Java Programming Lab Manual

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Editors

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedication Preface	V :
Acknowledgement	xi xiii
Chapter 1: Introduction to Java - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	15
Chapter 2: Compiling and Executing Java Code - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	21
Chapter 3: Introduction to Data Types in Java - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	27
Chapter 4: Arithmetic and Relational Operators - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	33
Chapter 5: Relational and Logical Operators - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	39
Chapter 6: Bitwise Operators and Type Casting - Asadullah Shaikh - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	45
Chapter 7: Conditional Statements - Asadullah Shaikh - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	51
Chapter 8: If-Else Statements - Asadullah Shaikh - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	55
Chapter 9: The If-Else-If Statements - Asadullah Shaikh - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	61

Chapter 10: Switch Statement - Asadullah Shaikh - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	67
Chapter 11: Loops - Agha Javed Phatan - Zeeshan Bhatti	73
 - Asadullah Shah Chapter 12: Do-While Loops - Agha Javed Phatan - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah 	79
Chapter 13: For Loops - Agha Javed Phatan - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	85
Chapter 14: Loop Pitfalls and Exercise - Agha Javed Phatan - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	93
Chapter 15: Nested Loops - Agha Javed Phatan - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	99
Chapter 16: Arrays in Java - Wascem Javaid Soomro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	105
Chapter 17: Two Dimensional Arrays - Waseem Javaid Soomro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	111
Chapter 18: Strings - Waseem Javaid Soomro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	119

Chapter 19: Methods of String Class - Waseem Javaid Soomro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	127
Chapter 20: Object and Classes - Waseem Javaid Soomro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	135
Chapter 21: Constructors - Dil Nawaz Hakro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	141
Chapter 22: User defined Methods - Dil Nawaz Hakro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah viii	147
Chapter 23: Arguments Passing - Dil Nawaz Hakro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	155
Chapter 24: Return Statement - Dil Nawaz Hakro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	163
Chapter 25: Working with Classes - Dil Nawaz Hakro - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	169
Chapter 26: Multiple Classes - Muniba Shaikh - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	177
Chapter 27: Method Overloading and Overriding - Muniba Shaikh - Zeeshan Bhatti - Asadullah Shah	185

Chapter 28: Modifires for class data	191
- Muniba Shaikh	
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	
Chapter 29: Inner Classes	199
- Muniba Shaikh	
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	
Chapter 30: Comparison between different class types	207
- Muniba Shaikh	
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	
Chapter 31: Exception Handling	215
- Kamran Khowaja	
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	
Chapter 32: Throw & Throws Keyword	223
- Kamran Khowaja	
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	
Chapter 33: Local Block and Static Block	231
- Kamran Khowaja	
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	
Chapter 34: Abstract Classes	237
- Dini Oktarina Dwi	
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	
Chapter 35: Interfaces	245
- Dini Oktarina Dwi	2.15
- Zeeshan Bhatti	
- Asadullah Shah	

Chapter 29

Inner Classes

Muniba Shaikh, Zeeshan Bhatti, Asadullah Shah

Abstract

Inner or nested classes means when a class is defined within the body of another class. These are very powerful means of controlling how data is represented and used in a program. In this chapter the students will learn the basics of using nested classes and how they can be instantiated. Java uses another type of classes that are called Anonymous classes, means class without a name and they are also discussed in this chapter.

29.1 Inner class or Nested class

An inner or nested classes means class within a class. The key attributes of inner call are:

- An Inner class can be *public*, *private*, *protected*, *static* or Non-Static.
- To create an object of inner class, two steps are needed:
 - The Inner class object cannot be created until the outer class object is created or an outer class is loaded into the memory.
 - The Inner class object will be created in correspondence with the outer class object.

```
Outer out = new Outer();
```

Outer.Inner in = out.newInner();

• Zero or more objects can be created on the basis of single Outer object for example:

```
class Outer{
```