Topic 19
Line Based File Input

"Composing computer programs to solve scientific problems is like writing poetry. You must choose every word with care and link it with the other words in perfect syntax. There is no place for verbosity or carelessness. **To become fluent in a computer language demands almost the antithesis of modern loose thinking.** It requires many interactive sessions, the hands-on use of the device. You do not learn a foreign language from a book, rather you have to live in the country for year to let the language become an automatic part of you, and the same is true for computer languages. "

- James Lovelock

Based on slides by Marty Stepp and Stuart Reges
from http://www.buildingjavaprograms.com/

Hours question

- Given a file `hours.txt` with the following contents:

```
123 Kim 12.5 8.1 7.6 3.2
456 Eric 4.0 11.6 6.5 2.7 12
789 Stef 8.0 8.0 8.0 8.0 7.5
```

  - Consider the task of computing hours worked by each person:

```
Kim (ID#123) worked 31.4 hours (7.85 hours/day)
Eric (ID#456) worked 36.8 hours (7.36 hours/day)
Stef (ID#789) worked 39.5 hours (7.9 hours/day)
```

Hours answer (flawed)

```
// This solution does not work!
import java.io.*;                    // for File
import java.util.Scanner;
public class HoursWorked {
    public static void main(String[] args)
            throws FileNotFoundException {
        Scanner fileScanner = new Scanner(new File("hours.txt"));
        while (fileScanner.hasNext()) {
            // process one person
            int id = fileScanner.nextInt();
            String name = fileScanner.next();
            double totalHours = 0.0;
            int days = 0;
            while (fileScanner.hasNextDouble()) {
                totalHours += fileScanner.nextDouble();
                days++;
            }
            System.out.println(name + " (ID#" + id +
                    ") worked " + totalHours + " hours (" +
                    (totalHours / days) + " hours/day)");
        }
    }
}
```

```
123 Kim 12.5 8.1 7.6 3.2
456 Eric 4.0 11.6 6.5 2.7 12
```

Clicker 1

- What happens when the solution on the previous slide is run given a file with this data?

```
123 Kim 12.5 8.1 7.6 3.2
456 Eric 4.0 11.6 6.5 2.7 12
789 Stef 8.0 8.0 8.0 8.0 7.5
```

A. prints out correct answer
B. no output due to syntax error
C. some output then an InputMismatchException
D. some output then a NoSuchElementException
E. More than one of A - D is correct

Flawed output

```
Kim (ID#123) worked 487.4 hours (97.48 hours/day)
Exception in thread "main"
java.util.InputMismatchException
        at java.util.Scanner.throwFor(Scanner.java:840)
        at java.util.Scanner.next(Scanner.java:1461)
        at java.util.Scanner.nextInt(Scanner.java:2091)
        at HoursWorked.main(HoursBad.java:9)
```

- The inner `while` loop is grabbing the next person's ID.
- We want to process the tokens, but we also care about the line breaks (they mark the end of a person's data).

- A better solution is a hybrid approach:
  - First, break the overall input into lines.
  - Then break each line into tokens.

Line-based `Scanner` methods

Method	Description
`nextLine()`	returns next entire line of input (from cursor to `\n`)
`hasNextLine()`	returns `true` if there are any more lines of input to read (always true for console input)

```
Scanner input
        = new Scanner(new File("<filename>"));
while (input.hasNextLine()) {
    String line = input.nextLine();
    <process this line>;
}
```

Consuming lines of input

```
23   3.14 John Smith   "Hello" world
                45.2 19
```

- The `Scanner` reads the lines as follows:

```
23\t3.14 John Smith\t"Hello" world\n\t\t45.2  19\n
^
```

  - `String line = input.nextLine();`

```
23\t3.14 John Smith\t"Hello" world\n\t\t45.2  19\n
                                  ^
```

  - `String line2 = input.nextLine();`

```
23\t3.14 John Smith\t"Hello" world\n\t\t45.2  19\n
                                              ^
```

    - Each `\n` character is consumed but not returned.

Scanners on Strings

- A `Scanner` can tokenize the contents of a `String`:

```
Scanner <name> = new Scanner(<String>);
```

  - Example:

```
String text = "15  3.2 hello   9  27.5";
Scanner scan = new Scanner(text);

int num = scan.nextInt();
System.out.println(num);              // 15

double num2 = scan.nextDouble();
System.out.println(num2);             // 3.2

String word = scan.next();
System.out.println(word);             // "hello"
```

Mixing lines and tokens

Input file `input.txt`:	Output to console:
`The quick brown fox jumps over` `the lazy dog.`	`Line has 6 words` `Line has 3 words`

```
// Counts the words on each line of a file
Scanner input = new Scanner(new File("input.txt"));
while (input.hasNextLine()) {
    String line = input.nextLine();
    Scanner lineScan = new Scanner(line);

    // process the contents of this line
    int count = 0;
    while (lineScan.hasNext()) {
        String word = lineScan.next();
        count++;
    }
    System.out.println("Line has " + count + " words");
}
```

Hours question

– Fix the `Hours` program to read the input file properly:

```
123 Kim 12.5 8.1 7.6 3.2
456 Eric 4.0 11.6 6.5 2.7 12
789 Stef 8.0 8.0 8.0 8.0 7.5
```

– Recall, it should produce the following output:

```
Kim (ID#123) worked 31.4 hours (7.85 hours/day)
Eric (ID#456) worked 36.8 hours (7.36 hours/day)
Stef (ID#789) worked 39.5 hours (7.9 hours/day)
```

Hours answer, corrected

```
// Processes an employee input file and outputs each employee's hours.
import java.io.*;    // for File
import java.util.*;  // for Scanner

public class Hours {
    public static void main(String[] args) throws FileNotFoundException {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(new File("hours.txt"));
        while (input.hasNextLine()) {
            String line = input.nextLine();
            processEmployee(line);
        }
    }

    public static void processEmployee(String line) {
        Scanner lineScan = new Scanner(line);
        int id = lineScan.nextInt();          // e.g. 456
        String name = lineScan.next();        // e.g. "Eric"
        double sum = 0.0;
        int count = 0;
        while (lineScan.hasNextDouble()) {
            sum = sum + lineScan.nextDouble();
            count++;
        }

        double average = sum / count;
        System.out.println(name + " (ID#" + id + ") worked " +
            sum + " hours (" + average + " hours/day)");
    }
}
```

File output

reading: 6.4 - 6.5

Output to files

- **`PrintStream`**: An object in the `java.io` package that lets you print output to a destination such as a file.
  - Any methods you have used on `System.out` (such as `print`, `println`) will work on a `PrintStream`.
- Syntax:

```
PrintStream <name>
    = new PrintStream(new File("<filename>"));
```

Example:

```
PrintStream output
          = new PrintStream(new File("out.txt"));
output.println("Hello, file!");
output.println("This is a second line of output.");
```

Details about `PrintStream`

```
PrintStream <name>
  = new PrintStream(new File("<filename>"));
```

- If the given file does not exist, it is created.
- If the given file already exists, it is **overwritten**.
- The output you print appears in a file, not on the console. You have to open the file with an editor to see it.
- Do not open the same file for both reading (`Scanner`) and writing (`PrintStream`) at the same time.
  - You will overwrite your input file with an empty file (0 bytes).

`System.out` and `PrintStream`

- The console output object, `System.out`, is a `PrintStream`.

```
PrintStream out1 = System.out;
PrintStream out2 = new PrintStream(new File("data.txt"));
out1.println("Hello, console!");   // goes to console
out2.println("Hello, file!");      // goes to file
```

  - A reference to it can be stored in a `PrintStream` variable.
    - Printing to that variable causes console output to appear.
  - You can pass `System.out` to a method as a `PrintStream`.
    - Allows a method to send output to the console or a file.

`PrintStream` question

- Modify our previous Hours program to use a `PrintStream` to send its output to the file `hours_out.txt`.
- The program will produce no console output.
- the file `hours_out.txt` will be created with the text:

```
Kim (ID#123) worked 31.4 hours (7.85 hours/day)
Eric (ID#456) worked 36.8 hours (7.36 hours/day)
Stef (ID#789) worked 39.5 hours (7.9 hours/day)
```

PrintStream answer

```
// Processes an employee input file and outputs each employee's hours.
import java.io.*;    // for File
import java.util.*;  // for Scanner

public class Hours2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) throws FileNotFoundException {
        Scanner input = new Scanner(new File("hours.txt"));
        PrintStream out = new PrintStream(new File("hours_out.txt"));
        while (input.hasNextLine()) {
            String line = input.nextLine();
            processEmployee(out, line);
        }
    }

    public static void processEmployee(PrintStream out, String line) {
        Scanner lineScan = new Scanner(line);
        int id = lineScan.nextInt();          // e.g. 456
        String name = lineScan.next();        // e.g. "Eric"
        double sum = 0.0;
        int count = 0;
        while (lineScan.hasNextDouble()) {
            sum = sum + lineScan.nextDouble();
            count++;
        }

        double average = sum / count;
        out.println(name + " (ID#" + id + ") worked " +
                    sum + " hours (" + average + " hours/day)");
    }
}
```

Prompting for a file name

- We can ask the user to tell us the file to read.
  - The filename might have spaces; use `nextLine()`, not `next()`

```
// prompt for input file name
Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);
System.out.print("Type a file name to use: ");
String filename = console.nextLine();
Scanner input = new Scanner(new File(filename));
```

- `File`s have an `exists` method to test for file-not-found:

```
File file = new File("hours.txt");
if (!file.exists()) {
    // try a second input file as a backup
    System.out.print("hours file not found!");
    file = new File("hours2.txt");
}
```