
8

In this chapter:

- *Text Component*
- *TextField*
- *TextArea*
- *Extending TextField*

Input Fields

There are two fundamental ways for users to provide input to a program: they can type on a keyboard, or they can select something (a button, a menu item, etc.) using a mouse. When you want a user to provide input to your program, you can display a list of choices to choose from or allow the user to interact with your program by typing with the keyboard. Presenting choices to the user is covered in Chapter 9, *Pick Me*. As far as keyboard input goes, the `java.awt` package provides two options. The `TextField` class is a single line input field, while the `TextArea` class is a multiline one. Both `TextField` and `TextArea` are subclasses of the class `TextComponent`, which contains all the common functionality of the two. `TextComponent` is a subclass of `Component`, which is a subclass of `Object`. So you inherit all of these methods when you work with either `TextField` or `TextArea`.

8.1 Text Component

By themselves, the `TextField` and `TextArea` classes are fairly robust. However, in order to reduce duplication between the classes, they both inherit a number of methods from the `TextComponent` class. The constructor for `TextComponent` is package private, so you cannot create an instance of it yourself. Some of the activities shared by `TextField` and `TextArea` through the `TextComponent` methods include setting the text, getting the text, selecting the text, and making it read-only.

8.1.1 *TextComponent* Methods

Contents

Both `TextField` and `TextArea` contain a set of characters whose content determines the current value of the `TextComponent`. The following methods are usually called in response to an external event.

public String getText ()

The `getText ()` method returns the current contents of the `TextComponent` as a `String` object.

public void setText (String text)

The `setText ()` method sets the content of the `TextComponent` to `text`. If the `TextComponent` is a `TextArea`, you can embed newline characters (`\n`) in the `text` so that it will appear on multiple lines.

Text selection

Users can select text in `TextComponents` by pressing a mouse button at a starting point and dragging the cursor across the text. The selected text is displayed in reverse video. Only one block of text can be selected at any given time within a single `TextComponent`. Once selected, this block could be used to provide the user with some text-related operation such as cut and paste (on a `PopupMenu`).

Depending on the platform, you might or might not be able to get selected text when a `TextComponent` does not have the input focus. In general, the component with selected text must have input focus in order for you to retrieve any information about the selection. However, in some environments, the text remains selected when the component no longer has the input focus.

public int getSelectionStart ()

The `getSelectionStart ()` method returns the initial position of any selected text. The position can be considered the number of characters preceding the first selected character. If there is no selected text, `getSelectionStart ()` returns the current cursor position. If the start of the selection is at beginning of the text, the return value is 0.

public int getSelectionEnd ()

The `getSelectionEnd ()` method returns the ending cursor position of any selected text—that is, the number of characters preceding the end of the selection. If there is no selected text, `getSelectionEnd ()` returns the current cursor position.

```
public String getSelectedText ()
```

The `getSelectedText()` method returns the currently selected text of the `TextComponent` as a `String`. If nothing is selected, `getSelectedText()` returns an empty `String`, not `null`.

```
public void setSelectionStart (int position) ★
```

The `setSelectionStart()` method changes the beginning of the current selection to `position`. If `position` is after `getSelectionEnd()`, the cursor position moves to `getSelectionEnd()`, and nothing is selected.

```
public void setSelectionEnd (int position) ★
```

The `setSelectionEnd()` method changes the end of the current selection to `position`. If `position` is before `getSelectionStart()`, the cursor position moves to `position`, and nothing is selected.

```
public void select (int selectionStart, int selectionEnd)
```

The `select()` method selects the text in the `TextComponent` from `selectionStart` to `selectionEnd`. If `selectionStart` is after `selectionEnd`, the cursor position moves to `selectionEnd`. Some platforms allow you to use `select()` to ensure that a particular position is visible on the screen.

```
public void selectAll ()
```

The `selectAll()` method selects all the text in the `TextComponent`. It basically does a `select()` call with a `selectionStart` position of 0 and a `selectionEnd` position of the length of the contents.

Carets

Introduced in Java 1.1 is the ability to set and get the current insertion position within the text object.

```
public int getCaretPosition () ★
```

The `getCaretPosition()` method returns the current text insertion position (often called the “cursor”) of the `TextComponent`. You can use this position to paste text from the clipboard with the `java.awt.datatransfer` package described in Chapter 16, *Data Transfer*.

```
public void setCaretPosition (int position) ★
```

The `setCaretPosition()` method moves the current text insertion location of the `TextComponent` to `position`. If the `TextComponent` does not have a peer yet, `setCaretPosition()` throws the `IllegalComponentStateException` runtime exception. If `position < 0`, this method throws the runtime exception `IllegalArgumentException`. If `position` is too big, the text insertion point is positioned at the end.

Prior to Java version 1.1, the insertion location was usually set by calling `select(position, position)`.

Read-only text

By default, a `TextComponent` is editable. If a user types while the component has input focus, its contents will change. A `TextComponent` can also be used in an output-only (read-only) mode.

public void setEditable (boolean state)

The `setEditable()` method allows you to change the current editable state of the `TextComponent` to state. `true` means the component is editable; `false` means read-only.

public boolean isEditable ()

The `isEditable()` method tells you if the `TextComponent` is editable (`true`) or read-only (`false`).

The following listing is an applet that toggles the editable status for a `TextArea` and sets a label to show the current status. As you can see in Figure 8-1, platforms can change the display characteristics of the `TextComponent` to reflect whether the component is editable. (Windows 95 darkens the background. Motif and Windows NT do nothing.)

```
import java.awt.*;
import java.applet.*;
public class readonly extends Applet {
    TextArea area;
    Label label;
    public void init () {
        setLayout (new BorderLayout (10, 10));
        add ("South", new Button ("toggleState"));
        add ("Center", area = new TextArea ("Help Me", 5, 10));
        add ("North", label = new Label ("Editable", Label.CENTER));
    }
    public boolean action (Event e, Object o) {
        if (e.target instanceof Button) {
            if ("toggleState".equals(o)) {
                area.setEditable (!area.isEditable ());
                label.setText ((area.isEditable () ? "Editable" : "Read-only"));
                return true;
            }
        }
        return false;
    }
}
```

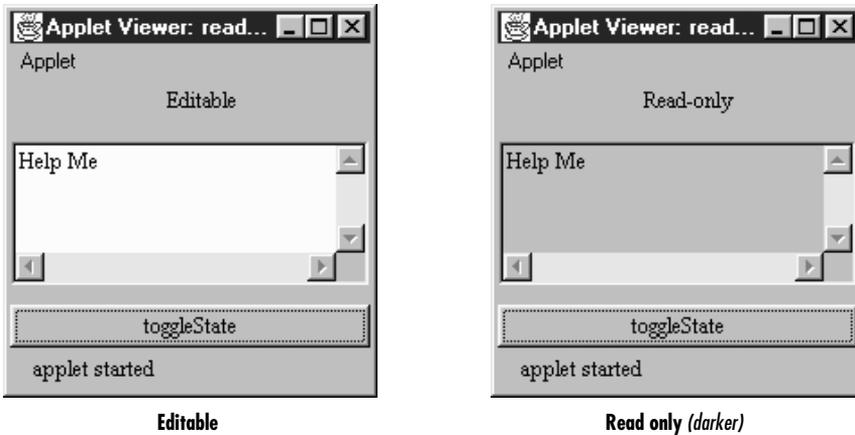


Figure 8-1: Editable and read-only TextAreas

Miscellaneous methods

public synchronized void removeNotify ()

The `removeNotify()` method destroys the peer of the `TextComponent` and removes it from the screen. Prior to the `TextComponent` peer's destruction, the current state is saved so that a subsequent call to `addNotify()` will put it back. (`TextArea` and `TextField` each have their own `addNotify()` methods.) These methods deal with the peer object, which hides the native platform's implementation of the component. If you override this method for a specific `TextComponent`, put in the customizations for your new class first, and call `super.removeNotify()` last.

protected String paramString ()

When you call the `toString()` method of a `TextField` or `TextArea`, the default `toString()` method of `Component` is called. This in turn calls `paramString()`, which builds up the string to display. The `TextComponent` level potentially adds four items. The first is the current contents of the `TextComponent` (`getText()`). If the text is editable, `paramString()` adds the word *editable* to the string. The last two items included are the current selection range (`getSelectionStart()` and `getSelectionEnd()`).

8.1.2 TextComponent Events

With the 1.1 event model, you can register listeners for text events. A text event occurs when the component's content changes, either because the user typed something or because the program called a method like `setText()`. Listeners are

registered with the `addTextListener()` method. When the content changes, the `TextListener.textValueChanges()` method is called through the protected method `processTextEvent()`. There is no equivalent to `TextEvent` in Java 1.0; you would have to direct keyboard changes and all programmatic changes to a common method yourself.

In addition to `TextEvent` listeners, `Key`, `mouse`, and `focus` listeners are registered through the `Component` methods `addKeyListener()`, `addMouseListener()`, `addMouseMotionListener()`, and `addFocusListener()`, respectively.

Listeners and 1.1 event handling

public synchronized void addTextListener(TextListener listener) ★

The `addTextListener()` method registers `listener` as an object interested in receiving notifications when a `TextEvent` passes through the `EventQueue` with this `TextComponent` as its target. The `listener.textValueChanged()` method is called when these events occur. Multiple listeners can be registered.

The following applet, `text13`, demonstrates how to use a `TextListener` to handle the events that occur when a `TextField` is changed. Whenever the user types into the `TextField`, a `TextEvent` is delivered to the `textValueChanged()` method, which prints a message on the Java console. The applet includes a button that, when pressed, modifies the text field `tf` by calling `setText()`. These changes also generate a `TextEvent`.

```
// Java 1.1 only
import java.applet.*;
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;
class TextFieldSetter implements ActionListener {
    TextField tf;
    TextFieldSetter (TextField tf) {
        this.tf = tf;
    }
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e) {
        if (e.getActionCommand().equals ("Set")) {
            tf.setText ("Hello");
        }
    }
}
}
public class text13 extends Applet implements TextListener {
    TextField tf;
    int i=0;
    public void init () {
        Button b;
        tf = new TextField ("Help Text", 20);
        add (tf);
        tf.addTextListener (this);
        add (b = new Button ("Set"));
        b.addActionListener (new TextFieldSetter (tf));
    }
}
```

```

    }
    public void textValueChanged(TextEvent e) {
        System.out.println (++i + ": " + e);
    }
}

```

public void removeTextListener(TextListener listener) ★

The `removeTextListener()` method removes listener as an interested listener. If listener is not registered, nothing happens.

protected void processEvent(AWTEvent e) ★

The `processEvent()` method receives all `AWTEvents` with this `TextComponent` as its target. `processEvent()` then passes the events along to any listeners for processing. When you subclass `TextComponent`, overriding `processEvent()` allows you to process all events yourself, before sending them to any listeners. In a way, overriding `processEvent()` is like overriding `handleEvent()` using the 1.0 event model.

If you override `processEvent()`, remember to call `super.processEvent(e)` last to ensure that regular event processing can occur. If you want to process your own events, it's a good idea to call `enableEvents()` (inherited from `Component`) to ensure that events are delivered even in the absence of registered listeners.

protected void processTextEvent(TextEvent e) ★

The `processTextEvent()` method receives all `TextEvents` with this `TextComponent` as its target. `processTextEvent()` then passes them along to any listeners for processing. When you subclass `TextField` or `TextArea`, overriding the `processTextEvent()` method allows you to process all text events yourself, before sending them to any listeners. There is no equivalent to `processTextEvent()` within the 1.0 event model.

If you override `processTextEvent()`, remember to call the method `super.processTextEvent(e)` last to ensure that regular event processing can occur. If you want to process your own events, it's a good idea to call `enableEvents()` (inherited from `Component`) to ensure that events are delivered even in the absence of registered listeners.

8.2 *TextField*

`TextField` is the `TextComponent` for single-line input. Some constructors permit you to set the width of the `TextField` on the screen, but the current `LayoutManager` may change it. The text in the `TextField` is left justified, and the justification is not customizable. To change the font and size of text within the `TextField`, call `setFont()` as shown in Chapter 3, *Fonts and Colors*.

The width of the field does not limit the number of characters that the user can type into the field. It merely suggests how wide the field should be. To limit the number of characters, it is necessary to override the `keyDown()` method for the `Component`. Section 8.4 contains an example showing how to do this.

8.2.1 *TextField Methods*

Constructors

public TextField ()

This constructor creates an empty `TextField`. The width of the `TextField` is zero columns, but it will be made wide enough to display just about one character, depending on the current font and size.

public TextField (int columns)

This constructor creates an empty `TextField`. The `TextField` width is `columns`. The `TextField` will try to be wide enough to display `columns` characters in the current font and size. As I mentioned previously, the layout manager may change the size.

public TextField (String text)

This constructor creates a `TextField` with `text` as its content. In Java 1.0 systems, the `TextField` is 0 columns wide (the `getColumns()` result), but the system will size it to fit the length of `text`. With Java 1.1, `getColumns()` actually returns `text.length`.

public TextField (String text, int columns)

This constructor creates a `TextField` with `text` as its content and a width of `columns`.

The following example uses all four constructors; the results are shown in Figure 8-2. With the third constructor, you see that the `TextField` is not quite wide enough for our text. The system uses an average width per character to try to determine how wide the field should be. If you want to be on the safe side, specify the field's length explicitly, and add a few extra characters to ensure that there is enough room on the screen for the entire text.

```
import java.awt.TextField;
public class texts extends java.applet.Applet {
    public void init () {
        add (new TextField ()); // A
        add (new TextField (15)); // B
        add (new TextField ("Empty String")); // C
        add (new TextField ("Empty String", 20)); // D
    }
}
```

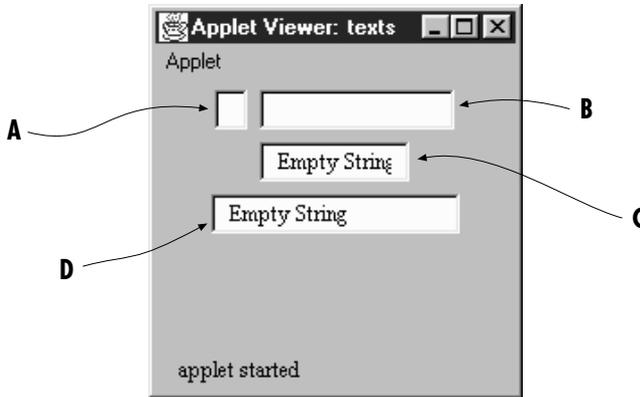


Figure 8-2: Using the `TextField` constructors

Sizing

public int `getColumns()`

The `getColumns()` method returns the number of columns set with the constructor or a later call to `setColumns()`. This could be different from the displayed width of the `TextField`, depending upon the current `LayoutManager`.

public void `setColumns(int columns)` ★

The `setColumns()` method changes the preferred number of columns for the `TextField` to display to columns. Because the current `LayoutManager` will do what it wants, the new setting may be completely ignored. If `columns < 0`, `setColumns()` throws the run-time exception `IllegalArgumentException`.

public Dimension `getPreferredSize(int columns)` ★

public Dimension `preferredSize(int columns)` ☆

The `getPreferredSize()` method returns the `Dimension` (width and height) for the preferred size of a `TextField` with a width of `columns`. The `columns` specified may be different from the number of columns designated in the constructor.

`preferredSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public Dimension `getPreferredSize()` ★

public Dimension `preferredSize()` ☆

The `getPreferredSize()` method returns the `Dimension` (width and height) for the preferred size of the `TextField`. Without the `columns` parameter, this `getPreferredSize()` uses the constructor's number of columns (or the value from a subsequent call to `setColumns()`) to calculate the `TextField`'s preferred size.

`preferredSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public Dimension getMinimumSize (int columns) ★

public Dimension minimumSize (int columns) ☆

The `getMinimumSize()` method returns the minimum `Dimension` (width and height) for the size of a `TextField` with a width of `columns`. The `columns` specified may be different from the `columns` designated in the constructor.

`minimumSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public Dimension getMinimumSize () ★

public Dimension minimumSize ()

The `getMinimumSize()` method returns the minimum `Dimension` (width and height) for the size of the `TextField`. Without the `columns` parameter, this `getMinimumSize()` uses the constructor's number of `columns` (or the value from a subsequent call to `setColumns()`) to calculate the `TextField`'s minimum size.

`minimumSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

Echoing character

It is possible to change the character echoed back to the user when he or she types. This is extremely useful for implementing password entry fields.

public char getEchoChar ()

The `getEchoChar()` method returns the currently echoed character. If the `TextField` is echoing normally, `getEchoChar()` returns zero.

public void setEchoChar (char c) ★

public void setEchoCharacter (char c) ☆

The `setEchoChar()` method changes the character that is displayed to the user to `c` for every character in the `TextField`. It is possible to change the echo character on the fly so that existing characters will be replaced. A `c` of zero, `(char)0`, effectively turns off any change and makes the `TextField` behave normally.

`setEchoCharacter()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public boolean echoCharIsSet ()

The `echoCharIsSet()` method returns `true` if the echo character is set to a nonzero value. If the `TextField` is displaying input normally, this method returns `false`.

Miscellaneous methods

public synchronized void addNotify ()

The `addNotify()` method creates the `TextField` peer. If you override this method, first call `super.addNotify()`, then add your customizations for the new class. Then you will be able to do everything you need with the information about the newly created peer.

protected String paramString ()

When you call the `toString()` method of `TextField`, the default `toString()` method of `Component` is called. This in turn calls `paramString()`, which builds up the string to display. The `TextField` level can add only one item. If the echo character is nonzero, the current echo character is added (the method `getEchoChar()`). Using `new TextField ("Empty String", 20)`, the results displayed could be:

```
java.awt.TextField[0,0,0x0,invalid,text="Empty String",editable,selection=0-0]
```

8.2.2 *TextField Events*

With the 1.0 event model, `TextField` components can generate `KEY_PRESS` and `KEY_ACTION` (which calls `keyDown()`), `KEY_RELEASE` and `KEY_ACTION_RELEASE` (which calls `keyUp()`), and `ACTION_EVENT` (which calls `action()`).

With the 1.1 event model, you register an `ActionListener` with the method `addActionListener()`. Then when the user presses Return within the `TextField` the `ActionListener.actionPerformed()` method is called through the protected `TextField.processActionEvent()` method. Key, mouse, and focus listeners are registered through the three `Component` methods of `addKeyListener()`, `addMouseListener()`, and `addFocusListener()`, respectively.

Action

public boolean action (Event e, Object o)

The `action()` method for a `TextField` is called when the input focus is in the `TextField` and the user presses the Return key. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `o` is a `String` representing the current contents (the `getText()` method).

Keyboard

public boolean keyDown (Event e, int key)

The `keyDown()` method is called whenever the user presses a key. `keyDown()` may be called many times in succession if the key remains pressed. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `key` is the integer representation of the character pressed. The identifier for the event (`e.id`) for `keyDown()` could

be either `Event.KEY_PRESS` for a regular key or `Event.KEY_ACTION` for an action-oriented key (i.e., an arrow or function key). Some of the things you can do through this method are validate input, convert each character to uppercase, and limit the number or type of characters entered. The technique is simple: you just need to remember that the user's keystroke is actually displayed by the `TextField` peer, which receives the event after the `TextField` itself. Therefore, a `TextField` subclass can modify the character displayed by modifying the `key` field (`e.key`) of the `Event` and returning `false`, which passes the `Event` on down the chain; remember that returning `false` indicates that the `Event` has not been completely processed. The following method uses this technique to convert all input to uppercase.

```
public boolean keyDown (Event e, int key) {
    e.key = Character.toUpperCase (char(key));
    return false;
}
```

If `keyDown()` returns `true`, it indicates that the `Event` has been completely processed. In this case, the `Event` never propagates to the peer, and the keystroke is never displayed.

public boolean keyUp (Event e, int key)

The `keyUp()` method is called whenever the user releases a key. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `key` is the integer representation of the character pressed. The identifier for the event (`e.id`) for `keyUp()` could be either `Event.KEY_RELEASE` for a regular key or `Event.KEY_ACTION_RELEASE` for an action-oriented key (i.e., an arrow or function key). Among other things, `keyUp()` may be used to determine how long the key has been pressed.

Mouse

Ordinarily, the `TextField` component does not trigger any mouse events.

NOTE Mouse events are not generated for `TextField` with JDK 1.0.2. Your run-time environment may behave differently. See Appendix C for more information about platform dependencies.

Focus

The `TextField` component does not reliably generate focus events.

NOTE The `GOT_FOCUS` and `LOST_FOCUS` events can be generated by `TextFields`, but these events are not reliable across platforms. With Java 1.0, they are generated on most UNIX platforms but not on Windows NT/95 platforms. They are generated on all platforms under Java 1.1. See Appendix C for more information about platform dependencies.

public boolean gotFocus (Event e, Object o)

The `gotFocus()` method is triggered when the `TextField` gets the input focus. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `o` is a `String` representation of the current contents (`getText()`).

public boolean lostFocus (Event e, Object o)

The `lostFocus()` method is triggered when the input focus leaves the `TextField`. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `o` is a `String` representation of the current contents (`getText()`).

Listeners and 1.1 event handling

With the 1.1 event model, you register event listeners that are told when an event occurs. You can register text event listeners by calling the method `TextComponent.addTextListener()`.

public void addActionListener(ActionListener listener) ★

The `addActionListener()` method registers `listener` as an object interested in receiving notifications when an `ActionEvent` passes through the `EventQueue` with this `TextField` as its target. The `listener.actionPerformed()` method is called when these events occur. Multiple listeners can be registered. The following code demonstrates how to use an `ActionListener` to reverse the text in the `TextField`.

```
// Java 1.1 only
import java.applet.*;
import java.awt.*;
import java.awt.event.*;

class MyAL implements ActionListener {
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e) {
        System.out.println ("The current text is: " +
            e.getActionCommand());
        if (e.getSource() instanceof TextField) {
            TextField tf = (TextField)e.getSource();
            StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer (e.getActionCommand());
            tf.setText (sb.reverse().toString());
        }
    }
}
```

```

public class text11 extends Applet {
    public void init () {
        TextField tf = new TextField ("Help Text", 20);
        add (tf);
        tf.addActionListener (new MyAL());
    }
}

```

public void removeActionListener(ActionListener listener) ★

The `removeActionListener()` method removes listener as a interested listener. If listener is not registered, nothing happens.

protected void processEvent(AWTEvent e) ★

The `processEvent()` method receives all `AWTEvents` with this `TextField` as its target. `processEvent()` then passes them along to any listeners for processing. When you subclass `TextField`, overriding `processEvent()` allows you to process all events yourself, before sending them to any listeners. In a way, overriding `processEvent()` is like overriding `handleEvent()` using the 1.0 event model.

If you override `processEvent()`, remember to call `super.processEvent(e)` last to ensure that regular event processing can occur. If you want to process your own events, it's a good idea to call `enableEvents()` (inherited from `Component`) to ensure that events are delivered even in the absence of registered listeners.

protected void processActionEvent(ActionEvent e) ★

The `processActionEvent()` method receives all `ActionEvents` with this `TextField` as its target. `processActionEvent()` then passes them along to any listeners for processing. When you subclass `TextField`, overriding the method `processActionEvent()` allows you to process all action events yourself, before sending them to any listeners. In a way, overriding `processActionEvent()` is like overriding `action()` using the 1.0 event model.

If you override the `processActionEvent()` method, remember to call `super.processActionEvent(e)` last to ensure that regular event processing can occur. If you want to process your own events, it's a good idea to call `enableEvents()` (inherited from `Component`) to ensure that events are delivered even in the absence of registered listeners.

The following applet is equivalent to the previous example, except that it overrides `processActionEvent()` to receive events, eliminating the need for an `ActionListener`. The constructor calls `enableEvents()` to make sure that events are delivered, even if no listeners are registered.

```

// Java 1.1 only
import java.applet.*;
import java.awt.*;

```

```

import java.awt.event.*;

class MyTextField extends TextField {
    public MyTextField (String s, int len) {
        super (s, len);
        enableEvents (AWTEvent.ACTION_EVENT_MASK);
    }
    protected void processActionEvent(ActionEvent e) {
        System.out.println ("The current text is: " +
            e.getActionCommand());
        TextField tf = (TextField)e.getSource();
        StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer (e.getActionCommand());
        tf.setText (sb.reverse().toString());
        super.processActionEvent(e)
    }
}

public class text12 extends Applet {
    public void init () {
        TextField tf = new MyTextField ("Help Text", 20);
        add (tf);
    }
}

```

8.3 *TextArea*

`TextArea` is the `TextComponent` for multiline input. Some constructors permit you to set the rows and columns of the `TextArea` on the screen. However, the `LayoutManager` may change your settings. As with `TextField`, the only way to limit the number of characters that a user can enter is to override the `keyDown()` method. The text in a `TextArea` appears left justified, and the justification is not customizable.

In Java 1.1, you can control the appearance of a `TextArea` scrollbar; earlier versions gave you no control over the scrollbars. When visible, the vertical scrollbar is on the right of the `TextArea`, and the horizontal scrollbar is on the bottom. You can remove either scrollbar with the help of several new `TextArea` constants; you can't move them to another side. When the horizontal scrollbar is not present, the text wraps automatically when the user reaches the right side of the `TextArea`. Prior to Java 1.1, there was no way to enable word wrap.

8.3.1 *TextArea Variables*

Constants

The constants for `TextArea` are new to Java 1.1; they allow you to control the visibility and word wrap policy of a `TextArea` scrollbar. There is no way to listen for the events when a user scrolls a `TextArea`.

public static final int SCROLLBARS_BOTH ★

The `SCROLLBARS_BOTH` mode is the default for `TextArea`. It shows both scrollbars all the time and does no word wrap.

public static final int SCROLLBARS_HORIZONTAL_ONLY ★

The `SCROLLBARS_HORIZONTAL_ONLY` mode displays a scrollbar along the bottom of the `TextArea`. When this scrollbar is present, word wrap is disabled.

public static final int SCROLLBARS_NONE ★

The `SCROLLBARS_NONE` mode displays no scrollbars around the `TextArea` and enables word wrap. If the text is too long, the `TextArea` displays the lines surrounding the cursor. You can use the cursor to move up and down within the `TextArea`, but you cannot use a scrollbar to navigate. Because this mode has no horizontal scrollbar, word wrap is enabled.

public static final int SCROLLBARS_VERTICAL_ONLY ★

The `SCROLLBARS_VERTICAL_ONLY` mode displays a scrollbar along the right edge of the `TextArea`. If the text is too long to display, you can scroll within the area. Because this mode has no horizontal scrollbar, word wrap is enabled.

8.3.2 *TextArea* Methods

Constructors

public TextArea ()

This constructor creates an empty `TextArea` with both scrollbars. The `TextArea` is 0 rows high and 0 columns wide. Depending upon the platform, the `TextArea` could be really small (and useless) or rather large. It is a good idea to use one of the other constructors to control the size of the `TextArea`.

public TextArea (int rows, int columns)

This constructor creates an empty `TextArea` with both scrollbars. The `TextArea` is `rows` high and `columns` wide.

public TextArea (String text)

This constructor creates a `TextArea` with an initial content of `text` and both scrollbars. The `TextArea` is 0 rows high and 0 columns wide. Depending upon the platform, the `TextArea` could be really small (and useless) or rather large. It is a good idea to use one of the other constructors to control the size of the `TextArea`.

public TextArea (String text, int rows, int columns)

This constructor creates a `TextArea` with an initial content of `text`. The `TextArea` is `rows` high and `columns` wide and has both scrollbars.

The following example uses the first four constructors. The results are shown in Figure 8-3. With the size-less constructors, notice that Windows 95 creates a rather

large `TextArea`. UNIX systems create a much smaller area. Depending upon the `LayoutManager`, the `TextAreas` could be resized automatically.

```
import java.awt.TextArea;
public class textas extends java.applet.Applet {
    public void init () {
        add (new TextArea ());           // A
        add (new TextArea (3, 10));     // B
        add (new TextArea ("Empty Area")); // C
        add (new TextArea ("Empty Area", 3, 10)); // D
    }
}
```

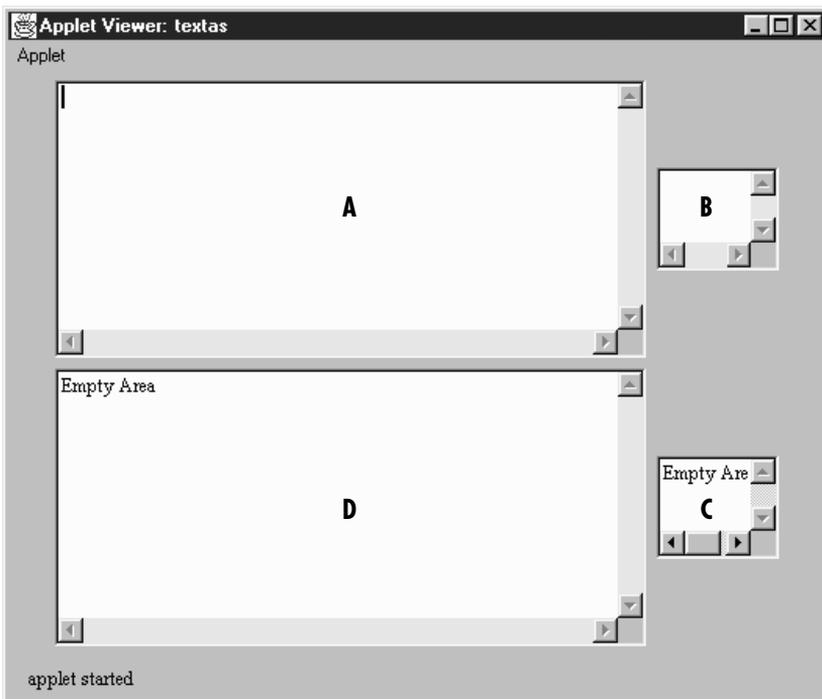


Figure 8-3: `TextArea` constructor

`public TextArea (String text, int rows, int columns, int scrollbarPolicy) ★`

The final constructor creates a `TextArea` with an initial content of `text`. The `TextArea` is `rows` high and `columns` wide. The initial scrollbar display policy is designated by the `scrollbarPolicy` parameter and is one of the `TextArea` constants in the previous example. This constructor is the only way provided to change the scrollbar visibility; there is no `setScrollbarVisibility()` method. Figure 8-4 displays the different settings.

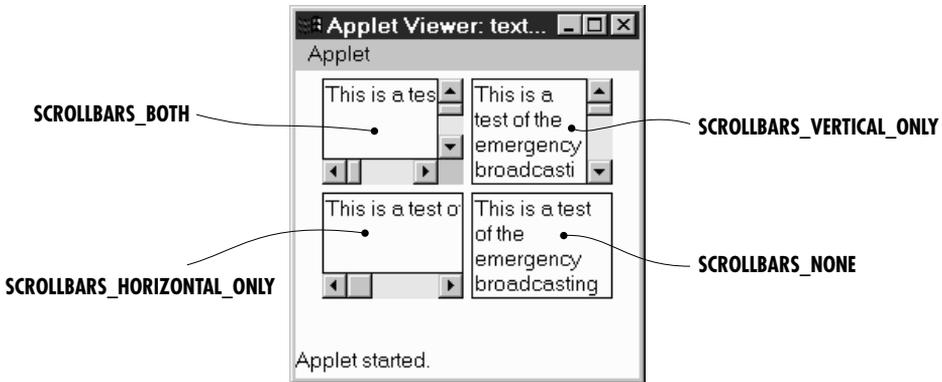


Figure 8-4: *TextArea* policies

Setting text

The text-setting methods are usually called in response to an external event. When you handle the insertion position, you must translate it from the visual row and column to a one-dimensional position. It is easier to position the insertion point based upon the beginning, end, or current selection (`getSelectionStart()` and `getSelectionEnd()`).

public void insert (String string, int position) ★

public void insertText (String string, int position) ☆

The `insert()` method inserts `string` at `position` into the `TextArea`. If `position` is beyond the end of the `TextArea`, `string` is appended to the end of the `TextArea`.

`insertText()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public void append (String string) ★

public void appendText (String string) ☆

The `append()` method inserts `string` at the end of the `TextArea`.

`appendText()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public void replaceRange (String string, int startPosition, int endPosition) ★

public void replaceText (String string, int startPosition, int endPosition) ☆

The `replaceRange()` method replaces the text in the current `TextArea` from `startPosition` to `endPosition` with `string`. If `endPosition` is before `startPosition`, it may or may not work as expected. (For instance, on a Windows 95 platform, it works fine when the `TextArea` is displayed on the screen. However, when the `TextArea` is not showing, unexpected results happen. Other platforms may vary.) If `startPosition` is 0 and `endPosition` is the length of the contents, this method functions the same as `TextComponent.setText()`.

`replaceText()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

Sizing

public int getRows ()

The `getRows()` method returns the number of rows set by the constructor or a subsequent call to `setRows()`. This could be different from the displayed height of the `TextArea`.

public void setRows (int rows) ★

The `setRows()` method changes the preferred number of rows to display for the `TextField` to `rows`. Because the current `LayoutManager` will do what it wants, the new setting may be ignored. If `rows < 0`, `setRows()` throws the run-time exception `IllegalArgumentException`.

public int getColumns ()

The `getColumns()` method returns the number of columns set by the constructor or a subsequent call to `setColumns()`. This could be different from the displayed width of the `TextArea`.

public void setColumns (int columns) ★

The `setColumns()` method changes the preferred number of columns to display for the `TextArea` to `columns`. Because the current `LayoutManager` will do what it wants, the new setting may be ignored. If `columns < 0`, `setColumns()` throws the run-time exception `IllegalArgumentException`.

public Dimension getPreferredSize (int rows, int columns) ★

public Dimension preferredSize (int rows, int columns) ☆

The `getPreferredSize()` method returns the `Dimension` (width and height) for the preferred size of the `TextArea` with a preferred height of `rows` and width of `columns`. The `rows` and `columns` specified may be different from the current settings.

`preferredSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public Dimension getPreferredSize (int rows, int columns) ★

public Dimension preferredSize () ☆

The `getPreferredSize()` method returns the `Dimension` (width and height) for the preferred size of the `TextArea`. Without the `rows` and `columns` parameters, this `getPreferredSize()` uses the constructor's number of rows and columns to calculate the `TextArea`'s preferred size.

`preferredSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public Dimension getMinimumSize (int rows, int columns) ★

public Dimension minimumSize (int rows, int columns) ☆

The `getMinimumSize()` method returns the minimum `Dimension` (width and height) for the size of the `TextArea` with a height of `rows` and width of `columns`. The `rows` and `columns` specified may be different from the current settings.

`minimumSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

public Dimension getMinimumSize () ★

public Dimension minimumSize () ☆

The `getMinimumSize()` method returns the minimum `Dimension` (width and height) for the size of the `TextArea`. Without the `rows` and `columns` parameters, this `getMinimumSize()` uses the current settings for `rows` and `columns` to calculate the `TextArea`'s minimum size.

`minimumSize()` is the Java 1.0 name for this method.

Miscellaneous methods

public synchronized void addNotify ()

The `addNotify()` method creates the `TextArea` peer. If you override this method, call `super.addNotify()` first, then add your customizations for the new class. You will then be able to do everything you need with the information about the newly created peer.

public int getScrollbarVisibility() ★

The `getScrollbarVisibility()` method retrieves the scrollbar visibility setting, which is set by the constructor. There is no `setScrollbarVisibility()` method to change the setting. The return value is one of the `TextArea` constants: `SCROLLBARS_BOTH`, `SCROLLBARS_HORIZONTAL_ONLY`, `SCROLLBARS_NONE`, or `SCROLLBARS_VERTICAL_ONLY`.

protected String paramString ()

When you call the `toString()` method of `TextArea`, the default `toString()` method of `Component` is called. This in turn calls `paramString()`, which builds up the string to display. The `TextArea` level adds the number of rows and columns for the `TextArea`, and Java 1.1 adds the scrollbar visibility policy. Using `new TextArea("Empty Area", 3, 10)`, the results displayed could be:

```
java.awt.TextArea[text0,0,0,0x0,invalid,text="Empty Area",
editable,selection=0-0, rows=3,columns=10, scrollbarVisibility=both]
```

8.3.3 *TextArea Events*

With the 1.0 event model, the `TextArea` component can generate `KEY_PRESS` and `KEY_ACTION` (which calls `keyDown()`) along with `KEY_RELEASE` and `KEY_ACTION_RELEASE` (which called `keyUp()`). There is no `ACTION_EVENT` generated for `TextArea`.

NOTE The `GOT_FOCUS` and `LOST_FOCUS` events can be generated by this component but not reliably across platforms. Currently, they are generated on most UNIX platforms but not on Microsoft Windows NT/95 under Java 1.0. These events are generated under Java 1.1.

Similarly, the mouse events are not generated with JDK 1.0.2. See Appendix C for more information about platform dependencies.

With the Java 1.1 event model, there are no listeners specific to `TextArea`. You can register key, mouse, and focus listeners through the `Component` methods of `addKeyListener()`, `addMouseListener()`, and `addFocusListener()`, respectively. To register listeners for text events, call `TextComponent.addTextListener()`.

Action

The `TextArea` component has no way to trigger the action event, since carriage return is a valid character. You would need to put something like a `Button` on the screen to cause an action for a `TextArea`. The following `Rot13` program demonstrates this technique. The user enters text in the `TextArea` and selects the `Rotate Me` button to rotate the text. If the user selects `Rotate Me` again, it rotates again, back to the original position. Without the button, there would be no way to trigger the event. Figure 8-5 shows this example in action.

```
import java.awt.*;

public class Rot13 extends Frame {
    TextArea ta;
    Component rotate, done;
    public Rot13 () {
        super ("Rot-13 Example");
        add ("North", new Label ("Enter Text to Rotate:"));
        ta = (TextArea)(add ("Center", new TextArea (5, 40)));
        Panel p = new Panel ();
        rotate = p.add (new Button ("Rotate Me"));
        done = p.add (new Button ("Done"));
        add ("South", p);
    }
    public static void main (String args[]) {
        Rot13 rot = new Rot13();
        rot.pack();
    }
}
```

```

        rot.show();
    }
    public boolean handleEvent (Event e) {
        if (e.id == Event.WINDOW_DESTROY) {
            hide();
            dispose();
            System.exit (0);
            return true;
        }
        return super.handleEvent (e);
    }
    public boolean action (Event e, Object o) {
        if (e.target == rotate) {
            ta.setText (rot13Text (ta.getText()));
            return true;
        } else if (e.target == done) {
            hide();
            dispose();
            System.exit (0);
        }
        return false;
    }
    String rot13Text (String s) {
        int len = s.length();
        StringBuffer returnString = new StringBuffer (len);
        char c;
        for (int i=0;i<len;i++) {
            c = s.charAt (i);
            if (((c >= 'A') && (c <= 'M')) ||
                ((c >= 'a') && (c <= 'm'))))
                c += 13;
            else if (((c >= 'N') && (c <= 'Z')) ||
                ((c >= 'n') && (c <= 'z'))))
                c -= 13;
            returnString.append (c);
        }
        return returnString.toString();
    }
}

```

Keyboard

Ordinarily, the `TextArea` component generates all the key events.

public boolean keyDown (Event e, int key)

The `keyDown()` method is called whenever the user presses a key. `keyDown()` may be called many times in succession if the key remains pressed. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `key` is the integer representation of the character pressed. The identifier for the event (`e.id`) for `keyDown()` could be either `Event.KEY_PRESS` for a regular key or `Event.KEY_ACTION` for an action-oriented key (i.e., an arrow or function key). Some of the things you can do through this method are validate input, convert each character to

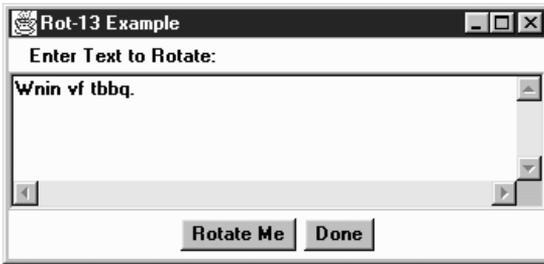


Figure 8-5: *TextArea with activator button*

uppercase, and limit the number or type of characters entered. The technique is simple: you just need to remember that the user's keystroke is actually displayed by the `TextArea` peer, which receives the event after the `TextArea` itself. Therefore, a `TextArea` subclass can modify the character displayed by modifying the `key` field (`e.key`) of the `Event` and returning `false`, which passes the `Event` on down the chain; remember that returning `false` indicates that the `Event` has not been completely processed. The following method uses this technique to convert all alphabetic characters to the opposite case:

```
public boolean keyDown (Event e, int key) {
    if (Character.isUpperCase ((char)key)) {
        e.key = Character.toLowerCase ((char)key);
    } else if (Character.isLowerCase ((char)key)) {
        e.key = Character.toUpperCase ((char)key);
    }
    return false;
}
```

If `keyDown()` returns `true`, it indicates that the `Event` has been completely processed. In this case, the `Event` never propagates to the peer, and the keystroke is never displayed.

public boolean keyUp (Event e, int key)

The `keyUp()` method is called whenever the user releases a key. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `key` is the integer representation of the character pressed. The identifier for the event (`e.id`) for `keyUp()` could be either `Event.KEY_RELEASE` for a regular key, or `Event.KEY_ACTION_RELEASE` for an action-oriented key (i.e., an arrow or function key).

Mouse

Ordinarily, the `TextArea` component does not trigger any mouse events.

NOTE Mouse events are not generated for `TextArea` with JDK 1.0.2. See Appendix C for more information about platform dependencies.

Focus

The `TextArea` component does not reliably generate focus events.

NOTE The `GOT_FOCUS` and `LOST_FOCUS` events can be generated by this component but not reliably across platforms. With the JDK, they are generated on most UNIX platforms but not on Microsoft Windows NT/95 under JDK 1.0. These events are generated with JDK 1.1. See Appendix C for more information about platform dependencies.

public boolean gotFocus (Event e, Object o)

The `gotFocus()` method is triggered when the `TextArea` gets the input focus. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `o` is a `String` representation of the current contents (`getText()`).

public boolean lostFocus (Event e, Object o)

The `lostFocus()` method is triggered when the input focus leaves the `TextArea`. `e` is the `Event` instance for the specific event, while `o` is a `String` representation of the current contents (`getText()`).

Listeners and 1.1 event handling

There are no listeners specific to the `TextArea` class. You can register `Key`, `mouse`, and `focus` listeners through the `Component` methods of `addKeyListener()`, `addMouseListener()`, and `addFocusListener()`, respectively. Also, you register listeners for text events by calling `TextComponent.addTextListener()`.

8.4 Extending TextField

To extend what you learned so far, Example 8-1 creates a sub-class of `TextField` that limits the number of characters a user can type into it. Other than the six constructors, all the work is in the `keyDown()` method. The entire class follows.

Example 8-1: The `SizedTextField` Class Limits the Number of Characters a User can Type

```
import java.awt.*;
public class SizedTextField extends TextField {
    private int size; // size = 0 is unlimited
    public SizedTextField () {
        super ("");
        this.size = 0;
    }
    public SizedTextField (int columns) {
        super (columns);
        this.size = 0;
    }
    public SizedTextField (int columns, int size) {
        super (columns);
        this.size = Math.max (0, size);
    }
    public SizedTextField (String text) {
        super (text);
        this.size = 0;
    }
    public SizedTextField (String text, int columns) {
        super (text, columns);
        this.size = 0;
    }
    public SizedTextField (String text, int columns, int size) {
        super (text, columns);
        this.size = Math.max (0, size);
    }
    public boolean keyDown (Event e, int key) {
        if ((e.id == Event.KEY_PRESS) && (this.size > 0) &&
            (((TextField)(e.target)).getText ().length () >= this.size)) {
            // Check for backspace / delete / tab—let these pass through
            if ((key == 127) || (key == 8) || (key == 9)) {
                return false;
            }
            return true;
        }
        return false;
    }
    protected String paramString () {
        String str = super.paramString ();
        if (size != 0) {
            str += ",size=" + size;
        }
        return str;
    }
}
```

Most of the `SizedTextField` class consists of constructors; you really don't need to provide an equivalent to all the superclass's constructors, but it's not a bad idea.

The `keyDown()` method looks at what the user types before it reaches the screen and acts accordingly. It checks the length of the `TextField` and compares it to the maximum length. It then does another check to see if the user typed a Backspace, Delete, or Tab, all of which we want to allow: if the field has gotten too long, we want to allow the user to shorten it. We also want to allow tab under all circumstances, so that focus traversal works properly. The rest of the logic is simple:

- If the user typed Backspace, Delete, or Tab, return `false` to propagate the event.
- If the field is too long, return `true` to prevent the event from reaching the peer. This effectively ignores the character.