (constructor) is NOT required
    public Shell()
```

```

{
}

// Called by application manager to start the MIDlet
public void startApp()
{
}

// Called by application manager before pausing the MIDlet
public void pauseApp()
{
}

// Called by application manager to prior to shutdown
public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{
}
}

```

MIDlet API

Table 5.1. MIDlet Class: javax.microedition.midlet.MIDlet	
Method	Description
Communication from application manager to MIDlet	
abstract void destroyApp (boolean unconditional)	MIDlet is about to be shut down
abstract void pauseApp ()	MIDlet is about to be placed into paused state
abstract void startApp ()	MIDlet has been placed into active state
Communication from MIDlet to application manager	
final void notifyDestroyed ()	MIDlet is requesting to be shut down
final void notifyPaused ()	MIDlet is requesting to be paused
final void resumeRequest ()	MIDlet is requesting to become active (after being paused)
Attribute request from MIDlet to application manager	
final String getAppProperty (String key)	Get attributes from JAR and/or JAD files

Communication from Application Manager

When a MIDlet is about to be placed into the active state, the application manager will call `startApp()`. This method may be called many times throughout the lifecycle of a MIDlet. Therefore, it's important to think carefully about what you place inside this method. For example, code that needs to persist across the lifetime of the MIDlet should be allocated once, inside the constructor, not here, where it maybe run multiple times.

In many cases this method does little more than request a `Displayable` object (we'll cover more on this shortly) be made visible:

```

public void startApp()
{
    // Make the main form visible
}

```



```

    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

```

`pauseApp()` is a notification that the MIDlet is about to be placed into the paused state. The intention is that the MIDlet will free as many resources as possible.

`destroyApp()` signals the MIDlet that it is about to be shut down. Any resources that are still in use by the MIDlet need to be released at this time. This method can also be called by the MIDlet itself to begin shutdown; for example, when a user requests to exit the application. See `notifyDestroyed()` later.

Communication to Application Manager

When a MIDlet needs to shut itself down, (e.g., if a user opted to exit the MIDlet), the method `notifyDestroyed()` can be called to signal the application manager of the request.

A typical sequence may go as follows:

- User requests to exit
- Call `destroyApp()` to clean up any resources
- Call `notifyDestroyed()` to tell application manager it is safe to shut down the MIDlet

It is important to note that before calling `notifyDestroyed()`, the MIDlet is responsible for releasing any resources.

If a MIDlet would like to be placed into the paused state, `notifyPaused()` will send the request to the application manager.

Once paused, `resumeRequest()` tells the application manager that the MIDlet is ready to be active once again.

Query MIDlet Attributes

`getAppProperty()` can request the application manager to query for various attributes from the JAD file ([Table 3.2](#)) and the manifest file (stored in the JAR) ([Table 3.1](#)) as well as any user-defined attributes.

The following code is a partial listing of how you might call this method.

```

System.out.println("Vendor: " +
    getAppProperty("MIDlet-Vendor"));
System.out.println("Description: " +
    getAppProperty("MIDlet-Description"));
System.out.println("MIDlet-Data-Size: " +
    getAppProperty("MIDlet-Data-Size"));

```

Access to these attributes is one way in which a MIDlet suite can pass parameters to your MIDlet. See [Chapter 3](#), [Example 3.3](#), which shows how to query attributes and print the results to the console.

Example: Following State Transitions

We can watch a MIDlet go through several state transitions by printing messages inside the methods that are called whenever a state change takes place (see [Example 5.1](#)).

Example 5.1 StateTransitions.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;

public class StateTransitions extends MIDlet
{
    public StateTransitions()
    {
        System.out.println("Inside constructor()");
    }

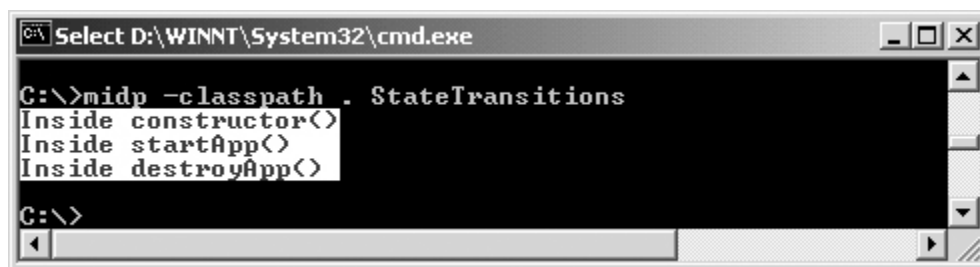
    // A required method
    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet
    public void startApp()
    {
        System.out.println("Inside startApp()");
    }

    // A required method
    // Called by application manager before pausing the MIDlet
    public void pauseApp()
    {
        System.out.println("Inside pauseApp()");
    }

    // A required method
    // Called by application manager to prior to shutdown
    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    {
        System.out.println("Inside destroyApp()");
    }
}
```

This MIDlet does little more than show a brief message as it changes state (see [Figure 5-1](#)). Notice the messages as the MIDlet constructor is called, followed by `startApp()`, and ending with `destroyApp()` once the MIDlet is about to be shut down.

Figure 5-1. Displaying state transitions of a MIDlet



One clarification is in order. A moment ago I mentioned that a MIDlet is placed in the Paused state after the constructor is called. However, from the output of this program, you'll notice the Paused method is never invoked. So why is this? You can think of it this way: The program must be placed

into some state when it is loaded into memory. This will always be the Paused state. Since this is done internally by the application manager, it is not necessary to call `pauseApp()`. Rest assured, all future requests by the application manager to pause the MIDlet will go through `pauseApp()`.

Here is one more point of interest. Earlier I mentioned that `startApp()`, `pauseApp()` and `destroyApp()` are all abstract methods inside the class `MIDlet`. When we declare a MIDlet using "extends"

```
public class TestMIDlet extends MIDlet
```

and do not specify the class as abstract, we agree to implement all abstract methods, even if the body of the methods contains no code. Our agreement is based on the definition of an abstract class/method in the Java language. See the Sidebar "Inside Abstract Classes and Methods" for more information.

MIDletStateChangeException

During the course of a MIDlet's lifecycle, if an error occurs when changing states, this exception is thrown. Two methods within the `MIDlet` class can also throw `MIDletStateChangeException`: `destroyApp()` and `startApp()`.

Quick Review: Inside Abstract Classes and Methods

Using the keyword *abstract* in a method declaration (`public abstract void pauseApp()`) indicates that the method has no implementation inside the class in which the method is declared. Rather, it is up to a subclass to provide the method body. The only exception is, if a subclass is declared as an abstract class, then the body of an abstract method can be deferred even further, to a subclass of that class. Once you define a method as abstract, the class itself must be declared abstract.

So why use an abstract class? The short answer is, the ability to encapsulate what we consider common functionality for all subclasses. For example, the `MIDlet` class is declared as abstract:

```
public abstract class MIDlet {  
    ...  
    protected abstract void startApp()  
        throws MIDletStateChangeException;  
    protected abstract void pauseApp();  
    protected abstract void destroyApp(boolean  
        unconditional) throws  
        MIDletStateChangeException;  
}
```

With this definition, we know that any subclass of a `MIDlet` will provide an implementation of these three methods. The only exception is that, if a subclass is declared as abstract, then these methods may be deferred to a subclass further down the hierarchy.

So as an application developer, when would you throw such an exception? Here's a possible scenario: When a user requests to exit a MIDlet, in most cases, the application manager will immediately try to shut down the MIDlet. However, what if a MIDlet is receiving data over a network connection? It would be much preferred to finish receiving the data before being shut down.

We can throw this exception, in essence, requesting the application manager to let us continue. [Example 5.2](#) shows how to throw and catch this exception.

Table 5.2. MIDletStateChangeException Class: javax.microedition.midlet.MIDletStateChangeException	
<i>Constructor</i>	<i>Description</i>
MIDletStateChangeException()	Create exception object with no text
MIDletStateChangeException(String s)	Create exception object with text

MIDletStateChangeException API

There are two constructors for creating this exception, one with and one without a text message. (see [Table 5.2](#)).

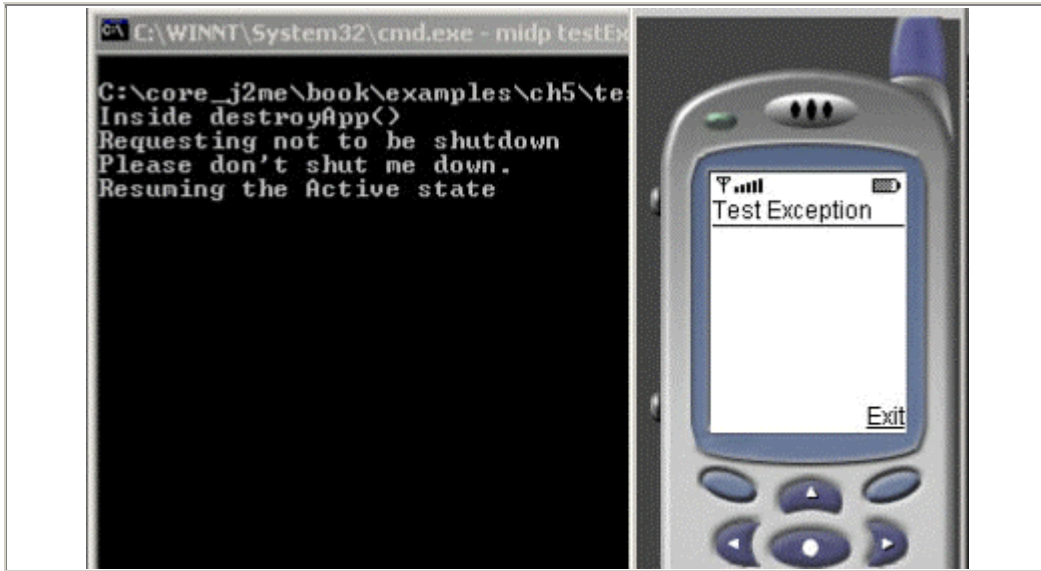
Example: Throwing an Exception

Let's look at example where we will both throw and catch this exception. The MIDlet below will display a `Form` with a simple message and a `Command` (button) labeled "Exit."

Command versus Button

A `Command` is an object that holds information about an action, such as a user requesting to exit a MIDlet. [Figure 5-2](#) shows a `Command` with the label "Exit" that is mapped to the button directly below the label. As we'll see in the [Chapter 6](#) when we discuss event processing, `Commands` are not always shown on the display next to a button. However, as it applies to this chapter, whenever we use the term `Command`, it is sufficient to think of it as a button on a device.

Figure 5-2. Throwing and catching MIDletStateChangeException



As stated earlier, when a user requests to exit a MIDlet, the application manager will attempt to immediately stop the MIDlet. This example throws and catches the `MIDletStateChangeException`. Doing so will give our MIDlet another chance to wrap up any ongoing activity, such as completing a download of data. Our example will go like this: The first time the user presses the Exit button, we will call:

```
destroyApp(false);
```

By passing in `false`, we are informing the method that this is **not** an unconditional exit. `destroyApp()` will throw a `MIDletStateChangeException`, requesting that we not be shutdown. We will catch this exception inside `commandAction()` and set a flag indicating that the next time the Exit button is pressed we will be ready to exit. The MIDlet will then continue running or, using our analogy, continue downloading data until the user once again requests to exit.

Example 5.2 TestException.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class TestException extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display      // Reference to Display
                                object
    private Form fmMain;        // A form
    private Command cmExit;     // A button to exit the MIDlet
    private boolean safeToExit = false; // Is it safe to exit?

    // MIDlet constructor
    public TestException()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        fmMain = new Form("Test Exception");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
    }
}
```

```

    fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
}

// Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

// We are about to be placed in the Paused state
public void pauseApp()
{
}

// We are about to enter the Destroyed state
public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional) throws
    MIDletStateChangeException
{
    System.out.println("Inside destroyApp()");
    // If we do not need to unconditionally exit
    if (unconditional == false)
    {
        System.out.println("Requesting not to be shutdown");
        throw new MIDletStateChangeException("Please don't
            shut me down.");
    }
}

// Check to see if the Exit command was selected
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        try
        {
            // Are we ready to exit yet?
            if (safeToExit == false)
                destroyApp(false);
            else
            {
                destroyApp(true);
                notifyDestroyed();
            }
        }
        catch (MIDletStateChangeException excep)
        {
            safeToExit = true;    // Next time, let's exit
            System.out.println(excep.getMessage());
            System.out.println("Resuming the Active state");
        }
    }
}
}

```

Don't worry if feel you've missed the boat when looking at the code and reading the description that follows. We have yet to cover all the classes. However, we'll give you enough information to get you through this example.

This MIDlet has a `Form` and a `Command` (button) that will make up the user interface. To access these objects, we need to add an import statement:

```
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
```

Our class declaration has also been modified with an "implements" clause:

```
public class TestException extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
```

Because we will add a `Command` to the device display, we need some way to interact with that `Command`. `CommandListener` is just part of the interaction. We'll get to the rest in a moment.

```
private Form fmMain;           // A form
private Command cmExit;        // A button to exit the MIDlet
private boolean safeToExit = false; // Is it safe to exit
```

`fmMain` and `cmExit` declare objects that will appear on the display of the device. `safeToExit` is a flag indicating whether or not we are willing to shut down the MIDlet.

The MIDlet constructor, `TestException()`, gets a reference to the display and also creates a new `Command` (our Exit button) and a new `Form`:

```
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
```

The first line above adds (associates) the "Exit" `Command` to the `Form`. The second line creates a listener to facilitate event handling. When an event occurs (such as a user pressing the "Exit" button), the method `commandAction()` is called.

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        try
        {
            // Are we ready to exit yet?
            if (safeToExit == false)
                destroyApp(false);
            else
            {
                destroyApp(true);
                notifyDestroyed();
            }
        }
        catch (MIDletStateChangeException excep)
        {
            safeToExit = true; // Next time, let's exit
            System.out.println(excep.getMessage());
            System.out.println("Resuming the Active state");
        }
    }
}
```

The first check inside this method is to see if the event that was captured is from the "Exit" `Command`. If yes, we check the `safeToExit` variable to see if it set to `false`. If so, we call `destroyApp(false)`.

Inside `destroyApp()` will throw an exception if the value passed in is `false`. This exception is then caught inside in the `commandAction()` method. We will set the `safeToExit` variable to `true`, and the MIDlet will continue running.

The next time the Exit `Command` is requested, `safeToExit` will be `true` and we'll call `destroyApp(true)`. Passing in `true` signals that this is an unconditional exit; that is, the MIDlet will be shut down upon exiting `destroyApp()`, no questions asked.

[Figure 5-2](#) shows the messages written to the console after selecting Exit `Command` once. The second time the Exit `Command` is requested, the MIDlet will be shut down.

Display

Each MIDlet has a reference to **one** `Display` object. This object can retrieve information about the current display (e.g., the range of colors supported) and includes methods for requesting that objects (`Forms`, `TextBoxes`, etc.) be displayed. The `Display` object is best thought of as the manager of the display controlling what is shown on the device and when.

Although there is only one `Display` object per MIDlet, there may be many objects within a MIDlet that may be displayable—`Forms`, `TextBoxes`, `ChoiceGroups`, and so forth. We'll cover this idea when we discuss the `Displayable` object in the next section.

Creating a Display Object

A `Display` object is made available to a MIDlet through a call to a static method declared inside the `Display` class. This reference is often held for the lifetime of the MIDlet in a variable, as shown here.

```
public class DisplayStats extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display; // Reference to Display object

    // MIDlet constructor
    public DisplayStats()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        ...
    }
    ...
}
```

Display API

The methods for getting and setting the current `Displayable` will make more sense near the end of this chapter when we introduce the `Displayable` class. Here's the general idea: displayable

components are those that have a visual appearance on a device (a `Form`, `TextBox`, `Canvas`, etc.). Each is a subclass of `Displayable`. The methods `getCurrent()` and `setCurrent()` are used to move between various displayable components.

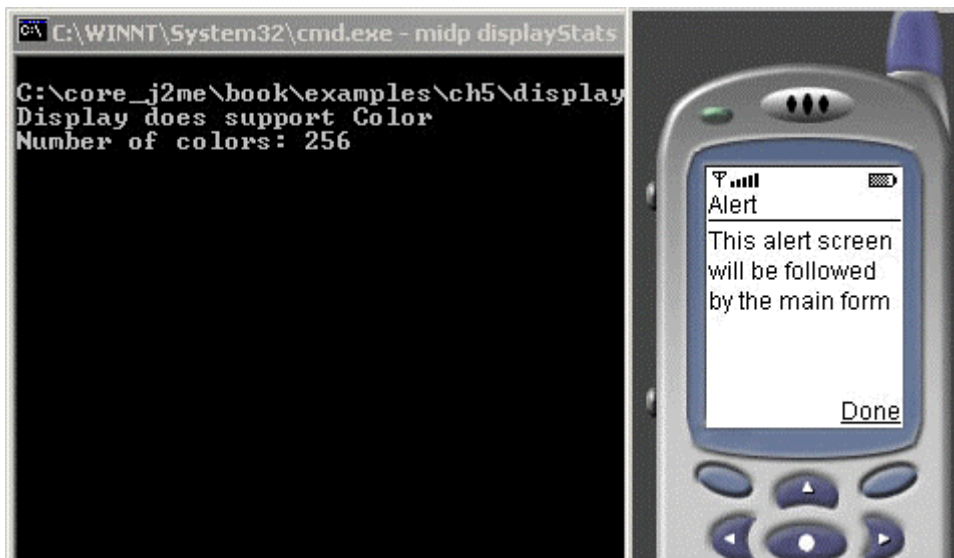
Table 5.3. Display Class: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Display</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
static <code>Display</code> getDisplay (<code>MIDlet</code> m)	Get <code>Display</code> object for this <code>MIDlet</code>
<code>Displayable</code> getCurrent ()	Get current <code>Displayable</code> object
void setCurrent (<code>Alert</code> alert, <code>Displayable</code> nextDisplayable)	Show an <code>Alert</code> followed by the specified <code>Displayable</code> object
void setCurrent (<code>Displayable</code> nextDisplayable)	Show a new <code>Displayable</code> object
boolean isColor ()	Does the device support color?
int numColors ()	How many colors (or shades of gray) are available?
void callSerially (<code>Runnable</code> r)	Request a <code>Runnable</code> object be called after repainting

Example: Getting Device Information

[Example 5.3](#) uses two methods inside the `Display` class to report information about color support on a device.

Although we have yet to introduce the `Alert` class, I've opted to show an example of the method `setCurrent(Alert, Displayable)` from [Table 5.3](#). Don't worry about the specifics of the `Alert` at this point. You can look ahead to [Chapter 8](#) if you are curious about any of the parameters passed to the `Alert` object. In a sentence, an `Alert` is a dialog box that displays a text message along with an (optional) image. The output for this example is shown in [Figure 5-3](#).

Figure 5-3. An `Alert` dialog and writing to the console the number of colors supported on the device



Example 5.3 DisplayStats.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class DisplayStats extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;       // A form
    private Alert alTest;      // An Alert
    private Command cmExit;    // A button to exit the MIDlet
    // MIDlet constructor
    public DisplayStats()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        fmMain = new Form("Welcome");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

        System.out.println("Display " + (display.isColor() ?
            "does" : "does not") + " support Color");
        System.out.println("Number of colors: " + display.numColors());
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        alTest = new Alert("Alert", "This alert screen
            will be followed by the main form", null, null);
        alTest.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
        display.setCurrent(alTest, fmMain);
    }

    // We are about to be placed in the Paused state
    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    // We are about to enter the Destroyed state
    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    {
    }

    // Check to see if the Exit command was selected
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(true);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}
```

Even if you don't understand each line, the majority of the code should look familiar to that of the previous example. I have added a declaration for the `Alert` near the top of the file. Also, the following code creates the new `Alert` object and sets the timeout value to `FOREVER`, meaning this `Alert` will be on the display until the user selects the "Done" Command. Such a display is often referred to as modal.

```
alTest = new Alert("Alert", "This alert screen will be  
    followed by the main form", null, null);  
alTest.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
```

With one call, we notify the application manager to display the `Alert` we just defined, and once dismissed, display our main `Form`, `fmMain`:

```
display.setCurrent(alTest, fmMain);
```

Displayable

As mentioned in the previous section, there is only one `Display` object per MIDlet. However, a `Display` can show any number of `Displayable` objects. As the name implies, a `Displayable` object can be viewed on a device. The MIDP includes two subclasses of `Displayable`: `Screen` and `Canvas`. Here are a few class definitions to help clarify:

```
abstract public class Displayable  
public abstract class Canvas extends Displayable  
public abstract class Screen extends Displayable
```

Objects that subclass `Screen` (`Textbox`, `List`, `Form` and `Alert`) are all high-level user interface components, as their implementation and presentation on the device are handled for you. The `Canvas` object is used for custom graphics and low-level event handling, such as when writing games, and requires a little more finesse on your part to update the display.

Creating Displayable Object

We don't create `Displayable` objects directly; instead, we reference subclasses of `Displayable`. For example, as you saw earlier, `Screen` and `Canvas` extend the `Displayable` class. Thus, we can extend either of these classes, which in turn gives us access to the `Displayable` methods.

Here are three general ways which this is done:

1. Extend the `Canvas` class directly:

```
public class GameScreen extends Canvas  
{  
    draw images, shapes, text ...  
}
```

2. Use subclasses of `Screen`:

MIDP includes several components that are subclasses of `Screen`: these include `TextBox`, `List`, `Form` and `Alert`. Using these classes you don't need to subclass `Screen` directly. For example, here are a few lines to create a `Form` and `TextBox`.

```
private Form fmMain;
private TextBox tbMessage;
...
fmMain = new Form("Test Exception");
tbMessage = new TextBox("Title", "Contents", 25, TextField.ANY);
```

3. Extend `Form`, `TextBox`, `List` or `Alert`:

Often times it makes the most sense to extend these classes to encapsulate functionality. For example, in [Chapter 12](#) we will create a `To Do list` MIDlet with several different "screens" the user will see, each a subclass of `Form`:

```
// Get user preferences
public class FormPrefs extends Form implements CommandListener

// Add a new todo item
public class FormAdd extends Form implements CommandListener
```

Extending the `Form` class and implementing the `CommandListener` interface allows each of the aforementioned forms to manage its own events, resulting in a much more consist and manageable application.

Displayable API

Through the API we can add and remove `Commands` and `listeners`. Given that we've touched upon neither, here's the two-minute elevator pitch.

`Commands` are available to provide a means for user interaction. As we saw in [Example 5.2](#), a `Command` was added to a `Form` to provide a way for a user to exit the MIDlet.

```
cmExit = new Command("Exit",Command.SCREEN, 1); // Create command
fmMain = new Form("Test Exception");             // Create form
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);                       // Add command to form
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);                 // Listen for events
```

Table 5.4. Displayable Class: `javax.microedition.lcdui.Displayable`

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void addCommand(Command cmd)</code>	Add Command to Displayable object
<code>void removeCommand(Command cmd)</code>	Remove Command from Displayable object
<code>void setCommandListener(CommandListener l)</code>	Add CommandListener to Displayable object
<code>boolean isShown()</code>	Is the Displayable object visible on the screen?

Listeners are used in conjunction with a `Command` to "listen" for events. Once an event occurs, the listener will call the method `commandAction()`. Within this method, we can determine which `Command` initiated the event and proceed accordingly. We will cover the details of `Commands` [Chapter 6](#).

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
```

Chapter 6. EVENT HANDLING

Topics in this Chapter

- [The Big Picture](#)
- [Command Objects](#)
- [Item Objects](#)
- [Command and CommandListener](#)
- [Item and ItemStateListener](#)

Event processing is essential to most every MIDlet. It's hard to imagine an application where there is no user interaction whatsoever, even if this interaction is as simple as requesting to start or stop a MIDlet. Learning the classes that facilitate event processing is the goal of this chapter. We'll discuss only those events that apply to high-level user interface components. Low-level event handling (including key codes, game actions, and pointer events) will be addressed in [Chapter 9](#) when we introduce the `Canvas` class.

The Big Picture

To greatly oversimplify, event handling is nothing more than recognizing when an event occurs and taking an action based on that event. For example, recognizing that a help button has been pressed and displaying a help message. To break this down to the lowest level, there are three key steps to successfully managing an event.

1. The hardware (the physical device itself) must recognize that something has occurred: a button has been pressed, a button has been released, an adapter has been plugged in, an adapter has been removed. You get the picture.
2. The software on the device (the application manager) needs to be notified of the event.
3. This is the point where we come into the picture as a MIDlet developer. A message from the application manager will be sent to the MIDlet. This message will contain information about the event so we can make decisions as to how to proceed (e.g., the event may be a request to show a help message on the display).

Before a MIDlet can recognize a message from the application manager about an event, it must set up what we refer to as a "listener." There are two "listener" interfaces available in the MID Profile: `CommandListener` and `ItemStateListener`.

When you want to process events, you will need a class that implements one or both of these interfaces. As part of the class that implements the interface(s), you will write the method(s) `commandAction()` and/or `itemStateChanged()`. This is where you place the code to decipher what event occurred and how you would like to handle the event.

Quick Review: What is an Interface?

In Java, an interface is a class that defines a set of methods, and optionally, one or more constant declarations. An interface does not include the implementation of any of the

methods in the class. When a class implements an interface, the class must contain all the methods defined in the interface. For example, when you create a MIDlet that implements the `CommandListener` interface, your class must have a method called `commandAction()` (which happens to be the only method defined in the `CommandListener` interface).

Before we talk any further about listeners, we need to introduce two new objects: `Command` and `Item`.

Command Objects

A `Command` is an object that holds information about an event. The simplest way to think of a `Command` is as a "button," something that you press or select. [Figure 6-1](#) shows a `Command` with the label "Exit." This `Command` is associated with the button directly below it on the device.

Figure 6-1. A `Command` mapped to a "generic" soft-button



This idea, that a `Command` is a button, is a good starting point. However, because of limited screen space and the differences in availability of buttons on a device, it's not always that simple. We will explore this further as we delve into this chapter.

Soft-Buttons and Keys

To keep the terminology consistent, I use the word "key(s)" when referencing the numbers/letters on a cellular phone or the alphanumeric/ symbols on a pager. A button(s) will refer to all other options on the device, such as a power on/off button, menu button, or help button. The latter are often referred to as soft-buttons.

Processing events requires a little legwork up front. Here are the steps:

1. Create a `Command` object to hold information about an event.
2. Add the `Command` to a `Form`, `Textbox`, `List` or `Canvas`.
3. Add a "listener" to the above `Form`, `Textbox`, and so forth.

Upon detection of an event the "listener" will be called (sent a message). The end result is a call to the method `commandAction()`. Within this method you can determine what `Command` initiated the action and process the event accordingly.

Here are a few lines of code to allocate a `Form` add a `Command` to the `Form` and create a "listener" to detect events.

```
private Form fmMain;           // A Form
private Command cmExit;        // A Command to exit the MIDlet
...
fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME"); // Form object
cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1); // Command object
...
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);      // Add Command to Form
fmMain.setCommandListener(this); // Listen for Form events
...

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
```

Item Objects

A second type of event handling is done through an `Item`. An `Item` is any component that can be added to a `Form`. `ChoiceGroup`, `DateField`, `Gauge` and `TextField` are all subclasses of `Item` and each can process events. `Items` are accessible only as part of a `Form`, whereas `Commands` are available on `Forms`, as well as a `Textbox`, `List`, or `Canvas`.

Once you add an `Item` to a `Form`, as with `Commands`, you must add a listener. Once there is a change to an `Item` (e.g., a `Gauge` has been incremented or a `DateField` has been changed), the listener object will be notified (sent a message). Think of this message as a call to the method `itemStateChanged()`. This method can decipher what `Item` was modified and process the change as necessary.

Note



`StringItem` and `ImageItem` are also subclasses of `Item`. However, once allocated, these objects are static and thus do not receive/acknowledge events.

Shown next is a small piece of code to create a `Form`, append a `Date Field`, and create a "listener" for event handling.

```
private Form fmMain;                // A Form
private DateField dfToday;          // A DateField
...
fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");     // Form object
dfToday = new DateField("Today:", DateField.DATE); // DateField
...
fmMain.append(dfToday);              // Add DateField to Form

fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);  // Listen for events
...

public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    // If the datefield initiated this event...
    if (item == dfToday)
        ...
}
```

Note



We will discuss `Textbox`, `List`, `Form`, `Canvas`, `Alert`, `Choice Group`, `DateField`, `Gauge`, `ImageItem`, `StringItem` and `TextField` in upcoming chapters.

Command and CommandListener

When creating a new `Command` object to hold event information, there are three parameters: the label, type and priority. Using the following `Command` declaration, let's look at each parameter in detail.

```
cmHelp = new Command("Help", Command.HELP, 1);
```

| | |
label type priority

1. **Label:** This specifies the text that you would like to associate with the `Command`. The label may be shown directly on the screen or displayed inside a menu.

[Figures 6-1](#) shows a `Command` with the label "Exit." The `Command` is mapped to the soft-button shown directly below the label.

[Figure 6-2](#) shows two `Commands`, with the labels "Upload" and "Download" placed inside a menu.

Figure 6-2. Commands available in a menu



2. **Type:** If at all possible, we'd like to directly map `Commands` to relevant soft-buttons on a device. For example, if a device has a soft-button labeled "Help" it would be very intuitive for the user if there was a `Command` mapped to that soft-button to display a help message (see [Figure 6-3](#)).

Figure 6-3. This device has a soft-button specifically intended to display help



We specify our intent to map a `Command` to a specific softbutton using this parameter. For example, with the line of code shown above, we are specifying the intent of this `Command` to display help information.

Note



Specifying the type of `Command` (e.g., `Command.HELP`) does not perform any action when the user initiates the event. That is, no help information will be displayed simply because we created a `Command` with that intent. Regardless of the type you specify, you are still responsible for writing the code to carry out the action.

The available types for this parameter are shown in [Table 6.1](#).

Table 6.1. Command Types: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Command</code>	
Value	Description
BACK	A request to move to the previous screen.
CANCEL	A request to cancel an operation. For example, when showing a screen to prompt for a web address, you may have both OK and CANCEL as options on the screen.
EXIT	A request to exit the MIDlet.
HELP	A request to display help information.
ITEM	A request to map the <code>Command</code> to an "item" on the screen. For example, when using a <code>List</code> component, you can mimic the functionality of a context-sensitive menu by mapping <code>Commands</code> to the various entries in the <code>List</code> .
OK	Specify positive acknowledgement from a user. For example, after downloading data, you may present a screen that says "Download Complete" with a <code>Command</code> of this type and a label "OK."
SCREEN	For <code>Commands</code> in which it is unlikely there will be a specific key mapping available. For example, you might have <code>Commands</code> to initiate uploading and downloading of data. The labels "Upload" and "Download" will not have direct key mapping on a device.
STOP	A request to stop an operation. For example, if downloading data, this option may be available so a user can end the download without having to wait for the operation to complete.

3. **Priority:** In relation to other `Commands` you define, this value represents where this `Command` falls in the line of priority. The higher the number, the lower the priority. These values may be helpful for the application manager when arranging items that appear in a menu or for ordering of soft-buttons on the display.

As with the type, the priority is only a request from you as a developer. The actual key mapping and priority assigned will be decided and handled by the device.

Command and CommandListener API

Table 6.2. Command Class: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Command</code>	
Method	Description
Constructor	
Command (String label, int commandType, int priority)	Create a new Command
Methods	

int getCommandType()	Get type assigned to Command
String getLabel()	Get label assigned to Command
int getPriority()	Get priority assigned to Command
Table 6.3. CommandListener Interface: javax.microedition.lcdui. CommandListener	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
void commandAction (Command c, Displayable d)	Called when the Command "c" on the Displayable "d" initiates an event

Example: Accessing Commands through Button or Menu

Previously it was mentioned that the easiest way to think of a `Command` is as a button on a device. [Example 6.1](#) illustrates that it is not always quite that simple.

Example 6.1 `AccessingCommands.java`

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class AccessingCommands extends MIDlet implements
CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display
    private Form fmMain;       // A Form
    private Command cmExit;    // A Command to exit the MIDlet

    public AccessingCommands()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }
    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    // Check to see if our Exit command was selected
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}
```

```

    }
}

```

Inside the constructor we create `Command` and `Form` objects, add the `Command` to the `Form` and set a "listener."

```

cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

```

When the user interacts with the `Form`, such as pressing a button, the method `commandAction()` is called. We know from our previous discussion that this event started at the hardware level, worked its way through the application manager and finally arrived here.

```

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

```

We check to see if the `Command` that was selected by the user (the value passed in as parameter "c") was the `Exit Command`. If so, we call `destroyApp()` to clean up any resources we acquired and follow this with a call to `notifyDestroyed()` to tell the application manager it is safe to shut down this `MIDlet`.

There should be no surprises in the output shown in [Figure 6-4](#). The `Form` displays the title "Core J2ME" and the `Command` "Exit" is above a soft-button on the device. Pressing the button exits the `MIDlet`.

Figure 6-4. Accessing the Exit Command with a soft-button



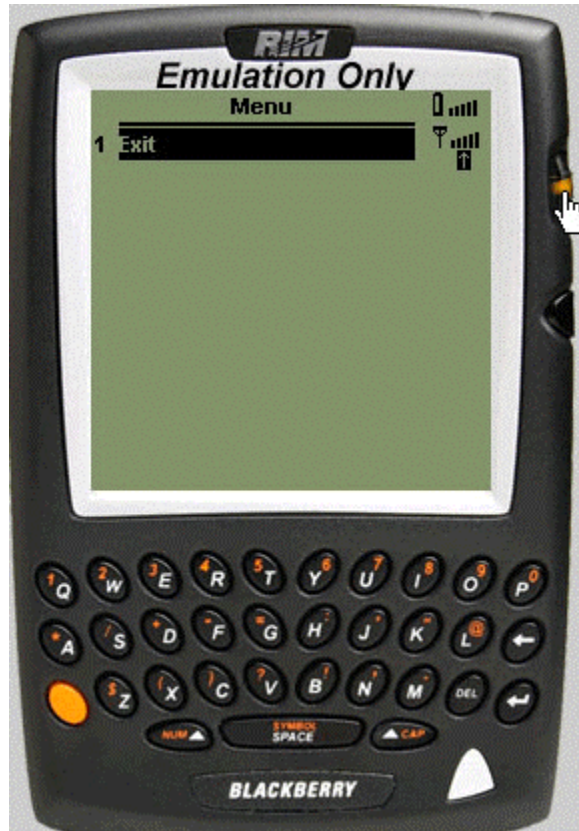
Now, let's take a look at the same MIDlet when run inside a wireless handheld emulator (see [Figure 6-5](#)).

Figure 6-5. Exit Command not available through a soft-button (Blackberry wireless handle screen-shots courtesy Research in Motion Limited.)



What happened to the "Exit" Command ? To exit the MIDlet, you need to enable the menu by selecting the button on the middle right. Once the menu appears, select the active menu item with the button on the upper right (see [Figure 6-6](#)).

Figure 6-6. Exit Command must be accessed using a menu (Blackberry wireless handle screen-shots courtesy Research in Motion Limited.)



As we mentioned back in [Chapter 3](#), one of the objectives of MIDP is to support a wide range of devices with differences not only in processing power and memory, but also in size and hardware configuration. This MIDlet is a good example as it will run on two different devices with two different interfaces. Although the end result is the same, the handheld device placed the Exit [Command](#) on a menu, whereas the cellular phone mapped the same [Command](#) to a soft-button.

To complete that thought, the actual implementation of the [Command](#) is not defined by the API, only the characteristics and functionality. Put another way, how a [Command](#) is presented on the display, and whether it is mapped to a key or placed in a menu, is up to the device manufacturer.

Example: Mapping Command to Buttons

In the previous example, the handheld device placed our exit [Command](#) in a menu. Let's take a look at [Example 6.2](#), where a device maps a [Command](#) to a specific soft-button.

Version 1.0.3 of Sun's J2ME Wireless Toolkit (see [Chapter 4](#)) supports six emulators:

Table 6.4. Wireless Toolkit Emulators

<i>Keyword</i>	<i>Description</i>
DefaultColorPhone	256 colors, 96 x 128 pixels, ITU ^[1] keyboard
DefaultGrayPhone	256 shades of black and white, 96 x 128 pixels, ITU ^[1] keyboard

MinimumPhone	Black and white, 96 x 54 pixels, ITU ^[1] keyboard
Motorola_i85s	Motorola i85s
RIM-Blackberry-957	RIM Blackberry wireless handheld
PalmOS_Device	Handheld devices running Palm OS version 3.5 or higher ^[2]

To preview your MIDlet, run the following from the command line in the directory that contains the JAD file:

```
c:\j2mewtk\bin\emulator -Xdescriptor:your.jad
-Xdevice:emulator -classpath .
```

Replace **emulator** with one of the keywords from [Table 6.4](#), and change **your.jad** to the name of the Java application descriptor file that references your MIDlet. You may need to change the path to the J2ME Wireless Toolkit, depending on your installation. The classpath may also need to be changed (from ".") to the location of the preverified class files.

One final clarification: The aforementioned emulators require you to preview using a JAD file. Thus, you will need to create a JAR file that holds your MIDlet classes and also include a reference to the JAR inside the JAD file. See [Chapter 4](#) for more information about how to create these files.

[1] ITU is the "classic" phone keypad: numbers 0-9, * and #.

[2] Palm OS Emulator (POSE) and ROM image are required.
<http://www.palmos.com/dev/tech/tools/emulator/>

Example 6.2 MappingCommands.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class MappingCommands extends MIDlet implements
    CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display
    private Form fmMain;       // The main Form
    private TextBox tbHelp;    // Textbox to display a help message
    private Command cmExit;    // Exit the MIDlet
    private Command cmHelp;    // Ask for Help
    private Command cmBack;    // Go "back" to main form

    public MappingCommands()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmHelp = new Command("Help", Command.HELP, 1);
        cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 1);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    }
}
```



```

        // Create the Form, add Commands, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmHelp);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

        // Create the help Textbox with a maximum of 25 characters
        tbHelp = new TextBox("Help", "Help text here...", 25, 0);
        tbHelp.addCommand(cmBack);
        tbHelp.setCommandListener(this);

    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }
    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    // Process events
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
        else if (c == cmHelp)
            display.setCurrent(tbHelp);
        else if (c == cmBack)
            display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }
}

```

There are several additional components added to this MIDlet:

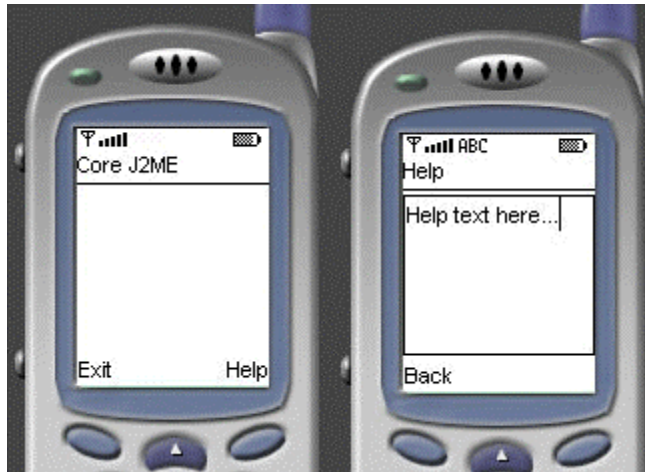
```

TextBox tbHelp; // Textbox to display a help message
Command cmHelp; // Ask for Help
Command cmBack ; // Go "back" to main Form (from Help)

```

Let's see how the "traditional" cellular device displays the MIDlet. In [Figure 6-7](#), the screen shot on the left is the main `Form`, with the Exit and Help `Commands`. When you press the Help button, the `Textbox` appears as shown by the screen shot on the right.

Figure 6-7. Commands Exit and Back mapped to soft buttons

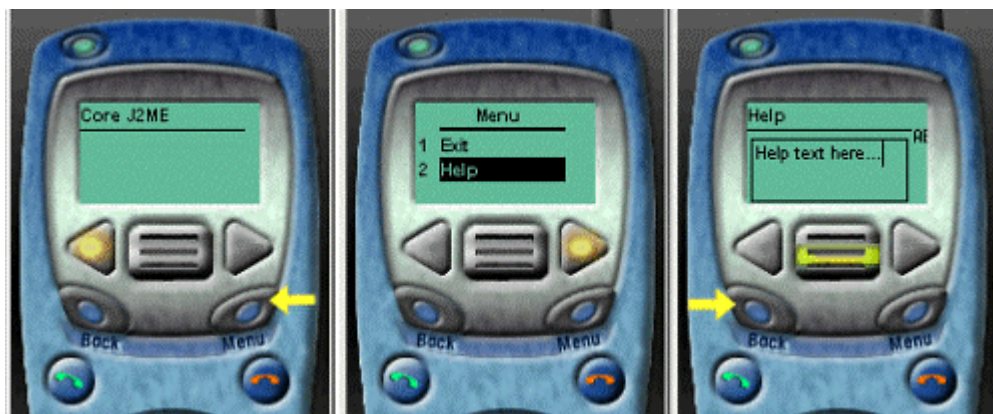


You can follow the logic of this MIDlet by looking at the `commandAction()` method:

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmHelp)
        display.setCurrent(tbHelp);
    else if (c == cmBack)
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}
```

Depending on what button was pressed, we either change the current display to show the help `TextBox`, or we exit the MIDlet. Now, let's see how a different mobile device, with limited screen size, handles the same MIDlet (see [Figure 6-8](#)).

Figure 6-8. Back command mapped to a soft button



Given the screen limitations of this device, there are no commands shown directly on the display. On the left-most screen shot in [Figure 6-8](#) notice there is soft-button to engage the menu. Once visible you'll find the commands we've defined. The right-most screen shot shows the help text. Notice how

the device has performed a direct mapping of the "Back" `Command` to the soft-button with the same name. We don't need to go through a menu to invoke this `Command`.

```
cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 1);
```

When we specified our intention with the above declaration, the application manager was able to map the "Back" `Command` to the appropriate button on the device.

Example: Too Many Commands. Now What?

In our first example, we saw that the handheld device added the Exit `Command` to a menu. The reason was that there was no button that directly correlated to Exit. If we add more `Commands` without button mappings, the handheld will add these to the menu as well.

If you were to venture a guess, how do you think our cellular device will handle more `Commands` than can fit on the display? Let's look at [Example 6.3](#) and see.

Example 6.3 TooManyCommands.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class TooManyCommands extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;      // Reference to Display
    private Form fmMain;         // The main Form
    private TextBox tbAction;     // Textbox upload/download
    private Command cmExit;      // Exit the MIDlet
    private Command cmBack;      // Go "back" to main form
    private Command cmUload;     // "upload" data
    private Command cmDload;     // "download" data

    // The constructor
    public TooManyCommands()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 1);
        cmUload = new Command("Upload", Command.SCREEN, 2);
        cmDload = new Command("Download", Command.SCREEN, 3);

        // Create the Form, add Commands, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmUload);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmDload);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

        // Create a Textbox, add Command, listen for events
        tbAction = new TextBox("Process Data",
                               "Upload/download data ", 25, 0);
        tbAction.addCommand(cmBack);
        tbAction.setCommandListener(this);
    }
}
```

```

// Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

// Process events
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmUload || c == cmDload)
        display.setCurrent(tbAction);
    else if (c == cmBack)
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}
}

```

I have added two new Commands, `cmUload` and `cmDload`. Notice the priorities assigned:

```

cmUload = new Command("Upload", Command.SCREEN, 2);
cmDload = new Command("Download", Command.SCREEN, 3);

```

By assigning "Upload" a higher priority than "Download" we are stating our preference regarding the relative importance of each `Command`. You'll see the end result of this request in [Figure 6-9](#), where "Upload" appears before "Download."

Figure 6-9. Commands mapped to both soft-buttons and a menu



Let's imagine these `Commands` invoke sending and receiving of data over a network. The new `TextBox`, `tbAction`, will act as our upload/download screen, which is set as the current `Displayable` inside command `Action()`.

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmUload || c == cmDload)
        display.setCurrent(tbAction);
    else if (c == cmBack)
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}
```

I have also added a `Command` to go back from the `TextBox` to the main `Form`. [Figure 6–9](#) shows the display as it looks on a cellular device.

As with the handheld, the device has created a menu to hold the "Upload" and "Download" `Commands`. The "Exit" `Command` has been mapped to a soft-button.

You can see there is a great deal of flexibility as to how a device can present `Commands` on the display. As a developer you specify your intention of the `Commands` when defining them – `Command.BACK`, `Command.HELP`, and so forth. However, there are no guarantees how they will be displayed/ processed on any one device. You have to agree, this can make for some interesting design considerations when trying to create user interfaces that look and feel consistent across a range of devices.

Setting `Command` Priorities

For another look at setting priorities, page ahead to [Figure 8–7](#) and the corresponding code in [Example 8.3](#). Priorities are used within this example to arrange the order of options in a menu.

Item and ItemStateListener

An `Item` is any component that can be added to a `Form`. The MIDP library includes the following `Items`: `ChoiceGroup`, `DateField`, `Gauge`, `ImageItem`, `StringItem` and `TextField`.

With the exception of `StringItem` and `ImageItem`, each of the aforementioned `Items` can detect user interaction. When you add an `Item` to a `Form`, you create a "listener" to capture user events (for any/all `Items` on the `Form`). Once a change has been detected, the method `itemStateChanged()` will be called. Inside this method you can determine which `Item` was changed and how you want to proceed.

The specification does not require `itemStateChanged()` to be called on each and every change. However, it does set forth some rules:

- If an `Item` has changed, `itemStateChanged()` must be called for the changed `Item` before it will acknowledge changes in a subsequent `Item`.
- If a MIDlet makes a change to an `Item` (as compared to user interaction), `itemStateChanged()` will not be called. For example, if you write code inside your MIDlet to change the value of a `DateField`, this will not generate an event.
- If the device running the MIDlet can recognize when a user has moved from one `Item` to another (changed focus), `itemStateChanged()` must be called when leaving one `Item` and before getting to the next.

Creating an Item

`Item` is an abstract class, thus, we do not create instances of the `Item` class. Rather, we create objects that have subclassed `Item`. These include: `ChoiceGroup`, `DateField`, `TextField`, `Gauge`, `ImageItem` and `StringItem`.

Here we create a `DateField`, add it to a `Form` and set a listener so the `Displayable` object (the `Form`) can detect events. If you recall from [Chapter 5](#), we add listeners to `Displayable` objects (a `Canvas`, or subclasses of `Screen`, which include `Form`, `List`, `TextBox` and `Alert`).

```
private DateField dfDate; // Display the date

// Create the date and populate with current date
dfDate = new DateField("Date is:", DateField.DATE);
dfDate.setDate(new java.util.Date());

fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");
fmMain.append(dfDate);

// Capture Command events (cmExit)
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
```

ItemState and ItemStateListener API

Table 6.5. Item Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.Item	
Method	Description
String getLabel()	Get the label assigned to the Item
void setLabel (String label)	Set label for the Item

Table 6.6. ItemStateListener Interface: javax.microedition.lcdui.ItemStateListener	
Method	Description
void itemStateChanged (Item item)	Called when "item" has been changed

Example: Capturing Events on an Item Object

In our final example for this chapter, [Example 6.4](#), we will create a `DateField` and add a listener to the main `Form` to capture events. Once you select the `DateField` on the device, you can change the month, day and year. When you exit the `DateField` display, `itemStateChanged()` will be called.

To reassure ourselves that we actually enter this method, we will change the label on the `DateField`, which will be reflected on the display.

Example 6.4 `CaptureItemEvents.java`

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class CaptureItemEvents extends MIDlet implements
    ItemStateListener, CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;       // The main Form
    private Command cmExit;     // A Command to exit the MIDlet
    private DateField dfDate;   // Display the date

    public CaptureItemEvents()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create the date and populate with current date
        dfDate = new DateField("Date is:", DateField.DATE);
        dfDate.setDate(new java.util.Date());

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        // Create the Form, add Command and DateField
        // listen for events from Command and DateField
        fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.append(dfDate);

        // Capture Command events
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

        // Capture Item events
        fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}
```

```

    }
}

public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    dfDate.setLabel("New Date: ");
}
}

```

From left to right on [Figure 6-10](#), the first screen shot shows the `Form` and the `DateField`. Once you choose to edit the date, you will see the screen shot in the middle, where you can interactively make changes. Upon selecting "Save," the method `itemStateChanged()` is called. Within this method, we change the label on the `DateField`. The result of this change is reflected in the rightmost screen shot.

Figure 6-10. Capturing events with `ItemStateListener`



Note



`itemStateChanged()` is not inevitably called for every change on an `Item`. For example, when the `DateField` component is shown on the display, changing the day will not initiate an event. For Sun's MIDP implementation of `DateField`, the method `itemStateChanged()` will be called when the user exits the `DateField`. The decision regarding when an event is acknowledged is determined by the device implementation.

Chapter 7. HIGH-LEVEL USER INTERFACE: PART I

Topics in this Chapter

- [Screen](#)
- [Form](#)
- [Item](#)
- [DateField](#)
- [Gauge](#)
- [StringItem](#)
- [TextField](#)
- [Choice and ChoiceGroup](#)
- [Image and ImageItem](#)

Now that we've examined how events are managed within a MIDlet, we need to focus on how to create the user interface. In [Chapter 5](#) we introduced the `Display` and `Displayable` classes. If you recall, there is one `Display` object and any number of `Displayable` objects in a given MIDlet. The `Screen` is one of two `Displayable` objects defined as part of the core API, the other being `Canvas`.

This chapter will focus on the first of four components that are derived from the `Screen` class, the `Form`. It will also cover all the predefined components that may be added to a `Form`, including `DateField`, `Gauge`, `StringItem`, `TextField`, `ChoiceGroup` and `ImageItem`.

When we get to the next chapter, you'll learn about the remaining subclasses of `Screen`: `List`, `Textbox`, `Alert` and `Ticker`.

Note



As we work through our examples, keep in mind that the MIDP defines the requirements for a set of classes. It is a toolkit for writing applications for various mobile devices. It does not specify how to implement the libraries.

So what does that mean? The functionality across implementations will be the same, yet the presentation may be different. As an example, a `TextField` will always have a consistent set of methods for entering and modifying text, but the look and feel may vary from device to device.

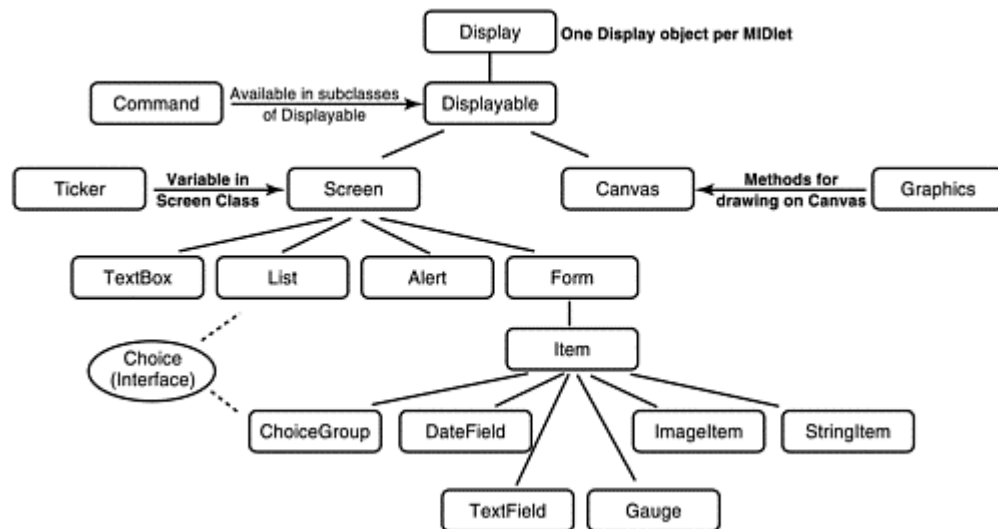
All the examples in this book will use the MIDP provided by Sun. If you run these examples with another vendor's implementation, keep in mind that the appearance of components may be different.

Screen

The `Screen` class itself is not something that you can see. Rather, `Screen` is a parent class for components that have an actual look and feel on the display. To further clarify, let's look at an illustration of the user interface hierarchy, starting with the `Displayable` class.

To further clarify the hierarchy shown in [Figure 7-1](#), the class definitions follow:

Figure 7-1. Displayable class hierarchy



<code>Display</code>	<code>(public class Display)</code>
<code>Displayable</code>	<code>(public abstract class Displayable)</code>
<code>Screen</code>	<code>(public abstract class Screen extends</code>
<code>Displayable)</code>	
<code>TextBox</code>	<code>(public class TextBox extends Screen)</code>
<code>List</code>	<code>(public class List extends Screen</code>
<code>implements Choice)</code>	
<code>Alert</code>	<code>(public class Alert extends Screen)</code>
<code>Form</code>	<code>(public class Form extends Screen)</code>
<code>Item</code>	<code>(public abstract class Item)</code>
<code>ChoiceGroup</code>	<code>(public class ChoiceGroup extends Item</code>
<code>implements Choice)</code>	
<code>DateField</code>	<code>(public class DateField extends Item)</code>
<code>TextField</code>	<code>(public class TextField extends Item)</code>
<code>Gauge</code>	<code>(public class Gauge extends Item)</code>
<code>ImageItem</code>	<code>(public class ImageItem extends Item)</code>
<code>StringItem</code>	<code>(public class StringItem extends Item)</code>
<code>Canvas</code>	<code>(public abstract class Canvas extends</code>
<code>Displayable)</code>	
<code>Command</code>	<code>(public class Command)</code>
<code>Ticker</code>	<code>(public class Ticker)</code>
<code>Graphics</code>	<code>(public class Graphics)</code>
<code>Choice</code>	<code>(public interface Choice)</code>

The MIDP includes two classes that are direct descendants of the `Displayable` class: `Screen` and `Canvas`. The `Screen` (and its subclasses) are for high-level user interface components; the `Canvas` is for custom graphics and event handling.

If we break this down further, you can see that `Form`, `List`, `TextBox` and `Alert` are all subclasses of the `Screen` class. `Ticker` (a scrolling ticker tape) is not a subclass; rather, it is a field (variable) defined inside the `Screen` class. Thus, a `Ticker` can be part of any `Screen`.

If you look carefully you'll notice that `Item` is *not* a subclass of `Form`. However, it is illustrated as such in [Figure 7-1](#) to make the point that subclasses of `Item` are displayed on a `Form`.

Let's look at the methods available in the `Screen` class.

Screen API

Table 7.1. Screen Class: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Screen</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>String getTitle()</code>	Get title associated with the Screen
<code>void setTitle(String s)</code>	Set title for the Screen
<code>Ticker getTicker()</code>	Get Ticker associated with the Screen
<code>void setTicker(Ticker ticker)</code>	Set Ticker for the Screen

Form

If you come from a desktop computing platform, the limitations of the display on a mobile device may take some getting used to. Overlapping windows, toolbars and cascading menus are nowhere to be found.

All is not lost, however. A `Form` gives you the option to show multiple components on the display. The implementation will provide scrolling, as needed, to accommodate the components. Think of a `Form` as a container that can hold any number of components, where each is a subclass of `Item` (see [Figure 7-1](#)).

A `Form` has methods to append, insert, replace and delete components. When you append a component to a `Form`, the append method returns a numeric index indicating where the component was placed, with an index value starting at 0. Several other methods use this index as an input parameter; thus, you may find it helpful to keep a copy of this index in a variable. Other methods are available to determine the number of components on a `Form` and request the index (position) of a specific component.

Form API

Table 7.2. Form Class: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Form</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructors	
<code>Form (String title)</code>	Create a form
<code>Form (String title, Item[] items)</code>	Create a form and add Item(s) in the array
Methods	

<code>int append(Image img)</code>	Append an Image
<code>int append(Item item)</code>	Append an Item
<code>int append(String str)</code>	Append a String
<code>void delete(int itemNum)</code>	Delete an Item
<code>void insert(int itemNum, Item item)</code>	Insert an Item prior to the Item specified
<code>Item get(int itemNum)</code>	Get an Item
<code>void set(int itemNum, Item item)</code>	Set (replace) an Item
<code>void setItemStateListener(ItemStateListener iListener)</code>	Add a listener
<code>int size()</code>	Get the number of Items on a form

Item

An `Item` is a component that can be added to a `Form`. `ChoiceGroup`, `DateField`, `Gauge`, `ImageItem`, `StringItem` and `TextField` are all subclasses of `Item`.

Working along with an `Item` is the class `ItemStateListener`. When you want to process events on an `Item`, you register a "listener" that will be sent a message when an event occurs. The recipient of this message is the method `itemStateChanged()`. Within this method, you can determine which `Item` changed and decide what action you would like to take.

The following code appends a `DateField` to a `Form` and creates a listener for processing events.

```
private Form fmMain;                // A Form
private DateField dfToday;          // A DateField
...
fmMain = new Form("Core J2ME");    // Form object
dfToday = new DateField("Today:", DateField.DATE); // DateField
...
fmMain.append(dfToday);             // Add Item (DateField) to Form
fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);  // Listen for Form events
...

public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    if (item == dfToday)
        ...
}
```

ITEM API

Table 7.3. Item Class: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Item</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>String getLabel()</code>	Get the label assigned to the Item
<code>void setLabel(String label)</code>	Set label for the Item

Example: Juggling Items on a Form

There are some special considerations that are important to understand when inserting, appending and replacing Items on a Form. [Example 7.1](#) will walk through these operations and point out the pitfalls, hopefully saving you a little time in the long run.

Example 7.1 FormJuggle.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class FormJuggle extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;            // The main form
    private Command cmInsert;       // Command to insert items
    private DateField dfDate;       // Display date
    private TextField tfSize;       // Product size
    private TextField tfQuantity;   // Product quantity
    private int dateIndex;          // Index of dfDate
    public FormJuggle ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        // Create the date and populate with current date
        dfDate = new DateField("", DateField.DATE);
        dfDate.setDate(new java.util.Date());

        // Define two textfields and two commands
        tfSize = new TextField("Size", "Large", 5, TextField.ANY);
        tfQuantity = new TextField("Quantity:", "3", 2,
            TextField.NUMERIC);
        cmInsert = new Command("Insert", Command.SCREEN, 1);

        // Create the form, add insert command
        fmMain = new Form("Form Stuff");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmInsert);

        // Append date to form & save index value where it was inserted
        dateIndex = fmMain.append(dfDate);

        // Capture events
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {

```

```

    if (c == cmInsert)
    {
        // One item on form, insert textfield prior to datefield
        if (fmMain.size() == 1)
        {
            fmMain.insert(dateIndex, tfQuantity);
            dateIndex += 1;    // Date index has changed, update it
        }
        // If two items and last item is datefield, replace it
        else if (fmMain.size() == 2 && fmMain.get(1) == dfDate)
            fmMain.set(dateIndex, tfSize);
    }
}
}

```

There are three `Items` we will add to the `Form`: a `DateField` and two `TextFields`. At this point don't worry about the specifics of these components.

1. `dfDate`: show the current date
2. `tfSize`: show the product size
3. `tfQuantity`: show the product quantity

The constructor—`FormJuggle()`—allocates all the items and appends `dfDate` to the form. `tfSize` and `tfQuantity` are not placed on the form at this time.

There is one line that we need to clarify:

```
dateIndex = fmMain.append(dfDate);
```

We need to save the index of where this item is inserted. Later, we will use this index to specify where to insert a new item.

There is also a `Command` on the form labeled "Insert." The method `commandAction()` will be called when this `Command` is invoked. This method is where we need to focus our attention. Here is the code we are interested in:

```

if (c == cmInsert)
{
    // One item on form, insert textfield prior to datefield
    if (fmMain.size() == 1)
    {
        fmMain.insert(dateIndex, tfQuantity);
        dateIndex += 1;    // Date index has changed, update it
    }
    // If two items and last item is datefield, replace it
    else if (fmMain.size() == 2 && fmMain.get(1) == dfDate)
        fmMain.set(dateIndex, tfSize);
}
}

```

If there is just one item on the form (`dfDate`), then we will insert `tfQuantity`. Notice the insert method takes two parameters. The first is index of where to place the new item, the second is the item to insert.

Now, before we move on, think about what just happened. When you insert an item, it is placed prior to the index you specify. In our example, `dateIndex` has a value of 0 because it was the only item currently on the form. The value for `dateIndex` is no longer accurate, as the new item is now at index 0. To correct this, we increment `dateIndex` by 1 so any future reference will access the correct item.

After the first time through `commandAction()`, our form has two items with the indices 0 and 1:

```
fmMain
  tfQuantity  Index = 0
  dfDate      Index = 1
```

If the "Insert" button is pressed a second time, `commandAction()` will drop into this block of code :

```
else if (fmMain.size() == 2 && fmMain.get(1) == dfDate)
  fmMain.set(dateIndex, tfSize);
```

If there are two items on the form, and the item at index 1 equals `dfDate`, then we will set (replace) that item with `tfSize`. Here is the resulting form:

```
fmMain
  tfQuantity  Index = 0
  tfSize      Index = 1
```

Can you see why we need this check:

```
fmMain.get(1) == dfDate
```

Without it, should we come into `commandAction()` a third time

```
fmMain.set(dateIndex, tfSize);
```

will try to replace what is at `dateIndex` (which has value of 1), with `tfSize`. Well, `tfSize` is already at index 1 (see [Figure 7-2](#)). The point to be made is that it's important to understand the indexing of components and how inserting and deleting affects the index values. [Figure 7-2](#) shows various screen shots of this MIDlet.

Figure 7-2. From the left, the initial screen. The center is the display after pressing "Insert" once. The rightmost, after pressing "Insert" a second time.



The remaining sections of this chapter will cover each of the `Item` components that are available as part of the MIDP.

DateField

Using the `DateField` component, you manipulate a `Date` object (as defined in `java.util.Date`) using the keys and/or soft buttons on a mobile device. The look and feel, as provided in Sun's MIDP implementation, is shown in [Figure 7-3](#).

Figure 7-3. An easy-to-use interface for updating the date and time

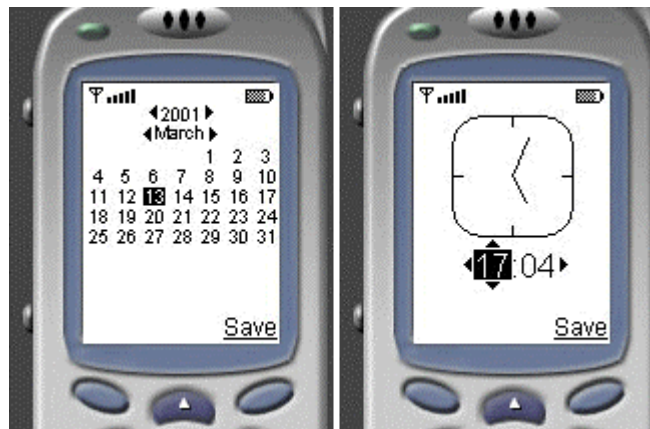


Table 7.4. DateField Modes: `javax.microedition.lcdui.DateField`

<i>Value</i>	<i>Description</i>
DATE	Allow the user to edit only the date
TIME	Allow the user to edit only the time
DATE_TIME	Allow the user to edit both the date and time

When creating a `DateField` object you specify whether the user can edit the date, the time, or both—see the mode constants declared in the [Table 7.4](#).

DateField API

Table 7.5. DateField Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.DateField	
Method	Description
Constructors	
DateField (String label, int mode)	Create DateField
DateField (String label, int mode, TimeZone timeZone)	Create DateField with specified TimeZone information
Methods	
Date getDate ()	Get current value
void setDate (Date date)	Set new date/time value
int getInputMode ()	Get the current input mode
void setInputMode (int mode)	Set new input mode

Example: Creating an Alarm Clock

Let's create a simple alarm clock MIDlet (see [Example 7.2](#)). This application will allow the user to specify a date and time, and will sound an alarm and display a message when the appointed time has arrived.

To make this example a little more realistic, I've included two components that we have yet to introduce: the `Timer` and `Alert`. With a `Timer` you can schedule tasks to occur at some future time (in our case, a task to display a message). The message will be contained as part of an `Alert` component. An `Alert` is similar to a pop-up window or dialog box. Once again, don't worry about the details of these components, as we'll cover them as we progress through the book.

Example 7.2 Snooze.java

```
import java.util.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import java.util.Timer;
import java.util.TimerTask;

public class Snooze extends MIDlet implements
    ItemStateListener, CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;       // The main form
    private Command cmSnooze;   // Start the timer
    private Command cmReset;    // Reset to current date/time
    private Command cmExit;     // Exit the MIDlet
    private DateField dfSnoozeTime // How long to snooze
    private int dateIndex;      // Index of DateField on Form
    private Date currentTime;   // Current time
    private Timer tmSnooze;     // The timer
    private SnoozeTimer ttSnooze; // Called by the timer
```

```

private boolean dateOK = false; // Was user input valid?

public Snooze()
{
    display = Display.getDisplay(this);

    // The main form
    fmMain = new Form("When to sound the alarm:");

    // Save today's date
    currentTime = new Date();

    // DateField with todays date as a default
    dfSnoozeTime = new DateField("", DateField.DATE_TIME);
    dfSnoozeTime.setDate(currentTime);
    // All the commands/buttons
    cmSnooze = new Command("Snooze", Command.SCREEN, 1);
    cmReset = new Command("Reset", Command.SCREEN, 1);
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

    // Add to form and listen for events
    dateIndex = fmMain.append(dfSnoozeTime);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmSnooze);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmReset);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
    fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);
}
public void startApp ()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    if (item == dfSnoozeTime)
    {
        // If the user selected date and/or time that is
        // earlier than today, set a flag. We are using
        // getTime() method of Date class, which returns
        // milliseconds since January 1, 1970
        if (dfSnoozeTime.getDate().getTime() <
            currentTime.getTime())
            dateOK = false;
        else
            dateOK = true;
    }
}
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmSnooze)

```

```

{
    if (dateOK == false)
    {
        Alert al = new Alert("Unable to set alarm",
            "Please choose another date & time.", null, null);
        al.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
        al.setType(AlertType.ERROR);
        display.setCurrent(al);
    }
    else
    {
        // Create a new timer
        tmSnooze = new Timer();
        ttSnooze = new SnoozeTimer();

        // Amount of time to delay
        long amount = dfSnoozeTime.getDate().getTime() -
            currentTime.getTime();
        tmSnooze.schedule(ttSnooze, amount);

        // Remove the commands
        fmMain.removeCommand(cmSnooze);
        fmMain.removeCommand(cmReset);

        // Remove the DateField
        fmMain.delete(dateIndex);

        // Change the Form message
        fmMain.setTitle("Snoozing...");
    }
}
else if (c == cmReset)
{
    // Reset to the current date/time
    dfSnoozeTime.setDate(currentTime = new Date());
}
else if (c == cmExit)
{
    destroyApp(false);
    notifyDestroyed();
}
}
}
/*-----
 * New class - Handle the timer task
 *-----*/
private class SnoozeTimer extends TimerTask
{
    public final void run()
    {
        Alert al = new Alert("Time to wake up!");
        al.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
        al.setType(AlertType.ALARM);
        AlertType.ERROR.playSound(display);
        display.setCurrent(al);

        // Cancel this timer task
        cancel();
    }
}

```

```

    }
}

```

The images shown in [Figure 7-4](#) from the left are the MIDlet main screen, the interface to change the time, and a menu option to either reset the current date/time or start the timer.

Figure 7-4. Set an alarm by specifying the time and choosing the Snooze option to start the timer



Before we move on, let me ask you this: Why is there is a menu on the display if we never defined any type of menu in the code? The short answer is, the implementation can decide how it wants to present [Command](#) objects on the display. To accommodate the limited screen size, the implementation has chosen to place the commands inside a menu. If you need a refresher, head back to [Chapter 6](#) where we introduced event handling.

The `DateField` component is initialized with the current date and time as returned by the system running the MIDlet.

```

currentTime = new Date();

dfSnoozeTime = new DateField("", DateField.DATE_TIME);
dfSnoozeTime.setDate(currentTime);
...
fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);

```

When you create a new component passing in `DateField.DATE_TIME`, the user will have the option to change both the date and the time.

The last line above sets up a listener that recognizes events for the `DateField` component—actually, for any component that is a subclass of `Item`—that is, contained on `fmMain`. Once an event is recognized, the method `itemStateChanged()` will be called.

Before setting the alarm, we need to be sure the alarm time is greater than the current date and time. We do this by comparing the time selected by the user, with the current time we have stored in the variable `currentTime`.

```

if (dfSnoozeTime.getDate().getTime() <

```

```

                                currentTime.getTime())
    dateOK = false;
else
    dateOK = true;

```

To get the time from the `dfSnoozeTime` component requires two steps:

1. Get a reference to a `Date` object using the method:

```
dfSnoozeTime.getDate()
```

2. Get the time from the `Date` object by calling the method:

```
dfSnoozeTime.getDate().getTime()
```

What's interesting about this check is that the method `getTime()` returns the number of milliseconds since the beginning of time (the beginning of time as far as the computer is concerned—January 1, 1970). With this one call, we cover all our bases and there is no need to compare the year, month, day and time separately.

Note



`getTime()` is a method inside `java.util.Date` available as part of the CLDC.

Once the snooze option (from the menu) has been selected we will be directed to the method `commandAction()`. First, we must check to see if the date and time selected is valid. We do this by checking the variable `dateOK` that we set earlier in `itemStateChanged()`. If not, we will create an `Alert` to notify the user to enter a different date and time. If everything looks good, we will schedule a timer and determine how long to snooze:

```

// Create a new timer
tmSnooze = new Timer();
ttSnooze = new SnoozeTimer();

// Amount of time to delay
long amount = dfSnoozeTime.getDate().getTime() -
              currentTime.getTime();
tmSnooze.schedule(ttSnooze, amount);

```

Once again, we use the `getTime()` method to determine how long until the alarm should sound. The amount of time is the difference between the user selected time and the current time (in milliseconds). We will cover all the specifics of the `Timer` class in [Chapter 13](#).

At the appointed time, the `run()` method inside the class `SnoozeTimer` is called. We create a new `Alert`, set it as the current screen and cancel the timer.

```
public final void run()
```

```

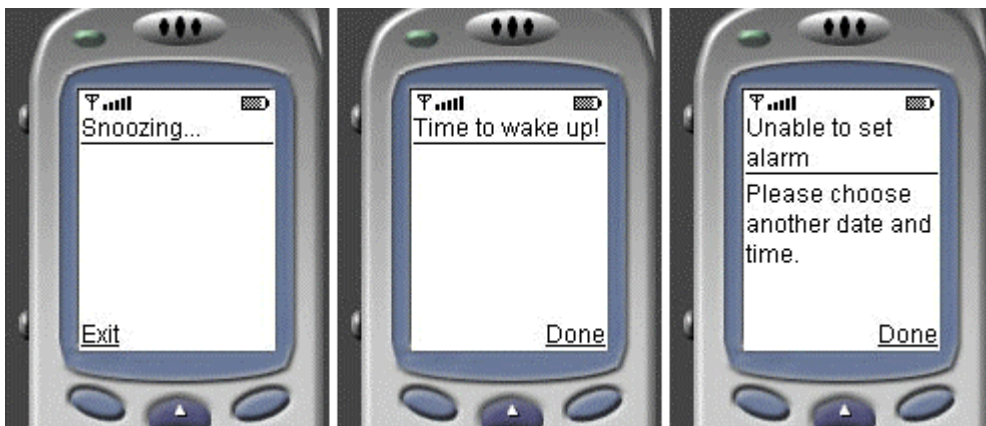
{
    Alert al = new Alert("Time to wake up!");
    al.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
    al.setType(AlertType.ALARM);
    AlertType.ERROR.playSound(display);
    display.setCurrent(al);

    // Cancel this timer task
    cancel();
}

```

From the left, [Figure 7-5](#) shows the display when the MIDlet is "snoozing," the `Alert` screen once the `run()` method is called, and the `Alert` shown if the user selects an invalid date and time.

Figure 7-5. The main screen, alarm message, alert dialog



One last point, if you compare the left-most screen shot in [Figures 7-4](#) and [7-5](#), you'll notice both the `DateField` and the menu are removed from the display in [Figure 7-5](#). Take a look in `commandAction()`; after creating the timer you will see the code to remove the commands `cmSnooze` and `cmReset` (which effectively removes the menu), delete the `DateField` component and change the message on the Form to "Snoozing."

Note



Once again, MIDP defines the requirements for a set of classes. It does not specify how to implement the profile. For example, the look and feel of the `DateField` component may be completely different from one implementation to the next; however, the functionality provided must always match with the requirements as outlined in the specification.

Gauge

If you've spent any amount of time on a computer, you've become accustomed to seeing progress meters in many shapes and forms. Familiar examples include a percentage indicator that is displayed

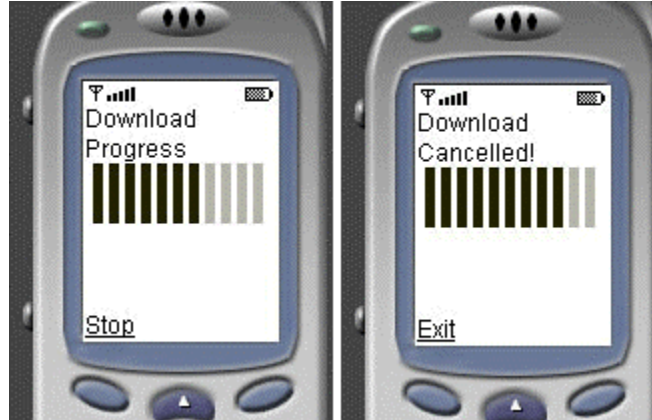
when downloading a file or a progress meter shown when installing software. Should you need to provide a similar interface on a mobile device, the `Gauge` component may be the ticket.

A `Gauge` has two means of being updated. The first is referred to as interactive mode, where the user makes the changes. The second, for lack of a better term, is a non-interactive mode. It is up to you as the developer to change the values (see Figures 7-6 and 7-7).

Figure 7-6. Interactive Gauge



Figure 7-7. Non-interactive Gauge



Gauge API

Table 7.6. Gauge Class: `javax.microedition.lcdui.Gauge`

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
Gauge (String label, boolean interactive, int max Value , int initial Value)	Create a new gauge
Methods	
int getValue ()	Get current value of gauge
void setValue (int value)	Set new value for gauge

int getMaxValue ()	Get maximum allowed gauge value
void setMaxValue (int maxVal)	Set maximum allowed gauge value
boolean isInteractive ()	Is this an interactive gauge?

Example: Interactive Gauge

Following is a MIDlet ([Example 7.3](#)) with an interactive `Gauge` where the user can adjust what will appear to be the sound/volume of the application.

Example 7.3 InteractiveGauge.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class InteractiveGauge extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;      // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;         // The main form
    private Command cmExit;      // Exit the form
    private Gauge gaVolume;      // Volume adjustment

    public InteractiveGauge ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        // Create the gauge and exit command
        gaVolume = new Gauge("Sound Level", true, 30, 4);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

        // Create form, add commands, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.append(gaVolume);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
        }
    }
}
```



```

        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

```

In the constructor method we have added a call to create a new `Gauge` component:

```
gaVolume = new Gauge("Sound Level", true, 30, 4);
```

We've specified `true`, to indicate we want an interactive gauge. The maximum value has been set to 30 and we have a starting value of 4. You can see the output in [Figure 7-6](#).

Example: Non-interactive Gauge

[Example 7.4](#) shows how to change the value of a gauge using methods inside the `Gauge` class. We'll use a `Timer` to provide our MIDlet with periodic "interruptions," if you will, where we increment the gauge.

Example 7.4 NonInteractiveGauge.java

```

import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import java.util.Timer;
import java.util.TimerTask;

public class NonInteractiveGauge extends MIDlet implements
CommandListener
{
    private Display display;           // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;               // The main form
    private Command cmExit;           // Exit the form
    private Command cmStop;           // Stop the download
    private Gauge gaProgress;          // Progress indicator
    private Timer tm;                  // The Timer
    private DownloadTimer tt;          // The task to run

    public NonInteractiveGauge ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create the gauge, exit and stop command
        gaProgress = new Gauge("Download Progress", false, 20, 1);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmStop = new Command("Stop", Command.STOP, 1);

        // Create form, add commands, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("");
        fmMain.append(gaProgress);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmStop);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.

```

```

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);

    // Create a timer that fires off every 1000 milliseconds
    tm = new Timer();
    tt = new DownloadTimer();
    tm.scheduleAtFixedRate(tt, 0, 1000);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmStop)
    {
        tm.cancel();
        fmMain.removeCommand(cmStop);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        gaProgress.setLabel("Download Cancelled!");
    }
}

/*-----
* New class - Handle the timer task
*-----*/
private class DownloadTimer extends TimerTask
{
    public final void run()
    {
        // Is current value of gauge less than the max?
        if (gaProgress.getValue() < gaProgress.getMaxValue())
            gaProgress.setValue(gaProgress.getValue() + 1);
        else
        {
            // Remove stop command and replace with Exit
            fmMain.removeCommand(cmStop);
            fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);

            // Change the gauge label
            gaProgress.setLabel("Download Complete!");

            // Stop the timer
            cancel();
        }
    }
}
}

```

If you look inside the constructor, when compared to [Example 7.3](#), you'll notice we've changed the second parameter to `false`, thus requesting a non-interactive gauge:

```
gaProgress = new Gauge("Download Progress", false, 20, 1);
```

The next area of interest is inside `startApp()` where we create the timer. We've chosen a timer that fires off at a fixed rate. Every 1000 milliseconds the run method inside `DownloadTimer()` is called:

```
// Create a timer that fires off every 1000 milliseconds
tm = new Timer();
tt = new DownloadTimer();
tm.scheduleAtFixedRate(tt, 0, 1000);
```

Head down to the code that is called by the timer, `DownloadTimer()`. Our first check is to see if we've reached the maximum value of our gauge. If not, increment the current value of the gauge by one. If we've reached the maximum, remove the Stop button and replace it with an Exit button, change the label on the gauge to tell the user the download is complete and cancel the timer:

```
if (gaProgress.getValue() < gaProgress.getMaxValue())
    gaProgress.setValue(gaProgress.getValue() + 1);
else
{
    // Remove stop command and replace with Exit
    fmMain.removeCommand(cmStop);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
    // Change the gauge label
    gaProgress.setLabel("Download Complete!");

    // Stop the timer
    cancel();
}
```

The download gauge is shown in [Figure 7-7](#). The screen shot on the right shows the updated label on the gauge if the user cancels the download.

As with all high-level interface components, the implementation decides how the gauge will look on the screen. Take one last glance at [Figures 7-6](#) and [7-7](#) and you'll notice this implementation shows two different styles of gauges—a progressive scale and a bar scale—depending on whether or not the gauge is interactive.

StringItem

A `StringItem` displays a static label and text message. A user cannot edit either the label or the text, and as a result, a `StringItem` does not recognize events.

As a developer, once you create a `StringItem`, you can get/set the text message with methods inside the `StringItem` class. If you would like to get/set the label, you can do so using methods inherited from the `Item` class.

StringItem API

Table 7.7. StringItem Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.StringItem	
Method	Description
Constructor	
StringItem (String label, String text)	Create a new StringItem
Methods	
String getText ()	Get current value of the text
void setText (String text)	Set new value of the text

Example: Changing the Label and Message Text

The MIDlet that follows ([Example 7.5](#)) shows how to change both the label and the text message.

Example 7.5 ChangeLabelText.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class ChangeLabelText extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;       // The main form
    private StringItem siUser;  // The message
    private Command cmNext;     // Next label and message
    private Command cmExit;     // Command to exit the MIDlet

    public ChangeLabelText ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create text message and commands
        siUser = new StringItem("UserId: ", "johnm");
        cmNext = new Command("Next", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

        // Create Form, Commands & StringItem, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("Preferences");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmNext);
        fmMain.append(siUser);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
```

```

{ }
public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmNext)
    {
        // This method is inherited from the Item class
        siUser.setLabel("Account #: ");

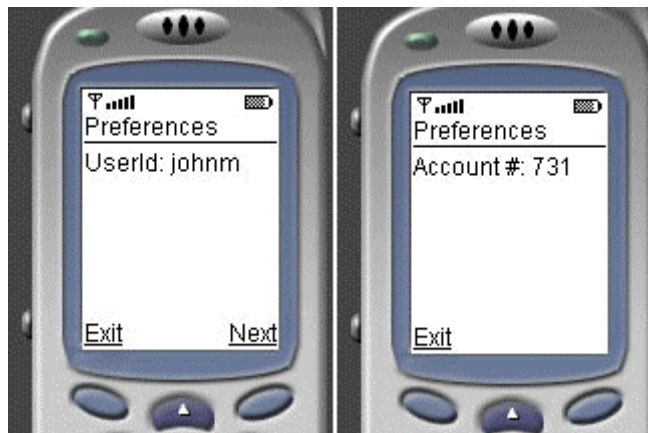
        // Change the text
        siUser.setText("731");

        // Remove the Next command
        fmMain.removeCommand(cmNext);
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

In the constructor we define a `StringItem` containing a label and a text message. We also add the `Command cmNext` which will invoke a call to `commandAction()`, where we change the label and the text. [Figure 7-8](#) shows the output of this example.

Figure 7-8. Changing the label and the text



Example: Alternative to StringItem

There is one more option for showing a text message—you can append a `String` directly on a `Form`. Using this option, you have no label as you do when using `StringItem` and updating the text requires a little more work, as we'll see.

If you refer back to the `Form` class, there is a method `append(String str)`, which we will use in our next example to insert a text message on the display:

```
msgIndex = fmMain.append("UserId: johnm");
```

To display the same information as the previous example ("UserId: johnm"), we combine what was previously a separate label and text into one string.

As you walk through the following code ([Example 7.6](#)) notice that we save the index of where this string is inserted (into the variable `msgIndex`.) We'll need this index at a later time to retrieve the string.

Example 7.6 StringItemAlternative.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class StringItemAlternative extends MIDlet implements
CommandListener
{
    private Display display; // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;     // The main form
    private Command cmNext;  // Next label and message
    private Command cmExit;  // Command to exit the MIDlet
    private int msgIndex;    // Index of message text on form
    private int count = 0;   // How many times through our loop

    public StringItemAlternative ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create commands
        cmNext = new Command("Next", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        // Create Form, add Command & message, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("Preferences");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmNext);

        // Save the index location of this item
        msgIndex = fmMain.append("UserId: johnm");

        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
```

```

{
    if (c == cmNext)
    {
        if (count++ == 0)
        {
            //-----
            // Option # 1
            // First time through this method
            //-----
            StringItem tmpItem = (StringItem)
                fmMain.get(msgIndex);

            System.out.println("tmpItem.getLabel(): " +
                tmpItem.getLabel());
            System.out.println("tmpItem.getText(): " +
                tmpItem.getText());

            //inherited from Item class
            tmpItem.setLabel("Account #: ");
            tmpItem.setText("731");
        }
        else
        {
            //-----
            // Option # 2
            // Second time through this method
            //-----
            fmMain.set(msgIndex,
                new StringItem("Password: ", "superPants"));

            // Remove the Update command
            fmMain.removeCommand(cmNext);
        }
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

Let's look at two ways in which we can change the text message. Both are shown in the method `commandAction()`.

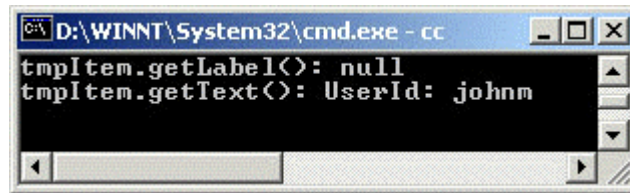
Option 1

Get the index of the `String` we previously inserted using `fmMain.get(msgIndex)`. The return value from this call is an `Item`, so we must cast it to a `StringItem` in order to access the class methods.

```
StringItem tmpItem = (StringItem) fmMain.get(msgIndex);
```

I've inserted two `println` calls to take a closer look at the label and the text of `tmpItem` (see [Figure 7-9](#)). Notice `getLabel()` returned `null` and `getText()` returned the original text message we appended to the form.

Figure 7-9. StringItem label and text



So, here's what we can surmise, our call:

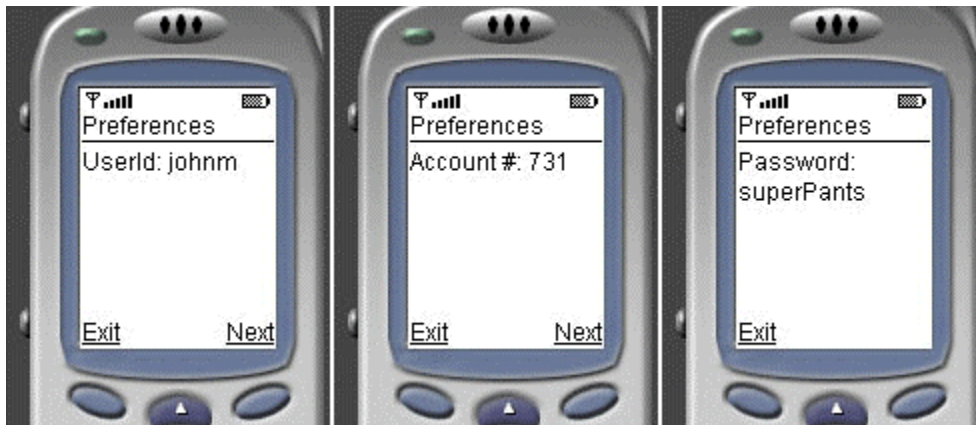
```
fmMain.append("UserId: johnm");
```

was essentially translated into:

```
fmMain.append(new StringItem(null, "UserId: johnm"));
```

The last two lines of this code block set the label (which was previously `null`) and the text message to new values. See [Figure 7-10](#) (center screen shot).

Figure 7-10. Alternatives to display and edit static text



```
tmpItem.setLabel("Account #: ");  
tmpItem.setText("731");
```

Option 2

With one line of code, we can replace the original text with a new `Item`. Using the `set()` method of the `Form`, we replace the `Item` located at `msgIndex`:

```
fmMain.set(msgIndex,  
    new StringItem("Password: ", "superPants"));
```


Because this is a new `StringItem` we are inserting, we have the option to break this into a label and a message (as above), or simply concatenate both into one string and pass this as the text message:

```
fmMain.set(msgIndex,  
    new StringItem(null, "Password: superPants"));
```

The choice as to which you use depends, more than anything, on whether or not you will need to access the individual elements ("password" and "superPants") of the string. If so, save yourself a little work and call `StringItem` with two parameters, one for the label and one for the text.

The output of this option is shown in [Figure 7-10](#) (right-most screen shot).

TextField

Start with the picture in your mind of a single-line text-entry box. A common example would be a name or email address field that you might see on any standard online form. Now, add support for multiple lines of text and the option to filter the user input, such as only allowing numbers. At this point, you have a `TextField` component. If you are familiar with HTML form development, a `TextField` is similar to both a combination of a text input and text area, with a few twists.

When you create a `TextField` you can specify an input constraint. A constraint provides restrictions on the data that a user may enter. For example, you may have a `TextField` that prompts for an email address—the code behind the `TextField` can help by limiting the characters it accepts to only those that are valid as part of an email address. There are four constraints to support the following specific types of input: email addresses, URLs, numeric values and phone numbers. There is an additional constraint that does no filtering at all, essentially passing all characters through to the `TextField`. [Table 7.8](#) lists the available constraints.

In addition to constraints, when you create a `TextField` you specify how many characters you anticipate you will need. As you might guess, there are no guarantees your requested size will be allocated; however, there is a method provided that will return the number of characters the `TextField` will support once created. Before calling a method that may extend the length of the `TextField`, save yourself some debugging time by checking the size before inserting data.

Table 7.8. TextField Constraints: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextField	
Value	Description
CONSTRAINT_MASK	Use this mask when you need to determine the current value of the constraint. See the section entitled " A Look Inside Constraint Values " for more information.
ANY	Allow any character input.
EMAILADDR	Allow only characters that are valid within an email address.
NUMERIC	Allow only numbers. This includes both positive and negative numbers. You do not have an option to request only positive or only negative values.
PASSWORD	Masks all character input to provide privacy when entering data. This constraint can be combined with other constraints to provide masking. See the section entitled " Using the Password Modifier " for more information.
PHONENUMBER	Allow only characters that are valid as part of a phone number. This may be

	device and/or local specific.
URL	Allow only characters that are valid within a URL.

One last thought to keep in mind: The number of characters allocated for a `TextField` is not necessarily the same as the number of characters that will appear on the display. The implementation will add support for scrolling if the screen cannot display the text in its entirety.

TextField API

Table 7.9. TextField Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextField	
Method	Description
Constructor	
TextField (String label, String text, int maxSize, int constraints)	Create a new TextField
Methods	
void delete (int offset, int length)	Delete characters at a specified offset
void insert (String src, int position)	Insert String at a specified offset
void insert (char[] data, int offset, int length, int position)	Insert specified characters from array into TextField at a specified offset
void setChars (char[] data, int offset, int length)	Set (replace) characters with data from array
void setString (String text)	Set (replace) TextField contents from String
int getChars (char[] data)	Get contents of TextField into an array
String getString ()	Get contents of TextField into a String
int getConstraints ()	Get constraints defined for TextField
void setConstraints (int constraints)	Set constraints for TextField
int getMaxSize ()	Get max number of characters in TextField
int setMaxSize (int maxSize)	Set max number of characters in TextField
int getCaretPosition ()	Get current caret (cursor) position
int size ()	Number of characters currently in TextField

Example: Processing Text Input with a Character Array

Area codes seem to be in a continual state of change (not unlike the price of a postage stamp). The codes where I live have changed three times in as many years. Let's write a simple application ([Example 7.7](#)) to simulate verification of area codes.

First, we'll prompt the user for a phone number. Next, we'll perform a simple lookup for the area code in a table. If the user's area code is found, we'll assume there is a new area code for the phone number entered, and we will update the `TextField` with the new code. The program has few bells and whistles; however, it does show how to insert and delete characters from a `TextField`, along with code to search and access a multi-dimensional array.

Example 7.7 VerifyAreaCode.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
```

```

public class VerifyAreaCode extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;            // The main form
    private Command cmTest;         // Next label and message
    private Command cmExit;         // Command to exit the MIDlet
    private TextField tfPhone;      // Phone number
    private String areaCodeTable [][] = {
        {"512", "912"}, // Old area code, new area code
        {"717", "917"}};

    public VerifyAreaCode ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create commands
        cmTest = new Command("Test", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

        // Textfield for phone number
        tfPhone = new TextField("Phone:", "", 10,
                                TextField.PHONENUMBER);

        // Create Form, add Commands & textfield, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("Area Codes");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmTest);
        fmMain.append(tfPhone);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmTest)
        {
            if (tfPhone.size() == 10)
            {
                char buffer[] = new char[10];

                // Get phone number into byte array
                tfPhone.getChars(buffer);

                // Call method to check the area code table.
                // Create a new StringItem to display,
                // passing in 'null' as the StringItem
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

        StringItem tmp = new StringItem(null, ("The area code " +
            (areaCodeLookup(buffer) ? "has" : "has not") +
            " been updated.));

        // Place at the end of the form
        if (fmMain.size() == 1) // Only tfPhone on form
            fmMain.append(tmp);
        else // Replace previous StringItem
            fmMain.set(1, tmp);
    }
}
else if (c == cmExit)
{
    destroyApp(false);
    notifyDestroyed();
}
}
/*-----
* Compare the area code the user entered with the
* area code table. If a match is found, replace
* the user's code with the new code from the table
*-----*/
private boolean areaCodeLookup(char [] buffer)
{
    // Get the area code (only) from the users entry
    String str = new String(buffer, 0, 3);

    for (int x = 0; x < areaCodeTable.length; x++)
    {
        // If we find a match in the table
        if (str.equals(areaCodeTable[x][0]))
        {
            // Delete the area code
            tfPhone.delete(0, 3);

            // Insert the new area code
            tfPhone.insert(areaCodeTable[x][1].toCharArray(), 0, 3, 0);
            return true;
        }
    }
    return false;
}
}
}

```

The interesting code begins inside `commandAction()`, starting with the call to `getChars()` to place the phone number into a byte array.

```

tfPhone.getChars(buffer);
StringItem tmp = new StringItem(null, ("The area code " +
    (areaCodeLookup(buffer) ? "has" : "has not") +
    " been updated.));

```

If you look carefully at the line that allocates a new `StringItem`, you will see a reference to the method `areaCodeLookup()`. Let's jump into that method.

First, we need to extract the area code and store it inside a `String`.

```
// Get the area code (only) from the users entry
String str = new String(buffer, 0, 3);
```

Now, loop through the area code table looking for a match between the area code the user entered and those in the table. If a match is found, using the `delete()` method of the `TextField`, remove three characters, starting at position zero:

```
tfPhone.delete(0, 3);
```

At this point we have a phone number with no area code. The next line will insert three characters into `tfPhone`, at the beginning, using characters from the area code table. Pay close attention to the values of the offsets in both the `tfPhone` and the area code table. It is also worth mentioning that we must convert the desired `String` from the area code table into a character array, as this is the data type expected by the `insert()` method.

```
tfPhone.insert(areaCodeTable[x][1].toCharArray(), 0, 3, 0);
```

Figures [7-11](#) and [7-12](#) show the output. From the left the figure demonstrates entering the phone number, the number before pressing the Test key and the updated phone number with new area code.

Figure 7-11. From left: Form containing an empty TextField; the TextField data entry screen

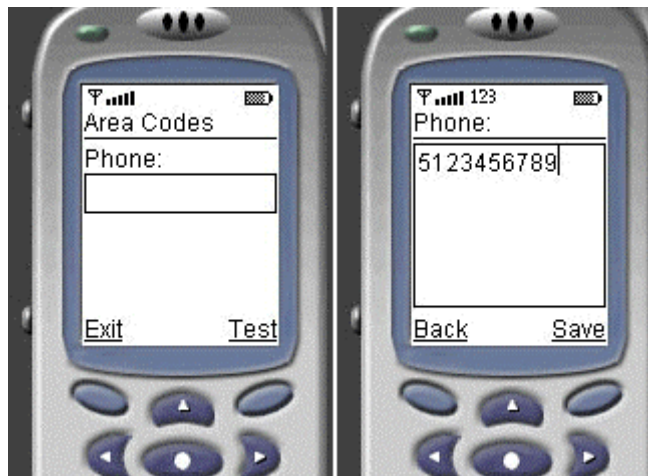
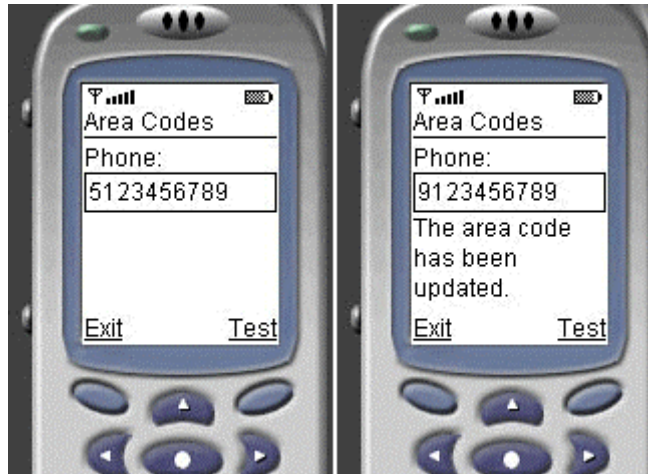


Figure 7-12. From left: Form and TextField with updated contents; the TextField after validating the area code



Using the Password Modifier

If at any point you need to mask characters on the screen, (e.g., when entering a password), you can apply the `PASSWORD` modifier to a constraint. Currently, this is the only modifier available.

Here is a simple `TextField` declaration that will accept any character and will mask the input as each character is entered.

```
tFPwd = new TextField("Password:", "", 10,
    TextField.ANY | TextField.PASSWORD);
```

[Figure 7-13](#) shows the how the password modifier looks on the display.

Figure 7-13. Password modifier; characters are masked as they are entered



Mask Character

Unfortunately, you cannot choose the character you would like displayed for masking. The good news is, it's a safe assumption that most devices will choose the "*" character, which most users recognize as a means of hiding data input.

A Look Inside Constraint Values

To help you maintain your sanity as you write code using constraints, let's look a little deeper at the values assigned to each constraint. Begin by skimming over [Table 7.10](#).

Table 7.10. Constraints Values		
<i>Constraint</i>	<i>Decimal/Hex Value</i>	<i>Binary Value</i>
ANY	0	00000000 00000000 00000000
EMAILADDR	1	00000000 00000000 00000001
NUMERIC	2	00000000 00000000 00000010
PHONENUMBER	3	00000000 00000000 00000011
URL	4	00000000 00000000 00000100
PASSWORD (modifier)	0x10000	00000001 00000000 00000000
CONSTRAINT_MASK	0xFFFF	00000000 1 1111111 11111111

Whether intentional or not in the design of the specification, you cannot combine constraints (`PASSWORD` is a special case, as I'll point out). I realize this is not realistic. However, for the sake of argument, let's combine `EMAILADDR` and `NUMERIC`. If you were to combine these as part of a `TextField` declaration, it would look similar to the following:

```
TextField tfEmail = new TextField("Email:", "", 10,
    TextField.EMAILADDR | TextField.NUMERIC);
```

Here is how we combine the fields using a logical OR operation:

```
TextField.EMAILADDR    00000000 00000000 00000001
TextField.NUMERIC      00000000 00000000 00000010
-----
logical OR             00000000 00000000 00000011
```

Unfortunately, if you look in the [Table 7.10](#) you'll see that 00000011 is the value for `PHONENUMBER` ! Most definitely, this is not what we had in mind.

Now, let's combine, `PASSWORD` with `EMAILADDR` and see what we get

```
TextField.EMAILADDR    00000000 00000000 00000001
TextField.PASSWORD     00000001 00000000 00000000
-----
logical OR             00000001 00000000 00000001
```

A reasonable assumption would be that the first (right-most) 16 bits are reserved for constraints. Because `PASSWORD` is outside the range of these values, we don't have a collision with another constraint.

Note



PASSWORD is a modifier that is to be used along with other constraints. With the exception of PASSWORD, you cannot combine constraints!

To drag this through the mud just a little further, let's see how the constraint mask works. This mask was created to work in conjunction with the method `getConstraints()`. As we'll show below, the reason for the mask is to remove the `PASSWORD` modifier. When you need to know the value of the constraint for a `TextField`, you call this method and perform a logical *AND* operation as follows:

```
TextField.getConstraints() & TextField.CONSTRAINT_MASK
```

This will return an integer that represents the current constraint setting. For example, here is a declaration specifying the constraint `ANY` along with the modifier `PASSWORD`:

```
TextField tfPwd = new TextField("Password:", "", 10,
                               TextField.ANY | TextField.PASSWORD);
```

Before we move on, let's look at the results of combining the constraint along with the modifier (which will reveal what is passed to the constructor above):

<code>TextField.ANY</code>	00000000	00000000	00000000
<code>TextField.PASSWORD</code>	00000001	00000000	00000000

constraint value	00000001	00000000	00000000

If at some point we would like to know the constraint setting for `tfPwd`, we can call the method `getConstraints()`. Here is what the method will return:

```
tfPwd.getConstraints()    00000001 00000000 00000000
```

In decimal that is 65536, which is a value nowhere to be found in the [Table 7.10](#). To get the value we are looking for, we need to mask off the modifier:

```
tfPwd.getConstraints() & TextField.CONSTRAINT_MASK
```

which looks as follows:

<code>tfPwd.getConstraints()</code>	00000001	00000000	00000000
<code>TextField.CONSTRAINT_MASK</code>	00000000	11111111	11111111

logical AND	00000000	00000000	00000000

Ah, that's better. We can now look up the value of 0 (zero) in the table and see that this `TextField` is using the `ANY` constraint.

If you would like to check for the `PASSWORD` modifier specifically, you could insert something along the lines of:


```
if ((tfPwd.getConstraints() & TextField.PASSWORD) != 0)
    System.out.println("Password modifier applied");
```

No doubt constraints can be quite helpful for filtering input. However, before you jump in, make sure you understand what functionality they provide, and equally important, their limitations.

Validating User Input

Although `TextField` supports input constraints, it is by no means a foolproof way to validate user input. For example, using the `NUMERIC` constraint will most definitely limit the input to numbers (that's the good news). The bad news is, there is no constraint to specify only positive or only negative values. If your application requires one or the other, you will need to add code to check for this once you get the value from the `TextField`.

Choice and ChoiceGroup

Before we can learn about the `ChoiceGroup`, we need to introduce the `Choice` interface. If you recall from [Chapter 6](#), an interface is a class that defines a set of methods. It is up to the classes that "implement" the interface to provide the body of each method.

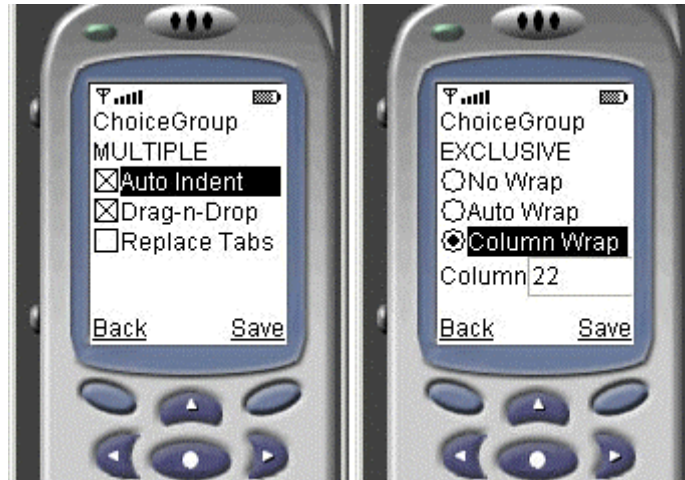
The `Choice` interface defines methods that all have to do with manipulating various types of predefined selections. There are two classes provided in the MIDP that implement the `Choice` interface:

```
public class ChoiceGroup extends Item implements Choice {
    ...
}

public class List extends Screen implements Choice {
    ...
}
```

A `ChoiceGroup` comes in two types: multiple and exclusive (think checkboxes and radio groups, respectively; see [Table 7.12](#)). Screen shots of both `ChoiceGroups` using Sun's reference implementation of MIDP are shown in [Figure 7-14](#).

Figure 7-14. Multiple and exclusive ChoiceGroups



When we get to [Chapter 8](#), we cover the specifics of the `List` component.

ChoiceGroup API

Table 7.11. ChoiceGroup Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.ChoiceGroup	
Method	Description
Constructor	
ChoiceGroup (String label, int choiceType)	Create a ChoiceGroup with no elements
ChoiceGroup (String label, int choiceType, String[] stringElements, Image imageElements)	Create a ChoiceGroup and populate with data from the arrays
Methods	
int append (String stringPart, Image imagePart)	Add element to end
void delete (int elementNum)	Delete element
void insert (int elementNum, String stringElement, Image imageElement)	Insert element
void set (int elementNum, String stringPart, Image imagePart)	Set (replace) element
String getString (int elementNum)	Get text (String) associated with element
Image getImage (int elementNum)	Get Image associated with element
int getSelectedIndex ()	Get the index of the selected element
void setSelectedIndex (int elementNum, boolean selected)	MULTIPLE Choice Group-set element to specified boolean value EXCLUSIVE Choice Group-set element to true IMPLICIT-invalid type for Choice Group
int getSelectedFlags (boolean[] selectedArray_return)	Store selection status in an array
void setSelectedFlags (boolean[] selectedArray)	Set selection status from an array
boolean isSelected (int elementNum)	Is the element currently selected?
int size ()	Number of elements

The `ChoiceGroup` component implements the `Choice` interface. There are three pre-defined choice types, two of which are available with `ChoiceGroup` (see [Table 7.12](#)).

Event Handling for ChoiceGroup

There are two ways in which to detect the status of selections within a `ChoiceGroup`.

1. `ItemStateListener`

When a user changes a value in a `ChoiceGroup`, if the `Form` containing the `ChoiceGroup` has registered an `ItemStateListener`, the method `itemStateChanged()` will be called. Inside this method you can inquire as to which `ChoiceGroup` element(s) are selected using either `getSelectedFlags()` or `getSelectedIndex()`.

Table 7.12. ChoiceTypes: javax.microedition.lcdui.Choice	
Value	Description
EXCLUSIVE	Only one selection available at any time
MULTIPLE	Zero or more selections available at any time
IMPLICIT	Not available for <code>ChoiceGroup</code> (see List component in Chapter 8)

Should it be helpful as part of your application logic, this functionality allows you to track what actions a user is performing on a `ChoiceGroup`. This may be helpful when a choice selected affects other information on the display.

For example, in [Figure 7-14](#) notice the "Column Wrap" option. Below this is a `TextField` component that allows for a user to specify the column in which to generate a text wrap. With this type of event handling, you could add or remove the `TextField` based on whether or not "Column Wrap" is selected.

2. `CommandListener`

If there is a `CommandListener` registered with the `Form` that contains the `ChoiceGroup`, you can add a `Command` (s) to signal your program to query the selection status. This signal will arrive as a call to the method `commandAction()`.

For example, in [Figure 7-14](#) if a user selected the "Save" command you could make note of the preferences selected and write them to persistent storage for later recall.

Example: Exclusive Choice

Examples [7.8](#) and [7.9](#) will each construct a `ChoiceGroup` using the `append()` method. When we learn about the `Image` class in the next section, you'll see how to create a `ChoiceGroup` using an array of `String` and `Image` objects.

Our first example will be that of an exclusive choice, where only one option can be selected at any time. It is required by the device implementation to always have one item selected. If you don't specify which item to select when creating the list, the implementation will decide, most likely selecting the first element.

If you look inside the constructor you'll see the how to declare an exclusive `ChoiceGroup`:

```
cgEmail = new ChoiceGroup("Email Options", Choice.EXCLUSIVE);
```

A few lines down, we append entries into the `ChoiceGroup`. We are also making note of the index of the "reply" entry:

```
replyIndex = cgEmail.append("Reply", null);
```

Example 7.8 ExclusiveChoiceGroup.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class ExclusiveChoiceGroup extends MIDlet implements
CommandListener
{
    private Display display;          // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;              // The main form
    private Command cmExit;           // A Command to exit the MIDlet
    private Command cmView;           // View the choice selected
    private ChoiceGroup cgEmail;      // Choice group
    private int replyIndex;            // Index of "reply" in choice group
    private int choiceGroupIndex;     // Index of choice group on form

    public ExclusiveChoiceGroup ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create an exclusive (radio) choice group
        cgEmail = new ChoiceGroup("Email Options", Choice.EXCLUSIVE);

        // Append options, with no associated images
        cgEmail.append("Read", null);
        replyIndex = cgEmail.append("Reply", null);
        cgEmail.append("Forward", null);
        cgEmail.append("Delete", null);

        // Set "reply" as the default/selected option
        cgEmail.setSelectedIndex(replyIndex, true);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmView = new Command("View", Command.SCREEN, 2);

        // Create Form, add components, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("");
        choiceGroupIndex = fmMain.append(cgEmail);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmView);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    // Called by application manager to start the MIDlet.
    public void startApp()
```

```

{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmView)
    {
        // Build a string showing which option was selected
        StringItem siMessage = new StringItem("You selected: ",
            cgEmail.getString(cgEmail.getSelectedIndex()));
        fmMain.append(siMessage);

        // Delete the choice group & view button
        fmMain.delete(choiceGroupIndex);
        fmMain.removeCommand(cmView);
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

We'll use this index to pre-select an entry in the `ChoiceGroup`. Keep in mind, if you do not specify which entry to show as selected, the device implementation will decide for you.

```
cgEmail.setSelectedIndex(replyIndex, true);
```

Once the user has selected an entry and pressed the "View" command, we display a message showing which entry they chose. Inside `commandAction()` we will create a new `StringItem` to display the message:

```
StringItem siMessage = new StringItem("You selected: ",
    cgEmail.getString(cgEmail.getSelectedIndex()));
```

The label for the `StringItem` is "You selected". The text message is created by nesting two `ChoiceGroup` method calls inside `StringItem`

- `cgEmail.getSelectedIndex()` returns the integer value of the currently selected entry. This value is passed as a parameter to the next method.
- `cgEmail.getString()` returns a `String` object of the item selected.

The end result of these two calls is a text string that shows which option was chosen. Before leaving `commandAction()` we'll remove the `ChoiceGroup` and "View" `Command` from the display. Here is the output for this example:

Figure 7-15. On the left, "Reply" is the default selection. In the middle, choose "Delete" and press the "View" command. The result is shown on the right.



Example: Multiple Choice

Often times, having a single selection is not sufficient. For example, when a user is setting preferences, you may like to present a list of features, and the user simply places a checkmark by each feature they would like to enable.

You can very easily transform a `ChoiceGroup` into a multi-selection list, as we'll see in the next example. We'll also include the following:

- A "select all" feature. The result is the same as if the user clicked each option individually to enable it.
- An option to print to the console the selection status of each item in the `ChoiceGroup`.

Example 7.9 MultipleChoiceGroup.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class MultipleChoiceGroup extends MIDlet implements
    ItemStateListener, CommandListener
{
    private Display display;           // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;               // The main form
    private Command cmExit;            // A Command to exit the MIDlet
    private Command cmView;            // View the choice selected
    private int selectAllIndex;        // Index of the "Select All" option
    private ChoiceGroup cgPrefs;       // Choice Group of preferences

    private int choiceGroupIndex;      // Index of choice group on form

    public MultipleChoiceGroup ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create a multiple choice group
        cgPrefs = new ChoiceGroup("Preferences", Choice.MULTIPLE);
```

```

// Append options, with no associated images
cgPrefs.append("Auto Indent", null);
cgPrefs.append("Replace Tabs", null);
cgPrefs.append("Wrap Text", null);
selectAllIndex = cgPrefs.append("Select All", null);

cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
cmView = new Command("View", Command.SCREEN, 2);
// Create Form, add components, listen for events
fmMain = new Form("");
choiceGroupIndex = fmMain.append(cgPrefs);
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.addCommand(cmView);
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmView)
    {
        boolean selected[] = new boolean[cgPrefs.size()];

        // Fill array indicating whether each element is checked
        cgPrefs.getSelectedFlags(selected);

        for (int i = 0; i < cgPrefs.size(); i++)
            System.out.println(cgPrefs.getString(i) +
                               (selected[i] ? ": selected" : ": not selected"));
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    if (item == cgPrefs)
    {
        // Is "Select all" option checked ?
        if (cgPrefs.isSelected(selectAllIndex))
        {

```

```

// Set all checkboxes to true
for (int i = 0; i < cgPrefs.size() - 1; i++)
    cgPrefs.setSelectedIndex(i, true);

// Remove the check by "Select All"
cgPrefs.setSelectedIndex(selectAllIndex, false);
}
}
}
}
}

```

Changing a `ChoiceGroup` from exclusive (single-choice/radio group) to multiple is nearly effortless. Merely change the "type" parameter sent to the `ChoiceGroup` constructor:

```
cgPrefs = new ChoiceGroup("Preferences", Choice.MULTIPLE);
```

Our "select all" feature will be carried out when the user selects the last element in the `ChoiceGroup` (see [Figure 7-16](#)). To identify this element, we need to save the index of where this element was inserted in the `ChoiceGroup`:

Figure 7-16. Multiple ChoiceGroup. On the left, one element selected; on the right, the result of choosing "Select All."



```
selectAllIndex = cgPrefs.append("Select All", null);
```

As we learned earlier, once we've added an `ItemStateListener` to a `Form`, any time a change is made to an `Item` (`DateField`, `Gauge`, `ChoiceGroup` and `TextField`) the method `itemStateChanged()` will be called. Here's how we create the "listener":

```
fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);
```

Note



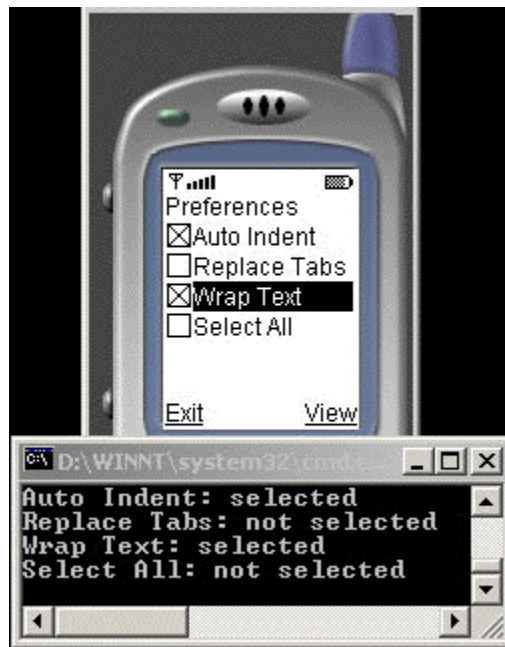
When using `ItemStateListener`, the device implementation will decide when to call the method `itemStateChanged()`. It is not required that this method be called on every change.

Sun's implementation of MIDP (version 1.0) does call `itemStateChanged()` each time you select/unselect a `ChoiceGroup` element. However, for a `DateField`, `itemStateChanged()` is only called once you leave the `DateField` edit screen.

Inside `itemStateChanged()` we check to see if `selectAllIndex` has been chosen by the user, and if so, we will loop through the entire `ChoiceGroup` setting the selected status to `true` (selected) for each other element.

To keep the display interface consistent, I've also chosen to reset the "select all" element to `false` when leaving `itemStateChanged()`. If you think about this for a moment, it makes sense. If I were to leave it checked, and a user were to "unselect" a different element(s) in the `ChoiceGroup`, you would have to click the "select all" option twice (once to turn it off, another to turn it back on) to reset all elements to `true` (selected) again.

Figure 7-17. Clicking the View command. The console shows the selection status of each element in the Choice Group.



```
if (cgPrefs.isSelected(selectAllIndex))
{
    // Set all checkboxes to true
    for (int i = 0; i < cgPrefs.size() - 1; i++)
        cgPrefs.setSelectedIndex(i, true);
    // Remove the check by "Select All"
    cgPrefs.setSelectedIndex(selectAllIndex, false);
}
```

Image and ImageItem

The `ImageItem` class allows you to specify how you would like an image displayed on a Form—for example, centered horizontally, to the left or to the right (see Figures 7-18 and 7-19). However, your preference is not cast in stone. It is still up to the device implementation to decide where the image will actually appear. When you consider the range of devices that may implement the MID Profile, this flexibility, from an implementation point of view, makes sense.

Figure 7-18. Image layout: Code Block A and B. Left screenshot:

`LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE | LAYOUT_CENTER | LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER`. **Right screenshot:** `LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE | LAYOUT_LEFT | LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER`



Figure 7-19. Image layout using Code Block C and D. Left screenshot:

`LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE | LAYOUT_RIGHT | LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER`. **Right screenshot: No Directives**



Before going any further with `ImageItem`, we need to introduce the `Image` class. An image on a mobile device can come in two flavors:

- **Immutable:** As the name implies, once you create this type of image, it cannot be changed. In most cases, you will create an immutable image from a resource, such as a file, or content stored in a data structure, such as a byte array. You can also convert a mutable image to immutable.

Immutable images can be placed on a [Form](#) ([Figure 7-22](#)), shown alongside each element of a [ChoiceGroup](#) or [List](#) ([Figure 7-21](#)), or displayed as part of an [Alert](#) component ([Figure 8-16](#)).

Figure 7-21. ChoiceGroup component using an array of Image objects. The console output is displayed when selecting the View command.

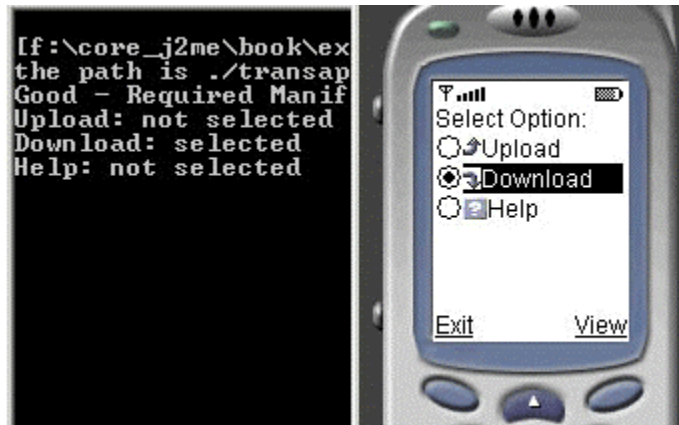


Figure 7-22. A mutable image with centered text, converted to immutable and appended to a Form



- **Mutable:** These image objects provide the ultimate in flexibility. When you create this type of image, you are doing nothing more than setting aside a chunk of memory that you will draw into, at some point, to create the image. An immutable image becomes visible when you specifically request it to be drawn to the display (e.g., using the `paint()` method as part of the [Canvas](#) class). We will learn more about mutable images in [Chapter 9](#).

[Table 7.13](#) lists the methods for managing an `Image`. [Table 7.15](#) lists the methods of the `ImageItem` class.

Image API

Table 7.13. Image Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.Image	
Method	Description
Create an Image ^[1]	
static Image createImage (String name)	Create immutable image from resource
static Image createImage (Image source)	Create immutable image from existing Image
static Image createImage (byte[] imageData, int imageOffset, int imageLength)	Create immutable image from array data
static Image createImage (int width, int height)	Create mutable image
Methods	
Graphics getGraphics ()	Get reference to Graphics object for <i>mutable</i> image
int getHeight ()	Get the height of Image
int getWidth ()	Get the width of Image
boolean isMutable ()	Determine if image is mutable

^[1] Constructor is not used to create an Image.

Specifying Image Layout

If you would like to specify a preference as far as how an `Image` will be displayed (left, right, center, etc.), this is done through the `ImageItem` class. See [Table 7.14](#) for a list of the various layouts available. The following code creates an image and appends it to a form requesting that the image be centered in the display.

```
// Create an image
Image im = Image.createImage("/someimage.png");

// Append to a form with the specified layout
fmMain.append(new ImageItem(null, im,
                             ImageItem.LAYOUT_CENTER, null));
```

Table 7.14. ImageItem Layouts: javax.microedition.lcdui.Image	
Value	Description
LAYOUT_DEFAULT	Use the default layout of the device implementation.
LAYOUT_LEFT	The image should appear on the left.
LAYOUT_RIGHT	The image should appear on the right.
LAYOUT_CENTER	Center the image horizontally.
LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE	Insert a newline before the image is drawn. This assures that previous text/images will appear above the image (not sharing the same horizontal space).

LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER	Insert a newline after the image is drawn. Subsequent text/images will appear below the image.
----------------------	--

ImageItem API

Table 7.15. ImageItem Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.ImageItem	
Method	Description
Constructor	
ImageItem (String label, Image img, int layout, String altText)	Create an ImageItem
Methods	
Image getImage ()	Get Image associated with ImageItem
void setImage (Image img)	Set Image to be associated with ImageItem
int getLayout ()	Get the current layout directives
void setLayout (int layout)	Set new layout directive
String getAltText ()	Get alternate text to display if image cannot be shown on the device
void setAltText (String text)	Set alternate text to display if image cannot be shown on the device

A Look Inside Layout Directives

Take a moment to review the layout directives in [Table 7.16](#).

Table 7.16. Layout Directives		
Directive	Decimal/Hex Value	Binary Value
LAYOUT_DEFAULT	0	00000000 00000000
LAYOUT_LEFT	1	00000000 00000001
LAYOUT_RIGHT	2	00000000 00000010
LAYOUT_CENTER	3	00000000 00000011
LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE	0x100	00000001 00000000
LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER	0x200	00000010 00000000

It may not be obvious at first glance; however, it's important to understand that the first four directives were not intended to be combined (with each other). Although a bit contrived, here is an example combining `LAYOUT_RIGHT` with `LAYOUT_CENTER`:

```
ImageItem.LAYOUT_RIGHT    00000000 00000010
ImageItem.LAYOUT_CENTER   00000000 00000011
-----
logical OR                 00000000 00000011
```

You've gained nothing by combining these directives. In fact, you are left with a directive equaling one of the original values, `LAYOUT_CENTER`.

On the other hand, the last two directives are specifically intended to be used along with other directives. For example:

```
ImageItem.LAYOUT_CENTER      00000000 00000011
ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE 00000001 00000000
                                -----
logical OR                   00000001 00000011
```

Notice that the result is a unique value. That's a good thing. With this unique value the MIDP implementation can mask off the upper or lower eight bits and determine what directives were used to create the current value. For instance:

```
Result from above           00000001 00000011
Mask off upper 8 bits       11111111 00000000
                                -----
logical AND                 00000001 00000000
```

The result tells us the original request was a directive combined with `LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE`. Masking the other side:

```
Result from above           00000001 00000011
Mask off lower 8 bits       00000000 11111111
                                -----
logical AND                 00000000 00000011
```

Referring back to [Table 7.16](#), we now know the entire directive that was originally requested—`LAYOUT_CENTER` combined with `LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE`.

This is important for two reasons. First, the MIDP implementation on a device needs to be able to correctly determine what directives you requested. Second, when you call the method `ImageItem.getLayout()`, you will be returned an integer value that is a combination of the directives currently assigned to the object. You will need to pull apart the integer value, by masking off bits, to determine what directives were applied when creating the `ImageItem`.

We can take this one step further:

```
ImageItem.LAYOUT_CENTER      00000000 00000011
ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE 00000001 00000000
ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER 00000010 00000000
                                -----
logical OR                   00000011 00000011
```

Once again, we still have a unique value. The implementation can determine (by masking off bits) that we have requested a newline before drawing the image, as well as a newline after drawing the image.

Example: Immutable Image from a File

[Example 7.10](#) shows how to create an `Image` from a file resource (a PNG file stored in a JAR file) and uses `ImageItem` to demonstrate several placement directives.

Example 7.10 `ImmutableImageFromFile.java`

```

import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class ImmutableImageFromFile extends MIDlet implements
CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;            // The main form
    private Command cmExit;         // Command to exit the MIDlet

    public ImmutableImageFromFile()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        fmMain = new Form("");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }
    try
    {
        // Read the appropriate image based on color support
        Image im = Image.createImage((display.isColor()) ?
            "/image_color.png":"/image_bw.png");

        // Code Block A
        fmMain.append("A1");
        fmMain.append(new ImageItem(null, im,
            ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE |
            ImageItem.LAYOUT_CENTER |
            ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER, null));
        fmMain.append("A2");

        // Code Block B
        // fmMain.append("B1");
        // fmMain.append(new ImageItem(null, im,
        //     ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE |
        //     ImageItem.LAYOUT_LEFT |
        //     ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER, null));
        // fmMain.append("B2");

        // Code Block C
        // fmMain.append("C1");
        // fmMain.append(new ImageItem(null, im,
        //     ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE |
        //     ImageItem.LAYOUT_RIGHT |
        //     ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER, null));
        // fmMain.append("C2");

        // Code Block D
        // fmMain.append("D1");
        // fmMain.append(im);
        // fmMain.append("D2");
        //
        //
        //

        // View the layout directives
    }
}

```

```

        //      System.out.println("Layout Directives:" +
        //      ((ImageItem)fmMain.get(1)).getLayout());
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }
    catch (java.io.IOException e)
    {
        System.err.println("Unable to locate or read .png file");
    }
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{
}

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

I have created four code blocks inside the constructor method, the first three defining a unique combination of directives the last, no directive. To see the output of each block, you will need to run the MIDlet four times, once for each block of code. As it is shown in [Example 7.9](#), Code Block A will be compiled and run; all the remaining blocks are commented out.

Before we look at the output, let's see how to read an image from a resource.

```

// Read the appropriate image based on color support
Image im = Image.createImage((display.isColor()) ?
    "/image_color.png" : "/image_bw.png");
fmMain.append("A1");
fmMain.append(new ImageItem(null, im,
    ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE |
    ImageItem.LAYOUT_CENTER |
    ImageItem.LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER, null));
fmMain.append("A2");

```

I have two PNG image files that I created: image_color.png and image_bw.png. We create an `Image` object using the appropriate file, based on the color support of the device. Next, we append a text string, followed by the image (with various layout directives), followed by another text string. The reason for the text strings will be apparent as you run each code block. You'll see how the directives affect the image placement.

Figures [7-18](#) and [7-19](#) show how the display changes based on the layout directives specified.

Example: Reading and Displaying a File

Although reading the contents of a file has little to do with image processing, there is some thought behind why this topic is placed here.

In the previous example we created an `Image` object from a file. An obvious question at the time would have been, how does a MIDlet locate the file? The answer lies with the class loader. The loader knows how to search and access resources inside the MIDlet Suite. It stands to reason if the loader can find resources, our MIDlets should be able to as well. And yes, this is true. To show how this is accomplished, the next example will read and display the contents of a file resource.

For our example, let's assume we want to store help information in a text file. The benefit over this approach, versus hard-coding the text in the application, is that if the help text ever changes, we simply need to update the MIDlet Suite (JAR file) with the new help file.

Up to this point, I've still avoided the question, how do we access a resource? We can obtain a reference to the input stream of a resource with following code:

```
InputStream is = getClass().getResourceAsStream("help.txt");
```

Although accessing the resource is quite simple, explaining how this works is not as straightforward. During execution of your MIDlet, for each object loaded, there is runtime information stored. One reason this is necessary is for the JVM to identify the methods associated with an object. You can access this same runtime information using the `Java.lang.Object.getClass()`. The end result of this call is an object of the class `Class` (no, that's not a typo, there is a class called `Class`).

One of the methods available inside `Class` is `getResourceAsStream()`. This method returns an input stream to the resource requested. From here, you can read the contents of the stream and process it however you see fit.

Let's look at [Example 7.11](#).

Example 7.11 ReadDisplayFile.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import java.io.*;

public class ReadDisplayFile extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;       // Main form
    private Command cmHelp;    // Command to show a help file
    private Command cmExit;    // Command to exit the MIDlet
    private Alert alHelp;      // Alert to display help file text

    public ReadDisplayFile ()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
    }
}
```

```

        cmHelp = new Command("Help", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

        fmMain = new Form("Read File");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmHelp);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    { }
    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmHelp)
        {
            String str;
            // Access the resource and read its contents
            if ((str = readHelpText()) != null)
            {
                // Create an Alert to display the help text
                alHelp = new Alert("Help", str, null, null);
                alHelp.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);

                // Display the alert followed by the main form
                display.setCurrent(alHelp, fmMain);
            }
        }
        else if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }

    private String readHelpText()
    {
        InputStream is = getClass().getResourceAsStream("help.txt");
        try
        {
            StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer();
            int chr, i = 0;
            // Read until the end of the stream
            while ((chr = is.read()) != -1)
                sb.append((char) chr);

            return sb.toString();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {

```

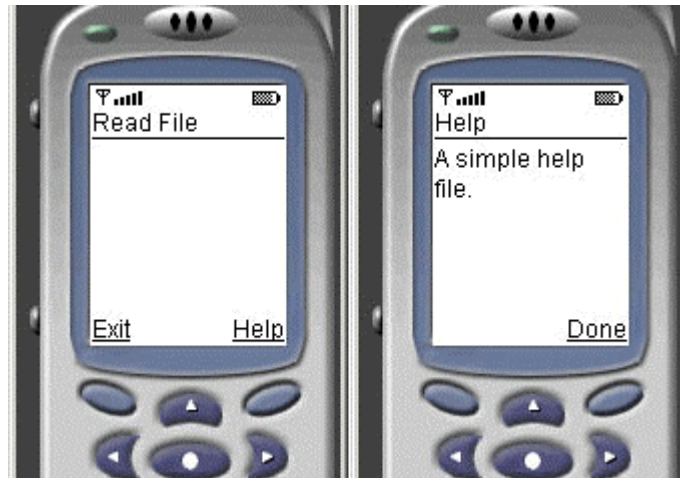
```

        System.out.println("Unable to create stream");
    }
    return null;
}
}

```

There are two sections of code worth pointing out. The method `readHelpText()` is home to the code for opening an input stream and reading the help file into a `StringBuffer`. Inside `commandAction()` is the call to `readHelpText()`, which also displays a modal `Alert` dialog with the help information. The output for the MIDlet is shown in [Figure 7-20](#).

Figure 7-20. Displaying the contents of a file stored in a MIDlet suite



Whether you are reading a text file as we've done here, or have a need to access any other resource in a MIDlet suite, the steps for acquiring and reading from a stream will vary little.

Example: Array of Images with ChoiceGroup

In the previous section we discussed the `ChoiceGroup` component. Now that we are familiar with the `Image` object, we can now show an additional example of how to create a `ChoiceGroup` using an array of `Image` objects and `String` objects ([Example 7.12](#)). Let's take a look:

Example 7.12 `ChoiceGroupWithImages.java`

```

import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class ChoiceGroupWithImages extends MIDlet implements
CommandListener
{
    private Display display        // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;           // Main form
    private Command cmExit;        // Command to exit the MIDlet
    private Command cmView;        // View the choice selected
    private ChoiceGroup cgPrefs;   // Choice Group of preferences

    public ChoiceGroupWithImages ()

```

```

{
    display = Display.getDisplay(this);

    try
    {
        // Create array of image objects
        Image images[] = {Image.createImage("/up.png"),
                           Image.createImage("/down.png"),
                           Image.createImage("/help.png") };

        // Create array of corresponding string objects
        String options[] = {"Upload", "Download", "Help"};

        // Create a choice group using arrays
        cgPrefs = new ChoiceGroup("Select Option:",
                                   Choice.EXCLUSIVE, options, images);
    }
    catch (java.io.IOException e)
    {
        System.err.println("Unable to locate or read .png file");
    }

    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    cmView = new Command("View", Command.SCREEN, 2);

    // Create Form, add components, listen for events
    fmMain = new Form("");
    fmMain.append(cgPrefs);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmView);
    fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmView)
    {
        boolean selected[] = new boolean[cgPrefs.size()];

        // Fill array indicating whether each element is checked
        cgPrefs.getSelectedFlags(selected);

        // Print to console the status of each element
        for (int i = 0; i < cgPrefs.size(); i++)
            System.out.println(cgPrefs.getString(i) +
                               (selected[i] ? ": selected" : ": not selected"));
    }
}

```

```

        else if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}

```

Inside the constructor class, we create an array of `Image` objects and a corresponding array of `String` objects; we also allocate a `ChoiceGroup` passing in these same arrays.

```

Image images[] = {Image.createImage("/up.png"),
                  Image.createImage("/down.png"),
                  Image.createImage("/help.png") };

// Create array of corresponding string objects
String options[] = {"Upload", "Download", "Help"};

// Create a choice group using arrays
cgPrefs = new ChoiceGroup("Select Option:",
                          Choice.EXCLUSIVE, options, images);

```

The interface will also include a "View" command to see the current status of each selection in the `ChoiceGroup` (see [Figure 7-21](#)).

Example: Mutable Image and Graphics Object

A mutable image is a no-frills `Image` object. Until you draw into the image, using methods in the `Graphics` class, it is nothing more than an off-screen area in memory. You create a mutable image by specifying the desired width and height of the image.

We'll conclude this chapter by creating a mutable image, drawing text into the image, converting the mutable image to immutable and placing the resulting image onto a `Form` ([Example 7.13](#)). The reason for running through these hoops is that a `Form` (as well as an `Alert`, `Choice` and `ImageItem`) only accepts immutable images. Therefore, if you create a mutable image during application runtime and you plan to use the image on a `Form`, `Alert`, `Choice` or `ImageItem`, you will need to follow a similar set of steps.

Example 7.13 MutableImage.java

```

import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class MutableImage extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;            // Main form
    private Command cmExit;         // Command to exit the MIDlet
    private static final String message = "Core J2ME";
    public MutableImage()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
    }
}

```

```

// Create a mutable image and get graphics object for image
Image tmpImg = Image.createImage(80, 20);
Graphics graphics = tmpImg.getGraphics();

// Specify a font face, style and size
Font font = Font.getFont(Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
    Font.STYLE_ITALIC, Font.SIZE_MEDIUM);
graphics.setFont(font);

// Center the text in the image
graphics.drawString(message,
    (tmpImg.getWidth() / 2) - (font.stringWidth(message) / 2), 0,
    Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);

// Draw a rectangle around the image
graphics.drawRect(0,0,
    tmpImg.getWidth() - 1, tmpImg.getHeight() - 1);

cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
fmMain = new Form("");
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

// Convert the image to immutable and add to the form
fmMain.append(Image.createImage(tmpImg));
display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}
public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{
}

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

[Figure 7-22](#) shows the end result—a mutable image converted to immutable and placed on a `Form`.

We create a mutable image by calling the `createImage()` method that requires two integer values: the width and height. Before we can draw or write into the image, we need to obtain a reference to a `Graphics` object.

```
Image tmpImg = Image.createImage(80, 20);  
Graphics graphics = tmpImg.getGraphics();
```

We now have a means to draw directly into the image. To make this a little more interesting, we specify a font, center the text message inside the image and draw a rectangle around the image to show the boundaries (boundingbox). We wrap all this up by converting the mutable image to immutable and appending to the form.

```
// Convert the image to immutable and add to the form  
fmMain.append(Image.createImage(tmpImg));  
display.setCurrent(fmMain);
```

We'll cover the specifics of fonts and graphics in [Chapter 9](#).

Chapter 8. HIGH-LEVEL USER INTERFACE: PART II

Topics in this Chapter

- [List](#)
- [TextBox](#)
- [Alert and AlertType](#)
- [Ticker](#)

We started [Chapter 7](#) by introducing the `Screen` and the `Form` classes. Then we dug deeper, looking at all the components that were subclasses of `Item`, each of which can be added to a `Form`. Let's revisit the hierarchy diagram shown earlier.

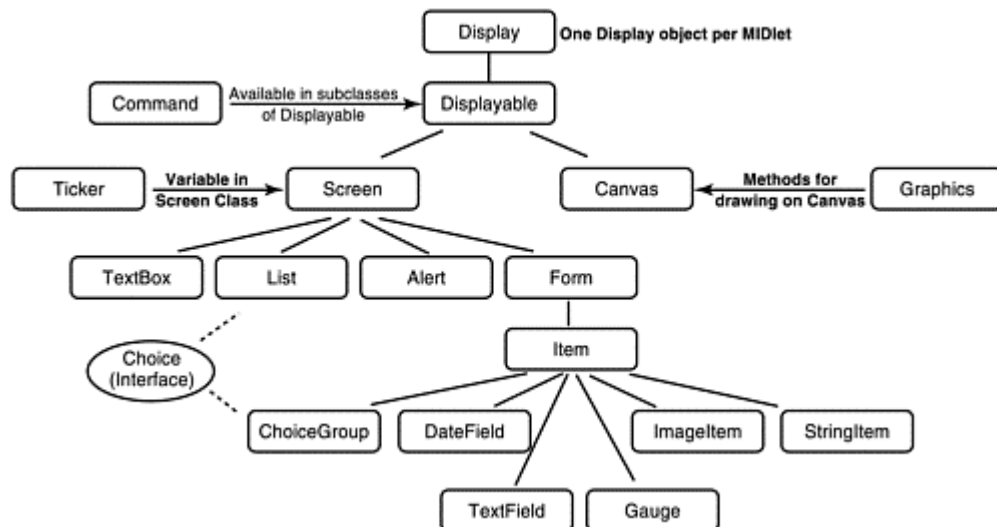
All the user interface components we covered up to this point, with the exception of `Form`, were subclasses of `Item`. We are now about to introduce `List`, `TextBox`, `Alert` and `Ticker`. Each of these is on the same "level," if you will, as the `Form`. It's probably better to say that each extends the `Screen` class, as does the `Form`. The one exception is the `Ticker` class. `Ticker` not a subclass of `Screen`. To be more precise, it is a variable defined in the `Screen` class. The actual declarations are as follows:

```
public abstract class Screen extends Displayable {  
    ...  
    private Ticker ticker = null;  
    ...  
}
```

Thus, a `Ticker` can be associated with any (and actually with multiple) `Screen` object(s). There will be more on the `Ticker` class near the end of this chapter.

Repeated from [Chapter 7](#), here are the class definitions for the hierarchy shown in [Figure 8-1](#):

Figure 8-1. Displayable class hierarchy



Display	(public class Display)
Displayable	(public abstract class Displayable)
Screen	(public abstract class Screen extends
Displayable)	
TextBox	(public class TextBox extends Screen)
List	(public class List extends Screen
implements Choice)	
Alert	(public class Alert extends Screen)
Form	(public class Form extends Screen)
Item	(public abstract class Item)
ChoiceGroup	(public class ChoiceGroup extends Item
implements Choice)	
DateField	(public class DateField extends Item)
TextField	(public class TextField extends Item)
Gauge	(public class Gauge extends Item)
ImageItem	(public class ImageItem extends Item)
StringItem	(public class StringItem extends Item)
Canvas	(public abstract class Canvas extends
Displayable)	
Command	(public class Command)
Ticker	(public class Tickler)
Graphics	(public class Graphics)
Choice	(public interface Choice)

One significant difference between the components presented in this chapter and those covered thus far is how they are presented on the display. A **Form** can hold any number of **Items**. And along with that, a **Form** will handle any scrolling necessary to accommodate multiple components.

For example, a **Form** prompting a user for bank account information may contain several **TextFields** pertaining to an account number, email address and password. Each of these may be visible on the display at the same time. The **Form** will provide scrolling if necessary.

In contrast, a **List**, **TextBox** and **Alert** each operate independently. Once a **TextBox** is set as the active display, it is the only component visible. The same applies to an **Alert** and **List**. In essence, a **Form** is like a container for other visual components, whereas **List**, **TextBox** and **Alert** are standalone.

Bear in mind that whether we are referring to a **Form**, **List** or **TextBox** or **Alert**, each can accommodate **Command** objects as well. So when I state that **TextBox** is the only component on the display, this does not consider any **Command** objects that may be present.

List

A **List** contains a series of choices presented in one of three formats. Two of these are shown in [Figure 8-2](#): multiple and exclusive.

Figure 8-2. Multiple and Exclusive Lists



The third type is the implicit list (see [Figure 8-3](#)). Notice the simplicity of the list and the lack of radio buttons and checkboxes. I've also removed the "Save" command from the display. In a moment, you'll understand why such a command is no longer necessary.

Figure 8-3. Implicit List



Event Handling for List

In [Chapter 6](#) we discussed event handling. However, given the differences in dealing with user interaction of a `List` versus `ChoiceGroup`, this topic deserves some additional attention.

If you page back to [Figure 7-14](#) and compare this to [Figure 8-2](#), you'll notice just how similar the `List` and `ChoiceGroup` appear to be. The appearance is where the resemblance ends. Event handling for each is quite different. Let's quickly recap the event handling options for a `ChoiceGroup`:

1. Specify an `ItemStateListener` for the `Form` containing the `ChoiceGroup`. When a user changes a selection, the method `itemStateChanged()` is called.

2. Add a `Command` (s) to the `Form` containing the `ChoiceGroup`; for example, a "Save" or "Exit" `Command`. When a `Command` is issued by the user, the method `commandAction()` will be called.

Event Changes to a `ChoiceGroup` (or any Item)

The specification does not require `itemStateChanged()` to be invoked each time a change is detected. Look back to [Chapter 6](#) in the section `Item` and `ItemStateListener` for the rules set forth regarding when events/changes must be acknowledged.

Following are the event handling options for a `List`:

1. Exclusive and multiple lists: No event is triggered when a user changes a `List` element. To determine the status of the various elements, you will need a break in the action. Typically, this will be when a user selects a `Command` (as explained earlier for a `ChoiceGroup`).

For example, you may have a multiple-selection list on the screen with various application preferences, as shown in [Figure 8-2](#). When a user chooses to "Save," you could write the preferences to persistent storage.

2. Implicit list: Upon selection of an element in the `List`, an event is immediately generated. As with exclusive and multiple, the method `commandAction()` will be called. Given what we know from previous run-ins with this method, it is only invoked if a `CommandListener` is registered. Following is a partial example to register a listener for an implicit `List`:

```
lsmain = new List("Email Options", Choice.IMPLICIT);  
lsmain.setCommandListener(this);
```

The classic example of an implicit `List` is that of a menu. When presented with a series of options in a menu (see [Figure 8-3](#)), once you make a selection the action is implicitly carried out. Put another way, once you choose an option from a menu, the menu goes away and you are whisked off to the code that carries out the action.

To put that description into a picture, visualize a pull-down menu inside a word processor. If you click on the Edit menu, you'll typically see options such as cut, copy, paste, search and replace. Once you've moved the mouse over your choice and clicked, the menu disappears and the action is carried out.

As a final clarification, unlike the `ChoiceGroup`, a `List` does not have the option of registering an `ItemStateListener`.

Comparison of `ChoiceGroup` versus `List`

`ChoiceGroup` and `List` are so closely related that without a little nudge you may have a hard time differentiating between a `List` and a `ChoiceGroup`. Here are a few thoughts to help clarify:

Similarities

- Both implement the `Choice` interface. This interface defines a common set of methods: adding, deleting and getting elements, to name just a few.
- Both can show explicit choices (radio buttons) or multiple choices (check boxes).

Appearance Difference

- A `ChoiceGroup` appears as part of a `Form`. That is, there may be other components on the display. To be specific, there may be other objects of the `Item` class on the `Form`. Keep in mind that due to the limited display size, a user may need to scroll up and down to see all the components.
- A `List` occupies the display as a single entity. No other components will be visible at the same time. Once again, you may need to scroll up and down to see all the elements in the list, but the list is the sole component active on the display.
- One point to drill home: Whether we are referring to a `Form` (with a `ChoiceGroup`) or a `List`, both can accommodate `Command` objects. So when we say that a list is the only entity on the display, this does not take into consideration any commands that may be available. See [Figure 8-4](#), which shows a list and two commands: "Exit" and "Add."

Figure 8-4. Implicit List created with an array of Strings and an array of Images



Implementation Differences

- `ChoiceGroup` can have the following types:

MULTIPLE: Any number of elements can be selected (Checkbox)

EXCLUSIVE: One element is selected at any given time (Radio Group)

- `List` can have the following types:

MULTIPLE: Any number of elements can be selected (Checkbox)

EXCLUSIVE: One element is selected at any given time (Radio Group)

IMPLICIT: Selection of an element generates an event (Menu)

- Event processing for a `ChoiceGroup` can use either an `ItemStateListener` to detect changes, which will result in a call to the method `itemStateChanged()`, or you can have a `Command` object on a `Form` trigger a call to the method `commandAction()`.
- A `List` is not a subclass of `Item`: Therefore, there is no listener available to detect changes to individual elements. Events for an implicit list are generated as soon as a selection is made. With a list you also have the option to use a `Command` object to initiate an event. Whether an implicit list or a command(s) trigger an event, the method `commandAction()` is called.

List API

Table 8.1. List Class: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.List</code>	
Method	Description
Constructor	
List (String title, int listType)	Create a new List with no elements
List (String title, int listType, String[] stringElements, Image[] imageElements)	Create a new List and populate with data from the arrays
int append (String stringPart, Image imagePart)	Add element to end
void delete (int elementNum)	Delete an element at specified index
void insert (int elementNum, String stringPart, Image imagePart)	Insert element at specified index
void set (int elementNum, String stringPart, Image imagePart)	Set (replace) element at specified index
String getString (int elementNum)	Get text of element at specified index
Image getImage (int elementNum)	Get Image of element at specified index
int getSelectedIndex ()	Get index of selected element
void setSelectedIndex (int elementNum, boolean selected)	MULTIPLE LIST—set element to specified boolean value EXCLUSIVE LIST—set element to true IMPLICIT LIST—set element to true
int getSelectedFlags (boolean[] selectedArray_return)	Store selection status in an array
void setSelectedFlags (boolean[] selectedArray)	Set selection status from an array
boolean isSelected (int elementNum)	Determine if element is selected
int size ()	Number of elements in List

The `List` component implements the `Choice` interface. There are three pre-defined choice types, of which each is defined in [Table 8.2](#).

Table 8.2. ChoiceTypes: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Choice</code>	
Value	Description
EXCLUSIVE	Only one selection available at any time
MULTIPLE	Zero or more selections available at any time
IMPLICIT	Selection of an element generates an event

Example: Implicit List

Let's look at [Example 8.1](#), which creates an implicit list using an array of `Image` objects and an array of `String` objects.

Example 8.1 ImplicitList.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class ImplicitList extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to Display object
    private List lsDocument;        // Main list
    private Command cmExit;         // Command to exit
    private Command cmAdd;          // Command to add an element

    public implicitList()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create the Commands
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmAdd = new Command("Add", Command.SCREEN, 1);

        try
        {
            // Create array of image objects
            Image images[] = {Image.createImage("/ff.png"),
                              Image.createImage("/rr.png"),
                              Image.createImage("/new.png")};

            // Create array of corresponding string objects
            String options[] = {" Next", " Previous", " New"};

            // Create list using arrays, add commands, listen for events
            lsDocument = new List("Document Option:",
                                  List.IMPLICIT, options, images);
            lsDocument.addCommand(cmExit);
            lsDocument.addCommand(cmAdd);
            lsDocument.setCommandListener(this);
        }
        catch (java.io.IOException e)
        {
            System.err.println("Unable to locate or read .png file");
        }
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(lsDocument);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {

```

```

    }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    {
    }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        // If an implicit list generated the event
        if (c == List.SELECT_COMMAND)
        {
            switch (lsDocument.getSelectedIndex())
            {
                case 0:
                    System.out.println("Next");
                    break;

                case 1:
                    System.out.println("Previous");
                    break;

                case 2:
                    System.out.println("New");
                    break;
                default:
                    System.out.println("New Element");
            }
        }
        else if (c == cmAdd)
        {
            try
            {
                // Add a new element. Using size() as the insertion point,
                // the element will appended to the list.
                lsDocument.insert(lsDocument.size(), " Delete ",
                                Image.createImage("/delete.png"));
            }
            catch (java.io.IOException e)
            {
                System.err.println("Unable to locate or read .png file");
            }
        }
        else if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}

```

[Figure 8-4](#) shows the initial display when starting the MIDlet. Notice the images and corresponding text that were created using the arrays of images and strings, respectively. The screen shot on the left in [Figure 8-5](#) shows the display when selecting the "Add" command for the first time. The right screen shot is the result of selecting "Add" a second time.

Figure 8-5. Inserting new elements into a List



Here is the the code for adding a new element in to the list:

```
lsDocument.insert(lsDocument.size(), " Delete ",
                  Image.createImage( "/delete.png" ) );
```

If you don't give this a moment's thought, something interesting about the `insert()` method will slip right by. Consider the index where we are requesting to insert the element:

```
lsDocument.size()
```

The result of this call is the value 3, which is correct: It is the number of elements in our list. We are requesting the insert to take place at this same position. However, indexing of elements in a list begins with 0. The second element is at index 1, and so forth. Is it starting to sink in?

lstDocument: Before inserting a new element

Value	"Next"	"Previous"	"New"
Index	0	1	2

The specification states the following for the insert method:

"Inserts an element into the `Choice` just prior to the element specified"

Using this definition, we are requesting to insert an element just prior to element 3, but there is no element at that position, so index 3 does not exist! The designers of the specification had an option at this point. They could have chosen to treat this as an error condition and thrown an exception, or to add default functionality to capture this case. They decided upon the latter, which is where the interesting "side-effect" comes in. If you insert an element and specify the current length of the list, the element will be appended. Insert

Inserting Elements into the Middle of a List

When inserting into a `List`, take a moment to make certain you understand how the list

will change. Remember, elements are inserted into a list prior to the element specified.

If a list has 3 elements as shown below and an element ("Z") is inserted by specifying an insert index of 2, the new element will be inserted prior to element 2, as shown below. The element inserted will have the index 2, and the element previously at position 2 will now have an index of 3.

```
somelist.insert(2, "Z", null);
```

Before Insertion:				
Elements	A	B	C	
Index	0	1	2	
After Insertion:				
Elements	A	B	Z	C
Index	0	1	2	3

Before leaving this example take a minute to look over the code in `commandAction()`. Notice the check to see if the `Command` that initiated the event was an implicit `List`. Also, look at the switch statement that uses `lsDocument.getSelectedIndex()` to determine which element was selected and print a message to the console.

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == List.SELECT_COMMAND)
    {
        switch (lsDocument.getSelectedIndex())
        {
            case 0:
                System.out.println("Next");
                break;
            ...
        }
        ...
    }
}
```

Example: Multiple Choice List

Changing our `List` from implicit to multiple choice is a piece of cake. All that changes is the declaration of the `List`.

Implicit:

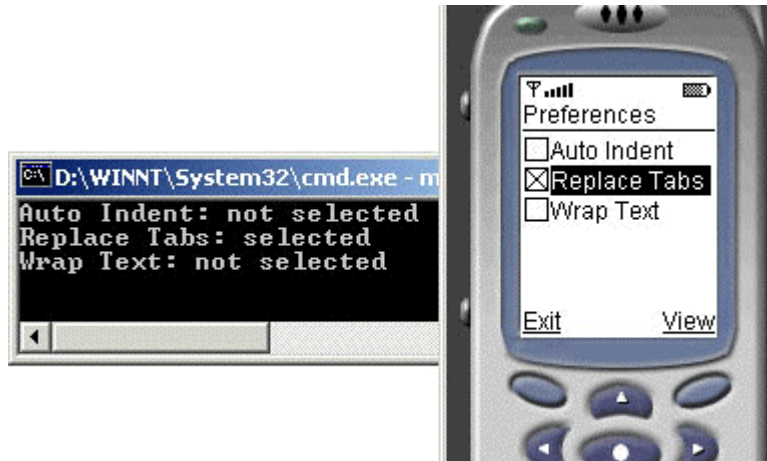
```
lsDocument = new List("Document Option:",
                      List.IMPLICIT, options, images);
```

Multiple Choice:

```
lsDocument = new List("Document Option:",
                      List.MULTIPLE, options, images);
```

The last `List` example will create a multiple choice list and fill an array (of boolean values) with the selection status of each entry. The MIDlet and console output (shown when the "View" option is selected) are shown in [Figure 8-6](#).

Figure 8-6. Multiple Choice List



Example 8.2 MultipleChoiceList.java

```
/*-----
 * MultipleChoiceList.java
 *
 * Create multiple choice list and save selection
 * status of each element in an array.
 *-----*/

import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class MultipleChoiceList extends MIDlet implements
CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to display object
    private Command cmExit;         // A Command to exit the MIDlet
    private Command cmView;        // View the choice selected
    private List lsPrefs;           // Choice Group of preferences

    public MultipleChoiceList()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create a multiple choice list
        lsPrefs = new List("Preferences", List.MULTIPLE);

        // Append options, with no associated images
        lsPrefs.append("Auto Indent", null);
        lsPrefs.append("Replace Tabs", null);
        lsPrefs.append("Wrap Text", null);
    }
}
```

```

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmView = new Command("View", Command.SCREEN, 2);

        // Add commands, listen for events
        lsPrefs.addCommand(cmExit);
        lsPrefs.addCommand(cmView);
        lsPrefs.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(lsPrefs);
    }
    public void pauseApp()
    { }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmView)
        {
            boolean selected[] = new boolean[lsPrefs.size()];

            // Fill array indicating whether each element is checked
            lsPrefs.getSelectedFlags(selected);

            for (int i = 0; i < lsPrefs.size(); i++)
                System.out.println(lsPrefs.getString(i) +
                    (selected[i] ? ": selected" : ": not selected"));

        }
        else if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}

```

TextBox

A `TextBox` is a multi-line text entry screen. When a user is entering text, you can filter the input to allow only certain characters (e.g., only numbers).

Does this component sound similar to another component we've seen previously? Just as a `List` and `ChoiceGroup` are closely related, so are a `TextBox` and `TextField`. So closely tied are the two that they share the same set of constraints for restricting the user input. The constraints are defined in the `TextField` class, and are shown in [Table 8.4](#).

When you create a `TextBox` you specify how many characters you would like the `TextBox` to hold. The actual size returned may be different than what you requested. Therefore, a method is provided that will return the maximum number of characters: `getMaxSize()`.

Comparison of `TextBox` versus `TextField`

The difference between a `TextBox` and `TextField` come down to a few key points:

Similarities

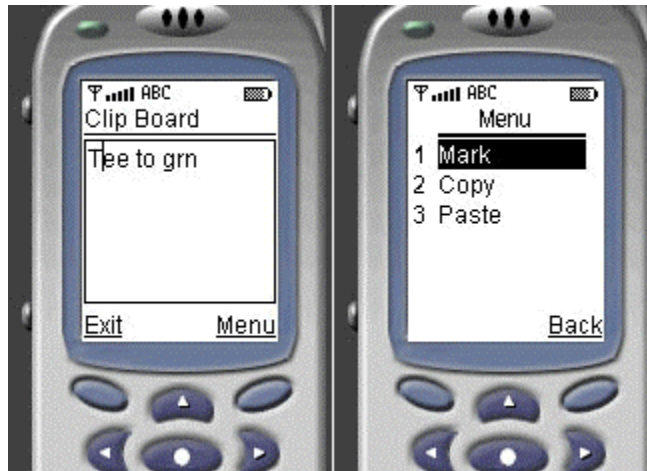
- Both share the input constraints as specified in the `TextField` class.
- Both have a maximum capacity that may be different than what can be displayed on the device at any one time. Scrolling will be provided by the implementation as necessary.

Appearance Difference

- A `TextField` is a subclass of `Item`, and therefore appears as part of a `Form`. There may be other components on the `Form` at the same time.
- When on the display, a `TextBox` is the only component visible.

Note: A `Form` (with a `TextField`) or a `TextBox` may not be the sole components on the display: both can also accommodate `Command` objects (see [Figure 8-7](#)).

Figure 8-7. Setting the starting point to copy text to the clipboard



Implementation Differences

- When you want to process events on a `TextField`, you can use an `ItemStateListener` to detect changes that will result in a call to the method `itemStateChanged()` or you can have a `Command` object on the `Form` trigger a call to the method `commandAction()`.
- `TextBox` events are handled exclusively through `Command` objects. Because a `TextBox` is not a subclass of `Item`, there is no `ItemStateListener` available.

TextBox API

Table 8.3. TextBox Class: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextBox	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructors	
TextBox (String title, String text, int maxSize, int constraints)	Create a new TextField
Methods	
void delete (int offset, int length)	Delete characters
void insert (String src, int position)	Insert characters from a String
void insert (char[] data, int offset, int length, int position)	Insert characters from an array into specified 'position'
void setChars (char[] data, int offset, int length)	Replace TextBox contents with data from an array
int getChars (char[] data)	Place TextBox contents into an array
String getString ()	Place TextBox contents into a String
void setString (String text)	Set (replace) TextBox contents from a String
int getConstraints ()	Get the constraints defined
void setConstraints (int constraints)	Set the constraints
int getMaxSize ()	Get total characters that can be stored
int setMaxSize (int maxSize)	Set total characters that can be stored
int getCaretPosition ()	Get current input position
int size ()	Number of characters currently in TextBox

Example: Add Copy and Paste to TextBox

There are no copy and paste operations available as part of the base functionality of a `TextBox`. Let's write some additional code to add this support.

This next MIDlet will have a menu with three options: Mark, Copy and Paste. "Mark" will make note of the current offset (caret position) in the `TextBox`. "Copy" will place characters into the clipboard (a character array) from the mark previously set to the current position. When "Paste" is selected, the clipboard contents will be inserted into the `TextBox`.

Table 8.4. TextField Constraints: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextField	
<i>Value</i>	<i>Description</i>
CONSTRAINT_MASK	Use this mask when you need to determine the current value of the constraint. See the section " A Look Inside Constraint Values " in Chapter 7 for more information.
ANY	Allow any character input.
EMAILADDR	Allow only characters that are valid within an email address.
NUMERIC	Allow only numbers. This includes both positive and negative numbers. You do not have an option to request only positive or only negative values.
PASSWORD	Masks all character input to provide privacy when entering data. This constraint can be combined with other constraints to provide masking. See the section " Using the Password Modifier " in Chapter 7 for more information.

PHONENUMBER	Allow only characters that are valid as part of a phone number. This may be device and/or local specific.
URL	Allow only characters that are valid within a URL.

Figure 8-8. Move to the ending point and copy the text "ee" to the clipboard



Figures [8-7](#) through [8-9](#) show the copy and paste in action.

Figure 8-9. Move to the insertion point and paste the text "ee" into the TextBox



The source code for this MIDlet is shown in [Example 8.3](#).

Example 8.3 SimpleClipboard.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class SimpleClipBoard extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;           // Reference to Display object
    private TextBox tbClip;           // Main textbox
}
```

```

private Command cmExit;           // Command to exit
private Command cmStartMark;      // Command to start marking a block
private Command cmCopy;           // Command to copy to clipboard
private Command cmPaste;          // Command to paste into textbox
private int beginOffset = 0;      // The start index of copy
private char[] clipBoard = null;  // The clipboard
private int clipBoardChars = 0;   // Number of chars in clipboard

public SimpleClipBoard()
{
    display = Display.getDisplay(this);

    // Create the Commands. Notice the priorities assigned
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    cmStartMark = new Command("Mark", Command.SCREEN, 2);
    cmCopy = new Command("Copy", Command.SCREEN, 3);
    cmPaste = new Command("Paste", Command.SCREEN, 4);

    tbClip = new TextBox("Clip Board", "AaBbcc",
                        8, TextField.ANY);
    tbClip.addCommand(cmExit);
    tbClip.addCommand(cmStartMark);
    tbClip.addCommand(cmCopy);
    tbClip.addCommand(cmPaste);
    tbClip.setCommandListener(this);

    // Allocate a clipboard big enough to hold the entire textbox
    clipBoard = new char[tbClip.getMaxSize()];
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(tbClip);
}

public void pauseApp()
{
}

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmStartMark)
    {
        beginOffset = tbClip.getCaretPosition();
    }
    else if (c == cmCopy &&
             (tbClip.getCaretPosition() > beginOffset))
    {
        // Allocate an array to hold the current textbox contents
        char[] chr = new char[tbClip.size()];

        // Get the current textbox contents
        tbClip.getChars(chr);
    }
}

```

```

        // The count of characters in the clipboard
        clipBoardChars = tbClip.getCaretPosition() - beginOffset;

        // Copy the text into the clipboard
        // arraycopy(source, sourceindex, dest, destindex, count)
        System.arraycopy(chr, beginOffset,
                        clipBoard, 0, clipBoardChars);
    }
    else if (c == cmPaste)
    {
        // Make sure the paste will not overrun the textbox length.
        if ((tbClip.size() + clipBoardChars) <=
            tbClip.getMaxSize())
            tbClip.insert(clipBoard, 0, clipBoardChars,
                        tbClip.getCaretPosition());
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}
}

```

Implementing the clipboard is quite simple. There are three variables we need: one to store the starting position of the copy, another to store the actual text and one to tell us how many characters are in the clipboard.

```

private int beginOffset = 0; // The start index of copy
private char[] clipBoard = null; // The clipboard
private int clipBoardChars = 0; // Number of chars in clipboard

```

Once a request is made to "mark" the current position, we simply get the caret position and store it.

```

beginOffset = tbClip.getCaretPosition();

```

When we need to copy to the clipboard we get the current characters in the `TextBox`, determine how many of those same characters we need based on the starting offset and current position and copy the result into the clipboard buffer.

```

char[] chr = new char[tbClip.size()];

// Get the current textbox contents
tbClip.getChars(chr);

// The count of characters in the clipboard
clipBoardChars = tbClip.getCaretPosition() - beginOffset;

// Copy the text into the clipboard
// arraycopy(source, sourceindex, dest, destindex, count)
System.arraycopy(chr, beginOffset, clipBoard, 0, clipBoardChars);

```

Pasting requires a check to be sure that we don't attempt to write off the end of the `TextBox`. If everything looks good, copy from the clipboard into the `TextBox` using `insert()`.


```
// Make sure the paste will not overrun the textbox length.
if ((tbClip.size() + clipBoardChars) <= tbClip.getMaxSize())
    tbClip.insert(clipBoard, 0, clipBoardChars,
                  tbClip.getCaretPosition());
```

Regarding the order of items as they appear in the menu (see [Figure 8–7](#)), we are stating our preference with the following code:

```
cmStartMark = new Command("Mark", Command.SCREEN, 2);
cmCopy = new Command("Copy", Command.SCREEN, 3);
cmPaste = new Command("Paste", Command.SCREEN, 4);
```

By sequentially increasing the priorities (a higher number has a lower priority), the implementation can decide how to order elements in the menu.

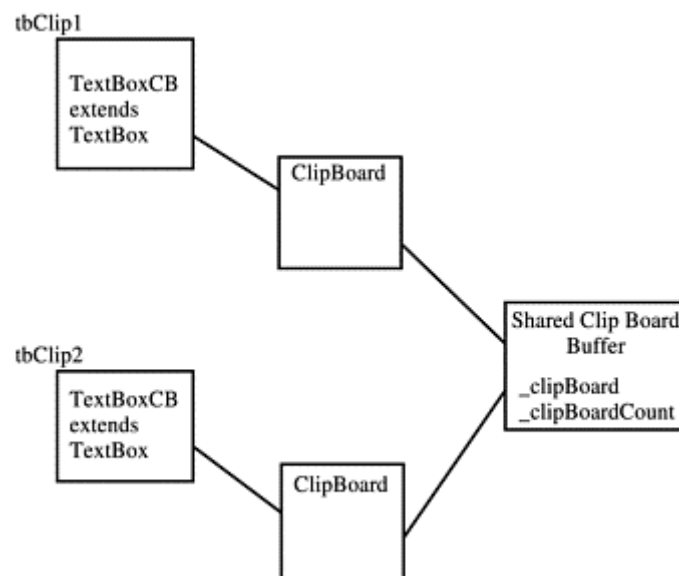
Example: Sharing a Clipboard across TextBoxes

We've seen with the MIDlet in [Example 8.3](#) that adding support for copy and paste is a walk in the park. However, we need a more realistic example to show how you might actually implement such a concept.

Let's improve our application design by encapsulating the variables that deal with the clipboard into a new class, appropriately named `Clipboard`. We'll also extend the `TextBox` class to support our new clipboard. The new class will be called `TextBoxCB`. As part of this extension, each `TextBoxCB` object will manage its own event processing. That is, each will have its own set of `Commands` to mark, copy, cut and paste.

Look at [Figure 8–10](#) for a diagram of the big picture.

Figure 8-10. Sharing a clipboard across multiple TextBox components



`tbClip1` and `tbClip2` will be instances of our new `TextBoxCB` class. Within each will be a reference to a `Clipboard` object (one object for each `TextBoxCB`). To make this example more

intriguing, I've created just one character array to store text copied to a clipboard. This allows us to share the clipboard contents between any number of `TextBoxCB` objects.

You'll notice in [Figure 8-10](#) the reference to the shared clipboard buffer. This is done by simply declaring the character array that holds the clipboard contents as a static variable. Thus, there is only one instance of `_clipboard`, regardless of how many `clipboard` objects we create. It's as simple as the following:

```
public class Clipboard
{
    ...
    private static char[] _clipboard = new char[1000];
    private static int _clipboardCount = 0;
    ...
}
```

Figures [8-11](#), [8-12](#), [8-13](#), [8-14](#), and [8-15](#) walk through the MIDlet, cutting text from one `TextBox` and pasting into another.

Figure 8-11. The main display: a List component showing two selections

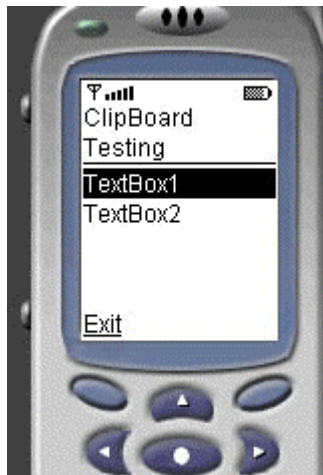


Figure 8-12. On left, inside `TextBox1`, move the cursor to the beginning of the text to cut; on right, select the "Mark" option to begin marking the text block

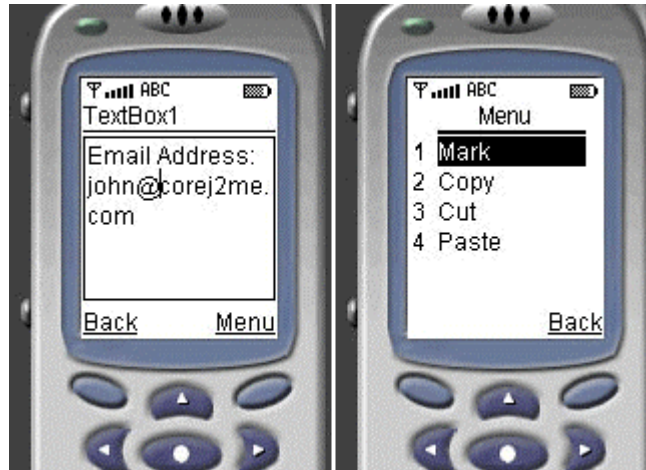


Figure 8-13. On left, move to the end of the text; on right, select "Cut" to place the text into the clipboard

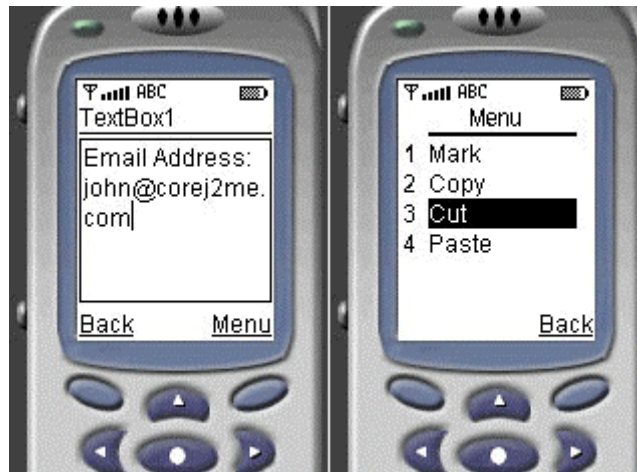


Figure 8-14. The text has been cut and placed into the clipboard

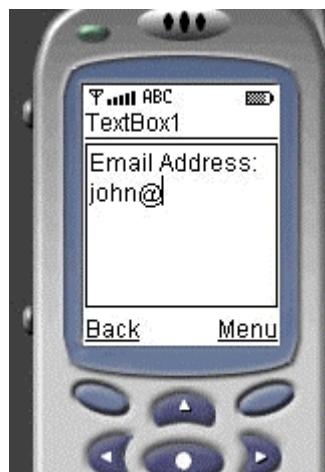
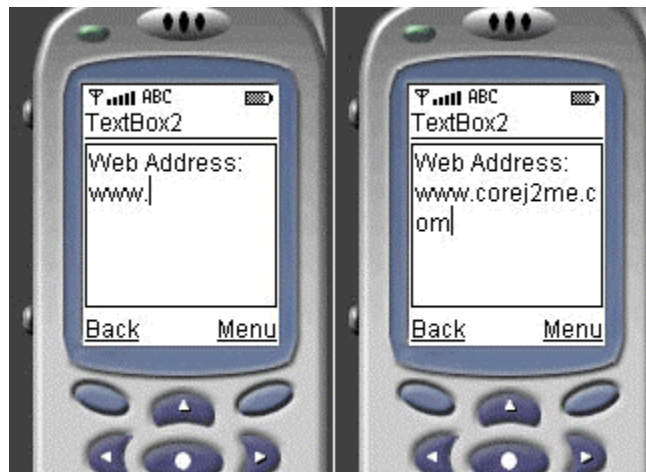


Figure 8-15. On left, inside TextBox2, move the cursor to the end of the text; on right, the result after choosing "Paste" from the Menu.



[Example 8.4](#) shows the source code to implement this MIDlet.

Example 8.4 Clipboard.java

```
/*-----
 * Clipboard.java
 *
 * Core clipboard code - mark, copy, cut and paste
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Clipboard
{
    //-----
    // Allocate clipboard. Note, both clipboard & count
    // of characters are shared across all instances
    //-----
    private static char[] _clipboard = new char[1000];
    private static int _clipboardCount = 0;

    private int beginOffset = 0; // The start index of copy
    private TextBox tb = null; // textbox for this instance

    /*-----
     * Hold reference to textbox that created clipboard
     *-----*/
    public Clipboard(TextBox textbox)
    {
        tb = textbox;
    }

    /*-----
     * Set starting point of copy
     *-----*/
    public void startMark()
```

```

{
    beginOffset = tb.getCaretPosition();
}

/*-----
* Copy text into the clipboard
*-----*/
public void copy()
{
    copy2clipboard();
}

/*-----
* Copy text into the clipboard. If successful copy,
* delete text from the textbox.
*-----*/
public void cut()
{
    if (copy2clipboard())
        tb.delete(beginOffset,
            tb.getCaretPosition() - beginOffset);
}

/*-----
* Do the actual copy into the clipboard
*-----*/
private boolean copy2clipboard()
{
    // Can only mark (copy/cut) going forward
    if (tb.getCaretPosition() > beginOffset)
    {
        // Allocate an array to hold the current textbox contents
        char[] chr = new char[tb.size()];

        // Get the current textbox contents
        tb.getChars(chr);

        // The count of characters in the clipboard
        _clipBoardCount = tb.getCaretPosition() - beginOffset;

        // Copy the text into the clipboard
        // arraycopy(source, sourceindex, dest, destindex, count)
        System.arraycopy(chr, beginOffset,
            _clipBoard, 0, _clipBoardCount);

        return true;
    }
    else
        return false;
}

/*-----
* Paste text from clipboard into the textbox
*-----*/
public void paste()
{
    // Make sure the paste will not overrun the textbox length
    if ((tb.size() + _clipBoardCount) <= tb.getMaxSize())
        tb.insert(_clipBoard, 0,

```

```

        _clipBoardCount, tb.getCaretPosition());
    }
}

```

[Example 8.4](#) shows the code for the `ClipBoard` class. Here is where the work is done for mark, copy, cut and paste. Each `TextBoxCB` will allocate an instance of this class. If you look at the following code, you'll see how each textbox shares the same clipboard contents.

```

private static char[] _clipBoard = new char[1000];
private static int _clipBoardCount = 0;

private int beginOffset = 0; // The start index of copy
private TextBox tb = null;   // textbox for this instance

```

The two static declarations result in only one instance of `_clipBoard` and `_clipBoardCount`, regardless of how many instances of this class are created. On the flip side, each instance has its own reference to the beginning offset of a marked block of text and a reference to the `TextBox` associated with this clipboard.

With this design, each clipboard and the associated `TextBox` can mark, copy and cut text, yet the actual contents in the clipboard are shared across all `TextBox` instances.

Example 8.5 TextBoxCB.java

```

/*-----
 * TextBoxCB.java
 *
 * A textbox that includes a clipboard. This class
 * encapsulates all the commands necessary to show
 * a menu for mark, copy, cut and paste.
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class TextBoxCB extends TextBox implements CommandListener
{
    private ClipBoard clipboard; // The clipboard class
    private Command cmBack;      // Command to go back
    private Command cmStartMark; // Command to start marking a block
    private Command cmCopy;      // Command to copy to clipboard
    private Command cmCut;       // Command to cut to clipboard
    private Command cmPaste;     // Command to paste into textbox
    private SharedClipBoard midlet; // The midlet

    public TextBoxCB(String title, String text, int maxSize,
                     int constraints, SharedClipBoard midlet)
    {
        // Call the TextBox constructor
        super(title, text, maxSize, constraints);

        // Save reference to MIDlet so we can access its methods
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create the Commands. Notice the priorities assigned

```

```

cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 1);
cmStartMark = new Command("Mark", Command.SCREEN, 2);
cmCopy = new Command("Copy", Command.SCREEN, 3);
cmCut = new Command("Cut", Command.SCREEN, 4);
cmPaste = new Command("Paste", Command.SCREEN, 5);

this.addCommand(cmBack);
this.addCommand(cmStartMark);
this.addCommand(cmCopy);
this.addCommand(cmCut);
this.addCommand(cmPaste);
this.setCommandListener(this);

// Create a clipboard
clipboard = new ClipBoard(this);
}
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmStartMark)
    {
        // Start to mark a block of text
        clipboard.startMark();
    }
    else if (c == cmCopy)
    {
        // Copy text to clipboard
        clipboard.copy();
    }
    else if (c == cmCut)
    {
        // Cut text to clipboard
        clipboard.cut();
    }
    else if (c == cmPaste)
    {
        // Paste from clipboard to textbox
        clipboard.paste();
    }
    else if (c == cmBack)
    {
        // Return to the list component
        midlet.showList();
    }
}
}
}

```

One of the first orders of business is to declare this class as extending a `TextBox`.

```
public class TextBoxCB extends TextBox implements CommandListener
```

Inside the constructor we call the super class of the `Textbox` and also save a reference to the MIDlet itself.

```

// Call the TextBox constructor
super(title, text, maxSize, constraints);

```

```
// Save reference to MIDlet so we can access its methods
this.midlet = midlet;
```

With the reference to `midlet`, we can call `midlet.showList()` to return to the `List` component (see [Figure 8–11](#)) that called the `TextBox`. This action will occur when a user selects the "Back" Command as shown in [Figure 8–14](#).

You'll see that we've declared a series of commands for marking, copying, cutting and pasting text. With this approach, all event handling is done within the `TextBox`. This is a cleaner approach than adding additional event processing outside this class.

Finally, inside `commandAction()` there is minimal code. It acts as more of a central dispatcher routing the MIDlet to the appropriate code based on the user selections.

[Example 8.6](#) is the main MIDlet, if you will. It ties together the previous two examples into one comprehensive application. The main interface is a `List` component with two entries.

```
lsMain = new List("Clipboard Testing", List.IMPLICIT);
lsMain.append("TextBox1", null);
lsMain.append("TextBox2", null);
```

Example 8.6 SharedClipboard.java

```
/*-----
 * SharedClipboard.java
 *
 * A List component that can show one of two
 * textboxes. Each textbox shares a common clipboard
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class SharedClipboard extends MIDlet
    implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display object
    private List lsMain;       // Main list
    private TextBoxCB tbClip1; // Textbox with clipboard
    private TextBoxCB tbClip2; // Textbox with clipboard
    private Command cmExit;    // Command to exit

    public SharedClipboard()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        // Create list
        lsMain = new List("Clipboard Testing", List.IMPLICIT);
        lsMain.append("TextBox1", null);
        lsMain.append("TextBox2", null);

        // Create the exit command, add to list
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        lsMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        lsMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }
}
```



```

        // Allocate textboxes
        tbClip1 = new TextBoxCB("TextBox1",
                                "Email Address:  john@corej2me.com",
                                50, TextField.ANY, this);
        tbClip2 = new TextBoxCB("TextBox2",
                                "Web Address:  www.",
                                50, TextField.ANY, this);
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        showList();
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    {
    }

    public void showList()
    {
        // Display the list component
        display.setCurrent(lsMain);
    }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        // If an implicit list generated the event
        if (c == List.SELECT_COMMAND)
        {
            switch (lsMain.getSelectedIndex())
            {
                case 0:
                    // Display textbox 1
                    display.setCurrent(tbClip1);
                    break;

                case 1:
                    // Display textbox 2
                    display.setCurrent(tbClip2);
                    break;
            }
        }
        else if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}

```

This is followed by allocation of two `TextBoxCB` objects.

```
// Allocate textboxes
tbClip1 = new TextBoxCB("TextBox1",
    "Email Address: john@corej2me.com", 50,
    TextField.ANY, this);
tbClip2 = new TextBoxCB("TextBox2",
    "Web Address: www.", 50,
    TextField.ANY, this);
```

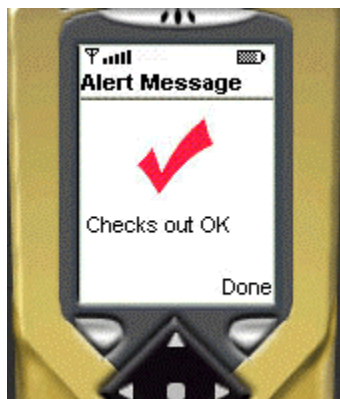
Because we opted to place the majority of the event processing code (mark, copy, cut and paste) into the `TextBoxCB` class, the code inside `commandAction()` is kept to a minimum. It essentially displays the appropriate `TextBox` based on the user selection.

```
switch (lsMain.getSelectedIndex()){
    case 0:
        display.setCurrent(tbClip1);
        break;
    case 1:
        display.setCurrent(tbClip2);
        break;
}
```

Alert and AlertType

An `Alert` is a very simple dialog box that will support text and an `Image` (both are optional). The most common use of an `Alert` is to show a warning or error message. [Figure 8-16](#) shows an `Alert`. Notice the three visual attributes you can control: title, image and text.

Figure 8-16. Alert dialog with a title,Image and text



There are a few limitations to an `Alert` that you need to be aware of. First, `Command` objects (buttons) are not allowed on an `Alert`. User interaction is entirely managed by the implementation. In addition, no input can be solicited from a user. For example, you cannot add a `TextField` or `TextBox` to prompt for information.

There are two types of `Alerts`:

1. Modal: The `Alert` is on the display until a user dismisses it (see [Table 8.5](#)).
2. Timed: The `Alert` is on the display for a specific number of milliseconds.

Each device will have a default type for all alerts. You can determine the default by calling the method `getDefaultTimeout()`. A return value equivalent to `Alert.FOREVER` indicates modal; any other value indicates the time in milliseconds that an alert will be shown.

Table 8.5. Alert Type: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Alert</code>	
Value	Description
FOREVER	Specifies the Alert is visible until acknowledged by the user (also known as modal).

If you need to display an `Alert` type other than the default, call the method `setTimeout()`. The following creates a modal alert:

```
Alert al;
al = new Alert("Error", "Error Message ", null, null);
al.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
```

After you've created an `Alert` and set the attributes, there are two methods in the `Display` class to show the `Alert`.

1. `Display.setCurrent(Alert, Displayable)`

```
fmMain = new Form("Welcome");
alTest = new Alert("Alert", "Message Here ", null,
                  null);
alTest.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
...
display.setCurrent(alTest, fmMain);
```

This will display a modal alert. Once the alert has been acknowledged by the user, the alert will be removed from the display and the form, `fmMain`, will be displayed. The same logic applies if you change this to a timed alert. Once the alert has been displayed for the requested time, the alert will be replaced on the display by the form `fmMain`.

2. `Display.setCurrent(Alert)`

```
alTest = new Alert("Alert", "Message Here ", null,
                  null);
alTest.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
...
display.setCurrent(alTest);
```

Presenting an `Alert` in this fashion assumes there is a `Displayable` object visible (a `TextBox`, `List`, `Form` or `Canvas`) when making this call. The reason is that, once the `Alert` has been dismissed (either acknowledged by the user or reached its requested display time), the previous `Displayable` will be shown.

Alert API

Table 8.6. Alert: javax.microedition.lcdui.Alert

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructors	
Alert (String title)	Create a new Alert
Alert (String title, String alertText, Image alertImage, AlertType, alertType)	Create a new Alert with an Image and an associated sound (AlertType)
Methods	
Image getImage ()	Get Image associated with Alert
void setImage (Image img)	Associate an Image with Alert
String getString ()	Get text associated with Alert
void setString (String str)	Set text for Alert
int getDefaultTimeout ()	Get default time Alert is displayed
int getTimeout ()	Get actual time Alert will be displayed
void setTimeout (int time)	Set amount of time to display Alert
AlertType getType ()	Get the AlertType
void setType (AlertType type)	Set the AlertType

Using Commands and Listeners with Alerts

`Alert` is a subclass of `Screen`, which is a subclass of `Displayable`. Even though the following methods are declared as public inside the `Displayable` class, they cannot be used with an `Alert`. Calling these methods will throw the exception `IllegalStateException`:

```
addCommand ( Command )
removeCommand ( Command )
setCommandListener ( CommandListener )
```

Sound Support

In addition to the visual attributes, you can associate a sound with an `Alert`. This is done using the `AlertType` class.

There are five pre-defined sounds that are tied to various conditions: alarm, confirmation, error, info and warning (see [Table 8.7](#)). The idea is this: When you want to present an `Alert` and associated sound for general information, you would request the "info" sound. An `Alert` for an error condition would request the "error" sound, and so forth.

You can play a sound in one of two ways:

1. If the `Alert` has an associated `AlertType`, the sound will be played when the `Alert` is displayed. You can associate a sound by either specifying the `AlertType` as the last parameter to the constructor or using the method `setType()`. An example of each is shown here:

Option #1:

```
Alert al;
al = new Alert("Alert", "Message ", null,
    AlertType.WARNING);
```

Option #2:

```
Alert al;
al = new Alert("Alert", "Message ", null, null);
...
al.setType(AlertType.WARNING);
```

2. You can play a sound directly, without creating an `Alert` dialog box.

```
AlertType.INFO.playSound(myDisplay);
```

This may be helpful when you would like to signify something has taken place without changing what's on the display. For example, if a user requested to download data in the background, a simple confirmation sound when the download completed would be helpful.

The `AlertType` is provided as an audible means to notify a user. Ideally, the sound would match the condition. For example, an error condition may trigger a louder and longer sound than that of a simple confirmation signifying a successful download. Bear in mind that a device may actually ignore requests to play a sound. Furthermore, if sounds are available, each is not guaranteed to be unique.

AlertType API

Table 8.7. AlertType Types: javax.microedition.lcdui.AlertType	
<i>Value</i>	<i>Description</i>
ALARM	Indicates arrival of a previous request to be notified
CONFIRMATION	Indicates completion of an event or action
ERROR	Indicates an error has occurred
INFO	Indicates general, non-critical information
WARNING	Indicates potential problem or situation
Table 8.8. AlertType Method: javax.microedition.lcdui.AlertType	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
boolean playSound (Display display)	Play a sound on the device

Example: Playing Sounds

[Example 8.7](#) will not show an actual `Alert`; rather, it will play the various sounds available through the `AlertType` class. The MIDlet is shown in [Figure 8-17](#).

Figure 8-17. Play the various sounds



Example 8.7 SoundAlert t.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class SoundAlert extends MIDlet implements
    ItemStateListener, CommandListener
{
    private Display display;      // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;         // Main form
    private Command cmExit;      // Command to exit the MIDlet
    private ChoiceGroup cgSound; // Choice group

    public SoundAlert()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        // Create an exclusive (radio) choice group
        cgSound = new ChoiceGroup("Choose a sound", Choice.EXCLUSIVE);

        // Append options, with no associated images
        cgSound.append("Info", null);
        cgSound.append("Confirmation", null);
        cgSound.append("Warning", null);
        cgSound.append("Alarm", null);
        cgSound.append("Error", null);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

        // Create Form, add components, listen for events
        fmMain = new Form("");
        fmMain.append(cgSound);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
        fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(fmMain);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }
}
```

```

    { }
    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }

    public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
    {
        switch (cgSound.getSelectedIndex())
        {
            case 0:
                AlertType.INFO.playSound(display);
                break;

            case 1:
                AlertType.CONFIRMATION.playSound(display);
                break;

            case 2:
                AlertType.WARNING.playSound(display);
                break;

            case 3:
                AlertType.ALARM.playSound(display);
                break;

            case 4:
                AlertType.ERROR.playSound(display);
                break;
        }
    }
}

```

This MIDlet uses an exclusive `ChoiceGroup` (radio buttons) and registers an `ItemStateListener` for the `Form` that contains the `ChoiceGroup`. Bring to mind how this listener works. When a change is detected on an `Item` (`ChoiceGroup` is a subclass of `Item`), the method `itemStateChanged()` is called. Inside this method, we determine which entry in the choice was selected and play the appropriate sound:

```

public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    switch (cgSound.getSelectedIndex())
    {
        case 0:
            AlertType.INFO.playSound(display);
            break;
        ...
    }
}

```

Playing Sounds

Although you can request a sound to be played, the implementation has the option to ignore the request altogether or to play the same sound for all/some of the `AlertTypes`.

Example: Modal Alert with Image

Let's look at a MIDlet ([Example 8.8](#)) that shows a modal `Alert` containing both a text message and an image.

Example 8.8 ModalAlert.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class ModalAlert extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;    // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;       // Main form
    private Alert alTest;      // Alert to show text and image
    private Command cmExit;    // Command to exit the MIDlet

    public ModalAlert()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        fmMain = new Form("Welcome");
        fmMain.append("Text string inside the Form");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        showAlert();
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    {
    }

    public void showAlert()
    {
        try
        {
            // Create an image
            Image im = Image.createImage("/coffee.png");

            // Create Alert, add text and image, associate a sound
```



```

        alTest = new Alert("New Alert", "Time for more Java",
                           im, AlertType.INFO);

        // Set Alert to type Modal
        alTest.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
    }
    catch(Exception e)
    {
        System.out.println("Unable to read png image.");
    }
    // Display the Alert. Once dismissed, display the form
    display.setCurrent(alTest, fmMain);
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

The bulk of the new code is inside `showAlert()`. Here we create an image, add the image and a text message to a new `Alert`, and set the timeout value to `Alert.FOREVER`, resulting in a modal `Alert`.

```

Image im = Image.createImage("/coffee.png");

// Create Alert, add text and image, associate a sound
alTest = new Alert("New Alert", "Time for more Java",
                   im, AlertType.INFO);

// Set Alert to type Modal
alTest.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);

```

The last line before exiting the method shows the `Alert` on the display. Notice the reference to `fmMain`.

```
display.setCurrent(alTest, fmMain);
```

Once an alert has been acknowledged by the user, the `Alert` is removed from the display and a previously defined `Displayable` object will be shown. For this example the `Displayable` is `fmMain`, which we specified using the aforementioned line.

The method `setCurrent()` is overloaded, meaning there is another method with the same name with different calling parameters. Instead of passing in an `Alert` and a `Displayable` (as above), you can simply call with a `Displayable` object:

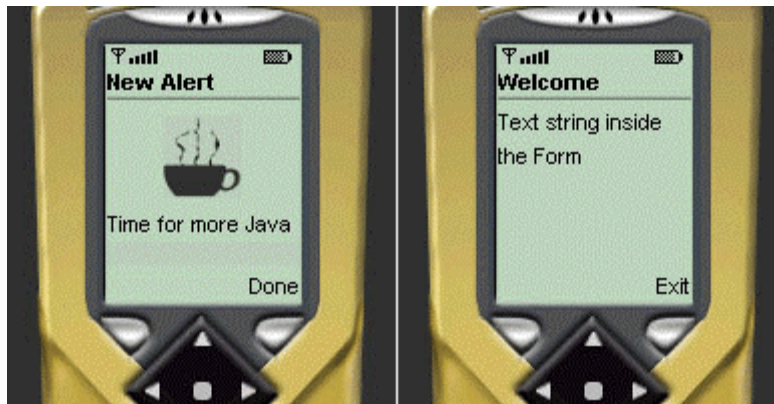
```
Display.setCurrent(alTest);
```

Although this call will succeed (an `Alert` is a subclass of `Screen`, which is a subclass of `Displayable`), we need to think this through. Once the `Alert` is acknowledged the MIDlet will

attempt to show the previous `Displayable`. In our example, if you follow the logic closely you'll see that we have not shown any `Displayable` objects before calling `showAlert()`. The constructor was called, followed by `startApp()`, followed by `showAlert()`. The allocation of our `Form` (a `Displayable`) inside the constructor is not sufficient to appease the application manager. We must have actually shown a `Displayable` on the device. If not, a `NullPointerException` will be thrown.

[Figure 8-18](#) shows the alert on the left and the form that appears once the alert is dismissed.

Figure 8-18. Alert with image and text; on the right, the `Displayable` object (`Form`) that is shown when the alerted is dismissed



Ticker

Just as most C programmers wrote "Hello world" as their first program, Java has its own rite of passage—the scrolling text applet. The idea of sliding text across the display lives on. MIDP includes a scrolling text component known as the `Ticker`.

At this point we have covered all the components that extend the `Screen` class, making this an ideal time to introduce this class. A `Ticker` can be "attached" to any `Screen`, including an `Alert`. In fact, the same `Ticker` can be shared among `Screens`, giving the illusion that the `Ticker` is attached to the device display, not the individual screens that make up the application. This is a nice effect, as we'll see in an example.

Whether the text scrolls at the top or bottom and the speed at which scrolling occurs is decided by the implementation. However, you can be assured that the scrolling is continuous—as the trailing end of the text rolls off the screen, the beginning of the text will appear again.

Ticker API

Table 8.9. Ticker Class: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Ticker</code>	
Method	Description
Constructor	
Ticker(String str)	Create a new Ticker with the specified ticker text

Methods	
String getString()	Get the text associated with the Ticker
void setString (String str)	Set the text to associate with the Ticker

Example: One Ticker, Two Components

In [Example 8.9](#), we create a `Ticker` that is tied to both a `List` and an `Alert`. As you move between the two, the `Ticker` won't miss a beat.

Example 8.9 SharedTicker.java

```
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class SharedTicker extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;      // Reference to Display object
    private List lsProducts;      // Main productlist
    private Alert alHelp;         // Alert to show text and image
    private Ticker tkSale;        // Ticker of what's on sale
    private Command cmExit;       // Command to exit the MIDlet

    public SharedTicker()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.SCREEN, 1);

        tkSale = new Ticker("Current Sale: Torchiere
                             Lamp only $29.00");

        lsProducts = new List("Products", Choice.IMPLICIT);
        lsProducts.append("Floor Lamp", null);
        lsProducts.append("Chandelier", null);
        lsProducts.append("Help", null);
        lsProducts.addCommand(cmExit);
        lsProducts.setCommandListener(this);
        lsProducts.setTicker(tkSale);
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(lsProducts);
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    {
    }

    public void showAlert()
```

```

{
    try
    {
        // Create an image
        Imageim = Image.createImage("/help.png");
        // Create Alert, add text and image, no sound
        alHelp = new Alert("Help Information",
            "Over 300 unique lighting products!",
            im, null);
        alHelp.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
        alHelp.setTicker(tkSale);
    }
    catch(Exception e)
    {
        System.out.println("Unable to read png image.");
    }

    // Display the Alert. Once dismissed, return to product list
    display.setCurrent(alHelp, lsProducts);
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == List.SELECT_COMMAND)
    {
        switch (lsProducts.getSelectedIndex())
        {
            case 0:
                System.out.println("Floor Lamp selected");
                break;

            case 1:
                System.out.println("Chandelier selected");
                break;

            case 2:
                showAlert();
                break;
        }
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

```

Attaching a `Ticker` to multiple components is as simple as calling the method `setTicker()`, passing a reference to the same `Ticker` object. Here are the lines to set the `Ticker` for our `List` and `Alert`:

```

lsProducts.setTicker(tkSale);
...

```

```
alHelp.setTicker(tkSale);
```

[Figure 8-19](#) displays the `List` along with the `Ticker` running at the top.

Figure 8-19. A `List` component with a `Ticker`



If you select the "Help" option from the `List`, an `Alert` will be shown (see [Figure 8-20](#)). Notice the ticker is still running and displaying the same text as on the previous screen.

Figure 8-20. An `Alert` with the same `Ticker` as shown in [Figure 8-19](#)



Chapter 9. LOW-LEVEL USER INTERFACE

Topics in this Chapter

- [Canvas](#)
- [Graphics](#)

Ignorance is bliss. Up to this point we've never given a second thought as to how a `Form`, `TextBox` or any other visual component appears on the display. We simply made a request to allocate and display a component, and left it at that. If the need never arose to move beyond "high-level" components we'd be set.

Then again, there is a whole new world on the other side. If we take the initiative to learn how to draw onto the display, the possibilities are nearly ^[1] endless. Those interested in writing custom components and games will make extensive use of the classes presented in this chapter.

^[1] There are limits to the drawing operations. MIDP supports only a subset of the capabilities available in J2SE.

Two key classes make up the low-level API, `Canvas` and `Graphics`.

- The `Canvas` forms the backdrop. Not unlike an artists' canvas, it has a specific height and width and is drawn onto to create what the end user will see. Whatever is drawn becomes visible on the display. The canvas class also provides methods for low-level event handling.
- We draw onto a canvas with a `Graphics` object (often referred to as a graphics context). This class has methods for drawing lines, arcs, rectangles and text. This class also includes methods to specify color as well as font preferences.

The exploration into creating a custom interface begins with the `Canvas`.

Canvas

Let's start out at the outermost level and work our way in. From the big picture, a `Canvas` is a subclass of `Displayable`, as is the `Screen` class you learned about in [Chapter 7](#). [Figure 9-1](#) revisits the user interface hierarchy.

Figure 9-1. Displayable class hierarchy

For example:

```
class AnimationCanvas extends Canvas
    implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;          // Exit midlet
    ...
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    addCommand(cmExit);
    setCommandListener(this);
    ...
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        ...
    }
}

AnimationCanvas canvas = new AnimationCanvas(this);
display.setCurrent(canvas);
```

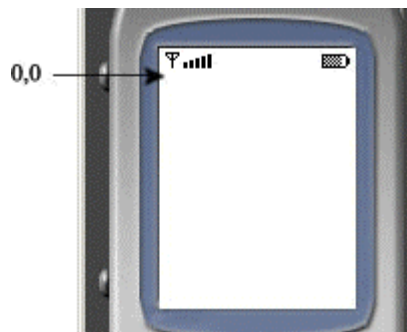
Notice the last two lines. A new `AnimationCanvas` object is created and set as the current `Displayable`.

Only moments ago it was stated that when using a `Canvas`, it is the developer's responsibility to draw onto the `Canvas` with a `Graphics` object. If we create and immediately request to display the `Canvas`, when and where does the drawing take place? Hold that thought: After learning about the coordinate system we'll explore this further in the section "[Painting on the Canvas](#)."

Coordinate System

The origin for drawing begins in the upper left corner of the display, location 0,0 (see [Figure 9-2](#)). x values increase heading to the right, y values increase heading down.

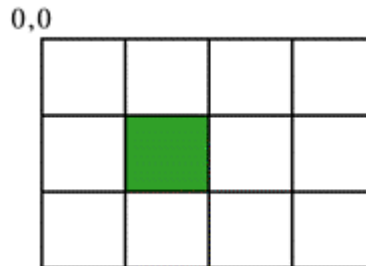
Figure 9-2. Coordinate system



There are a few caveats worth mentioning. When working with a `Graphics` object we have the option to translate the origin as the `Graphics` object knows it. Second, when drawing text, an additional concept known as an anchor point is tossed in. I will talk to each of these as we work through this chapter.

When drawing a line or shape (arc, rectangle, etc.), the thickness (known as the pen) is always 1 pixel wide. For example, if you request to start a line at 1,1, visualize a square pixel with a starting point at 1,1 and ending at 2,2 (always moving down and to the right). Even before moving the pen, a pixel has been filled! See [Figure 9-3](#).

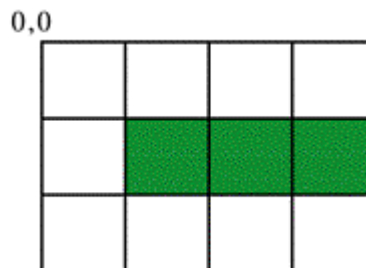
Figure 9-3. Pixel drawn when starting a line



With that in mind, continue that same line ending at 3,1. How many pixels will be "filled" for the entire line segment 1,1 to 3,1? (If you guessed 2, try again.)

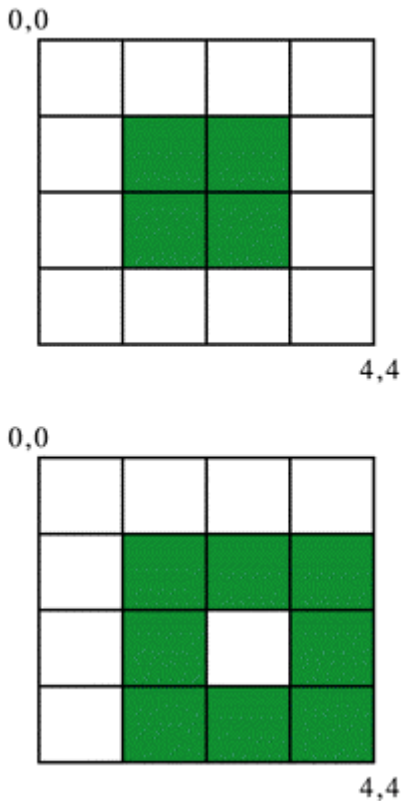
If you picture the starting and ending point individually—that is, a square pixel is filled at each coordinate location (once again, always filling down and to the right)—it's a little easier for this to sink in and it should be clear why three pixels are drawn for the aforementioned line (1,1 to 3,1) (see [Figure 9-4](#)).

Figure 9-4. Pixels drawn for line segment 1,1 to 3,1



How does this affect drawing of shapes? If we request to draw a rectangle starting at 1,1 and ending at 3,3, which image in [Figure 9-5](#) accurately depicts the result?

Figure 9-5. Drawing a rectangle from 1,1 to 3,3



If you are unsure, let me tell you this: The same drawing paradigm applies to shapes as well as lines. Namely, a pixel is filled at each coordinate location.

In requesting a rectangle to be drawn with dimensions 1,1 to 3,3 the pen will need to move to each coordinate boundary: 1,1 \rightarrow 3,1 \rightarrow 3,3 back to 1,1. ^[2] If you follow the path of the pen, it will become obvious why the lower image in [Figure 9-5](#) is the resulting rectangle. Here's the sequence:

^[2] The implementation may opt for a different order; however, the idea is the same.

1. Drop the pen at 1,1, which fills the pixel 1,1 to 2,2.
2. Move the pen to the rightmost coordinate: 3,1. This fills the pixel at 2,1 to 3,2 and the pixel at 3,1 to 4,2.
3. Move the pen down to coordinate 3,3. This fills the pixel at 3,3 to 4,4.
4. Move the pen to the leftmost coordinate: 1,3. This fills the pixel at 2,3 to 3,4 and the pixel at 1,3 to 2, 4.
5. Move the pen to the starting coordinate: 1,1. This fills the pixel at 1,2 to 2, 3.

Knowing what we do about the pen and its pixel width, what is the outcome of drawing a line from 0,0 to 0,0? Is there anything drawn at all? If you are not sure, read the sidebar "[Drawing with a Pen](#)."

Drawing with a Pen

The idea of the pen always filling the pixel down and to the right of the specified coordinate is not much different then drawing on paper. If you hold a pen over a piece of paper and bring the tip in contact with the writing surface, a "dot" will appear. The size of this dot, for

our purpose, is one pixel in width and height. If you move the pen on the paper, regardless of the direction, each movement will fill another pixel.

Keep this in mind, regardless of the shape drawn:

- The pixel at the starting coordinate is filled, down and to the right.
- Each additional coordinate that makes up the shape has a pixel filled, down and to the right.

Canvas Width and Height

[Table 9.1](#) shows the two methods to query a `Canvas` for its width and height. These values will always be the same for any one device. ^[3] If a call to `getWidth()` returns 200, every `Canvas` created on that particular device will have a width of 200.

[3] If a device supports upgrading of hardware and/or software, this may not always be true. The size of a canvas may change if the device itself changes.

Table 9.1. Canvas Coordinate Methods: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>int getWidth()</code>	Get the canvas width
<code>int getHeight()</code>	Get the canvas height

Painting on the Canvas

At the beginning of this chapter I mentioned that when using a `Canvas`, we are responsible for drawing. Shortly thereafter I proceeded to show something similar to the following

```
AnimationCanvas canvas = new AnimationCanvas(this);
display.setCurrent(canvas);
```

This declares a `Canvas` and requests it to be set as the current displayable. This is the same path we took when requesting to display other components such as `Form` or `TextBox`. So at what point do we draw onto the `Canvas`?

Here's how it works. As explained earlier, `Canvas` is a subclass of `Displayable`. All displayable objects are made visible through:

```
javax.microedition.lcdui.display.setCurrent(Displayable);
```

What differs between a `Canvas` and the other `Displayable` objects (`Form`, `TextBox`, `List` and `Alert`) is where the drawing of the component takes place and who is responsible for the drawing.

Shown on page 251 are the class definitions and several lines of pseudo code for `Displayable`, `Canvas`, `Screen` and the components `Form`, `TextBox`, `List` and `Alert`.

The `Displayable` class defines `paint()` as an abstract method. Following the rules defined by the Java language, both subclasses, `Canvas` and `Screen`, implement the `paint()` method. Here's the primary difference: the `paint()` method inside `Canvas` is abstract, meaning there is no method body. It is up to a subclass to implement this method.

Contrast this with the `Screen`, where the `paint()` method draws the title and `Ticker` (features common to all screens). Before leaving `paint()` the method `paintContent()` is called. Notice this method is declared as abstract, thus all subclasses (`Form`, `TextBox`, `List` and `Alert`) must implement this method.

```
abstract public class Displayable
    abstract void paint(Graphics g);

public abstract class Canvas extends Displayable
    protected abstract void paint(Graphics g);

public abstract class Screen extends Displayable
{
    abstract void paintContent(Graphics g);

    paint(Graphics g)
    {
        // Draw optional title
        // Draw optional Ticker
        ...
        paintContent(g);
    }
}

public class Form extends Screen
{
    void paintContent(Graphics g)
    {... }
}

public class TextBox extends Screen
{
    void paintContent(Graphics g)
    {... }
}

public class List extends Screen implements Choice
{
    void paintContent(Graphics g)
    {... }
}

public class Alert extends Screen
{
    void paintContent(Graphics g)
    {... }
}
```

Inside `Form`, `TextBox`, `List` and `Alert` `paintContent()` "knows" how to draw the component. For example, `paintContent()` inside `List` will draw a list on the device, the same method inside `TextBox` will draw a textbox, and so forth.

It boils down to this: `Form`, `TextBox`, `List` and `Alert` are drawn through the `paint()` method in the `Screen` class in concert with `paintContent()` inside each individual component. `Canvas` has declared `paint()` as abstract. Therefore, whenever we subclass `Canvas`, we are responsible for implementing this method.

Once again, here is a block of code that creates a new canvas:

```
class AnimationCanvas extends Canvas
    implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;          // Exit midlet
    ...
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    addCommand(cmExit);
    setCommandListener(this);
    ...
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        ...
    }
}
```

Painting of Components

When working with a subclass of `Displayable` (`Canvas` and `Screen`) the component is made visible on the display through a call to

```
javax.microedition.lcdui.display.setCurrent(Displayable);
```

The difference lies with "who" provides the code for the `paint()` method. When using a `Canvas`, you override the `paint()` method and write the code. For subclasses of `Screen` (`Form`, `List`, `TextBox` and `Alert`) the methods `paint()` and `paintContents()` comprise the code to draw each respective component.

The `paint()` method is always passed a reference to a `Graphics` object, which is used to draw onto the `Canvas`. For example, to write text and draw a rectangle onto a `Canvas`, the paint method may look something like this:

```
protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    g.drawString("Hello", 0, 0,
        Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
    g.drawRect(5, 5, 10, 10);
    ...
}
```

We'll cover all methods of the `Graphics` class later in this chapter. For now, focus your attention on the methods in [Table 9.2](#).

Table 9.2. Canvas Paint Methods: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas</code>	
Method	Description
abstract void paint (<code>Graphics g</code>)	Draw onto the canvas using the <code>Graphics</code> object specified
final void repaint ()	Request the canvas to be painted
final void repaint (int x, int y, int width, int height)	Request a specified region of canvas to be painted
final void serviceRepaints ()	Immediately process any pending paint requests
boolean is DoubleBuffered ()	Does implementation provide double buffering?

`paint()` deserves top billing. This method serves as the workhorse for drawing to the display. You invoke the methods in the `Graphics` object (which is passed in as a parameter) to draw lines, arcs, rectangles and text.

`repaint()` is called to request the (entire) display to be updated. In [Example 9-3](#), later in this chapter, we will track when a user clicks a mouse button down. As they hold down the mouse button and move it around the display, we want to visually trace each step. We do this by calling `repaint()` after each movement, drawing a line segment from the last position to the current position.

The version of `repaint()` that accepts four parameters specifies a specific region on the display to repaint. We will visit this again when discussing clipping within the graphics section.

`serviceRepaints()` will force any pending paint requests to be immediately issued. Use this with caution, as this call will block until all paint requests have been serviced.

Calling `paint()`

The `paint()` method is never to be called directly. The results of doing so are unpredictable. If you need to have the display updated, make your request known through a call to `repaint()`.

Communication with Application Manager

When the application manager is about to make a `Canvas` visible on the display, it will call the method `showNotify()`. When the `Canvas` has been removed from the display, the method `hideNotify()` is called.

Table 9.3. Application Manager Communication: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas</code>	
Method	Description
void showNotify ()	Application manager is about to show the canvas on the display
void hideNotify ()	Application manager has removed the canvas from the display

Here is the code for each method taken directly from the `Canvas` class.

```
protected void showNotify()
{ }

protected void hideNotify()
{ }
```

Clearly, calls to these methods from the application manager are pointless without a little effort on your part. For example, inside `showNotify()` may be an ideal time to initialize variables, start a thread, and so forth. `hideNotify()` may be home to code to reset variables, stop a thread, and so forth. These methods provide an opportunity to take part in the transition as a `Canvas` moves from inactive to active, and back again, throughout the lifecycle of the MIDlet.

In [Chapter 10](#) we will write a simple animation example. `showNotify()` will read an image from a file, set the preferred drawing coordinates and start a `Thread`. `hideNotify()` will reset a variable, effectively stopping the animation.

Event Handling

There are two general means of interaction between a user and the `Canvas`, `Commands` and low-level events. `Commands`, which we've seen before, will be touched upon ever so briefly. The low-level interface, consisting of key codes, game actions and pointer events, will be the prime focus of this section.

Commands

As a refresher, look back to [Figure 9-1](#). `Canvas` is inherited from `Displayable`. There are four methods available through this inheritance:

- `addCommand(Command)`
- `isShown()`
- `removeCommand(Command)`
- `setCommandListener(CommandListener)`

This should tell you something about the `Canvas`. Specifically, it can process `Command` objects just as we did with a `Form`, `List` and `TextBox` (`Commands` cannot be added to an `Alert`). The code for creating a `Command`, adding to a `Canvas` and registering a listener are identical to the same steps we've done numerous times before:

```
class TestCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;           // Exit midlet
    ...
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    addCommand(cmExit);
    setCommandListener(this);
    ...

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
            ...
    }
}
```

```
}
```

Key Codes

Key codes are numeric values that map directly to specific keys on a mobile device. The key codes that are guaranteed to be available on any MIDP are listed in [Table 9.4](#). These codes correspond to the ITU-T keypad (0–9, *, #) the standard telephone keypad. Each key code has a static declaration similar to the following:

```
public static final int KEY_NUM0 = 48;  
public static final int KEY_NUM1 = 49;  
...
```

Table 9.4. Key Codes: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas</code>	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Constant Value</i>
KEY_NUM0	48
KEY_NUM1	49
KEY_NUM2	50
KEY_NUM3	51
KEY_NUM4	52
KEY_NUM5	53
KEY_NUM6	54
KEY_NUM7	55
KEY_NUM8	56
KEY_NUM9	57
KEY_STAR	42
KEY_POUND	35

For example, when "1" is pressed on the keypad, the key code returned is 49 (KEY_NUM1). The methods available for managing key codes are shown in [Table 9.5](#).

Table 9.5. Key Code Methods: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
void keyPressed (int keyCode)	Invoked when a key is pressed
void keyReleased (int keyCode)	Invoked when a key is released
void keyRepeated (int keyCode)	Invoked when a key is repeated ^[1]
boolean hasRepeatEvents ()	Does the implementation support repeated keys?
String getKeyName (int keyCode)	The text string representing the key code

^[1] May not be supported on all devices.

`keyPressed()`, `keyReleased()` and `keyRepeated()` are simply place holders, each method body is empty. For example, `keyPressed()` looks as follows:

```
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode) {  
}
```


The obvious implication is that you must override these methods and provide the code for processing key events. Each of these methods has the key code that triggered the event passed in as a parameter. You decide how to proceed based on the key code:

```
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    if (keyCode == KEY_NUM1)
        ...
    else if (keyCode == KEY_NUM2)
        ...
}
```

Key Codes and Portability

To write portable applications you must stick to using the key codes defined in [Table 9.4](#). Although other key codes may be generated by a device, there are no guarantees that such codes will be available from one device to another.

Example: Viewing Key Code Names

`getKeyName()` will return the text (`String`) representation for a key code (e.g., "*" for the key code `KEY_STAR`). In [Example 9.1](#), a `Canvas` is created that detects events from `Commands` and key codes. When an event is generated through a key code, `keyPressed()` will be called, where the text for the code is printed to the `Canvas`.

Example 9.1 KeyCodes.java

```
/*-----
 * KeyCodes.java
 *
 * Canvas for processing key code and commands
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class KeyCodes extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;      // The display
    private KeyCodeCanvas canvas; // Canvas

    public KeyCodes()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new KeyCodeCanvas(this);
    }

    protected void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    {
    }
}
```

```

protected void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
{ }
public void exitMIDlet()
{
    destroyApp(true);
    notifyDestroyed();
}
}

/*-----
* Class KeyCodeCanvas
*
* Key codes and commands for event handling
*-----*/
class KeyCodeCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;          // Exit midlet
    private String keyText = null;    // Key code text
    private KeyCodes midlet;

    /*-----
    * Constructor
    *-----*/
    public KeyCodeCanvas(KeyCodes midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }

    /*-----
    * Paint the text representing the key code
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        // Clear the background (to white)
        g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
        g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(),getWidth());

        // Set color and draw text
        if (keyText != null)
        {
            // Draw with black pen
            g.setColor(0, 0, 0);
            // Center the text
            g.drawString(keyText, getWidth()/2, getWidth()/2,
                          Graphics.TOP | Graphics.HCENTER);
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Command event handling
    *-----*/

```

```

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
}

/*-----
 * Key code event handling
 *-----*/
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    keyText = getKeyName(keyCode);
    repaint();
}
}

```

Notice there are two methods for managing events: `commandAction()` and `keyPressed()`. The first method works as it always has, receiving a `Command` object that generated the event and the `Displayable` object on which the event was received. The only check is to see if there was a request to exit the MIDlet.

```

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
}

```

`keyPressed()` is called when a key code generates an event. The code is converted into a `String` and a request is made to repaint the `Canvas` (where `keyText` is displayed).

```

protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    keyText = getKeyName(keyCode);
    repaint();
}

```

This is our first run-in with the `paint()` method. Notice the `Graphics` object that is passed in. This object is used to render directly onto the `Canvas`, which is analogous to drawing onto the display. Within `paint()` we clear the display and write the text string that represents the key code pressed. For the time being, don't concern yourself with the methods of the `Graphics` class. If you get the gist of what is going on inside `paint()`, you're good to go.

```

protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    // Clear the background (to white)
    g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
    g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getWidth());

    // Set color and draw text
    if (keyText != null)
    {
        // Draw with black pen
        g.setColor(0, 0, 0);
        // Center the text
    }
}

```

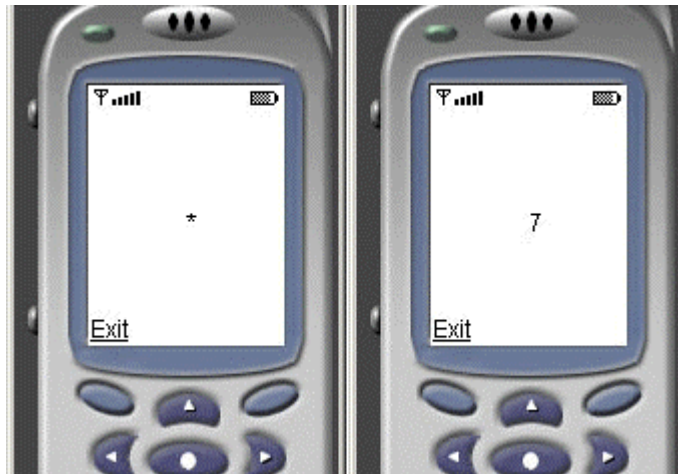
```

        g.drawString(keyText, getWidth()/2, getWidth()/2,
                      Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
    }
}

```

[Figure 9-6](#) shows the output of `keyCodes.java` when pressing the * and 7 keys on the keypad.

Figure 9-6. Printing key codes on a canvas



Game Actions

MIDP defines a set of constants, referred to as game actions, to facilitate event handling for game related events (see [Table 9.6](#)). Each game action is defined as a static integer:

```

public static final int UP=1;
public static final int DOWN=6;
...

```

You are assured that each game action will be assigned a key code by the implementation. For example, on the device shown in [Figure 9-7](#) the game actions `UP`, `RIGHT`, `LEFT`, `DOWN` and `FIRE` may be mapped to the directional keys just below the display. Should a device not have such keys available, these same game actions may be mapped to the keypad using 2, 6, 4, 8 and 5, respectively.

Figure 9-7. Game action mapping



With this design you don't need to concern yourself that one device may map "up" to a directional arrow and another may map the same action to the 2 key on the keypad.

Table 9.6. Game Actions: javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Constant Value</i>
UP	Move up	1
DOWN	Move down	6
LEFT	Move left	2
RIGHT	Move right	5
FIRE	Fire	8
GAME_A	Custom	9
GAME_B	Custom	10
GAME_C	Custom	11
GAME_D	Custom	12

The methods for working with game actions are listed in [Table 9-7](#).

Table 9.7. Game Action Methods: javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>int getKeyCode(int gameAction)</code>	Determine key code for a game action
<code>int getGameAction(int keyCode)</code>	Get the game action, if any, for the key code
<code>String getKeyName(int keyCode)</code>	Get name for a key code ^[1]

^[1] Can display the text associated with a game action if first converted to a key code. See description that follows.

`getKeyCode()` will always return a valid key code for any game action. For example, you may have initialization code that stores key codes for each action:

```
int keyFire  = getKeyCode(FIRE);
int keyRight = getKeyCode(RIGHT);
...
```

`getGameAction()` goes the opposite direction, returning a game action for a specified key code.

```
protected void keyRepeated(int keyCode)
{
    switch (getGameAction(keyCode))
    {
        case Canvas.FIRE:
            ...
    }
}
```

`getKeyName()` returns the name associated with a key code (e.g., "#" for `KEY_POUND`). Read that carefully—it does not return the name for a game action. However, this method will return the appropriate text if you convert a game action to a key code as follows:

```
getKeyName(getKeyCode(FIRE));
getKeyName(getKeyCode(RIGHT));
```

A second option is to let the conversion be done for you. For example, if a game action (such as a directional arrow) is pressed to initiate an event, `keyPressed()` will hand over the appropriate key code. From here you can get the associated text:

```
// Game action initiated the event...
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    keyText = getKeyName(keyCode);
    ...
}
```

Multiple Game Actions per Key Code

A key code can be mapped to, at most, one game action. For example, the key code `KEY_NUM2` may be mapped to the game action `Canvas.UP`. However, the same key code cannot also be mapped to the game action `Canvas.DOWN`. Obviously, if this were true, you would have no way to decide which action to carry out. Do you move up or down when the

event is fired?

However, we can flip the tables—a game action may be mapped to more than one key code. For example, the game action `Canvas.UP` may be mapped to a directional arrow (ideally one that points up) as well as an additional soft-key. Pressing either will invoke the same response, a request to carry out the "up action."

Detecting Game Actions

All low-level event handling on a `Canvas` is done through key codes (`Commands`, which are also available on a canvas, use the listener event model). Said another way, `keyPressed()`, `keyReleased()` and `keyRepeated()` are passed a key code when an event is triggered. Following are two options for working with game actions and their equivalent key codes:

Option #1

- During initialization, use `getKeyCode()` to request and store key codes for each game action.
- Inside `keyPressed()`, `keyReleased()` and `keyRepeated()`, branch based on the key code

Here is how this might look:

```
// During initialization
keyFire =  getKeyCode(FIRE);
keyRight = getKeyCode(RIGHT);
keyLeft =  getKeyCode(LEFT);
...
// At runtime
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    if (keyCode == keyFire)
        shootWeapon();
    else if (keyCode == keyRight)
        moveRight();
    ...
}
```

Option #2

- Inside `keyPressed()`, `keyReleased()` and `keyRepeated()`, convert the incoming key code into the corresponding game action
- Branch based on the game action

```
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    switch (getGameAction(keyCode))
    {
        case Canvas.FIRE:
            shootWeapon();
            break;
        case Canvas.RIGHT:
            moveRight();
            break;
        ...
    }
}
```

```

        moveRight();
        break;
    ...
}

```

Don't read anything into the use of if-then-else versus the switch statement. This is completely arbitrary. The end result for both options is the same—a means to decipher which game action initiated an event. How you detect and process game actions is a matter of preference and application logic.

Game Actions and Portability

Whether key codes for game actions are stored at initialization time or converted into a game action at runtime, we are in essence asking the implementation "so what key code is used for up, down, left, etc.". Once we know the action that fired the event, it's a simple matter to branch appropriately using an if-then-else or switch statement.

With this design you don't need to concern yourself with differences such as one device mapping the "up" action to a directional arrow and another mapping the same action to the 2 key on the keypad.

This design also provides for code that is portable. If you are diligent in using only the key codes shown in [Table 9.4](#) and game actions [Table 9.6](#), your event handling stands a good chance of running across a range of devices.

Example: Viewing Game Action Names

[Example 9.2](#) prints the text associated with a game action. As with the previous example, `keyPressed()` will trap events and convert the incoming key codes into a text string. The `paint()` method will print the text onto the display (see [Figure 9-8](#)).

Figure 9-8. Printing game actions on a canvas

Example 9.2 GameActions.java

```

/*-----
 * GameActions.java
 *
 * Canvas for processing game actions
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class GameActions extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;          // The display
    private GameActionCanvas canvas;  // Canvas

    public GameActions()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new GameActionCanvas(this);
    }
}

```



```

    }

    protected void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    { }

    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void exitMIDlet()
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
/*-----
 * GameActionCanvas.java
 *
 * Game action event handling
 *-----*/
class GameActionCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;           // Exit midlet
    private String keyText = null;    // Key code text
    private GameActions midlet;

    /*-----
    * Constructor
    *-----*/
    public GameActionCanvas(GameActions midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }

    /*-----
    * Paint the text representing the key code
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        // Clear the background (to white)
        g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
        g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());

        // Set color and draw text
        if (keyText != null)
        {
            // Draw with black pen
            g.setColor(0, 0, 0);

```

```

        // Center the text
        g.drawString(keyText, getWidth()/2, getHeight()/2,
                     Graphics.TOP | Graphics.HCENTER);
    }
}

/*-----
 * Command event handling
 *-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
}

/*-----
 * Game action event handling
 * A game action will be converted into a key code
 * and handed off to this method
 *-----*/
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    switch (getGameAction(keyCode))
    {
        // Place logic of each action inside the case
        case FIRE:
        case UP:
        case DOWN:
        case LEFT:
        case RIGHT:
        case GAME_A:
        case GAME_B:
        case GAME_C:
        case GAME_D:
        default:
            // Print the text of the game action
            keyText = getKeyName(keyCode);
    }
    repaint();
}
}

```

There is one line of code worth mentioning. Inside `keyPressed()` there is a call to `getKeyName()`. This method requires a key code, not a game action. Fortunately, if a game action initiated the event, it is converted to a key code prior to invoking `keyPressed()`. All that's remaining is to store the text representation of the key code into `keyText`. The `paint()` method will complete the cycle by displaying the text on the canvas.

```

protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    switch (getGameAction(keyCode))
    {
        ...
        // Print the text of the game action
        keyText = getKeyName(keyCode);
        ...
    }
}

```

```
}
```

Pointer Events

The MID Profile includes a set of methods to interact with pointer devices such as a mouse or touch screen.

Table 9.8. Pointer Methods: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
boolean hasPointerEvents ()	Does the platform support a pointer
boolean hasPointerMotionEvents ()	Does the platform detect pointer motion ("click/point and drag")
void pointerDragged (int x, int y)	Invoked when pointer dragged
void pointerPressed (int x, int y)	Invoked when pointer pressed
void pointerReleased (int x, int y)	Invoked when pointer released

The interaction with a pointer follows the same philosophy as with key codes. The methods `pointerPressed()`, `pointerReleased()` and `pointerDragged()` are invoked when a pointer is pressed, released or dragged. Each method is merely a placeholder and must be overridden if you choose to support pointer events. For example, you may choose to track the current x and y location as a pointer is moved about on the canvas.

```
protected void pointerPressed(int x, int y)
{
    // Start location point where pointer pressed
    startx = x;
    starty = y;
}

protected void pointerDragged(int x, int y)
{
    // Current location of pointer
    currentx = x;
    currenty = y;
}

protected void pointerReleased (int x, int y)
{
    // End location point where pointer released
    endx = x;
    endy = y;
}
```

Example: Following Pointer Events

Sun's implementation of MIDP version 1.0 (as installed in [Chapter 4](#)) supports pointer events. ^[4] Each click, drag and release of the mouse on a `Canvas` generates an event.

[4] If using the wireless toolkit change the following entry in the "device" properties file: `touch_screen=true`. The property files are located in: `x:/J2MEWTK/wtklib/devices`

[Example 9.3](#) is a pleasant diversion, an alternative to doodling with pen and paper. We'll track the pointer as it moves about on a [Canvas](#). When the mouse button is clicked and held down, a line will be drawn tracing each movement. Letting up the mouse button stops the drawing. My first doodle was a self-portrait (see [Figure 9-9](#)).

Figure 9-9. Tracking pointer events on a Canvas



Example 9.3 Doodle.java

```
/*-----  
 * Doodle.java  
 *  
 * Use pointer events to draw onto the Canvas  
 *-----*/  
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;  
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;  
  
public class Doodle extends MIDlet  
{  
    private Display display;    // The display  
    private DoodleCanvas canvas; // Canvas  
  
    public Doodle()  
    {  
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);  
        canvas = new DoodleCanvas(this);  
    }  
  
    protected void startApp()  
    {  
        display.setCurrent(canvas);  
    }  
  
    protected void pauseApp()  
    { }  
  
    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)  
    { }
```

```

public void exitMIDlet()
{
    destroyApp(true);
    notifyDestroyed();
}
}

/*-----
* Class DoodleCanvas
*
* Pointer event handling
*-----*/
class DoodleCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;        // Exit midlet
    private Command cmClear;       // Clear display
    private int startx = 0,        // Where pointer was clicked
               starty = 0,
               currentx = 0,       // Current location
               currenty = 0;

    private Doodle midlet;
    private boolean clearDisplay = false;

    /*-----
    * Constructor
    *-----*/
    public DoodleCanvas(Doodle midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmClear = new Command("Clear", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        addCommand(cmClear);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }

    /*-----
    * Paint the text representing the key code
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        // Clear the background (to white)
        if (clearDisplay)
        {
            g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
            g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());

            clearDisplay = false;
            startx = currentx = starty = currenty = 0;

            return;
        }
        // Draw with black pen
        g.setColor(0, 0, 0);

```

```

        // Draw line
        g.drawLine(startx, starty, currentx, currenty);

        // New starting point is the current position
        startx = currentx;
        starty = currenty;
    }

    /*-----
    * Command event handling
    *-----*/
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
            midlet.exitMIDlet();
        else if (c == cmClear)
        {
            clearDisplay = true;
            repaint();
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Pointer pressed
    *-----*/
    protected void pointerPressed(int x, int y)
    {
        startx = x;
        starty = y;
    }

    /*-----
    * Pointer moved
    *-----*/
    protected void pointerDragged(int x, int y)
    {
        currentx = x;
        currenty = y;
        repaint();
    }
}

```

When the user clicks the mouse button (or touches the screen with a pointing device such as a stylus), the method `pointerPressed()` is called. The starting `x` and `y` location are noted.

```

protected void pointerPressed(int x, int y)
{
    startx = x;
    starty = y;
}

```

Each movement of the pointer (while the mouse button is down or the stylus is still on the display) is reported to:

```

protected void pointerDragged(int x, int y)

```

```

{
    currentx = x;
    currenty = y;
    repaint();
}

```

The current x and y locations are saved and a request is made to re-paint the display. This request will result in a call to `paint()`, where a line is drawn from the starting point to the current position.

```

// Draw line
g.drawLine(startx, starty, currentx, currenty);

// New starting point is the current position
startx = currentx;
starty = currenty;

```

The current x and y positions will become the starting point for the next line segment. Therefore, before leaving `paint()`, `startx` and `starty` are set to the current values of x and y.

To start a new doodle, select the "Clear" Command on the device (see [Figure 9–9](#)). Command events are always routed to `commandAction()`

```

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
    else if (c == cmClear)
    {
        clearDisplay = true;
        repaint();
    }
}

```

If `cmClear` triggered the event, the flag `clearDisplay` is set. Back in `paint()` a check is made for this flag, when `true` the display is cleared by drawing a rectangle the size of the `Canvas` with a white background. The position markers are also reset at this time.

```

// Clear the background (to white)
if (clearDisplay)
{
    g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
    g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());

    clearDisplay = false;
    startx = currentx = starty = currenty = 0;

    return;
}

```

Graphics

A `Graphic` object (a.k.a. graphic context) is the instrument for drawing onto a `Canvas`. With over 30 methods, there is an abundance of operations from drawing of shapes and text to specifying fonts and colors.

For consistency, code examples in this section will use the variable `g` to refer to an instance of a `Graphics` object. Whenever you see a reference to `g`, assume it has been properly allocated/acquired and always refers to a valid `Graphics` object, for instance:

```
g.setColor(r, g, b);
g.drawLine(startx, starty, endx, endy);
```

This is a nice segue to the first topic.

Obtaining a Graphics Object

A `Graphics` object is the ticket to drawing onto a `Canvas`. There are two means to acquire a reference to this object. We witnessed the first when writing the `paint()` method inside the `Canvas` class. Here's a refresher:

```
class AnimationCanvas extends Canvas
    implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;          // Exit midlet
    ...
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    addCommand(cmExit);
    setCommandListener(this);
    ...
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        ...
    }
}
```

The second means to obtain a `Graphics` object is through a mutable `Image`. Let's digress for just a minute and review the image types presented in [Chapter 7](#).

Immutable: Once created, these images cannot be altered. Immutable images are most often created from a resource, such as a file. The most common use of an immutable image is to display an image as part of another component. In [Example 7.11](#) we created a `ChoiceGroup` with images that appear alongside each selection (see [Figure 9–10](#)). A `Form`, `List` and `Alert` can also be home to immutable images.

Figure 9-10. Immutable images inside a ChoiceGroup



Mutable: These images are created by requesting a block of memory, specifying the height and width of the desired image. The image is empty until drawn into. Here's how to allocate a mutable image:

```
// Create mutable image and get graphics object for image
Image tmpImg = Image.createImage(80, 20);
Graphics g = tmpImg.getGraphics();
```

Look what we just uncovered. There's our second reference to a `Graphics` object, through a mutable image. Which also answers the question, how do you draw into a mutable image?

Before moving on, let's go over the fundamental difference between the lifetime of a `Graphics` objects acquired inside `paint()` versus a `Graphics` object acquired through an `Image`.

1. **Through `paint()` method** The `Graphics` reference is valid only inside `paint()`. Once leaving (even if you save a reference to the variable), the object cannot be used to draw onto the `Canvas`.
2. **Through an `image`** The `Graphics` reference is valid as long as the `Image` and the variable that references the `Graphics` object are in scope. For example, depending on where the following declaration is made, `image` and `g` may be available for the lifetime of the MIDlet.

```
Image image = Image.createImage(40, 40);
Graphics g = image.getGraphics();
```

24 bits are allocated for color support; 8 bits to each of the colors: red, green, and blue. If a device does not support all possible colors in the range, it will map color requests to the closest possible match available. This includes mapping a color request to an appropriate shade of gray for non-color devices.

Table 9.9. Color Support: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics</code>	
Method	Description
<code>void setColor(int RGB)</code>	Set color by combining each color component (Red, Green, Blue) into one integer value
<code>void setColor(int red, int green, int blue)</code>	Set color specifying each color component (Red, Green, Blue) separately
<code>int getColor()</code>	Get current color as one integer value
<code>int getBlueComponent()</code>	Get the blue component of the current color

<code>int getGreenComponent()</code>	Get the green component of the current color
<code>int getRedComponent()</code>	Get the red component of the current color
<code>void setGrayScale(int value)</code>	Set the grayscale
<code>int getGrayScale()</code>	Get current grayscale

Setting Colors

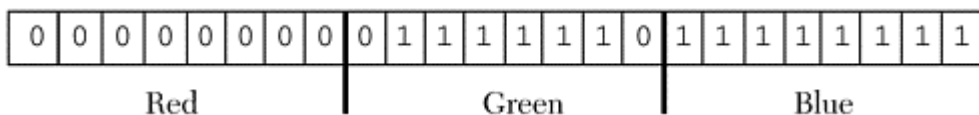
When setting the color, we have two choices: combine the three color components into one integer value or specify each color as a separate integer. When combining colors, blue occupies the lower eight bits, followed by green, ending with red. For example, let's randomly select a value for each color:

	Decimal	Hexadecimal	Binary
Red	0	0x0	0000 0000
Green	126	0x7E	0111 1110
Blue	255	0xFF	1111 1111

When combining each separate color into one integer, we need to shift a few bits around. Specifically, red needs to move up 16 bits, green up 8 bits, with blue occupying the lower 8 bits.

```
// Assume 'g' is a valid Graphics object
int red = 0,
    green = 126,
    blue = 255;
g.setColor((red << 16) | (green << 8) | blue);
```

The end result is an integer value with the binary representation:



The second option is to specify the colors separately:

```
g.setColor(red, green, blue);
```

Determining Color Support

You can check for color support on a mobile device through the method `javax.microedition.lcdui.Display.isColor()`. `true` is returned if the device supports color; otherwise `false` is returned.

There is an additional method—

`javax.microedition.lcdui.Display.numColors()` —that returns the number of colors (or shades of gray) available.

Getting Colors

To get the current color configuration the options are the reverse of setting the colors: the current color selection can be returned as one integer value or a separate integer for each color.

For separate color values use `getRedComponent()`, `getGreenComponent()` and `getBlueComponent()`. When requesting the color be returned as one integer value, you can get the value assigned to each color (red, green and blue) by masking off the appropriate bits.

```
int colors, red, green, blue;
colors = g.getColor();

// Return the highest 8 bits
red = colors & 0xFF0000

// Return middle eight bits
green = colors & 0xFF00;

// Return lowest 8 bits
blue = colors & 0xFF
```

Using Grayscale

`setGrayScale(int)` allows selection of a shade of gray in the range of 0 to 255. As with a color device, if the value is outside the supported range, an appropriate match will be selected.

Background and Foreground Colors

MIDP does not support the concept of separate background and foreground colors. This should be apparent by looking at the methods for setting colors—`setColor(int)` and `setColor(int, int, int)`. No distinction is made between the background and foreground.

Instead, fill operations are used to color the background. For example, to change the background to blue and draw a text string in white, we can follow these steps:

```
// Assume 'g' is a valid Graphics object
// Fill display with blue background
g.setColor(0, 0, 255);
g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());

// Set color to white and draw text
g.setColor(255,255,255);
g.drawString("Testing", 5, 5,
             Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
```

We'll visit all the fill operations as we move through the remainder of this chapter.

Stroke Style

When drawing lines, arcs and rectangles we can choose between a solid or dashed stroke style. If you don't specify a preference, the default is solid. [Figure 9-11](#) shows a line drawn in each stroke style.

Figure 9-11. SOLID and DOTTED stroke styles

Table 9.10. Stroke Methods: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
int getStrokeStyle ()	Get the current stroke style
void setStrokeStyle (int style)	Set the stroke style (available styles are shown in Table 9.11)

Setting the preferred stroke is as easy as:

```
g.setStrokeStyle(Graphics.DOTTED);
```

or

```
g.setStrokeStyle(Graphics.SOLID);
```

Once the stroke style is set, every line, arc and rectangle drawn with the associated `Graphics` that will use that stroke style. There are a few important notes regarding the dotted stroke style:

- A dotted line is drawn by skipping pixels in drawing path
- Which pixels are skipped is determined by the implementation
- End points (of lines and arcs) and corners (of rectangles) are not guaranteed to be drawn

Table 9.11. Stroke Styles: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics	
<i>Property</i>	<i>Description</i>
SOLID	Draw solid lines
DOTTED	Draw dotted lines

Drawing Lines

Let's start with the most basic drawing operation, a line. Each line has a starting `point`, (x1 y1) and ending (x2 y2) point (see [Table 9.12](#)). Regardless of the stroke style, the thickness of a line is always one pixel wide.

Back in [Example 9.3](#), `doodle.java`, we used this method to draw line segments as a mouse was moved about on a `Canvas`. The starting location of the line and the current location of the mouse were specified as the parameters to `drawLine()`.

```
// Draw with black pen
g.setColor(0, 0, 0);

// Draw line
g.drawLine(startx, starty, currentx, currenty);
```

Table 9.12. Line Drawing: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
void drawLine (int x1, int y1, int x2, int y2)	Draw line specifying starting and ending points

Drawing Arcs

There are two methods to draw arcs: one to create an "outline" of an arc and the second to fill an arc (see [Table 9.13](#)).

Table 9.13. Arc Methods: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics	
<i>Property</i>	<i>Description</i>
void drawArc (int x, int y, int width, int height, int startAngle, int arcAngle)	Draw an arc inside a bounding box specified by x,y and width,height.
void fillArc (int x, int y, int width, int height, int startAngle, int arcAngle)	Fill an arc inside a bounding box specified by x,y and width,height.

Drawing an arc begins by specifying the bounding box (i.e., the outside dimensions of an "imaginary" box that will contain the arc). The `startAngle` is the location to start the arc, where 0 is found at 3 o'clock. Positive values go counter-clockwise. Therefore, if you choose a `startAngle` of 90 the arc would begin at 12 o'clock.

The `arcAngle` is how many degrees to rotate from the `startAngle`. A `startAngle` of 0 and `arcAngle` of 180 would begin at 3 o'clock and rotate counter-clockwise to 9 o'clock. A `startAngle` of 90 with an `arcAngle` of 180 would begin at 12 o'clock and rotate counter-clockwise to 6 o'clock.

Example: Modifying startAngle and arcAngle

[Example 9.4](#) draws an arc inside a bounding box defined by 5,5 to 75, 75. The `startAngle` is 0 (3 o'clock) and the `arcAngle` is 225. Here is the request to create the arc:

```
g.drawArc(5, 5, 75, 75, 0, 225);
```

[Figure 9-12](#) shows the resulting arc.

Figure 9-12. Drawing an arc with startAngle 0 and arcAngle 225

Example 9.4 Arcs.java

```
/*-----
 * Arcs.java
 *
 * Draw arc on a canvas
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Arcs extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;    // The display
    private ArcsCanvas canvas;  // Canvas

    public Arcs()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new ArcsCanvas(this);
    }
}
```

```

protected void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(canvas);
}

protected void pauseApp()
{ }

protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void exitMIDlet()
{
    destroyApp(true);
    notifyDestroyed();
}
}

/*-----
* Class ArcsCanvas
*
* Draw Arcs
*-----*/
class ArcsCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit; // Exit midlet
    private Arcs midlet;

    public ArcsCanvas(Arcs midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }
    /*-----
    * Draw an arc
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        // Start at 3 o'clock and rotate 225
        g.drawArc(5, 5, 75, 75, 0, 225);

        // Start at 12 o'clock and rotate 225
        // g.drawArc(5, 5, 75, 75, 90, 225);

        // Change the size of the bounding box
        // Start at 12 o'clock and rotate 225
        // g.drawArc(25, 35, 30, 50, 90, 225);
    }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)

```

```

        midlet.exitMIDlet();
    }
}

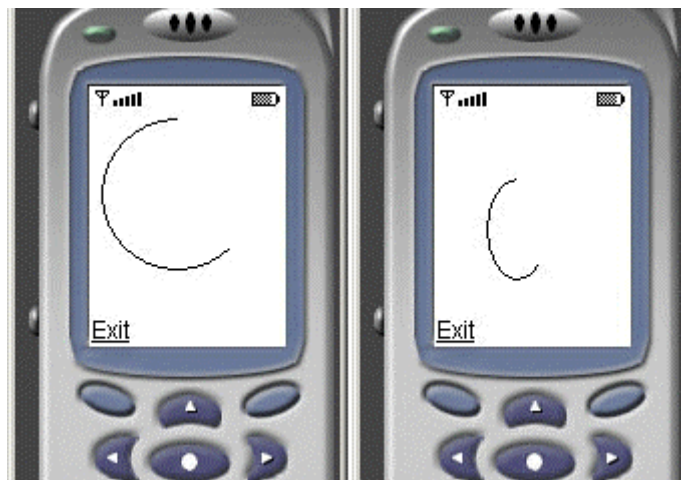
```

Inside `paint()` are three calls to `drawArc()`. The result of the first call is shown in [Figure 9-12](#):

```
g.drawArc(5, 5, 75, 75, 0, 225);
```

Notice in [Figure 9-13](#) (on the left) how the arc changes when the `startAngle` is modified. The `arcAngle` is still 225; however, the starting position is now 90 (12 o'clock):

Figure 9-13. Leftmost arc is the same arc as [Figure 9-12](#), with a `startAngle` of 90; Arc on the right has a modified bounding box.



```
g.drawArc(5, 5, 75, 75, 90, 225);
```

Finally, the arc on the right in [Figure 9-13](#) is the result of a change to the bounding box:

```
g.drawArc(25, 35, 30, 50, 90, 225);
```

Filling of arcs follows exactly the same principal: specify a bounding box and start angle and rotation of the arc. Lets change the original arc ([Figure 9-12](#)) from:

```
g.drawArc(5, 5, 75, 75, 0, 225);
```

to a filled arc:

```
g.fillArc(5, 5, 75, 75, 0, 225);
```

The result is shown in [Figure 9-14](#).

Figure 9-14. Filled arc



Make a few changes of your own to get a feel for drawing arcs and filled arcs. Specifically, try specifying a negative `arcAngle`, an option we didn't experiment with in the earlier examples.

Drawing Rectangles

Rectangles can have either square or rounded corners and can be drawn as an outline or filled (see [Table 9.14](#)).

Table 9.14. Rectangle Methods: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics</code>	
<i>Property</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void drawRect(int x, int y, int width, int height)</code>	Draw a rectangle
<code>void drawRoundRect(int x, int y, int width, int height, int arcWidth, int arcHeight)</code>	Draw a rounded rectangle
<code>void fillRect(int x, int y, int width, int height)</code>	Fill a rectangle
<code>void fillRoundRect(int x, int y, int width, int height, int arcWidth, int arcHeight)</code>	Fill a rounded rectangle

The parameters for a non-rounded rectangle should be unmistakable. Specify the starting x and y location as well as the width and height. When creating a rectangle with rounded corners we also specify the horizontal diameter (`arcWidth`) and the vertical diameter (`arcHeight`) of the arc drawn at each corner.

Example: Four Rectangle Types

[Example 9.5](#) creates a rectangle for each of the four types.

Example 9.5 Rectangles.java

```

/*-----
 * Rectangles.java
 *
 * Draw Rectangle on a canvas
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;

```



```

import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Rectangles extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;          // The display
    private RectangleCanvas canvas; // Canvas

    public Rectangles()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new RectangleCanvas(this);
    }

    protected void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    { }

    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void exitMIDlet()
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

/*-----
* Class RectangleCanvas
*
* Draw arcs
*-----*/
class RectangleCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit; // Exit midlet
    private Rectangles midlet;
    public RectangleCanvas(Rectangles midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }

    /*-----
    * Draw an arc
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        g.drawRect(1, 1, 25, 25);
        g.drawRoundRect(28, 28, 45, 45, 15, 45);
    }
}

```

```
//      g.fillRect(1, 1, 25, 25);
//      g.fillRoundRect(28, 28, 45, 45, 15, 45);

    }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
            midlet.exitMIDlet();
    }
}
```

[Figure 9-15](#) shows the following two rectangles, the latter with rounded corners.

Figure 9-15. Rectangles with and without rounded corners



```
g.drawRect(1, 1, 25, 25);
g.drawRoundRect(28, 28, 45, 45, 15, 45);
```

To draw a filled rectangle, change the method call, leaving all the parameters unchanged. The results are shown in [Figure 9-16](#).

Figure 9-16. Filled rectangles with and without rounded corners



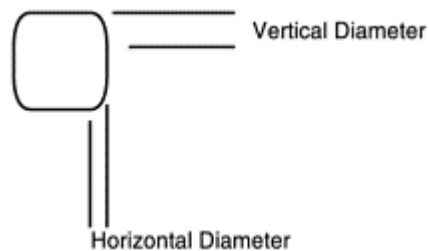
```
g.fillRect(1, 1, 25, 25);
g.fillRoundRect(28, 28, 45, 45, 15, 45);
```

Rounded Rectangles

The horizontal and vertical diameter (`arcWidth` and `arcHeight`) specified when creating a rounded rectangle define the "sharpness of the arc," if you will, in each direction. The larger the value the more gradual the arc.

For example, when setting the horizontal diameter to 15 and the vertical diameter to 45, the arc in the vertical direction is more gradual than that in the horizontal direction. See [Figure 9-17](#)

Figure 9-17. Determining the "sharpness" of corners on a rounded rectangle



```
g.drawRoundRect(28, 28, 45, 45, 15, 45)
```

Drawing Text

Anytime we draw text we must take into consideration the font style currently assigned to the `Graphics` context. Before going any further, this is an opportune time to learn about fonts.

Fonts

Font support within MIDP has been slimmed down significantly compared with J2SE. The most glaring omission is the lack of a `FontMetrics` class. Metrics define characteristics of a `Font` that

deal with measurements such as the height of a character or the size of the gap between one character and the next. MIDP does provide various metric information, as we'll see, just not to the extent you may be accustomed too.

A new `Font` is requested through the static method `Font.getFont()`.

```
Font font = Font.getFont(Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
                        Font.STYLE_PLAIN,
                        Font.SIZE_MEDIUM);
```

The idea behind using a static method is in an effort to conserve resources, specifically, limiting garbage collection. When requesting a `Font` keep in mind that the implementation may not be able to accommodate your request. If this is the case, the nearest match will be returned.

Table 9.15. Font: javax.microedition.lcdui.Font

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
static Font getFont (int face, int style, int size)	Request a new Font
static Font getDefaultFont ()	Request the system Font

There are three attributes associated with a `Font`: the face, style and size. [Table 9.16](#) shows the constants that are defined for each attribute. One attribute deserves special attention—the style. Unlike the face and size, you can combine style attributes using a logical OR (`|`) operator. Here is a request for the system (default) face, which has both a bold and italic style and is medium in size.

```
Font font = Font.getFont(Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
                        Font.STYLE_BOLD | Font.STYLE_ITALIC,
                        Font.SIZE_MEDIUM);
```

There are seven methods for querying a font's attributes, and each is listed in [Table 9.17](#). One method worth mentioning is `getStyle()`, which returns an integer that may be any combination of the style attributes

Table 9.16. Font Attributes: javax.microedition.lcdui.Font

<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Constant Value</i>
FACE_SYSTEM	System characters	0
FACE_MONOSPACE	Monospace characters	32
FACE_PROPORTIONAL	Proportional characters	64
STYLE_PLAIN	Plain characters	0
STYLE_BOLD	Bold characters	1
STYLE_ITALIC	Italicized characters	2
STYLE_UNDERLINED	Underlined characters	4
SIZE_SMALL	Small characters	8
SIZE_MEDIUM	Medium characters	0
SIZE_LARGE	Large characters	16

(`STYLE_PLAIN`, `STYLE_BOLD`, `STYLE_ITALIC`, `STYLE_UNDERLINED`). Let's walk through an example using the following font:

```
Font font = Font.getFont(
    Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
    Font.STYLE_BOLD | Font.STYLE_ITALIC | Font.STYLE_UNDERLINED,
    Font.SIZE_MEDIUM);

int style = font.getStyle();
```

The variable `style` will have the value 7. Here's why.

	Binary	Decimal
<code>Font.STYLE_BOLD</code>	00000001	1
<code>Font.STYLE_ITALIC</code>	00000010	2
<code>Font.STYLE_UNDERLINED</code>	00000100	4

Logical OR	00000111	7

If you would like to test for various style attributes you may write something as follows:

```
if (style == (Font.STYLE_BOLD | Font.STYLE_ITALIC))
    ...
```

We get the same end result using the methods `isPlain()`, `isBold()`, `isItalic()` and `isUnderlined()`, such as:

```
if (font.isBold() && font.isItalic())
    ...
```

So why bother with the extra effort involved with `getStyle()`? Think back to how fonts are allocated. If you remember, there are no guarantees that your request will be granted. If the system does not support such a font, the closest match will be returned.

With that in mind, let's assume that we prompt a user for their preferred font attributes, with the intention of saving these attributes in the Record Store. We could store the user preferences as three integer values:

```
int face = font.getFace();
int style = font.getStyle();
int size = font.getSize();
```

`getStyle()` neatly packages all the preferred style attributes (bold, italic and underlined) into one variable, `style`. Without this method we would need to query for each style attribute (`isBold()`, `isItalic()` and `isUnderlined()`) and either store a reference to each one or go through the hoops to create one variable that will represent a combination of each.

To complete this example, let's assume that each time the MIDlet is started we read user-preferences from the Record Store and update the system accordingly. To set the `Font` to the user-preferred setting, we could read the attributes previously written and with one call set the preferred `Font`:

```
int face, style, size;
```

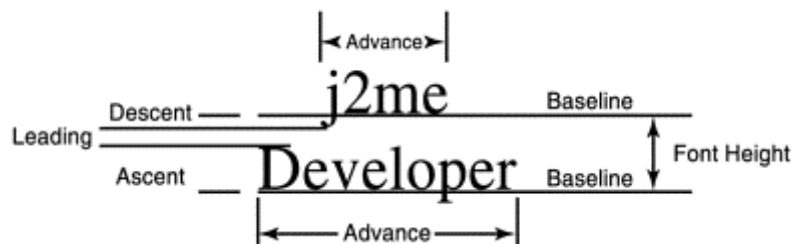
```
// A custom method to read font attributes from rms
getFontAttributes();

// Request the user preferred font
Font font = Font.getFont(face, style, size);
```

Table 9.17. Attributes Methods: javax.microedition.lcdui.Font	
Method	Description
int getFace()	Get the current face
int getStyle()	Get the combination of style attributes as one integer (logically or'ed)
int getSize()	Get the current size
boolean isPlain()	Is the plain (style) attribute set
boolean isBold()	Is the bold (style) attribute set
boolean isItalic()	Is the italic (style) attribute set
boolean isUnderlined()	Is the underlined (style) attribute set

Metrics describe information regarding various measurements of a `Font`. Before going any further we need to understand the terminology used when working with metrics (see [Figure 9-18](#)).

Figure 9-18. Font metrics



The ascent is the distance from the baseline to the top of the majority of characters. The descent is the distance from the baseline down to the bottom of the majority of characters (some may extend below this). Leading is the gap between the descent of one line and the ascent of the next. The font height is defined as the ascent + leading + descent, which makes up the distance between baselines.

The advance is the total "distance" occupied by a character or string of characters. The advance is more than just the width of the individual characters, it also takes into consideration the gap between characters. The advance is useful when centering or otherwise horizontally aligning text.

Unlike the `FontMetrics` class in J2SE, MIDP does not include methods to obtain values for all metrics. However, the most common metrics for a font are available (see [Table 9.18](#)).

`getHeight()` returns the font height. Included is the leading, which provides for a gap between successive lines of text. `getBaselinePosition()` returns the ascent, the distance from the baseline to the top of the tallest character. The remaining methods determine the advance (total length occupied) for a single character, array of characters, `String` and a sub-string of a `String`.

Table 9.18. Metrics Methods: javax.microedition.lcdui.Font	
Method	Description

int getHeight()	Get font height (distance between baselines)
int getBaselinePosition()	Get font ascent (baseline to top of character)
int charWidth (char ch)	Get the advance for specific character
int charsWidth (char[] ch, int offset, int length)	Get the advance for a series of characters
int stringWidth (String str)	Get the advance for a String
int substringWidth (String str, int offset, int length)	Get the advance for a sub-string of a String

Using the Advance

The methods for determining the advance are available to help in aligning text. You can quickly determine how much "space" will be occupied by any given text. With this information, you can center text, draw around it, create tables holding text values, and so forth.

The significance of these methods goes unnoticed until the time comes that you need to align text. Once you find yourself in that position, you'll undergo a different appreciation for what these methods provide.

Anchor Point

There is just one last topic to cover before drawing text: the anchor point. When drawing text, in addition to providing the `String` to display, we also specify an x and y location. Given that the coordinate system begins in the upper left corner of the display, it would be a reasonable assumption that this x and y value would be an offset from that location.

That would work fine; however, to provide for additional flexibility and make it easier to align text, the concept of an anchor point was introduced. Anchor points are defined in pairs, just like x and y coordinates. The x (horizontal) values are `LEFT`, `HCENTER` and `RIGHT`. The y (vertical) values are `TOP`, `BASELINE` and `BOTTOM`.

Picture these pairs as points around an imaginary box, known as the bounding box, of the text you would like to draw (see [Figure 9-19](#)).

Figure 9-19. Anchor points around the bounding box of a text String

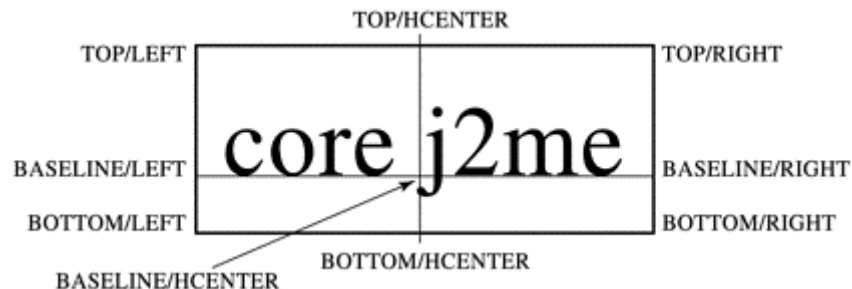


Table 9.19. Text Anchor Points: `javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics`

<i>Anchor Point</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Direction</i>
LEFT	Left of text	Horizontal

HCENTER	Center of text	Horizontal
RIGHT	Right of text	Horizontal
TOP	Top of text	Vertical
BASELINE	Baseline of text	Vertical
BOTTOM	Bottom of text	Vertical

When you specify an anchor point what you are referring to is which location on the bounding box will be located at the x and y coordinate. We are putting the cart before the horse; however, to show an example using anchor points, let's look at the method `drawstring()`.

```
g.drawString("core j2me", 0, 0 ,
             Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);

g.drawString("core j2me", 0, 0 ,
             Graphics.TOP | Graphics.HCENTER;
```

The first parameter is obvious—this is the text to draw. The next two values are the x and y coordinates. The last parameter is the anchor point. Anchor points are always specified in pairs, a vertical and horizontal value, combined using the logical OR operator (`|`).

The first call requests that the `TOP / LEFT` corner of the bounding box be located at 0,0. The second requests that the `TOP / HCENTER` of the bounding box be located at 0,0 (see Figures 9-20 and 9-21). To get a perspective of the coordinate system and the layout of the text, assume the light gray box represents the display.

Figure 9-20. Anchor point TOP/LEFT on bounding box at 0,0

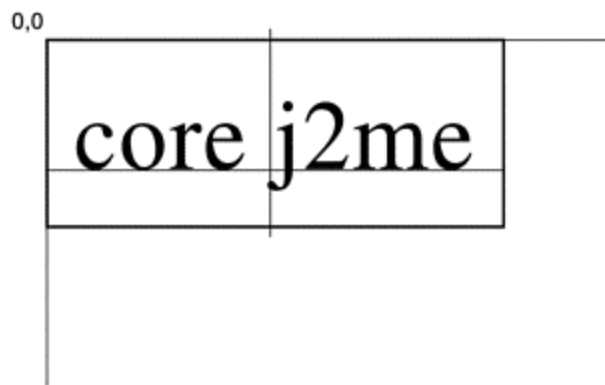
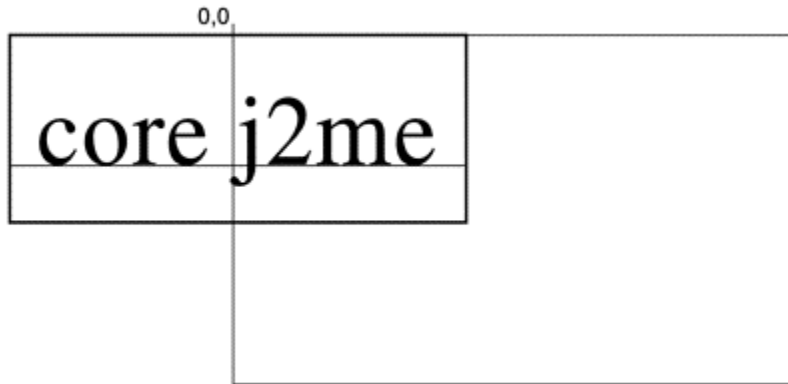


Figure 9-21. Anchor point TOP/HCENTER on bounding box at 0,0

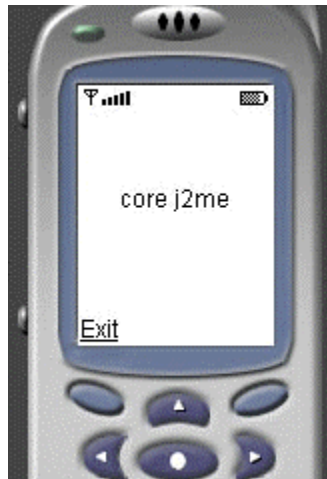


Try this on for size:

```
g.drawString("core j2me",
             getWidth() / 2, getHeight() / 2,
             Graphics.BASELINE | Graphics.HCENTER);
```

This requests that the `BASILINE` / `HCENTER` of the bounding box be positioned at the center of the display (which is located by dividing both the screen width and height by 2). The end result, for all intents and purposes, is that the text is centered. (see [Figure 9-22](#)).

Figure 9-22. Centering text with anchor points



The idea behind anchor points is to make our life a little easier when laying out text. Be patient, it takes a little trial and error to get the feel for anchor points.

Drawing Text

At this point, with an understanding of fonts and anchor points, drawing text is nothing more than deciding which method to call. We can opt to draw a single character, an array (or subset of an array) of characters, a `String` or subset of a `String`.

Table 9.20. Drawing Text Methods: <code>javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics</code>	
Method	Description

void drawChar (char character, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw one character
void drawChars (char[] data, int offset, int length, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw an array (or subset) of characters
void drawString (String str, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw a String
void drawSubstring (String str, int offset, int len, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw a sub-string of a String
Font getFont ()	Get the current Font
void setFont (Font font)	Set the current Font

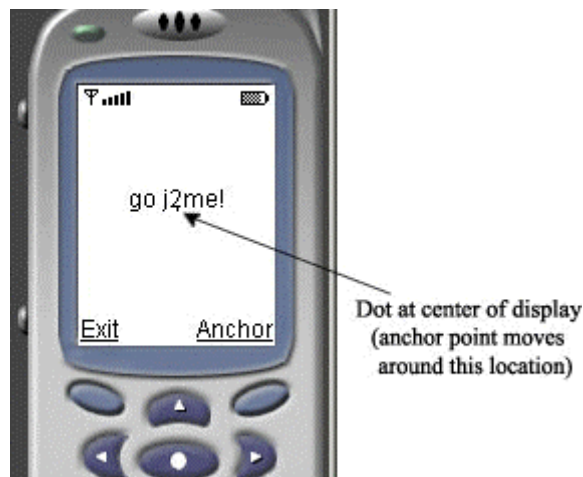
Regardless of the method you choose, the implementation will align the text based on the x and y coordinates and the anchor point.

Example: Moving Text with Anchor Points

Let's run through an example that moves a text `String` around a `Canvas` by changing the anchor point ([Example 9.6](#)). For this MIDlet, x and y will always be positioned at the center of the display. The text will appear in various locations around this coordinate based on the anchor point.

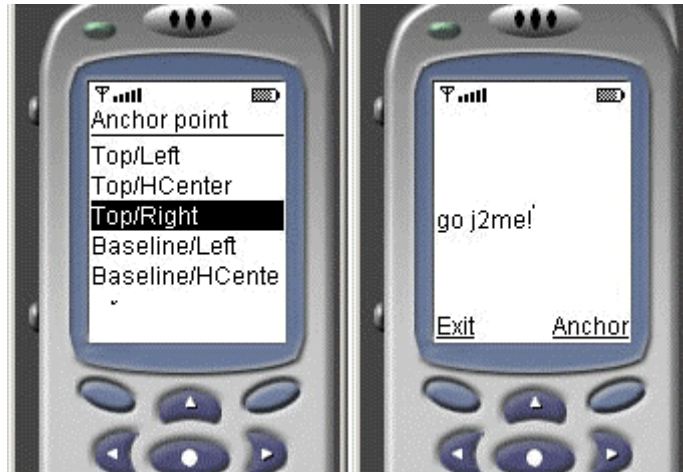
For example, in [Figure 9-23](#) the anchor point is `BASELINE / HCENTER`. This translates to: the location on the bounding box `BASELINE / HCENTER` will be at the center of the display (the x and y coordinate).

Figure 9-23. x and y at center of display; Anchor point baseline/hcenter



To choose an alternative anchor point, select the "Anchor" command on the display. You will be presented with a `List` of anchor point locations (see the left screen shot in [Figure 9-24](#)). Choosing "Top/Right" translates to: the location on the bounding box `TOP / RIGHT` will be at the center of the display (see the image on the right of [Figure 9-24](#)).

Figure 9-24. x and y at center of display. Anchor point top/right



Example 9.6 Text.java

```

/*-----
 * Text.java
 *
 * Show various anchor points
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Text extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;          // The display
    private TextCanvas canvas;        // Canvas to display text
    private AnchorPtList anchorPt;    // List to query for anchor point
    private int anchorPoint = Graphics.BASELINE | Graphics.HCENTER;

    public Text()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new TextCanvas(this);
        anchorPt = new AnchorPtList("Anchor point", List.IMPLICIT, this);
    }

    protected void startApp()
    {
        showCanvas();
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    protected void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
    {
    }

    public void showCanvas()
    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }
}

```

```

        public void showList()
        {
            display.setCurrent(anchorPt);
        }
    public int getAnchorPoint()
    {
        return anchorPoint;
    }

    public void setAnchorPoint(int anchorPoint)
    {
        this.anchorPoint = anchorPoint;
    }

    public void exitMIDlet()
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

/*-----
* Class TextCanvas
*
* Draw text at specified anchor point
*-----*/
class TextCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit; // Exit midlet
    private Command cmGetAnchorPt;
    private Text midlet;

    public TextCanvas(Text midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create commands & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmGetAnchorPt = new Command("Anchor", Command.SCREEN, 2);

        addCommand(cmExit);
        addCommand(cmGetAnchorPt);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }
    /*-----
    * Draw text
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        int xcenter = getWidth() / 2,
            ycenter = getHeight() / 2;

        // Choose a font
        g.setFont(Font.getFont(Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
                                Font.STYLE_PLAIN, Font.SIZE_MEDIUM));

        // Draw a dot at the center of the display

```

```

        g.drawLine(xcenter, ycenter, xcenter, ycenter);

        // x and y are always at the center of the display
        // Move the text around x and y based on the anchor point
        g.drawString("go j2me!",
                     xcenter, ycenter, midlet.getAnchorPoint());
    }

    /*-----
    * Exit midlet or show anchor point selection list
    *-----*/
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
            midlet.exitMIDlet();
        else if (c == cmGetAnchorPt)
        {
            midlet.showList();
        }
    }
}

/*-----
* Class AnchorPtList
*
* List to query for an anchor point
*-----*/
class AnchorPtList extends List implements CommandListener
{
    private Text midlet;
    public AnchorPtList(String title, int listType, Text midlet)
    {
        // Call list constructor
        super(title, listType);

        this.midlet = midlet;

        append("Top/Left", null);
        append("Top/HCenter", null);
        append("Top/Right", null);

        append("Baseline/Left", null);
        append("Baseline/HCenter", null);
        append("Baseline/Right", null);

        append("Bottom/Left", null);
        append("Bottom/HCenter", null);
        append("Bottom/Right", null);

        setCommandListener(this);
    }

    /*-----
    * Commands to set anchor point
    *-----*/
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {

```

```

switch (getSelectedIndex())
{
    case 0:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
        break;

    case 1:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.TOP | Graphics.HCENTER);
        break;
    case 2:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.TOP | Graphics.RIGHT);
        break;

    case 3:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.BASELINE | Graphics.LEFT);
        break;

    case 4:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.BASELINE | Graphics.HCENTER);
        break;

    case 5:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.BASELINE | Graphics.RIGHT);
        break;

    case 6:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.BOTTOM | Graphics.LEFT);
        break;

    case 7:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.BOTTOM | Graphics.HCENTER);
        break;

    case 8:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.BOTTOM | Graphics.RIGHT);
        break;

    default:
        midlet.setAnchorPoint(Graphics.BASELINE | Graphics.HCENTER);
}

midlet.showCanvas();
}
}

```

This MIDlet consists of three classes:

Text: The main midlet. Allocates the `Canvas` and `List` components and displays each as requested.

TextCanvas: Extends the `Canvas` class and is home to the `paint()` method where the text is drawn based on the anchor point.

AnchorPtList: Extends the `List` class to display a selection of anchor points.

Focus your attention on `paint()`. Notice the `x` and `y` coordinates are always at the center of the display. We mark this location by drawing a tiny arc.

```
protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    int xcenter = getWidth() / 2,
        ycenter = getHeight() / 2;

    // Choose a font
    g.setFont(Font.getFont(Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
        Font.STYLE_PLAIN, Font.SIZE_MEDIUM));

    // Draw a dot at the center of the display
    g.drawLine(xcenter, ycenter, xcenter, ycenter);

    // x and y are always at the center of the display
    // Move text around x and y based on anchor point
    g.drawString("go j2me!",
        xcenter, ycenter, midlet.getAnchorPoint());
}
```

Drawing Images

Drawing of images is not unlike drawing a line or text. There is an appropriately named method `drawImage()`. However, there's a catch. Look over the parameters for the method and see if anything comes to mind:

```
drawImage(Image, int x, int y, int anchor)
```

Table 9.21. Image Method: `javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics`

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void drawImage (Image img, int x, int y, int anchor)</code>	Draw an image

The concern has to do with the first parameter, which is a reference to an `Image` object. This implies, and correctly so, that we can't call `drawImage()` until we create an `Image`. Going one step further, if we create a mutable `Image`, which is nothing more than a block of memory, it has no content until drawn onto. It comes down to this: we need to lay the groundwork before calling `drawImage()`. Here are the basic steps:

Immutable Image

1. Allocate the image

```
Image im = Image.createImage("/imageTest.png");
```

2. Display the image

```
protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    ...
    g.drawImage(im, 10, 10, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
}
```

```
    ...
}
```

Mutable Image

1. Allocate the image

```
Image im = Image.createImage(80, 20);
```

2. Create the image content (using arcs, rectangles, lines and text)

```
// Get Graphics object to draw onto image
Graphics graphics = im.getGraphics();

// Draw a filled rectangle
graphics.fillRect(0, 0, 50, 50, 20, 20);
...
```

3. Display the image

```
protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    ...
    g.drawImage(im, 10, 10, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
    ...
}
```

Example: Immutable Image

Two examples are in order, one each for immutable and mutable images (see [Example 9.7](#)).

Example 9.7 ImmutableImage.java

```
/*-----
 * ImmutableImage.java
 *
 * Draw immutable image on a canvas
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class ImmutableImage extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;    // The display
    private ImageCanvas canvas; // Canvas

    public ImmutableImage()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new ImageCanvas(this);
    }

    protected void startApp()
```



```

    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    { }

    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void exitMIDlet()
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
/*-----
* Class ImageCanvas
*
* Draw immutable image
*-----*/
class ImageCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit; // Exit midlet
    private ImmutableImage midlet;
    private Image im = null;

    public ImageCanvas(ImmutableImage midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);

        try
        {
            // Create immutable image
            im = Image.createImage("/image_bw.png");
        }
        catch (java.io.IOException e)
        {
            System.err.println("Unable to locate or read .png file");
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Draw immutable image
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        if (im != null)
            g.drawImage(im, 10, 10, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
    }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)

```

```

    {
        if (c == cmExit)
            midlet.exitMIDlet();
    }
}

```

Inside the constructor for the `Canvas` an immutable image is read from a file resource.

```

// Create immutable image
im = Image.createImage("/image_bw.png");

```

The `paint()` method draws the image onto the `Canvas` (see [Figure 9-25](#)).

Figure 9-25. Immutable image on Canvas



```

protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    if (im != null)
        g.drawImage(im, 10, 10, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
}

```

Example: Mutable Image

[Example 9.8](#) displays a mutable `Image`. However, there are a few additional steps. After allocating the `Image`, we will need to obtain a reference to a `Graphics` context and use that reference to create the `Image` content. At that point we can then call `drawImage()`.

Example 9.8 MutableImage.java

```

/*-----
 * MutableImage.java
 *
 * Draw mutable image on a canvas
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

```

```

public class MutableImage extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;    // The display
    private ImageCanvas canvas; // Canvas

    public MutableImage()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new ImageCanvas(this);
    }

    protected void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    { }

    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void exitMIDlet()
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
/*-----
* Class ImageCanvas
*
* Draw mutable image
*-----*/
class ImageCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit; // Exit midlet
    private MutableImage midlet;
    private Image im = null;
    private String message = "Core J2ME";

    public ImageCanvas(MutableImage midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);

        try
        {
            // Create mutable image
            im = Image.createImage(80, 20);

            // Get graphics object to draw onto the image
            Graphics graphics = im.getGraphics();

```

```

        // Specify a font face, style and size
        Font font = Font.getFont(Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
                                Font.STYLE_ITALIC,
                                Font.SIZE_MEDIUM);

        graphics.setFont(font);

        // Draw a filled (black) rectangle
        graphics.setColor(0, 0, 0);
        graphics.fillRect(0,0,
                           im.getWidth()-1, im.getHeight()-1,
                           20, 20);

        // Center text horizontally in the image. Draw text in white
        graphics.setColor(255, 255, 255);
        graphics.drawString(message,
                             (im.getWidth() / 2) - (font.stringWidth(message) / 2), 0,
                             Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        System.err.println("Error during image creation");
    }
}

/*-----
 * Draw mutable image
 *-----*/
protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    // Center the image on the display
    if (im != null)
        g.drawImage(im,
                    getWidth() / 2, getHeight() / 2,
                    Graphics.VCENTER | Graphics.HCENTER);
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
}
}

```

The first step is to create a mutable image:

```
im = Image.createImage(80, 20);
```

Next, to draw onto the image, we need a reference to a `Graphics` object:

```
Graphics graphics = im.getGraphics();
```

The remaining code uses this object to draw a rounded (filled) rectangle and a text message onto the image. Remember, at this point the image is still not visible. It exists only in memory.

```
// Specify a font face, style and size
```

```

Font font = Font.getFont(Font.FACE_SYSTEM,
                          Font.STYLE_ITALIC,
                          Font.SIZE_MEDIUM);
graphics.setFont(font);

// Draw a filled (black) rectangle
graphics.setColor(0, 0, 0);
graphics.fillRoundRect(0,0,
                      im.getWidth()-1, im.getHeight()-1,
                      20, 20);

// Center text horizontally in the image. Draw text in white
graphics.setColor(255, 255, 255);
graphics.drawString(message,
                    (im.getWidth() / 2) - (font.stringWidth(message) / 2), 0,
                    Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);

```

The `paint()` method draws the image on the Canvas (see [Figure 9-26](#)).

Figure 9-26. Mutable image on Canvas



```

protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    // Center the image on the display
    if (im != null)
        g.drawImage(im,
                    getWidth() / 2, getHeight() / 2,
                    Graphics.VCENTER | Graphics.HCENTER);
}

```

Table 9.22. Image Anchor Points: `javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics`

<i>Anchor Point</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Direction</i>
LEFT	Left of image	Horizontal
HCENTER	Center of image	Horizontal
RIGHT	Right of image	Horizontal
TOP	Top of image	Vertical

VCENTER	Center of image	Vertical
BOTTOM	Bottom of image	Vertical

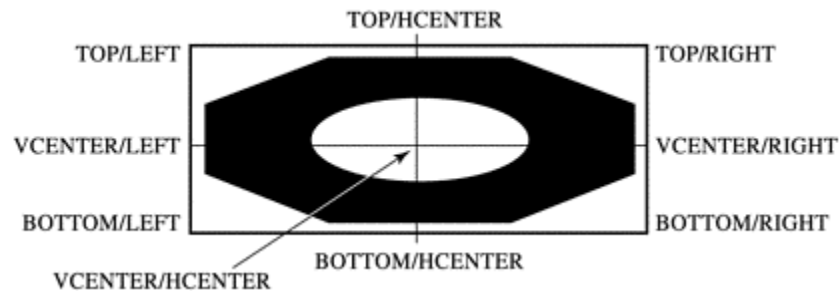
One final note: when drawing images the last parameter specifies the anchor point.

```
g.drawImage(im, 10, 10, Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
```

As with text, the anchor point is the location on the bounding box that is positioned at the specified x and y coordinates. For example, the aforementioned anchor point requests that the top left corner of the bounding box be located at the coordinates 10, 10.

[Table 9.22](#) lists the horizontal and vertical anchor points available for images. Notice `VCENTER` has taken the place of `BASELINE` (see [Table 9.19](#)). An image does not have the notion of a baseline (as does text); however, an image does have a vertical center.

Figure 9-27. Image anchor points



Take one last look at the `paint()` method for [Example 9.7](#) and the output shown in [Figure 9-26](#).

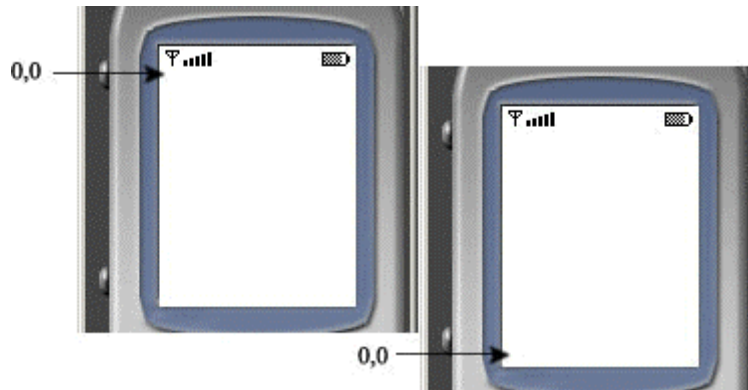
```
g.drawImage(im,
    getWidth() / 2, getHeight() / 2,
    Graphics.VCENTER | Graphics.HCENTER);
```

The `Image` is centered on the display by placing the anchor point at the vertical and horizontal center of the image and by requesting the x and y coordinates to be in the center of the `Canvas`, using `getWidth()` and `getHeight()`. In essence, the center of the `Image` is requested to be at the center of the `Canvas`. If you need a review of anchor points, refer back to "[Anchor Point](#)" in the section "[Drawing Text](#)."

Translating Coordinates

When defining the coordinate system we placed 0,0 at the upper left corner of the display (see the screen shot on the left in [Figure 9-28](#)).

Figure 9-28. Original coordinate system on left; translated on right



Through a concept referred to as translation, a `Graphics` object can reference its origin (0,0) at a different location on the display. For example, on the right screen shot in [Figure 9-28](#), the origin has been translated to the lower left corner.

Table 9.23. Translation Methods: `javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics`

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void translate(int x, int y)</code>	Translate the origin (0, 0) for a <code>Graphics</code> object
<code>int getTranslateX()</code>	Get the current translated x coordinate
<code>int getTranslateY()</code>	Get the current translated y coordinate

Example: Moving an Image

[Example 9.9](#) moves an image up/down and left/right on a `Canvas` by translating the origin of the `Graphics` object. The game actions `LEFT`, `RIGHT`, `UP` and `DOWN` trigger events where the translation occurs. Here is a partial listing of `keyPressed()` that shows the translation when selecting the `DOWN` action.

```
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    switch (getGameAction(keyCode))
    {
        case UP:
            ...

        case DOWN:
            // If scrolling off the bottom, roll around to top
            if ((translatey + im.getHeight() + im.getHeight())
                > getHeight())
                translatey = 0;
            else
                translatey += im.getHeight();
            break;
        ...
    }
    repaint();
}
```

Before translating the y coordinate down, a check is made to see if another complete image can be displayed below the current location. If yes, update the translation point equal to the height of the

image; otherwise, reset the translation point to zero, which will move the image back to the top of the display. Once the coordinate system has been translated, we request the display be updated through a call to `repaint()`.

```
protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    if (im != null)
    {
        // Clear the background
        g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
        g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());

        // Translate coordinates
        g.translate(translateX, translateY);

        // Always draw at 0,0
        g.drawImage(im, 0, 0, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
    }
}
```

The call to `drawImage()` always places the image at 0, 0 (for this example). Nothing has changed other than where the `Graphics` object considers its origin to be located.

[Figure 9-29](#) shows an image drawn before any translation. [Figure 9-30](#) shows the result of translating once down and once to the right. One important point: The amount of translation in each direction is based on the height and width of the image.

Figure 9-29. Original coordinate system (before translation)



Figure 9-30. Translation down and to right



Example 9.9 Translate.java

```

/*-----
 * Translate.java
 *
 * Translate coordinate system
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Translate extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;      // The display
    private TranslateCanvas canvas; // Canvas

    public Translate()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new TranslateCanvas(this);
    }

    protected void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    {
    }

    public void exitMIDlet()
    {
        destroyApp(true);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

/*-----
 * Class Translate

```

```

*
* Draw image using translated coordinates
*-----*/
class TranslateCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit; // Exit midlet
    private Translate midlet;
    private Image im = null;
    private int translatex = 0, translatey = 0;

    public TranslateCanvas(Translate midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);

        try
        {
            // Create immutable image
            im = Image.createImage("/bolt.png");
        }
        catch (java.io.IOException e)
        {
            System.err.println("Unable to locate or read .png file");
        }
    }

    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        if (im != null)
        {
            // Clear the background
            g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
            g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());

            // Translate coordinates
            g.translate(translatex, translatey);

            // Always draw at 0,0
            g.drawImage(im, 0, 0, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
        }
    }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
    {
        if (c == cmExit)
            midlet.exitMIDlet();
    }

    protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
    {
        switch (getGameAction(keyCode))
        {
            case UP:

```

```

        // If scrolling off the top, roll around to bottom
        if (translatey - im.getHeight() < 0)
            translatey = getHeight() - im.getHeight();
        else
            translatey -= im.getHeight();
        break;

    case DOWN:

        // If scrolling off the bottom, roll around to top
        if ((translatey + im.getHeight() + im.getHeight())
            > getHeight())
            translatey = 0;
        else
            translatey += im.getHeight();
        break;

    case LEFT:

        // If scrolling off the left, bring around to right
        if (translatex - im.getWidth() < 0)
            translatex = getWidth() - im.getWidth();
        else
            translatex -= im.getWidth();
        break;

    case RIGHT:

        // If scrolling off the right, bring around to left
        if ((translatex + im.getWidth() + translatex) > getWidth())
            translatex = 0;
        else
            translatex += im.getWidth();
        break;
    }
    repaint();
}

```

Clipping Regions

For each call we've made to `paint()`, the entire display has been redrawn. A clipping region can be used to limit what is painted on the display. One important benefit is a reduction in the time to refresh the display.

Before we define a clipping region of our own, let's display an image along with information about the default clipping region.

```

Image im = Image.createImage("/bridge.png");
...
protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    System.out.println("x: " + g.getClipX());
    System.out.println("y: " + g.getClipY());
}

```

Table 9.24. Clipping Methods: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics	
Method	Description
void setClip (int x, int y, int width, int height)	Set the clipping rectangle
void clipRect (int x, int y, int width, int height)	Intersect this rectangle with the current clipping rectangle to create a new clipping region
int getClipX ()	Get x coordinate of the current clipping region
int getClipY ()	Get y coordinate of the current clipping region
int getClipHeight ()	Get height of the current clipping region
int getClipWidth ()	Get width of the current clipping region

Figure 9-31. Unclipped image and the corresponding clipping coordinates



```

System.out.println("width: " + g.getClipWidth());
System.out.println("height: " + g.getClipHeight());
g.drawImage(im, 0, 0, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
}

```

That's interesting—there is already a clipping region defined, even before we call `setClip()`. The default is a clipping rectangle that consists of the entire display—x and y starting at 0,0 and width and height matching the values returned by `Canvas.getWidth()` and `Canvas.getHeight()`.

Let's modify the clipping rectangle and see how this affects the output on the display.

```

protected void paint(Graphics g)
{
    g.setClip(25, 25, 45, 45);
    g.drawImage(im, 0, 0, Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
}

```

[Figure 9-32](#) shows how only the region of the display defined by the clipping rectangle has been painted.

Figure 9-32. Clipping region defined as 25, 25, 45, 45



Default Clipping Rectangle

The default clipping rectangle consists of the entire display. That is, `x` and `y` will be 0, the width will be equivalent to the value returned by `Canvas.getWidth()` and the height will be equivalent to the value returned by `Canvas.getHeight()`.

Example: View Port Game

Let's write a MIDlet that follows a similar path as the previous example. We'll use game actions to generate events; however, instead of translating the origin, we move the clipping region around the `Canvas`. This creates an intriguing "view port" that allows only a portion of the display to be seen at any one time.

To mimic a simple game—with the objective to guess what's on the display—we'll randomly determine the starting coordinates for the clipping region. The game actions `LEFT`, `RIGHT`, `UP` and `DOWN` will move the clipping region around the `Canvas` (see [Figure 9-33](#)). If at some point you would like to see the entire `Image`, select the `FIRE` game action (see [Figure 9-34](#)).

Figure 9-33. Clipping region moving around the Canvas

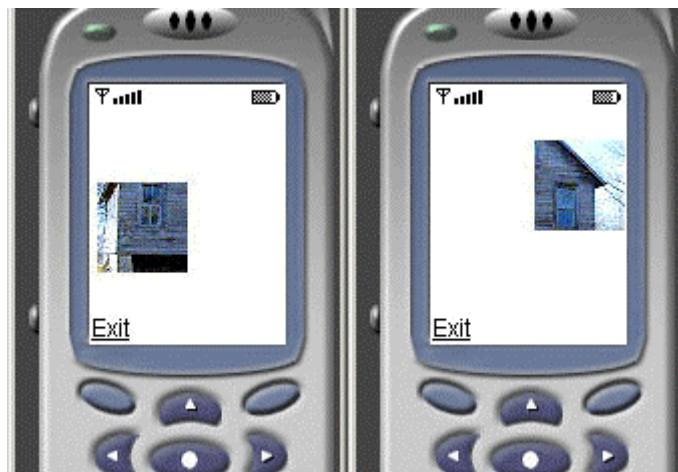


Figure 9-34. Reset the clipping region to the entire display



Example 9.10 Clip.java

```
/*-----  
 * Clip.java  
 *  
 * Move a clipping region around a Canvas  
 *-----*/  
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;  
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;  
import java.util.*;  
  
public class Clip extends MIDlet  
{  
    private Display display;    // The display  
    private ClipCanvas canvas;  // Canvas  
  
    public Clip()  
    {  
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);  
        canvas = new ClipCanvas(this);  
    }  
  
    protected void startApp()  
    {  
        display.setCurrent(canvas);  
    }  
  
    protected void pauseApp()  
    { }  
  
    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)  
    { }  
  
    public void exitMIDlet()  
    {  
        destroyApp(true);  
        notifyDestroyed();  
    }  
}
```

```

    }
}

/*-----
* Class ClipCanvas
*
* Display the clipping region
*-----*/
class ClipCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmExit;    // Exit
    private Clip midlet;       // Main midlet
    private Image im = null;   // Image to display
    private Random random;     // Get random number
    private int clipx = 0, clipy = 0, // View port
               clipw = 45, cliph = 45; // (clipping region)
    private int old_clipx = 0, old_clipy = 0; // Last clipping region

    public ClipCanvas(Clip midlet)
    {
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create exit command & listen for events
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);

        // Get random values for starting point
        random = new java.util.Random();

        // Make sure the entire clipping region is
        // visible on the display
        clipx = Math.min((getWidth() - clipw),
                        (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % getWidth());
        clipy = Math.min((getHeight() - cliph),
                        (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % getHeight());

        try
        {
            // Create immutable image
            im = Image.createImage("/house.png");
        }
        catch (java.io.IOException e)
        {
            System.err.println("Unable to locate or read .png file");
        }
    }

    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        if (im != null)
        {
            // Clear only the previous clipping region
            g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
            g.fillRect(old_clipx, old_clipy, clipw, cliph);

            // Set the new clipping region

```

```

        g.setClip(clipx, clipy, clipw, cliph);

        // Draw image
        g.drawImage(im, 0, 0, Graphics.LEFT | Graphics.TOP);
    }
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
}

protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    // Save the last clipping region
    old_clipx = clipx;
    old_clipy = clipy;

    switch (getGameAction(keyCode))
    {
        case UP:
            // Move clipping region up 3 pixels
            if (clipy > 0)
                clipy = Math.max(0, clipy - 3);
            break;

        case DOWN:
            // Move clipping region down 3 pixels
            if (clipy + cliph < getHeight())
                clipy = Math.min(getHeight(), clipy + 3);
            break;

        case LEFT:
            // Move clipping region left 3 pixels
            if (clipx > 0)
                clipx = Math.max(0, clipx - 3);
            break;

        case RIGHT:
            // Move clipping region right 3 pixels
            if (clipx + clipw < getWidth())
                clipx = Math.min(getWidth(), clipx + 3);
            break;

        case FIRE:
            // Show the whole screen by resetting
            // the clipping region to the entire display
            clipx = clipy = 0;
            clipw = getWidth();
            cliph = getHeight();
    }
    repaint();
}
}

```


Let's touch on a few pieces of code. Inside the constructor `ClipCanvas()` we create a random starting location:

```
public ClipCanvas(Clip midlet)
{
    ...

    // Get random values for starting point
    random = new java.util.Random();

    // Make sure the entire clipping region is
    // visible on the display
    clipx = Math.min((getWidth() - clipw),
                    (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % getWidth());
    clipy = Math.min((getHeight() - cliph),
                    (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % getHeight());

    ...
}
```

Notice in [Figure 9-33](#) that the clipping region is always the same size and fits in its entirety on the display. Here are the steps to ensure this outcome:

1. The random value must not be negative. Thus we shift a zero into the sign bit of the random number.
2. The random value must be in the range 0 to the width of the display for the x coordinate, and 0 to the height of the display for the y coordinate. We obtain a value in the appropriate range using the mod operator (%) applied to the value returned from Step 1.

At this point, for the x coordinate, we have a number that is between 0 and the width of the display. We have a corresponding y value, between 0 and the height of the display.

3. The x coordinate must take into consideration the width of the clipping region (`clipw`) and the y coordinate must consider the height of the clipping region (`cliph`)

```
getWidth() - clipw
getHeight() - cliph
```

Using the minimum value between the results of Step 2 and Step 3 we know the entire clipping region will be visible on the display.

Each movement of the clipping region requires the display to be cleared. There are two options: We can take the easy way out and clear the entire display or we can take a moment and write a few extra lines of code and have a much more efficient solution. Choosing the latter is as simple as the following two steps:

1. Save the current clipping region inside `keyPressed()` before defining the new clipping region:

```
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)
{
    // Save the last clipping region
    old_clipx = clipx;
```

```

    old_clipy = clipy;
    ...
}

```

2. Inside `paint()` fill a rectangle that matches the old clipping region

```

protected void paint()
{
    ...
    // Clear only the previous clipping region
    g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
    g.fillRect(old_clipx, old_clipy, clipw, cliph);
    ...
}

```

If you find this simple MIDlet in the least bit intriguing, you could make this a much more captivating game by randomly choosing an image. Keeping count of the moves and providing a means to guess what's on the display would also be a nice addition.

Chapter 10. CREATING A DISPLAYER MANAGER

Topics in this Chapter

- [Animation MIDlet](#)
- [Display Manager API](#)
- [Animating a Series of Images](#)
- [Source Code](#)

We've had it easy up to this point. All examples have made use of only one or two `Displayable` objects. As the complexity of your MIDlets grows, so does managing the transition between `Displayable` components. As a review, the `Displayable` hierarchy is shown here.

```
Displayable          (public abstract class Displayable)
  Screen             (public abstract class Screen extends
Displayable)
    Form              (public class Form extends Screen)
    List              (public class List extends Screen implements
Choice)
      TextBox         (public class TextBox extends Screen)
      Alert           (public class Alert extends Screen)
      Canvas          (public abstract class Canvas extends
Displayable)
```

There's little to no challenge to move from a `Form` to a `List`, and back again. However, in the development of a production application there may be transitions between any number of `Displayables`. For example, imagine a MIDlet that presented a `List` of three elements. Each element could invoke a unique `Displayable`, say a `Form`, `Canvas` and `TextBox`. Upon selecting the `Form`, it could invoke another `List` of `Displayables`, each of those ... you get the picture.

Making the calls "moving forward" is not much of an issue. The challenge comes when you need to unwind back through the `Displayables`. If you are not much for object-oriented programming and would opt to use public variables and methods, solving this dilemma is not too difficult (other than dealing with a mess of "global" data). Hopefully you lean toward good data design and keep public variables and methods to a minimum. If this is the case, working back through the hierarchy is a little more taxing.

The `DisplayManager` class was written out of my own frustration when working with MIDlets that had numerous `Displayables` and rather involved application logic. I found that the deeper I drilled down, the more challenging it was to work my way back out.

The beauty of the `DisplayManager` is in its simplicity. It does little more than leave a trail as you advance through various `Displayables`. This unassuming trail, however, makes moving back through `Displayables` a piece of cake.

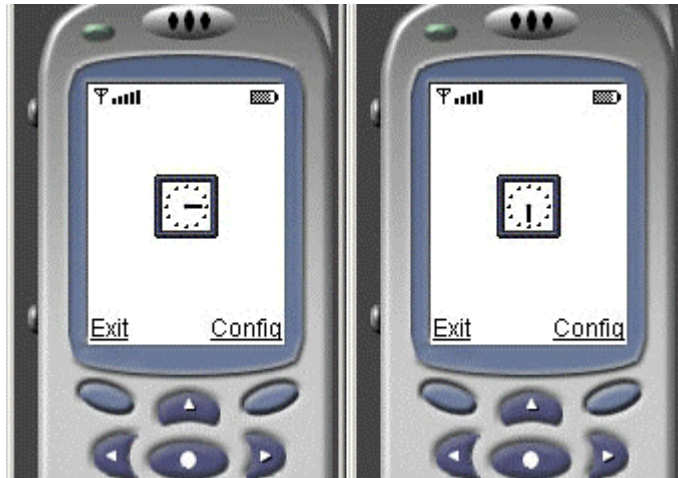
Origin of the Display Manager

It deserves repeating that the `DisplayManager` class is **not** part of MIDP. This is a class I designed and developed to help manage moving between `Displayable` objects.

Animation MIDlet

In this chapter we'll kill two birds with one stone. Not only will we create a solution to manage `Displayable` objects, we'll also learn how to perform simple animation. [Figure 10-1](#) shows a glimpse of the animated clock that we'll create.

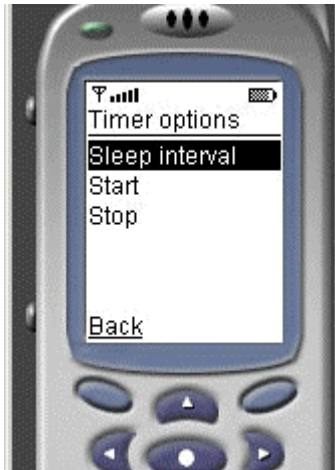
Figure 10-1. Animation of a clock



To tie this example in with the intent of this chapter, in addition to the `Canvas` that displays the animation, there will be two `Displayables`, each to facilitate configuration of the clock (viz, starting, stopping and adjusting the speed at which the arm of the clock spins). This will give a nesting of several `Displayables` to help illustrate when/why you may opt to use to the `DisplayManager` (or write something similar of your own).

[Figure 10-2](#) shows a `List` that is displayed when selecting "Config" from the main animation ([Figure 10-1](#)). From this point you can either return to the animation ("Back"), start or stop the animation or choose to set the sleep interval of the `Thread` running the animation.

Figure 10-2. Configuration options (using a List)



Choosing the first option will bring up the [Form](#) shown on the left screen shot in [Figure 10-3](#). The [Form](#) contains a [Gauge](#) to adjust the speed of the animation. In actuality, it sets the amount of time the animation thread sleeps between repaints of the display. The higher the value on the [Gauge](#), the longer the delay.

Figure 10-3. Setting the sleep interval using a Form and Gauge



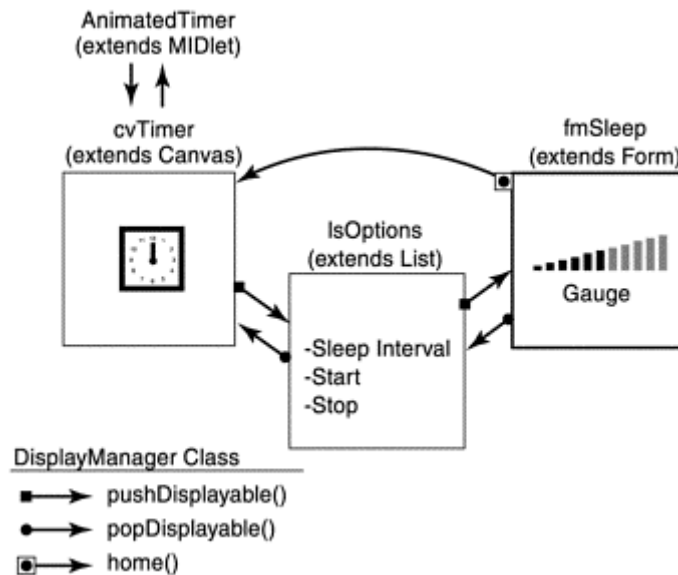
On the right of [Figure 10-3](#) are three options:

- Back: return to the gauge.
- Save: save current setting of gauge and return to timer options ([Figure 10-2](#)).
- Home: return to the animation ([Figure 10-1](#)).

Application Design

The 20,000 foot view of the animation MIDlet is shown in [Figure 10-4](#).

Figure 10-4. Animation MIDlet design



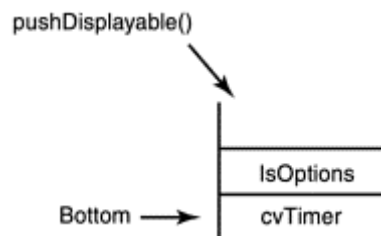
`AnimatedTimer` is the main MIDlet class. As you'll see, this class does little more than initialize the other components and manage the interface with the application manager.

`cvTimer` correlates to the screen shot in [Figure 10-1](#). From here you can exit the MIDlet or choose to view the list component `lsOptions` to configure the animation. When moving to `lsOptions`, notice the reference to `pushDisplayable()`. This is our first meeting with the `DisplayManager` class. This call translates to pushing a reference to the current `Displayable` (`cvTimer`) onto a stack.

From `lsOptions`, you can move back to `cvTimer` or display the form `fmSleep` to configure the sleep interval of the animation Thread. When moving to `fmSleep`, once again, we push the current `Displayable` onto a stack.

Although we are getting a little ahead of ourselves as far as how the `DisplayManager` works internally, it deserves a look at how the `DisplayManager`'s internal stack may look at this point (see [Figure 10-5](#)).

Figure 10-5. DisplayManager stack



Now we can unwind our forward progress. From `fmSleep` you can return to `lsOptions` or head directly to `cvTimer`. If you choose the former, simply pop the topmost displayable off the stack, `popDisplayable()`. An additional call to this same method will return you to `cvTimer`.

From `fmSleep` there is a shortcut to return directly to `cvTimer`. Calling the method `home()` pops all `Displayable` objects off the stack. The "main" `Displayable`, defined when creating the `DisplayManager`, is then shown on the display.

Display Manager API

With the application design fresh in your mind, and a picture of how to move between components, this is a good time to familiarize ourselves with the `DisplayManager` class.

As previously mentioned, the `DisplayManager` is implemented as a stack (`java.util.Stack`). This class has only three methods, and an equally small code size, weighing in at less than 70 lines.

Table 10.1. Display Manager Methods	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
DisplayManager (Display display, Displayable mainDisplayable)	Create a new display manager
Methods	
void pushDisplayable (Displayable newDisplayable)	Push a Displayable object on to the stack
void popDisplayable ()	Pop a Displayable object off the stack
void home ()	Pop all Displayable objects and return to the "main" Displayable object

Example 10.1 DisplayManager.java

```

/*-----
 * Use a stack to push and pop displayable objects
 *
 * public void pushDisplayable(Displayable)
 * public void popDisplayable()
 * public void home()
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import java.util.*;

public class DisplayManager extends Stack
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to Display object
    private Displayable mainDisplayable; // Main displayable for MIDlet
    private Alert alStackError;    // Alert for error conditions

    /*-----
    * Display manager constructor
    *-----*/
    public DisplayManager(Display display,
                          Displayable mainDisplayable)
    {
        // Only one display object per midlet, this is it

```

```

        this.display = display;
        this.mainDisplayable = mainDisplayable;

        // Create an alert displayed when an error occurs
        alStackError = new Alert("Displayable Stack Error");
        alStackError.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER); // Modal
    }

    /*-----
    * Push the current displayable onto stack and set
    * the passed in displayable as active
    *-----*/
    public void pushDisplayable(Displayable newDisplayable)
    {
        push(display.getCurrent());
        display.setCurrent(newDisplayable);
    }

    /*-----
    * Return to the main displayable object of MIDlet
    *-----*/
    public void home()
    {
        while (elementCount > 1)
            pop();
        display.setCurrent(mainDisplayable);
    }

    /*-----
    * Pop displayable from stack and set as active
    *-----*/
    public void popDisplayable()
    {
        // If the stack is not empty, pop next displayable
        if (empty() == false)
            display.setCurrent((Displayable) pop());
        else
        {
            // On error show an alert
            // Once acknowledged, set 'mainDisplayable' as active
            display.setCurrent(alStackError, mainDisplayable);
        }
    }
}

```

The constructor keeps a reference to a `Display` object (of which there is only one per MIDlet) and the `Displayable` (`Canvas`, `Form`, `TextBox`, etc.) that is considered the main user interface. An `Alert` component is also initialized and will be used to present a dialog box if an error occurs. The following code sets a `Form` as the main `Displayable` when creating the `DisplayManager`.

```

Form fmMain = new Form("Form Stuff");
Display display = Display.getDisplay(this);

// Create a display manager object
DisplayManager displayMgr = new DisplayManager(display, fmMain);

```


To create the trail of components as we move from one `Displayable` to another, we call `pushDisplayable()`. Refer back to [Figure 10–4](#). Notice the call to this method when moving from `cvTimer` to `lsOptions`.

```
// Push current displayable and show the options list
pushDisplayable(lsOptions);
```

The current `Displayable` (`cvTimer`) will be placed onto the stack and the `Displayable` passed in (`lsOptions`) will be shown on the display.

```
/*-----
 * Push the current displayable onto stack and set
 * the passed in displayable as active
 *-----*/
public void pushDisplayable(Displayable newDisplayable)
{
    push(display.getCurrent());
    display.setCurrent(newDisplayable);
}
```

Assuming there is sufficient memory, you can push as many objects as you like onto the stack.

To reverse the process and display each component on the stack, one by one, call `popDisplayable()`.

```
public void popDisplayable()
{
    // If the stack is not empty, pop next displayable
    if (empty() == false)
        display.setCurrent((Displayable) pop());
    else
        // On error show an alert
        // Once acknowledged, set 'mainDisplayable' as active
        display.setCurrent(alStackError, mainDisplayable);
}
```

Once we satisfy the check that the stack is not empty, the topmost element is popped off the stack and set as the current `Displayable`.

There is one last method available—`home()`. In the animation MIDlet we call this method from the form `fmSleep` when a user requests to move directly back to `cvTimer`, bypassing `lsOptions` (see [Figure 10–3](#)). This method empties the stack and displays the "main" `Displayable` object (as defined when creating the display manager class).

```
public void home()
{
    while (elementCount > 1)
        pop();
    display.setCurrent(mainDisplayable);
}
```

Animating a Series of Images

A common approach to creating animation is to display a sequence of images, one after another. Showing each image for only a fraction of a second makes the images appear animated.

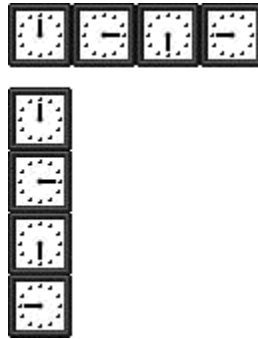
There are two options for storing the images, the first of which is to save each as a separate resource (see [Figure 10-6](#)).

Figure 10-6. Individual images making up animation



The second option is to tie all the images together into one (see [Figure 10-7](#)).

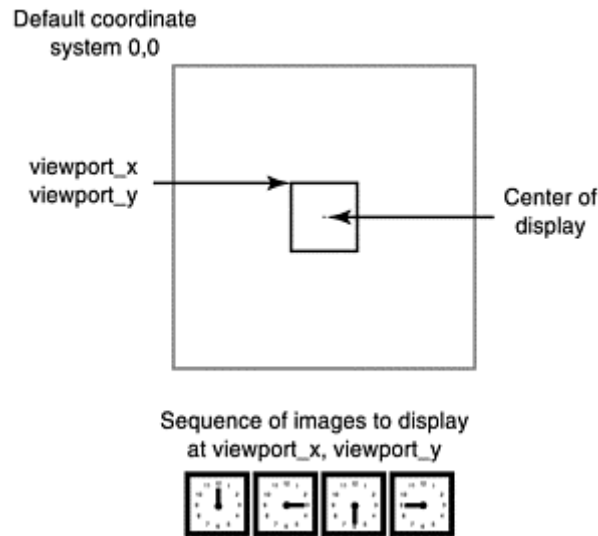
Figure 10-7. Images of an animation stored as one image



Whether multiple images are stored across or up and down is of no significance. What is relevant is the extra work that we've created for ourselves. We've now got to determine the offset of each image in the sequence. The upside is that the extra effort pays off in that we only need to read, store and manage one resource. This will more than likely also be a boon to performance.

If you look to [Figure 10-8](#) you'll see a conceptual view of our animated clock. The light gray box represents the display. The smaller box in the middle is a clipped region of the display.

Figure 10-8. Viewport (clipping region) at the center of the display



To create the effect of the clock moving, we'll translate the coordinate system so the image is, in essence, slid (right to left) over the clipped region. After each translation, we repaint the display. Once the end of the sequence is reached, it will start again with the first image.

For the following discussion, `viewport_x` and `viewport_y` represent the x and y coordinates of the clipping region, which will be centered on the display. The height and width of the clipping region are equal to the height and width of one image in the series.

Figures 10-9 and 10-10 may help to visualize how the origin of the graphics context is translated. For the first image, 0,0 will be translated to the same coordinates as the clipping region— `viewport_x`, `viewport_y`.

Figure 10-9. For the first image, translate 0,0 to viewport_x, viewport_y

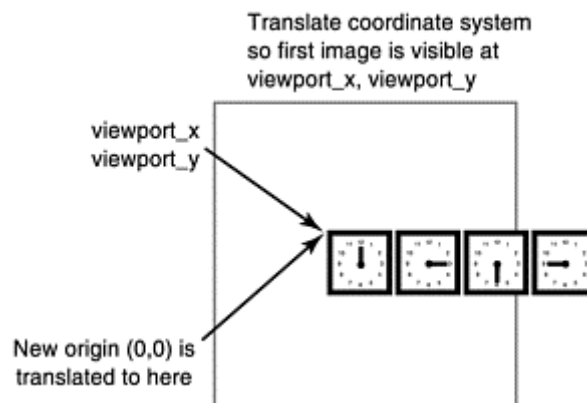
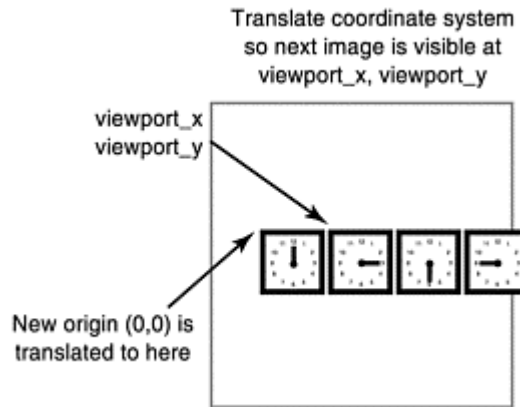


Figure 10-10. For each successive image, translate 0,0 to the left



For each successive image in the series, the origin will be translated to the left, in effect moving the next image in the sequence over the clipping region. Remember, `paint()` only displays what is viewable in the clipping region (see [Figure 10-10](#)).

Upon reaching the last image, the translation coordinates are reset to match `viewport_x` and `viewport_y` and the cycle is repeated.

One last note: The `Canvas` that displays the animation will implement the `Thread` class. This thread will be responsible for calling `repaint()` at regular intervals to display the images.

In [Chapter 13](#) we will revisit animation using the `Timer` and `TimerTask` classes that are included in the MIDP.

Source Code

Example 10.2 AnimatedTimer.java

```
/*-----
 * Main midlet.
 * Shows canvas with an animated timer. Includes
 * configuration options to start/stop the timer
 * and to adjust the sleep interval of the thread
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class AnimatedTimer extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;           // The display
    protected TimerCanvas cvTimer;     // Canvas to display timer
    protected OptionsList lsOptions;   // List to change timer options
    protected SleepForm fmSleep;       // Form w/gauge to set timer
    sleep
    protected DisplayManager displayMgr; // Class to manage screens

    public AnimatedTimer()
    {

```

```

display = Display.getDisplay(this);
cvTimer = new TimerCanvas(this);
lsOptions = new OptionsList("Timer options",
                           List.IMPLICIT, this);
fmSleep = new SleepForm("Adjust sleep", this);

// Create a display manager object
displayMgr = new DisplayManager(display, cvTimer);
}

protected void startApp()
{
    // Start with the canvas
    display.setCurrent(cvTimer);
}

protected void pauseApp()
{ }

protected void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
{ }

public void exitMIDlet()
{
    destroyApp(true);
    notifyDestroyed();
}
}

```

Example 10.3 TimerCanvas.java

```

/*-----
 * Class TimerCanvas
 *
 * Animate a sequence of images to simulate
 * a moving timer
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class TimerCanvas extends Canvas
implements Runnable, CommandListener
{
    private AnimatedTimer midlet; // Main midlet
    private Command cmExit;       // Exit midlet
    private Command cmOptions;    // Display options list
    private Image im = null;      // Sequence of images
    private int imageCount = 4;   // Four images in the sequence
    private int imageWidth;       // Width of one image in sequence
    private int imageHeight;      // Height of one image in sequence
    private int imageIndex;       // Current image in the sequence
    private int translate_x;      // Translated x and y
    private int translate_y;
    private int viewport_x;       // Location of the viewport
    private int viewport_y;

```

```

private boolean active = false; // Timer active?
private boolean requestedToStop = false; // Request to stop timer
private int sleepTime = 400; // Current sleep time (milliseconds)

public TimerCanvas(AnimatedTimer midlet)
{
    // Call canvas constructor
    super();

    // Save reference to MIDlet so we can
    // access the display manager class
    this.midlet = midlet;

    // Create commands & listen for events
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    cmOptions = new Command("Config", Command.SCREEN, 2);
    addCommand(cmExit);
    addCommand(cmOptions);
    setCommandListener(this);
}

/*-----
 * Application manager is about to display canvas
 *-----*/
protected void showNotify()
{
    if (im == null)
    {
        try
        {
            // Read the png from a file and get width and
            // height of one image in the sequence
            im = Image.createImage("/timer.png");
            imageHeight = im.getHeight();
            imageWidth = im.getWidth() / imageCount;

            // Get the coordinates for x/y of viewport
            // Viewport is centered on the display
            viewport_x = (getWidth() / 2) - (imageWidth / 2);
            viewport_y = (getHeight() / 2) - (imageHeight / 2);

            // Set first translated coordinate to match viewport
            translate_x = viewport_x;
            translate_y = viewport_y;
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.err.println("Unable to read png file.");
        }

        // Begin with the first image in the sequence
        imageIndex = 0;
    }

    // If the user has not requested to stop the timer...
    if (!requestedToStop)
        active = true;
}

```

```

        new Thread(this).start();
    }
    /*-----
    * Application manager is no longer displaying canvas
    *-----*/
    protected void hideNotify()
    {
        active = false;
    }

    /*-----
    * Draw next timer in sequence
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        if (im != null)
        {
            // Viewport at center of display
            g.setClip(viewport_x, viewport_y, imageWidth, imageHeight);

            // Draw image at translated coordinates
            g.drawImage(im, translate_x, translate_y,
                       Graphics.TOP | Graphics.LEFT);
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Loop forever, translating image coordinates
    *-----*/
    public void run()
    {
        try
        {
            while (active)
            {
                Thread.sleep(sleepTime);
                repaint();

                // Reached the last image in sequence
                if (imageIndex == imageCount - 1)
                {
                    // Reset translated coordinates
                    translate_x = viewport_x;
                    translate_y = viewport_y;
                }
                else
                {
                    // Translate coordinate system to the left
                    translate_x -= imageWidth;
                }
                // Which image in the sequence is next
                imageIndex = (imageIndex + 1) % imageCount;
            }
        }
        catch (InterruptedException e)
        {

```

```

    }
}

/*-----
 * Called from the "Config" options menu
 *-----*/
public void startTimer()
{
    requestedToStop = false;
    active = true;
    repaint();
}

/*-----
 * Called from the "Config" options menu
 *-----*/
public void stopTimer()
{
    requestedToStop = true;
    active = false;
    repaint();
}

/*-----
 * Called from form/gauge to adjust sleep
 *-----*/
public void setSleep(int sleepTime)
{
    this.sleepTime = sleepTime;
}

/*-----
 * Called from form/gauge to adjust sleep
 *-----*/
public int getSleep()
{
    return sleepTime;
}

/*-----
 * Command event handling
 *-----*/

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmOptions)
    {
        // Push current displayable and show the options list
        midlet.displayMgr.pushDisplayable(midlet.lsOptions);
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
    }
}
}

```


Example 10.4 OptionsList.java

```
/*-----
 * Class OptionsList
 *
 * List to provide options for configuring of timer
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

class OptionsList extends List implements CommandListener
{
    private AnimatedTimer midlet; // Main midlet
    private Command cmBack;

    public OptionsList(String title, int listType, AnimatedTimer midlet)
    {
        // Call list constructor
        super(title, listType);

        // Save reference to MIDlet so we can
        // access the display manager class
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Create the list entries
        append("Sleep interval", null);
        append("Start", null);
        append("Stop", null);

        // Create command and listen for events
        cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 1);
        addCommand(cmBack);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }

    /*-----
     * Command event handling
     *-----*/
    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        // Event generated by the implicit list
        if (c == List.SELECT_COMMAND)
        {
            switch (getSelectedIndex())
            {
                case 0:
                    // Push current displayable and show the form
                    // to adjust the timer sleep
                    midlet.displayMgr.pushDisplayable(midlet.fmSleep);
                    break;

                case 1:
                    // Start timer and return to previous displayable
                    midlet.cvTimer.startTimer();
                    midlet.displayMgr.popDisplayable();
                    break;
            }
        }
    }
}
```

```

        case 2:
            // Stop timer and return to previous displayable
            midlet.cvTimer.stopTimer();
            midlet.displayMgr.popDisplayable();
            break;
    }
}
else if (c == cmBack)
{
    // Return to previous displayable
    midlet.displayMgr.popDisplayable();
}
}
}

```

Example 10.5 SleepForm.java

```

/*-----
 * Class SleepForm
 *
 * Form with gauge to adjust sleep interval of timer
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class SleepForm extends Form implements CommandListener
{
    private AnimatedTimer midlet; // Main midlet
    private Command cmBack,       // Back to options list
                  cmHome,        // Go to main displayable (canvas)
                  cmSave;        // Save new sleep time
    private Gauge gaSleep;        // Gauge to adjust sleep
    public SleepForm(String title, AnimatedTimer midlet)
    {
        // Call the form constructor
        super(title);
        // Save reference to MIDlet so we can
        // access the display manager class
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Commands
        cmSave = new Command("Save", Command.SCREEN, 1);
        cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 2);
        cmHome = new Command("Home", Command.SCREEN, 2);

        // Gauge to adjust the length of timer sleep
        gaSleep = new Gauge("Timer Sleep", true, 100, 1000);

        // Set to current sleep. Gauge holds values 0 to 100,
        // divide the current sleep (milliseconds) by 10
        gaSleep.setValue(midlet.cvTimer.getSleep() / 10);

        // Add to form and listen for events
        append(gaSleep);
        addCommand(cmSave);
        addCommand(cmBack);
        addCommand(cmHome);
    }
}

```

```

    setCommandListener(this);
}

/*-----
 * Command event handling
 *-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmSave)
    {

        // Gauge returns a value between 0 and 100
        // We want milliseconds, so multiply by 10
        midlet.cvTimer.setSleep(gaSleep.getValue() * 10);

        // Return to main midlet
        midlet.displayMgr.home();

    }
    else if (c == cmBack)
    {
        // Pop the last displayable off the stack
        midlet.displayMgr.popDisplayable();
    }
    else if (c == cmHome)
    {
        // Return to main midlet
        midlet.displayMgr.home();
    }
}
}

```

Example 10.6 DisplayManager.java

```

/*-----
 * Use a stack to push and pop displayable objects
 *
 * public void pushDisplayable(Displayable)
 * public void popDisplayable()
 * public void home()
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import java.util.*;

public class DisplayManager extends Stack
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to Display object
    private Displayable mainDisplayable; // Main displayable for MIDlet
    private Alert alStackError;    // Alert for error conditions

    public DisplayManager(Display display, Displayable mainDisplayable)
    {
        // Only one display object per midlet, this is it
        this.display = display;
        this.mainDisplayable = mainDisplayable;
    }
}

```

```

        // Create an alert displayed when an error occurs
        alStackError = new Alert("Displayable Stack Error");
        alStackError.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER); // Modal
    }
    /*-----
    * Push the current displayable onto stack and set
    * the passed in displayable as active
    *-----*/
    public void pushDisplayable(Displayable newDisplayable)
    {
        push(display.getCurrent());
        display.setCurrent(newDisplayable);
    }

    /*-----
    * Return to the main displayable object of MIDlet
    *-----*/
    public void home()

    {
        while (elementCount > 1)
            pop();
        display.setCurrent(mainDisplayable);
    }

    /*-----
    * Pop displayable from stack and set as active
    *-----*/
    public void popDisplayable()
    {
        // If the stack is not empty, pop next displayable
        if (empty() == false)
            display.setCurrent((Displayable) pop());
        else
            // On error show an alert
            // Once acknowledged, set 'mainDisplayable' as active
            display.setCurrent(alStackError, mainDisplayable);
    }
}

```

Chapter 11. RECORD MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RMS)

Topics in this Chapter

- [Persistent Storage Through the Record Store](#)
- [Navigating with RecordEnumeration](#)
- [Sorting with RecordComparator](#)
- [Searching with RecordFilter](#)
- [Notification of Changes with RecordListener](#)
- [Exception Handling](#)

We can cover a lot of miles with the concepts we've covered upto this point. However, we are missing a significant capability that will eventually catch up with us. In fact, it is so ingrained into our daily computing we often take this concept for granted. I am referring to storing and retrieving of data. Whether the information is as simple as application preferences or as comprehensive as a product catalog, we need a way to manage application-related data.

In desktop computing the options are obvious, CD-ROM, local drive, network drive, and so forth. It becomes a little more challenging with mobile devices. There are size and performance concerns, not to mention the differences between manufacturers as far as support (or lack of) for file systems and networking.

The Record Management System (RMS) is a persistent storage environment within the MIDP. This chapter describes how you can read, write, sort and search data within a RMS.

Persistent Storage Through the Record Store

As an alternative to using a file system, the RMS uses non-volatile memory to store information. This record-oriented database, often referred to as a flat-file, can be thought of as a series of rows in a table, with a unique identifier for each row (see [Table 11.1](#)).

Table 11.1. Record Store	
<i>Record ID</i>	<i>Data</i>
1	Array of bytes
2	Array of bytes
3	Array of bytes
...	...

Each **record** consists of a **record id**, an integer value that plays the role of primary key for the database and an array of bytes for storing the record data. A collection of records is known as a **record store**.

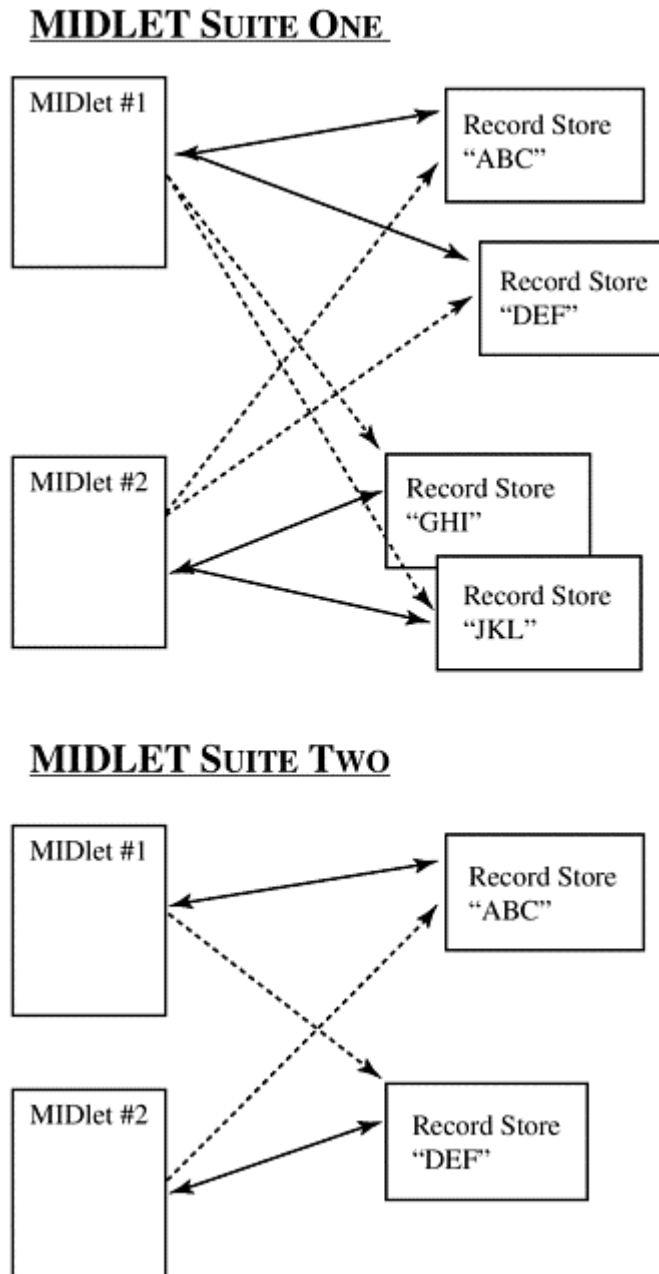
A MIDlet can have any number of record stores (including none), where each is uniquely identified by its name. This idea needs to be carried one step further—if a MIDlet is part of MIDlet suite, record store names must also be unique within the suite.

Naming Record Stores

Each record store name can consist of up to 32 Unicode (16-bit) characters. Names are case sensitive. Names must be unique within a MIDlet suite.

MIDlets that are packaged within a suite can access not only the record stores they create, but also those of other MIDlets in the suite. [Figure 11-1](#) illustrates this concept.

Figure 11-1. MIDlet access to record stores. The solid lines indicate access to record stores the MIDlet has created. Dashed lines represent access to record stores created by a different MIDlet within the same suite.



Within "MIDlet Suite One," MIDlet #1 and MIDlet #2 can access all four record stores available as part of the suite. The same applies to "Suite Two." However, MIDlets in Suite One cannot access the record stores of Suite Two.

Record store names within a suite must be unique. That is, Suite One must have all unique record store names. However, record store names in one suite may be duplicated in another. For example, Suite One and Suite Two both have record stores with the name "ABC" and "DEF."

There are two values maintained by a record store that may be helpful for tracking database usage. Each is updated when a record is added, deleted or changed:

1. **Version number** is an integer value. Unfortunately, the starting value when creating a new record is not defined by the API. If you need to track version numbers, you can query the record store immediately after creation using `getVersion()` to determine the starting value.
2. **Date and time stamp** is a long integer that represents the number of milliseconds since midnight January 1st, 1970. You can query this value by calling `getLastModified()`.

Whenever a request is made to modify the record store, it is done in one fell swoop. That is, once a change is underway it is guaranteed to be completed before another begins. If a request(s) is made to update the record store while an operation is in progress, it will be queued, waiting for the current operation to finish.

Removing Record Stores

If a MIDlet suite is removed from a device, all record stores will be deleted as well.

Record Store API

This class is the heart of the RMS. Through this class we create, update, query and delete record stores (see [Table 11.2](#)).

Table 11.2. RecordStore Class: javax.microedition.rms.RecordStore	
Method	Description
Constructors	
No constructor. See <code>openRecordStore()</code>	
Methods	
static <code>RecordStore openRecordStore(String recordStoreName, boolean createIfNecessary)</code>	Open record store. Optionally, create the store if it does not already exist.
<code>void closeRecordStore()</code>	Close record store.
static <code>void deleteRecordStore(String recordStoreName)</code>	Delete record store.
static <code>String[] listRecordStores()</code>	List record stores in MIDlet suite.
<code>int addRecord(byte[] data, int offset, int numBytes)</code>	Add a record.
<code>void setRecord(int recordId, byte[] newData, int offset, int numBytes)</code>	Set (replace) data in a record.
<code>void deleteRecord(int recordId)</code>	Delete a record.
<code>byte[] getRecord(int recordId)</code>	Get byte array containing record data.
<code>int getRecord(int recordId, byte[] buffer, int offset)</code>	Get contents of record into byte array

	parameter copying data from specified offset.
<code>int getRecordSize(int recordId)</code>	Size in bytes of a record.
<code>int getNextRecordID()</code>	The number of the next record when adding a new record to the store.
<code>int getNumRecords()</code>	Number of records in the record store.
<code>long getLastModified()</code>	Last modified date of the record store.
<code>int getVersion()</code>	Record store version number.
<code>String getName()</code>	Name of the record store.
<code>int getSize()</code>	Total bytes occupied by record store.
<code>int getSizeAvailable()</code>	Current space (bytes) available for records. This will change as records are added/deleted.
<code>RecordEnumeration enumerateRecords(RecordFilter filter, RecordComparator comparator, boolean keepUpdated)</code>	Build an enumeration for traversing records in the record store.
<code>void addRecordListener (RecordListener listener)</code>	Add a listener to detect record store changes.
<code>void removeRecordListener (RecordListener listener)</code>	Remove listener.

Example: Read and Write Records

Now that we understand the basics of RMS, let's walk through two examples. Each will create a record store, write several records, read back those same records and delete the record store. The difference lies with how the data is manipulated before and after writing. More on that in a minute.

We have two methods to write data into a record store:

```
public int addRecord (byte[] data, int offset, int numBytes)

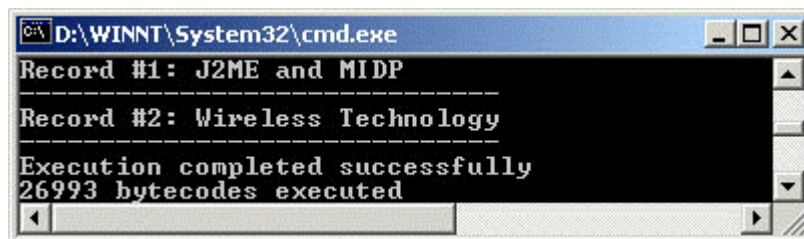
public void setRecord (int recordId, byte[] newData,
                      int offset, int numBytes)
```

Regardless of which we choose, each accepts an array of bytes as the input. What will vary for our two examples is how we manage the array of data, for both reading and writing records.

In our first example ([Example 11.1](#)), we will write `String` objects into the record store.

[Figure 11-2](#) shows the contents of the two records that were read from the record store.

Figure 11-2. Reading and writing String objects



I've gone ahead and written several convenience methods for managing the record store. These include opening, closing and deleting. Each method

Example 11.1 ReadWrite.java

```
/*-----
 * ReadWrite.java
 *
 * Read and write to the record store.
 *
 * No GUI interface, all output is to the console
 *-----*/
import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;

public class ReadWrite extends MIDlet
{
    private RecordStore rs = null;
    static final String REC_STORE = "db_1";

    public ReadWrite()
    {
        openRecStore();    // Create the record store

        // Write a few records and read them back
        writeRecord("J2ME and MIDP");
        writeRecord("Wireless Technology");
        readRecords();

        closeRecStore(); // Close record store
        deleteRecStore(); // Remove the record store
    }
    public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
    {
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        // There is no user interface, go ahead and shutdown
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }
    public void openRecStore()
    {
        try
        {
            // Create record store if it does not exist
            rs = RecordStore.openRecordStore(REC_STORE, true );
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
        }
    }
}
```

```

        db(e.toString());
    }
}

public void closeRecStore()
{
    try
    {
        rs.closeRecordStore();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

public void deleteRecStore()
{
    if (RecordStore.listRecordStores() != null)
    {
        try
        {
            RecordStore.deleteRecordStore(REC_STORE);
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            db(e.toString());
        }
    }
}

public void writeRecord(String str)
{
    byte[] rec = str.getBytes();

    try
    {
        rs.addRecord(rec, 0, rec.length);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

public void readRecords()
{
    try
    {
        byte[] recData = new byte[50];
        int len;

        for (int i = 1; i <= rs.getNumRecords(); i++)
        {
            len = rs.getRecord( i, recData, 0 );
            System.out.println("Record #" + i + ": " +
                               new String(recData, 0, len));
            System.out.println("-----");
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    db(e.toString());
}
}

/*-----
 * Simple message to console for debug/errors
 * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
 * error in a more appropriate manner.
 *-----*/
private void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}
}

```

is self-explanatory. Here is the method to open a record store, which will create the store if it does not already exist:

```

public void openRecStore()
{
    try
    {
        // The second parameter indicates that the record store
        // should be created if it does not exist
        rs = RecordStore.openRecordStore(REC_STORE, true );
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

```

I have taken a shortcut in handling exceptions. Notice that I trap all exceptions with one catch. This obviously skirts around the issue of dealing with error conditions. However, later in this chapter (in the Section "[Catching Exceptions](#)") we introduce all the RMS exceptions and show how to appropriately manage these errors.

Let's focus on the code to write and read records. Inside `writeRecord()` we need to convert the `String` object passed in to an array of bytes. We can now pass this array as a parameter to `addRecord()`.

```

byte[] rec = str.getBytes();
...
rs.addRecord(rec, 0, rec.length);

```

Reading from the record store is not a great deal different. Inside `readRecords()` we set up an array of bytes to hold the record data and call `getRecord()`.

```

byte[] recData = new byte[50];
...

```

```
len = rs.getRecord( i, recData, 0 );
```

Worth mentioning is the size of array that will hold the record data—I simply allocated an array that I knew was large enough. It may not always be as simple as this. If you did not write the records yourself, you may not be privy to the contents (length) of each record. With a minor tweak we can make this code a little more robust. Let's check the length of the data in the record before we actually read it from the store. This will give us an opportunity to resize the destination array. Change the for loop inside `read-Records()` to the following:

```
for (int i = 1; i <= rs.getNumRecords(); i++)
{
    if (rs.getRecordSize(i) > recData.length)
        recData = new byte[rs.getRecordSize(i)];

    len = rs.getRecord(i, recData, 0);
    System.out.println("Record #" + i + ": " +
        new String(recData, 0, len));
    System.out.println("-----");
}
```

Example: Read and Write Records with Streams

If you plan to read and write only text to the record store, at this point you've got all you need. It may not be the most efficient or fastest way to manage data, but it does work. There is a much preferred means to read and write data, which leads us to our next example.

The code in [Example 11.2](#) is similar to the previous example in that it writes and reads a few records to the record store. However, there are two main differences. First, we'll write more than straight text. Specifically, we will store Java data types including a `String`, `int`, and a `boolean`. Second, we'll use Java streams for both reading and writing. Not only will we have additional flexibility for writing any type of data, we also increase the efficiency with which data is written to and read from the record store.

Example 11.2 ReadWriteStreams.java

```
/*-----
 * ReadWriteStreams.java
 *
 * Use streams to read and write Java data types
 * to the record store.
 *
 * No GUI interface, all output is to the console
 *-----*/

import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;

public class ReadWriteStreams extends MIDlet
{
    private RecordStore rs = null;           // Record store
    static final String REC_STORE = "db_1"; // Name of record store

    public ReadWriteStreams()
```

```

    {
        openRecStore();    // Create the record store

        writeTestData();  // Write a series of records
        readStream();      // Read back the records

        closeRecStore();  // Close record store
        deleteRecStore(); // Remove the record store
    }

    public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
    {
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        // There is no user interface, go ahead and shutdown
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    public void openRecStore()
    {
        //See Example 11-1
    }

    public void closeRecStore()
    {
        //See Example 11-1
    }

    public void deleteRecStore()
    {
        //See Example 11-1
    }

    /*-----
    * Create three arrays to write to record store
    *-----*/
    public void writeTestData()
    {
        String[] strings = {"Text 1", "Text 2"};
        boolean[] booleans = {false, true};
        int[] integers = {1 , 2};

        writeStream(strings, booleans, integers);
    }

    /*-----
    * Write to record store using streams.
    *-----*/
    public void writeStream(String[] sData, boolean[] bData,
                           int[] iData)
    {

```

```

try
{
    // Write data into an internal byte array
    ByteArrayOutputStream strmBytes =
        new ByteArrayOutputStream();

    // Write Java data types into the above byte array
    DataOutputStream strmDataType =
        new DataOutputStream(strmBytes);
byte[] record;

for (int i = 0; i < sData.length; i++)
{
    // Write Java data types
    strmDataType.writeUTF(sData[i]);
    strmDataType.writeBoolean(bData[i]);
    strmDataType.writeInt(iData[i]);

    // Clear any buffered data
    strmDataType.flush();

    // Get stream data into byte array and write record
    record = strmBytes.toByteArray();
    rs.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);

    // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
    // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
    strmBytes.reset();
}

    strmBytes.close();
    strmDataType.close();

}
catch (Exception e)
{
    db(e.toString());
}
}

/*-----
* Read from the record store using streams
*-----*/
public void readStream()
{
    try
    {
        // Careful: Make sure this is big enough!
        // Better yet, test and reallocate if necessary
        byte[] recData = new byte[50];
        // Read from the specified byte array
        ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes =
            new ByteArrayInputStream(recData);

        // Read Java data types from the above byte array
        DataInputStream strmDataType =
            new DataInputStream(strmBytes);

```

```

for (int i = 1; i <= rs.getNumRecords(); i++)
{
    // Get data into the byte array
    rs.getRecord(i, recData, 0);

    // Read back the data types
    System.out.println("Record #" + i);
    System.out.println("UTF: " + strmDataType.readUTF());
    System.out.println("Boolean: " +
        strmDataType.readBoolean());
    System.out.println("Int: " + strmDataType.readInt());
    System.out.println("-----");

    // Reset so read starts at beginning of array
    strmBytes.reset();
}
strmBytes.close();
strmDataType.close();
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    db(e.toString());
}
}

/*-----
 * Simple message to console for debug/errors
 * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
 * error in a more appropriate manner.
 *-----*/
private void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}
}

```

Before we see the output of this MIDlet, let's look over the code for writing to the record store. First, we create and populate several arrays for the data we want to write:

```

public void writeTestData()
{
    String[] strings = {"Text 1", "Text 2"};
    boolean[] booleans = {false, true};
    int[] integers = {1, 2};

    writeStream(strings, booleans, integers);
}

```

Once we have all the data prepared, we call `writeStream()` to do the actual work of writing to the record store.

```

// Write data into an internal byte array
ByteArrayOutputStream strmBytes = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

```

```

// Write Java data types into the above byte array
DataOutputStream strmDataType = new DataOutputStream(strmBytes);

byte[] record;

for (int i = 0; i < sData.length; i++)
{
    // Write Java data types
    strmDataType.writeUTF(sData[i]);
    strmDataType.writeBoolean(bData[i]);
    strmDataType.writeInt(iData[i]);

    // Clear any buffered data
    strmDataType.flush();

    // Get stream data into byte array and write record
    record = strmBytes.toByteArray();
    rs.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);

    // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
    // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
    strmBytes.reset();
}

```

We've created two streams: `strmBytes` is an array that is managed internally by Java. This is our byte array that will hold that the data we'll eventually write to the record store.

To this stream we have added a filter: `strmDataType`. This class includes methods for writing Java primitive data types. The end result is that, the internal byte array will consist of portable binary data. Thus, when we reverse the process and read the data back, we are assured to get the same information, in the same format. That is, if we write an integer into the byte array, regardless of how the system running the JVM represents an integer (16 bits, 32 bits, etc.), we are guaranteed to get the expected results.

Once the streams are in place we call the appropriate methods based on the type of data we choose to write. Next, we flush the stream, which writes any buffered data to the stream. We're nearly there. All we have to do at this point is get the data from the stream into a byte array and add the record.

There is one small, yet very important detail that we must take care of before we can write another record. We need to clear the internal array that is being managed by our byte stream, `strmBytes`.

```
strmBytes.reset();
```

If we overlook this, the next write operation:

```
strmDataType.writeUTF("Text 2");
```

will append to the current byte array. The next record would contain all the data we've accumulated up to this point.

Reading the data back from the record store is almost as simple as changing our output streams to input streams. Almost.


```

byte[] recData = new byte[50];

// Read from the specified byte array
ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes = new
ByteArrayInputStream(recData);

// Read Java data types from the above byte array
DataInputStream strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
for (int i = 1; i <= rs.getNumRecords(); i++)
{
    // Get data into the byte array
    rs.getRecord(i, recData, 0);

    // Read back the data types
    System.out.println("Record #" + i);
    System.out.println("UTF: " + strmDataType.readUTF());
    System.out.println("Boolean: " + strmDataType.readBoolean());
    System.out.println("Int: " + strmDataType.readInt());
    System.out.println("-----");

    // Reset so read starts at beginning of array
    strmBytes.reset();
}

```

I've allocated a byte array to hold our data, `recData`. If you skip down a few lines, you'll notice this array is where the record store will write the contents of each record:

```

// Get data into the byte array
rs.getRecord(i, recData, 0);

```

After this call, `recData` contains exactly what we wrote to the record store a moment ago. If you recall, that was a binary stream of data, specifically, Java primitive data types. Without a little help we can't use this data as it exists. Here's where we introduce `ByteArrayInputStream` and `DataInputStream`. Notice the declarations for each:

```

// Read from the specified byte array
ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(recData);

// Read Java data types from the above byte array
DataInputStream strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);

```

The byte array stream, `strmBytes`, references the array (`recData`) that the record store will write data into. The data input stream, `strmDataType`, which reads Java primitive types, references the byte stream. We now have everything in place to read back our data just as it was written.

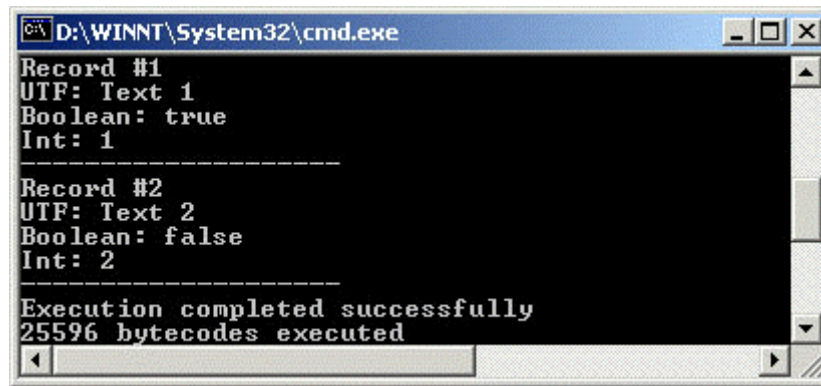
```

System.out.println("UTF: " + strmDataType.readUTF());
System.out.println("Boolean: " + strmDataType.readBoolean());
System.out.println("Int: " + strmDataType.readInt());

```

The output for this MIDlet is shown in [Figure 11-3](#).

Figure 11-3. Reading and writing Java primitive data types



```
D:\WINNT\System32\cmd.exe
Record #1
UTF: Text 1
Boolean: true
Int: 1
-----
Record #2
UTF: Text 2
Boolean: false
Int: 2
-----
Execution completed successfully
25596 bytcodes executed
```

Java Primitives

Although this seems quite obvious, when using `DataOutputStream` and `DataInputStream` you need to write and read in the same order and format. For example, if you write a text string, a boolean value and an integer, you must read back a text string, boolean value and an integer. If you aren't getting the expected results when using these streams, look carefully to see that you are reading and writing data in the same sequence.

Navigating with RecordEnumeration

In the previous example we perused records in the record store using a simple loop:

```
for (int i = 1; i <= rs.getNumRecords(); i++)
{
    rs.getRecord(i, recData, 0);
    ...
}
```

This works fine for simple iterations. However, if you would like to sort and/or search records we need to move up to a record enumerator.

The `RecordEnumeration` (A.K.A enumerator) class provides methods for moving forward and back through a record store. What makes the enumerator so powerful is that the iteration can take into account the results of a filter (to search) and/or a comparator (to sort). For example, you can set up a filter to only return records that contain a specific substring. Or, you might prefer to enumerate through the records, sorting alphabetically.

Setting up an enumerator takes only a few lines. Assuming the variable `rs` references an existing and open record store, here is a loop to move through all the records:

```
RecordEnumeration re = rs.enumerateRecords(null,null,false);
while (re.hasNextElement())
{
    // Get the next record into a String
    String str = new String(re.nextRecord());
}
```

```

    ... do something ...
}

```

There are two key methods for moving through a record store with an enumerator: `nextRecord()` to move forward, `previousRecord()` to move back. If you need to start at the end and move toward the front, create an enumerator and have as your first call `previousRecord()`, which will return the last record. Each subsequent call will move you one element closer to the front.

An enumerator maintains an internal index of the record store. If at any point the record store changes, it may be possible that the enumerator will no longer return the correct results. As an example, assume that you create an enumerator to return records that are sorted. At a later point in the application, a new record is added. This new record may upset the balance and affect what the "new" proper sort order is. The enumerator has a method to re-index, which will take into consideration any changes that may have occurred within the record store.

As far as when to re-index:

1. You can make calls to `reindex()` whenever you update, delete or add a record. This will work fine, as long as you are thorough and sure not to leave any holes, which may cause the enumerator to get out of sync.
2. A record listener can be established to notify you of changes to the record store. Whenever a change occurs, the listener will call one of three methods, depending on whether the change was an add, delete or update. Within the method called, you can re-index the record store. We'll discuss this in more detail in the next section.

RecordEnumeration API

Table 11.3. RecordEnumeration Interface: <code>javax.microedition.rms.RecordEnumeration</code>	
Method	Description
No constructor. See <code>enumerateRecords()</code> in <code>RecordStore</code> class, Table 11.2	
Methods	
<code>int numRecords()</code>	Number of records in the enumeration (result set)
<code>byte[] nextRecord()</code>	Get the next record in result set
<code>int nextRecordId()</code>	Get ID of the next record number in result set
<code>byte[] previousRecord()</code>	Get previous record in result set
<code>int previousRecordId()</code>	Get ID of previous record in result set
<code>boolean hasNextElement()</code>	Does enumeration have more records going forward?
<code>boolean hasPreviousElement()</code>	Does enumeration have more records going backward?
<code>void keepUpdated(boolean keepUpdated)</code>	Set whether enumeration will re-index as record store changes
<code>boolean isKeptUpdated()</code>	Will enumeration re-index as record store changes?
<code>void rebuild()</code>	Rebuild enumeration index
<code>void reset()</code>	Reset enumeration to beginning
<code>void destroy()</code>	Free all resources held by the enumeration

Sorting with RecordComparator

`RecordComparator` is a Java interface. You implement this interface when you would like the enumerator to return records in sorted order.

Here is a simple class that implements the interface.

```
public class Comparator implements RecordComparator
{
    public int compare(byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)
    {
        String str1 = new String(rec1), str2 = new String(rec2);

        int result = str1.compareTo(str2);
        if (result == 0)
            return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
        else if (result < 0)
            return RecordComparator.PRECEDES;
        else
            return RecordComparator.FOLLOWS;
    }
}
```

Notice the return values. There are three pre-defined values that you must use (see [Table 11.4](#)). This class becomes part of the enumeration process with the following.

```
// Create a new comparator for sorting
Comparator comp = new Comparator();

// Reference the comparator when creating the result set
RecordEnumeration re = rs.enumerateRecords(null,comp,false);
// Iterate through the sorted results
while (re.hasNextElement())
{
    String str = new String(re.nextRecord());
    ...
}
```

The enumerator references the `compare()` inside `Comparator` to sort the records in the record store.

Table 11.4. RecordComparator Types: javax.microedition.rms.RecordComparator

<i>Value</i>	<i>Description</i>
EQUIVALENT	The records passed to <code>compare()</code> method are equivalent
FOLLOWS	Based on the sort algorithm in the <code>compare()</code> method, the first parameter follows the second
PRECEDES	Based on the sort algorithm in the <code>compare()</code> method, the first parameter precedes the second

RecordComparator API

Table 11.5. RecordComparator Interface: javax.microedition.rms.RecordComparator

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>int compare(byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)</code>	Compare records to determine sort order. See Table 11.4 for return values.

Example: Simple String Sort

Let's head back to [Example 11.1](#) and add a comparator class (see [Example 11.3](#)) for sorting the records in the record store.

Example 11.3 SimpleSort.java

```

/*-----
 * SimpleSort.java
 *
 * No GUI interface, all output is to the console
 *-----*/
import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;
public class SimpleSort extends MIDlet
{

    private RecordStore rs = null;
    static final String REC_STORE = "db_1";

    public SimpleSort()
    {
        openRecStore();    // Create the record store

        // Write a few records
        writeRecord("Sand Wedge");
        writeRecord("One Wood");
        writeRecord("Putter");
        writeRecord("Five Iron");

        // Read back with enumerator, sorting the results
        readRecords();

        closeRecStore(); // Close record store
        deleteRecStore(); // Remove the record store
    }

    public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
    {
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        // There is no user interface, go ahead and shutdown
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }

    public void pauseApp()

```

```

{
}

public void openRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void closeRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void deleteRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void writeRecord(String str)
{
    byte[] rec = str.getBytes();

    try
    {
        rs.addRecord(rec, 0, rec.length);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

public void readRecords()
{
    try
    {
        if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
        {
            Comparator comp = new Comparator();

            RecordEnumeration re = rs.enumerateRecords(null,
                                                         comp, false);
            while (re.hasNextElement())
            {
                String str = new String(re.nextRecord());
                System.out.println(str);
                System.out.println("-----");
            }
        }
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----

```

```

    * Simple message to console for debug/errors
    * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
    * error in a more appropriate manner.
    *-----*/
private void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}

/*-----
| Comparator.java
| Compares two records to determine sort order
|-----*/
class Comparator implements RecordComparator
{
    public int compare(byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)
    {
        String str1 = new String(rec1), str2 = new String(rec2);

        int result = str1.compareTo(str2);
        if (result == 0)
            return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
        else if (result < 0)
            return RecordComparator.PRECEDES;
        else
            return RecordComparator.FOLLOWS;
    }
}

```

If you step inside `readRecords()` you'll see the code for allocating a new `Comparator` and the reference to this new object when creating a `RecordEnumeration`.

```

Comparator comp = new Comparator();
RecordEnumeration re = rs.enumerateRecords(null,
                                           comp, false);
while (re.hasNextElement())
{
    ...
}

```

When the enumerator creates its internal index of the record store, it will use the `compare()` function that we provided inside the class `Comparator`. [Figure 11-4](#) shows the contents of the record store after sorting.

Figure 11-4. Sorted records using an Enumerator with RecordComparator



It's obvious this example works just fine, so why does the enumerator require a separate class for comparing records? Would it be possible for the enumerator to have a string sorting algorithm all of its own? Well, it could, in theory.

Inside the `compare()` method is a reference to `compareTo()` which is a method inside the `String` class.

```
int result = str1.compareTo(str2);
```

This is easy enough, assuming the data in a record is always text, as it was in this example. However, if you recall [Example 11.2](#), we wrote several Java data types into *each* record. The code looked something similar to this:

```
// Write Java data types to stream
strmDataType.writeUTF("Text 1");
strmDataType.writeBoolean(true);
strmDataType.writeInt(1);
```

Each of these calls writes to a stream, in binary format. The contents of the stream are then written to an array, which is in turn added to a record in the record store.

```
// Get stream data into an array
record = strmBytes.toByteArray();

// Write the array to a record
rs.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);
```

Our simple sort method will fail miserably when trying to sort this (binary) data. If we choose to sort records that contain more than one simple data type, we need to write a `compare()` method that can extract and sort the appropriate data from each record; hence, the reason the enumerator supports a separate class for sorting.

Example: String Sort with Compound Records

More often than not, you'll store multiple "fields" of data within a single record as we did in [Example 11.2](#) (storing a `String`, `boolean` and `int`). When a record has multiple data types stored within it (what I'll refer to as a compound record), there may be more than one field that would be appropriate for sorting. Reasonable sorting choices for [Example 11.2](#) could be either the text or the integer. It all depends on the needs of the application.

The next two examples will implement the `RecordComparator` interface and each will sort a record that contains multiple Java data types. The examples will use the same set of data; however, one will sort based on a `String`, and one will sort based on an `int`. To be consistent with [Example 11.2](#), each record will consist of a `String`, `boolean` and `int`. Here are the arrays that will make up each record:

```
String[] pets = {"duke", "tiger", "spike", "beauregard"};
boolean[] dog = {true, false, true, true};
int[] rank = {3, 0, 1, 2};
```

Once written to the record store, the contents of the records will look something like:

```
Record #1
"duke" true 3

Record #2
"tiger" false 0
Record #3
"spike" true 1

Record #4
"beauregard" true 2
```

Can you see the sorting problem we've created for ourselves? Because the data no longer contains pure text, a simple `String.compareTo()` on the contents of an entire record is not sufficient to sort the data.

We need to extract from each record the "field" that we wish to use as the sort criteria. [Example 11.4](#) will extract and sort based on the `String` at the beginning of each record. [Example 11.5](#) will extract and sort based on the `int` at the end of each record.

Example 11.4 StringSort t.java

```
/*-----
 * StringSort.java
 *
 * Sort records that contain multiple Java
 * data types. Sort using String type.
 *
 * Uses: Streams, Enumeration, RecordComparator
 *
 * No GUI interface, all output is to the console
 *-----*/

import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;

public class StringSort extends MIDlet
{
    private RecordStore rs = null;    // Record store
    static final String REC_STORE = "db_3"; // Name of record store

    public StringSort()
```

```

{
    openRecStore();    // Create the record store

    writeTestData();  // Write a series of records
    readStream();      // Read back the records
    closeRecStore();   // Close record store
    deleteRecStore(); // Remove the record store
}

public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
{
}

public void startApp()
{
    // There is no user interface, go ahead and shutdown
    destroyApp(false);
    notifyDestroyed();
}

public void pauseApp()
{
}

public void openRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void closeRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void deleteRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

/*-----
 * Create three arrays to write to record store
 *-----*/
public void writeTestData()
{
    String[] pets = {"duke", "tiger", "spike", "beauregard"};
    boolean[] dog = {true, false, true, true};
    int[] rank = {3, 0, 1, 2};
    writeStream(pets, dog, rank);
}

/*-----
 * Write to record store using streams.
 *-----*/
public void writeStream(String[] sData, boolean[] bData,
                        int[] iData)
{
    try

```

```

{
    // Write data into an internal byte array
    ByteArrayOutputStream strmBytes =
        new ByteArrayOutputStream();

    // Write Java data types into the above byte array
    DataOutputStream strmDataType =
        new DataOutputStream(strmBytes);

    byte[] record;

    for (int i = 0; i < sData.length; i++)
    {
        // Write Java data types
        strmDataType.writeUTF(sData[i]);
        strmDataType.writeBoolean(bData[i]);
        strmDataType.writeInt(iData[i]);

        // Clear any buffered data
        strmDataType.flush();

        // Get stream data into byte array and write record
        record = strmBytes.toByteArray();
        rs.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);

        // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
        // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
        strmBytes.reset();
    }

    strmBytes.close();
    strmDataType.close();
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    db(e.toString());
}
}

/*-----
* Read from the record store using streams
*-----*/
public void readStream()
{
    try
    {
        // Careful: Make sure this is big enough!
        // Better yet, test and reallocate if necessary
        byte[] recData = new byte[50];

        // Read from the specified byte array
        ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes =
            new ByteArrayInputStream(recData);

        // Read Java data types from the above byte array
        DataInputStream strmDataType =
            new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
    }
}

```

```

if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
{
    ComparatorString comp = new ComparatorString();

    int i = 1;
    RecordEnumeration re = rs.enumerateRecords(null,
                                                comp, false);
    while (re.hasNextElement())
    {
        // Get data into the byte array
        rs.getRecord(re.nextRecordId(), recData, 0);

        // Read back the data types
        System.out.println("Record #" + i++);

        System.out.println("Name: " + strmDataType.readUTF());
        System.out.println("Dog: " + strmDataType.readBoolean());
        System.out.println("Rank: " + strmDataType.readInt());
        System.out.println("-----");

        // Reset so read starts at beginning of array
        strmBytes.reset();
    }

    comp.compareStringClose();

    // Free enumerator
    re.destroy();
}

strmBytes.close();
strmDataType.close();

}
catch (Exception e)
{
    db(e.toString());
}
}

/*-----
 * Simple message to console for debug/errors
 * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
 * error in a more appropriate manner.
 *-----*/
private void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}
}

/*-----
| Compares two strings to determine sort order
| Each record passed in contains multiple Java data
| types - use only the String data for sorting
|-----*/

```

```

class ComparatorString implements RecordComparator
{
private byte[] recData = new byte[10];
    // Read from a specified byte array
    private ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes = null;

    // Read Java data types from the above byte array
    private DataInputStream strmDataType = null;

    public void compareStringClose()
    {
        try
        {
            if (strmBytes != null)
                strmBytes.close();
            if (strmDataType != null)
                strmDataType.close();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}
    }

    public void compareStringClose()
    {
        try
        {
            strmBytes.close();
            strmDataType.close();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}
    }

    public int compare(byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)
    {
        String str1, str2;

        try
        {
            // If either record is larger than our buffer, reallocate
            int maxsize = Math.max(rec1.length, rec2.length);
            if (maxsize > recData.length)
                recData = new byte[maxsize];
            // Read record #1
            // Only need one read because the string to
            // sort on is the first "field" in the record
            strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec1);
            strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
            str1 = strmDataType.readUTF();

            // Read record #2
            strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec2);
            strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
            str2 = strmDataType.readUTF();

            // Compare record #1 and #2
            int result = str1.compareTo(str2);

```

```

        if (result == 0)
            return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
        else if (result < 0)
            return RecordComparator.PRECEDES;
        else
            return RecordComparator.FOLLOWS;
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
    }
}
}

```

The majority of the MIDlet is nearly identical to [Example 11.2](#). What has changed is the addition of a class that implements `RecordComparator`. More specifically, a `compare()` method that is aware of the sequence of data in each record and can extract that which is required to properly compare records.

The first "field" in each record is the `String` we would like to use as the basis for sorting. Read the `String` from each record using `readUTF()`, then call `compareTo()` in the `String` class to determine the relative sort order of the records.

```

// Read record #1
// Only need one read because the string to
// sort on is the first "field" in the record
strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec1);
strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
str1 = strmDataType.readUTF();

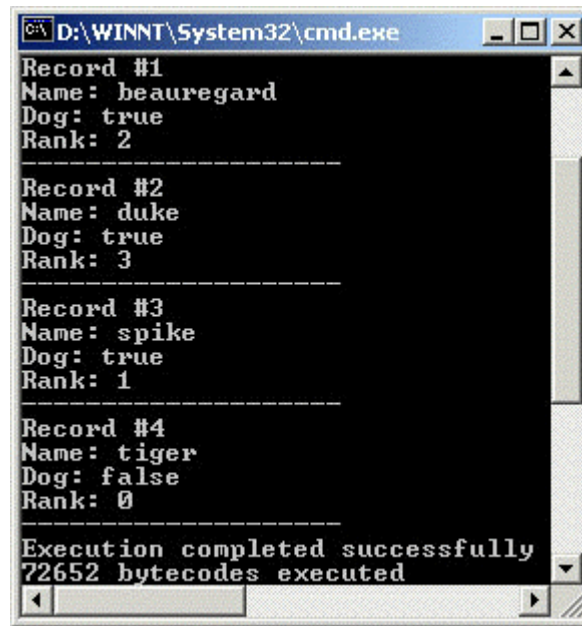
// Read record #2
strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec2);
strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
str2 = strmDataType.readUTF();

// Compare record #1 and #2
int result = str1.compareTo(str2);
if (result == 0)
    return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
else if (result < 0)
    return RecordComparator.PRECEDES;
else
    return RecordComparator.FOLLOWS;

```

Take a moment to look at [Figure 11-5](#). Notice that the records are sorted based on the "Name," which is the `String` we wrote in each record.

Figure 11-5. Records with multiple Java data types, sorted by "Name"



```
D:\WINNT\System32\cmd.exe
Record #1
Name: beauregard
Dog: true
Rank: 2
-----
Record #2
Name: duke
Dog: true
Rank: 3
-----
Record #3
Name: spike
Dog: true
Rank: 1
-----
Record #4
Name: tiger
Dog: false
Rank: 0
-----
Execution completed successfully
72652 bytecodes executed
```

Example: Integer Sort with Compound Records

Using the same data as in the previous example, let's complicate things just a bit. Whereas the previous example sorted based on the `String` at the beginning of the record, the next example will sort based on the `int` located at the end of the record (see [Example 11.5](#)).

Part of the beauty of object-oriented code is that with a good design upfront, changes need not impart drastic rewrites. With this next example, for the most part, all that has changed is the class that implements the `RecordComparator`, extracting and comparing integers instead of strings.

As a refresher, here is the data that was used to create each record in the previous example:

```
String[] pets = {"duke", "tiger", "spike", "beauregard"};
boolean[] dog = {true, false, true, true};
int[] rank = {3, 0, 1, 2};
```

Once written to the record store, the contents of the records will look something like:

```
Record #1
"duke" true 3

Record #2
"tiger" false 0

Record #3
"spike" true 1

Record #4
"beauregard" true 2
```

Example 11.5 `IntSort.java`

```

/*-----
* IntSort.java
*
* Sort records that contain multiple Java
* data types. Sort using integer type.
*
* Uses: Streams, Enumeration, RecordComparator
*
* No GUI interface, all output is to the console
*-----*/

import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;

public class IntSort extends MIDlet
{
    private RecordStore rs = null;          // Record store
    static final String REC_STORE = "db_4"; // Name of record store

    public IntSort()
    {
        openRecStore(); // Create the record store

        writeTestData(); // Write a series of records
        readStream();    // Read back the records

        closeRecStore(); // Close record store
        deleteRecStore(); // Remove the record store
    }

    public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
    {
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        // There is no user interface, go ahead and shutdown
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    public void openRecStore()
    {
        // See Example 11-1
    }

    public void closeRecStore()
    {
        // See Example 11-1
    }

    public void deleteRecStore()
    {
    }
}

```



```

    // See Example 11-1
}

/*-----
* Create three arrays to write to record store
*-----*/
public void writeTestData()
{
    String[] pets = {"duke", "tiger", "spike", "beauregard"};
    boolean[] dog = {true, false, true, true};
    int[] rank = {3, 0, 1, 2};

    writeStream(pets, dog, rank);
}

/*-----
* Write to record store using streams.
*-----*/
public void writeStream(String[] sData, boolean[] bData,
                        int[] iData)
{
    try
    {
        // Write data into an internal byte array
        ByteArrayOutputStream strmBytes =
            new ByteArrayOutputStream();

        // Write Java data types into the above byte array
        DataOutputStream strmDataType =
            new DataOutputStream(strmBytes);
        byte[] record;

        for (int i = 0; i < sData.length; i++)
        {
            // Write Java data types
            strmDataType.writeUTF(sData[i]);
            strmDataType.writeBoolean(bData[i]);
            strmDataType.writeInt(iData[i]);

            // Clear any buffered data
            strmDataType.flush();

            // Get stream data into byte array and write record
            record = strmBytes.toByteArray();
            rs.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);

            // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
            // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
            strmBytes.reset();
        }

        strmBytes.close();
        strmDataType.close();
    }
    catch (Exception e)

```

```

    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Read from the record store using streams
*-----*/
public void readStream()
{
    try
    {
        // Careful: Make sure this is big enough!
        // Better yet, test and reallocate if necessary
        byte[] recData = new byte[50];
        // Read from the specified byte array
        ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes =
            new ByteArrayInputStream(recData);

        // Read Java data types from the above byte array
        DataInputStream strmDataType =
            new DataInputStream(strmBytes);

        if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
        {
            ComparatorInt comp = new ComparatorInt();

            int i = 1;

            RecordEnumeration re = rs.enumerateRecords(null,
                                                        comp, false);
            while (re.hasNextElement())
            {
                // Get data into the byte array
                rs.getRecord(re.nextRecordId(), recData, 0);

                // Read back the data types
                System.out.println("Record #" + i++);

                System.out.println("Name: " + strmDataType.readUTF());
                System.out.println("Dog: " + strmDataType.readBoolean());
                System.out.println("Rank: " + strmDataType.readInt());
                System.out.println("-----");

                // Reset so read starts at beginning of array
                strmBytes.reset();
            }

            comp.compareIntClose();

            // Free enumerator
            re.destroy();
        }

        strmBytes.close();
        strmDataType.close();
    }
}

```

```

        catch (Exception e)
        {
            db(e.toString());
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Simple message to console for debug/errors
    * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
    * error in a more appropriate manner.
    *-----*/
    private void db(String str)
    {
        System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
    }
}

/*-----
| Compares two integers to determine sort order
| Each record passed in contains multiple Java data
| types - use only the integer data for sorting
*-----*/
class ComparatorInt implements RecordComparator
{
    private byte[] recData = new byte[10];

    // Read from a specified byte array
    private ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes = null;

    // Read Java data types from the above byte array
    private DataInputStream strmDataType = null;

    public void compareIntClose()
    {
        try
        {
            if (strmBytes != null)
                strmBytes.close();
            if (strmDataType != null)
                strmDataType.close();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}
    }

    public int compare(byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)
    {
        int x1, x2;

        try
        {
            // If either record is larger than our buffer, reallocate
            int maxsize = Math.max(rec1.length, rec2.length);
            if (maxsize > recData.length)
                recData = new byte[maxsize];

```

```

        // Read record #1
        // We want the integer from the record, which is
        // the last "field" thus we must read the String
        // and boolean to get to the integer
        strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec1);
        strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
        strmDataType.readUTF();
        strmDataType.readBoolean();
        x1 = strmDataType.readInt(); // Here's our data

        // Read record #2
        strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec2);
        strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
        strmDataType.readUTF();
        strmDataType.readBoolean();
        x2 = strmDataType.readInt(); // Here's our data

        // Compare record #1 and #2
        if (x1 == x2)
            return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
        else if (x1 < x2)
            return RecordComparator.PRECEDES;
        else
            return RecordComparator.FOLLOWS;
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
    }
}

```

Here is the bulk of the code that has been changed:

```

// Read record #1
// We want the integer from the record, which is
// the last "field" thus we must read the String
// and boolean to get to the integer
strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec1);
strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
strmDataType.readUTF();
strmDataType.readBoolean();
x1 = strmDataType.readInt(); // Here's our data

// Read record #2
strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec2);
strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
strmDataType.readUTF();
strmDataType.readBoolean();
x2 = strmDataType.readInt(); // Here's our data

// Compare record #1 and #2
if (x1 == x2)
    return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
else if (x1 < x2)

```

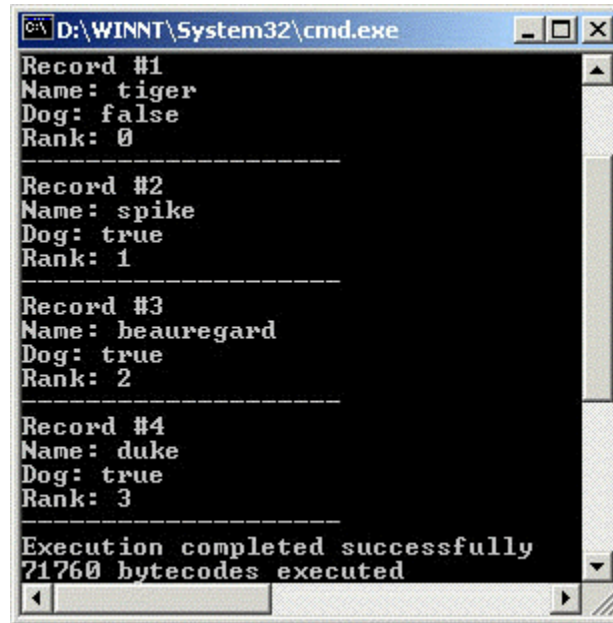
```

    return RecordComparator.PRECEDES;
else
    return RecordComparator.FOLLOWS;

```

We are attempting to sort based on the integer that is located at the end of each record. To get to that location, we need to read the `String` and `boolean` that are stored prior to that position. Once we have the integers from each record, the comparison code itself is trivial. Compare the output of [Figure 11-5](#) and [Figure 11-6](#). The former sorts by "Name" (`String`); the latter by "Rank" (`int`).

Figure 11-6. Records with multiple Java data types, sorted by "Rank" (integer)



```

D:\WINNT\System32\cmd.exe
Record #1
Name: tiger
Dog: false
Rank: 0
-----
Record #2
Name: spike
Dog: true
Rank: 1
-----
Record #3
Name: beauregard
Dog: true
Rank: 2
-----
Record #4
Name: duke
Dog: true
Rank: 3
-----
Execution completed successfully
71760 bytecodes executed

```

The `RecordComparator` is a necessity for all but the simplest of records. You can provide an endless variety of sorting options if you are willing to extract the necessary record "fields" and write a few lines of code comparing those same values.

Searching with RecordFilter

In addition to sorting records (using `RecordComparator`), an enumerator can filter records. There is a subtle difference, however. When using `RecordComparator` all records in a record store are in the result set. With a `RecordFilter`, only those records that match the filter criteria will become part of the enumerator result set.

Following is a class that implements the `RecordFilter` interface.

```

class SearchFilter implements RecordFilter
{
    private String searchText = null;

    public SearchFilter(String searchText)

```

```

{
    // This is the text to search for
    this.searchText = searchText.toLowerCase();
}

public boolean matches(byte[] candidate)
{
    String str = new String(candidate).toLowerCase();

    // Look for a match
    if (searchText != null && str.indexOf(searchText) != -1)
        return true;
    else
        return false;
}
}

```

When an instance of this class is created we save the desired search text in a private variable. This text is then used when the enumerator calls the `matches()` method, passing in a record from the record store. Here is a small piece of code that shows how you create a reference between the filter and an enumerator.

```

// Create a new search filter
SearchFilter search = new SearchFilter("search text");

// Reference the filter when creating the result set
RecordEnumeration re =
    rs.enumerateRecords(search,null,false);

// If there is at least one record in result set, a match
// was found
if (re.numRecords() > 0)
    // Do something

```

RecordFilter API

Table 11.6. RecordFilter Interface: <code>javax.microedition.rms.RecordFilter</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
boolean matches (byte[] candidate)	Search a record for a specific value

Example: Simple String Search

Two examples follow that use a `RecordFilter` to search the record store. Both MIDlets display a `Form` and a provide a `TextField` for entering the desired search string. The results of the first MIDlet are shown in [Figure 11-7](#).

Figure 11-7. Searching for records



The reason for two examples is to keep a consistent pace with other examples we've created in this chapter. The first will write/search records that contain only pure text, which we accomplish by writing a `String` object into each record. The second example will use streams to write/search the record store. In this case, each record will consist of a `String`, a `boolean` and an `int`. This example is probably a little more realistic in the sense that it will more closely mimic what types of data you may actually store. In addition, it proves to be a little more thought-provoking.

Example 11.6 SimpleSearch.java

```
/*-----
 * SimpleSearch.java
 *
 * Display a Form and Textbox for searching records
 * Each record contains a String object.
 *
 * Uses: Enumeration, RecordFilter
 *-----*/

import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class SimpleSearch extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;           // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;               // The main form
    private StringItem siMatch;        // The matching text, if any
    private Command cmFind;            // Command to search record store
    private Command cmExit;            // Command to insert items
    private TextField tfFind;          // Search text as requested by
user
    private RecordStore rs = null;     // Record store
    static final String REC_STORE = "db_6"; // Name of record store
    public SimpleSearch()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Define textfield, stringItem and commands

```

```

tfFind = new TextField("Find", "", 10, TextField.ANY);
siMatch = new StringItem(null, null);
cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
cmFind = new Command("Find", Command.SCREEN, 2);

// Create the form, add commands
fmMain = new Form("Record Search");
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.addCommand(cmFind);

// Append textfield and stringItem
fmMain.append(tfFind);
fmMain.append(siMatch);

// Capture events
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

//-----
// Open and write to record store
//-----
openRecStore(); // Create the record store
writeTestData(); // Write a series of records
}

public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
{
    closeRecStore(); // Close record store
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{
}

public void openRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void closeRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

/*-----
* Create array of data to write into record store
*-----*/
public void writeTestData()
{
    String[] golfClubs = {
        "Wedge...good from the sand trap",
        "One Wood...off the tee",
        "Putter...only on the green",
        "Five Iron...middle distance"};

```



```

    writeRecords(golfClubs);
}

/*-----
* Write to record store.
*-----*/
public void writeRecords(String[] sData)
{
    byte[] record;

    try
    {
        // Only add the records once
        if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
            return;

        for (int i = 0; i < sData.length; i++)
        {
            record = sData[i].getBytes();
            rs.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);
        }
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Search using enumerator and record filter
*-----*/
private void searchRecordStore()
{
    try
    {
        // Record store is not empty
        if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
        {
            // Setup the search filter with the user requested text
            SearchFilter search =
                new SearchFilter(tfFind.getString());

            RecordEnumeration re =
                rs.enumerateRecords(search, null, false);

            // A match was found using the filter
            if (re.numRecords() > 0)
            {
                // Show match in the stringItem on the form
                siMatch.setText(new String(re.nextRecord()));

                re.destroy();    // Free enumerator
            }
        }
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

```

```

    }

    public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
    {
        if (c == cmFind)
        {
            searchRecordStore();
        }
        else if (c == cmExit)
        {
            destroyApp(false);
            notifyDestroyed();
        }
    }
}

/*-----
 * Simple message to console for debug/errors
 * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
 * error in a more appropriate manner.
 *-----*/
private void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}
}

/*-----
 * Search for text within a record
 * Each record passed in contains only text (String)
 *-----*/
class SearchFilter implements RecordFilter
{
    private String searchText = null;

    public SearchFilter(String searchText)
    {
        // This is the text to search for
        this.searchText = searchText.toLowerCase();
    }

    public boolean matches(byte[] candidate)
    {
        String str = new String(candidate).toLowerCase();

        // Look for a match
        if (searchText != null && str.indexOf(searchText) != -1)
            return true;
        else
            return false;
    }
}
}

```

At the top of the example you'll see the standard stuff—allocating the components and setting up the event listener. There are also a few lines for writing records to the record store. The text written to the store is simply an array of strings:

```
String[] golfClubs = {
    "Wedge...good from the sand trap",
    "One Wood...off the tee",
    "Putter...only on the green",
    "Five Iron...middle distance"};
```

Before writing the `searchFilter` class that implements the `RecordFilter` interface, let's see how our enumerator in this example differs from the previous example.

```
// Setup the search filter with the user requested text
SearchFilter search = new SearchFilter(tfFind.getString());

RecordEnumeration re =rs.enumerateRecords(search,null,false);

// A match was found using the filter
if (re.numRecords() > 0)
    siMatch.setText(new String(re.nextRecord()));
```

First, we must allocate an instance of `SearchFilter`. Notice the constructor has a parameter that accepts the user-requested search text. Next, we create an enumerator with a reference to this class. If the result set of the enumeration has more than zero records, we know there was at least one match and we set the `StringItem` text.

At the bottom of the example is where you'll find the `SearchFilter` class. Notice the constructor saves the search text that was requested by the user. This text is then available to the method `matches()`, which is called by the enumerator during its initialization. This method will be called once for each record in the record store. Only those records that match the filter will be included in result set.

[Figure 11-7](#) shows a series of screen shots, walking through a search of the record store. Notice the search is *not* case sensitive. Head back to the code and see why that is.

Example: String Search with Compound Records

[Example 11.7](#) differs little from what we've just written. What has changed is the type of data that we write, and how that same data is placed into the record store.

The data that will make up the records for this example is much more comprehensive:

```
String[] pets = {"duke - big, goofy golden retriever",
    "tiger - we found in a field",
    "spike - loves chasing car tires",
    "beauregard - barks at everything"};
boolean[] dog = {true, false, true, true};
int[] rank = {3, 0, 1, 2};
```

Obviously, we'll need a little more smarts when we read and search the record store.

Example 11.7 SearchStreams.java

```
/*-----
 * SearchStreams.java
```

```

*
* Display a Form and Textbox for searching records
* Each record contains multiple Java data types -
* (String, boolean and integer). Use the String
* data for searching
*
* Uses: Enumeration, RecordFilter
*-----*/

import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class SearchStreams extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;            // The main form
    private StringItem siMatch;     // The matching text, if any
    private Command cmFind;        // Command to search record store
    private Command cmExit;        // Command to insert items
    private TextField tfFind;       // Search text
    private RecordStore rs = null;  // Record store
    static final String REC_STORE = "db_7"; // Name of record store

    public SearchStreams()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Define textfield, stringItem and commands
        tfFind = new TextField("Find", "", 10, TextField.ANY);
        siMatch = new StringItem(null, null);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmFind = new Command("Find", Command.SCREEN, 2);

        // Create the form, add commands
        fmMain = new Form("Record Search");
        fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        fmMain.addCommand(cmFind);
        // Append textfield and stringItem
        fmMain.append(tfFind);
        fmMain.append(siMatch);

        // Capture events
        fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

        //-----
        // Open and write to record store
        //-----
        openRecStore(); // Create the record store
        writeTestData(); // Write a series of records
    }

    public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
    {
        closeRecStore(); // Close record store
    }
}

```

```

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(frmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{
}

public void openRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void closeRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

/*-----
 * Create three arrays to write into record store
 *-----*/
public void writeTestData()
{
    String[] pets = {"duke - big, goofy golden retriever",
                    "tiger - we found in a field",
                    "spike - loves chasing car tires",
                    "beauregard - barks at everything"};

    boolean[] dog = {true, false, true, true};
    int[] rank = {3, 0, 1, 2};

    writeStream(pets, dog, rank);
}

/*-----
 * Write to record store using streams.
 *-----*/
public void writeStream(String[] sData, boolean[] bData,
                       int[] iData)
{
    try
    {
        // Only add the records once
        if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
            return;

        // Write data into an internal byte array
        ByteArrayOutputStream strmBytes =
            new ByteArrayOutputStream();

        // Write Java data types into the above byte array
        DataOutputStream strmDataType =
            new DataOutputStream(strmBytes);

        byte[] record;

```

```

for (int i = 0; i < sData.length; i++)
{
    // Write Java data types
    strmDataType.writeUTF(sData[i]);
    strmDataType.writeBoolean(bData[i]);
    strmDataType.writeInt(iData[i]);

    // Clear any buffered data
    strmDataType.flush();
    // Get stream data into byte array and write record
    record = strmBytes.toByteArray();
    rs.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);

    // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
    // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
    strmBytes.reset();
}

strmBytes.close();
strmDataType.close();
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}
}

/*-----
* Search using enumerator and record filter
*-----*/
private void searchRecordStore()
{
    try
    {
        // Record store is not empty
        if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
        {
            // Setup the search filter with the user requested text
            SearchFilter search =
                new SearchFilter(tfFind.getString());

            RecordEnumeration re =
                rs.enumerateRecords(search, null, false);

            // A match was found using the filter
            if (re.numRecords() > 0)
            {
                // Read from the specified byte array
                ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes =
                    new ByteArrayInputStream(re.nextRecord());
                // Read Java data types from the above byte array
                DataInputStream strmDataType =
                    new DataInputStream(strmBytes);

                // Show matching result in stringItem component on form
                siMatch.setText(strmDataType.readUTF());
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

        search.searchFilterClose(); // Close record filter
        strmBytes.close();          // Close stream
        strmDataType.close();       // Close stream
        re.destroy();               // Free enumerator
    }
}
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    db(e.toString());
}
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmFind)
    {
        searchRecordStore();
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

/*-----
 * Simple message to console for debug/errors
 * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
 * error in a more appropriate manner.
 *-----*/
private void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}

/*-----
 * Search for text within a record
 * Each record passed in contains multiple Java data
 * types (String, boolean and integer)
 *-----*/
class SearchFilter implements RecordFilter
{
    private String searchText = null;

    // Read from a specified byte array
    private ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes = null;

    // Read Java data types from the above byte array
    private DataInputStream strmDataType = null;

    public SearchFilter(String searchText)
    {
        // This is the text to search for
        this.searchText = searchText.toLowerCase();
    }
}

```

```

// Cleanup
public void searchFilterClose()
{
    try
    {
        if (strmBytes != null)
            strmBytes.close();
        if (strmDataType != null)
            strmDataType.close();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {}
}

public boolean matches(byte[] candidate)
{
    String str = null;

    try
    {
        strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(candidate);
        strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);

        // Although 3 pieces of data were written to
        // the record (String, boolean and integer)
        // we only need one read because the string to
        // search is the first "field" in the record
        str = strmDataType.readUTF().toLowerCase();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        return false;
    }

    // Look for a match
    if (str != null && str.indexOf(searchText) != -1)
        return true;
    else
        return false;
}
}

```

Once again, the basics are the same: set up the `Form`, `TextField` and `Command` objects. When writing to the record store, we use streams to write each array element as a primitive Java data type, for example:

```

strmDataType.writeUTF(sData[i]);           // Write Strings
strmDataType.writeBoolean(bData[i]);       // Write booleans
strmDataType.writeInt(iData[i]);           // Write integers

```

Inside `searchRecordStore()` is where we create the search filter and enumerator. Before going into the specifics of this method, let's review the code inside `SearchFilter`, the class that implements the `RecordFilter` interface.

As with the previous example, we save the search text into a local variable:

```
this.searchText = searchText.toLowerCase();
```

The method `matches()` is called by the enumerator for each record in the record store. To get the data in the same format as it was written to the record, we need to create two streams—one that references the byte array with the incoming data and another to read Java data types from the previous stream:

```
strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(candidate);
strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
```

Although we've written three pieces of data into each record (`String`, `boolean`, `int`) our search only applies to the first "field," the `String`. So we extract the `String` and store it in a local variable:

```
str = strmDataType.readUTF().toLowerCase();
```

The remainder of the code is straightforward. Compare the text from the record with the text in the variable `searchText`, which we saved when we created the filter:

```
if (str != null && str.indexOf(searchText) != -1)
    return true;
else
    return false;
```

We can finish this discussion by looking back at `searchRecordStore()`. If the enumerator has more than 0 records as part of the result set, we know there was a successful match between the text the user requested and one or more records in the record store:

```
if (re.numRecords() > 0)
{
    // Read from the specified byte array
    ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes =
        new ByteArrayInputStream(re.nextRecord());
    // Read Java data types from the above byte array
    DataInputStream strmDataType =
        new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
    // Show matching result in stringItem component on form
    siMatch.setText(strmDataType.readUTF());

    ...
}
```

Before we can display the text from the record (on the form), once again we need to extract the data in the same format in which it was written. We do this by setting up the necessary streams, reading the `String` from the record and adding the resulting text into the `StringItem` on the form (see [Figure 11-8](#)).

Figure 11-8. Searching compound records



Notification of Changes with RecordListener

At times you may find it helpful to be notified when a record has been added, deleted or updated. For instance, a MIDlet could store application preferences to persistent storage. When a user makes a change to their preferences, it may be handy to be aware of this fact, so the MIDlet can make any necessary adjustments on the fly, so to speak.

Or how about this idea? We have a MIDlet that maintains an internal list of contact information (name, email address, etc.). The list can be used at anytime by the MIDlet; for example, when a user is writing an email they may need to search for a specific email address. Let's say that somewhere on a remote server is a master list of contacts (updated from a separate source). When a change is made in the master, we'd like the MIDlet to be updated as well.

Here's a thought—the MIDlet could periodically poll the remote server. If the two lists are not identical, a background process could add, delete or update the record store as necessary. With this listener in place, once any change has been detected, the MIDlet could re-read the contact information from the (now current) record store and update its internal list.

The `RecordListener` operates as do the other listeners we've discussed. If you register a listener, when an event occurs a method is called to notify you of the change. For this interface, the methods are `recordAdded()`, `recordChanged()` and `recordDeleted()`. Which is called obviously depends on what change occurred in the record store.

RecordListener API

Table 11.7. RecordListener Interface: <code>javax.microedition.rms.RecordListener</code>	
Method	Description
<code>void recordAdded(RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)</code>	Called when record is added
<code>void recordChanged(RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)</code>	Called when record is changed
<code>void recordDeleted(RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)</code>	Called when record is deleted

Examples: Capturing Changes

[Example 11.8](#) is merely a skeleton that shows calls to the various listeners of the RMS. Up front we open a record store and add a listener to that same store. Then we proceed to add, update and delete a record. Each of these actions will trigger the listener to call the appropriate method, where we commence to print a message showing that we arrived.

Example 11.8 RmsListener.java

```
/*-----
 * RmsListener.java
 *
 * Test the RMS listener methods
 *
 * No GUI interface, all output is to the console
 *-----*/
import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;

public class RmsListener extends MIDlet
{
    private RecordStore rs = null;
    staticfinalStringREC_STORE = "db_8";
    public RmsListener()
    {
        // Open record store and add listener
        openRecStore();
        rs.addRecordListener(new TestRecordListener());

        // Initiate actions that will wake up the listener
        writeRecord("J2ME and MIDP");
        updateRecord("MIDP and J2ME");
        deleteRecord();

        closeRecStore(); // Close record store
        deleteRecStore(); // Remove the record store
    }

    public void destroyApp( boolean unconditional )
    {
    }

    public void startApp()
    {
        // There is no user interface, go ahead and shutdown
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }

    public void pauseApp()
    {
    }

    public void openRecStore()
    {
        // See Example 11-1
    }
}
```

```

public void closeRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}

public void deleteRecStore()
{
    // See Example 11-1
}
public void writeRecord(String str)
{
    byte[] rec = str.getBytes();

    try
    {
        rs.addRecord(rec, 0, rec.length);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

public void updateRecord(String str)
{
    try
    {
        rs.setRecord(1, str.getBytes(), 0, str.length());
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

public void deleteRecord()
{
    try
    {
        rs.deleteRecord(1);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
 * Simple message to console for debug/errors
 * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
 * error in a more appropriate manner.
 *-----*/
public void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}

```

```

}

/*-----
* Listen for updates to the record store
*-----*/
class TestRecordListener implements RecordListener
{
    public void recordAdded(RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)
    {
        try
        {
            System.out.println("Record with ID#: " + recordId +
                               "added to RecordStore: " +
                               recordStore.getName());
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.err.println(e);
        }
    }

    public void recordDeleted(RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)
    {
        try
        {
            System.out.println("Record with ID#: " + recordId +
                               "deleted from RecordStore: " +
                               recordStore.getName());
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.err.println(e);
        }
    }

    public void recordChanged(RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)
    {
        try
        {
            System.out.println("Record with ID#: " + recordId +
                               "changed in RecordStore: " +
                               rs.getName());
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.err.println(e);
        }
    }
}

```

[Figure 11-9](#) shows the console output from the listener methods.

Figure 11-9. Output of Record Store listener methods



Exception Handling

There are five exceptions that are specific to the RMS. As expected, each is inherited from the class `java.lang.Throwable`. All five exceptions are listed next, along with a brief description and the constructor methods in the event your application code needs to create/throw an RMS-related exception.

InvalidRecordIDException

Used to indicate an invalid record number. For example, if `RecordStore.getRecord(int)` is called with a record that does not exist in the record store, this exception will be thrown.

```
public InvalidRecordIDException(String message)
public InvalidRecordIDException()
```

RecordStoreException

A general exception indicating an error with the record store.

```
public RecordStoreException()
public RecordStoreException(String message)
```

RecordStoreFullException

Signals the record store is full. For example, if `RecordStore.addRecord(byte[], int, int)` is called to add a new record, this exception will be thrown if the record store has reached its maximum capacity.

```
public RecordStoreFullException()
public RecordStoreFullException(String message)
```

RecordStoreNotFoundException

Indicates the record store name does not exist. For example, calling `RecordStore.deleteRecordStore(String)` with an invalid record store name will result in this exception being thrown.

```
public RecordStoreNotFoundException()
public RecordStoreNotFoundException(String message)
```

RecordStoreNotOpenException

Used to indicate that the requested record store is not open. For example, if `RecordStore.getNumRecords()` is called prior to opening the record store, this exception will be thrown.

```
public RecordStoreNotOpenException()  
public RecordStoreNotFoundOpen(String message)
```

Catching Exceptions

To keep the examples in this chapter focused on the concepts presented, I've done the absolute minimum to appease the Java compiler when dealing with exceptions. Typical code has simply caught every type of exception and written a message to the console:

```
RecordStore rs;  
    try  
    {  
        rs.closeRecordStore();  
    }  
    catch (Exception e)  
    {  
        db(e.toString());  
    }  
    ...  
private void db(String str)  
{  
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);  
}
```

Many record store methods throw exceptions. Any production application will need to implement a more robust means of dealing with problems as they arise. All exceptions should be caught and handled in an appropriate manner, depending on the type of error. Ideally, the aforementioned code should look a little more like the following:

```
try {  
    rs.closeRecordStore();  
} catch (RecordStoreNotOpenException e) {  
    do something here...  
} catch (RecordStoreException e2) {  
    do something else here...  
} catch (Exception e3) {  
    other error condition...  
}
```

The missing code ("do something here") will be dependent on the error that occurred. For example, if the record store was not open, it may be as simple as calling a method to open the record store and retrying the operation. If the error is more on the esoteric side (as with the `RecordStoreException`), you may need to notify the user and ask how they would like to proceed.

Chapter 12. TODO LIST EXAMPLE: PART I

Topics in this Chapter

- [Using the Todo List](#)
- [Interface Design](#)
- [Data Design](#)
- [Application Logic](#)
- [Source Code](#)

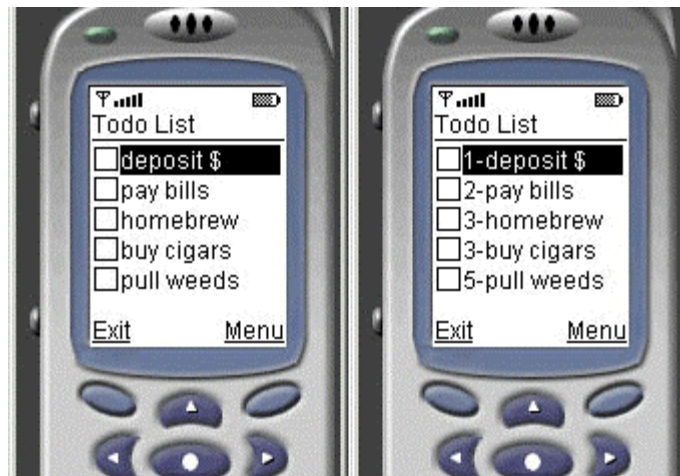
At this point in the book we have covered a great deal of information regarding how to write J2ME MIDlets. Although there are still a few topics to review before we have covered all the MIDP has to offer, it's a good time to write an application that ties together much of what we've learned.

I don't know about you, but I simply cannot live without my todo list. Well, I suppose I could live, it would just be in a fog. Given my paper version follows me everywhere, I thought this would be an ideal MIDlet to have on a mobile device. To be useful, the MIDlet would need to provide the same capabilities as a paper list (viz, adding new items, removing completed items and setting priorities).

Using the Todo List

It's easiest to get a feel for this MIDlet by walking through a few screen shots. [Figure 12-1](#) shows the main todo list. You'll notice you can look at the todo list with or without priorities.

Figure 12-1. Todo list—without and with priorities



Selecting the "Menu" option will bring up the screen shown in [Figure 12-2](#). We can either add a new todo item or view/change the application preferences.

Figure 12-2. Todo menu options



If you choose to add a new item to your todo list, the screen shown in [Figure 12-3](#) will appear. There is just enough detail on the display to make out that this screen consists of a `Form` with a `TextField` and `ChoiceGroup`.

Figure 12-3. Add todo item; Form containing a `TextField` and `ChoiceGroup`



There are a total of five priorities that we can choose from. Anywhere from "Today" to "Someday" (see [Figure 12-4](#)).

Figure 12-4. Priority selection



Heading back to [Figure 12-2](#) and selecting the "Preferences" option from the menu, we will be presented with the screen as shown in [Figure 12-5](#). Here we choose whether or not we would like the items sorted by priority (if not, they appear in the order entered). We can also opt to have priorities listed next to each item.

Figure 12-5. Select application preferences



A couple of thoughts—if you look back at [Figure 12-1](#) (on the right) you'll notice that priorities are shown as integers. However, if you look at [Figure 12-4](#) you'll see that priority selection is done using a text string. I found it much more intuitive to enter priorities by selecting from options that closely match how I think. That is, this must be done today, that can wait until tomorrow, and so forth.

When I write a todo list on paper and pencil I generally list them from most important to least. And no, I don't assign them numbers, but it generally works out to the same as shown here. That is, most important on top, least important at the bottom.

Obviously, due to constraints of the display, we can't show the priority text next to each item; thus, internally we track them as numbers and this is what we display on the list.

Interface Design

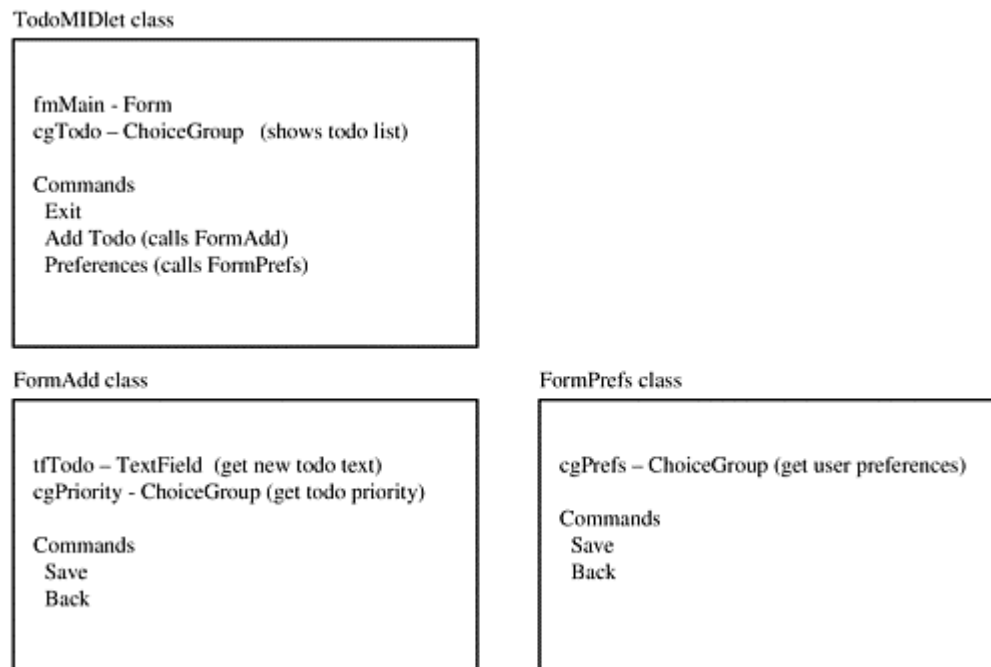
One of the beauties of the MIDP is its simplicity. You can quickly get your hands around the components and have a good sense of just what capability each can offer and how they can work together. After writing only a few MIDlets, chances are you will be able to visualize the components, and it will become almost second nature to lay out simple application designs in your head.

However, that simplicity is a double-edged sword. As your programming projects become more complex, with more sophisticated user interface needs, you'll find yourself clamoring for more robust and comprehensive components.

There are various options to work around the limitations of the component library. First, you can write your own components, building off what is already available through the MID libraries or writing what you need from scratch. Second, as with most any new technology, there are individuals and businesses working feverishly to provide tools and components. I have no doubt in the near future there will be an abundance of software supporting MIDP development. However, to keep the focus on the components addressed within this book, we will use only those found within MIDP.

As I led you to believe just a moment ago, the user interface for this MIDlet is quite simple, with the main user interface consisting of only three forms (see [Figure 12-6](#)).

Figure 12-6. Todo List GUI interface design



Main Form

The focal point of interaction for the MIDlet is `fmMain`. [Figure 12-1](#) shows this `Form` along with the corresponding `ChoiceGroup` (the todo list) and `Command` objects (adding and setting preferences).

Add Todo Item From

When adding a new todo item, `FormAdd` will be invoked. Within this form we show a `TextField` for getting the todo item text and a `ChoiceGroup` for selecting the todo item priority. There are also two `Commands` —one to save the new item and one to return to the main form with no change (see [Figure 12-3](#)).

Update Preferences Form

When we choose to update the application preferences, `FormPrefs` will be presented. This form consists of a `ChoiceGroup` for selecting sort order and deciding whether or not to show priorities on the todo list. As with `FormAdd`, there is one `Command` to save the preferences and another to return to the main form with no change (see [Figure 12-5](#)).

Data Design

From the GUI design point of view this MIDlet is quite straightforward. However, don't let this fool you into thinking the code itself is trivial. It's not rocket science either, but there is a fair amount code to maintain the internal data structures, manage the record store and handle events, all while trying to conserve and re-use resources as much as possible.

As with most any programming project there is no one preferred way to design and implement the application. I chose a design that would not only solve the problem at hand but provide flexibility for future changes and enhancements. Here is what I came up with.

Record Stores

There are two record stores, one to hold todo items and another to store application preferences.

```
private RecordStore rsTodo;
private RecordStore rsPref;
private static final String REC_STORE_TODO = "TodoList";
private static final String REC_STORE_PREF = "TodoPrefs";
```

`rsTodo` stores individual records for a todo item. There may be any number of records in this store (including zero). Each todo item has not only the text (for example, "buy gas") it also has a priority ("Today," "Tomorrow," etc.). We store the priority as an integer and the text as a `String`. Each record has the following internal format:

`rsTodo` Record

Integer	String
Priority	Todo Text

Remember, each record is actually written to the record store as an array of bytes. The aforementioned display is just an abstraction that we use at the application level. When the user enters a priority (as an integer) and the todo text (as a `String`), we will actually convert these into an array of bytes prior to writing to the record store.

`rsPrefs` hold the user preferences regarding sorting and whether or not to show priorities on the todo list. This record store will always have just one record. The record will look as follows:

`rsPrefs` Record

Boolean	Boolean
Sort by priority	Show priorities

These two "fields" are populated from variables maintained with the current user preferences.

```
private boolean flagSortByPriority = false, // Sort by priority?
               flagShowPriority = true;    // Show priorities ?
```

While on the subject of record stores, let's look at how we sort todo items. If you recall when learning about the RMS, there is a `RecordEnumeration` class for looping through the record store. When you define an enumeration, you can also make a reference to a `RecordComparator` class to specify the sort order of records returned by the enumeration.

That sounds a little better than it actually is. We still need to write the sorting algorithm, however, the enumeration will feed us records in the order provided by our sorting code. This is very handy—we decide what it means to sort a record (e.g., by comparing the priority "fields" in the record) and the enumeration does the rest. We'll see the class that implements the sorting code in the next section.

Classes

There are six classes that go into creating our todo MIDlet. We can actually learn a great deal about the application design simply by looking over the class declarations. Following is a brief description of each class.

TodoMIDlet

This is the main class for the MIDlet.

```
public class TodoMIDlet extends MIDlet
    implements ItemStateListener, CommandListener
```

From the declaration it's obvious that this class can handle `Command` events as well as listen for events from an `Item`. For the latter, this is a `ChoiceGroup` that represents the list of todo items. When a user selects an entry on their todo list, the method `itemStateChanged()` will be called. Within this method we will write the code to remove the selected item.

TodoItem

Each todo item, including its text, priority and associated record id in the record store (more on this field in a minute), are stored in an instance of `TodoItem` class.

```
public class TodoItem
{
    private int priority;
    private String text;
```

```

    private int recordId;
    ...
}

```

To keep track of multiple items I choose to use a vector—a simple data structure that can hold any type of object. A vector (`java.util.Vector`) is nothing more than an array. One benefit of a vector is that all the code for manipulating the individual elements is handled for you, to name a few: adding, deleting, retrieving and even resizing to accommodate more elements.

In a moment, we'll talk about how the vector, record store and the `ChoiceGroup` holding the todo items are kept synchronized during the lifetime of the application.

FormAdd

This form is for adding a new todo item to the list. We extend the `Form` class and implement the `CommandListener` interface.

```
public class FormAdd extends Form implements CommandListener
```

If for nothing else, a good reason to subclass `Form` is so we can encapsulate the event handling. This class will have its own `commandAction()` method to process events, those events that are triggered by interacting with the commands on this form only. This simple idea carried throughout your application can greatly simplify event handling code in the main midlet.

If we defined this form within the main `MIDlet` (without subclassing), the `commandAction()` method would need to decipher what `Displayable` (which `Form`, `List`, `TextBox`, etc.) generated the event and then further break that down into which command was invoked. It's not that the code would be difficult to write. It's just that we can break the application into smaller, more manageable chunks. Each chunk is self-sufficient in that it provides its own handling of data and deals with only the events it is interested in.

FormPrefs

This form follows the same logic as the previous. Extend the `Form` class and provide event handling specific to this form.

```
public class FormPrefs extends Form implements CommandListener
```

ComparatorInt

When creating an enumeration to loop through records in the RMS, we can define a comparator class to assist with sorting. This class provides a method that is called by the enumeration to sort records.

```
public class ComparatorInt implements RecordComparator
{
    ...
    public int compare(byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)
    {
        // compare the priority of each record
        ...
    }
}

```

```
}
```

The method `compare()` is passed two byte arrays. Each array holds the contents of a record from the record store. This method is where we write our application logic for sorting. It is our responsibility to understand the format of the data in each array and provide an algorithm that can determine which record precedes the other.

DisplayManager

In [Chapter 10](#) we created the class `DisplayManager` to help manage `Displayable` objects (`Form`, `TextBox`, `Canvas`, etc.) as we move about through our application. This class has methods to push and pop objects using a stack. The idea is that, we can create as many `Displayable` objects as we need and call them one after another, always pushing the current `Displayable` onto the stack. When we want to work our way back out, all we need to do is to pop them, one by one, off the stack.

```
public class DisplayManager extends Stack
```

Data Flow

When this MIDlet is running, a `ChoiceGroup` displays the various todo items. When inactive the todo list remains intact in persistent storage. I mentioned previously that each todo item is stored in an instance of `TodoItem`.

```
public class TodoItem
{
    private int priority;
    private String text;
    private int recordId;
    ...
}
```

I also pointed out that we store these items in a vector. Wouldn't it be easier to read the items from the record store and write them directly to the choicegroup? Why do we need to keep each item in the RMS, a vector and also in a choicegroup? There are several reasons; let's look at the most obvious.

Mapping between RMS, Vector and ChoiceGroup

We need a means to map each record in the record store with an entry in the choicegroup. For example, if a user chooses to delete a todo item, it's a simple matter to remove the entry from the choicegroup. However, removing the correct entry from the record store may prove to be more challenging.

The RMS maintains a record id for each record in the store. The first record is 1, the next is 2, and so forth. However, record ids are NOT reused! For example, if you have records with the ids 1, 2 and 3, and you proceed to delete record id 2, the next record inserted will have record id 4. Thus, your new record ids are 1, 3 and 4.

This makes it challenging when trying to figure out which entry in the record store corresponds to which entry in the choicegroup. It is not as simple as "if I delete the choicegroup item 5, I can delete record id number 5." That would be nice.

Here is what we'll do instead. We will have a vector that holds a `TodoItem` for each entry in the record store. At application startup, we'll create the vector from the records in the store. In addition to reading the text and priority from each record, we'll also keep a reference to the record id inside the `TodoItem`. Once the vector is complete, we create the choicegroup from the entries in the vector.

When a choicegroup element (todo item) is deleted, there is a one-to-one mapping into the vector. With this mapping we can get the corresponding `TodoItem` (object) from the vector. We can now look up the record id that we stored previously, and remove it from the record store. We will then rebuild the vector from the record store and re-build the choicegroup from the vector. This process assures us that the record store, vector and choicegroup are all in sync.

There's an additional benefit to using a vector to hold an instance of `TodoItem` for each element on the todo list—we can easily add fields to provide for additional functionality. For example, we could store a category and due date for each item by simply updating the `TodoItem` class:

```
public class TodoItem
{
    private int priority;
    private String text;
    private int recordId;
    private String category;
    private Date dueDate;
    ...
}
```

Streams

When reading and writing to the record store the preferred approach is through a stream. Given the record store will more than likely be accessed many times while the MIDlet is running, it makes sense to allocate our input and output streams only once.

```
//-----
// Re-use these input streams throughout the MIDlet
//-----
// Read from a specified byte array
private ByteArrayInputStream istrmBytes = null;
// Read Java data types from the above byte array
private DataInputStream istrmDataType = null;
// If you change length of a todo entry, bump this
byte[] recData = new byte[25];

//-----
// Re-use these output streams throughout the MIDlet
//-----
// Write data into an internal byte array
ByteArrayOutputStream ostrmBytes = null;
// Write Java data types into the above byte array
DataOutputStream ostrmDataType = null;
```

We can reuse these streams throughout the application, as long as we reset them prior to each use, which is as simple as shown here:

```
istrmBytes.reset();
```



```
ostrmBytes.reset();
```

Application Logic

In my world the fun part is writing code. All the GUI and data design stuff is for the birds, or at least I wish it was. I have to do my best to hold back from jumping in and just cranking out the code. However, experience has taught me well. If the design is properly thought through upfront, you run into fewer bricks walls and thereby end up re-writing less code. (For some reason, re-writing code lacks the appeal of writing it correctly the first time.) With that in mind, let's think through the flow of this application.

Startup

We begin inside the `TodoMIDlet` constructor, creating the main form, choicegroup and event handling commands. We also open the record store, read the user preferences from the same and initialize the input and output streams.

As the final steps, we construct the vector of todo items from the record store and create the todo list by building a choicegroup from the vector. When requested by the application manager, we display the main form:

```
public void startApp ()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}
```

Add Items

When a user chooses to add a new todo item by selecting "Add Todo" (see [Figure 12-2](#)) the following method is called.

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    ...
    // Push current displayable onto stack
    displayMgr.pushDisplayable(display.getCurrent());

    if (c == cmAdd)
    {
        // Reset the textfield and choicegroup
        // on the 'add todo' form
        fmAdd.txfTodo.setString("");
        fmAdd.chgPriority.setSelectedIndex(0, true);

        // Show 'add todo' form
        display.setCurrent(fmAdd);
    }
    ...
}
```

Here we store a reference to the current `Form` (`Displayable`) that is currently shown on the mobile device display. We do this by pushing the current `Displayable` onto the display manager stack. We also initialize the `TextBox` and `ChoiceGroup` for the todo item text and priority, respectively. The last step is to set the current `Displayable` to the `Form` (`fmAdd`) for adding a todo item.

`fmAdd` manages its own event handling; that is, it has a `commandAction()` method. It looks as follows:

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmSave)
    {
        midlet.addTodoItem(cgPriority.getSelectedIndex() +
                           1, tfTodo.getString());
    }

    // Any other event and we go back to the main form...
    // Pop the last displayable off the stack
    midlet.displayMgr.popDisplayable();
}
```

If the user requests to save the current todo item (see [Figure 12-3](#)), we call a method inside the main MIDlet to add the item to the vector, RMS and the choicegroup. Otherwise we simply pop the last displayable off the stack to return to the main form.

Delete Items

When the user would like to delete a todo element they select the element in the todo list (choicegroup; see [Figure 12-1](#)). Call to mind how we detect events with objects that are subclasses of `Item` (`ChoiceGroup`, `DataField`, `TextField`, etc.). This is done using an `itemStateListener`, which calls the method `itemStateChanged()` when an event occurs:

```
public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    ...
    // Determine which it was selected
    ...
    // Get the todo Item at that location
    TodoItem todoitem = (TodoItem) vecTodo.elementAt(i);
    ...
    // Delete from rms
    rsTodo.deleteRecord(todoitem.getRecordId());
    ...
    // Delete from vector
    vecTodo.removeElementAt(i);
    ...
    // Read rms into vector
    writeRMS2Vector();
    // Rebuild todo list
    rebuildTodoList();
}
```

We determine which item the user selected and proceed to delete the record from the record store and the vector. Once this is done, we rebuild the todo list (choicegroup).

Change Preferences

When presenting the form for changing user preferences (`FormPrefs.java`) it would be nice to display the current application settings (see [Figure 12-5](#)). We can accomplish this, inside `ToDoMIDlet` class, by creating an array of booleans and populating with the current values of the preference variables:

```
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    ...
    // Push current displayable onto stack
    displayMgr.pushDisplayable(display.getCurrent());

    ...
    else if (c == cmPrefs)
    {
        boolean flags[] = {flagSortByPriority, flagShowPriority};

        // Show preferences form passing in current
        // preference settings
        display.setCurrent(new formPrefs("Preferences",this,flags));
    }
    ...
}
```

We pass the array (`flags`) to the constructor when creating the form to display user preferences. Within the constructor we create a new choicegroup and set the status of the choice group entries using the array.

```
public FormPrefs(String title, todoMIDlet midlet,
                 boolean flags[])
{
    ...
    // Choicegroup for sort order and showing priority
    cgPrefs = new ChoiceGroup("Preferences", Choice.MULTIPLE);
    cgPrefs.append("Sort by Priority", null);
    cgPrefs.append("Show Priority", null);

    // Set the current status of each entry
    cgPrefs.setSelectedFlags(flags);

    ...
}
```

That's it. We're ready to write the code.

Source Code

Example 12.1 TodoMIDlet.java

```
/*-----
| TodoMIDlet.java
|
| The main class for todo list MIDlet
*-----*/
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;

public class TodoMIDlet extends MIDlet implements ItemStateListener,
                                           CommandListener
{
    private Display display;          // Our display
    private Form fmMain;              // Main Form
    private FormAdd fmAdd;            // Form to add todo item
    private Command cmAdd,            // Command to add todo
                cmPrefs,              // Command to set preferences
                cmExit;               // Command to exit
    private Vector vecTodo;           // The "master" list of todo items
    private ChoiceGroup cgTodo;       // Todo items (read from vecTodo)
    protected DisplayManager displayMgr; // Class to help manage screens

    //-----
    // Record Stores. One for todo, one for preferences
    //-----
    private RecordStore rsTodo;
    private RecordStore rsPref;
    private static final String REC_STORE_TODO = "TodoList";
    private static final String REC_STORE_PREF = "TodoPrefs";
    private boolean flagSortByPriority = false; // Sort by priority?
                flagShowPriority = true;      // Show priorities ?

    //-----
    // Re-use these input streams throughout the MIDlet
    //-----
    // Read from a specified byte array
    private ByteArrayInputStream istrmBytes = null;
    // Read Java data types from the above byte array
    private DataInputStream istrmDataType = null;
    // If you change length of a todo entry, bump this
    byte[] recData = new byte[25];

    //-----
    // Re-use these output streams throughout the MIDlet
    //-----
    // Write data into an internal byte array
    private ByteArrayOutputStream ostrmBytes = null;
    // Write Java data types into the above byte array
    private DataOutputStream ostrmDataType = null;

    //-----
    // Record Enumerator and compare class
```

```

//-----
private RecordEnumeration enum = null;
private ComparatorInt comp = null;

/*-----
 * MIDlet constructor.
 *-----*/
public TodoMIDlet()
{
    display = Display.getDisplay(this);
    // Create 'main' and 'add todo item' forms
    // Form for setting prefs is in commandAction()
    fmMain = new Form("Todo List");
    fmAdd = new FormAdd("Add Todo", this);

    // Todo list and vector
    cgTodo = new ChoiceGroup("", Choice.MULTIPLE);
    vecTodo = new Vector();

    // Commands
    cmAdd = new Command("Add Todo", Command.SCREEN, 2);
    cmPrefs = new Command("Preferences", Command.SCREEN, 3);
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

    // Add all to form and listen for events
    fmMain.addCommand(cmAdd);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmPrefs);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
    fmMain.append(cgTodo);
    fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
    fmMain.setItemStateListener(this);

    // Create a display manager object
    displayMgr = new DisplayManager(display, fmMain);

    // Open/create the record stores
    rsTodo = openRecStore(REC_STORE_TODO);
    rsPref = openRecStore(REC_STORE_PREF);

    // Initialize the streams
    initInputStreams();
    initOutputStreams();

    // Read preferences from rms
    refreshPreferences();

    // Initialize the enumeration for todo rms
    initEnumeration();

    // Read rms into vector
    writeRMS2Vector();
    // Build the todo list (choice group)
    rebuildTodoList();
}

/*-----
 * Show the main Form

```

```

*-----*/
public void startApp ()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

/*-----
* Shutting down. Cleanup all we created
*-----*/
public void destroyApp (boolean unconditional)
{
    // Cleanup for enumerator
    if (comp != null)
        comp.compareIntClose();
    if (enum != null)
        enum.destroy();

    // Cleanup streams
    try
    {
        if (istrmDataType != null)
            istrmDataType.close();
        if (istrmBytes != null)
            istrmBytes.close();
        if (ostrmDataType != null)
            ostrmDataType.close();
        if (ostrmBytes != null)
            ostrmBytes.close();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
    // Cleanup rms
    closeRecStore(rmsTodo);
    closeRecStore(rmsPref);
}

/*-----
* No pause code necessary
*-----*/
public void pauseApp ()
{ }

/*-----
* Open input streams
*-----*/
private void initInputStreams()
{
    istrmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(recData);
    istrmDataType = new DataInputStream(istrmBytes);
}

/*-----
* Open output streams
*-----*/
private void initOutputStreams()

```

```

{
    ostrmBytes = new ByteArrayOutputStream();
    ostrmDataType = new DataOutputStream(ostrmBytes);
}

/*-----
 * Initialize enumeration for todo rms
 *-----*/
private void initEnumeration()
{
    // Are we to bother with sorting?
    if (flagSortByPriority)
        comp = new ComparatorInt();
    else
        // We must set this to null to clear out
        // any previous setting
        comp = null;
    try
    {
        enum = rsTodo.enumerateRecords(null, comp, false);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
 * Open a record store
 *-----*/
private RecordStore openRecStore(String name)
{
    try
    {
        // Open the Record Store, creating it if necessary
        return RecordStore.openRecordStore(name, true);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
        return null;
    }
}

/*-----
 * Close a record store
 *-----*/
private void closeRecStore(RecordStore rs)
{
    try
    {
        rs.closeRecordStore();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

```

```

}

/*-----
* Delete a record store
*-----*/
private void deleteRecStore(String name)
{
    try
    {
        RecordStore.deleteRecordStore(name);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Write new todo item
*   - Write a new record into the rms
*   - Write a new item into the vector
*   - Recreate the vector from the rms (which will
*       use the proper sort (using rms enumeration)
*   - Rebuild todo list from vector
*-----*/
protected void addTodoItem(int priority, String text)
{
    try
    {
        // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
        // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
        ostrmBytes.reset();

        // Write priority and todo text
        ostrmDataType.writeInt(priority);
        ostrmDataType.writeUTF(text);

        // Clear any buffered data
        ostrmDataType.flush();

        // Get stream data into byte array and write record
        byte[] record = ostrmBytes.toByteArray();
        int recordId = rsTodo.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);

        // Create a new Todo item and insert it into our Vector
        TodoItem item = new TodoItem(priority, text, recordId);
        vecTodo.addElement(item);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }

    // Read rms into vector
    writeRMS2Vector();

    // Rebuild todo list

```



```

    rebuildToDoList();
}

/*-----
* Save preferences to record store
*-----*/
protected void savePreferences(boolean sort, boolean showSort)
{
    // No changes we made
    if (sort == flagSortByPriority && showSort == flagShowPriority)
        return;
    // Save the current sort status
    boolean previouslySorted = flagSortByPriority;
    boolean previouslyShowPriority = flagShowPriority;

    try
    {
        // Update prefs in private variables
        flagSortByPriority = sort;
        flagShowPriority = showSort;

        // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
        // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
        ostrmBytes.reset();

        // Write the sort order and keep completed flags
        ostrmDataType.writeBoolean(flagSortByPriority);
        ostrmDataType.writeBoolean(flagShowPriority);

        // Clear any buffered data
        ostrmDataType.flush();
        // Get stream data into byte array and write record
        byte[] record = ostrmBytes.toByteArray();

        // Always write preferences at first record
        // We cannot request to set the first record unless
        // the record store has contents.
        // If empty => add a record
        // If not    => overwrite the first record
        if (rsPref.getNumRecords() == 0)
            rsPref.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);
        else
            rsPref.setRecord(1, record, 0, record.length);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }

    // If the sort order was changed, rebuild enumeration
    if (previouslySorted != flagSortByPriority)
        initEnumeration();

    // If we are going from non-sorted to sorted
    // or changing whether or not to show priority
    // then we must update what's currently displayed
    if ((!previouslySorted && flagSortByPriority) ||

```

```

        (previouslyShowPriority != flagShowPriority))
    {
        // Read rms into vector
        writeRMS2Vector();

        // Rebuild todo list
        rebuildTodoList();
    }
}

/*-----
* Read preferences from record store
*-----*/
private void refreshPreferences()
{
    try
    {
        // Record store is empty
        if (rsPref.getNumRecords() == 0)
        {
            // Write into the store the default preferences
            savePreferences(flagSortByPriority, flagShowPriority);
            return;
        }

        // Reset input back to the beginning
        istrmBytes.reset();

        // Read configuration data stored in the first record
        rsPref.getRecord(1, recData, 0);
        flagSortByPriority = istrmDataType.readBoolean();
        flagShowPriority = istrmDataType.readBoolean();

        System.out.println("Sort: " + flagSortByPriority);
        System.out.println("Show: " + flagShowPriority);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Create the vector from record store contents
*-----*/
private void writeRMS2Vector()
{
    // Cleanout the vector
    vecTodo.removeAllElements();

    try
    {
        // Rebuild enumeration for any changes
        enum.rebuild();

        while (enum.hasNextElement())
        {

```

```

        // Reset input back to the beginning
        istrmBytes.reset();

        // Get data into the byte array
        int id = enum.nextRecordId();
        rsTodo.getRecord(id, recData, 0);

        // Create a new Todo item and insert it into our Vector
        TodoItem item = new TodoItem(istrmDataType.readInt(),
                                     istrmDataType.readUTF(), id);
        vecTodo.addElement(item);
    }
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    db(e.toString());
}
}

/*-----
 * Store the current vector contents to the rms
 *-----*/
private void writeVector2RMS()
{
    try
    {
        byte[] record;

        for (int i = 0; i < vecTodo.size(); i++)
        {
            TodoItem item = (TodoItem) vecTodo.elementAt(i);

            int priority = item.getPriority();
            String text = item.getText();

            // Toss any data in the internal array so writes
            // starts at beginning (of the internal array)
            ostrmBytes.reset();

            // Write priority and todo text
            ostrmDataType.writeInt(priority);
            ostrmDataType.writeUTF(text);
            // Clear any buffered data
            ostrmDataType.flush();

            // Get stream data into byte array and write record
            record = ostrmBytes.toByteArray();
            rsTodo.addRecord(record, 0, record.length);
        }
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db(e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----

```

```

* Rebuild todo list (ChoiceGroup) from the Vector
*-----*/
protected void rebuildTodoList()
{
    // Clear out the ChoiceGroup.
    for (int i = cgTodo.size(); i > 0; i--)
        cgTodo.delete(i - 1);

    TodoItem item;
    int priority;
    String text;
    StringBuffer sb;

    for (int i = 0; i < vecTodo.size(); i++)
    {
        // Get a todo item from vector
        item = (TodoItem) vecTodo.elementAt(i);

        // Read values from todoitem class
        priority = item.getPriority();
        text = item.getText();

        // Are we are to show priority as part of the text?
        sb = new StringBuffer((flagShowPriority ?
                               (Integer.toString(priority) + "-"): ""));

        sb.append(text);
        // Append to todo choicegroup
        cgTodo.append(sb.toString(), null);
    }
}

/*-----
* This method is called when a todo item has been
* selected in the choicegroup. We treat this as
* a request to delete the item
*-----*/
public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    ChoiceGroup cg;

    // Cast the item to a ChoiceGroup type
    cg = (ChoiceGroup) item;

    // Create an array that mirrors the ChoiceGroup
    // and populate with those items selected
    boolean selected[] = new boolean[cg.size()];
    cg.getSelectedFlags(selected);

    // Unfortunately, there is no (easy) way to determine
    // which item in the choiceGroup was "clicked" to
    // initiate this event. The best we can do is look at
    // each entry and determine its current selection state

    // For each element, see if it is selected
    // If so, delete it. Once we have found a selected
    // item, we can exit - there will never be more than
    // one item selected at any time

```

```

for (int i = 0; i < cg.size(); i++)
{
    if (selected[i])
    {
        // Get the record id from the todoItem
        // and delete record from rms
        TodoItem todoitem = (TodoItem) vecTodo.elementAt(i);
        try
        {
            rsTodo.deleteRecord(todoitem.getRecordId());
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            db(e.toString());
        }
        break;
    }
}

// Read rms into vector
writeRMS2Vector();

// Rebuild todo list
rebuildTodoList();
}

/*-----
* Process events for the main form
*-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else
    {
        if (c == cmAdd)
        {
            // Reset the textfield and choicegroup
            // on the 'add todo' form
            fmAdd.tfTodo.setString("");
            fmAdd.cgPriority.setSelectedIndex(0, true);

            // Push current displayable and activate 'add todo' form
            displayMgr.pushDisplayable(fmAdd);
        }
        else if (c == cmPrefs)
        {
            boolean flags[] = {flagSortByPriority, flagShowPriority};
            // Push current displayable and show preferences form
            // passing in current preference settings
            displayMgr.pushDisplayable(new FormPrefs("Preferences",
                                                    this, flags));
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }

    /*-----
    * Simple message to console for debug/errors
    *-----*/
    private void db(String str)
    {
        System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
    }
}

```

Example 12.2 ComparatorInt.java

```

/*-----
| ComparatorInt.java
|
| Sorts rms records based on todo item priority
| Provides compare() method for RecordEnumerator
|
| Supporting class for todoMIDlet
*-----*/
import java.io.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;

public class ComparatorInt implements RecordComparator
{
    private byte[] record = new byte[10];

    // Read from a specified byte array
    private ByteArrayInputStream strmBytes = null;

    // Read Java data types from the above byte array
    private DataInputStream strmDataType = null;
    public void compareIntClose()
    {
        try
        {
            if (strmBytes != null)
                strmBytes.close();
            if (strmDataType != null)
                strmDataType.close();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {}
    }

    public int compare(byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)
    {
        int x1, x2;

        try
        {
            // If either record is larger than our buffer, reallocate
            int maxsize = Math.max(rec1.length, rec2.length);
            if (maxsize > record.length)
                record = new byte[maxsize];

```

```

        // Read record #1
        // We want the priority which is first "field"
        strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec1);
        strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
        x1 = strmDataType.readInt();

        // Read record #2
        strmBytes = new ByteArrayInputStream(rec2);
        strmDataType = new DataInputStream(strmBytes);
        x2 = strmDataType.readInt();

        // Compare record #1 and #2
        if (x1 == x2)
            return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
        else if (x1 < x2)
            return RecordComparator.PRECEDES;
        else
            return RecordComparator.FOLLOWS;
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        return RecordComparator.EQUIVALENT;
    }
}
}

```

Example 12.3 FormAdd.java

```

/*-----
| FormAdd.java
|
| Form for adding new todoitems
|
| Supporting class for TodoMIDlet
|-----*/
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class FormAdd extends Form implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmBack,
                  cmSave;
    protected TextField tfTodo;
    protected ChoiceGroup cgPriority;
    private TodoMIDlet midlet;

    public FormAdd(String title, TodoMIDlet midlet)
    {
        // Call the Form constructor
        super(title);

        // Save reference to MIDlet so we can access
        // the display manager class and rms
        this.midlet = midlet;

        // Commands
    }
}

```

```

cmSave = new Command("Save", Command.SCREEN, 1);
cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 2);
// Create textfield for entering todo items
tfTodo = new TextField("Todo", null, 15, TextField.ANY);

// Create choicegroup and append options (no images)
cgPriority = new ChoiceGroup("Priority", Choice.EXCLUSIVE);
cgPriority.append("Today", null);
cgPriority.append("Tomorrow", null);
cgPriority.append("This Week", null);
cgPriority.append("This Month", null);
cgPriority.append("Someday", null);

// Add stuff to form and listen for events
addCommand(cmSave);
addCommand(cmBack);
append(tfTodo);
append(cgPriority);
setCommandListener(this);
}

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmSave)
    {
        // Add a new todo item
        // Notice we bump priority by 1. This is because the
        // choicegroup entries start at zero. We would like
        // the records in the rms to store priorities starting
        // at 1. Thus, if a user requests to display priorities
        // on the todo list, the highest priority is 1 (not zero)
        midlet.addTodoItem(cgPriority.getSelectedIndex() + 1,
                           tfTodo.getString());
    }

    // Any other event and we go back to the main form...
    // Pop the last displayable off the stack
    midlet.displayMgr.popDisplayable();
}
}

```

Example 12.4 FormPrefs.java

```

/*-----
| FormPrefs.java
|
| Form for specifying user preferences
|
| Supporting class for TodoMIDlet
|-----*/
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class FormPrefs extends Form implements CommandListener
{
    private Command cmBack,
                  cmSave;

```



```

private TodoMIDlet midlet;
private ChoiceGroup cgPrefs;

public FormPrefs(String title, TodoMIDlet midlet, boolean flags[])
{
    // Call the Form constructor
    super(title);

    // Save reference to MIDlet so we can access
    // the display manager class and rms
    this.midlet = midlet;

    // Commands
    cmSave = new Command("Save", Command.SCREEN, 1);
    cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 2);

    // Choicegroup for sort order and showing priority
    cgPrefs = new ChoiceGroup("Preferences", Choice.MULTIPLE);
    cgPrefs.append("Sort by Priority", null);
    cgPrefs.append("Show Priority", null);

    // Set the current status of each entry
    cgPrefs.setSelectedFlags(flags);

    // Add to form and listen for events
    append(cgPrefs);
    addCommand(cmBack);
    addCommand(cmSave);
    setCommandListener(this);
}
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmSave)
    {
        // Save the preferences
        midlet.savePreferences(cgPrefs.isSelected(0),
                               cgPrefs.isSelected(1));
    }
    // Any other event and we go back to the main form...
    // Pop the last displayable off the stack
    midlet.displayMgr.popDisplayable();
}
}

```

Example 12.5 TodoItem.java

```

/*-----
| TodoItem.java
|
| Holds data/methods for a single todo item
| Supporting class for TodoMIDlet
|-----*/
public class TodoItem
{
    private int priority;
    private String text;

```

```

private int recordId;

public TodoItem(int priority, String text, int recordId)
{
    this.priority = priority;
    this.text = text;
    this.recordId = recordId;
}

public int getPriority()
{
    return priority;
}
public void setPriority(int priority)
{
    this.priority = priority;
}
public String getText()
{
    return text;
}

public void setText(String text)
{
    this.text = text;
}

public int getRecordId()
{
    return recordId;
}
}

```

Example 12.6 DisplayManager.java

```

/*-----
 * Use a stack to push and pop displayable objects
 *
 * public void pushDisplayable(Displayable)
 * public void popDisplayable()
 * public void home()
 *-----*/

import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import java.util.*;

public class DisplayManager extends Stack
{
    private Display display;          // Reference to Display object
    private Displayable mainDisplayable; // Main displayable
    private Alert alStackError;      // Alert for error conditions

    /*-----
     * Display manager constructor
     *-----*/
    public DisplayManager(Display display,

```

```

        Displayable mainDisplayable)
{
    // Only one display object per midlet, this is it
    this.display = display;
    this.mainDisplayable = mainDisplayable;

    // Create an alert displayed when an error occurs
    alStackError = new Alert("Displayable Stack Error");
    alStackError.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER); // Modal
}

/*-----
 * Push the current displayable onto stack and set
 * the passed in displayable as active
 *-----*/
public void pushDisplayable(Displayable newDisplayable)
{
    push(display.getCurrent());
    display.setCurrent(newDisplayable);
}

/*-----
 * Return to the main displayable object of MIDlet
 *-----*/
public void home()
{
    while (elementCount > 1)
        pop();
    display.setCurrent(mainDisplayable);
}

/*-----
 * Pop displayable from stack and set as active
 *-----*/
public void popDisplayable()
{
    // If the stack is not empty, pop next displayable
    if (empty() == false)
        display.setCurrent((Displayable) pop());
    else
        // On error show an alert
        // Once acknowledged, set 'mainDisplayable' as active
        display.setCurrent(alStackError, mainDisplayable);
}
}

```

Chapter 13. SCHEDULING TASKS

Topics in this Chapter

- [Timer](#)
- [TimerTask](#)
- [Example: Timer Template](#)
- [Example: Todo MIDlet Part II—Delay Timer](#)
- [Example: Animation with Timer/TimerTask](#)

Java version 1.3 added two classes—`Timer` and `TimerTask`—to facilitate running of tasks in a background thread. Included as part of the `Timer` are an abundance of scheduling options, ranging from running a task once to repeating a task at regular intervals. It is surprisingly easy to use these classes. The only trick is to get your hands around the scheduling methods, deciding which is appropriate for your application.

The general concept is quite straightforward. We have a timer and a task. The timer specifies when a task is to be executed and the task is what is to be done. For example, we may have timer that "goes off" every second. The task updates a clock.

The classes `Timer` and `TimerTask` work hand-in-hand. One cannot exist without the other. If we toss out all the fluff, it comes down to the following:

Timer class: Scheduling when a task will occur

TimerTask class: Performing a task

Timer

There are six scheduling methods available in the `Timer` class. This may seem a little excessive, but each has a clearly defined purpose and once we walk through the specifics, you'll understand why there is such an abundance of options.

Scheduling One-Time Tasks

Let's start with two very simple ways to schedule a task:

1. Execute a task after a specific number of milliseconds

```
public void schedule (TimerTask task, long delay)
```

2. Execute a task at a specific date

```
public void schedule (TimerTask task, Date time)
```

Each of these timers executes a task just once. For the first case, this might be used as a countdown timer. For example, if you want to be notified 20 minutes from the current time (e.g., when your brownies need to come out of the oven), this timer would work just fine. However, if you need to be notified at a specific time in the future, such as this Thursday at 1 p.m., you would opt for the second case.

Scheduling Repeating Tasks

There are four remaining methods; each is a different variation for scheduling repeating tasks. We have two general types:

1. **Fixed-delay:** Each execution of a task is based solely on how long it was since the previous task finished.

Let's say we create a timer that is to run a task every 60 seconds. In a perfect world, the task will run, as requested, every minute. Here's the downfall: If the timer is delayed, the execution of the task will also be delayed. For example, if the Java garbage collector happens to run in between tasks, it may be more than 60 seconds before the next task is executed. Once the task is run, it will be another 60 seconds (at a minimum) before an additional task can occur. This ends up creating a cascading effect.

You can imagine that if such a timer were used to execute a task updating a clock, the accuracy of the clock would be suspect. The longer the clock runs, the more inaccurate it may become.

These timers are well-suited to tasks where consistency is more important than accuracy. During a game when moving images around on the screen, we would be more concerned with the smoothness of the image movement than the actual time at which one task (move) finished and another task (move) started.

2. **Fixed-rate:** Each execution of a task is based on when the first task started and the requested delay between tasks.

Let's create the same timer as earlier, one that is to execute a task every 60 seconds. If more than one minute goes by before the system can execute the task, there will be repeated calls to the task to "catch up" for any lost time.

These timers are best when accuracy is very important. For example, if a task needs to occur every hour on the hour, this type of scheduling would be preferred.

You choose either fixed-rate or fixed-delay to establish how repeated tasks are managed. What has not been addressed is when does the first task occur, for either fixed-rate or fixed-delay.

A reasonable guess, based on the options we have for one-time tasks, is that the first task is executed either at a specific time in the future or after a specific number of milliseconds have elapsed. This is exactly right.

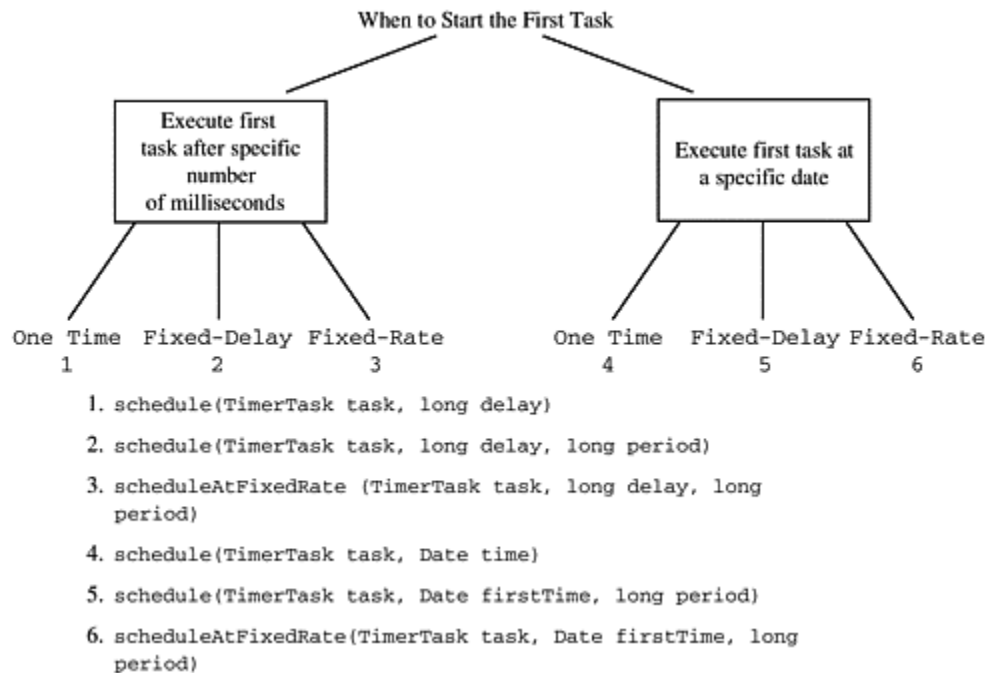
Here's a quick summary of the logic behind each of the remaining four methods for scheduling tasks:

1. Fixed-delay that starts in "n" number of milliseconds
2. Fixed-delay that starts at a specific date

3. Fixed-rate that starts in "n" number of milliseconds
4. Fixed-rate that starts at a specific date

If all this seems a little fuzzy, refer to [Figure 13-1](#). I have created a hierarchy of sorts to help decide which scheduling method is most suitable. Start at the top of the chart and head either left or right based on when you would like the first task to be executed. From there, choose whether it is a onetime, fixed-delay or fixed-rate task(s).

Figure 13-1. Six options for scheduling tasks



If we choose a repeating schedule (2, 3, 5 or 6), the time *between* repeated tasks is always specified in milliseconds, which is represented by the variable `period` shown above.

Timer API

Table 13.1. Timer Class: `java.util.Timer`

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructors	
Timer()	Create timer
Methods	
<code>void cancel()</code>	Ends the timer and any scheduled tasks
<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, long delay)</code>	Schedule a task to occur after a delay
<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, long delay, long period)</code>	Schedule a fixed-delay repeating task that starts after a delay
<code>void scheduleAtFixedRate(TimerTask task, long delay, long period)</code>	Schedule a fixed-rate repeating task that starts after a delay
<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, Date time)</code>	Schedule a task to occur on specific date

<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, Date firstTime, long period)</code>	Schedule a fixed-delay repeating task that starts on specific date
<code>void scheduleAtFixedRate(TimerTask task, Date firstTime, long period)</code>	Schedule fixed-rate repeating task that starts on specific date

TimerTask

Now that we know how to schedule a task, let's take a closer look inside a task. Observe that each of the scheduling methods has as the first parameter a reference to a `TimerTask` object. The `TimerTask` class has just three methods, not including the constructor:

```
abstract void run()
public boolean cancel()
public long scheduledExecutionTime()
```

The `run()` method is abstract, meaning there is no body to this method inside the `TimerTask` class. This is where we write the code that actually carries out whatever it is this task is to provide. Here is a glimpse at the `TimerTask` class as it is defined in MID:

```
public abstract class TimerTask implements Runnable
{
    ...
    public abstract void run();
    ...
}
```

To create a task that will be called by a timer, extend `TimerTask` and write the body of code for the `run()` method.

Putting the Pieces Together

There are three steps to make all this work.

1. Create a `Timer` with the appropriate scheduling option
2. Create a class that extends `TimerTask`
3. Write the `run()` method inside the above class

Here's a block of code that creates a `Timer` that will execute a task after 1,000 milliseconds has elapsed.

```
// Allocate a timer
Timer tm = new Timer();

// Allocate a task
_TODO tt = new _TODO();

// Schedule the timer to execute in 1000 milliseconds
tm.schedule(tt, 1000);
```

```
...
private class TodoTask extends TimerTask
{
    public final void run()
    {
        do something.....
    }
}
```

TimerTask API

Table 13.2. TimerTask Class: java.util.TimerTask	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructors	
TimerTask()	Create timer task
Methods	
boolean cancel()	End the task
abstract void run()	Place code in this method to carry out the action of the task
long scheduledExecutionTime()	Time when the last run task was scheduled to occur

Example: Timer Template

[Example 13.1](#) is about as humdrum a MIDlet as you'll ever write. However, it provides a helpful template that shows how simple it is to create a timer and the associated task, regardless of which scheduling option you need.

The logic is simple: Create a timer using one of the six scheduling methods and print a message on a form when the task is run. That's it.

Example 13.1 TimerTemplate.java

```
/*-----
| TimerTemplate.java
|
| Test all six Timer scheduling options
*-----*/
import java.util.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class TimerTemplate extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;      // Our display
    private Form fmMain;          // Main form
    private Command cmExit;       // Exit midlet
    private Command cmStop;       // Stop the timer
    private Timer tm;             // Timer
```



```

private TestTimerTask tt;        // Task
private int count = 0;          // How many times has task run

public TimerTemplate()
{
    display = Display.getDisplay(this);
    // Create main form
    fmMain = new Form("Timer Test");
    fmMain.append("waiting...\n");

    // Create commands and add to form
    cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
    cmStop = new Command("Stop", Command.STOP, 2);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
    fmMain.addCommand(cmStop);
    fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

    //-----
    // Option #1 - One time task with delayed start
    // Create a timer that will go off in 5 seconds
    //-----
    tm = new Timer();
    tt = new TestTimerTask();
    tm.schedule(tt, 5000);

    //-----
    // Option #2 - Fixed-delay repeating task with delayed start
    // Create a timer that will go off in 5 seconds
    // Repeating every 3 seconds
    //-----
    // tm = new Timer();
    // tt = new TestTimerTask();
    // tm.schedule(tt, 5000, 3000);

    //-----
    // Option #3 - Fixed-rate repeating task with delayed start
    // Create a timer that will go off in 5 seconds
    // Repeating every 3 seconds
    //-----
    // tm = new Timer();
    // tt = new TestTimerTask();
    // tm.scheduleAtFixedRate(tt, 5000, 3000);

    //-----
    // Option #4 - One time task at specified date
    // Create timer that starts at current date
    //-----
    // tm = new Timer();
    // tt = new TestTimerTask();
    // tm.schedule(tt, new Date());

    //-----
    // Option #5 - Fixed-delay repeating task starting
    // at a specified date
    // Create timer that starts at current date
    // Repeating every 3 seconds
    //-----

```

```

//      tm = new Timer();
//      tt = new TestTimerTask();
//      tm.schedule(tt, new Date(), 3000);

//-----
// Option #6 - Fixed-rate repeating task starting
//              at a specified date
// Create timer that starts at current date
// Repeating every 3 seconds
//-----
//      tm = new Timer();
//      tt = new TestTimerTask();
//      tm.scheduleAtFixedRate(tt, new Date(), 3000);
}

/*-----
* Show the main Form
*-----*/
public void startApp ()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

/*-----
* Shutting down. Cleanup all we created
*-----*/
public void destroyApp (boolean unconditional)
{ }

/*-----
* No pause code necessary
*-----*/
public void pauseApp ()
{ }

/*-----
* Process events for the main form
*-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmStop)
    {
        tm.cancel();
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}
}

/*-----
* TestTimerTask Class - Run the task
*-----*/
private class TestTimerTask extends TimerTask
{
    public final void run()

```

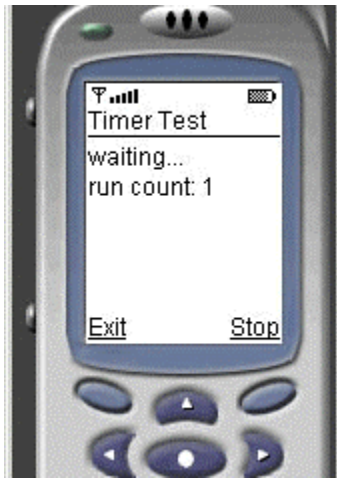
```

{
    fmMain.append("run count: " + ++count + "\n");
}
}
}

```

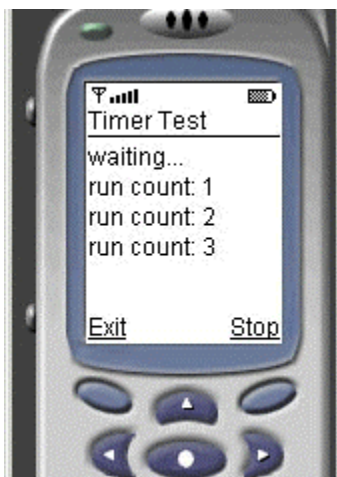
To test all six scheduling options you will need to add comment delimiters (//) to one block and remove them from another, compile, pre-verify and re-run. [Figure 13-2](#) shows the output for a one-time task that was started after a 5-second delay (Option #1 from the code).

Figure 13-2. One-time task started with a delay



Unless something unusual occurs, or you have an amazing eye for accuracy, you won't notice a difference when running a fixed-rate versus a fixed-delay repeated task. This is fine, as it is not the intention. Instead, you now have a starting point for writing any type of scheduled timer and task. [Figure 13-3](#) shows the output this MIDlet with a repeating task.

Figure 13-3. Repeating task



Example: Todo List MIDlet Part II—Delay Timer

In [Chapter 12](#) we created a todo list MIDlet that gave us options to add, delete and sort items. If you took the time to compile and run the MIDlet you noticed when you deleted an item, it immediately disappeared from the list. There was no delay or warning, it was just gone. It leaves you with a "what the heck just happened?" kind of feeling.

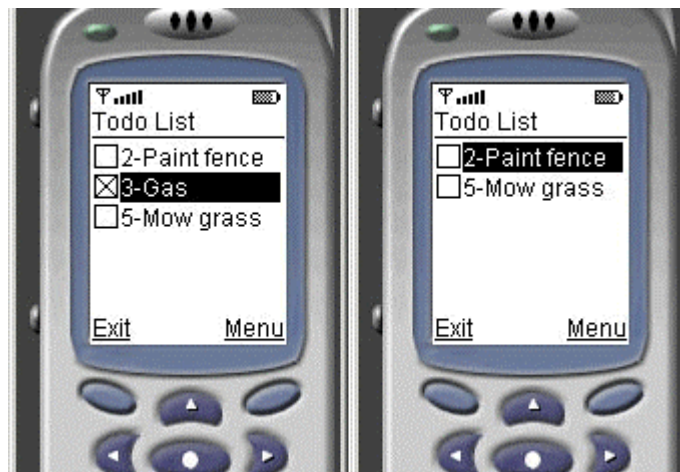
To provide a little more reassurance when removing items, this example will add a few seconds of delay before updating the display. [Figure 13-4](#) shows the todo list prior to deleting an item.

Figure 13-4. Todo list before removing an item



On the left screen shot in [Figure 13-5](#) is the screen that appears during the timer delay. Notice the check ("X") by the item that was selected (to be deleted). The reason we can see this "X" has to do with how we apply the timer.

Figure 13-5. Item to delete is selected (on left) and the new list (on right)



When a user selects an item to delete, the method `itemStateChanged()` is called. In the first version of the todo MIDlet ([Chapter 12](#)) this is where we deleted the item from the choicegroup. We

then re-built the choicegroup without the item before the list was re-displayed. Therefore, the "X" never had a chance to be seen.

For this version the method `itemStateChanged()` has been modified to keep a reference to the item that initiated the event and to start a timer; we do not delete anything at this point.

```
public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    // Save the item
    // We use this in run() of the timer task
    deletedItem = item;

    // Create a timer that will go off in 2000 milliseconds
    tm = new Timer();
    tt = new TodoTask();
    tm.schedule(tt, 2000);
}
```

While waiting for the timer to start the task, the item selected in the choicegroup will appear as checked ("X"). See the screen-shot on the left in [Figure 13-5](#). When the timer starts the task it will call the `run()` method in the `TodoTask` class. Here the item will be deleted from the record store. We'll then proceed to re-build the vector from the record store and re-build the choicegroup (todo list) from the vector. See [Chapter 12](#) for specifics about the data design of the MIDlet.

```
public final void run()
{
    ...
    // ChoiceGroup selected values
    cg.getSelectedFlags(selected);
    for (int i = 0; i < cg.size(); i++)
    {
        // If we found the entry that was selected
        if (selected[i])
        {
            ...
            TodoItem todoItem = (TodoItem) vecTodo.elementAt(i);
            // Delete from the record store
            rsTodo.deleteRecord(todoItem.getRecordId());
        }
    }
    // Read rms into vector
    writeRMS2Vector();

    // Rebuild todo list
    rebuildTodoList();
}
```

The new todo list appears on the right of [Figure 13-5](#). The pause that was added gives a nice effect. The item to delete appears on the display as checked ("X"), then shortly thereafter (approximately 2 seconds) it is removed.

Example 13.2 TodoMIDet.java

Note: I have not included the entire source code. Follow the steps below to update the todo MIDlet written in [Chapter 12](#).

1) Add to the declarations section

```
private Timer tm;
private TodoTask tt;
private Item deletedItem;
```

2) New itemStateChanged() method

```
public void itemStateChanged(Item item)
{
    // Save the item
    // We use this in run() of the timer task
    deletedItem = item;

    // Create a timer that will go off in 2000 milliseconds
    tm = new Timer();
    tt = new TodoTask();
    tm.schedule(tt, 2000);
}
```

3) Add the following class **inside** the TodoMIDlet class

```
/*-----
 * TodoTask Class - Run the task
 *-----*/
private class TodoTask extends TimerTask
{
    public final void run()
    {
        ChoiceGroup cg;

        // Cast the deleted Item to a ChoiceGroup type
        // See itemStateChanged()
        cg = (ChoiceGroup) deletedItem;

        // Create an array that mirrors the ChoiceGroup
        // and populate with those items selected
        boolean selected[] = new boolean[cg.size()];
        cg.getSelectedFlags(selected);

        // Unfortunately, there is no (easy) way to determine
        // which item in the choiceGroup was "clicked" to
        // initiate this event. The best we can do is look at
        // each entry and determine its current selection state

        // For each element, see if it is selected
        // If so, delete it. Once we have found a selected
        // item, we can exit - there will never be more than
        // one item selected at any time
        for (int i = 0; i < cg.size(); i++)
        {
            if (selected[i])
            {
                // Get the record id from the todoItem
                // and delete record from rms
                TodoItem todoitem = (TodoItem) vecTodo.elementAt(i);
```

```

        try
        {
            rsTodo.deleteRecord(todoitem.getRecordId());
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            db(e.toString());
        }
        break;
    }
}
// Read rms into vector
writeRMS2Vector();

// Rebuild todo list
rebuildTodoList();
}

```

Example: Animation with Timer/TimerTask

There are two general classifications of timers: those that execute a task one time and those that generate repeating tasks. [Example 13.3](#) will schedule a timer to call a repeating task to move a ball around on a `Canvas`.

Whenever the timer interval has elapsed the task will change the position of the ball. Once the ball reaches an edge (top, bottom, left or right), it will bounce off in a different direction. To make it obvious when this occurs, the ball color will also be changed.

The following game actions (see [Chapter 9](#)) will be available to change the animation:

- Right will increase the size of the ball.
- Left will decrease the size of the ball.
- Fire resets the animation, clearing the background and changing the ball direction. The ball size will not be changed. This allows a user to restart and see how varying the ball size changes the animation.

Once the ball has changed directions "n" number of times (the default is 50), the screen will be cleared and the animation restarted. This gives a screen saver effect, which is nice if you leave it running on the device.

Each time the MIDlet is run (or re-started), a new trajectory (ball direction) will be randomly generated. Without this, the program would always display the same pattern.

Example 13.3 Animation.java

```

/*-----
 * Animation.java
 *
 * Demonstrate simple animation using
 * a Timer and TimerTask

```

```

/*-----*/
import java.util.*;
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;

public class Animation extends MIDlet
{
    private Display display;           // The display
    private AnimationCanvas canvas;    // Canvas
    private Timer tm;                  // Timer
    private AnimateTimerTask tt;       // Task

    public Animation()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);
        canvas = new AnimationCanvas(this);

        // Create and task that fires off every 1/10 second
        tm = new Timer();
        tt = new AnimateTimerTask(canvas);
        tm.schedule(tt, 0, 100);
    }

    protected void startApp()
    {
        display.setCurrent(canvas);
    }

    protected void pauseApp()
    { }

    protected void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
    { }

    public void exitMIDlet()
    {
        destroyApp(true);

        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

/*-----*/
* AnimationCanvas.java
*
* Show a ball that bounces around on a canvas
* Each time we hit a wall we change the ball color
* We also clear the screen after 'n' number of
* hits against the wall
* The "left" and "right" keys change the ball size
* The "Fire" key resets the display, however,
* it leaves the ball size the same.
/*-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import java.util.*;

```



```

class AnimationCanvas extends Canvas implements CommandListener
{
    private Animation midlet;           // Main midlet
    private Command cmExit;             // Exit midlet
    private int    keyFire,             // Reset ball
                keyRight,              // Increase ball radius
                keyLeft;               // Decrease ball radius
    private boolean clearBackground = false; // Clear background
    private Random random;              // Random number
    int x_loc,                          // Current x & y locations
        y_loc,
        radius,                        // Ball radius
        red,                          // rgb colors
        green,
        blue,
        x_dir,                        // Next x & y positions of ball
        y_dir,
        start_x,                      // Where ball starts
        start_y,
        directionChanged = 0; // How many times we've hit a wall
    private static final int MAX_CHANGES = 50;
    /*-----
    * Constructor
    *-----*/
    public AnimationCanvas(Animation midlet)
    {
        // Save reference to main midlet
        this.midlet = midlet;

        random = new java.util.Random();

        // Determine starting location and direction of ball
        init();
        radius = 7;

        // Create exit command and "Fire" key
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

        keyFire =  getKeyCode(FIRE);
        keyRight = getKeyCode(RIGHT);
        keyLeft  = getKeyCode(LEFT);

        addCommand(cmExit);
        setCommandListener(this);
    }

    /*-----
    * Paint a new ball, clearing the screen is asked
    *-----*/
    protected void paint(Graphics g)
    {
        // Max edge hits, reset everything
        if (directionChanged > MAX_CHANGES)
            init();

        // Clear the background
        if (clearBackground)

```

```

    {
        g.setColor(255, 255, 255);
        g.fillRect(0, 0, getWidth(), getHeight());
        clearBackground = !clearBackground;
    }
    // Set color and draw another ball
    g.setColor(red, green, blue);
    g.fillArc( x_loc, y_loc, radius, radius, 0, 360);
}
/*-----
 * Initialize starting location and direction of ball
 *-----*/
private void init()
{
    // Start close to the middle
    x_loc = getWidth() / 2;
    y_loc = getHeight() / 2;

    // The direction the ball is heading
    x_dir = (random.nextInt() % 10);
    if (x_dir == 0) x_dir = 1;

    y_dir = (random.nextInt() % 10);
    if (y_dir == 0) y_dir = 1;

    directionChanged = 0;
    clearBackground = true;
    changeColor();
}

/*-----
 * Change the colors.
 * I am counting on the implementation to substitute
 * a use-able color if any of these are out of the
 * devices supported range
 *-----*/
protected void changeColor()
{
    // The shift is to remove any sign (negative) bit
    red = (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % 256;
    green = (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % 256;
    blue = (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % 256;
}

/*-----
 * Event handling
 *-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
        midlet.exitMIDlet();
}

/*-----
 * Reset ball is "Fire" key is pressed
 *-----*/
protected void keyPressed(int keyCode)

```

```

    {
        // Restart
        if (keyCode == keyFire)
            init();
        // Decrease ball size
        else if (keyCode == keyLeft)
            radius = Math.max(1, --radius);
        else if (keyCode == keyRight)
            // Increase ball size
            radius = Math.min(getWidth() / 4, ++radius);
    }
}

/*-----
* AnimateTimerTask.java
*
* Change the location of bouncing ball
* on the canvas
*-----*/
import java.util.*;

class AnimateTimerTask extends TimerTask
{
    private AnimationCanvas canvas;

    public AnimateTimerTask(AnimationCanvas canvas)
    {
        this.canvas = canvas;
    }
    /*-----
    * Determine next location of the ball.
    * If the ball reaches any edge, change the color
    * Track how many times we've switced directions
    *-----*/
    public final void run()
    {
        // If past the right edge or prior to left edge...
        if ((canvas.x_loc + canvas.radius + canvas.x_dir >
            canvas.getWidth()) ||
            (canvas.x_loc - canvas.radius + canvas.x_dir < 0))
        {
            canvas.x_dir = -canvas.x_dir;
            canvas.changeColor();
            canvas.directionChanged++;
        }

        // If past the bottom or before the top...
        if ((canvas.y_loc + canvas.radius + canvas.y_dir >
            canvas.getHeight()) ||
            (canvas.y_loc - canvas.radius + canvas.y_dir < 0))
        {
            canvas.y_dir = -canvas.y_dir;
            canvas.changeColor();
            canvas.directionChanged++;
        }

        // Update the new x and y locations

```

```

        canvas.x_loc += canvas.x_dir;
        canvas.y_loc += canvas.y_dir;

        canvas.repaint();

    }
}

```

It should be no surprise that the majority of the code for this MIDlet is in the canvas and the task. The MIDlet itself does little more than create the canvas, timer and task. Here is the bulk of the code:

```

//Constructor for the MIDlet
public Animation()
{
    display = Display.getDisplay(this);
    canvas = new AnimationCanvas(this);
    // Create and task that fires off every 1/10 second
    tm = new Timer();
    tt = new AnimateTimerTask(canvas);
    tm.schedule(tt, 0, 100);
}

```

Before we look at how to move the ball, let's see what occurs each time a task is run. Inside the `run()` method of the class `AnimateTimerTask` we determine the next location of the ball. Before we can update the location, we need to see if the ball is about to hit an edge. This is done by adding the current location of the ball with the ball radius to see if any edge boundaries have been crossed.

```

// If past the right edge or prior to left edge...
if ((canvas.x_loc + canvas.radius + canvas.x_dir >
    canvas.getWidth()) ||
    (canvas.x_loc - canvas.radius + canvas.x_dir < 0))
{
    canvas.x_dir = -canvas.x_dir;
    canvas.changeColor();
    canvas.directionChanged++;
}

// If past the bottom or before the top...
if ((canvas.y_loc + canvas.radius + canvas.y_dir >
    canvas.getHeight()) ||
    (canvas.y_loc - canvas.radius + canvas.y_dir < 0))
{
    canvas.y_dir = -canvas.y_dir;
    canvas.changeColor();
    canvas.directionChanged++;
}

```

If any of these conditions are met, flip directions, request a change in the ball color and bump the counter of how many edges have been hit. Before leaving, set the new x and y locations of the ball and request the display to be repainted.

```

// Update the new x and y locations
canvas.x_loc += canvas.x_dir;
canvas.y_loc += canvas.y_dir;
canvas.repaint();

```

You can see that moving the ball is nothing more than adding an offset to the current x and y locations. For example, given a current `x_loc` of 10 and a current `y_loc` of 15, if `x_dir` is 3 and `y_dir` is 5, then:

new value of `x_loc` $10 + 3 = 13$

new value of `y_loc` $15 + 5 = 20$

The only time this gets a little weird is when you switch directions and are dealing with negative values for `x_dir` and `y_dir`. However, don't let that confuse you—the math and the logic are still the same.

The canvas class is the real workhorse. It is responsible for all event handling and painting of the display. We've seen most of the code before. However, there are a few lines worth mentioning.

Inside the `init()` method we get both the starting x and y location of the ball, and determine the ball direction.

```
private void init()
{
    // Start close to the middle
    x_loc = getWidth() / 2;
    y_loc = getHeight() / 2;

    // The direction the ball is heading
    x_dir = (random.nextInt() % 10);
    if (x_dir == 0) x_dir = 1;

    y_dir = (random.nextInt() % 10);
    if (y_dir == 0) y_dir = 1;

    directionChanged = 0;
    clearBackground = true;
    changeColor();
}
```

The statement `(random.nextInt() % 10)` generates a random value for the x and y direction. The mod operator (%) gives the remainder after dividing the random number by 10. This gives a final value in the range of -9 to +9. A value too large (or too small) will result in trying to draw the ball outside the boundaries of the display.

Following is the method to change the ball color.

```
protected void changeColor()
{
    // The shift is to remove any sign (negative) bit
    red = (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % 256;
    green = (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % 256;
    blue = (random.nextInt() >>> 1) % 256;
}
```

Color Support

To get the most bang for the buck this MIDlet needs to be run in color. If you are using Sun's MIDP implementation, you can change the color support of the emulator as outlined in the section "Create MIDP-HOME Environment Variable" in [Chapter 4](#).

Once again, we use a random number and the mod operator. This gives a number in the range of -255 to 255. The `>>>` operator is a convenient (and fast) way to remove the sign bit. It does a right shift, moving a zero into the leftmost bit. The end result are color values between 0 and 255.

Figures [13-6](#) and [13-7](#) show several animation sequences created by this MIDlet.

Figure 13-6. Animation MIDlet

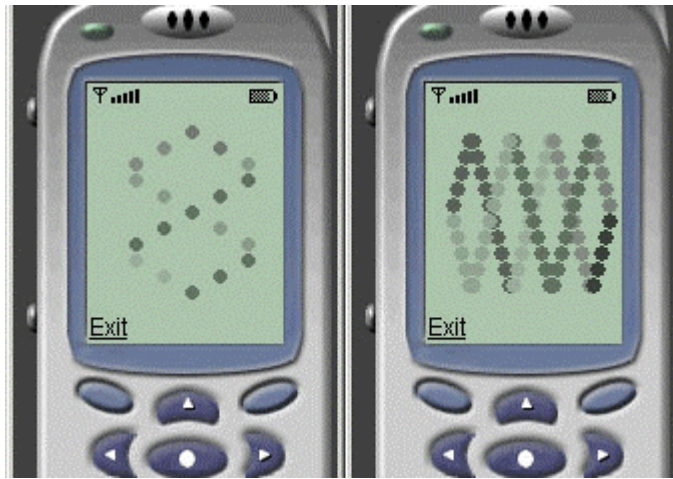


Figure 13-7. Animation MIDlet



Chapter 14. GENERIC CONNECTION FRAMEWORK

Topics in this Chapter

- [Connection Hierarchy](#)
- [HTTP Connection](#)
 - [Creating a Connection](#)
 - [Client Request](#)
 - [Server Response](#)
 - [Connection Information](#)
 - [Session Management with Java Servlets](#)

Weighing in at nearly 200 kilobytes, the 100+ classes and interfaces in J2SE java.io and java.net will exceed the resources available on many mobile devices. Beyond memory considerations, mobile devices will span the gamut in support for network protocols and file systems. To provide an extensible framework for i/o and networking, the GCF was developed.

The goal was not to devise a completely new set of classes, but rather to provide a subset of J2SE that is more in tune with the limitations and variations likely to be found on devices implementing MIDP.

Connection Hierarchy

The basic idea is to have one class, the `Connector`, that can create any type of connection, file, http, datagram, and so forth. The `open` method has the following form:

```
Connector.Open("protocol:address;parameters");
```

For example,

```
Connector.Open("http://www.some_web_address.com");  
Connector.Open("socket://someaddress:1234");
```

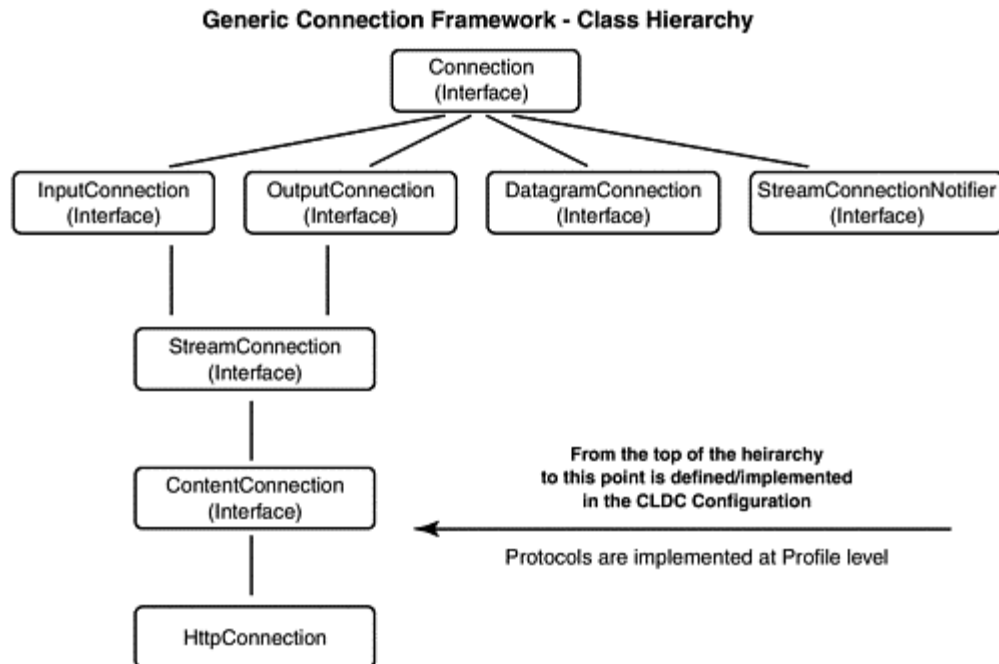
```
Connector.Open("file://testdata.txt");
```

How the protocols are resolved is where the flexibility of the GCF comes into play. At runtime, `Connector` looks for the appropriate class that implements the requested protocol. This is done using `Class.forName()`. A request to open a HTTP connection in J2ME (using Sun's implementation) may look as follows:

```
Class.forName("com.sun.midp.io.j2me.http.Protocol");
```

If a class is found, an object is returned that implements a `Connection` interface. The `Connector` class and `Connection` interfaces are defined in CLDC. [Figure 14-1](#) shows the classes that make up the `Connection` hierarchy, where each class is defined as an interface.

Figure 14-1. Connection hierarchy



The actual implementation of the protocol(s) is at the Profile level. For example, in MIDP 1.0 the class `HttpConnection` supports a subset of HTTP version 1.1. ^[1] In [Figure 14-1](#), notice `HttpConnection` extends `ContentConnection` and in turn provides over 20 methods for working specifically with HTTP.

^[1] Implementations of MIDP 1.0 are required to provide support for HTTP. Implementations may choose to offer other protocols.

Although `DatagramConnection` is included in the hierarchy, an implementation of MIDP is not required to support this protocol. We'll focus on HTTP, as it is the only requirement of MIDP.

Locating the Protocol Source Code

If you are using Sun's implementation of MIDP you can follow the path specified in the call

```
Class.forName("com.sun.midp.io.j2me.http.Protocol")
```

Here you will find the source code for the implementation of the HTTP protocol. As an example, on my system the full path translates to:

```
c:\j2me\midp1.0.3fcs\src\share\classes\com\sun\midp\io\
j2me\http\protocol.java
```

Before moving on, let's have a closer look at the definitions of the classes and methods in the GCF. Hopefully this will provide some insight as you work through the examples that follow.

```
Connection    (public abstract interface Connection)
    public void close()
```



```

    InputConnection (public abstract interface InputConnection extends
Connection)
        public InputStream openInputStream()
        public DataInputStream openDataInputStream()

    OutputConnection (public abstract interface OutputConnection extends
Connection)
        public OutputStream openOutputStream()
        public DataOutputStream openDataOutputStream()

    StreamConnection (public abstract interface StreamConnection
extends
InputConnection,OutputConnection)

        ContentConnection (public abstract interface
ContentConnection extends Stream
                                Connection)
            public long getLength()
            public String getEncoding()
            public String getType()

        HttpConnection (public interface HttpConnection
extends ContentConnection)
            20+ methods for communicating over HTTP

Connector (public class Connector)
    public static Connection open(String name)
    public static Connection open(String name, int mode)
    public static Connection open(String name, int mode, boolean
timeouts)
    public static DataInputStream openDataInputStream(String name)
    public static DataOutputStream openDataOutputStream(String name)
    public static InputStream openInputStream(String name)
    public static OutputStream openOutputStream(String name)

```

HTTP Connection

In MIDP 1.0 the only protocol that is guaranteed to be implemented is http. ^[2] Through the class `HttpConnection` you can communicate with a web server or any remote device that supports HTTP.

^[2] If a device does not directly support HTTP, there will need to be a gateway that converts the device protocol to HTTP prior to communicating with a remote server.

Portability

The only `Connection` interface that is required in MIDP 1.0 is `HttpConnection`. If portability is a concern, use only this interface. Implementations may support other protocols, such as datagrams or sockets, but there is no guarantee these will be available on other devices running MIDP 1.0.

HTTP is known as a request/response protocol. A client initiates a request, sends it to a server with an address specified as a Uniform Resource Locator (URL), and a response is returned from the server. This is how a web browser and web server work together. You type in the URL (e.g., www.corej2me.com) and then the web browser creates a package of information (more on this in a moment), sends the request out over the network, receives information from a web server and displays the result in the browser.

Hypertext Transfer Protocol

The implementation of HTTP in MIDP 1.0 is based on version 1.1. The HTTP specification can be downloaded from:

<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt>

The specification for URLs can be found at:

<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1738.txt>

Creating a Connection

The `Connector` class has seven methods to create a connection with a server (see [Table 14.1](#)). There are three variations of the `open()` method. The first requires only the address of the server. The second method accepts a mode for reading/writing (see [Table 14.2](#)). The third option includes a boolean flag that indicates if the caller of the method can manage timeout exceptions. The remaining methods open various input and output streams.

Here is a call to create a `ContentConnection`. Refer back to [Figure 14-1](#) to see the `Connection` hierarchy.

```
// Create a ContentConnection
String url = "http://www.corej2me.com"
ContentConnection connection =
    (ContentConnection) Connector.open(url);
```

One option to read data over this connection is through an `InputStream`:

```
InputStream iStrm = connection.openInputStream();

// ContentConnection includes a length method!
int length = (int) connection.getLength();
if (length > 0)
{
    byte imageData[] = new byte[length];

    // Read the data into an array
    iStrm.read(imageData);
}
```

Table 14.1. CLDC Connector Methods: `javax.microedition.io.Connector`

<i>Method (each declared static)</i>	<i>Description</i>
--------------------------------------	--------------------

static Connection open (String name)	Create connection in READ_WRITE mode (see Table 14.2)
static Connection open (String name, int mode)	Create connection with specified mode
static Connection open (String name, int mode, boolean timeouts)	Create connection with specified mode, handling timeouts exceptions
static InputStream openInputStream (String name)	Create connection input stream
static OutputStream openOutputStream (String name)	Create connection output stream
static DataInputStream openDataInputStream (String name)	Create connection data input stream
static DataOutputStream openDataOutputStream (String name)	Create connection data output stream
Table 14.2. CLDC Connector Modes: javax.microedition.io.Connector	
<i>Mode</i>	<i>Description</i>
READ	Open connection for read only
WRITE	Open connection for write only
READ_WRITE	Open Connection for read and write

The code creates a connection with a server by specifying a URL, opens an `InputStream` and reads data from the remote server into an array. For this example, there is no need to send or receive HTTP commands.

For the sake of argument, let's create an `InputStream` connection and bypass `ContentConnection` altogether. As you'll see, the obvious loss with this approach is no method to determine the length of the data:

```
// Create an InputStream connection
String url = "http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_v1e1/ch14/duke.png"
InputStream iStrm = (InputStream) Connector.openInputStream(url);
try
{
    byte imageData[] = new byte[2500];

    // Read the data into an array
    int length = iStrm.read(imageData);
}
```

When we get to the first example, we'll see how to use a `ByteArrayOutputStream` to take the guesswork out of determining how large an array to allocate if the length is not known.

Although you may find yourself opening many types of connections (the aforementioned are just a sample), the heart and soul of this chapter is devoted to `HttpConnection`. Here's how we may open such a connection:

```
String url = "http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_v1e1/ch14/duke.png"
HttpConnection http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
```

Once open, this connection offers access to various streams (`InputStream`, `DataInputStream`, to name a few). However, as we'll see, the advantage to using this connection lies with the HTTP commands at our disposal.

The key point to hold onto is this: Regardless of the type of connection, whether it be `ContentConnection`, `HttpConnection` or otherwise, communication with a server always begins with a call to one of the seven methods in the `Connector` class, [Table 14.1](#).

Example: Download and View PNG Image

[Example 14.1](#) will download and display a PNG image. There is no need for any specific HTTP functionality; therefore, we'll open a `ContentConnection`, create an `InputStream` and download the image data directly into an array.

We begin by creating a `TextBox` to enter the URL where the image is located. This is accompanied by two `Commands`, one to exit and one to view the image (see [Figure 14-2](#)).

Figure 14-2. TextBox to enter a URL of PNG image

Pressing "View" will initiate the connection to the URL. Once connected, the image data is downloaded into an array and a new `Image` object is created and appended to a `Form`. The `Form` is then set as the current `Displayable` (see [Figure 14-3](#)). Once "Back" is chosen from the `Form`, the user is returned to the `TextBox`.

Figure 14-3. PNG image downloaded over a network connection

Example 14.1 ViewPng.java

```
/*-----
 * ViewPng.java
 *
 * Download and view a png file
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.io.*;
import java.io.*;

public class ViewPng extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;
    private TextBox tbMain;
    private Form fmViewPng;
    private Command cmExit;
    private Command cmView;
    private Command cmBack;

    public ViewPng()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create the Main textbox with a maximum of 75 characters
        tbMain = new TextBox("Enter url",
```

```

        "http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_v1e1/ch14/duke.png",75,0);

// Create commands and add to textbox
cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
cmView = new Command("View", Command.SCREEN, 2);
tbMain.addCommand(cmExit);
tbMain.addCommand(cmView );

// Set up a listener for textbox
tbMain.setCommandListener(this);

// Create the form that will hold the png image
fmViewPng = new Form("");

// Create commands and add to form
cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 1);
fmViewPng.addCommand(cmBack);

// Set up a listener for form
fmViewPng.setCommandListener(this);
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(tbMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

/*-----
* Process events
*-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    // If the Command button pressed was "Exit"
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmView)
    {

        // Download image and place on the form
        try
        {
            Image im;
            if ((im = getImage(tbMain.getString())) != null)
            {
                ImageItem ii = new ImageItem(null, im,
                    ImageItem.LAYOUT_DEFAULT, null);

                // If there is already an image, set (replace) it

```

```

        if (fmViewPng.size() != 0)
            fmViewPng.set(0, ii);
        else // Append the image to the empty form
            fmViewPng.append(ii);
    }
    else
        fmViewPng.append("Unsuccessful download.");

    // Display the form with the image
    display.setCurrent(fmViewPng);
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
}
}
else if (c == cmBack) {
    display.setCurrent(tbMain);
}
}

/*-----
* Open connection and download png into a byte array.
*-----*/
private Image getImage(String url) throws IOException
{
    ContentConnection connection =
        (ContentConnection) Connector.open(url);
    InputStream iStrm = connection.openInputStream();
    Image im = null;

    try
    {
        // ContentConnection includes a length method
        byte imageData[];
        int length = (int) connection.getLength();
        if (length != -1)
        {
            imageData = new byte[length];

            // Read the png into an array
            iStrm.read(imageData);
        }
        else // Length not available...
        {
            ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

            int ch;
            while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
                bStrm.write(ch);

            imageData = bStrm.toByteArray();
            bStrm.close();
        }
        // Create the image from the byte array
        im = Image.createImage(imageData, 0, imageData.length);
    }
}

```

```

        finally
        {
            // Clean up
            if (iStrm != null)
                iStrm.close();
            if (connection != null)
                connection.close();
        }

        return (im == null ? null : im);
    }
}

```

Let's spend our time looking over the code to create the connection and download the image data. Here is bulk of `getImage()`:

```

private Image getImage(String url) throws IOException
{
    ContentConnection connection = (ContentConnection) Connector.open(
        url);
    InputStream iStrm = connection.openInputStream();
    Image im = null;

    try
    {
        // ContentConnection includes a length method
        byte imageData[];
        int length = (int) connection.getLength();
        if (length != -1)
        {
            imageData = new byte[length];

            // Read the png into an array
            iStrm.read(imageData);
        }
        else // Length not available...
        {
            ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();
            int ch;
            while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
                bStrm.write(ch);

            imageData = bStrm.toByteArray();
            bStrm.close();
        }

        // Create the image from the byte array
        im = Image.createImage(imageData, 0, imageData.length);
    }
    finally
    {
        // Clean up
        ...
    }
    return (im == null ? null : im);
}

```

```
}
```

Once a `URLConnection` and `InputStream` have been established, we attempt to reference the length of the data. If the length can be determined we read the results into the array `imageData` in one fell swoop:

```
iStrm.read(imageData);
```

If the length is not available, we must read characters one at a time. Fortunately, Java provides a very convenient and efficient means to handle this. Using a `ByteArrayOutputStream` characters are read into an internal byte array, with Java handling any resizing of the array. Once done, we simply transfer the stream contents into our image array.

```
ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();
```

```
int ch;
while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
    bStrm.write(ch);
```

```
imageData = bStrm.toByteArray();
```

Regardless of how the data was transferred into our array, all that's left is to create a new `Image` and close the connection and stream on our way out.

In the method `commandAction()` the image is placed onto a `Form` and displayed.

Note



You cannot always count on knowing the length of the incoming data. Therefore, you should have a block of code that can read the data one character at a time.

Example: Download and View with `InputStream`

To show the flexibility of the `URLConnection` interface, let's change the previous example to download the same data with an `InputStream`. We need to change only a few lines of code in the method `getImage()`. Here is the updated version: ^[3]

^[3] If you have downloaded the example source code, this MIDlet can be found in the same directory as `ViewPng.java`. The filename is `ViewPng2.java`.

```
private Image getImage(String url) throws IOException
{
    InputStream iStrm =
        (InputStream) Connector.openInputStream(url);
    Image im = null;

    try
    {
        ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();
```



```

    int ch;
    while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
        bStrm.write(ch);

    // Place into image array
    byte imageData[] = bStrm.toByteArray();

    // Create the image from the byte array
    im = Image.createImage(imageData, 0, imageData.length);
}
finally
{
    // Clean up
    if (iStrm != null)
        iStrm.close();
}

return (im == null ? null : im);
}

```

One drawback is the absence of a method to determine the length of the incoming data. However, this is not much of a concern, simply use a `ByteArrayOutputStream` to read the data and move the results into the destination array.

Client Request

Up to this point, we have not had a need to send or receive HTTP commands. The objective was simply to create a connection and download a stream of data. It's time to shift gears and learn how to create and manage communication through the `HttpConnection` class.

HTTP is referred to as a request/response protocol: a client requests information, a server sends a response. The most common example is the interaction between a web browser (the client) and a web server. This section and the next will look at the details of the client request and the server response.

Request Method

A client request, known as the request entity, consists of three sections: request method, header and body. There are three request methods^[4] available using `HttpConnection` (see [Table 14.3](#)).

^[4] Don't confuse the use of the word "method" in this context with a method in a Java class. Method as it is used here comes directly from the HTTP 1.1 specification, as in "a client sends a request to the server in the form of a request method."

Table 14.3. Request Method: <code>javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection</code>	
<i>Request</i>	<i>Description</i>
GET	Request information—data sent as part of URL
POST	Request information—data sent in separate stream
HEAD	Request only "metainformation" about a resource

All three request methods inform a server that a client is requesting some type of information. For `GET` and `POST`, what differs is how data from the client is transferred to the server. Both methods, along with `HEAD`, will be explained in a moment.

You specify the request method of an `HttpConnection` through `setRequestMethod()`

```
HttpConnection http = null;
http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);
```

Table 14.4. Client Request Methods: `javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection`

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void setRequestMethod(String method)</code>	Set the request method (GET, POST or HEAD)
<code>void setRequestProperty(String key, String value)</code>	Set a request property (header information)
<code>String getRequestMethod()</code>	Get the current setting of the request method (GET, POST, HEAD)
<code>String getRequestProperty(String key)</code>	Get the current setting of a request property (header value)

Using `GET`, the body (data) of the request becomes part of the URL. This is known as URL encoding. For example, using the analogy of a web browser, assume we have a form with two fields—color and font. The names of the fields on the form, as defined in the HTML code, are `userColor` and `userFont`. When the form has been completed and is ready to be sent, the values entered onto the form will be appended onto the URL. The resulting URL may look similar to the following:

```
http://www.corej2me.com/formscript?userColor=blue&userFont=courier
```

Notice the "?" after the URL. This signifies the end of the URL and start of the form data. All information is sent through "key-value" pairs such as `userColor=blue`, `userFont=courier`.^[5] Multiple key-value pairs are separated with "&".

^[5] If there are spaces in the "value," replace them with "+". For example, "golf clubs" becomes "golf+clubs".

Data submitted using `POST` is sent separately from the call to the URL. Put another way, the request to open a connection to a URL is sent as one stream, any data is sent as a separate stream. There are two major benefits of `POST` over `GET`:

1. `POST` has no limit to the amount of data that can be sent. This is not the case for the request method `GET`. When a server processes a `GET` request, the data from the end of the URL is stored in an environment variable (known as a query string). When sending a large amount of data, you run the risk of overrunning the environment variable.
2. `POST` sends data as a separate stream; therefore, the contents are not visible as part of the URL.^[6]

^[6] `POST` in and of itself is not a secure means to send data. However, data sent as a separate stream is not as easily accessible to prying eyes as including the data as part of the URL.

`HEAD` works in the same manner as `GET`, with the client sending the body as part of the URL. However, the server will not return a body in its response (more on the server response in a moment).

HEAD is generally used for retrieving information about a resource on a server. For example, you may want information about the last modified date of a file; however, it may not be necessary to retrieve the file contents.

Header Information

The second part of a client request is header information. The HTTP protocol defines over 40 header fields. Some of the more common are Accept, Cache-Control, Content-Type, Expires, If-Modified-Since and User-Agent. Headers are set by calling `setRequestProperty()`.

```
HttpConnection http = null;
http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);
http.setRequestProperty("If-Modified-Since",
    "Mon, 16 Jul 2001 22:54:26 GMT");
```

Body

Data to be transferred from the client to the server is referred to as the body of the request. As mentioned, **GET** sends the body as part of the URL. **POST** sends the body in a separate stream.

Server Response

Once a client has packaged together the request method, header and body, and sent it over the network, it is now up to the server to interpret the request and generate a response known as the response entity. As with the client request, a server response consists of three sections: status line, header and body.

Creating the response on the server side is beyond the scope of this discussion. Instead, we will concern ourselves with how to pull information from the server response.

Status Line

The status line indicates the outcome of the client request. For `HttpConnection`, there are over 35 status codes reported. HTTP divides the codes into three broad categories based on the numeric value mapped to the code.

1xx—information

2xx—success

3xx—redirection

4xx—client errors

5xx—server errors

For example, HTTP_OK (status code 200) indicates the client request was successfully processed.

When sending a response, a server includes the protocol version number along with the status code. Here are a few sample status lines:

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
HTTP/1.1 400 Bad Request
HTTP/1.1 500 Internal Server Error
```

When interpreting status codes, you have two options: retrieve the message or the code.

```
http.getResponseMessage();
http.getResponseCode();
```

The first returns only the text portion, such as `OK` or `Bad Request`. The later returns the code, such as `200` or `400`.

Table 14.5. Response Methods: <code>javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection</code>	
Method	Description
<code>int getResponseCode()</code>	Get the response code (numeric)
<code>String getResponseMessage()</code>	Get the response message (text)

Header

Like the client, the server can send information through a header. These key-value pairs can be retrieved in various shapes and forms through the methods in [Table 14.6](#).

Table 14.6. Server Response Methods: <code>javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection</code>	
Method	Description
<code>String getHeaderField(int n)</code>	Get header field value looking up by index
<code>String getHeaderField(String name)</code>	Get header field value looking up by name
<code>long getHeaderFieldDate(String name, long def)</code>	Get named field as a long (representing the date)
<code>int getHeaderFieldInt(String name, int def)</code>	Get named field as an integer
<code>String getHeaderFieldKey(int n)</code>	Get header field key using index
<code>long getDate()</code>	Get header field "date"
<code>long getExpiration()</code>	Get header field "expires"
<code>long getLastModified()</code>	Get header field "last-modified"

As an example, let's assume the server sent a header key-value pair `content-type=text/plain`. As a further assumption, the key-value pair will be the first entry in the header, and with this assumption, it will have an index value of 0. This header informs the client that the body of the response will be returned as plain text (as compared to HTML text, etc.). The following calls all reference the same key-value pair:

```
// Header field at index 0: "content-type=text/plain"
http.getHeaderField(0);           // "text-plain"
http.getHeaderField("content-type"); // "text-plain"
http.getHeaderFieldKey(0);        // "content-type"
```

Custom Header Fields

There are three methods for retrieving specific header fields sent from the server:

`getDate()`, `getExpiration()` and `getLastModified()`. However, with the remaining methods in [Table 14-6](#), you can retrieve any header a server may send, including custom headers, which are not defined in the HTTP specification.

As an example, if a server created a custom header field `Custom-ProductCode`, the value of the header may be obtained as follows:

```
String code = http.getHeaderField("Custom-ProductCode");
```

In [Example 14.4](#) we'll create a custom header in a Java servlet and show how to search for the header inside a MIDlet.

Body

The body is the data sent from the server to the client. There are no methods defined in `HttpConnection` for reading the body. The most common means to obtain the body is through a stream, as shown in the following example.

Example: Download a File

To get a feel for setting up a client request and pulling apart a server response, let's create a MIDlet that requests to read the contents of a file over a network connection. The URL and connection request follow:

```
url = "http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_v1e1/ch14/getHeaderInfo.txt";
HttpConnection http = null;
...
// Create the connection
http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
```

The client request is straightforward:

```
//-----
// Client Request
//-----
// 1) Send request method
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);

// 2) Send header information (this header is optional)
http.setRequestProperty("User-Agent",
                        "Profile/MIDP-1.0 Configuration/CLDC-1.0");

// 3) Send body/data - No data for this request
```

Using a `GET` request method, send one header field and no data.

The server response is a little longer, showing all the header fields (accessed in several ways) and the contents of the requested file.

```
//-----
// Server Response
//-----
```

```

// 1) Get status Line
System.out.println("Msg: " + http.getResponseMessage());
System.out.println("Code: " + http.getResponseCode());

// 2) Get header information
if (http.getResponseCode() == HttpURLConnection.HTTP_OK)
{
    System.out.println("field 0: " + http.getHeaderField(0));
    ...

    System.out.println("key 0: " + http.getHeaderFieldKey(0));
    ...

    System.out.println("content: " +
                        http.getHeaderField("content-type"));
    ...

// 3) Get data (show the file contents)
String str;
iStrm = http.openInputStream();
int length = (int) http.getLength();

if (length != -1)
{
    // Read data in one chunk
    byte serverData[] = new byte[length];
    iStrm.read(serverData);
    str = new String(serverData);
}
else // Length not available...
{
    ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

    // Read data one character at a time
    int ch;
    while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
        bStrm.write(ch);

    str = new String(bStrm.toByteArray());
    bStrm.close();
}

System.out.println("File Contents: " + str);
}

```

Step 3 (above) creates an `InputStream` and reads the body of the server response. The data sent from the server is the contents of the text file requested in the URL:

```
http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_v1e1/ch14/getHeaderInfo.txt"
```

The output is shown in [Figure 14-4](#).

Figure 14-4. Server response from client GET request

Example 14.2 ViewFile.java

```

/*-----
 * ViewFile.java
 *
 * Send client request (method, header, body)
 * Get server response (status, header, body)
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.io.*;
import java.io.*;
public class ViewFile extends MIDlet
{
    private String url =
        "http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_vle1/ch14/getHeaderInfo.txt";

    public void startApp()
    {
        try
        {
            processRequest();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
        }
    }
    private void processRequest() throws IOException
    {
        HttpURLConnection http = null;
        InputStream iStrm = null;

        try
        {
            // Create the connection
            http = (HttpURLConnection) Connector.open(url);

            //-----
            // Client Request
            //-----
            // 1) Send request method
            http.setRequestMethod(HttpURLConnection.GET);

            // 2) Send header information (this header is optional)
            http.setRequestProperty("User-Agent",
                "Profile/MIDP-1.0 Configuration/CLDC-1.0");
            // http.setRequestProperty("If-Modified-Since",
            //     "Mon, 16 Jul 2001 22:54:26 GMT");

            // If you experience IO problems, try
            // removing the comment from the following line
            //http.setRequestProperty("Connection", "close");

            // 3) Send body/data - No data for this request

            //-----
            // Server Response
            //-----
            System.out.println("url: " + url);

```

```

System.out.println("-----");

// 1) Get status Line
System.out.println("Msg: " + http.getResponseMessage());
System.out.println("Code: " + http.getResponseCode());

// 2) Get header information
if (http.getResponseCode() == HttpURLConnection.HTTP_OK)
{
    System.out.println("field 0: " + http.getHeaderField(0));
    System.out.println("field 1: " + http.getHeaderField(1));
    System.out.println("field 2: " + http.getHeaderField(2));
    System.out.println("-----");

    System.out.println("key 0: " + http.getHeaderFieldKey(0));
    System.out.println("key 1 : " + http.getHeaderFieldKey(1));
    System.out.println("key 2: " + http.getHeaderFieldKey(2));
    System.out.println("-----");

    System.out.println("content: " +
        http.getHeaderField("content-type"));
    System.out.println("date: " + http.getHeaderField("date"));
    System.out.println("last-modified: " +
        http.getHeaderField("last-modified"));
    System.out.println("-----");

// 3) Get data (show the file contents)
String str;
iStrm = http.openInputStream();
int length = (int) http.getLength();
if (length != -1)
{
    // Read data in one chunk
    byte serverData[] = new byte[length];
    iStrm.read(serverData);
    str = new String(serverData);
}
else // Length not available...
{
    ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm =
        new ByteArrayOutputStream();

    // Read data one character at a time
    int ch;
    while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
        bStrm.write(ch);

    str = new String(bStrm.toByteArray());
    bStrm.close();
}

System.out.println("File Contents: " + str);

//-----
// Show connection information
//-----
System.out.println("Host: " + http.getHost());
System.out.println("Port: " + http.getPort());

```



```

        System.out.println("Type: " + http.getType());
    }
}
finally
{
    // Clean up
    if (iStrm != null)
        iStrm.close();
    if (http != null)
        http.close();
}
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }
}

```

Example: if-modified-since Header

Let's make one minor change to the previous example. Update the client section to look as follows:

```

//-----
// Client Request
//-----
// 1) Send request method
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);

// 2) Send header information (this header is optional)
http.setRequestProperty("User-Agent",
    "Profile/MIDP-1.0 Configuration/CLDC-1.0");
http.setRequestProperty("If-Modified-Since",
    "Mon, 16 Jul 2001 22:54:26 GMT");

// 3) Send body/data - No data for this request

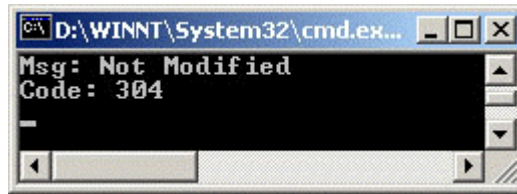
```

When the server receives the header `if-modified-since` ^[7] it compares the date of the resource (on the server) with the date passed in the header. If the resource has not been modified since the requested date, no body is returned. You may find this helpful to keep the server from sending a body that has not changed since the last request.

^[7] Header requests are not case-sensitive. `If-Modified-Since` is equivalent to `if-modified-since`.

[Figure 14-5](#) shows the output of this MIDlet if the server does not return a body.

Figure 14-5. Using "if-modified-since" header



Connection Header

You'll notice several examples in this chapter include the following line:

```
// If you experience IO problems, try
// removing the comment from the following line
// http.setRequestProperty("Connection", "close");
```

When setting this header to "close" it tells the server to close the connection after the response is sent. The reason for this explicit option has to do with the ability of a server to maintain a persistent connection with a client. When making multiple requests to a server, you may experience a performance increase because the connection is reused over multiple requests.

However, if the `Content-Length` header is not used, or has an incorrect value, the client may block waiting for data that will never arrive. If you find you are having problems receiving data, remove the comment to force the server to close the connection once it has completed sending its response. If this fixes the problem, look closely at the `Content-Length` value that you are sending.

Connection Information

Once a connection has been established, there are several methods available to obtain information about the connection. Each is listed in [Table 14.7](#).

Table 14.7. Connection Methods: <code>javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection</code>	
<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>String getFile()</code>	Get filename from the URL
<code>String getHost()</code>	Get host from the URL
<code>int getPort()</code>	Get port from the URL
<code>String getProtocol()</code>	Get protocol from the URL
<code>String getQuery()</code>	Get the query string (only valid with a GET request)
<code>String getRef()</code>	Get the reference portion of URL ^[1]
<code>String getURL()</code>	Get the entire URL

^[1] This is optional. The reference portion is defined in RFC2396.

Looking back at [Example 14.2](#), notice the following lines near the bottom of the method `processRequest()`.

```
System.out.println("Host: " + http.getHost());
```

```
System.out.println("Port: " + http.getPort());
System.out.println("Type: " + http.getType());
```

At the bottom of [Figure 14-4](#) you'll see the results:

```
Host: www.corej2me.com
Post: 80
Type: plain/text
```

As an additional example, look at the code block shown next.

```
url = http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_vle1/ch14/getInfo.txt?color=blue
...
http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);
...
System.out.println("file: " + http.getFile());
System.out.println("protocol: " + http.getProtocol());
System.out.println("URL: " + http.getURL());
System.out.println("query: " + http.getQuery());
```

The output based on the URL specified would look as follows:

```
file:      /midpbook_vle1/ch14/getInfo.txt
protocol: http
URL:
http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_vle1/ch14/getInfo.txt?color=blue
query:     color=blue
```

Java Servlets

Examples [14.3](#), [14.4](#), and [14.5](#) all communicate with a Java servlet. To limit the time you need to spend fussing with a web server that supports servlets, I have found a home for all the servlet code at www.mycgiserver.com. As of this writing, all hosting was not only free of charge, there was no marketing or other pesky advertising placed inside responses from the server. What this means to you is that each example should work "out-of-the-box."

On the other hand, if you have access to a web server that supports Servlets, or would like to learn more about how Servlets work, the source code is included.

One note regarding how the Servlets are invoked from within the following MIDlets. The URL for each example will contain a reference to the package "corej2me":

```
String url = "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.cookieServlet";
String url = "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.getNpostServlet";
String url = "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.url_rewriteServlet";
```

The package name is required by *mycgiserver* to differentiate my servlets from those of others running on the same server. If you would like more information about Servlets, here

are a few helpful links:

Servlet Technology from Sun:

<http://java.sun.com/products/servlet/index.html>

Tomcat is a free, open-source implementation of the Java Servlet specification:

<http://java.sun.com/products/servlet/download.html>

Example: GET and POST to a Java Servlet

Constructing a client request using `GET` and `POST` are different enough to warrant an example using each. The next example will connect with a Java servlet to look up a bank account balance. Obviously, the account number, password and balance are all fictitious; however, this might get your wheels spinning.

Client Request

The main `Form` will hold two `TextFields`, an account number and password (see [Figure 14-6](#)).

Figure 14-6. Enter account information before GET or POST

Once the form has been completed and the user chooses the "Menu" option, there will be a choice as to the request method for sending the data (see [Figure 14-7](#)).

Figure 14-7. Use GET or Post request method to send the data

The receiving end of the client request will be a Java servlet. The account information will be stored in a database, named `acctInfo`, located on the same machine as the servlet. The database, `acctInfo`, will contain three columns (account, password, balance) and is populated with the following information:

account (integer)	password (varchar)	balance (integer)
225	yellow	3070
701	blue	9125
901	green	417830

When using `GET` as the request method, we append the data onto the end of the URL. Here is the code for creating the client request:.

```
// Data is passed at the end of url for GET
String url =
    "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.GetNpostServlet" +
    "?" +
    "account=" + tfAcct.getString() + "&" +
    "password=" + tfPwd.getString();
try
{
```

```

    http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
//-----
// Client Request
//-----
// 1) Send request method
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);
// 2) Send header information - none
// 3) Send body/data - data is at the end of URL
//-----
// Server Response
//-----
iStrm = http.openInputStream();
// Three steps are processed in this method call
ret = processServerResponse(http, iStrm);
}

```

If you pick up nothing else, notice how the URL of the servlet has been modified to accommodate the data. Look carefully: the first character after the servlet address is "? ", which signifies the end of the URL and the start of the data. The data is then passed as key-value pairs, separating each with "&".

"account=12345&password=xyz"

The same request, sent as a POST, looks as follows:

```

// Data is passed as a separate stream for POST (below)
String url =
    "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.GetNpostServlet";

try
{
    http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
    oStrm = http.openOutputStream();

//-----
// Client Request
//-----
// 1) Send request type
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.POST);

// 2) Send header information. Required for POST to work
http.setRequestProperty("Content-Type",
    "application/x-www-form-urlencoded");
// 3) Send data
// Write account number
byte data[] = ("account=" + tfAcct.getString()).getBytes();
oStrm.write(data);

// Write password
data = ("&password=" + tfPwd.getString()).getBytes();
oStrm.write(data);
oStrm.flush();

//-----
// Server Response

```

```
//-----
iStrm = http.openInputStream();
// Three steps are processed in this method call
ret = processServerResponse(http, iStrm);
}
```

The first noticeable difference is the URL; there is no reference to the data. Also, notice the header field

```
http.setRequestProperty("Content-Type",
    "application/x-www-form-urlencoded");
```

When using `POST`, the servlet will fail without this header. A separate `OutputStream` is used to send both the account number and password. Pay attention to the fact that each is sent as a name value pair by separating the key from the value with an `=`; for example, `account=123`. One last important detail, look at the line for sending the password:

```
data = ("&password=" + tfPwd.getString()).getBytes();
```

Even though we are not appending the data onto the URL, multiple key value pairs still need to be separated with `&`. Once all this is complete, it's now up to the servlet to interpret what we've sent and generate a response.

Server Response

Although this section won't give a lengthy tutorial on writing servlets, there will be enough information to clearly understand how a servlet interprets a client request and generates a response.

Writing Servlets

If you would like to compile the servlet code, you will need to download and install the Java Servlet Development Kit (JSDK).

<http://java.sun.com/products/servlet/archive.html>

A servlet will run one of two methods, depending on whether the client request method is `GET` or `POST`.

```
doGet(HttpServletRequest req, HttpServletResponse res)
doPost(HttpServletRequest req, HttpServletResponse res)
```

The parameter `HttpServletRequest` provides access to the client data that initiated the request to the servlet. `HttpServletResponse` is used to package a response for the client.

```
protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req,
    HttpServletResponse res)
    throws ServletException, IOException
{
    String acct = req.getParameter("account"),
    pwd = req.getParameter("password");
```

```

String balance = accountLookup(acct, pwd);

if (balance == null)
{
    res.sendError(res.SC_BAD_REQUEST, "Unable to locate account.");
    return;
}

res.setContentType("text/plain");
PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
out.print(balance);
out.close();
}

```

The first course of action is to look for parameters that may have been sent as part of the client header. These values will be stored in the variables `acct` and `pwd`. These values correspond to the textfields on the client form (see [Figure 14-6](#)). With this information, the servlet can then search the database in an attempt to look up the account balance. If the search fails an error is returned to the client; otherwise, a response containing the balance is created.

```

res.setContentType("text/plain");
PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
out.print(balance);
out.close();

```

The first line above creates a header field specifying the "content-type." This informs the client that the data from the server will be sent as plain text. Next, the servlet obtains a resource to write text to the client. The last steps are to output the balance and close the writer.

The code inside `doPost()` is identical. The reason for not consolidating the code is to illustrate the point that data can be sent using either `GET` or `POST` and processed in the same fashion on the server.

There is one last detail, and that is how the servlet looks up information in the account database.

```

private String accountLookup(String acct, String pwd)
{
    ...
    // These will vary depending on your server/database
    Class.forName("sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver");
    con = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:odbc:acctInfo");

    Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
    ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery("Select balance from acctInfo
        where account = " + acct + "and password = '" + pwd + "'");

    if (rs.next())
        return rs.getString(1);
    else
        return null;
    ...
}

```

Through JDBC, a connection [\[8\]](#) is established with the database. A simple Structured Query Language (SQL) statement will search the database. If the result set is not empty, return the account balance as a `String`.

^[8] The JDBC driver and call to `getConnection()` will vary depending on your server and database.

Updating the Client

Now that the client has sent a request and the server has responded, the MIDlet needs to interpret the server reply and update the display with the account balance.

```
processServerResponse(HttpConnection http, InputStream iStrm)
{
    //Reset error message
    errorMsg = null;

    // 1) Get status Line
    if (http.getResponseCode() == HttpURLConnection.HTTP_OK)
    {
        // 2) Get header information - none

        // 3) Get body (data)
        int length = (int) http.getLength();
        if (length > 0)
        {

            byte servletData[] = new byte[length];
            iStrm.read(servletData);

            // Update the string item on the display
            siBalance.setText(new String(servletData));

            return true;
        }
        else
        {
            errorMsg = new String("Unable to read data");
        }
        else
        {
            // Use message from the servlet
            errorMsg = new String(http.getResponseMessage());
        }

        return false;
    }
}
```

We pull apart the server response in three chunks. First, we look at the status line to verify the server was able to fulfill the request. The next step is to read any header information, but there is none for this MIDlet. The body of the server response contains what we are after—the account balance. With this in hand we can update `siBalance`, the `StringItem` that shows the account balance on the form. The end result is displayed in [Figure 14-8](#).

Figure 14-8. Account balance obtained from a Java servlet



Example 14.3 GetNpost.java

```

/*-----
 * GetNpost.java
 *
 * Use GET or POST to communicate with a Java servlet.
 * The servlet will search a database for the balance
 * of an account.
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.io.*;
import java.io.*;

public class GetNpost extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;        // Reference to Display object
    private Form fmMain;            // The main form
    private Alert alError;          // Alert to error message
    private Command cmGET;          // Request method GET
    private Command cmPOST;         // Request method Post
    private Command cmExit;         // Command to exit the MIDlet
    private TextField tfAcct;       // Get account number
    private TextField tfPwd;        // Get password
    private StringItem siBalance;   // Show account balance
    private String errorMsg = null;

    public GetNpost()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create commands
        cmGET = new Command("GET", Command.SCREEN, 2);
        cmPOST = new Command("POST", Command.SCREEN, 3);
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);

        // Textfields
        tfAcct = new TextField("Account:", "", 5, TextField.NUMERIC);
        tfPwd = new TextField("Password:", "", 10,
                               TextField.ANY | TextField.PASSWORD);
    }
}

```

```

// Balance string item
siBalance = new StringItem("Balance: $", "");

// Create Form, add commands & components, listen for events
fmMain = new Form("Account Information");
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.addCommand(cmGET);
fmMain.addCommand(cmPOST);

fmMain.append(tfAcct);
fmMain.append(tfPwd);
fmMain.append(siBalance);

fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmGET || c == cmPOST)
    {
        try
        {
            if (c == cmGET)
                lookupBalance_withGET();
            else
                lookupBalance_withPOST();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
        }
    }
    else if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
}

/*-----
* Access servlet using GET
*-----*/
private void lookupBalance_withGET() throws IOException
{
    HttpConnection http = null;
    InputStream iStrm = null;

```

```

boolean ret = false;

// Data is passed at the end of url for GET
String url =
    "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.GetNpostServlet"
    + "?" +
    "account=" + tfAcct.getString() + "&" +
    "password=" + tfPwd.getString();

try
{
    http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
    //-----
    // Client Request
    //-----
    // 1) Send request method
    http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);
    // 2) Send header information - none
    // 3) Send body/data - data is at the end of URL

    //-----
    // Server Response
    //-----
    iStrm = http.openInputStream();
    // Three steps are processed in this method call
    ret = processServerResponse(http, iStrm);
}
finally
{
    // Clean up
    if (iStrm != null)
        iStrm.close();
    if (http != null)
        http.close();
}

// Process request failed, show alert
if (ret == false)
    showAlert(errorMsg);
}

/*-----
* Access servlet using POST
*-----*/
private void lookupBalance_withPOST() throws IOException
{
    HttpConnection http = null;
    OutputStream oStrm = null;
    InputStream iStrm = null;
    boolean ret = false;

    // Data is passed as a separate stream for POST (below)
    String url =
        "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.GetNpostServlet";
    try
    {
        http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
    }
}

```

```

oStrm = http.openOutputStream();

//-----
// Client Request
//-----
// 1) Send request type
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.POST);

// 2) Send header information. Required for POST to work!
http.setRequestProperty("Content-Type",
    "application/x-www-form-urlencoded");

// If you experience connection/IO problems, try
// removing the comment from the following line
//http.setRequestProperty("Connection", "close");

// 3) Send data/body
// Write account number
byte data[] = ("account=" + tfAcct.getString()).getBytes();
oStrm.write(data);
// Write password
data = ("&password=" + tfPwd.getString()).getBytes();
oStrm.write(data);
oStrm.flush();

//-----
// Server Response
//-----
iStrm = http.openInputStream();
// Three steps are processed in this method call
ret = processServerResponse(http, iStrm);
}
finally
{
    // Clean up
    if (iStrm != null)
        iStrm.close();
    if (oStrm != null)
        oStrm.close();
    if (http != null)
        http.close();
}

// Process request failed, show alert
if (ret == false)
    showAlert(errorMsg);
}

/*-----
* Process a response from a server
*-----*/
private boolean processServerResponse(HttpConnection http,
    InputStream iStrm) throws IOException
{
    //Reset error message
    errorMsg = null;

```

```

// 1) Get status Line
if (http.getResponseCode() == HttpURLConnection.HTTP_OK)
{
    // 2) Get header information - none

    // 3) Get body (data)
    int length = (int) http.getLength();
    String str;
    if (length != -1)
    {
        byte servletData[] = new byte[length];
        iStrm.read(servletData);
        str = new String(servletData);
    }
    else // Length not available...
    {
        ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

        int ch;
        while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
            bStrm.write(ch);

        str = new String(bStrm.toByteArray());
        bStrm.close();
    }
    // Update the string item on the display
    siBalance.setText(str);
    return true;
}
else
    // Use message from the servlet
    errorMsg = new String( http.getResponseMessage());

return false;
}

/*-----
* Show an Alert
*-----*/
private void showAlert(String msg)
{
    // Create Alert, use message returned from servlet
    alError = new Alert("Error", msg, null, AlertType.ERROR);

    // Set Alert to type Modal
    alError.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);

    // Display the Alert. Once dismissed, display the form
    display.setCurrent(alError, fmMain);
}
}

/*-----
* GetNpostServlet.java
*
* Show how GET and POST from client can access and
* process the same data.

```

```

* Account information is maintained in a database
* (connecting with jdbc)
*
* Table: acctInfo
* Columns:
*   account    - integer
*   password   - varchar
*   balance    - integer
*-----*/
package corej2me;

import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;
import java.sql.*;

public class GetNpostServlet extends HttpServlet
{
    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)
        throws ServletException, IOException
    {
        // Same code appears in doPost()
        // Shown both places to emphasize that data is received thru
        // different means (environment variable vs stream),
        // yet processed the same inside the servlet
        String acct = req.getParameter("account"),
            pwd = req.getParameter("password");

        String balance = accountLookup(acct, pwd);

        if (balance == null)
        {
            res.sendError(res.SC_BAD_REQUEST,
                "Unable to locate account.");
            return;
        }

        res.setContentType("text/plain");
        PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
        out.print(balance);
        out.close();
    }

    protected void doPost(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)
        throws ServletException, IOException
    {
        // Same code appears in doGet()
        // Shown both places to emphasize that data is received thru
        // different means (stream vs environment variable),
        // yet processed the same inside the servlet
        String acct = req.getParameter("account"),
            pwd = req.getParameter("password");

        String balance = accountLookup(acct, pwd);
    }
}

```

```

        if (balance == null)
        {
            res.sendError(res.SC_BAD_REQUEST,
                "Unable to locate account.");
            return;
        }

        res.setContentType("text/plain");
        PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
        out.print(balance);
        out.close();
    }

    /*-----
    * Lookup bank account balance in database
    *-----*/
    private String accountLookup(String acct, String pwd)
    {
        Connection con = null;
        Statement st = null;
        StringBuffer msgb = new StringBuffer("");

        try
        {
            // These will vary depending on your server/database
            Class.forName("sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver");
            con = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:odbc:acctInfo");

            Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
            ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery("Select balance from
                acctInfo where account = "
                + acct + "and password = '" + pwd + "'");
            if (rs.next())
                return rs.getString(1);
            else
                return null;
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            return e.toString();
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Information about servlet
    *-----*/
    public String getServletInfo()
    {
        return "GetNpostServlet 1.0 - www.corej2me.com";
    }
}

```

Note: You **do not** need to compile the servlet code to run this MIDlet. The compiled code is online at the url specified in the MIDlet:

"<http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.GetNpostServlet>"

```

/*-----
 * GetNpostServlet.java
 *
 * Show how GET and POST from client can access and
 * process the same data.
 * Account information is maintained in a database
 * (connecting with jdbc)
 *
 * Table: acctInfo
 * Columns:
 * account - integer
 * password - varchar
 * balance - integer
 *-----*/
package corej2me;

import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;
import java.sql.*;

public class GetNpostServlet extends HttpServlet
{
    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)
        throws ServletException, IOException
    {
        // Same code appears in doPost()
        // Shown both places to emphasize that data is received thru
        // different means (environment variable vs stream),
        // yet processed the same inside the servlet
        String acct = req.getParameter("account"),
            pwd = req.getParameter("password");

        String balance = accountLookup(acct, pwd);

        if (balance == null)
        {
            res.sendError(res.SC_BAD_REQUEST,
                "Unable to locate account.");
            return;
        }

        res.setContentType("text/plain");
        PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
        out.print(balance);
        out.close();
    }

    protected void doPost(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)
        throws ServletException, IOException
    {
        // Same code appears in doGet()

```



```

// Shown both places to emphasize that data is received thru
// different means (stream vs environment variable),
// yet processed the same inside the servlet
String acct = req.getParameter("account"),
    pwd = req.getParameter("password");

String balance = accountLookup(acct, pwd);

if (balance == null)
{
    res.sendError(res.SC_BAD_REQUEST,
        "Unable to locate account.");
    return;
}

res.setContentType("text/plain");
PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
out.print(balance);
out.close();
}

/*-----
* Lookup bank account balance in database
*-----*/
private String accountLookup(String acct, String pwd)
{
    Connection con = null;
    Statement st = null;
    StringBuffer msgb = new StringBuffer("");

    try
    {
        // These will vary depending on your server/database
        Class.forName("sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver");
        con = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:odbc:acctInfo");

        Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
        ResultSet rs = stmt.executeQuery("Select balance from
            acctInfo where account = "
            + acct + "and password = '" + pwd + "'");

        if (rs.next())
            return rs.getString(1);
        else
            return null;
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        return e.toString();
    }
}

/*-----
* Information about servlet
*-----*/
public String getServletInfo()
{

```

```
    return "GetNpostServlet 1.0 - www.corej2me.com";  
  }  
}
```

Session Management with Java Servlets

HTTP is a stateless protocol. A client makes a request and a server generates a response. There is no persistent connection between the two. ^[9] However, having a means for a server to recognize subsequent requests from a client opens the door to many possibilities.

^[9] Although web servers may offer options to facilitate ongoing communication between a client and server, there is no persistent connection capability built into the HTTP protocol.

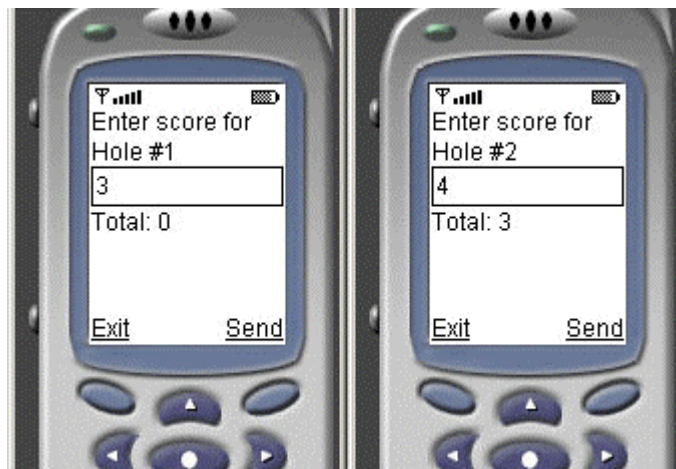
The most familiar example is that of an online shopping cart. As you stroll through a store, selecting a few things on the way, somewhere on a remote server resides information about the products you've selected. When you are ready to make your purchase, just as in the "real-world," you take your shopping cart to the checkout counter and away you go.

Such interaction between a client and server can be accomplished only if the server can recognize requests as originating from the same client. With a Java servlet there are two common ways in which this is done: url-rewriting and cookies. The next two examples will demonstrate each concept.

Example: URL Rewriting

The gist of the next MIDlet is to keep track of golf scores on a remote server. We would like to enter the score for each hole, one by one. The server will keep a tally of the running total and report this back to the client after each score is entered. [Figure 14-9](#) shows the initial screen on the left, before submitting the first score. The screen-shot on the right is the display after receiving a response from the servlet with the current total.

Figure 14-9. Left, the startup screen; right, total updated from servlet



After submitting the score for the second hole, the servlet will update the total and report back to the client (see [Figure 14-10](#)).

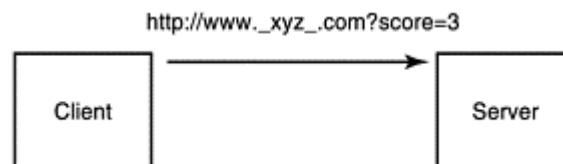
Figure 14-10. Updated total from servlet



The servlet can tally scores for any number of golfers. Therefore, it must have a means to correlate an incoming client score with the appropriate running total. On the server side, this concept is often referred to as session tracking.

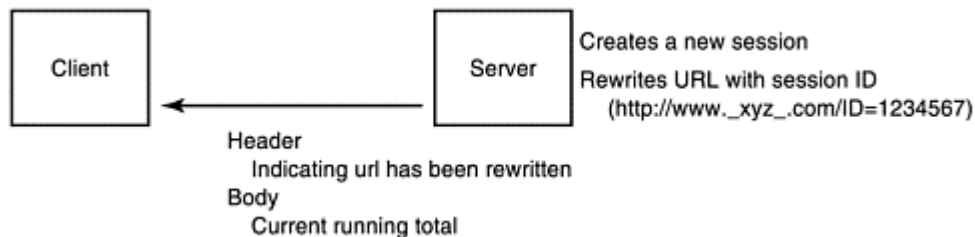
[Figure 14-11](#) illustrates the initial request from the MIDlet. Notice the request method is GET. We know this by looking at the data appended onto the URL. The key-value pair `score=3` is the score for the golfer's first hole.

Figure 14-11. Initial client request using GET



The servlet will create a new session and a corresponding session ID to track requests from the client. The incoming URL (from the client) is modified to include the session ID. A header is sent to the client indicating this new "rewritten" URL. Also, the servlet sends the current running total for the golfer's score as the body of the response (which is score for the first hole only, at this point; see [Figure 14-12](#)).

Figure 14-12. Servlet response



The client will receive the response from the servlet and will check for a header indicating the URL has been rewritten. If found, all future requests will be made through this new URL.

Each subsequent request from the client, using the rewritten URL, makes it possible for the servlet to recognize who initiated the request. With the session ID in hand, the servlet maintains an ongoing dialog with the client specifically, updating the running total of scores submitted. [Figure 14-13](#) illustrates this idea. The client calls the servlet with the rewritten url (and the score for the next hole) and receives the total for all scores submitted in the body of the server response.

Figure 14-13. Client sends future requests using the rewritten URL



The client code for sending a request and processing a server response is shown here:

```

url = "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.Url_rewriteServlet";
...
private void updateTotal(String score) throws IOException
{
    HttpURLConnection http = null;
    InputStream iStrm = null;
    boolean ret = false;

    try
    {
        // When using GET, append data onto the url
        String completeURL = url + "?" + "score=" + score;

        http = (HttpURLConnection) Connector.open(completeURL);

        //-----
        // Client Request
        //-----
        // 1) Send request method
        http.setRequestMethod(HttpURLConnection.GET);
        // 2) Send header information - none
        // 3) Send body/data - data is at the end of URL

        //-----
        // Server Response
        //-----
        iStrm = http.openInputStream();
        // 1) Get status Line - ignore for now
        System.out.println("Msg: " + http.getResponseMessage());
        System.out.println("Code: " + http.getResponseCode());

        // 2) Get header information
        // See if header includes a rewritten url
        // if yes, update url for all future servlet requests
        String URLwithID = http.getHeaderField("Custom-newURL");

        if (URLwithID != null)
    
```

```

        url = URLwithID;

// 3) Get body/data - the new running total is returned
String str;
int length = (int) http.getLength();
if (length != -1)
{
    byte servletData[] = new byte[length];
    iStrm.read(servletData);
    str = new String(servletData);
}
else // Length not available...
{
    ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

    int ch;
    while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
        bStrm.write(ch);

    str = new String(bStrm.toByteArray());
    bStrm.close();
}

// Update the stringitem that shows total
siTotal.setText(str);
}
...
}

```

The client request is short and sweet: Append the current score onto the URL and open the connection. In the response from the server, check for a header indicating a rewritten URL.

```

String URLwithID =
    http.getHeaderField("Custom-newURL");

```

The header "Custom-newURL" is known as a custom header. ^[10] This header was created and sent from the servlet to indicate that the original URL has been modified. All future requests will go through this URL. The client also reads the body of the server response, which contains the current running total of all scores entered. This value is then shown on the display through the `StringItem`, `siTotal`.

^[10] It is custom in the sense that it is not one of the defined headers in the HTTP specification.

Let's move to the code on the server side. There are two main concerns of the servlet: managing the session and updating the running total.

```

doGet(HttpServletRequest req, HttpServletResponse res)
{
    try
    {
        // Get session information
        HttpSession session = req.getSession(true);

        // If a new session, we need to rewrite the URL for client
    }
}

```

```

        if (session.isNew())
        {
            // Get the URL that got us here
            String incomingURL = HttpUtils.getRequestURL(req).toString();

            // Encode by adding session ID onto URL
            String URLwithID = res.encodeURL(incomingURL);

            // Send back a header to client with new re-written URL
            res.setHeader("Custom-newURL", URLwithID);
        }
        ...
    }
}

```

Fortunately, working with sessions from a developer point of view is very straightforward. Through a call to `getSession()` and `isNew()`, the servlet can determine if there is an existing session between itself and the client. If not, the incoming URL is rewritten (encoded) with the session ID and a custom header is created to notify the client.

The remainder of the code in `doGet()`, shown in [Example 14.4](#), retrieves the current running total for the session associated with the client, updates the total with the score the client sent and sends result back to the client.

Example 14.4 Url_rewrite.java

```

/*-----
 * Url_rewrite.java
 *
 * Use Java servlets sessions to tally golf scores.
 * Session management is done using url-rewriting.
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.io.*;
import java.io.*;

public class Url_rewrite extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;           // Reference to display object
    private Form fmMain;               // The main form
    private TextField tfScore;         // Enter new score
    private int indxTextField;         // Index on of the textfield
    private StringItem siTotal;        // Running total
    private Command cmExit;            // A Command to exit the MIDlet
    private Command cmUpdate;          // Update score on servlet
    private int holeNumber = 1;        // Current hole
    private static final int MAX_HOLES = 18;
    private String url =
        "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.Url_rewriteServlet";

    public Url_rewrite()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Enter scores

```

```

tfScore = new TextField("Enter score for Hole #1",
                        "", 2, TextField.NUMERIC);

// Current running total
siTotal = new StringItem("Total: ", "");

// Commands
cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
cmUpdate = new Command("Send", Command.SCREEN, 2);

// Create Form, add components, listen for events
fmMain = new Form("");
// Save index of textfield, it is removed
// after entering 18 values
indxTextField = fmMain.append(tfScore);
fmMain.append(siTotal);
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.addCommand(cmUpdate);
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

/*-----
* Process events
*-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmUpdate) // Send score for next hole
    {
        // If nothing in the text field or max scores entered
        if (tfScore.getString().equals("") ||
            holeNumber > MAX_HOLES)
            return;
        else
        {
            try
            {
                // Update the score on remote server
                updateTotal(tfScore.getString());
                // If entered the maximum, remove the
                // textfield from the form
                if (++holeNumber > MAX_HOLES)

```

```

        {
            fmMain.delete(indxTextField);
            return;
        }

        // Change the label & reset contents
        tfScore.setLabel("Enter score for Hole #" +
            holeNumber);
        tfScore.setString("");
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
    }
}
}

/*-----
* Send client request. Receive server response
*
* Client: Send score for next hole.
*
* Server: Check for custom header 'Custom-newURL'
*         If found, update the MIDlet URL for all
*         future requests. Any data returned is
*         current total for all scores entered.
*-----*/
private void updateTotal(String score) throws IOException
{
    HttpURLConnection http = null;
    InputStream iStrm = null;
    boolean ret = false;

    try
    {
        // When using GET, append data onto the url
        String completeURL = url + "?" + "score=" + score;
        http = (HttpURLConnection) Connector.open(completeURL);

        //-----
        // Client Request
        //-----
        // 1) Send request method
        http.setRequestMethod(HttpURLConnection.GET);
        // 2) Send header information - none

        // If you experience connection/IO problems, try
        // removing the comment from the following line
        //http.setRequestProperty("Connection", "close");

        // 3) Send body/data - data is at the end of URL

        //-----
        // Server Response
        //-----
        iStrm = http.openInputStream();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
    }
}
}

```



```

// 1) Get status Line - ignore for now
// System.out.println("Msg: " + http.getResponseMessage());
// System.out.println("Code: " + http.getResponseCode());

// 2) Get header information
// See if header includes a rewritten url
// if yes, update url for all future servlet requests
String URLwithID = http.getHeaderField("Custom-newURL");

if (URLwithID != null)
    url = URLwithID;

// 3) Get body/data - the new running total is returned
String str;
int length = (int) http.getLength();
if (length != -1)
{
    byte servletData[] = new byte[length];
    iStrm.read(servletData);
    str = new String(servletData);
}
else // Length not available...
{
    ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

    int ch;
    while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
        bStrm.write(ch);

    str = new String(bStrm.toByteArray());
    bStrm.close();
}

// Update the stringitem that shows total
siTotal.setText(str);
}
finally
{
    // Clean up
    if (iStrm != null)
        iStrm.close();
    if (http != null)
        http.close();
}
}
}
/*-----
* Url_rewriteServlet.java
*
* Use url-rewriting to manage sessions.
* Keeps a running total of golf scores for a
* round of 18 holes (client sends score for each
* hole, one at a time).
*-----*/

package corej2me; // Required for mycgiserver.com

```

```

import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;

public class Url_rewriteServlet extends HttpServlet
{
    /*-----
    * Initialize the servlet
    *-----*/
    public void init(ServletConfig config) throws ServletException
    {
        super.init(config);
    }

    /*-----
    * Handle a GET request from client
    *-----*/
    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)
                          throws ServletException, IOException
    {
        try
        {
            // Get session information
            HttpSession session = req.getSession(true);

            // If a new session, we need to rewrite the URL for client
            if (session.isNew())
            {
                // Get the URL that got us here
                String incomingURL =
                    HttpUtils.getRequestURL(req).toString();

                // Encode by adding session ID onto URL
                String URLwithID = res.encodeURL(incomingURL);

                // Send back a header to client with new re-written URL
                res.setHeader("Custom-newURL", URLwithID);
            }
            // Get the next score (parameter) passed in
            int nextScore = Integer.parseInt(req.getParameter("score"));

            // Get the ongoing total saved as part of the session
            // Convert to an integer "object"
            Integer sessionTotal =
                (Integer) session.getValue("sessionTotal");

            // Running total from session and score passed in
            int runningTotal = nextScore;
            if (sessionTotal != null)
                runningTotal += sessionTotal.intValue();

            // Update the session total, must save as an "object"
            session.putValue("sessionTotal", new Integer(runningTotal));

            // Send back to client the new running total

```

```

        res.setContentType("text/plain");
        PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
        out.write(Integer.toString(runningTotal));
        out.close();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
 * Information about servlet
 *-----*/
public String getServletInfo()
{
    return "Url_rewriteServlet 1.0 - www.corej2me.com";
}
}

```

Note: You **do not** need to compile the servlet code to run this MIDlet. The compiled code is online at the url specified in the MIDlet:

```

"http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.Url_rewriteServlet"

/*-----
 * Url_rewriteServlet.java
 *
 * Use url-rewriting to manage sessions.
 * Keeps a running total of golf scores for a
 * round of 18 holes (client sends score for each
 * hole, one at a time).
 *-----*/

package corej2me; // Required for mycgiserver.com

import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;

public class Url_rewriteServlet extends HttpServlet
{
    /*-----
     * Initialize the servlet
     *-----*/
    public void init(ServletConfig config) throws ServletException
    {
        super.init(config);
    }

    /*-----
     * Handle a GET request from client
     *-----*/
    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)

```

```

        throws ServletException, IOException

{
    try
    {
        // Get session information
        HttpSession session = req.getSession(true);

        // If a new session, we need to rewrite the URL for client
        if (session.isNew())
        {
            // Get the URL that got us here
            String incomingURL =
                HttpUtils.getRequestURL(req).toString();

            // Encode by adding session ID onto URL
            String URLwithID = res.encodeURL(incomingURL);

            // Send back a header to client with new re-written URL
            res.setHeader("Custom-newURL", URLwithID);
        }

        // Get the next score (parameter) passed in
        int nextScore = Integer.parseInt(req.getParameter("score"));

        // Get the ongoing total saved as part of the session
        // Convert to an integer "object"
        Integer sessionTotal =
            (Integer) session.getValue("sessionTotal");

        // Running total from session and score passed in
        int runningTotal = nextScore;
        if (sessionTotal != null)
            runningTotal += sessionTotal.intValue();

        // Update the session total, must save as an "object"
        session.putValue("sessionTotal", new Integer(runningTotal));

        // Send back to client the new running total
        res.setContentType("text/plain");
        PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
        out.write(Integer.toString(runningTotal));
        out.close();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Information about servlet
*-----*/
public String getServletInfo()
{
    return "Url_rewriteServlet 1.0 - www.corej2me.com";
}

```

}

Example: Cookies

I frequent one website to catch up on news, check the value of my investments and see the current weather forecast. As long as I access the site from the same computer, I never need to log on, yet the site brings up information that I have previously set as my preferences (news and weather for my hometown, stocks that I have invested in, etc.).

How is such an interaction accomplished? Typically it's done through the use of a cookie. Let's walk through a hypothetical scenario:

- You visit a website and set your preferences.
- The web server stores your preferences in a database on the server.
- A cookie is sent to your browser containing the row number in the database where your preferences are stored.
- The browser stores the cookie on your local file system.
- When returning to the same site, your browser sends the cookie with the unique row number to the web server.
- The web server queries the database using the row number, compiles information based on your preferences and sends the results to your browser.

Although this interaction is simplified, such a scenario may be one means for a website to provide a custom interface.

HTTP State Management Mechanism

You can read the specifics of state management using cookies by following this link:

HTTP State Management Mechanism

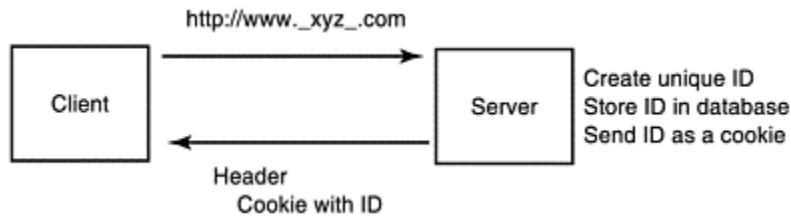
<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2109.txt>

In its broadest definition a cookie is a key-value pair, as in `ID=1234567`. There are a number of optional parameters that may be sent as part of a cookie (such as how long to store the cookie on the client), but for our needs this definition will be adequate.

Let's write an example that allows a server (more specifically, a Java servlet) to uniquely identify a MIDlet (the client) using a cookie.

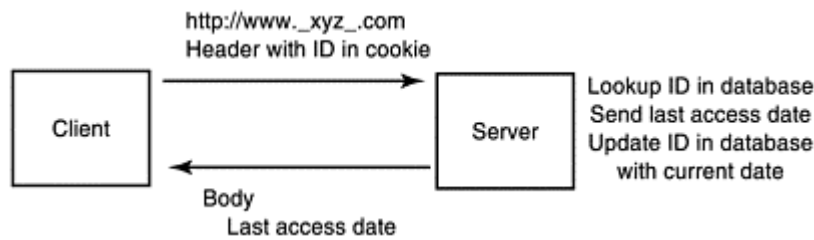
Upon receiving the first request from the client, the servlet will create a unique ID. This ID, along with the current date, will be stored in a database (more on this in a moment). The servlet will send to the client a header containing the ID. To keep a reference to the ID, the client will write this value to persistent storage and this ID will act as the cookie (see [Figure 14-14](#)).

Figure 14-14. Initial request from client to server



Each subsequent request from the client to the servlet will be accompanied by a header with the cookie that uniquely identifies the client. To verify that the client has been identified by the servlet, the servlet will look up the client ID in a database, retrieve the date the client visited (last access date) and return this as the body to the client. The client will in turn display the date on the device.

Figure 14-15. All subsequent requests from client will send cookie (ID) in the header

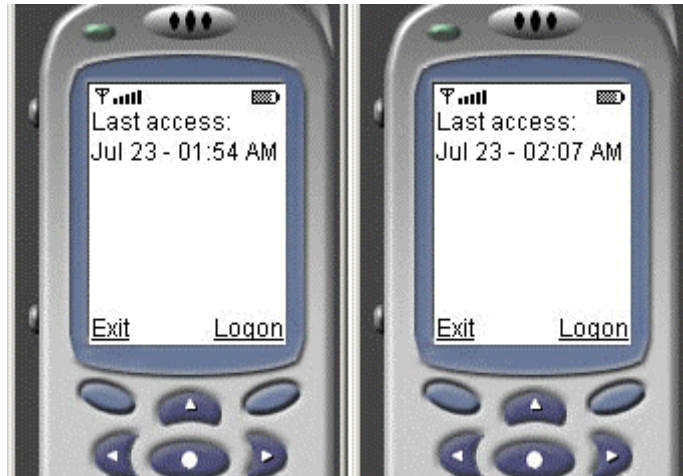


In [Figure 14-16](#), the client displays the unique ID generated by the servlet upon the client's first visit. With each subsequent visit, the ID is passed to the servlet and the last visit date is retrieved from the database and returned to the client. [Figure 14-17](#) shows the client display for two additional visits.

Figure 14-16. First visit to the server. Displayed is the unique client ID generated by the servlet.



Figure 14-17. Client accessing the servlet at two different times



Client Implementation

Whenever the MIDlet is started, the method `readCookie()` is called to try and locate the cookie (client ID) in persistent storage. This is analogous to your web browser looking for a cookie on the file system. If a record is found, the contents are stored in the variable `cookie`. If not, the variable will have a value of `null` (the latter is true the first time the MIDlet is run, prior to connecting with the servlet).

```
public void readCookie()
{
    ...
    if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
    {
        // Only one record will ever be written, safe to use '1'
        if (rs.getRecordSize(1) > recData.length)
            recData = new byte[rs.getRecordSize(1)];

        len = rs.getRecord(1, recData, 0);

        cookie = new String(recData);
    }
    ...
}
```

The method `connect()` will be called when the user selects "Logon" (see [Figure 14-16](#)). The client request is created with the request method `GET`.^[11] If a cookie has been read from persistent storage (which won't be the case on the first call to the servlet), a header is sent with the contents of the cookie.

^[11] This could be done using POST as well. It sounds like a good exercise.

```
private void connect() throws IOException
{
    ...
    try
    {
        // Create the connection
        http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);
```

```

//-----
// Client Request
//-----
// 1) Send request method
http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);

// 2) Send header information
if (cookie != null)
    http.setRequestProperty("cookie", cookie);

// 3) Send body/data - No data for this request
...
}

```

Upon receiving a response from the servlet, the client will look for a header with the key `set-cookie`.^[12] If a cookie was received, this is the first contact with the servlet, and the value of the cookie is the unique ID the servlet created for the client. The client will store this value in persistent storage and sets the variable `cookie` equal to that same value.

^[12] The `set-cookie` header sent from a server must not exceed 256 bytes for MIDP devices.

```

//-----
// Server Response
//-----
// 1) Get status Line
if (http.getResponseCode() == HttpConnection.HTTP_OK)
{
    // 2) Get header information
    String tmpCookie = http.getHeaderField("set-cookie");
    // Cookie will only be sent back from server only if
    // client (us) did not send a cookie in the first place.
    // If a cookie is returned, we need to save it to rms
    if (tmpCookie != null)
    {
        writeRecord(tmpCookie);

        // Update the MIDlet cookie variable
        cookie = tmpCookie;

        fmMain.append("First visit\n");
        fmMain.append("Client : " + cookie + "\n");
    }
else // No cookie sent from server
{

    // 3) Get data, which is the last time of access
    iStrm = http.openInputStream();
    int length = (int) http.getLength();
    String str;
    if (length != -1)
    {
        byte serverData[] = new byte[length];
        iStrm.read(serverData);
        str = new String(serverData);
    }
}

```



```

    }
    else // Length not available...
    {
        bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

        int ch;
        while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
            bStrm.write(ch);

        str = new String(bStrm.toByteArray());
    }

    // Append data to the form
    fmMain.append("Last access:\n" + str + "\n");
}
}

```

The next request from the client to the servlet will include the cookie that has the client's unique ID. Upon receiving the client request, the servlet will locate the ID in a database and return the date of the client's last visit. The client code to read and display the last visit data from the servlet is shown in the preceding code in step 3.

The reason for saving and displaying the last access date is only to verify that the client is being recognized by the servlet. You could extend this idea to save whatever would be appropriate for your application. For example, an online game may make use of cookies to associate a client (an individual playing the game) with a score stored in a database.

Server Implementation

The core functionality provided by the servlet is in `doGet()`. The first request from the client will not contain a cookie. In this case the servlet will create a unique ID for the client (more on this in a moment), get the current date and write both values to the database. A cookie will also be created that contains the ID and will be sent as part of the header in response to the client.

```

void doGet(HttpServletRequest req, HttpServletResponse res)
{
    // Get cookie from the header
    Cookie[] cookies = req.getCookies();

    //-----
    // If cookie passed in...
    // 1) Lookup the client ID in the database
    //    and save the last access date
    // 2) Update the last access date in database
    // 3) Return to the client date from step 1
    //-----
    if (cookies.length != 0)
    {
        // There will be only one cookie
        Cookie theCookie = cookies[0];
        String id = theCookie.getValue();

        // Lookup client ID and get last access date
        String strLastAccess =
            lookupLastAccessDate(Integer.parseInt(id));
    }
}

```

```

        // Update database with current date
        updateLastAccessDate(Integer.parseInt(id));

        // Send back the last access date to the client
        res.setContentType("text/plain");
        PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
        out.print(strLastAccess);
        out.close();
    }
    else // No Cookie
    {
        //-----
        // Generate a client ID. To keep the database
        // from growing out of control, this will not
        // generate a new ID for each client.
        // Instead, grab a random ID from the array
        // clientID's[]. The end result is the same
        // as far as the client is concerned.
        //-----

        // Random value between 0 and the number of
        // entries in the client list array
        int random = (int) Math.round(clientIDs.length *
                                     Math.random());

        // Get the client ID to send in the cookie
        int ID = clientIDs[random];

        // Update database with current date
        updateLastAccessDate(ID);

        // Create new cookie and send ID in the header
        Cookie cookie = new Cookie("ID", Integer.toString(ID));
        res.addCookie(cookie);
    }
}

```

Servlet methods

The method `doGet()` is called when a client sends a request method of `GET`. `doPost()` is called when a client sends a request method of `POST`.

Subsequent requests from the client will be accompanied by the cookie. Using the ID of the cookie `lookupLastAccessDate()` will search the database for the client ID.

```
String strLastAccess = lookupLastAccessDate(Integer.parseInt(id));
```

If a match is found, the last access date will be returned to the client.

```

res.setContentType("text/plain");
PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
out.print(strLastAccess);

```

Here is the format of the database, `clientInfo`, used by the servlet.

clientID (integer)	LastAccess (varchar)
123	
456	
789	
225	
701	
901	

To keep the database from growing out of control, a row will not be inserted for each new client request. Instead, the database will have six unique IDs, and accordingly, six rows. When a new client request is received, the ID generated for the client will be pulled from a "pool" of IDs, which are stored in the array `clientIDs[]`.

In a production environment this approach would be unacceptable. However, for our needs to test the interaction between the client and server, this implementation will suffice.

The code to search and update the database is included in [Example 14.5](#).

Example 14.5 `Cookie.java`

```
/*-----
 * Cookie.java
 *
 * Pass a cookie (stored in rms) between the MIDlet
 * and a Java servlet. The cookie is generated
 * by the servlet on the first visit.
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.rms.*;
import javax.microedition.io.*;
import java.io.*;
public class Cookie extends MIDlet implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;
    private TextBox tbMain;
    private Form fmMain;
    private Command cmExit;
    private Command cmLogon;
    private String cookie = null;
    private RecordStore rs = null;
    static final String REC_STORE = "rms_cookie";
    private String url =
        "http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.CookieServlet";

    public Cookie()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create commands
```

```

cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
cmLogon = new Command("Logon", Command.SCREEN, 2);

// Create the form, add commands, listen for events
fmMain = new Form("");
fmMain.addCommand(cmExit);
fmMain.addCommand(cmLogon);
fmMain.setCommandListener(this);

// Read cookie if available
openRecStore();
readCookie();

// System.out.println("Client cookie: " + cookie);
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(fmMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{
}

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{
    closeRecStore(); // Close record store
}

public void openRecStore()
{
    try
    {
        // The second parameter indicates that the record store
        // should be created if it does not exist
        rs = RecordStore.openRecordStore(REC_STORE, true);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db("open " + e.toString());
    }
}

public void closeRecStore()
{
    try
    {
        rs.closeRecordStore();
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db("close " + e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Write cookie to rms
*-----*/

```

```

public void writeRecord(String str)
{
    byte[] rec = str.getBytes();
    try
    {
        rs.addRecord(rec, 0, rec.length);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db("write " + e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Read cookie from rms
*-----*/
public void readCookie()
{
    try
    {
        byte[] recData = new byte[25];
        int len;

        if (rs.getNumRecords() > 0)
        {
            // Only one record will ever be written, safe to use '1'
            if (rs.getRecordSize(1) > recData.length)
                recData = new byte[rs.getRecordSize(1)];

            len = rs.getRecord(1, recData, 0);

            cookie = new String(recData);
        }
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        db("read " + e.toString());
    }
}

/*-----
* Send client request and recieve server response
*
* Client: If cookie exists, send it to the server
*
* Server: If cookie is sent back, this is the
*         clients first request to the server. In
*         that case, save the cookie. If no cookie
*         sent, display server body (which indicates
*         the last time the MIDlet contacted server).
*-----*/
private void connect() throws IOException
{
    InputStream iStrm = null;
    ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = null;
    HttpConnection http = null;

```

```

try
{
    // Create the connection
    http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open(url);

    //-----
    // Client Request
    //-----
    // 1) Send request method
    http.setRequestMethod(HttpConnection.GET);

    // If you experience connection/IO problems, try
    // removing the comment from the following line
    //http.setRequestProperty("Connection", "close");

    // 2) Send header information
    if (cookie != null)
        http.setRequestProperty("cookie", cookie);

        // System.out.println("Client cookie: " + cookie);

    // 3) Send body/data - No data for this request

    //-----
    // Server Response
    //-----
    // 1) Get status Line
    if (http.getResponseCode() == HttpConnection.HTTP_OK)
    {
        // 2) Get header information
        String tmpCookie = http.getHeaderField("set-cookie");

        // System.out.println("server cookie: " + tmpCookie);

        // Cookie will only be sent back from server only if
        // client (us) did not send a cookie in the first place.
        // If a cookie is returned, we need to save it to rms
        if (tmpCookie != null)
        {
            writeRecord(tmpCookie);

            // Update the MIDlet cookie variable
            cookie = tmpCookie;

            fmMain.append("First visit\n");
            fmMain.append("Client : " + cookie + "\n");
        }
    }
    else // No cookie sent from server
    {
        // 3) Get data, which is the last time of access
        iStrm = http.openInputStream();
        int length = (int) http.getLength();
        String str;
        if (length != -1)
        {
            byte serverData[] = new byte[length];
            iStrm.read(serverData);

```

```

        str = new String(serverData);
    }
    else // Length not available...
    {
        bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

        int ch;
        while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
            bStrm.write(ch);

        str = new String(bStrm.toByteArray());
    }

    // Append data to the form
    fmMain.append("Last access:\n" + str + "\n");
}
}
}
finally
{
    // Clean up
    if (iStrm != null)
        iStrm.close();
    if (bStrm != null)
        bStrm.close();
    if (http != null)
        http.close();
}
}

/*-----
* Process events
*-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    // If the Command button pressed was "Exit"
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmLogon)
    {
        try
        {
            // Logon to the servlet
            connect();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            db("connect " + e.toString());
        }
    }
}

/*-----
* Simple message to console for debug/errors

```

```

    * When used with Exceptions we should handle the
    * error in a more appropriate manner.
    *-----*/
private void db(String str)
{
    System.err.println("Msg: " + str);
}
}
/*-----
* CookieServlet.java
*
* Use a cookie to identify clients
*-----*/
package corej2me; // Required for mycgiserver.com

import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;
import java.sql.*;
import java.text.*;

public class CookieServlet extends HttpServlet
{
    // Pool of client ID's
    private static int[] clientIDs = {123, 456, 789, 901, 225, 701};

    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)
        throws ServletException, IOException
    {
        // Get cookie from the header
        Cookie[] cookies = req.getCookies();

        //-----
        // If cookie passed in...
        // 1) Lookup the client ID in the database
        //    and save the last access date
        // 2) Update the last access date in database
        // 3) Return to the client date from step 1
        //-----
        if (cookies.length != 0)
        {
            // There will be only one cookie
            Cookie theCookie = cookies[0];
            Stringid = theCookie.getValue();
            // Lookup client ID and get last access date
            String strLastAccess =
                lookupLastAccessDate(Integer.parseInt(id));

            // Update database with current date
            updateLastAccessDate(Integer.parseInt(id));

            // Send back the last access date to the client
            res.setContentType("text/plain");
            PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
            out.print(strLastAccess);
        }
    }
}

```



```

        out.close();
    }
    else // No Cookie
    {
        //-----
        // Generate a client ID. To keep the database
        // from growing out of control, this will not
        // generate a new ID for each client.
        // Instead, grab a random ID from the array
        // clientID's[]. The end result is the same
        // as far as the client is concerned.
        //-----

        // Random value between 0 and the number of
        // entries in the client list array
        int random = (int)
            Math.round(clientIDs.length * Math.random());

        // Get the client ID to send in the cookie
        int ID = clientIDs[random];

        // Update database with current date
        updateLastAccessDate(ID);

        // Create new cookie and send ID in the header
        Cookie cookie = new Cookie("ID", Integer.toString(ID));
        res.addCookie(cookie);
    }
}
/*-----
 * Update database with last access date for client ID
 *-----*/
private void updateLastAccessDate(int ID)
{
    Connection con = null;
    Statement st = null;
    StringBuffer msgb = new StringBuffer("");

    try
    {
        // These will vary depending on your server/database
        Class.forName("sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver");
        con = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:odbc:acctInfo");

        Statement stmt = con.createStatement();

        // Create a date format
        SimpleDateFormat format =
            new SimpleDateFormat ("MMM dd - hh:mm aa");
        String strDate = format.format(new java.util.Date());

        ResultSet rs =
            stmt.executeQuery("UPDATE clientInfo set lastAccess = '" +
                strDate + "' where clientID = " + ID);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    { }
}

```

```

    }

    /*-----
    * Lookup the client ID in database and get the
    * last access date
    *-----*/
    private String lookupLastAccessDate(int id)
    {
        Connection con = null;
        Statement st = null;
        StringBuffer msgb = new StringBuffer("");
        try
        {
            // These will vary depending on your server/database
            Class.forName("sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver");
            con = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:odbc:acctInfo");

            Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
            ResultSet rs =
                stmt.executeQuery("Select lastAccess from
                                clientInfo where clientID = " + id);

            if (rs.next())
                return rs.getString(1);
            else
                return null;
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            return e.toString();
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Information about servlet
    *-----*/
    public String getServletInfo()
    {
        return "CookieServlet 1.0 - www.corej2me.com";
    }
}

```

Note: You **do not** need to compile the servlet code to run this MIDlet. The compiled code is online at the url specified in the MIDlet:

" <http://www.mycgiserver.com/servlet/corej2me.CookieServlet>"

```

/*-----
* CookieServlet.java
*
* Use a cookie to identify clients
*-----*/
package corej2me; // Required for mycgiserver.com

import java.util.*;
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;

```

```

import javax.servlet.http.*;
import java.sql.*;
import java.text.*;

public class CookieServlet extends HttpServlet
{
    // Pool of client ID's
    private static int[] clientIDs = {123, 456, 789, 901, 225, 701};

    protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest req,
                          HttpServletResponse res)
        throws ServletException, IOException
    {
        // Get cookie from the header
        Cookie[] cookies = req.getCookies();

        //-----
        // If cookie passed in...
        // 1) Lookup the client ID in the database
        // and save the last access date
        // 2) Update the last access date in database
        // 3) Return to the client date from step 1
        //-----
        if (cookies.length != 0)
        {
            // There will be only one cookie
            Cookie theCookie = cookies[0];
            String id = theCookie.getValue();
            // Lookup client ID and get last access date
            String strLastAccess =
                lookupLastAccessDate(Integer.parseInt(id));

            // Update database with current date
            updateLastAccessDate(Integer.parseInt(id));

            // Send back the last access date to the client
            res.setContentType("text/plain");
            PrintWriter out = res.getWriter();
            out.print(strLastAccess);
            out.close();
        }
        else // No Cookie
        {
            //-----
            // Generate a client ID. To keep the database
            // from growing out of control, this will not
            // generate a new ID for each client.
            // Instead, grab a random ID from the array
            // clientID's[]. The end result is the same
            // as far as the client is concerned.
            //-----

            // Random value between 0 and the number of
            // entries in the client list array
            int random = (int)
                Math.round(clientIDs.length * Math.random());

```

```

        // Get the client ID to send in the cookie
        int ID = clientIDs[random];

        // Update database with current date
        updateLastAccessDate(ID);

        // Create new cookie and send ID in the header
        Cookie cookie = new Cookie("ID", Integer.toString(ID));
        res.addCookie(cookie);
    }
}

/*-----
* Update database with last access date for client ID
*-----*/
private void updateLastAccessDate(int ID)
{
    Connection con = null;
    Statement st = null;
    StringBuffer msgb = new StringBuffer("");

    try
    {
        // These will vary depending on your server/database
        Class.forName("sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver");
        con = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:odbc:acctInfo");

        Statement stmt = con.createStatement();

        // Create a date format
        SimpleDateFormat format =
            new SimpleDateFormat ("MMM dd - hh:mm aa");
        String strDate = format.format(new java.util.Date());

        ResultSet rs =
            stmt.executeQuery("UPDATE clientInfo set lastAccess = '" +
                strDate + "' where clientID = " + ID);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    { }
}

/*-----
* Lookup the client ID in database and get the
* last access date
*-----*/
private String lookupLastAccessDate(int id)
{
    Connection con = null;
    Statement st = null;
    StringBuffer msgb = new StringBuffer("");

    try
    {
        // These will vary depending on your server/database
        Class.forName("sun.jdbc.odbc.JdbcOdbcDriver");
        con = DriverManager.getConnection("jdbc:odbc:acctInfo");
    }
}

```

```

Statement stmt = con.createStatement();
ResultSet rs =
    stmt.executeQuery("Select lastAccess from
                        clientInfo where clientID = " + id);

    if (rs.next())
        return rs.getString(1);
    else
        return null;
}
catch (Exception e)
{
    return e.toString();
}
}

/*-----
* Information about servlet
*-----*/
public String getServletInfo()
{
    return "CookieServlet 1.0 - www.corej2me.com";
}
}

```

Example: Download Data in the Background

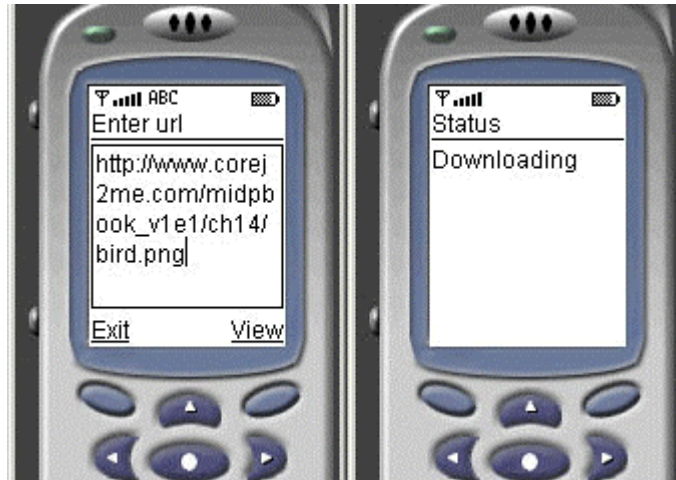
Each of the examples we've encountered up to this point have been received or transmitted minimal amounts of data. When downloading a file, for instance, we only had to wait a few seconds to see the results. Obviously, this won't always be the case.

If you intend to write MIDlets that communicate over a network it will be important to make the applications as responsive as possible. Put another way, if a user is sending or receiving information, they should ideally have the option to continue to use the application while the communication is completed in the background.

The last example for this chapter is a modification of the PNG viewer that we wrote earlier. In the first version of the MIDlet, once the download of the image was initiated, the application would simply wait for the download to complete. It almost appears as if the application has "locked up." The version that we will write in this section will download the image in a separate thread, leaving the application responsive to user .

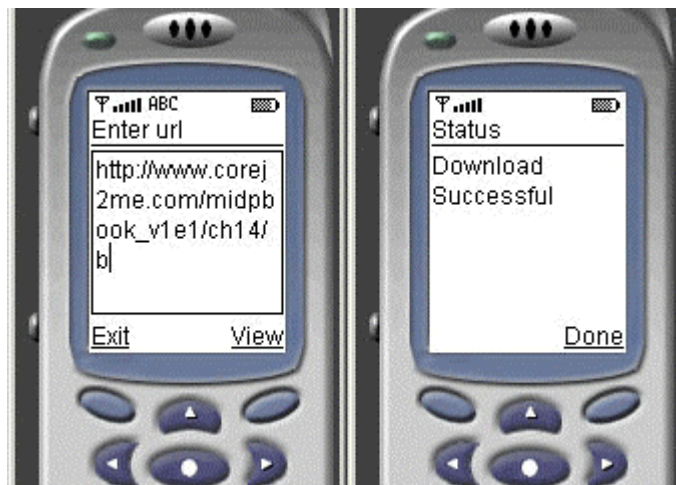
Here's how the MIDlet works. The main interface is a textbox that accepts the URL of a PNG image (see the screen-shot on the left in [Figure 14-18](#)). Once *View* has been selected, an alert is shown indicating the download has begun (see [Figure 14-18](#) on the right). The alert is not modal; instead, it will appear on the display for approximately 3 seconds.

Figure 14-18. Enter URL to download a PNG image(left). Once View is selected, an Alert is shown indicating the download has begun.



After the alert has been displayed, the user will be returned to the textbox. Because the download is working through a separate thread, the user can move about, as indicated in the left screen-shot in [Figure 14-19](#). Notice that I have deleted several characters in the textbox to show that the interface is responsive.

Figure 14-19. While waiting for the download, the TextBox is responsive to user input (left). Once complete, an Alert is shown.



Once the download is complete, the thread notifies the MIDlet and an alert is displayed to indicate whether or not the download was successful (see the screen-shot on the right of [Figure 14-19](#)).

If the download is successful, the image is displayed on a form (see [Figure 14-20](#)). Should the download fail, the user is once again returned to the textbox.

Figure 14-20. PNG image displayed on a Form



Example 14.6 ViewPngThread.java

```

/*-----
 * ViewPngThread.java
 *
 * Download and view a png file. The download is
 * done in the background with a separate thread
 *-----*/
import javax.microedition.midlet.*;
import javax.microedition.lcdui.*;
import javax.microedition.io.*;
import java.io.*;

public class ViewPngThread extends MIDlet
    implements CommandListener
{
    private Display display;
    private TextBox tbMain;
    private Alert alStatus;
    private Form fmViewPng;
    private Command cmExit;
    private Command cmView;
    private Command cmBack;
    private static final int ALERT_DISPLAY_TIME = 3000;
    Image im = null;

    public ViewPngThread()
    {
        display = Display.getDisplay(this);

        // Create the Main textbox with a maximum of 75 characters
        tbMain = new TextBox("Enter url",
            "http://www.corej2me.com/midpbook_v1e1/ch14/bird.png", 75, 0);

        // Create commands and add to textbox
        cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
        cmView = new Command("View", Command.SCREEN, 2);
        tbMain.addCommand(cmExit);
        tbMain.addCommand(cmView );
    }
}

```

```

// Set up a listener for textbox
tbMain.setCommandListener(this);
// Create the form that will hold the png image
fmViewPng = new Form("");

// Create commands and add to form
cmBack = new Command("Back", Command.BACK, 1);
fmViewPng.addCommand(cmBack);

// Set up a listener for form
fmViewPng.setCommandListener(this);
}

public void startApp()
{
    display.setCurrent(tbMain);
}

public void pauseApp()
{ }

public void destroyApp(boolean unconditional)
{ }

/*-----
* Process events
*-----*/
public void commandAction(Command c, Displayable s)
{
    // If the Command button pressed was "Exit"
    if (c == cmExit)
    {
        destroyApp(false);
        notifyDestroyed();
    }
    else if (c == cmView)
    {
        // Show alert indicating we are starting a download.
        // This alert is NOT modal, it appears for
        // approximately 3 seconds (see ALERT_DISPLAY_TIME)
        showAlert("Downloading", false, tbMain);
        // Create an instance of the class that will
        // download the file in a separate thread
        Download dl = new Download(tbMain.getString(), this);

        // Start the thread/download
        dl.start();
    }
    else if (c == cmBack)
    {
        display.setCurrent(tbMain);
    }
}

/*-----
* Called by the thread after attempting to download

```



```

* an image. If the parameter is 'true' the download
* was successful, and the image is shown on a form.
* If parameter is 'false' the download failed, and
* the user is returned to the textbox.
*
* In either case, show an alert indicating the
* the result of the download.
*-----*/
public void showImage(boolean flag)
{
    // Download failed...
    if (flag == false)
    {
        // Alert followed by the main textbox
        showAlert("Download Failure", true, tbMain);
    }
    else // Successful download...
    {
        ImageItem ii = new ImageItem(null, im,
                                     ImageItem.LAYOUT_DEFAULT, null);

        // If there is already an image, set (replace) it
        if (fmViewPng.size() != 0)
            fmViewPng.set(0, ii);
        else // Append the image to the empty form
            fmViewPng.append(ii);
        // Alert followed by the form holding the image
        showAlert("Download Successful", true, fmViewPng);
    }
}

/*-----
* Show an alert with the parameters determining
* the type (modal or not) and the displayable to
* show after the alert is dismissed
*-----*/
public void showAlert(String msg, boolean modal,
                    Displayable displayable)
{
    // Create alert, add text, associate a sound
    alStatus = new Alert("Status", msg, null, AlertType.INFO);

    // Set the alert type
    if (modal)
        alStatus.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
    else
        alStatus.setTimeout(ALERT_DISPLAY_TIME);
    // Show the alert, followed by the displayable
    display.setCurrent(alStatus, displayable);
}

/*-----
* Class - Download
*
* Download an image file in a separate thread
*-----*/

```

```

class Download implements Runnable
{
    private String url;
    private ViewPngThread MIDlet;
    private boolean downloadSuccess = false;

    public Download(String url, ViewPngThread MIDlet)
    {
        this.url = url;
        this.MIDlet = MIDlet;
    }
    /*-----
    * Download the image
    *-----*/
    public void run()
    {
        try
        {
            getImage(url);
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
            System.err.println("Msg: " + e.toString());
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Create and start the new thread
    *-----*/
    public void start()
    {
        Thread thread = new Thread(this);
        try
        {
            thread.start();
        }
        catch (Exception e)
        {
        }
    }

    /*-----
    * Open connection and download png into a byte array.
    *-----*/
    private void getImage(String url) throws IOException
    {
        ContentConnection connection =
            (ContentConnection) Connector.open(url);
        InputStream iStrm = connection.openInputStream();
        ByteArrayOutputStream bStrm = null;
        Image im = null;
        try
        {
            // ContentConnection includes a length method
            byte imageData[];
            int length = (int) connection.getLength();
            if (length != -1)

```

```

    {
        imageData = new byte[length];

        // Read the png into an array
        iStrm.read(imageData);
    }
    else // Length not available...
    {
        bStrm = new ByteArrayOutputStream();

        int ch;
        while ((ch = iStrm.read()) != -1)
            bStrm.write(ch);

        imageData = bStrm.toByteArray();
    }

    // Create the image from the byte array
    im = Image.createImage(imageData, 0, imageData.length);
}
finally
{
    // Clean up
    if (connection != null)
        connection.close();
    if (iStrm != null)
        iStrm.close();
    if (bStrm != null)
        bStrm.close();
}

// Return to the caller the status of the download
if (im == null)
    MIDlet.showImage(false);
else
{
    MIDlet.im = im;
    MIDlet.showImage(true);
}
}
}
}

```

Begin by looking at the code in `commandAction()`. Once the user selects *View* we display an alert and create an instance of the class that will download the image. Before leaving, we begin the download by starting the thread.

```

...
else if (c == cmView)
{
    showAlert("Downloading", false, tbMain);

    // Create an instance of the class that will
    // download the file in a separate thread
    Download dl = new Download(tbMain.getString(), this);

    // Start the thread/download

```

```

    dl.start();
}
...

```

The code that downloads the image is basically the same code we've used before. All that's changed is that once the download has completed, we need to determine whether or not it was successful and return this status to the MIDlet. Here is a section of code from the method `getImage()`.

```

// Return to the caller the status of the download
if (im == null)
    MIDlet.showImage(false);
else
{
    MIDlet.im = im;
    MIDlet.showImage(true);
}

```

There are two remaining steps. First, show an alert indicating whether or not the download was successful. Second, if the download was successful display a form with the image; otherwise, return to the textbox.

These two steps are carried out over two methods: `showImage()` and `showAlert()`. The first method deciphers the result of the download and prepares a call to the second method. Notice in `showImage()` that if the download was successful an `ImageItem` is created and placed onto a form.

One more important point: the final parameter passed to `showAlert()` is the `Displayable` object to show once the alert is dismissed. In the case of a successful download the form `fmViewPng`, containing the image, is shown. For a failed download, the textbox `tbMain` is displayed.

```

public void showImage(boolean flag)
{
    if (flag == false)
    {
        // Alert followed by the main textbox
        showAlert("Download Failure", true, tbMain);
    }
    else // Successful download...
    {
        ImageItem ii = new ImageItem(null, im,
            ImageItem.LAYOUT_DEFAULT, null);

        // If there is already an image, set (replace) it
        if (fmViewPng.size() != 0)
            fmViewPng.set(0, ii);
        else // Append the image to the empty form
            fmViewPng.append(ii);

        // Alert followed by the form holding the image
        showAlert("Download Successful", true, fmViewPng);
    }
}

```

Inside `showAlert()` an alert component is constructed based on the parameters passed in. The last line of this method sets the current displayable to the alert, and once acknowledged by the user, the displayable becomes the value passed in from the method `showImage()`.

```
public void showAlert(String msg, boolean modal,
                     Displayable displayable)
{
    // Create alert, add text, associate a sound
    alStatus = new Alert("Status", msg, null, AlertType.INFO);
    // Set the alert type
    if (modal)
        alStatus.setTimeout(Alert.FOREVER);
    else
        alStatus.setTimeout(ALERT_DISPLAY_TIME);

    // Show the alert, followed by the displayable
    display.setCurrent(alStatus, displayable);
}
```

Chapter 15. MIDP FOR THE PALM OS

Topics in this Chapter

- [Device Requirements](#)
- [Download](#)
- [Installation](#)
- [MIDlets](#)
- [Configuring Preferences](#)
 - [Advanced PRC Conversion](#)
 - [Developer \(Debugging\) Application](#)
 - [Palm OS Implementation](#)

Running MIDlets on a device with the Palm OS requires a few steps above and beyond what we've addressed up to this point. In a nutshell, the Java software must be installed and we need to convert a MIDlet(s) to the format understood by the Palm OS, a Pilot resource file (PRC).

A few thoughts before moving on. All information presented in this chapter pertains to "MIDP for Palm OS, Version 1.0." If you download a newer version, there may very well be changes to both the functionality, as well as the look and feel.

For the remainder of this chapter, when using the word "device" this will refer to any device running the Palm OS that has MIDP installed. If you don't have access to an actual device, see the sidebar "Palm OS Emulator." Any differences between a device and the emulator, in regard to installation or otherwise, will be noted throughout the chapter.

Palm APIs

There are no specific Palm APIs supported in MIDP for the Palm OS. Although this may seem to be an oversight, it is intentional. You must remember that MIDP is targeted to a wide range of mobile devices, from cellular phones to PDAs. If there was an API made available for any one device, such as the Palm, MIDlet(s) would not be portable across all devices that have a version of MIDP installed.

Throughout this chapter the word synchronization will refer to the process of transferring software from a computer to a device running the Palm OS and MIDP software. It is not important whether you use the Palm Desktop and HotSync or a third party application, as long as the end result is the same, that PRC files are successfully installed on the device.

Palm OS Emulator (POSE)

If you do not have a device that is running the Palm OS, but would like to write MIDlets for this platform, you can download the Palm OS Emulator (POSE):

<http://www.palmos.com/dev/tech/tools/emulator/>

The emulator can mimic various devices, including the Palm IIIc, which supports color. Alas, the emulator does not include a ROM image, which is the actual OS stored as a file. If

you join the Palm Alliance Program, you can download various ROM images onto your computer and you are off and running:

<http://www.palmos.com/alliance/join/>

Because the emulator is running the actual OS that you'd find on a Palm device (or any device running the Palm OS), there are few differences that we need to concern ourselves with. Therefore, the remainder of this chapter will only differentiate between using an emulator versus a device when necessary.

Device Requirements

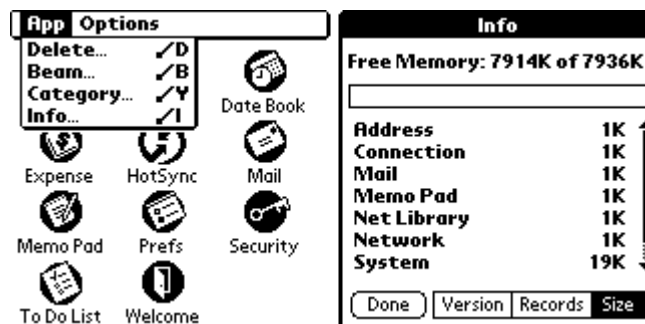
Before going any further, you need to verify that your device is running (emulator included) at least version 3.5 or above of the Palm OS. You can locate the version number by starting the Application Launcher, followed by tapping the Menu icon, each shown in [Figure 15-1](#).

Figure 15-1. Application Launcher and Menu Icons



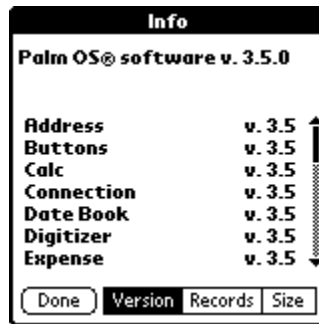
Once the menu appears, as shown on the left in [Figure 15-2](#), select *Info*. From the information screen choose *Version*.

Figure 15-2. Select "Info" followed by "Version"



The version number will appear across the top of the display, as in [Figure 15-3](#).

Figure 15-3. Palm OS version number



A few more stat's: The installed footprint of the Java Software is approximately 585 kilobytes, not including heap spaces requirements and memory consumed by a running MIDlet. It is recommended that your device has at least 4 megabytes of memory.

Download

You can download MIDP for the Palm OS from the following location:

<http://java.sun.com/products/midp4palm>

For Version 1.0, there were two separate downloads, one for the documentation, one for the program files.

I recommend you extract the entire contents of each file, which totals approximately 2 megabytes, onto a local drive off the root directory. From here forward, this will be referred to as the install directory.

The files consist of the MIDP implementation for the Palm OS, demo applications in both JAR/JAD and PRC formats, utilities to convert JAR/JAD files to PRC files, documentation, and of course, the obligatory license and copyright information.

Installation

The Java software for the Palm OS is referred to as Java HQ (in release 1.0). This software must be installed on the device before we can run MIDlets.

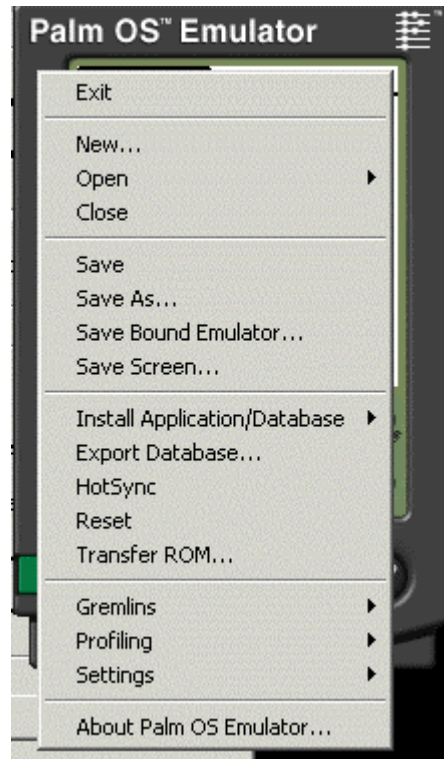
Installation of Java HQ is as simple as transferring the file `MIDP.prc` to the device. Locate this file in the install directory (`\PRCfiles`) and perform a synchronization to transfer the file.

Note for POSE



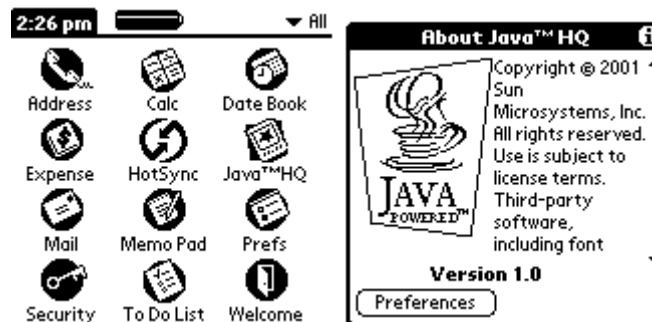
Right click on the emulator to bring up the options menu, see [Figure 15-4](#). Select *Install Application/Database*, choose *Other* to locate `MIDP.prc`.

Figure 15-4. Right click on the emulator to bring up the options menu.



You can verify the installation by returning to the Applications Launcher, locating the *Java HQ* icon, and tapping it once. The About screen should appear as shown in [Figure 15-5](#).

Figure 15-5. Application Launcher and Java HQ



>

MIDlets

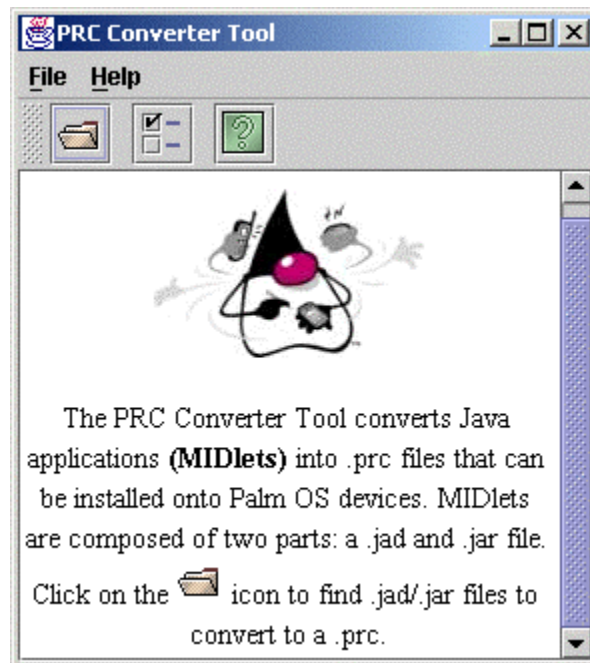
This section will cover all aspects of working with MIDlets using the Palm OS. This includes converting MIDlet suites to Palm OS files, transferring MIDlets to a device, as well as running, beaming and removing MIDlets.

PRC Converter Tool

MIDlet's are typically distributed as a pair of files, a JAD and JAR, which comprise the "MIDlet suite." In order to run MIDlets on the Palm OS these files must be Converted to a Palm resource file (PRC).

The PRC Converter Tool is a Java Swing application that is started from a command prompt, by typing "converter" in the directory \Converter, located off the install directory. Once up and running you'll see the screen shown in [Figure 15-6](#).

Figure 15-6. Program to convert jad/jar file to .prc file



JAVA_PATH

Before running the converter, you must have a reference to the location of a JDK or Java Runtime Environment (JRE) directory in the environment variable `JAVA_PATH`. For example:

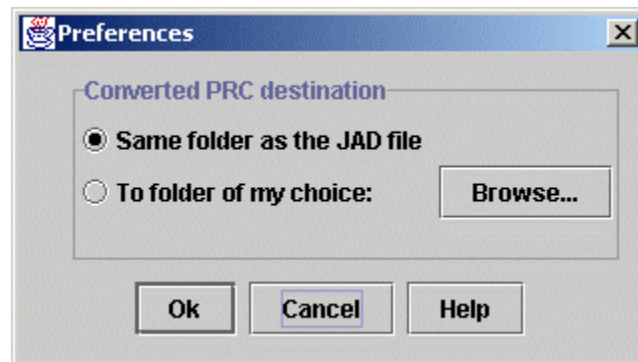
```
JAVA_PATH=c:\jdk1.3.1
```

or

```
JAVA_PATH=c:\jre
```

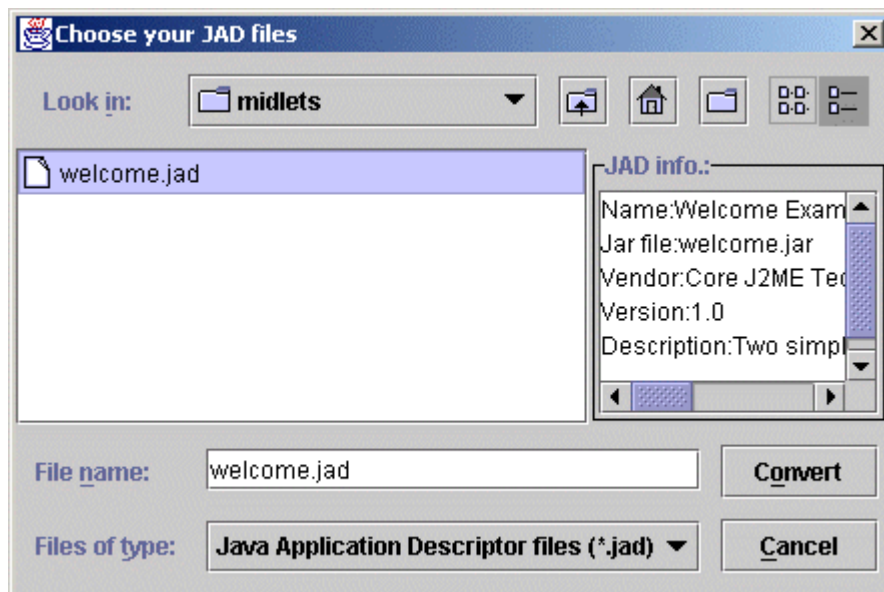
You have the option to specify the output location of the PRC files. From the File menu choose *Preferences*, you'll see the screen shown in [Figure 15-7](#). From here you can select to have PRC files written to the same location as the JAD/JAR files or specify a directory (folder) elsewhere to house the output.

Figure 15-7. Set location to store.prc files



To continue the conversion process, select the Folder icon or choose *Convert* from the File menu. In either case, the screen shown in [Figure 15-8](#) will be displayed. Locate the JAD and JAR files you would like to convert (both must exist in the same directory). Select *Convert* to generate the PRC file. The original files will remain intact.

Figure 15-8. Locate the JAD/JAR file to convert



Install

Once the conversion is complete, we need to move the PRC file to the device. There is nothing special about this transfer: simply treat the PRC file as you would any other Palm OS application. Said another way, synchronize the file from your computer to the device.

Note for POSE



Right-click on the emulator to bring up the options menu. Select Install Application/Database and choose Other to locate the PRC file to install.

Run

A MIDlet is run on a Palm OS device in exactly the same manner as any other application. From the Application Launcher, tap the icon of the program.

Example: `ToDoList`, `Doodle` and `Translate`

Let's install and run three examples that were created earlier in the book. The first example is from [Chapter 12](#), the `ToDoList` MIDlet. The original JAR and JAD files have been converted to a PRC file, which is located in the examples directory shown below:

```
\examples\ch15\ToDoList\ToDoList.prc
```

Creating the PRC file was as simple as pointing the PRC Converter Tool at `ToDoList.jad` in the directory above. The second and third MIDlets are taken from examples in the [Chapter 9](#), `Doodle` and `Translate`. I have combined these MIDlets into one suite. The resulting PRC file is in the following directory:

```
\examples\ch15\Graphics\Graphics.prc
```

Here are the steps to create the PRC file:

1. Create a new directory for the MIDlet files
2. Copy `bolt.png` from `\examples\ch9\Translate` to the new directory
3. Copy `Translate.class` and `TranslateCanvas.class` from `\examples\ch9\Translate` to the new directory
4. Copy `Doodle.class` and `DoodleCanvas.class` from `\examples\ch9\Doodle` to the new directory
5. Create a file `manifest.txt` with the following contents:

```
MIDlet-Name: Graphics
MIDlet-Version: 1.0.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-1: Doodle, ,Doodle
MIDlet-2: Translate, ,Translate
MicroEdition-Profile: MIDP-1.0
MicroEdition-Configuration: CLDC-1.0
```

6. Create a file `Graphics.jad` with the following contents:

```
MIDlet-Name: Graphics
MIDlet-Version: 1.0.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-1: Doodle, ,Doodle
MIDlet-2: Translate, ,Translate
MIDlet-Jar-URL: Graphics.jar
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 4578
```

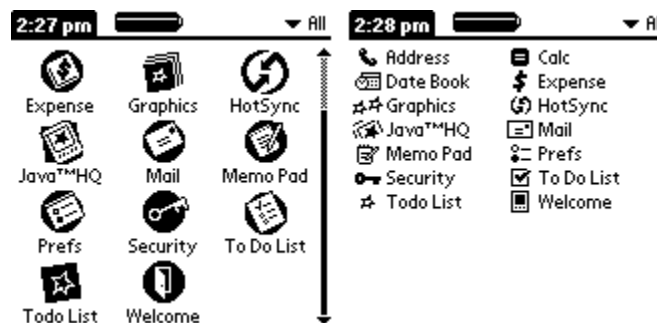
7. Create a JAR file by running the Java archive application as follows:

```
jar cvfm Graphics.jar manifest.txt Doodle.class
DoodleCanvas.class Translate.class
TranslateCanvas.class bolt.png
```

8. Create the PRC file by pointing the PRC Converter Tool at the file `Graphics.jad`

Load both PRC files (`ToDoList.prc` and `Graphics.prc`) onto your device by synchronizing, or for POSE, installing as we have done previously. From the Application Launcher locate the icons "Graphics" and "ToDo List." You should see a display similar to the left screen-shot in [Figure 15-9](#).

Figure 15-9. Install MIDlets, "ToDo List" and "Graphics"; Application Launcher "Icon View" on left, "List View" on right



Example 15.1 Graphics.jad

```
MIDlet-Name: Graphics
MIDlet-Version: 1.0.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-1: Doodle, ,Doodle
MIDlet-2: Translate, ,Translate
MIDlet-Jar-URL: Graphics.jar
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 4147
```

Example 15.2 ToDoList.jad

```
MIDlet-Name: Todo List
MIDlet-Version: 1.0.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
MIDlet-1: ToDoList, ,ToDoMIDlet
MIDlet-Jar-URL: ToDoList.jar
```

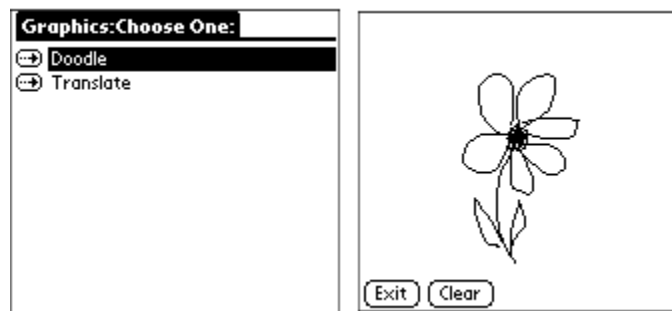
```
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 9233
MIDlet-Data-Size: 1500
```

If you look closely at the left screen-shot in [Figure 15-9](#) you'll see a slight difference in the icons that were created for each MIDlet: "Graphics" has what looks like several icons, one on top of the other. If we compare the application descriptor files, it should be clear why the icons appear as they do.

`Graphics.jad` contains two MIDlets within the suite, Doodle and Translate. `ToDoList.jad` contains just one MIDlet. Java HQ provides one of two default application icons depending on the whether or not the suite contains one or more MIDlets. If the Application Launcher is switched to "View by List" a second set of default icons are shown for the MIDlets, see the right screen-shot in [Figure 15-9](#). In the section "Advanced PRC Conversion" we'll introduce an additional means to convert a MIDlet to a PRC file where we can specify the icon(s) associate with the MIDlet.

Tap on the "Graphics" icon to open the MIDlet suite. Once running, you'll see a list of the MIDlets available, (see [Figure 15-10](#)). Choose the arrow next to the MIDlet you would like to run.

Figure 15-10. Multiple MIDlets within a suite; Doodle MIDlet running on the right



Because there is only one MIDlet in the `ToDoList.jad` file, selecting the "Todo List" icon (from [Figure 15-9](#)) immediately launches the application (see [Figure 15-11](#)).

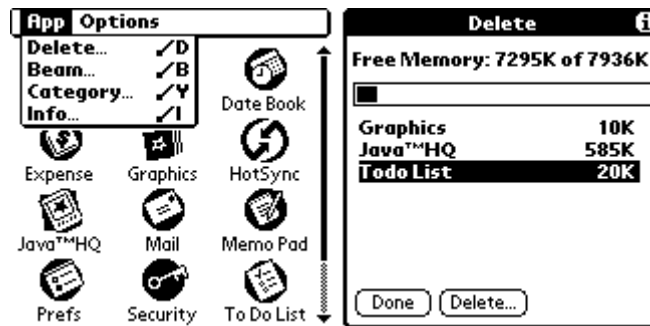
Figure 15-11. Todo List MIDlet



Remove

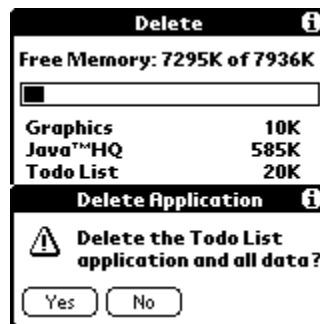
To remove a MIDlet suite, return to the Applications Launcher and tap the Menu icon. From the menu choose *Delete*, which will display a list of all the applications that you can remove (see [Figure 15-12](#)).

Figure 15-12. Removing an application



Once you choose an application there will be a screen to confirm your decision. After deletion, there is no going back (see [Figure 15-13](#)).

Figure 15-13. Confirmation before deleting an application



Beam

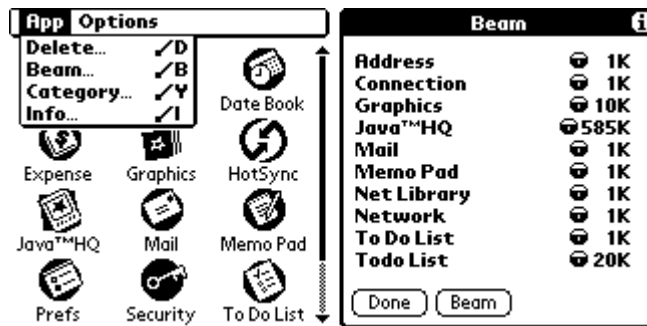
Devices running the Palm OS support transferring of information using an infrared port. If you are using an actual device, not the emulator, you can beam MIDlets from the Applications Launcher. Tap the Menu icon and choose *Beam*.

Note



Although you can beam MIDlet suites from one device to another, Java HQ is not "beamable."

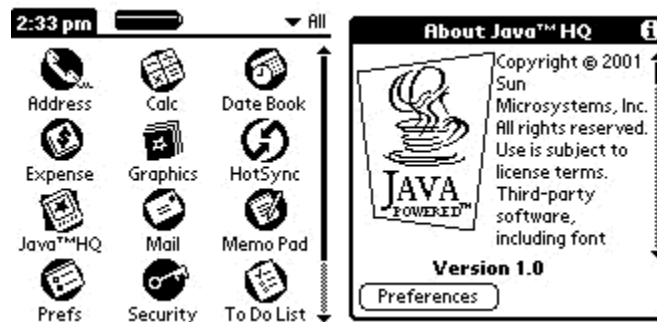
Figure 15-14. Beaming applications



Configuring Preferences

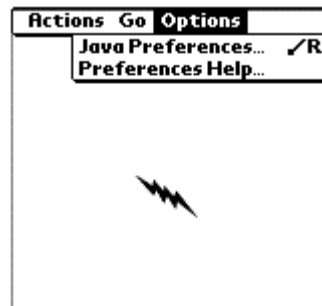
Preference settings are divided into two areas: Global and Application. There are two ways to access the dialog box for configuring preferences. First, from the Applications Launcher, select the *Java HQ* icon (see [Figure 15-15](#)).

Figure 15-15. Configure preferences from "Java HQ"



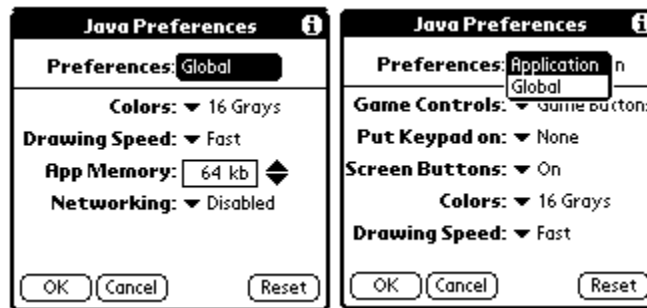
You can also access the preferences dialog from any MIDlet that is running. Tap the Menu icon on the device, select the *Options* menu, and choose *Java Preferences* (see [Figure 15-16](#)).

Figure 15-16. Configure preferences from within a MIDlet



There is an important distinction between the preferences you can configure based on where the dialog was invoked (see [Figure 15-17](#)).

Figure 15-17. On the left, preferences from "Java HQ"; On the right, preferences from within a MIDlet



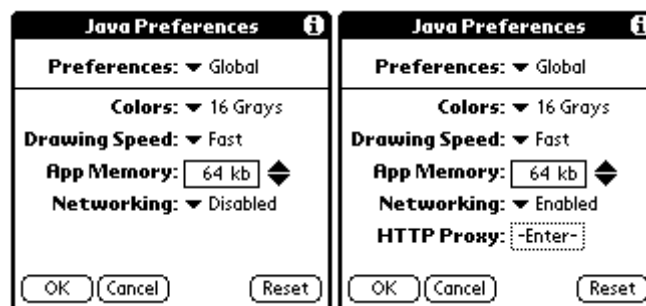
When choosing to configure preferences from "Java HQ," you only have access to Global preferences. From within a MIDlet, you have an additional option to configure the preferences for that specific application.

Global

There are four global configuration settings: Colors, Drawing Speed, Application Memory and Networking. Settings within this category apply to all MIDlets.

1. **Color:** The default setting will be determined based on the capability of the device. That is, if the device supports 16 grays, that will be the setting. You may opt to decrease the color setting below the default in an effort to increase application performance.
2. **Drawing Speed:** If you prefer drawing operations to be as smooth as possible, chose *Smooth*. If application speed is preferred over smoothness of drawing, choose *Fast*.
3. **App Memory:** You can tailor how much memory to set aside for applications. There is no rocket science in determining the default. It is based on the amount of memory installed on your device. If you choose to increase this value, applications may have more elbow room. However, there is a caveat: There is no guarantee the device will always be able to provide the amount you've requested.
4. **Networking:** There are two choices for networking: *disabled* and *enabled*. When choosing *enabled*, you can also specify an HTTP proxy (see the screen-shot on the right of [Figure 15-18](#)).

Figure 15-18. Global preferences



Confirming Preferences

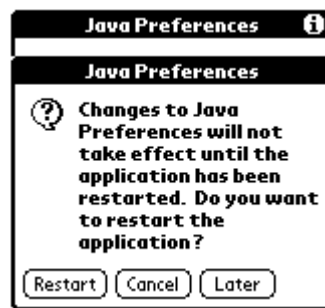
When changing any preference from within a MIDlet, before leaving the dialog box, you have a choice as to when the changes will take effect.

Restart: Shutdown and restart the application with the new preferences.

Later: Return to the application. New preferences will be in place when restarting the application.

Cancel: Ignore changes and return to the application.

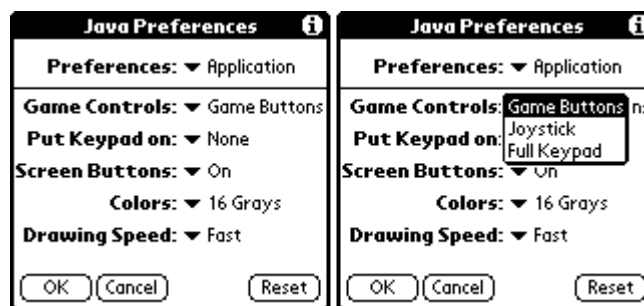
Figure 15-19. Confirming changes



Application

There are five configuration settings that apply to applications: Game Controls, Put Keypad On, Screen Buttons, Colors and Drawing Speed (see left screen-shot in [Figure 15-20](#)).

Figure 15-20. Application preferences



Game Controls

Three options are available for Game Controls, each listed on the right screen shot in [Figure 15-20](#). It should be apparent that settings within this category are primarily intended for games. The idea is to provide a compatible means to manage the game actions (UP, DOWN, LEFT, RIGHT) defined in the `Canvas` class. If you need a review, head back to [Chapter 9](#).

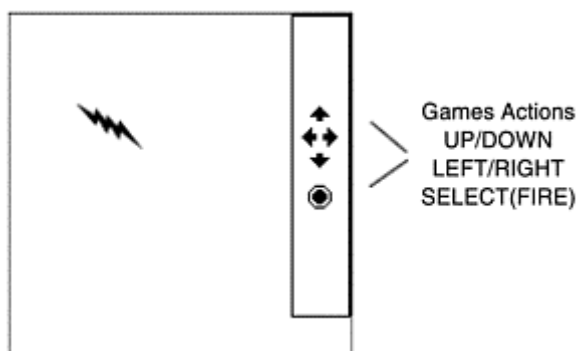
1. **Game Buttons:** With this option, the "traditional" keys/buttons on the device are used to generate events (see [Figure 15-21](#)).

Figure 15-21. Game controls and the "Game Buttons" setting



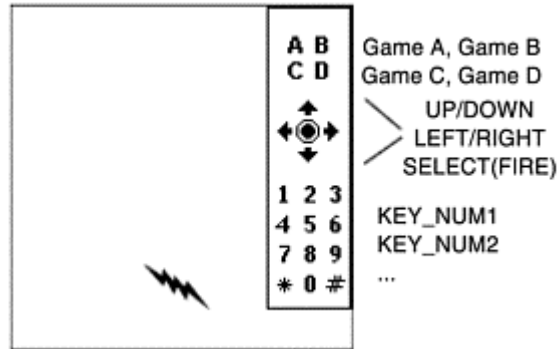
2. **Joystick:** In place of using the keys defined on the device, this option displays directional arrows and "Select/Fire" button in a separate window. [Figure 15-22](#) shows the MIDlet "Translate" (see [Chapter 9](#), [Example 9.9](#)) running with the Joystick option.

Figure 15-22. Game controls and the "Joystick" setting



3. **Full Keypad:** Setting the game control to "Full Keypad" will display a window that can generate all the game actions and key events that are supported for mobile devices. [Figure 15-23](#) shows the "Translate" MIDlet with the keypad.

Figure 15-23. Game controls and the "Full Keypad" setting



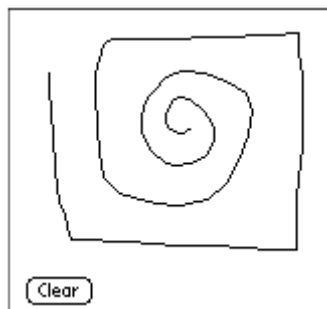
Put Keypad on

When the Game Control is set to either *Joystick* or *Full Keypad*, this option allows a choice between displaying the controls on the right or left.

Screen Buttons

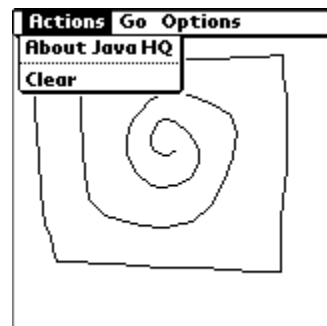
If a MIDlet is running short of screen real estate, setting this option to *Off* will remove all buttons from the display. Don't despair, all options will be available through the menu. [Figure 15-24](#) shows the MIDlet "Doodle" (see [Chapter 9, Example 9.3](#)) with Screen Buttons set to *On*.

Figure 15-24. Screen buttons on



[Figure 15-25](#) shows the clear command available in the menu when setting Screen Buttons to *Off*.

Figure 15-25. Screen buttons Off



Colors

Choose the color preference. The default setting will be determined based on the capability of the device.

Drawing Speed

Smooth drawing tends to be the preference for animation; however, drawing operations take more time. *Fast*, on the other hand, spends less time drawing, with the upshot that the animation is not as smooth.

Overriding Global Preferences

When setting values for *Colors* and *Drawing Speed* inside Application Preferences, these values will override the values of the same name in the Global Preferences. This allows you to tweak the settings for a specific application without affecting others.

Example: keyCodes and gameActions

In [Chapter 9](#) we wrote two MIDlets to experiment with key codes and game actions. The MIDlets have been combined into one MIDlet suite and converted to the following Palm resource file:

```
\examples\ch15\Events\Events.prc
```

To get a feel for event handling with the Palm OS interface, give these MIDlets a spin.

Advanced PRC Conversion

Previously we used the PRC Converter Tool to convert a MIDlet(s) to a Palm resource file. Although the Converter Tool works fine, often times you will need more control over the contents of the generated resource file. For example, the Converter Tool does not allow you to specify a Palm creator ID, a sequence of four characters used to uniquely identify your application. As an additional example, you cannot specify the icon(s) the Palm we will use when displaying your application in the Application Launcher, instead, default application icons are created for you, see [Figure 15–9](#).

Converting a Spotlet to a MIDlet

If you have a Spotless application that you would like to convert to a MIDlet, [Chapter 3](#) of the Developer's Notes contains an abundance of information including event handling, user interface and database conversion. You can find the Developer's Notes document in the following directory of your MIDP for Palm OS installation:

```
\midp4palm1.0-docs\dev.pdf
```

Command-line Converter

`MakeMIDPApp` is a command-line PRC converter. It is a Java class file stored in `Converter.jar`, which is the same file that contains the classes for the PRC Converter Tool. Here is the command-line syntax to start the Command-line Converter:

```
java -cp Converter.jar com.sun.midp.palm.database.MakeMIDPApp  
[options] <jar file>
```

Here is an additional example specifying the full path to the JAR file:

```
java -cp c:\midp4palm1.0\Converter\Converter.jar  
com.sun.midp.palm.database.MakeMIDPApp [options] <jar file>
```

Following are the various command line options available:

- `-help`

Display the command line syntax.

- `-icon <file>`

This icon will be shown by the Application Manager when the "View by Icon" preference is chosen. The icon should be 32 x 32 pixels. For release 1.0 of MIDP of the Palm, only bitmaps that are black and white (1 bit) are supported. The available file formats are: .bmp (Windows bitmap); .pbm (Portable bitmap); .bin (Palm OS bitmap). See [Example 15.4](#).

- `-smallicon <file>`

This icon will be shown by the Application Manager when the "View by List" preference is chosen. The icon should be a 15 x 9 pixels. See `-icon` option for additional information. See [Example 15.4](#).

- `-name <name>`

Name to display alongside the MIDlet in the Application Launcher. The maximum length should be in the range of 9 to 11 characters. If this parameter is not specified, the name created will be the `MIDlet-Name` attribute in the JAD file, or JAR manifest.

- `-longname <name>`

Full application name, displayed when deleting or beaming. The maximum length should be no more than 31 characters. If this parameter is not specified, the name created will be a combination of the `MIDlet-Name` and `MIDlet-Vendor` attributes in the JAD file, or JAR manifest.

- `-creator <id>`

All Palm applications have a creator ID. These four character names are used to uniquely identify an application. If you do not specify a creator ID, this conversion program (as does the PRC Converter Tool) will generate one for you, with a value in the range "VM00" to "VM99." Also, if you do not specify the creator ID, you must include the command line option `-type data`

Palm maintains an online database of creator ID's in which you can query/request ID's.

<http://www.palmos.com/dev/tech/palmos/creatorid/>

- `-outfile <file> or -o <file>`

The name of the PRC file to create. If you do not specify this option the resulting PRC file has the same name as the JAR file parameter on the command line, with a .prc extension. The one exception is if you specify the `-jad` option, as shown below.

- `-jad <file>`

The name of the application descriptor file to use during the conversion process. Information inside the JAD is used when creating a PRC file. If you specify this parameter, and do not specify the `-outfile` parameter, the resulting PRC file will have the filename passed into this parameter, with a .prc extension.

- `-type <type>`

Represents the type of application being converted, valid parameters are: `appl` or `data`. The default, if this parameter is not specified, is `appl`.

- `-verbose or -v`

Request additional information be displayed during the conversion process. Specifying the option twice (e.g. `-v -v`) requests all possible messages be displayed.

Let's look at several examples:

Example 15.3

```
java -cp Converter.jar com.sun.midp.palm.database.MakeMIDPApp -v
      -creator abcd TodoList.jar
```

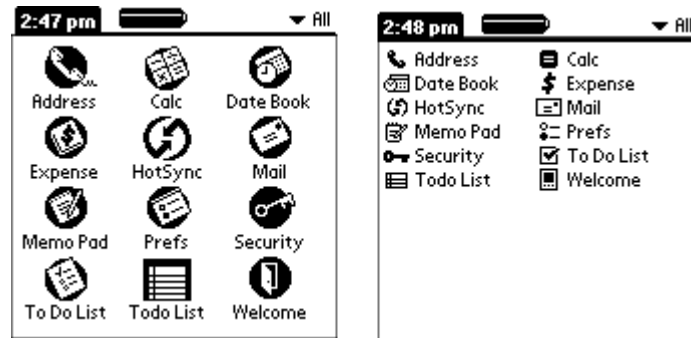
Without specifying the `-icon` and `-smallicon`, the conversion process will create two default icons, as shown in [Figure 15-9](#). The option `-outfile` was not specified, thus, the PRC file will have the same name as the JAR file, with a .prc extension, `TodoList.PRC`.

Example 15.4

```
java -cp Converter.jar com.sun.midp.palm.database.MakeMIDPApp -creator
efgh
      -icon TodoLargeIcon.bmp -smallicon TodoSmallIcon.bmp -jad
TodoList.jad
      -v -v TodoList.jar
```

We've specified the icons to display in the Application Launcher for both "View by Icon" and "View by List" see [Figure 15-26](#). The option `-outfile` was not specified, thus, the PRC file will have the same name as the JAR file, with a .prc extension, `TodoList.PRC`. We have requested all messages be displayed during the conversion (`-v -v`).

Figure 15-26. Custom icons for Todo List MIDlet



Example 15.5

```
java -cp Converter.jar com.sun.midp.palm.database.MakeMIDPApp
  -creator ijkl -name Todo -longname CoreJ2ME_Todo
  -icon TodoLargeIcon.bmp -smallicon TodoSmallIcon.bmp
  -outfile TodoMIDlet.prc -v -v TodoList.jar
```

In [Figure 15–27](#) there are two icons for our Todo-List MIDlet. The icon (and associated MIDlet) with the name "Todo List" (bottom row) were created in [Example 15.4](#). The name of the MIDlet was generated from the `MIDlet-Name` property in the JAD file. The name of the second icon "Todo" was specified using the `-name` option in this example. The PRC file created will have the name `TodoMIDlet.prc` (`-outfile` option). The source code for Examples [15.4](#) and [15.5](#) can be found in the directory

```
\examples\ch15\Advanced_PRC_Conversion
```

Figure 15-27. Specifying the name to associate with a MIDlet icon

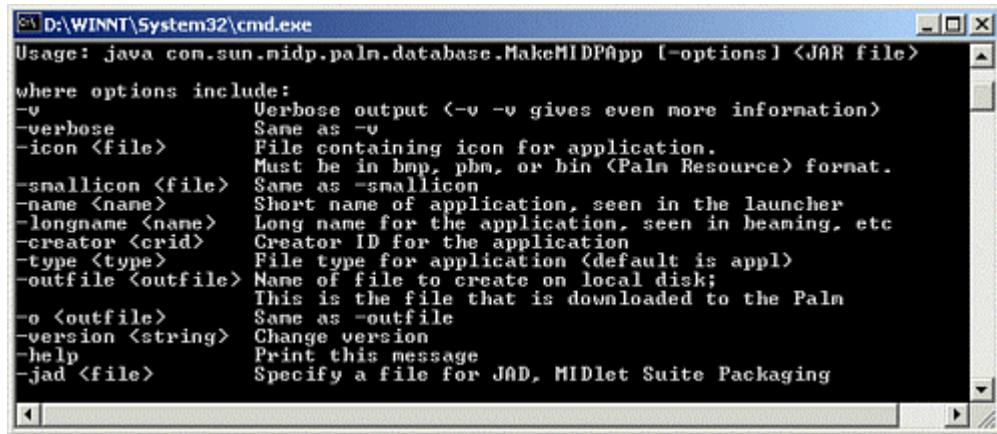


Example 15.6

```
java -cp Converter.jar com.sun.midp.palm.database.MakeMIDPApp -help
```

Show help information about command line syntax, [Figure 15–28](#).

Figure 15-28. Command-line Converter options



```
D:\WINNT\System32\cmd.exe
Usage: java con.sun.midp.palm.database.MakeMIDPApp [-options] <JAR file>

where options include:
-v          Verbose output (-v -v gives even more information)
-verbose    Same as -v
-icon <file> File containing icon for application.
             Must be in bmp, pbm, or bin (Palm Resource) format.
-smallicon <file> Same as -smallicon
-name <name> Short name of application, seen in the launcher
-longname <name> Long name for the application, seen in beaming, etc
-creator <cid> Creator ID for the application
-type <type> File type for application (default is appl)
-outfile <outfile> Name of file to create on local disk;
                  This is the file that is downloaded to the Palm
-o <outfile> Same as -outfile
-version <string> Change version
-help      Print this message
-jad <file> Specify a file for JAD, MIDlet Suite Packaging
```

Developer (Debugging) Application

In the process of writing, testing and debugging MIDlets there are often times when some additional insight may prove to be very helpful in tracking down problems. There is an application that accompanies MIDP for Palm OS download, `Developer.prc`, that provides access to information including memory usage and availability, messages written to `System.out` and `System.err`, and determining creator IDs for MIDlet(s) installed on a device.

Installation

Installation is as simple as transferring `Developer.prc` onto your device or emulator. The file is located in the directory `\PRCfiles`, off the install directory.

Once installed, to enable the developer application, tap on the Developer icon in the Application Launcher and choose "Show." See [Figure 15-29](#).

Figure 15-29. Enabling the Developer Application



Features

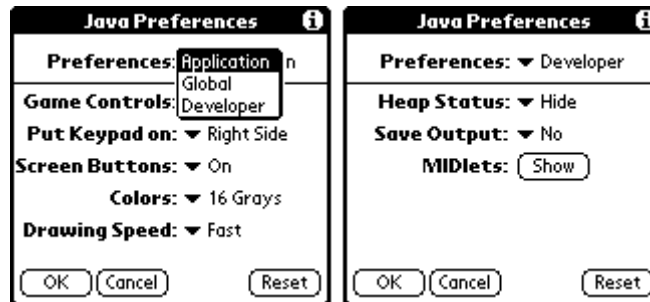
We access the features of the Developer application through the *Preferences* dialog box. Here are the two routes to bring up the preferences screen:

1. From the Application Launcher, tap the *Java HQ* icon, select *Preferences*.

2. From within a running MIDlet, tap the *Menu* icon, select the *Options* menu and choose *Java Preferences*.

Regardless of how we access the preferences, there is an additional menu entry, *Developer*. There are three options available from within the *Developer* dialog box, *Heap Status*, *Save Output* and *MIDlets*, each explained below. The screen-shot on the left of [Figure 15-30](#) shows the preferences screen when accessed from within a running MIDlet. The right screen-shot shows the *Developer* preferences dialog.

Figure 15-30. Preferences screen invoked from within a MIDlet; Developer preferences dialog box



Heap Status

There are two options, *Show* and *Hide*. Choosing *Show* informs Java HQ to display heap information upon loading a MIDlet or MIDlet suite. The total space available on the heap is shown, along with the largest chunk that can be returned in any one request, the requested size when starting the application and the actual amount returned. See [Figure 15-31](#).

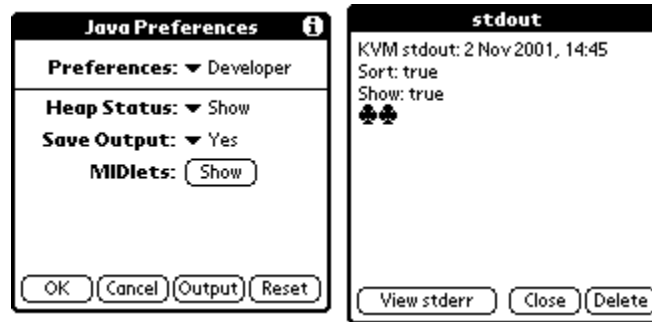
Figure 15-31. Heap space information



Save Output

When this option is set to *Yes*, all calls within a MIDlet to `System.out` and `System.err` are captured. Once enabled, there is an additional button ("Output") along the bottom of the *Developer* preferences dialog box, see the left screen-shot of [Figure 15-32](#). On the right of [Figure 15-32](#) are two application messages written to `System.out`.

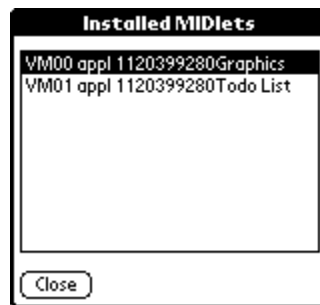
Figure 15-32. Enabling "Save Output" on left; View output on right



MIDlets

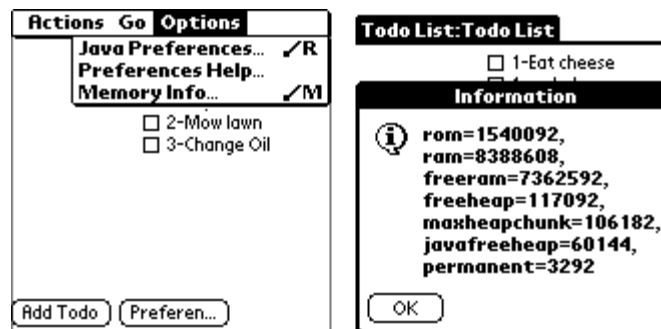
When you select this option, any MIDlet with a creator ID in the range VM00 to VM99 will be displayed. Any entry in this list represents a MIDlet that was automatically assigned a creator ID by either the PRC Converter Tool, or from the Command-line Converter, when not specifying the "-creator" option. See [Figure 15-33](#)

Figure 15-33. Creator ID's of installed MIDlets



With the Developer Application installed, additional information about memory availability can be accessed when a MIDlet is active by tapping the Menu icon, selecting the *Options* menu and choosing *Memory Info*, see [Figure 15-34](#). The following information is displayed:

Figure 15-34. Memory information



rom— The size of the ROM image installed on the device.

ram— Total RAM on installed the device.

freeram— The amount of RAM that is available for use.

freeheap— Heap memory available for use.

maxheapchunk— The largest block of memory that can be allocated from *freeheap*.

javafreeheap— Java objects are allocated from this memory area. Indicates the amount available.

permanent— Memory used by the KVM.

Palm OS Implementation

There are a few details about the implementation of MIDP for the Palm OS that need clarification. Although the Palm OS implementation meets the requirements of MIDP, there is room for flexibility as far as how an implementation carries out the details set forth in the specification. This section provides a brief look at those areas that differ from the implementation of MIDP for mobile devices that we have seen previously. As you might guess, the majority of differences come down to cosmetic changes based on device display capabilities.

Command Types

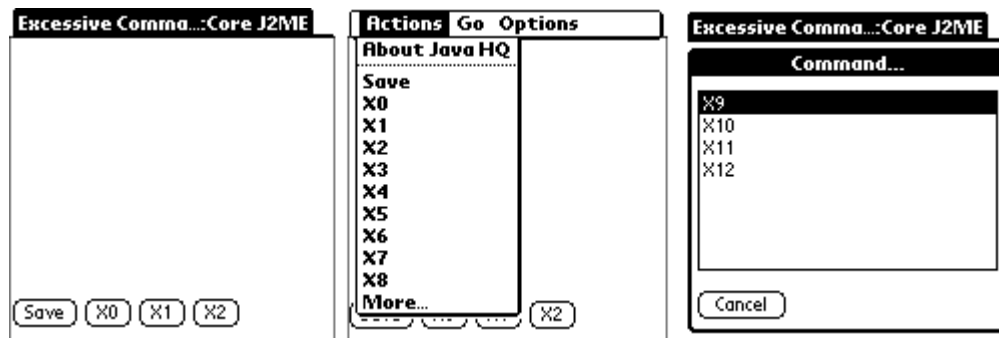
The MIDP `Command` object provides a means for a MIDlet to interact with the user in a device-independent manner. As a developer, you define a `Command` and the implementation triggers an event through a soft-button or menu.

Each command that you define will have an entry in the Palm OS menu system. In addition, should there be too many commands to fit on a single menu, a dialog box will be created with a list of the remaining commands. To show how this looks on the Palm OS device, I created a MIDlet with a ridiculous number of commands as shown below:

```
cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);
cmHelp = new Command("Help", Command.HELP, 1);
cmSave = new Command("Save", Command.SCREEN, 1);
cmX0 = new Command("X0", Command.SCREEN, 2);
...
cmX12 = new Command("X12", Command.SCREEN, 14);
```

The screen-shot on the left of [Figure 15-35](#) shows several of the commands available along the bottom of the display. When tapping the Menu icon, the middle screen-shot in [Figure 15-35](#) appears. Notice the option at the bottom of the menu *"More..."* to view additional menu entries. The right screen shows a list of the commands that could not be displayed in the original menu.

Figure 15-35. Handling more commands than the menu system will support



The source code for MIDlet shown in [Figure 15–35](#) can be found in the directory

`\examples\ch15\ExcessiveCommands`

If you refer to the middle screen-shot of [Figure 15–35](#) you'll see that there are three options across the top of the Palm OS menu, *Actions*, *Go* and *Options*. MIDP places commands, based on their type into one of these three menus. The available types are listed in [Table 15.1](#).

Table 15.1. Command Types - javax.microedition.lcdui.Command	
<i>Value</i>	<i>Description</i>
BACK	A request to move to the previous screen
CANCEL	A request to cancel an operation.
EXIT	A request to exit the MIDlet
HELP	A request to display help information.
ITEM	A request to map the Command to an "item" on the screen.
OK	Specify positive acknowledgement from a user.
SCREEN	For Commands in which it is unlikely there will be a specific key mapping available.
STOP	A request to stop an operation.

Listed below are the Palm OS menu options and the `Command` types that are found within each entry.

Actions

ITEM

SCREEN

Go

BACK

OK

CANCEL

STOP

EXIT

Options

HELP

[Figure 15–36](#) shows each of the following commands mapping into the appropriate Palm OS menu.

Figure 15-36. Command mapping



```
cmExit = new Command("Exit", Command.EXIT, 1);  
cmHelp = new Command("Help", Command.HELP, 1);  
cmSave = new Command("Save", Command.SCREEN, 1);
```

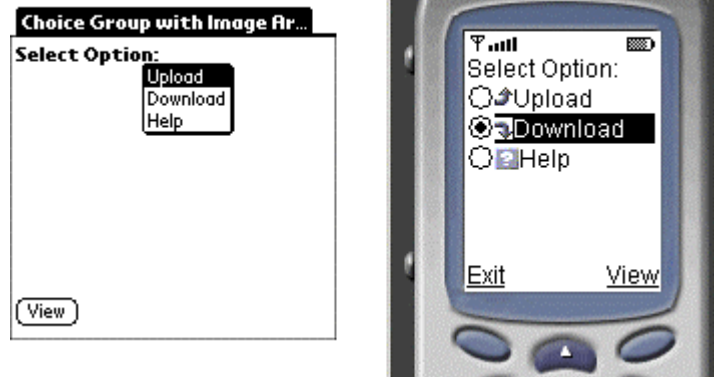
Notice that the command `cmSave` is also accessible on the display. All `Command` types, with the exception of `HELP` and `EXIT`, may be mapped to the display. If there are more commands defined than will fit on the display, commands are chosen based on their type, with the priority being: `BACK`, `OK`, `CANCEL`, `STOP`, `SCREEN` and `ITEM`.

The source code for the example shown in [Figure 15–36](#) can be found in the directory `\examples\ch15\CommandMapping`

Choice Component

Although the `ChoiceGroup` component has a constructor and additional methods to support images alongside entries, the Palm OS does not support images in such a fashion, and accordingly, any images specified will be ignored. The right screen-shot in [Figure 15–37](#) shows images alongside `ChoiceGroup` entries on a mobile device. The left screen-shot shows the same `ChoiceGroup` as displayed on a Palm OS device.

Figure 15-37. ChoiceGroup on Palm OS and mobile device



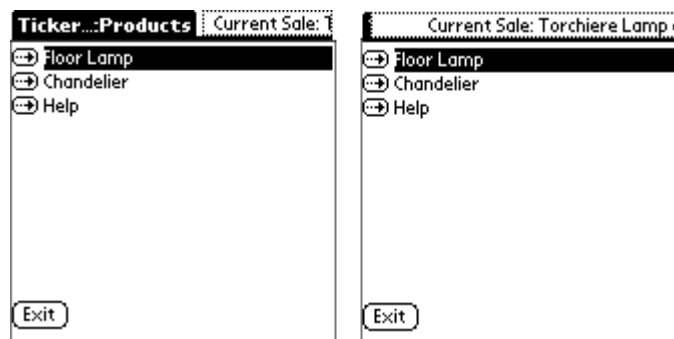
The source code for the example shown in [Figure 15-37](#) can be found in the directory `\examples\ch15\ChoiceGroup`.

Ticker Component

The **Ticker** component scrolls a text message along the top of the display. If there is a title associated with the **Screen** component (that the **Ticker** is "attached" to) the display area will be shared among the two. Two additional features are available:

- Tapping on the ticker will remove any title displayed, leaving the ticker to occupy the entire display width. Tapping a second time returns to the display that is shared between the title and **Ticker**. See [Figure 15-38](#).

Figure 15-38. Ticker component with shared title area; Ticker (after one tap) occupying the entire screen width



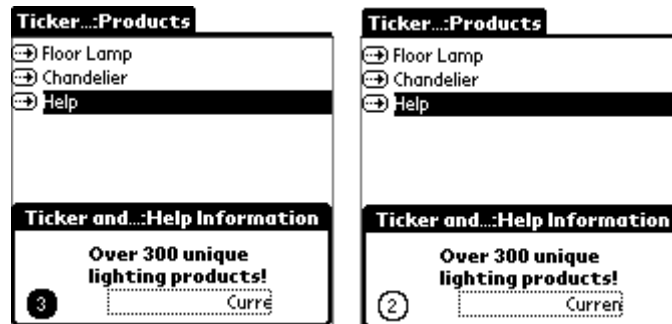
- The text message displayed on the **Ticker** can be dragged back and forth using the stylus.

When using a **Ticker** component with an **Alert**, the scrolling text appears as shown in [Figures 15-39](#) and [15-40](#).

Figure 15-39. Ticker with a modal Alert



Figure 15-40. Ticker with a timed Alert



In [Figure 15-40](#), notice the "count-down" timer showing how much time is remaining for the alert.

The source code for the examples shown in [Figures 15-39](#) and [15-40](#) are in the directories `\examples\ch15\TickerModalAlert` and `examples\ch15\TickerNonModalAlert`.

Additional Protocols

The Palm OS provides network capabilities that are not included within the MIDP specification. Following is an overview of the network options available.

inethhttp / inethhttps

MIDP for the Palm OS uses the Palm network library NetLib to provide the support for HTTP, as required by the MIDP specification. However, some devices (such as the Palm VII) may require use of the Palm network library INetLib to provide connection to the internet. To support devices that require the use of INetLib, MIDP for the Palm provides to support for two additional protocols, inethhttp and inethhttps.

Establishing a connection using either of these libraries works in an identical fashion to creating any other type of connection, the format is as follows:

```
Connector.open("protocol:address;parameters");
```

With the addition of inethhttp and inethhttps, MIDP for the Palm will recognize the following connection requests:

```
Connector.open("inethhttp://www.some_web_address.com")
```



```
Connector.open("inethhttps://www.some_web_address.com")
```

Here is a block of code that will test for the availability of the protocols and create a connection

```
boolean secureConnectionRequired = false;
HttpConnection http;
String URL = "www.some_web_address.com";

// Verify if the protocols are available
String protocol = System.getProperty("com.sun.midp.inethttp");
if ("true".equals(protocol))
{
    try
    {
        if (secureConnectionRequired)
            http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open("inethhttps://" + URL);
        else
            http = (HttpConnection) Connector.open("inethhttp://" + URL);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        System.out.println("Connection Error: " + e.toString());
    }
}
else
    System.out.println("inethhttp and inethhttps are not available");
```

The support for HTTP within the MIDP specification is quite comprehensive. Unfortunately, when using inethhttp and/or inethhttps there is no support for request headers (for example, Accept, Content-Type, Expires), and there is a limited set response headers available. In addition, any data sent through a request method of POST must be URL-encoded.

Sockets

There is one additional means of network communication from within a MIDlet running on MIDP for the Palm OS, a socket.

```
Connector.open("socket://www.some_web_address.com:80")
```

Reading and writing through this connection is accomplished using `InputStream` and `OutputStream`, respectively.

Note



inethhttp, inethhttps and sockets are not required protocols within MIDP 1.0. Use these classes with the caveat that MIDlets may not be portable to other MIDP devices.

Appendix A. Over the Air User Initiated Provisioning Recommended Practice

As a developer, our main interest lies with writing MIDlets. However, understanding the big picture is always a good idea. Thus an overview of the recommended procedure for transferring MIDlets from a server to a device is in order.

We'll begin with a baseline including definitions and general information. This will be followed by application discovery, MIDlet installation, upgrade and removal and reporting installation status. We'll include a brief summary of requirements for a server hosting MIDlets and will also briefly touch upon the provisioning considerations in a WAP environment.

The information will be divided into two broad sections—server and device (client)— with the great majority of information pertaining to the latter.

Before moving on, it's worth stating that the information presented in this chapter is derived from the document "Over the Air User Initiated Provisioning Recommended Practice" ^[1] version 1.0, which is an addendum to the MIDP.

^[1] OTA— <http://java.sun.com/products/midp/OTAProvisioning-1.0.pdf>

General Information

Much of the information in this section has been covered previously. However, it bears repeating, if for no other reason then to serve as a quick refresher before using the terms as they apply to this provision.

A MIDlet suite refers to the JAD file and the JAR file that are used to package one or more MIDlets and any additional resources (such as images or application data).

The Application Management Software, also known as the Java Application Manager, is the software that implements the MIDP. It is responsible for all aspects of downloading, installing and running MIDlets on a device.

There are two attributes in the JAD file, above and beyond those in MIDP 1.0 specification ([Table 3.2](#)) that are introduced as part of this provision. *MIDlet-Install-Notify* will be presented in the section "[Reporting Status to the Server](#)" and *MIDlet-Delete-Confirm* will be discussed in the section "[MIDlet Suite Removal](#)."

Unless otherwise noted, all transfer of information between a device and server is through the HTTP protocol. ^[2] If a device does not directly support HTTP, there will need to be a gateway that converts the device protocol to HTTP prior to communicating with a server that hosts MIDlet suites.

^[2] HTTP version 1.1 specification: <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt>

Device (Client)

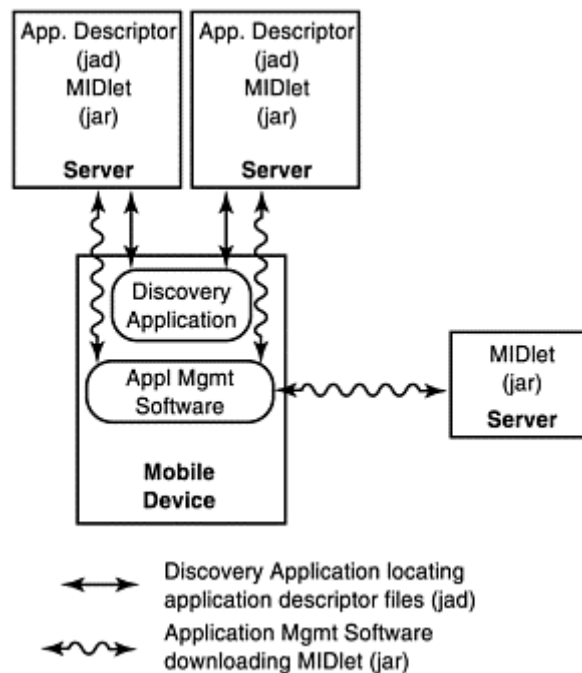
The majority of this provision deals with how a device interacts with a remote server to download, install and report status. Before any of these steps can be carried out, the device must first locate MIDlets suites available for download.

Application Discovery

Application discovery refers to the process of finding MIDlets to load onto a mobile device. The program that provides this service may be a custom application designed specifically for the device, or may be a more "generic" application such as a WAP browser. There are three basic concepts within application discovery:

1. The ability to search or otherwise find information about MIDlet suites.
2. Initiate downloading of an application descriptor file (see [Figure A-1](#)).

Figure A-1. Application discovery and downloading of MIDlets



3. Download the JAR file that contains the MIDlet(s) and any additional resources

[Figure A-1](#) illustrates the idea of the discovery application communicating with various servers to locate and download application descriptor files. There is an important distinction here: The application descriptor and Java archive file are not necessarily on the same server. A device may browse JAD files on one server and download JAR's from another.

MIDlet Suite Installation

With an understanding of the big picture let's walk through each step in more detail. Before doing so, this is a good time to review various header fields defined in the HTTP protocol [\[3\]](#) that may accompany requests sent from a device to a server that hosts MIDlets.

^[3] [Chapter 14](#) has an entire section devoted to explaining header fields as they apply to the client requests and server responses.

Header Fields Sent from Device to Server

When a web server and client are communicating, the client needs a way to tell the server what it is requesting. In general, this is done through the URL. For example, a request to `http://www.corej2me.com/index.html` tells the server the client is interested in the contents of the file `index.html`.

Often times, the client would like to send additional information as part of the request; for example, the language (English, Spanish, etc.) the client prefers. Header fields are available to provide such additional information. The server response may also include header fields in its response. You can think of these fields as parameters—similar to the concept of calling a Java method, using parameters as a means to send additional information.

When sending a request for an application descriptor file, or MIDlet suite (JAR), there are several header fields that may be set by the device (client):

1. Requesting Application Descriptor:

- `Accept=text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor` indicates the content type acceptable for the response is an application descriptor file sent as text
- `Accept-Charset` can be used to specify preferred characters for the application descriptor information; for example, `Accept-Charset: UTF-8`
- `Accept-Language` indicates the language preferred in the response; for example, `Accept-Language: en-US`
- `User-Agent` contains information about the device sending the request; for example:

```
User-Agent: Profile/MIDP-1.0 Configuration/ CLDC-1.0
```

2. Requesting MIDlet (JAR):

- `Accept: application/java-archive` indicates a request for a Java archive file.

Obtain the Application Descriptor (JAD)

Before installation can begin, the device needs to download the application descriptor. This file contains attributes about the MIDlet suite, vendor and description, among others, and more importantly, requirements as they pertain to the size of the JAR and data storage required on the device. [Example A.1](#) is a simple JAD file:

Example A.1 TodoList.jad

```
MIDlet-Name: Todo List
MIDlet-Version: 1.0.0
MIDlet-Vendor: Core J2ME Technology
```

```
MIDlet-1: Todo List, ,TodoMIDlet
MIDlet-Jar-URL: http://www.some_MIDLET_host.com/ToDoList.jar
MIDlet-Jar-Size: 8288
MIDlet-Data-Size: 1500
MIDlet-Install-Notify: http://www.some_MIDLET_host.com
MIDlet-Delete-Confirm: "All todo items will be deleted."
```

If the device determines there is a discrepancy between the requirements as set forth in the application descriptor and the capabilities of the device, ideally the device would attempt to resolve the problem. For example, if the amount of persistent storage required by the MIDlet is more than the device can provide, an option would be to walk the user through various steps to remove or otherwise configure the device to free as much memory as necessary.

Important note



"If the response from the server includes a header field "set-cookie" all subsequent requests to the server must include a header field cookie with the name-value pair(s) of the cookie received from the server."

Download MIDlet Suite (JAR)

One of the required attributes in an application descriptor file is "MIDlet-Jar-URL." This attribute specifies the location of the JAR file that contains the MIDlet(s). Downloading of the suite is initiated by sending a request method of either GET or POST to the URL set in this attribute.

There are two special conditions that would warrant resending of a request. If the server responds with 401 (Unauthorized) or 407 (Proxy Authentication Required), the device should provide the user with the opportunity to enter additional information (such as a username and password) and resend the request.

Once again, if the server sent a "set-cookie" header, all subsequent requests must be accompanied by all name-value pairs in the cookie. Typically, such a cookie would be used by the server to uniquely identify the device. For general information about session management, see the section "[Session Management with Java Servlets](#)" in [Chapter 14](#).

Reporting Status to the User

Upon successful download and installation, the device will make the MIDlet suite available through whatever means is appropriate for the implementation (e.g., through a menu, an icon on the display, etc.).

If one of the following errors occurs during download or upon validating the contents of the JAR file, the user must be notified and the system returned to the same state that existed prior to the download of the application descriptor.

- Device does not have sufficient memory to store the MIDlet suite (Code 901)
- Network error, such as a dropped connection (Code 903)

- Mismatch between the actual size of the downloaded JAR file and the size specified in the application descriptor file (JAD attribute: `MIDlet-Jar-Size`; Code 904)
- The required attributes `MIDlet-Name`, `MIDlet-Vendor`, `MIDlet-Version` in the manifest file (contained in the JAR) do not match the values in the application descriptor Code 905)

All installation status codes are listed in [Table A.1](#).

Table A.1. Installation Status Codes	
<i>Code</i>	<i>Message</i>
900	Successful
901	Insufficient memory
902	User cancelled
903	Loss of service
904	MIDlet suite size mismatch
905	Attribute mismatch
906	Invalid descriptor

Reporting Status to the Server

Once the installation is complete, which may occur as a result of a successful *or* failed/canceled installation, the host server should be notified.

There are two options for determining the destination URL to report status. If there is an attribute "`MIDlet-Install-Notify`" in the application descriptor file, the value of this attribute should be used as the destination URL. This attribute was added to the MIDP specification, through this provision, as a means for a provider of MIDlet suites to be notified when suites are downloaded and installed on a device. If this attribute is not available the status should be reported to the same URL from which the MIDlet JAR was downloaded—attribute `MIDlet-Jar-URL` in the JAD file.

If the device was sent a cookie when downloading either the application descriptor or the JAR, the cookie must be sent in the header field when reporting the status. The reason is, the cookie is most likely being used to uniquely identify the device on the server. Before sending the cookie, the device must verify that the URL specified in the attribute "`MIDlet-Install-Notify`" matches the combination of the domain and path set in the cookie. If the comparison fails, the cookie should not be sent.

Status information must be sent with a request method of POST. The first line in the body of the POST must include both a status code and its corresponding message. Valid responses are listed in [Table A.1](#).

Once the status is received, the server may opt to send a response confirming receipt of the information. In the response there are only two pieces of information that are pertinent. First, there is a status code of "200 OK."

Second, if the device and server were passing a cookie back and forth as a final means to end the communication, the server should send a "`set-cookie`" header that includes the name-value pair "`max-age=0`." This will notify the device that the cookie should be immediately discarded. ^[4]

^[4] Specifics of state management with cookies can be found at: <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2109.txt>

MIDlet Suite Upgrade

The device implementation is required to support upgrading of a MIDlet suite. There are several key concerns when performing an upgrade:

- If a user requests a suite that is already installed, the discovery application should inform the user with as much information as is relevant. For instance, installed versus upgraded version numbers, additional memory and/or persistent storage requirements, new features, and so forth. The user should be given the option to proceed or cancel.
- When appropriate, persistent data should remain intact.
- If it is detected that the original network (download) location of a currently installed suite does not match the location of a requested suite with the same name, the user should be notified. There is a chance that a MIDlet suite with the same attributes/name is available at more than one location.
- If the MIDlets are not related (i.e., one is not an upgrade to the other), but a different MIDlet altogether, instead of an upgrade being performed the original suite would be overwritten by a completely different set of code. In such a case, the user should intervene and decide if an upgrade should be performed, or if the currently installed MIDlet (and any persistent data) should be removed prior to installing the new suite.

MIDlet Suite Removal

Removing a MIDlet suite is straightforward. The device must remove the MIDlet suite, all record stores and any references to the suite (e.g., icons to start the suite, entries in a menu system, etc.). There are several important considerations:

- If there are multiple MIDlets in the suite, it should be made clear to the user that removing the suite will remove all MIDlets.
- If there are records in persistent storage, the user should be notified that all record stores will be removed.
- If the attribute "MIDlet-Delete-Confirm" is present in the application descriptor, the user should be prompted with a message that contains the value of this attribute. This attribute was added to the MIDP specification, through this provision, as a means to provide application-specific messages prior to deleting a suite. For instance, "Upon removing this application you will no longer have access to your online account information."

Server

The two most important features of a server that intends to distribute MIDlets is support for HTTP 1.1 and that the appropriate MIME types are configured. The former was covered in [Chapter 14](#), so let's spend our time discussing MIME types and what is important as it relates to MIDlet suites.

MIME Types

MIME types are a platform-independent way for a server to notify a client about the content being transferred. For example, a web server can notify a browser that the content type being sent is HTML. The browser inherently knows how to parse HTML and render the output.

A web server determines the MIME type based on the extension of URL request. Looking up the extension in a mapping table, the server will notify the browser, through a header field, of the content type. A web server will typically have the following mapping, among others:

Extension	Content Type
.html .htm	text/html

If a browser were to send a request to <http://www.corej2me.com/index.html>, the server would look up the mapping for ".html" and would send the following header field to the browser:

```
"Content-Type=text/html "
```

To understand how a client determines what to do with the content type, you can look at the settings of your web browser. For example, in Netscape (4.x) choose the Edit menu, and select Preferences/Navigator/Applications. Here you'll find a list of mappings for your browser. Several of the settings for my configuration are shown here:

```
MIME Type: application/java-archive  
Handled by: javaw
```

```
MIME Type: text/html  
Handled by: netscape (internal)
```

```
MIME Type: application/pdf  
Handled by: plugin
```

When a server sends the header field "Content-Type," the browser can make a determination what to do with the body of the response. For example, if I directed my browser to *http://www.corej2me.com/test.pdf* (assuming "test.pdf" is a valid file), the server response would include a header field "Content-Type=application/pdf." The browser will in turn recognize this content type (from the aforementioned list) and would start the plugin to view the pdf file.

What this boils down to for our needs is that a server that intends to host MIDlets should provide a means to return the following content types:

```
"Content Type: text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor"  
"Content Type: application/java-archive"
```

This will generally be done in one of two ways:

1. Setting the following MIME types on the web server:

Extension	ContentType
-----------	-------------

.jad	text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor
.jar	application/java-archive

2. With this in place, when the server receives a request for a file with the extension ".jad" it will include the following header field as part of its response:

```
"Content-Type: text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor"
```

3. The same logic applies when requesting a ".jar" file.
4. Creating a custom application, accessed through a URL, such as a Java servlet, that recognizes the header fields:

```
"Accept: text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor"
```

```
"Accept: application/java-archive"
```

and returns the appropriate header field back to the device:

```
"Content-Type: text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor"
```

```
"Content-Type: application/java-archive"
```

Either way, with the content type information, the device knows the format of the incoming data and can process it accordingly. For example, if an application descriptor file is received, the device can then parse the file, line by line, reading the key-value pairs ("MIDlet-Name: xyz", "MIDlet-Version: 1.0.0", etc.).

WAP

A server that distributes MIDlet suites is required to support communication using the HTTP protocol, version 1.1. The interaction between a mobile device running MIDP and a server may be directly through HTTP, or if necessary, a gateway may exist between the device and the server to translate the device protocol to HTTP. Such may be the case for a device that uses a WAP browser for application discovery.

What is WAP?

The Wireless Application Protocol is a specification that provides a standard method to access content on the Internet from wireless devices. The following link is a good starting point to information about the WAP initiative:

<http://www.wapforum.org>

What's important is not the protocol that the device provides, but that the communication to a remote server, in the end, is through HTTP. If a translation occurs during this process, it is outside the scope of our interests as a developer. That is, the `HttpConnection` class is used for communication and any translation required is left to the device and the gateway.

For devices that provide a WAP browser, the implementation must be compatible with WAP 1.2.1 (June 2000 conformance release). ^[5] In addition, there are several requirements for both the device and gateway.

^[5] WAP June 2000— <http://www.wapforum.org/what/technical.htm>

Device (client) requirements:

- Recognize and make the following header fields available to the discovery application and/or the Java application manager:

`Content-Type=text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor`
`Content-Type=application/java-archive`

- The server responses 401 (Unauthorized) and 407 (Proxy Authentication Required) must be dealt with appropriately. If you recall from the section "[Download MIDlet Suite](#)," a server that hosts a suite may respond with either of these codes. The device should provide an opportunity for the user to enter a username and password and resend the request.
- The device must be able send a request method of POST. This requirement stems from the fact that a status report sent to the server (that hosts the suite) must be through POST.

Gateway Requirements:

- It must relay the following header fields from the server to the device:

`Content-Type=text/vnd.sun.j2me.app-descriptor`
`Content-Type=application/java-archive`

- If user validation is necessary, responses 401 and 407 from the server must be passed to the device.
- The server header field "`set-cookie`" must be supported. This is typically used as a means for session management/tracking.
- If the device has set the header field "`Accept: */*`" the body of each server response must be passed to the device in its entirety.
- The device request method POST must be recognized and passed to the server.

Appendix B. CLDC API

[java.io](#)

[ByteArrayInputStream](#)

[ByteArrayOutputStream](#)

[DataInput](#)

[DataInputStream](#)

[DataOutput](#)

[DataOutputStream](#)

[EOFException](#)

[InputStream](#)

[InputStreamReader](#)

[InterruptedIOException](#)

[IOException](#)

[OutputStream](#)

[OutputStreamWriter](#)

[PrintStream](#)

[Reader](#)

[UnsupportedEncodingException](#)

[UTFDataFormatException](#)

[Writer](#)

[java.lang](#)

[ArithmeticException](#)

[ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException](#)

[ArrayStoreException](#)

[Boolean](#)

[Byte](#)

[Character](#)

[Class](#)

[ClassCastException](#)

[ClassNotFoundException](#)

[Error](#)

[Exception](#)

[IllegalAccessException](#)

[IllegalArgumentException](#)

[IllegalMonitorStateException](#)

[IllegalThreadStateException](#)
[IndexOutOfBoundsException](#)
[InstantiationException](#)
[Integer](#)
[InterruptedException](#)
[Long](#)
[Math](#)
[NegativeArraySizeException](#)
[NullPointerException](#)
[NumberFormatException](#)
[Object](#)
[OutOfMemoryError](#)
[Runnable](#)
[Runtime](#)
[RuntimeException](#)
[SecurityException](#)
[Short](#)
[String](#)
[StringBuffer](#)
[StringIndexOutOfBoundsException](#)
[System](#)
[Thread](#)
[Throwable](#)
[VirtualMachineError](#)
[java.util](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Date](#)
[EmptyStackException](#)
[Enumeration](#)
[Hashtable](#)
[NoSuchElementException](#)
[Random](#)
[Stack](#)
[TimeZone](#)
[Vector](#)
[javax.microedition.io](#)

[Connection](#)

[ConnectionNotFoundException](#)

[Connector](#)

[ContentConnection](#)

[Datagram](#)

[DatagramConnection](#)

[InputConnection](#)

[OutputConnection](#)

[StreamConnection](#)

[StreamConnectionNotifier](#)

java.io

<code>ByteArrayInputStream</code>	<code>InterruptedException</code>
<code>ByteArrayOutputStream</code>	<code>IOException</code>
<code>DataInput</code>	<code>OutputStream</code>
<code>DataInputStream</code>	<code>OutputStreamWriter</code>
<code>DataOutput</code>	<code>PrintStream</code>
<code>DataOutputStream</code>	<code>Reader</code>
<code>EOFException</code>	<code>UnsupportedEncodingException</code>
<code>InputStream</code>	<code>UTFDataFormatException</code>
<code>InputStreamReader</code>	<code>Writer</code>

ByteArrayInputStream

`public class ByteArrayInputStream extends InputStream`

Internal array of bytes that can be read as a stream

Fields

<code>buf</code>	Byte array passed in when created
<code>count</code>	Count of bytes in the array
<code>mark</code>	Current "marked" position in the array
<code>pos</code>	Index of the next character to be read

Constructors

<code>ByteArrayInputStream(byte[] buf)</code>	Create ByteArrayInputStream
<code>ByteArrayInputStream(byte[] buf, int offset, int length)</code>	Create ByteArrayInputStream

Methods

<code>int available()</code>	Bytes available before stream blocks
<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void mark(int readAheadLimit)</code>	Set current position
<code>boolean markSupported()</code>	Is mark/reset supported?
<code>int read()</code>	Read next byte
<code>int read(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Read bytes into an array

<code>void reset()</code>	Reset to the marked position(or beginning if no mark set)
<code>long skip(long)</code>	Skip over bytes in the stream

ByteArrayOutputStream

`public class ByteArrayOutputStream extends OutputStream`

Internal array of bytes(buffer) that can be written to as a stream; array grows as necessary

Fields

<code>buf</code>	Internal byte array to store data
<code>count</code>	Count of bytes in the array

Constructors

<code>ByteArrayOutputStream()</code>	Create ByteArrayOutputStream
<code>ByteArrayOutputStream(int size)</code>	Create ByteArrayOutputStream, specifying initial size

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void reset()</code>	Toss any data in the buffer; new data is stored at beginning
<code>int size()</code>	Current size of buffer
<code>byte[] toByteArray()</code>	Convert buffer contents to an array of bytes
<code>String toString()</code>	Convert buffer contents to a string
<code>void write(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Write bytes into the buffer
<code>void write(int b)</code>	Write byte into buffer

DataInput

`public abstract interface DataInput`

Interface for streams to read Java primitive types in platform independent manner

Methods

<code>boolean readBoolean()</code>	Read byte, nonzero value returns true, otherwise false
<code>byte readByte()</code>	Read byte
<code>char readChar()</code>	Read char
<code>void readFully(byte[] b)</code>	Read bytes into array. The number read equals the size of the array
<code>void readFully(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Read bytes into array specifying offset and length
<code>int readInt()</code>	Read four bytes
<code>long readLong()</code>	Read eight bytes
<code>short readShort()</code>	Read two bytes
<code>int readUnsignedByte()</code>	Read one byte; return as an int between 0 and 255
<code>int readUnsignedShort()</code>	Read two bytes; return an int between 0 and 65535
<code>String readUTF()</code>	Read string that has been encoded as modified UTF-8
<code>int skipBytes(int n)</code>	Skip over bytes in the stream

DataInputStream

public class DataInputStream extends InputStream implements DataInput

Read Java primitive types as stream

Fields

<code>in</code>	Stream
-----------------	--------

Constructors

<code>DataInputStream(InputStream in)</code>	Create DataInputStream
--	------------------------

Methods

<code>int available()</code>	Bytes available before stream blocks
<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void mark(int readlimit)</code>	Set current position
<code>boolean markSupported()</code>	Is mark/reset supported?
<code>int read()</code>	Read byte, return as an integer between 0 and 255
<code>int read(byte[] b)</code>	Read into an array
<code>int read(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Read into an array specifying offset and length

<code>boolean readBoolean()</code>	Read boolean
<code>byte readByte()</code>	Read byte
<code>char readChar()</code>	Read two bytes, return as Unicode character
<code>void readFully(byte[] b)</code>	Read bytes into array; the number read equals the size of the array
<code>void readFully(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Read bytes into array specifying offset and length
<code>int readInt()</code>	Read four bytes
<code>long readLong()</code>	Read eight bytes
<code>short readShort()</code>	Read two bytes
<code>int readUnsignedByte()</code>	Read one byte; return as an int between 0 and 255
<code>int readUnsignedShort()</code>	Read two bytes; return an int between 0 and 65535
<code>String readUTF()</code>	Read string that has been encoded as modified UTF-8
<code>String readUTF(DataInput in)</code>	Read from the parameter "in" a string encoded as modified UTF-8
<code>void reset()</code>	Reset stream to "marked" position
<code>long skip(long n)</code>	Skips over bytes in stream
<code>int skipBytes(int n)</code>	Skips over bytes in stream

DataOutput

`public abstract interface DataOutput`

Interface for streams to write Java primitive types in platform independent manner

Methods

<code>void write(byte[] b)</code>	Write array to stream
<code>void write(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Write array to stream specifying the offset and length
<code>void write(int b)</code>	Write lower eight bits of integer to stream
<code>void writeBoolean(boolean v)</code>	Write boolean to the stream
<code>void writeByte(int v)</code>	Write lower eight bits of integer to stream
<code>void writeChar(int v)</code>	Write two bytes of integer parameter to stream
<code>void writeChars(String s)</code>	Write string to stream, two bytes for each character
<code>void writeInt(int v)</code>	Write integer as four bytes to the stream
<code>void writeLong(long v)</code>	Write long as four bytes to the stream
<code>void writeShort(int v)</code>	Write integer as two bytes to the stream
<code>void writeUTF(String str)</code>	Write String as UTF to the stream

DataOutputStream

public class `DataOutputStream` extends `OutputStream` implements `DataOutput`

Write Java primitive types to stream

Fields

<code>out</code>	S stream
------------------	----------

Constructors

<code>DataOutputStream(OutputStream out)</code>	Create <code>DataOutputStream</code>
---	--------------------------------------

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void flush()</code>	Flush stream
<code>void write(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Write array to stream specifying the offset and length
<code>void write(int b)</code>	Write lower eight bits of integer to stream
<code>void writeBoolean(boolean v)</code>	Write boolean to the stream
<code>void writeByte(int v)</code>	Write lower eight bits of integer to stream
<code>void writeChar(int v)</code>	Write two bytes of integer parameter to stream
<code>void writeChars(String s)</code>	Write string to stream, two bytes for each character
<code>void writeInt(int v)</code>	Write integer as four bytes to the stream
<code>void writeLong(long v)</code>	Write long as four bytes to the stream
<code>void writeShort(int v)</code>	Write integer as two bytes to the stream
<code>void writeUTF(String str)</code>	Write String as UTF to the stream

EOFException

public class `EOFException` extends `IOException`

Indicates end of file

Constructors

<code>EOFException()</code>	Create EOFException
<code>EOFException(String s)</code>	Create EOFException with message

InputStream

public abstract class InputStream

Superclass for byte input streams

Constructors

<code>InputStream()</code>	Create InputStream
----------------------------	--------------------

Methods

<code>int available()</code>	Bytes available before stream blocks
<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void mark(int readlimit)</code>	Set current position
<code>boolean markSupported()</code>	Is mark/reset supported?
<code>int read()</code>	Read next byte
<code>int read(byte[] b)</code>	Read bytes into array
<code>int read(byte[] b, int len, int off)</code>	Read bytes into array specifying offset and length
<code>void reset()</code>	Reset stream to "marked" position
<code>long skip(long n)</code>	Skips over bytes in stream

InputStreamReader

public class InputStreamReader extends Reader

Read bytes and translate to Unicode characters(encoding is default or as specified)

Constructors

<code>InputStreamReader(InputStream is)</code>	Create InputStreamReader with default character encoding
<code>InputStreamReader(InputStream is, String enc)</code>	Create InputStreamReader with specified character encoding

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void mark(int readAheadLimit)</code>	Set current position
<code>boolean markSupported()</code>	Is mark/reset supported?
<code>int read()</code>	Read character
<code>int read(char[] cbuf, int off, int len)</code>	Read characters into array
<code>boolean ready()</code>	Stream available for reading
<code>void reset()</code>	Reset stream to "marked" position
<code>long skip(long n)</code>	Skip over characters in stream

InterruptedException

`public class InterruptedException extends IOException`

Indicates input or output was interrupted

Fields

<code>bytesTransferred</code>	Bytes transferred before exception
-------------------------------	------------------------------------

Constructors

<code>InterruptedException()</code>	Create InterruptedException
<code>InterruptedException(String s)</code>	Create InterruptedException

IOException

`public class IOException extends Exception`

Indicates exception occurred during input or output

Constructors

<code>IOException()</code>	Create IOException
<code>IOException(String s)</code>	Create IOException with message

OutputStream

`public abstract class OutputStream`

Superclass for byte output streams

Constructors

<code>OutputStream()</code>	Create OutputStream
-----------------------------	---------------------

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void flush()</code>	Flush stream
<code>void write(byte[] b)</code>	Write array to stream
<code>void write(byte[] b, int off, int len)</code>	Write array to stream specifying the offset and length
<code>void write(int b)</code>	Write byte to stream

OutputStreamWriter

public class OutputStreamWriter extends Writer

Write characters translating to bytes using encoding(default or as specified)

Constructors

<code>OutputStreamWriter(OutputStream os)</code>	Create OutputStreamWriter with default character encoding
<code>OutputStreamWriter(OutputStream os, String enc)</code>	Create OutputStreamWriter with specified character encoding

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void flush()</code>	Flush stream
<code>void write(char[] cbuf, int off, int len)</code>	Write array to stream
<code>void write(int c)</code>	Write character to stream
<code>void write(String str, int off, int len)</code>	Write array to stream specifying offset and length

PrintStream

public class PrintStream extends OutputStream

Add to a stream to enable printing(displaying) of Java primitive types

Constructors

<code>PrintStream(OutputStream out)</code>	Create PrintStream
---	--------------------

Methods

<code>boolean checkError()</code>	Flush stream and check for error condition
<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void flush()</code>	Flush stream
<code>void print(boolean b)</code>	Print boolean
<code>void print(char c)</code>	Print character
<code>void print(char[] s)</code>	Print array of characters
<code>void print(int i)</code>	Print integer
<code>void print(long l)</code>	Print long
<code>void print(Object obj)</code>	Print object
<code>void print(String s)</code>	Print string
<code>void println()</code>	Print line seperator
<code>void println(boolean x)</code>	Print boolean and line seperator
<code>void println(char x)</code>	Print character and line seperator
<code>void println(char[] x)</code>	Print array of characters and line seperator
<code>void println(int x)</code>	Print integer and line seperator
<code>void println(long x)</code>	Print long and line seperator
<code>void println(Object x)</code>	Print Object and line seperator
<code>void println(String x)</code>	Print String and line seperator
<code>void setError()</code>	Set error condition
<code>void write(byte[] buf, int off, int len)</code>	Write array of bytes specifying offset and length
<code>void write(int b)</code>	Write byte

Reader

public abstract class Reader

Superclass for character input streams

Fields

<code>lock</code>	Object that is used for synchronization
-------------------	---

Constructors

<code>Reader()</code>	Create Reader where critical sections synchronize on the reader itself
<code>Reader(Object lock)</code>	Create Reader where critical sections synchronize on the specified object

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void mark(int readAheadLimit)</code>	Set current position
<code>boolean markSupported()</code>	Is mark/reset supported?
<code>int read()</code>	Read character
<code>int read(char[] cbuf)</code>	Read characters into array
<code>int read(char[] cbuf, int off, int len)</code>	Read characters into array specifying the offset and length
<code>boolean ready()</code>	stream available for reading
<code>void reset()</code>	Reset the stream to "marked" position
<code>long skip(long n)</code>	Skip characters in stream

UnsupportedEncodingException

public class `UnsupportedEncodingException` extends `IOException`

Indicates encoding requested is not supported

Constructors

<code>UnsupportedEncodingException()</code>	Create <code>UnsupportedEncodingException</code>
<code>UnsupportedEncodingException(String s)</code>	Create <code>UnsupportedEncodingException</code>

UTFDataFormatException

public class `UTFDataFormatException` extends `IOException`

Indicates malformed UTF-8 string has been read

Constructors

<code>UTFDataFormatException()</code>	Create <code>UTFDataFormatException</code>
<code>UTFDataFormatException(String s)</code>	Create <code>UTFDataFormatException</code> with message

Writer

public abstract class Writer

Superclass for character output streams

Fields

<code>lock</code>	Object that is used for synchronization
-------------------	---

Constructors

<code>Writer()</code>	Create Writer where critical sections synchronize on the writer
<code>Writer(Object lock)</code>	Create Writer where critical sections synchronize on the specified object

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Closes stream and free resources
<code>void flush()</code>	Flush stream
<code>void write(char[] cbuf)</code>	Write array of characters
<code>void write(char[] cbuf, int off, int len)</code>	Write array of characters specifying offset and length
<code>void write(int c)</code>	Write character
<code>void write(String str)</code>	Write string
<code>void write(String str, int off, int len)</code>	Write string specifying offset and length

java.lang

ArithmeticException	Long
ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException	Math
ArrayStoreException	NegativeArraySizeException
Boolean	NullPointerException
Byte	NumberFormatException
Character	Object
Class	OutOfMemoryError
ClassCastException	Runnable
ClassNotFoundException	Runtime

Error	RuntimeException
Exception	SecurityException
IllegalAccessException	Short
IllegalArgumentException	String
IllegalMonitorStateException	StringBuffer
IllegalThreadStateException	StringIndexOutOfBoundsException
IndexOutOfBoundsException	System
InstantiationException	Thread
Integer	Throwable
InterruptedException	VirtualMachineError

ArithmeticException

public class ArithmeticException extends RuntimeException

Arithmetic exception, such as divide by zero

Constructors

<code>ArithmeticException()</code>	Create ArithmeticException
<code>ArithmeticException(String s)</code>	Create ArithmeticException with message

ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException

public class ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException extends IndexOutOfBoundsException

Attempt to use an invalid array index

Constructors

<code>ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException()</code>	Create ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException
<code>ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException(int index)</code>	Create ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException
<code>ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException(String s)</code>	Create ArrayIndexOutOfBoundsException

ArrayStoreException

public class ArrayStoreException extends RuntimeException

Indicates an attempt to store a type not supported by the array

Constructors

<code>ArrayStoreException()</code>	Create <code>ArrayStoreException</code>
<code>ArrayStoreException(String s)</code>	Create <code>ArrayStoreException</code> with message

Boolean

public final class Boolean

Wrap a boolean primitive type in an object

Constructors

<code>Boolean(boolean value)</code>	Create Boolean
-------------------------------------	----------------

Methods

<code>boolean booleanValue()</code>	Get value of object
<code>boolean equals(Object obj)</code>	Compare objects
<code>int hashCode()</code>	Get hashcode of object
<code>String toString()</code>	Get String representation of object

Byte

public final class Byte

Wrap a byte primitive type in an object

Fields

<code>MAX_VALUE</code>	Maximum byte value
<code>MIN_VALUE</code>	Minimum byte value

Constructors

<code>Byte(byte value)</code>	Create Byte
-------------------------------	-------------

Methods

byte byteValue()	Get value of object
boolean equals (Object obj)	Compare objects
int hashCode()	Get hashCode for object
byte parseByte (String s)	Convert string to byte
byte parseByte (String s, int radix)	Convert string to byte, specifying radix(number base)
String toString()	Get String representation of object

Character

public final class Character

Wrap a char primitive type in an object

Fields

MAX_RADIX	Maximum radix(number base) for conversion to and from Strings
MAX_VALUE	Largest character
MIN_RADIX	Minimum radix(number base) for conversion to and from Strings
MIN_VALUE	Smallest character

Constructors

Character (char value)	Create Character
-------------------------------	------------------

Methods

char charValue()	Get character value of object
int digit (char ch, int radix)	Get numeric value of character specifying radix(number base)
boolean equals (Object obj)	Compare objects
int hashCode()	Get hashCode for object
boolean isDigit (char ch)	Is character a digit?
boolean isLowerCase (char ch)	Is character lowercase?
boolean isUpperCase (char ch)	Is character uppercase?
char toLowerCase (char ch)	Convert character to lowercase
String toString()	Get String representation of object
char toUpperCase (char ch)	Convert character to uppercase

Class

`public final class Class`

Represents Java class, interface and primitive types

Methods

<code>Class forName(String className)</code>	Get Class object for the specified class
<code>String getName()</code>	Get fully qualified name of the specified object(class, interface, array class, primitive type, or void)
<code>InputStream getResourceAsStream(String name)</code>	Get resource with specified name
<code>boolean isArray()</code>	Is the object an array?
<code>boolean isAssignableFrom(Class cls)</code>	Is object the same, or a superclass or superinterface of the parameter?
<code>boolean isInstance(Object obj)</code>	Is the parameter an instance of the object?
<code>boolean isInterface()</code>	Is the object an interface?
<code>Object newInstance()</code>	Create instance of object
<code>String toString()</code>	Get String representation of object

ClassCastException

`public class ClassCastException extends RuntimeException`

Attempt to cast an object to a class that it is not an instance of

Constructors

<code>ClassCastException()</code>	Create ClassCastException
<code>ClassCastException(String s)</code>	Create ClassCastException with message

ClassNotFoundException

`public class ClassNotFoundException extends Exception`

Attempt to load a class that cannot be found

Constructors

<code>ClassNotFoundException()</code>	Create <code>ClassNotFoundException</code>
<code>ClassNotFoundException(String s)</code>	Create <code>ClassNotFoundException</code> with message

Error

public class `Error` extends `Throwable`

Abnormal error condition, usually resulting in ending of the application; typically

not caught

Constructors

<code>Error()</code>	Create <code>Error</code>
<code>Error(String s)</code>	Create <code>Error</code> with message

Exception

public class `Exception` extends `Throwable`

Indicates error condition; typically caught through a subclass

Constructors

<code>Exception()</code>	Create <code>Exception</code>
<code>Exception(String s)</code>	Create <code>Exception</code> with message

IllegalAccessException

public class `IllegalAccessException` extends `Exception`

Class cannot be loaded due to access restrictions

Constructors

<code>IllegalAccessException()</code>	Create <code>IllegalAccessException</code>
<code>IllegalAccessException(String s)</code>	Create <code>IllegalAccessException</code> with message

IllegalArgumentException

public class IllegalArgumentException extends RuntimeException

Indicates a method was passed an illegal argument(parameter)

Constructors

<code>IllegalArgumentException()</code>	Create IllegalArgumentException
<code>IllegalArgumentException</code>	

IllegalMonitorStateException

public class IllegalMonitorStateException extends RuntimeException

Indicates thread trying to access a monitor it does not own

Constructors

<code>IllegalMonitorStateException()</code>	Create IllegalMonitorStateException
<code>IllegalMonitorStateException(String s)</code>	Create IllegalMonitorStateException with message

IllegalThreadStateException

public class IllegalThreadStateException extends IllegalArgumentException

Indicates thread attempt to perform illegal operation based on its current state

Constructors

<code>IllegalThreadStateException()</code>	Create IllegalThreadStateException
<code>IllegalThreadStateException(String s)</code>	Create IllegalThreadStateException with message

IndexOutOfBoundsException

public class IndexOutOfBoundsException extends RuntimeException

An index(such as array, vector or string) is out of its valid range

Constructors

<code>IndexOutOfBoundsException()</code>	Create an <code>IndexOutOfBoundsException</code>
<code>IndexOutOfBoundsException(String s)</code>	Create an <code>IndexOutOfBoundsException</code> with message

InstantiationException

public class `InstantiationException` extends `Exception`

Indicates attempt to instantiate(create instance of) a class that is either an interface or abstract

Constructors

<code>InstantiationException()</code>	Create an <code>InstantiationException</code>
<code>InstantiationException(String s)</code>	Create an <code>InstantiationException</code> with message

Integer

public final class `Integer`

Wrap an int primitive type in an object

Fields

<code>MAX_VALUE</code>	Maximum integer
<code>MIN_VALUE</code>	Minimum integer

Constructors

<code>Integer(int value)</code>	Create <code>Integer</code>
---------------------------------	-----------------------------

Methods

<code>byte byteValue()</code>	Get value of object as a byte
<code>boolean equals(Object obj)</code>	Compare objects
<code>int hashCode()</code>	Get hashcode for object
<code>int intValue()</code>	Get value of object as integer

<code>long longValue()</code>	Get value of object as a long
<code>int parseInt(String s)</code>	Convert string to int
<code>int parseInt(String s, int radix)</code>	Convert string to int, specifying radix(number base)
<code>short shortValue()</code>	Get value of object as short
<code>String toBinaryString(int i)</code>	Get string value of parameter in base 2
<code>String toHexString(int i)</code>	Get string value of parameter in base 16
<code>String toOctalString(int i)</code>	Get string value of parameter in base 8
<code>String toString()</code>	Get String representation of object
<code>String toString(int i)</code>	Get String representation of specified int
<code>String toString(int i, int radix)</code>	Get String representation of specified int and radix(number base)
<code>Integer valueOf(String s)</code>	Convert string to Integer object
<code>Integer valueOf(String s, int radix)</code>	Convert string to Integer object, specifying radix(number base)

InterruptedException

`public class InterruptedException extends Exception`

Indicates a thread has been interrupted by a call to `interrupt()` method

Constructors

<code>InterruptedException()</code>	Create an InterruptedException
<code>InterruptedException(String s)</code>	Create an InterruptedException with message

Long

`public final class Long`

Wrap a long primitive type in an object

Fields

<code>MAX_VALUE</code>	Maximum long
<code>MIN_VALUE</code>	Minumum long

Constructors

<code>Long(long value)</code>	Create Long
-------------------------------	-------------

Methods

<code>boolean equals(Object obj)</code>	Compare objects
<code>int hashCode()</code>	Get hashCode for object
<code>long longValue()</code>	Get value of object as long
<code>long parseLong(String s)</code>	Convert string to long
<code>long parseLong(String s, int radix)</code>	Convert string to long, specifying radix(number base)
<code>String toString()</code>	Get String representation of object
<code>String toString(long i)</code>	Get String representation of specified long
<code>String toString(long i, int radix)</code>	Get String representation of specified long and radix(number base)

Math

public final class Math

Methods for math operations

Methods

<code>int abs(int a)</code>	Get absolute value of int
<code>int abs(long a)</code>	Get absolute value of long
<code>int max(int a, int b)</code>	Get maximum of two int values
<code>long max(long a, long b)</code>	Get maximum of two long values
<code>int min(int a, int b)</code>	Get minimum two int values
<code>long min(long a, long b)</code>	Get minimum two long values

NegativeArraySizeException

public class NegativeArraySizeException extends RuntimeException

Indicates attempt to allocate an array with a negative size

Constructors

<code>NegativeArraySizeException()</code>	Create a NegativeArraySizeException
---	-------------------------------------

<code>NegativeArraySizeException(String s)</code>	Create a NegativeArraySizeException with message
---	--

NullPointerException

public class NullPointerException extends RuntimeException

Indicates access to a null object

Constructors

<code>NullPointerException()</code>	Create a NullPointerException
<code>NullPointerException(String s)</code>	Create a NullPointerException with message

NumberFormatException

public class NumberFormatException extends IllegalArgumentException

Indicates attempt to convert a string to numeric type that is not supported

Constructors

<code>NumberFormatException()</code>	Create a NumberFormatException
<code>NumberFormatException(String s)</code>	Create a NumberFormatException with message

Object

public class Object

Root class of all objects

Constructors

<code>Object()</code>	Create Object
-----------------------	---------------

Methods

<code>boolean equals(Object obj)</code>	Compare objects
---	-----------------

Class <code>getClass()</code>	Get runtime class of object
int <code>hashCode()</code>	Get hashCode for object
void <code>notify()</code>	Wakes up thread waiting on this object's monitor
void <code>notifyAll()</code>	Wakes up all threads waiting on this object's monitor
String <code>toString()</code>	Get String representation of object
void <code>wait()</code>	Wait until another thread invokes the <code>notify()</code> or <code>notifyAll()</code>
void <code>wait(long timeout)</code>	Wait until another thread invokes the <code>notify()</code> or <code>notifyAll()</code> , with a timeout
void <code>wait(long timeout, int nanos)</code>	Wait until another thread invokes the <code>notify()</code> or <code>notifyAll()</code> , with a timeout

OutOfMemoryError

public class OutOfMemoryError extends VirtualMachineError

Indicates Java virtual machine has exhausted memory(even after garbage collection)

Constructors

<code>OutOfMemoryError()</code>	Create OutOfMemoryError
<code>OutOfMemoryError(String s)</code>	Create OutOfMemoryError with message

Runnable

public abstract interface Runnable

Interface for classes that intend to be run by a thread

Methods

void <code>run()</code>	Called when an object that is implementing the Runnable interface starts the thread
-------------------------	---

Runtime

public class Runtime

Class that provides a means for interaction(minimal) with the runtime environment

Methods

<code>void exit(int status)</code>	Exit the Java application
<code>long freeMemory()</code>	Free memory available
<code>void gc()</code>	Run garbage collector
<code>Runtime getRuntime()</code>	Get runtime object associated with current Java application
<code>long totalMemory()</code>	Get total amount of memory used by the Java Virtual Machine

RuntimeException

`public class RuntimeException` extends `Exception`

Superclass of exceptions thrown during normal operation of the Java virtual machine

Constructors

<code>RuntimeException()</code>	Create <code>RuntimeException</code>
<code>RuntimeException(String s)</code>	Create <code>RuntimeException</code> with message

SecurityException

`public class SecurityException` extends `RuntimeException`

Indicates a security violation

Constructors

<code>SecurityException()</code>	Create <code>SecurityException</code>
<code>SecurityException(String s)</code>	Create <code>SecurityException</code> with message

Short

`public final class Short`

Wrap a short primitive type in an object

Fields

MAX_VALUE	Maximum short
MIN_VALUE	Minimum short

Constructors

Short (short value)	Create Short
----------------------------	--------------

Methods

boolean equals (Object obj)	Compare objects
int hashCode ()	Get hashCode for object
short parseShort (String s)	Convert string to short
short parseShort (String s, int radix)	Convert string to short, specifying radix(number base)
short shortValue ()	Get value of object
String toString ()	Get String representation of object

String

public final class String

Methods for operating on a string of characters; once allocated, a string *cannot* be modified

Constructors

String ()	Create String
String (byte[] bytes)	Create String from array of bytes using platform default character encoding
String (byte[] bytes, String enc)	Create String from array of bytes using specified character encoding
String (byte[] bytes, int off, int len)	Create String from array of bytes, specifying offset and length, using platform default character encoding
String (byte[] bytes, int off, int len, String enc)	Create String from array of bytes, specifying offset and length, using specified character encoding
String (char[] value)	Create String from array of characters
String (char[] value, int offset, int count)	Create String from array of characters, specifying offset and count
String (String value)	Create String from an existing string
String (StringBuffer buffer)	Create String from a string buffer

Methods

<code>char charAt(int index)</code>	Get character at index
<code>int compareTo(String anotherString)</code>	Compare two strings
<code>String concat(String str)</code>	Concatenate parameter onto string
<code>boolean endsWith(String suffix)</code>	Determine if string ends with specified string
<code>boolean equals(Object anObject)</code>	Compare objects
<code>byte[] getBytes()</code>	Convert string into an array of bytes using the platform's default character encoding
<code>byte[] getBytes(String enc)</code>	Convert string into an array of bytes using the specified character encoding
<code>void getChars(int srcBegin, int srcEnd, char[] dst, int dstBegin)</code>	Copies characters from string into an array, specifying source and destination
<code>int hashCode()</code>	Get hashCode for object
<code>int indexOf(int ch)</code>	Get index of first occurrence of specified character
<code>int indexOf(int ch, int fromIndex)</code>	Get index of specified character, starting the search at the specified index
<code>int indexOf(String str)</code>	Get index of the substring
<code>int indexOf(String str, int fromIndex)</code>	Get index of the substring, starting the search at the specified index
<code>int lastIndexOf(int ch)</code>	Get index of last occurrence of specified character
<code>int lastIndexOf(int ch, int fromIndex)</code>	Get index of specified character, searching from the end of the string towards the beginning, starting at the specified index
<code>int length()</code>	Get length of string
<code>boolean regionMatches(boolean ignoreCase, int toffset, String other, int ooffset, int len)</code>	Compare two substrings
<code>String replace(char oldChar, char newChar)</code>	Replace all occurrences of a character
<code>boolean startsWith(String prefix)</code>	Determine if string starts with specified string
<code>boolean startsWith(String prefix, int toffset)</code>	Determine if string starts with specified string starting at index
<code>String substring(int beginIndex)</code>	Get substring from specified index to end of string
<code>String substring(int beginIndex, int endIndex)</code>	Get substring from specified begin index to specified end index
<code>char[] toCharArray()</code>	Convert string to an array of characters
<code>String toLowerCase()</code>	Convert to lowercase
<code>String toString()</code>	Return this object
<code>String toUpperCase()</code>	Convert to uppercase
<code>String trim()</code>	Remove white space from beginning and end

<code>String valueOf(boolean b)</code>	Convert boolean to string object
<code>String valueOf(char c)</code>	Convert character to string object
<code>String valueOf(char[] data)</code>	Convert character array to string object
<code>String valueOf(char[] data, int offset, int count)</code>	Convert character array to string object, specifying offset and count
<code>String valueOf(int i)</code>	Convert int to string object
<code>String valueOf(long l)</code>	Convert long to string object
<code>String valueOf(Object obj)</code>	Convert object to string object

StringBuffer

`public final class StringBuffer`

Methods for operating on a string of characters; unlike strings, a string buffer can be modified once allocated.

Constructors

<code>StringBuffer()</code>	Create empty string buffer that will hold 16 characters
<code>StringBuffer(int length)</code>	Create empty string buffer that will hold the specified number of characters
<code>StringBuffer(String str)</code>	Create string buffer from a string

Methods

<code>StringBuffer append(boolean b)</code>	Append boolean
<code>StringBuffer append(char c)</code>	Append character
<code>StringBuffer append(char[] str)</code>	Append an array of characters
<code>StringBuffer append(char[] str, int offset, int length)</code>	Append array of characters specifying offset and length
<code>StringBuffer append(int i)</code>	Append integer
<code>StringBuffer append(long l)</code>	Append long
<code>StringBuffer append(Object obj)</code>	Append object
<code>StringBuffer append(String str)</code>	Append string
<code>int capacity()</code>	Get number of characters that may be stored, without allocating more space
<code>char charAt(int index)</code>	Get character at specified index
<code>StringBuffer delete(int start, int end)</code>	Delete character(s)
<code>StringBuffer deleteCharAt(int index)</code>	Delete character
<code>void ensureCapacity(int minimum Capacity)</code>	Ensures the capacity is at least equal to the specified parameter

<code>void getChars(int srcBegin, int srcEnd, char[] dst, int dstBegin)</code>	Copy from string buffer into array
<code>StringBuffer insert(int offset, boolean b)</code>	Insert boolean
<code>StringBuffer insert(int offset, char c)</code>	Insert character
<code>StringBuffer insert(int offset, char[] str)</code>	Insert character array
<code>StringBuffer insert(int offset, int i)</code>	Insert integer
<code>StringBuffer insert(int offset, long l)</code>	Insert long
<code>StringBuffer insert(int offset, Object obj)</code>	Insert object
<code>StringBuffer insert(int offset, String str)</code>	Insert string
<code>int length()</code>	Get count of characters in the string buffer
<code>StringBuffer reverse()</code>	Reverse contents of string buffer
<code>void setCharAt(int index, char ch)</code>	Set character at the specified index to another character
<code>void setLength(int newLength)</code>	Set the length of string buffer
<code>String toString()</code>	Get String representation of object

StringIndexOutOfBoundsException

`public class StringIndexOutOfBoundsException extends IndexOutOfBoundsException`

Indicates access outside the valid range of a string

Constructors

<code>StringIndexOutOfBoundsException()</code>	Create StringIndexOutOfBoundsException
<code>StringIndexOutOfBoundsException(int index)</code>	Create StringIndexOutOfBoundsException
<code>StringIndexOutOfBoundsException(String str)</code>	Create StringIndexOutOfBoundsException

System

`public final class System`

Class that provides access(minimal) to system methods and fields

Fields

<code>err</code>	Standard error output stream
<code>out</code>	Standard output stream

Methods

<code>void arraycopy(Object src, int srcPosition, Object dst, int dst_position, int length)</code>	Copy one array to another
<code>long currentTimeMillis()</code>	Returns the current time in milliseconds
<code>void exit(int status)</code>	Terminates the currently running Java application
<code>void gc()</code>	Runs garbage collector
<code>String getProperty(String key)</code>	Gets system property indicated by the specified key
<code>int identityHashCode(Object x)</code>	Get hashcode for object

Thread

public class Thread implements Runnable

A class to provide multiple threads of execution within the Java virtual machine

Fields

<code>MAX_PRIORITY</code>	Maximum priority for a thread
<code>MIN_PRIORITY</code>	Minimum priority for a thread
<code>NORM_PRIORITY</code>	Default priority assigned to thread

Constructors

<code>Thread()</code>	Create Thread
<code>Thread(Runnable target)</code>	Create Thread and invoke run() method of target

Methods

<code>int activeCount()</code>	Active threads in the virtual machine
<code>Thread currentThread()</code>	Get reference to currently executing thread
<code>int getPriority()</code>	Get threads priority
<code>boolean isAlive()</code>	Is thread alive?
<code>void join()</code>	Wait for thread to die

<code>void run()</code>	If thread was constructed using Runnable object, call that object's run() method
<code>void setPriority(int newPriority)</code>	Set priority of thread
<code>void sleep(long millis)</code>	Put thread to sleep for specified number of milliseconds
<code>void start()</code>	Begin execution of thread by calling the run() method of the thread
<code>String toString()</code>	Get String representation of object
<code>void yield()</code>	Allow other threads to execute by temporarily pausing

Throwable

`public class Throwable`

Root class of all errors and exceptions

Constructors

<code>Throwable()</code>	Create Throwable
<code>Throwable(String message)</code>	Create Throwable with message

Methods

<code>String getMessage()</code>	Get error message
<code>void printStackTrace()</code>	Output stack trace to standard error stream
<code>String toString()</code>	Get String representation of object

VirtualMachineError

`public abstract class VirtualMachineError extends Error`

Indicates Java virtual machine error(such as insufficient resources)

Constructors

<code>VirtualMachineError()</code>	Create a VirtualMachineError
<code>VirtualMachineError(String s)</code>	Create a VirtualMachineError with message

java.util

Calendar	NoSuchElementException
Date	Random
EmptyStackException	Stack
Enumeration	TimeZone
Hashtable	Vector

Calendar

public abstract class Calendar

Methods for date and time conversion, arithmetic and formatting

Fields

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
SUNDAY
AM
PM
AM_PM
DATE
MONTH
YEAR
MILLISECOND
SECOND
MINUTE
HOURL
DAY_OF_MONTH
DAY_OF_WEEK
HOURL_OF_DAY

Constructors

Calendar()	Create calendar using default time zone and locale
-------------------	--

Methods

boolean after (Object when)	Compare time
boolean before (Object when)	Compare time
boolean equals (Object obj)	Compare objects
int get (int field)	Get field value
Calendar getInstance ()	Return calendar using default time zone and locale
Calendar getInstance (TimeZone zone)	Return calendar using the specified time zone and default locale
Date getTime ()	Get calendar current time as date
long getTimeInMillis ()	Get calendar current time as long
TimeZone getTimeZone ()	Get timezone

<code>void set(int field, int value)</code>	Set field to specified value
<code>void setTime(Date date)</code>	Set calendar time using specified date
<code>void setTimeInMillis(long millis)</code>	Set calendar time using long
<code>void setTimeZone(TimeZone value)</code>	Set calendar timezone using specified timezone

Date

public class Date

Represent a specific time

Constructors

<code>Date()</code> Create	Date using current time
<code>Date(long date)</code>	Create Date from long value specifying seconds since January 1, 1970, 00:00:00 GMT

Methods

<code>boolean equals(Object obj)</code>	Compare objects
<code>long getTime()</code>	Get milliseconds since January 1, 1970, 00:00:00 GMT
<code>int hashCode()</code>	Get hashcode
<code>void setTime(long time)</code>	Set time based on the number of milliseconds since January 1, 1970 00:00:00 GMT

EmptyStackException

public class EmptyStackException extends RuntimeException

Indicates the stack is empty

Constructors

<code>EmptyStackException()</code>	Create EmptyStackException
------------------------------------	----------------------------

Enumeration

public abstract interface Enumeration

Interface that defines methods to iterate through set of values

Methods

boolean hasMoreElements ()	More elements available in enumeration
Object nextElement ()	Get next element in enumeration

Hashtable

public class Hashtable

Hashtable(associative array) mapping keys and values

Constructors

Hashtable ()	Create empty Hashtable with default capacity
Hashtable (int initialCapacity)	Create empty Hashtable, specifying initial capacity

Methods

void clear ()	Clear all keys from hashtable
boolean contains (Object value)	Is there a key for the specified object?
boolean containsKey (Object key)	Is there an object for the specified key?
Enumeration elements ()	Get an enumeration to iterate through the values in hashtable
Object get (Object key)	Get value at specified key
boolean isEmpty ()	Is hashtable empty
Enumeration keys ()	Get an enumeration to iterate through the keys in hashtable
Object put (Object key, Object value)	Map specified key to value(insert into hashtable)
void rehash ()	Rehash contents into a hashtable with a greater capacity
Object remove (Object key)	Remove key and value from hashtable
int size ()	Get the number of keys
String toString ()	Get string representation of hashtable contents

NoSuchElementException

public class NoSuchElementException extends RuntimeException

Indicates there are no more elements in an enumeration

Constructors

<code>NoSuchElementException()</code>	Create NoSuchElementException
<code>NoSuchElementException(String s)</code>	Create NoSuchElementException with message

Random

public class Random

Generate pseudo-random numbers

Constructors

<code>Random()</code>	Create random number generator
<code>Random(long seed)</code>	Create random number generator, specifying the seed value

Methods

<code>int next(int bits)</code>	Get next random number
<code>int nextInt()</code>	Get next random number as uniformly distributed integer
<code>long nextLong()</code>	Get next random number as uniformly distributed long
<code>void setSeed(long seed)</code>	Set seed

Stack

public class Stack extends Vector

Last in, first out(LIFO) data structure

Constructors

<code>Stack()</code>	Create empty Stack
----------------------	--------------------

Methods

<code>boolean empty()</code>	Is stack empty?
------------------------------	-----------------

Object peek()	Peek at top object without popping from stack
Object pop()	Remove object at the top of stack
Object push (Object item)	Push an object onto the stack
int search (Object o)	Locate an object on the stack; returns distance from the top

TimeZone

public abstract class TimeZone

A timezone.

Constructors

TimeZone()	Create Timezone
-------------------	-----------------

Methods

String getAvailableIDs()	Get supported timezones
TimeZone getDefault()	Get default timezone on host
String getID()	Get ID(name) of timezone
int getOffset (int era, int year, int month, int day, int dayOfWeek, int millis)	Get milliseconds to add to GMT to convert specified date to timezone
int getRawOffset()	Get GMT offset(milliseconds to GMT) for this timezone
TimeZone getTimeZone (String ID)	Get timezone for the specified ID(name)
boolean useDaylightTime()	Does timezone observe "daylight savings"

Vector

public class Vector

Array of objects that will automatically increase in size as necessary

Fields

capacityIncrement	How much the vector grows by when capacity is reached
elementCount	Count of elements in vector
elementData	Array that holds vector contents

Constructors

<code>Vector()</code>	Create empty Vector
<code>Vector(int initialCapacity)</code>	Create empty Vector specifying initial capacity
<code>Vector(int initialCapacity, int capacityIncrement)</code>	Create empty Vector specifying initial capacity and increment

Methods

<code>void addElement(Object obj)</code>	Add object to vector
<code>int capacity()</code>	Get number of objects that may be stored, without allocating more space
<code>boolean contains(Object elem)</code>	Is the specified object in the vector?
<code>void copyInto(Object[] anArray)</code>	Copy vector contents into an array
<code>Object elementAt(int index)</code>	Get object at specified index
<code>Enumeration elements()</code>	Get an enumeration
<code>void ensureCapacity(int minCapacity)</code>	Ensure vector will hold at a minimum the specified number of elements
<code>Object firstElement()</code>	Get first element in vector
<code>int indexOf(Object elem)</code>	Search for first occurrence of object
<code>int indexOf(Object elem, int index)</code>	Search for first occurrence of object beginning at specified index
<code>void insertElementAt(Object obj, int index)</code>	Insert object at specified index
<code>boolean isEmpty()</code>	Is vector empty?
<code>Object lastElement()</code>	Get last object in vector
<code>int lastIndexOf(Object elem)</code>	Find last occurrence of specified object
<code>int lastIndexOf(Object elem, int index)</code>	Search backwards for an object beginning at the specified index
<code>void removeAllElements()</code>	Empty the vector
<code>boolean removeElement(Object obj)</code>	Remove first occurrence of specified object
<code>void removeElementAt(int index)</code>	Delete object at specified index
<code>void setElementAt(Object obj, int index)</code>	Set(replace) object at specified index
<code>void setSize(int newSize)</code>	Set new size for the vector
<code>int size()</code>	Get number of objects currently in vector
<code>String toString()</code>	Get string representation of vector contents
<code>void trimToSize()</code>	Change size of vector(array) to the actual number of objects stored

Connection	DatagramConnection
ConnectionNotFoundException	InputConnection
Connector	OutputConnection
ContentConnection	StreamConnection
Datagram	StreamConnectionNotifier

Connection

public abstract interface Connection

A "generic" connection

Methods

<code>void close()</code>	Close connection
---------------------------	------------------

ConnectionNotFoundException

public class ConnectionNotFoundException extends IOException

Indicates requested connection "target" could not be found

Constructors

<code>ConnectionNotFoundException()</code>	Create ConnectionNotFoundException
<code>ConnectionNotFoundException(String s)</code>	Create ConnectionNotFoundException

Connector

public class Connector

Static methods to create and open a connection

Fields

READ	Open for read only
READ_WRITE	Open for read and write
WRITE	Open for write only

Methods

Connection open (String name)	Create/open connection for read/write
Connection open (String name, int mode)	Create/open connection specifying mode
Connection open (String name, int mode, boolean timeouts)	Create/open connection with mode and timeout
DataInputStream openDataInputStream (String name)	Create/open data input stream
DataOutputStream openDataOutputStream (String name)	Create/open data output stream
InputStream openInputStream (String name)	Create/open input stream
OutputStream openOutputStream (String name)	Create/open output stream

ContentConnection

public abstract interface ContentConnection extends StreamConnection

Interface extending a stream connection which accomodates data

Methods

String getEncoding ()	Get encoding information of data(e.g. http "Content-Encoding" header field)
long getLength ()	Get total length of data
String getType ()	Get information about the type of data(e.g. http "Content-Type" header field)

Datagram

public abstract interface Datagram extends DataInput, DataOutput

Interface for datagram communication

Methods

String getAddress ()	Datagram address
byte[] getData ()	Get byte array containing the data
int getLength ()	Get length of data
int getOffset ()	Get current offset into the data

<code>void reset()</code>	Reset length and offset and start read/write from beginning
<code>void setAddress(Datagram)</code>	Set datagram address based on address of specified datagram
<code>void setAddress(String)</code>	Set datagram address to the specified string
<code>void setData(byte[] buffer, int offset, int len)</code>	Set datagram data from byte array
<code>void setLength(int len)</code>	Set datagram length

DatagramConnection

public abstract interface DatagramConnection extends Connection

Interface to describe the capabilities of a datagram connection

Methods

<code>int getMaximumLength()</code>	Get maximum datagram length
<code>int getNominalLength()</code>	Get nominal datagram length
<code>Datagram newDatagram(byte[] buf, int size)</code>	Create datagram from specified information
<code>Datagram newDatagram(byte[] buf, int size, String addr)</code>	Create datagram from specified information
<code>Datagram newDatagram(int size)</code>	Create datagram from specified information
<code>Datagram newDatagram(int size, String addr)</code>	Create datagram from specified information
<code>void receive(Datagram dgram)</code>	Receive datagram
<code>void send(Datagram dgram)</code>	Send datagram

InputConnection

public abstract interface InputConnection extends Connection

Interface to describe the capabilities of an input stream connection

Methods

<code>DataInputStream openDataInputStream()</code>	Open data input stream
<code>InputStream openInputStream()</code>	Open input stream

OutputConnection

public abstract interface OutputConnection extends Connection

Interface to describe the capabilities of an output stream connection

Methods

DataOutputStream openDataOutputStream()	Open data output stream
OutputStream openOutputStream()	Open output stream

StreamConnection

public abstract interface StreamConnection extends InputConnection, OutputConnection

Interface to describe the capabilities of a stream connection

StreamConnectionNotifier

public abstract interface StreamConnectionNotifier extends Connection

Interface to describe the capabilities of a stream connection notifier

Methods

StreamConnection acceptAndOpen()	Create server-side socket connection
---	--------------------------------------

Appendix C. MIDP API

[Alert: javax.microedition.lcdui.Alert](#)

[AlertType: javax.microedition.lcdui.AlertType](#)

[Canvas: javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas](#)

[Choice: javax.microedition.lcdui.Choice](#)

[ChoiceGroup: javax.microedition.lcdui.ChoiceGroup](#)

[Command: javax.microedition.lcdui.Command](#)

[CommandListener: javax.microedition.lcdui.CommandListener](#)

[DateField: javax.microedition.lcdui.DateField](#)

[Display: javax.microedition.lcdui.Display](#)

[Displayable: javax.microedition.lcdui.Displayable](#)

[Font: javax.microedition.lcdui.Font](#)

[Form: javax.microedition.lcdui.Form](#)

[Gauge: javax.microedition.lcdui.Gauge](#)

[Graphics: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics](#)

[HttpConnection: javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection](#)

[Image: javax.microedition.lcdui.Image](#)

[ImageItem: javax.microedition.lcdui.ImageItem](#)

[Item: javax.microedition.lcdui.Item](#)

[ItemStateListener: javax.microedition.lcdui.ItemStateListener](#)

[List: javax.microedition.lcdui.List](#)

[MIDlet: javax.microedition.midlet.MIDlet](#)

[MIDletStateChangeException: javax.microedition.midlet.MIDletStateChangeException](#)

[RecordComparator: javax.microedition.rms.RecordComparator](#)

[RecordEnumeration: javax.microedition.rms.RecordEnumeration](#)

[RecordFilter: javax.microedition.rms.RecordFilter](#)

[RecordListener: javax.microedition.rms.RecordListener](#)

[RecordStore: javax.microedition.rms.RecordStore](#)

[Record Store Exceptions](#)

[Screen: javax.microedition.lcdui.Screen](#)

[StringItem: javax.microedition.lcdui.StringItem](#)

[TextBox: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextBox](#)

[TextField: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextField](#)

[Ticker: javax.microedition.lcdui.Ticker](#)

Timer: [java.util.Timer](#)

TimerTask: [java.util.TimerTask](#)

Alert: javax.microedition.lcdui.Alert

public class Alert extends Screen

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
FOREVER	Specifies the Alert is visible until acknowledged by the user(also known as modal); see setTimeout()
Constructor	
<code>Alert(String title)</code>	Create a new Alert
<code>Alert(String title, String alertText, Image alertImage, AlertType, alertType)</code>	Create a new Alert with an Image and an associated sound(AlertType)
Method	
<code>int getDefaultTimeout()</code>	Get default time Alert is displayed
<code>Image getImage()</code>	Get Image associated with Alert
<code>String getString()</code>	Get text associated with Alert
<code>int getTimeout()</code>	Get actual time Alert will be displayed
<code>AlertType getType()</code>	Get the AlertType
<code>void setImage(Image img)</code>	Associate an Image with Alert
<code>void setString(String str)</code>	Set text for Alert
<code>void setTimeout(int time)</code>	Set amount of time to display Alert
<code>void setType(AlertType type)</code>	Set the AlertType

AlertType: javax.microedition.lcdui.AlertType

public class AlertType

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
ALARM	Indicates arrival of a previous request to be notified
CONFIRMATION	Indicates completion of an event or action
ERROR	Indicates an error has occurred
INFO	Indicates general, non-critical information
WARNING	Indicates potential problem or situation
Method	
<code>boolean playSound(Display display)</code>	Play a sound on the device

Canvas: javax.microedition.lcdui.Canvas

public abstract class Canvas extends Displayable

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Value</i>
Field		
Game Actions		
UP	Move up	1
DOWN	Move down	6
LEFT	Move left	2
RIGHT	Move right	5
FIRE	Fire	8
GAME_A	Custom	9
GAME_B	Custom	10
GAME_C	Custom	11
GAME_D	Custom	12
Key Codes [1]		
KEY_NUM0	ITU-T key 0	48
KEY_NUM1	ITU-T key 1	49
KEY_NUM2	ITU-T key 2	50
KEY_NUM3	ITU-T key 3	51
KEY_NUM4	ITU-T key 4	52
KEY_NUM5	ITU-T key 5	53
KEY_NUM6	ITU-T key 6	54
KEY_NUM7	ITU-T key 7	55
KEY_NUM8	ITU-T key 8	56
KEY_NUM9	ITU-T key 9	57
KEY_STAR	ITU-T key *	42
KEY_POUND	ITU-T key #	35
Method		
int getGameAction (int keyCode)	Get the game action, if any, for the key code	
int getHeight ()	Get the canvas height	
int getKeyCode (int gameAction)	Determine key code for a game action	
String getKeyName (int keyCode)	Get name for a key code [2]	
int getWidth ()	Get the canvas width	
boolean hasPointerEvents ()	Does the platform support a pointer?	
boolean hasPointerMotionEvents ()	Does the platform detect pointer motion("click/point and drag")?	
boolean hasRepeatsEvents ()	Does the implementation support repeated keys?	
void hideNotify ()	Application manager has removed the canvas from the display	

<code>boolean isDoubleBuffered()</code>	Does implementation provide double buffering?
<code>void keyPressed(int keyCode)</code>	Invoked when a key is pressed
<code>void keyReleased(int keyCode)</code>	Invoked when a key is released
<code>void keyRepeated(int keyCode)</code>	Invoked when a key is held down(repeated) [3]
<code>abstract void paint(Graphics g)</code>	Draw onto the canvas using the Graphics object specified
<code>void pointerDragged(int x, int y)</code>	Invoked when pointer dragged
<code>void pointerPressed(int x, int y)</code>	Invoked when pointer pressed
<code>void pointerReleased(int x, int y)</code>	Invoked when pointer released
<code>final void repaint()</code>	Request the canvas to be painted
<code>final void repaint(int x, int y, int width, int height)</code>	Request a specified region of canvas be painted
<code>final void serviceRepaints()</code>	Immediately process any pending paint requests
<code>void showNotify()</code>	Application manager is about to show the canvas on the display

^[1] ITU-T is the standard telephone keypad.

^[2] Can display text associated with a game action if converted to a key code.

^[3] May not be supported on all devices.

Choice: javax.microedition.lcdui.Choice

public interface Choice

This class defines fields and methods for components that allow a user to select from predefined elements. The fields and methods defined in this class are shown in ChoiceGroup and List, which implement this interface.

ChoiceGroup: javax.microedition.lcdui.ChoiceGroup

public class ChoiceGroup extends Item implements Choice

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field [1]	
EXCLUSIVE	Only one selection available at any time

MULTIPLE	Zero or more selections available at any time
IMPLICIT	Not available for ChoiceGroup; see List
Constructor	
ChoiceGroup (String label, int choiceType)	Create a ChoiceGroup with no elements
ChoiceGroup (String label, int choiceType, String[] stringElements, Image[] imageElements)	Create a ChoiceGroup and populate with data from the arrays
Method	
int append (String stringPart, Image imagePart)	Add element to end
void delete (int elementNum)	Delete element
Image getImage (int elementNum)	Get Image associated with element
int getSelectedFlags (boolean[] selectedArray_return)	Store selection status in an array
int getSelectedIndex ()	Get the index of the selected element
String getString (int elementNum)	Get text(String) associated with element
void insert (int elementNum, String stringPart, Image imageElement)	Insert element
boolean isSelected (int elementNum)	Is the element currently selected?
void set (int elementNum, String stringPart, Image imagePart)	Set(replace) element
void setSelectedFlags (boolean[] selectedArray)	Set selection status from an array
void setSelectedIndex (int elementNum, boolean selected)	For MULTIPLE ChoiceGroup, set element to specified boolean value For EXCLUSIVE ChoiceGroup, set element to true IMPLICIT not available for ChoiceGroup
int size ()	Number of elements

^[1] From Choice interface, also used with List.

Command: javax.microedition.lcdui.Command

```
public class Command
```

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
BACK	Request to move to the previous screen
CANCEL	Request to cancel an operation
EXIT	Request to exit the MIDlet
HELP	Request to display help information
ITEM	Request to map the Command to an "item" on screen
OK	Specify positive acknowledgement from a user
SCREEN	For Commands in which it is unlikely there will be a specific key mapping available
STOP	Request to stop an operation
Constructor	
<code>Command(String label, int commandType, int priority)</code>	Create a new Command
Method	
<code>int getCommandType()</code>	Get type assigned to Command
<code>String getLabel()</code>	Get label assigned to Command
<code>int getPriority()</code>	Get priority assigned to Command

CommandListener: javax.microedition.lcdui.CommandListener

public interface CommandListener

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void commandAction(Command c, Displayable d)</code>	Called when the Command "c" on the Displayable "d" initiates an event

DateField: javax.microedition.lcdui.DateField

public class DateField extends Item

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
DATE	Allows the user to edit only the date
TIME	Allows the user to edit only the time
DATE_TIME	Allows the user to edit both the date and time
Constructor	

<code>DateField(String label, int mode)</code>	Create DateField
<code>DateField(String label, int mode, TimeZone timeZone)</code>	Create DateField with specified TimeZone information
Method	
<code>Date getDate()</code>	Get current value
<code>int getInputMode()</code>	Get the current input mode
<code>void setDate(Date date)</code>	Set new date/time value
<code>void setInputMode(int mode)</code>	Set new input mode

Display: javax.microedition.lcdui.Display

public class Display

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void callSerially(Runnable r)</code>	Request a runnable object be called after repainting
<code>Displayable getCurrent()</code>	Get current Displayable object
<code>static Display getDisplay(MIDlet m)</code>	Get Display object for this MIDlet
<code>boolean isColor()</code>	Does the device support color?
<code>int numColors()</code>	How many colors(or shades of gray) are available?
<code>void setCurrent(Alert alert, Displayable nextDisplayable)</code>	Show an Alert followed by the specified Displayable object
<code>void setCurrent(Displayable nextDisplayable)</code>	Show a new Displayable object

Displayable: javax.microedition.lcdui.Displayable

abstract public class Displayable

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void addCommand(Command cmd)</code>	Add Command to Displayable object
<code>boolean isShown()</code>	Is the Displayable object visible on the screen?
<code>void removeCommand(Command cmd)</code>	Remove Command from Displayable object
<code>void setCommandListener(CommandListener l)</code>	Add CommandListener to Displayable object

Font: javax.microedition.lcdui.Font

public final class Font

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
FACE_MONOSPACE	Monospace characters
FACE_PROPORTIONAL	Proportional characters
FACE_SYSTEM	System characters
STYLE_BOLD	Bold characters
STYLE_ITALIC	Italicized characters
STYLE_PLAIN	Plain characters
STYLE_UNDERLINED	Underlined characters
SIZE_LARGE	Large characters
SIZE_MEDIUM	Medium characters
SIZE_SMALL	Small characters
Method	
int charsWidth (char[] ch, int offset, int length)	Get the advance for a series of characters
int charWidth (char ch)	Get the advance for specific character
int getBaselinePosition ()	Get font ascent(baseline to top of character)
static Font getDefaultFont ()	Request the system Font
int getFace ()	Get the current face
static Font getFont (int face, int style, int size)	Request a new Font
int getHeight ()	Get font height(distance between baselines)
int getSize ()	Get the current size
int getStyle ()	Get the combination of style attributes as one integer(logically or'ed)
boolean isBold ()	Is the bold(style) attribute set?
boolean isItalic ()	Is the italic(style) attribute set?
boolean isPlain ()	Is the plain(style) attribute set?
boolean isUnderlined ()	Is the underlined(style) attribute set?
int stringWidth (String str)	Get the advance for a String
int substringWidth (String str, int offset, int length)	Get the advance for a sub-string of a String

Form: javax.microedition.lcdui.Form

public class Form extends Screen

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
Form (String title)	Create a form
Form (String title, Item[] items)	Create a form and add Item(s) in the array
Method	
int append (Image img)	Append an Image
int append (Item item)	Append an Item
int append (String str)	Append a String
void delete (int itemNum)	Delete an Item
Item get (int itemNum)	Get an Item
void insert (int itemNum, Item item)	Insert an Item prior to the item specified
void set (int itemNum, Item item)	Set(replace) an Item
void setItemStateListener (ItemStateListener iListener)	Add a listener
int size ()	Get the number of Items on a form

Gauge: javax.microedition.lcdui.Gauge

public class Gauge extends Item

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
Gauge (String label, boolean interactive, int maxValue, int initialValue)	Create a new gauge
Method	
int getMaxValue ()	Get maximum allowed gauge value
int getValue ()	Get current value of gauge
boolean isInteractive ()	Is this an interactive gauge?
void setMaxValue (int maxValue)	Set maximum allowed gauge value
void setValue (int value)	Set new value for gauge

Graphics: javax.microedition.lcdui.Graphics

public class Graphics

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
Stroke Style	
SOLID	Draw solid lines
DOTTED	Draw dotted lines
Anchor Points	
BASELINE	Baseline of text
BOTTOM	Bottom of text/image
HCENTER	Center of text/image
LEFT	Left of text/image
RIGHT	Right of text/image
TOP	Top of text/image
VCENTER	Center of image
Method	
void clipRect (int x, int y, int width, int height)	Intersect this rectangle with the current clipping rectangle to create a new clipping region
void drawArc (int x, int y, int width, int height, int startAngle, int arcAngle)	Draw an arc inside bounding box specified by x,y and width, height
void drawChar (char character, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw one character
void drawChars (char[] data, int offset, int length, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw an array(or subset) of characters
void drawImage (Image img, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw an image
void drawLine (int x1, int y1, int x2, int y2)	Draw line specifying starting and end points
void drawRect (int x, int y, int width, int height)	Draw a rectangle
void drawRoundRect (int x, int y, int width, int height, int arcWidth, int arcHeight)	Draw a rounded rectangle
void drawString (String str, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw a String
void drawSubstring (String str, int offset, int len, int x, int y, int anchor)	Draw a sub-string of a String
void fillArc (int x, int y, int width, int height, int startAngle, int arcAngle)	Fill an arc inside bounding box specified by x,y and width,height
void fillRect (int x, int y, int width, int height)	Fill a rectangle
void fillRoundRect (int x, int y, int width, int height, int arcWidth, int arcHeight)	Fill a rounded rectangle
int getBlueComponent ()	Get the blue component of the current

	color
<code>int getClipHeight()</code>	Get height of the current clipping region
<code>int getClipWidth()</code>	Get width of the current clipping region
<code>int getClipX()</code>	Get x coordinate of the current clipping region
<code>int getClipY()</code>	Get y coordinate of the current clipping region
<code>int getColor()</code>	Get current color as one integer value
<code>Font getFont()</code>	Get the current Font
<code>int getGrayScale()</code>	Get current grayscale
<code>int getGreenComponent()</code>	Get the green component of the current color
<code>int getRedComponent()</code>	Get the red component of the current color
<code>int getStrokeStyle()</code>	Get the current stroke style
<code>int getTranslateX()</code>	Get the current translated x coordinate
<code>int getTranslateY()</code>	Get the current translated y coordinate
<code>void setClip(int x, int y, int width, int height)</code>	Set the clipping rectangle
<code>void setColor(int RGB)</code>	Set color by combining each color component(Red, Green, Blue) into one integer value
<code>void setColor(int red, int green, int blue)</code>	Set color specifying each color component(Red, Green, Blue) separately
<code>void setFont(Font font)</code>	Set the current Font
<code>void setGrayScale(int value)</code>	Set the grayscale
<code>void setStrokeStyle(int style)</code>	Set the stroke style
<code>void translate(int x, int y)</code>	Translate the origin(0, 0) for a Graphics object

HttpConnection: javax.microedition.io.HttpConnection

public interface HttpConnection extends ContentConnection

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field ^[1]	
GET	GET request method
HEAD	HEAD request method
HTTP_ACCEPTED	Status Code: 202 Message: The request has been accepted for processing, but the processing has not been completed

HTTP_BAD_GATEWAY	<p>Status Code: 502</p> <p>Message: The server, while acting as a gateway or proxy, received an invalid response from the upstream server it accessed in attempting to fulfill the request</p>
HTTP_BAD_METHOD	<p>Status Code: 405</p> <p>Message: The method specified in the Request-Line is not allowed for the resource identified by the Request-URL</p>
HTTP_BAD_REQUEST	<p>Status Code: 400</p> <p>Message: The request could not be understood by the server due to malformed syntax</p>
HTTP_CLIENT_TIMEOUT	<p>Status Code: 408</p> <p>Message: The client did not produce a request within the time that the server was prepared to wait. The client MAY repeat the request without modifications at any later time</p>
HTTP_CONFLICT	<p>Status Code: 409</p> <p>Message: The request could not be completed due to a conflict with the current state of the resource</p>
HTTP_CREATED	<p>Status Code: 201</p> <p>Message: The request has been fulfilled and resulted in a new resource being created</p>
HTTP_ENTITY_TOO_LARGE	<p>Status Code: 413</p> <p>Message: The server is refusing to process a request because the request entity is larger than the server is willing or able to process</p>
HTTP_EXPECT_FAILED	<p>Status Code: 417</p> <p>Message: The expectation given in an Expect request-header field could not be met by this server, or, if the server is a proxy, the server has unambiguous evidence that the request could not be met by the next-hop server</p>
HTTP_FORBIDDEN	<p>Status Code: 403</p> <p>Message: The server understood the request, but is refusing to fulfill it. Authorization will not help and the request SHOULD NOT be repeated</p>
HTTP_GATEWAY_TIMEOUT	<p>Status Code: 504</p> <p>Message: The server, while acting as a gateway or proxy, did not receive a timely response from the upstream server specified by the URL(e.g., HTTP, FTP) or some other auxiliary server(e.g., DNS) it needed to access in attempting to complete the request</p>

HTTP_GONE	<p>Status Code: 410</p> <p>Message: The requested resource is no longer available at the server and no forwarding address is known</p>
HTTP_INTERNAL_ERROR	<p>Status Code: 500</p> <p>Message: The server encountered an unexpected condition that prevented it from fulfilling the request</p>
HTTP_LENGTH_REQUIRED	<p>Status Code: 411</p> <p>Message: The server refuses to accept the request without a defined Content-Length</p>
HTTP_MOVED_PERM	<p>Status Code: 301</p> <p>Message: The requested resource has been assigned a new permanent URL and any future references to this resource SHOULD use one of the returned URLs</p>
HTTP_MOVED_TEMP	<p>Status Code: 302</p> <p>Message: The requested resource resides temporarily under a different URL</p>
HTTP_MULT_CHOICE	<p>Status Code: 300</p> <p>Message: The requested resource corresponds to any one of a set of representations, each with its own specific location, and agent-driven negotiation information is being provided so that the user(or user agent) can select a preferred representation and redirect its request to that location</p>
HTTP_NO_CONTENT	<p>Status Code: 204</p> <p>Message: The server has fulfilled the request but does not need to return an entity-body, and might want to return updated meta information</p>
HTTP_NOT_ACCEPTABLE	<p>Status Code: 406</p> <p>Message: The resource identified by the request is only capable of generating response entities that have content characteristics not acceptable according to the accept headers sent in the request</p>
HTTP_NOT_AUTHORITATIVE	<p>Status Code: 203</p> <p>Message: The returned metainformation in the entity-header is not the definitive set as available from the origin server, but is gathered from a local or a third-party copy</p>
HTTP_NOT_FOUND	<p>Status Code: 404</p> <p>Message: The server has not found anything matching the Request-URL. No indication is given of whether the condition is temporary or permanent</p>

HTTP_NOT_IMPLEMENTED	<p>Status Code: 501</p> <p>Message: The server does not support the functionality required to fulfill the request</p>
HTTP_NOT_MODIFIED	<p>Status Code: 304</p> <p>Message: If the client has performed a conditional GET request and access is allowed, but the document has not been modified, the server SHOULD respond with this status code</p>
HTTP_OK	<p>Status Code: 200</p> <p>Message: The request has succeeded</p>
HTTP_PARTIAL	<p>Status Code: 206</p> <p>Message: The server has fulfilled the partial GET request for the resource</p>
HTTP_PAYMENT_REQUIRED	<p>Status Code: 402</p> <p>Message: This code is reserved for future use</p>
HTTP_PRECON_FAILED	<p>Status Code: 412</p> <p>Message: The precondition given in one or more of the request-header fields evaluated to false when it was tested on the server</p>
HTTP_PROXY_AUTH	<p>Status Code: 407</p> <p>Message: This code is similar to 401(Unauthorized), but indicates that the client must first authenticate itself with the proxy</p>
HTTP_REQ_TOO_LONG	<p>Status Code: 414</p> <p>Message: The server is refusing to service the request because the Request-URL is longer than the server is willing to interpret</p>
HTTP_RESET	<p>Status Code: 205</p> <p>Message: The server has fulfilled the request and the user agent SHOULD reset the document view that caused the request to be sent</p>
HTTP_SEE_OTHER	<p>Status Code: 303</p> <p>Message: The response to the request can be found under a different URL and SHOULD be retrieved using a GET method on that resource</p>
HTTP_TEMP_REDIRECT	<p>Status Code: 307</p> <p>Message: The requested resource resides temporarily under a different URL</p>

HTTP_UNAUTHORIZED	Status Code: 401 Message: The request requires user authentication
HTTP_UNAVAILABLE	Status Code: 503 Message: The server is currently unable to handle the request due to a temporary overloading or maintenance of the server
HTTP_UNSUPPORTED_RANGE	Status Code: 416 Message: A server SHOULD return a response with this status code if a request included a Range request-header field
HTTP_UNSUPPORTED_TYPE	Status Code: 415 Message: The server is refusing to service the request because the entity of the request is in a format not supported by the requested resource for the requested method
HTTP_USE_PROXY	Status Code: 305 Message: The requested resource MUST be accessed through the proxy given by the Location field
HTTP_VERSION	Status Code: 505 Message: The server does not support, or refuses to support, the HTTP protocol version that was used in the request message
POST	POST request method
Method	
long getDate()	Get header field "date"
long getExpiration()	Get header field "expires"
String getFile()	Get filename from the URL
String getHeaderField(int n)	Get header field value looking up by index
String getHeaderField(String name)	Get header field value looking up by name
long getHeaderFieldDate(String name, long def)	Get named field as a long(representing the date)
int getHeaderFieldInt(String name, int def)	Get named field as an integer
String getHeaderFieldKey(int n)	Get header field key using index
String getHost()	Get host from the URL
long getLastModified()	Get header field "last-modified"
int getPort()	Get port from the URL
String getProtocol()	Get protocol from the URL
String getQuery()	Get the query string(only valid with a GET request)
String getRef()	Get the reference portion of URL ^[1]

String getRequestMethod()	Get the current setting of the request method(GET, POST, HEAD)
String getRequestProperty (String key)	Get the current setting of a request property(header value)
int getResponseCode()	Get the response code(numeric)
String getResponseMessage()	Get the response message(text)
String getURL()	Get the entire URL
void setRequestMethod (String method)	Set the request method(GET, POST or HEAD)
void setRequestProperty (String key, String value)	Set a request property(header information)

[1] All HTTP status code information is taken directly from HTTP Protocol 1.1
<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt>

Image: javax.microedition.lcdui.Image

public class Image

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Create an Image ^[1]	
static Image createImage (String name)	Create immutable image from resource
static Image createImage (Image source)	Create immutable image from existing Image
static Image createImage (byte[] imageData, int imageOffset, int imageLength)	Create immutable image from array data
static Image createImage (int width, int height)	Create mutable image
Method	
Graphics getGraphics ()	Get reference to Graphics object for <i>mutable</i> image
int getHeight ()	Get the height of Image
int getWidth ()	Get the width of Image
boolean isMutable ()	Determine if image is mutable

[1] Note: Constructor is not used to create an Image.

ImageItem: javax.microedition.lcdui.ImageItem

public class ImageItem extends Item

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
LAYOUT_CENTER	Center the image horizontally
LAYOUT_DEFAULT	Use the default layout of device implementation
LAYOUT_NEWLINE_AFTER	Insert a newline after the image is drawn
LAYOUT_NEWLINE_BEFORE	Insert a newline before the image is drawn
LAYOUT_LEFT	The image should appear on the left
LAYOUT_RIGHT	The image should appear on the right
Constructor	
<code>ImageItem(String label, Image img, int layout, String altText)</code>	Create an ImageItem
Method	
<code>String getAltText()</code>	Get alternate text to display if image cannot be shown on the device
<code>Image getImage()</code>	Get Image associated with ImageItem
<code>int getLayout()</code>	Get the current layout directives
<code>void setAltText(String text)</code>	Set alternate text to display if image cannot be shown on the device
<code>void setImage(Image img)</code>	Set Image to be associated with ImageItem
<code>void setLayout(int layout)</code>	Set new layout directive

Item: javax.microedition.lcdui.Item

abstract public class Item

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>String getLabel()</code>	Get the label assigned to the Item
<code>void setLabel(String label)</code>	Set label for the Item

ItemStateListener: javax.microedition.lcdui.ItemStateListener

public interface ItemStateListener

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>void itemStateChanged(Item item)</code>	Called when "item" has been changed

List: javax.microedition.lcdui.List

public class List extends Screen implements Choice

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field ^[1]	
EXCLUSIVE	Only one selection available at any time
IMPLICIT	Selection of an element generates an event
MULTIPLE	Zero or more selections available at any time
Constructor	
<code>List(String title, int listType)</code>	Create a new List with no elements
<code>List(String title, int listType, String stringElements[], Image imageElements[])</code>	Create a new List and populate with data from the arrays
Method	
<code>int append(String stringPart, Image imagePart)</code>	Add element to end
<code>void delete(int elementNum)</code>	Delete an element at specified index
<code>Image getImage(int elementNum)</code>	Get Image of element at specified index
<code>int getSelectedFlags(boolean[] selectedArray_return)</code>	Store selection status in an array
<code>int getSelectedIndex()</code>	Get index of selected element
<code>String getString(int elementNum)</code>	Get text of element at specified index
<code>void insert(int elementNum, String stringPart, Image imagePart)</code>	Insert element at specified index
<code>boolean isSelected(int elementNum)</code>	Is the element currently selected
<code>void set(int elementNum, String stringPart, Image imagePart)</code>	Set(replace) element at specified index
<code>void setSelectedFlags(boolean[] selectedArray)</code>	Set selection status from an array
<code>void setSelectedIndex(int elementNum, boolean selected)</code>	For MULTIPLE List: set element to specified boolean value; For EXCLUSIVE List: set element to true For IMPLICIT List: set element to true
<code>int size()</code>	Number of elements in List

[1] From Choice interface, also used with ChoiceGroup.

MIDlet: javax.microedition.midlet.MIDlet

public abstract class MIDlet

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Communication from Application Manager to MIDlet	
abstract void destroyApp (boolean unconditional)	MIDlet is about to be shut down
abstract void startApp ()	MIDlet has been placed into active state
abstract void pauseApp ()	MIDlet is about to be placed into paused state
Communication from MIDlet to Application Manager	
final void notifyDestroyed ()	MIDlet is requesting to be shut down
final void notifyPaused ()	MIDlet is requesting to be paused
final void resumeRequest ()	MIDlet is requesting to become active(after being paused)
Attribute Request from MIDlet to Application Manager	
final String getAppProperty (String key)	Get attributes from jar and/or jad files

MIDletStateChangeException: javax.microedition.midlet.MIDletStateChangeException

public class MIDletStateChangeException extends Exception

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
MIDletStateChangeException ()	Create exception object with no text
MIDletStateChangeException (String s)	Create exception object with text

RecordComparator: javax.microedition.rms.RecordComparator

public interface RecordComparator

<i>Fields/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field	
EQUIVALENT	The records passed to compare() method are equivalent
FOLLOWS	Based on the sort algorithm in the compare() method, the first parameter follows the second
PRECEDES	Based on the sort algorithm in the compare() method, the first parameter precedes the second
Method	
int compare (byte[] rec1, byte[] rec2)	Compare records to determine sort order.

RecordEnumeration: javax.microedition.rms.RecordEnumeration

public interface RecordEnumeration

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Method	
void destroy ()	Free all resources held by the enumeration
boolean hasNextElement ()	Does enumeration have more records going forward?
boolean hasPreviousElement ()	Does enumeration have more records going backward?
boolean isKeptUpdated ()	Will enumeration re-index as record store changes?
void keepUpdated (boolean keepUpdated)	Set whether enumeration will re-index as record store changes
byte[] nextRecord ()	Get the next record number in result set
int nextRecordId ()	Get ID of the next record in result set
int numRecords ()	Number of records in the enumeration(result set)
byte[] previousRecord ()	Get previous record in result set
int previousRecordId ()	Get ID of the previous record in result set
void rebuild ()	Rebuild enumeration index
void reset ()	Reset enumeration to beginning

RecordFilter: javax.microedition.rms.RecordFilter

public interface RecordFilter

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
boolean matches (byte[] candidate)	Search a record for a specific value

RecordListener: javax.microedition.rms.RecordListener

public interface RecordListener

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
void recordAdded (RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)	Called when record is added
void recordChanged (RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)	Called when record is changed
void recordDeleted (RecordStore recordStore, int recordId)	Called when record is deleted

RecordStore: javax.microedition.rms.RecordStore

public class RecordStore

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
No constructor. See openRecordStore()	
Method	
int addRecord (byte[] data, int offset, int numBytes)	Add a record
void addRecordListener (RecordListener listener)	Add a listener to detect record store changes
void closeRecordStore ()	Close record store
void deleteRecord (int recordId)	Delete a record
static void deleteRecordStore (String recordStoreName)	Delete record store
RecordEnumeration enumerateRecords (RecordFilter filter, RecordComparator comparator, boolean keepUpdated)	Build an enumeration for traversing records in the record store
long getLastModified ()	Last modified date of the record store
String getName ()	Name of the record store
int getNextRecordID ()	Number of the next record when adding a new record to the store
int getNumRecords ()	Number of records in the record store
byte[] getRecord (int recordId)	Return a byte array containing record data

<code>int getRecord(int recordId, byte[] buffer, int offset)</code>	Return record data in array parameter, copying data beginning at the specified offset
<code>int getRecordSize(int recordId)</code>	Size in bytes of a record
<code>int getSize()</code>	Total bytes occupied by record store
<code>int getSizeAvailable()</code>	Current space(bytes) available for records; This will change as records are added/deleted
<code>int getVersion()</code>	Record store version number
<code>static String[] listRecordStores()</code>	List record stores in MIDlet suite
<code>static RecordStore openRecordStore(String recordStoreName, boolean createIfNecessary)</code>	Open record store. Optionally, create the store if it does not already exist.
<code>void removeRecordListener(RecordListener listener)</code>	Remove listener
<code>void setRecord(int recordId, byte[] newData, int offset, int numBytes)</code>	Set(replace) data in a record

The following table lists all record store exception classes.

Record Store Exceptions

<i>Constructors</i>	<i>Description</i>
<code>javax.microedition.rms.InvalidRecordIDException</code>	
<code>InvalidRecordIDException()</code>	Create InvalidRecordIDException
<code>InvalidRecordIDException(String message)</code>	Create InvalidRecordIDException with message
<code>javax.microedition.rms.RecordStoreException</code>	
<code>RecordStoreException()</code>	Create RecordStoreException
<code>RecordStoreException(String message)</code>	Create RecordStoreException
<code>javax.microedition.rms.RecordStoreFullException</code>	
<code>RecordStoreFullException()</code>	Create RecordStoreFullException
<code>RecordStoreFullException(String message)</code>	Create RecordStoreFullException with message
<code>javax.microedition.rms.RecordStoreNotFoundException</code>	
<code>RecordStoreNotFoundException()</code>	Create RecordStoreNotFoundException
<code>RecordStoreNotFoundException(String message)</code>	Create RecordStoreNotFoundException with message
<code>javax.microedition.rms.RecordStoreNotOpenException</code>	
<code>RecordStoreNotOpenException()</code>	Create RecordStoreNotOpenException

<code>RecordStoreNotOpenException(String message)</code>	Create RecordStoreNotOpenException with message
--	---

Screen: javax.microedition.lcdui.Screen

public abstract class Screen extends Displayable

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Ticker <code>getTicker()</code>	Get Ticker associated with the Screen
String <code>getTitle()</code>	Get title associated with the Screen
void <code>setTicker(Ticker ticker)</code>	Set Ticker for the Screen
void <code>setTitle(String s)</code>	Set title for the Screen

StringItem: javax.microedition.lcdui.StringItem

public class StringItem extends Item

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
<code>StringItem(String label, String text)</code>	Create a new StringItem
Method	
String <code>getText()</code>	Get current value of the text
void <code>setText(String text)</code>	Set new value of the text

TextBox: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextBox

public class TextBox extends Screen

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field ^[1]	
CONSTRAINT_MASK	Used to determine the current value of constraint
ANY	Allow any character input
EMAILADDR	Allow only characters that are valid within email address
NUMERIC	Allow only numbers(both positive and negative)
PASSWORD	Masks all character input to provide

	privacy
PHONENUMBER	Allow only characters that are valid as a phone number
URL	Allow only characters that are valid within a URL
Constructor	
TextBox (String title, String text, int maxSize, int constraints)	Create a new TextField
Method	
void delete (int offset, int length)	Delete characters
int getCaretPosition ()	Get current input position
int getChars (char[] data)	Place TextBox contents into an array
int getConstraints ()	Get the constraints defined
int getMaxSize ()	Get total characters that can be stored
String getString ()	Place TextBox contents into a String
void insert (String src, int position)	Insert characters from a String
void insert (char[] data, int offset, int length, int position)	Insert characters from an array into specified "position"
void setChars (char[] data, int offset, int length)	Replace TextBox contents with data from an array
void setConstraints (int constraints)	Set the constraints
int setMaxSize (int maxSize)	Set total characters that can be stored
void setString (String text)	Set(replace) TextBox contents from a String
int size ()	Number of characters currently in TextBox

^[1] From TextField class.

TextField: javax.microedition.lcdui.TextField

public class TextField extends Item

<i>Field/Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Field ^[1]	
CONSTRAINT_MASK	Used to determine the current value of constraint
ANY	Allow any character input
EMAILADDR	Allow only characters that are valid within email address
NUMERIC	Allow only numbers(both positive and negative)

PASSWORD	Masks all character input to provide privacy
PHONENUMBER	Allow only characters that are valid as a phone number
URL	Allow only characters that are valid within a URL
Constructor	
TextField (String label, String text, int maxSize,int constraints)	Create a new TextField
Method	
void delete (int offset, int length)	Delete characters at a specified offset
int getCaretPosition ()	Get current caret(cursor) position
int getChars (char[] data)	Get contents of TextField into an array
int getConstraints ()	Get constraints defined for TextField
int getMaxSize ()	Get max number of characters in TextField
String getString ()	Get contents of TextField into a String
void insert (String src, int position)	Insert String at a specified offset
void insert (char[] data, int offset, int length, int position)	Insert specified characters from array into TextField at a specified offset
void setChars (char[] data, int offset, int length)	Set(replace) characters with data from array
void setConstraints (int constraints)	Set constraints for TextField
int setMaxSize (int maxSize)	Set max number of characters in TextField
void setString (String text)	Set(replace) Text Field contents from String
int size ()	Number of characters currently in TextField

^[1] Also used in TextBox

Ticker: javax.microedition.lcdui.Ticker

public class Ticker

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
Ticker (String str)	Create a new Ticker with the specified ticker text
Method	
String getString ()	Get the text associated with the Ticker
void setString (String str)	Set the text to associate with the Ticker

Timer: java.util.Timer

public class Timer

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
<code>Timer()</code>	Create timer
Method	
<code>void cancel()</code>	Ends the timer and any scheduled tasks
<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, long delay)</code>	Schedule a task to occur after a delay
<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, long delay, long period)</code>	Schedule a fixed-delay repeating task that starts after a delay
<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, Date time)</code>	Schedule a task to occur on specific date
<code>void schedule(TimerTask task, Date firstTime, long period)</code>	Schedule a fixed-delay repeating task that starts on specific date
<code>void scheduleAtFixedRate(TimerTask task, long delay, long period)</code>	Schedule a fixed-rate repeating task that starts after a delay
<code>void scheduleAtFixedRate(TimerTask task, Date firstTime, long period)</code>	Schedule fixed-rate repeating task that starts on specific date

TimerTask: java.util.TimerTask

public abstract class TimerTask implements java.lang Runnable

<i>Method</i>	<i>Description</i>
Constructor	
<code>TimerTask()</code>	Create timer task
Method	
<code>boolean cancel()</code>	End the task
<code>abstract void run()</code>	Place code in this method to carry out the action of the task
<code>long scheduledExecutionTime()</code>	Time when the last run task was scheduled to occur