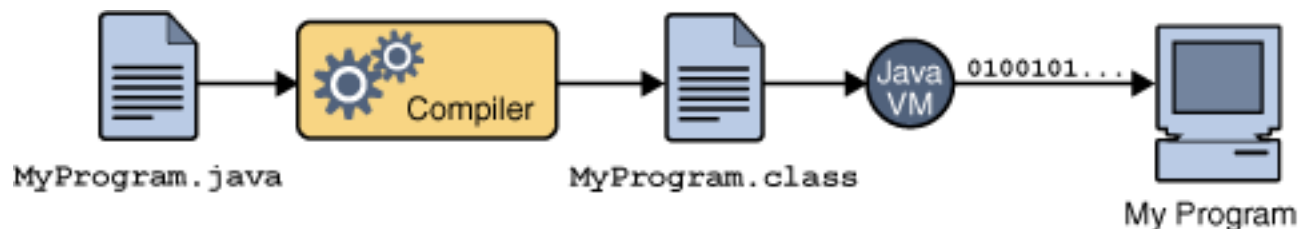

More about Using Java, and Programming Languages for Information Applications

IST 256

Application Programming for Information Systems

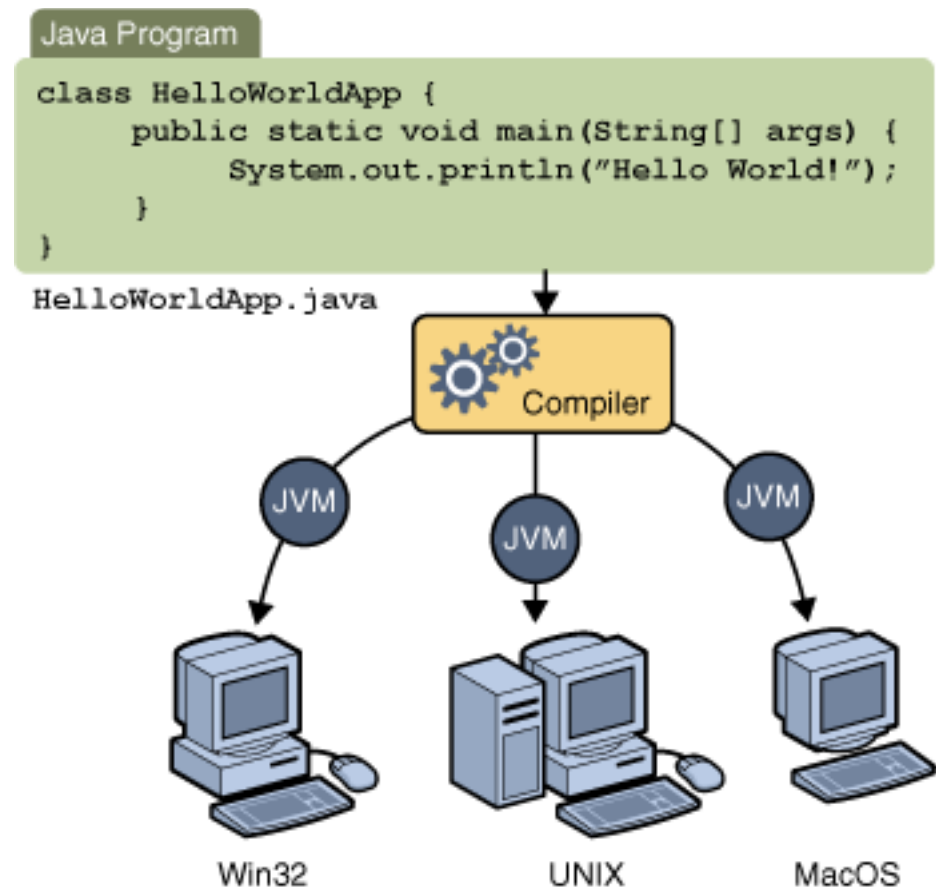
Java software development process

- In Java, all programs are written as source code in files ending in the extension `.java`
- These are compiled into programs in `.class` files by the compiler (known as the program *javac*)
- These compiled programs are in an instruction set called the *bytecodes* or the Java Virtual Machine (Java VM), which is a set of machine instructions actually independent of any real machine.
- To run your program, the launcher tool (known as the program *java*) then runs an instance of the Java VM for your particular machine.



Multiple Platforms

- Java VMs have been written for many platforms:
 - Microsoft Windows, Solaris, Linux, Mac OS
- The same .class files for your program can run on any of these machines



What is an API?

- API stands for Application Programming Interface and generally means the protocol that allows you to run another program
- In Java, the API is used for any class containing software and consists of
 - All the public fields
 - All the public methods
 - Each method gives the method header giving the number and types of parameters and the result type
 - This is the protocol that allows you to call the method and get back a result

Java APIs

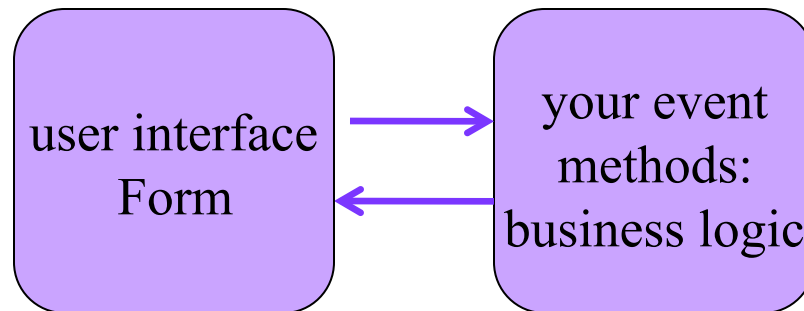
- The Java APIs give the fields and methods of the classes that have been provided with Java, as well as a number of libraries with software
- Large number of available classes
 - Collections – contains many other ways to collect data besides arrays
 - Swing – user interface components
 - This is what NetBeans uses to make the forms of a GUI
 - JDBC – Java Database Connection – allows Java to pass SQL commands to access and modify data in a database (server version)
 - applets – Java programs that can be linked to an HTML page and run the main Frame in the browser
 - graphics – several packages have drawing classes and image classes
 - Other packages in the Java Enterprise Edition (EE) for web and business applications

How to let others run your programs

- If you need to prepare programs on another machine, make sure that you have downloaded for Java SE (Standard Edition)
 - The JDK (Java Development Kit)
 - For someone who only wants to run Java programs and not write them, you get the JRE (Java Runtime Environment), which contains the Java VM for that machine
 - NetBeans for development
- In NetBeans, to prepare a program for someone else to run (unless it reads and writes to files)
 - Clean and Build, under the Build menu
 - Creates a .jar file, which contains all the .class files and all the other resource files, such as images, to make a compressed self-contained program file
 - If you have .txt files, move them to the Resources folder
 - If Java JRE is installed, just double-click on the .jar file to run

NetBeans Java Form architecture

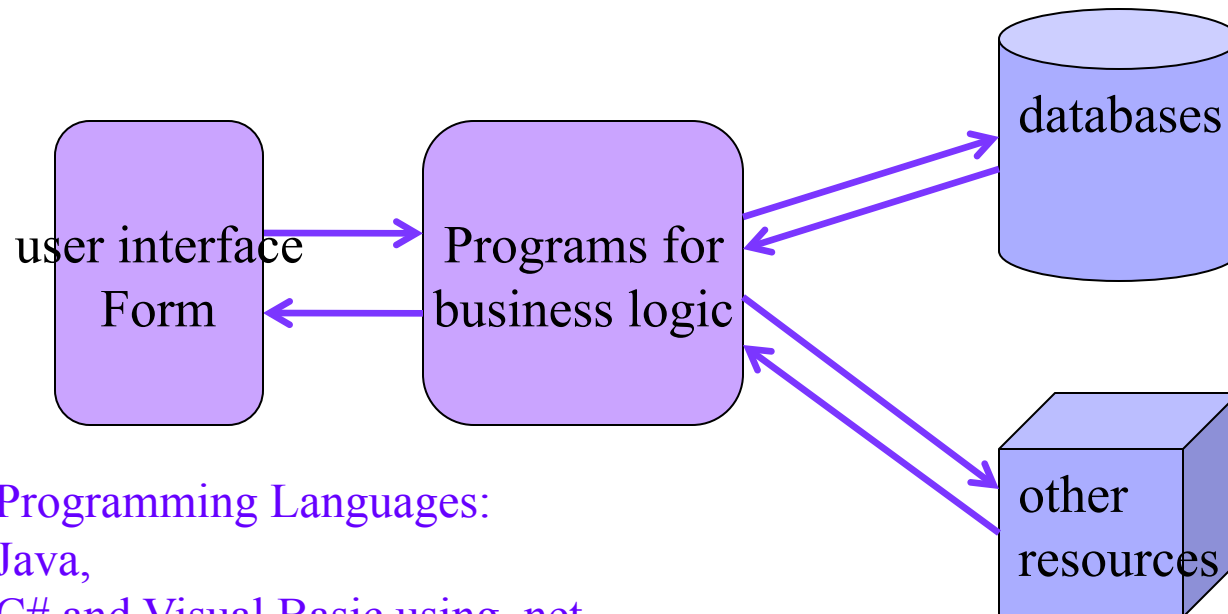
- Our programs for User Interfaces in NetBeans use
 - Java for the user interface (NetBeans generates this code)
 - Java for the application (you write this code in event methods)
 - This is sometimes known as the “business logic”



Both parts of code written in Java

General business application architecture

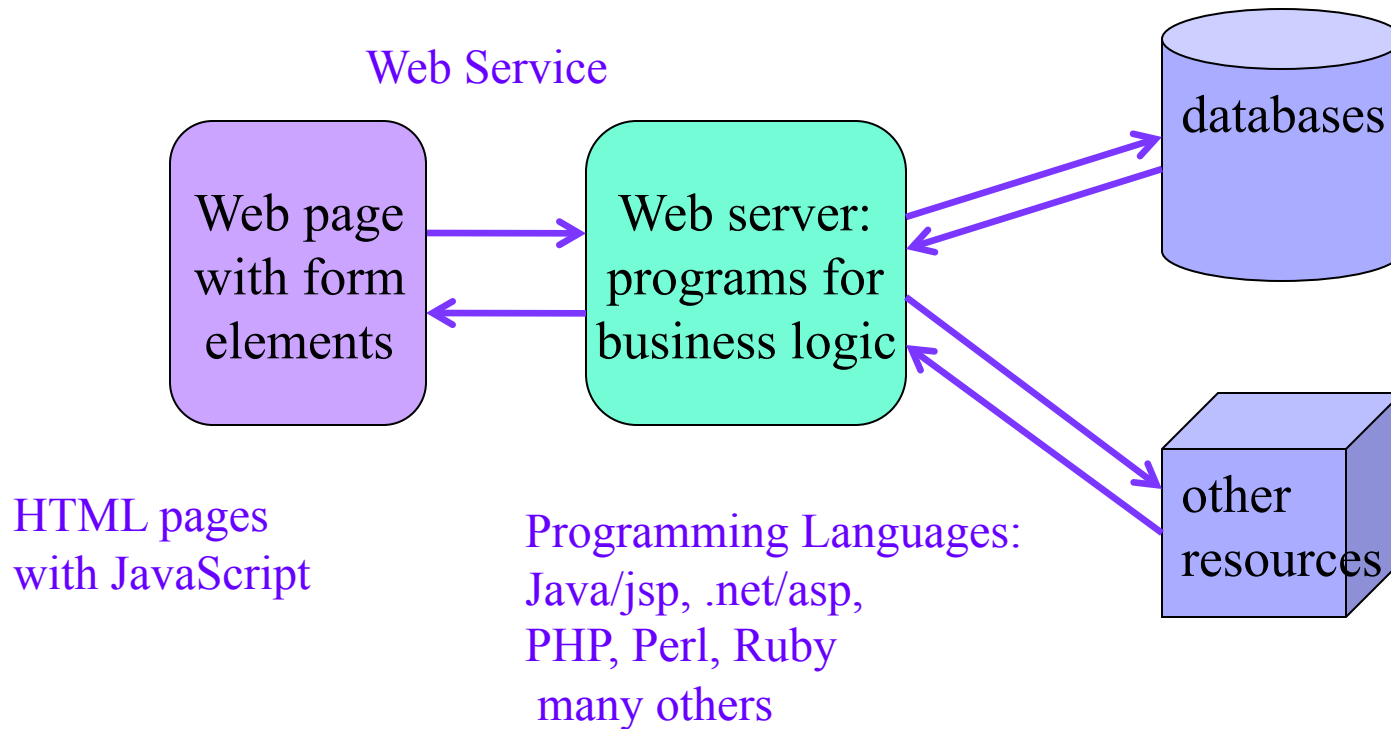
- General business programs written to run for in-house applications use many programming languages
 - User interface is not always present
 - If the user interface code and the business logic are on separate machines, this is called a **client/server architecture**



Programming Languages:
Java,
C# and Visual Basic using .net,
C++, Cobol, many others

Web application architecture

- For web applications, the user interface form is available as a web page (via a URL from the web server)
 - Example of client/server architecture



What is .net?

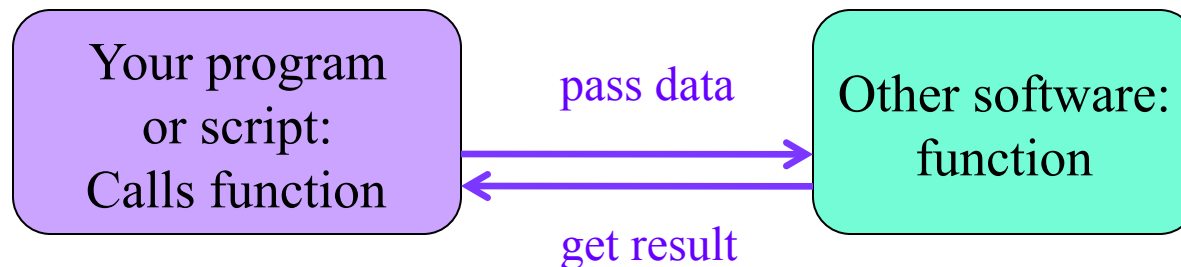
- The .net Framework is a Microsoft software suite that runs under Windows operating systems on any machine
 - Languages include (Visual) Basic, C, C++, C#, etc.
 - Framework has interfaces to databases and other resources
 - Programs interface easily because of common runtime environment
- Programs using .net widely used on Windows mainframes and servers for large companies
 - Small web application servers tend to use Unix platform
 - with MySQL, php and other scripting languages

Popularity of Languages

- We have seen that languages are used in different types of applications,
- Which languages are used the most overall?
 - One source of data is the Tiobe index from Tiobe Software:
 - <http://www.tiobe.com/index.php/content/paperinfo/tpci/index.html>
 - For another view, see this set of slides from eWeek on Top 10 Languages to Keep you Employed:
 - <http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Application-Development/Top-10-Programming-Languages-to-Keep-You-Employed-719257/>

How do you connect these programs?

- APIs can be made available in any programming language to access the services provided by another program or software system
- The API usually provides one or more functions (aka methods or procedures) that you use by
 - Passing your data as parameters to the function
 - Receiving a result from the function

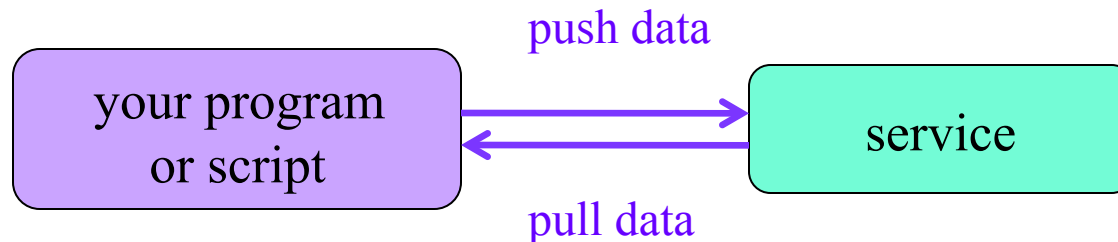


Using other software

- The other software may be a package that you or your company buys or obtains
 - accounting, business intelligence . . . the list is endless!
- Often you obtain software in the same language as the one you use and include it in your software system as you compile and run
 - For example, in Java other software is often packaged as a .jar file that you include in your library directories
 - NetBeans or any other IDE allows you to give the path of these libraries

Using APIs in General

- Leaving aside the programming protocol for APIs, using classes with fields and methods, there is a more general idea that an API specifies a protocol to use other programs
- The other program is viewed as providing a service and your program as a script passing data (pushing) or receiving data (pulling)



APIs without programming

- Several recent APIs use the http protocol directly to allow you to pass data to a service and get back a result
 - Google Developer Resources provide access to its APIs through http
 - Twitter does as well
 - Note that both Google and Twitter APIs have more functionality through the actual programming use of the APIs