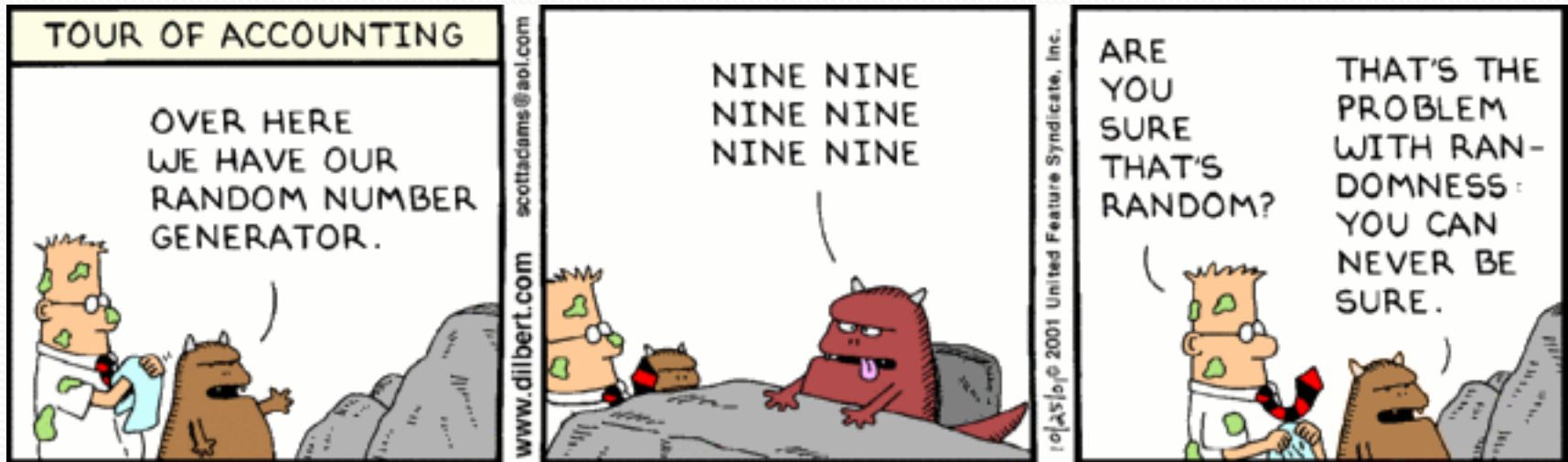


Building Java Programs

Chapter 5
Lecture 5-2: Random Numbers

reading: 5.1, 5.6



```
int getRandomNumber()  
{  
    return 4; // chosen by fair dice roll.  
             // guaranteed to be random.  
}
```

<http://xkcd.com/221/>

Randomness

- Lack of predictability: don't know what's coming next
- Random process: outcomes do not follow a deterministic pattern (math, statistics, probability)
- Lack of bias or correlation (statistics)
- Relevant in lots of fields
 - Genetic mutations (biology)
 - Quantum processes (physics)
 - Random walk hypothesis (finance)
 - Cryptography (computer science)
 - Game theory (mathematics)
 - Determinism (religion)

Pseudo-Randomness

- Computers generate numbers in a predictable way using a mathematical formula
- Parameters may include current time, mouse position
 - In practice, hard to predict or replicate
- True randomness uses natural processes
 - Atmospheric noise (<http://www.random.org/>)
 - Lava lamps (patent #5732138)
 - Radioactive decay

The Random class

- A Random object generates pseudo-random numbers.
 - Class Random is found in the `java.util` package.

```
import java.util.*;
```

Method name	Description
<code>nextInt()</code>	returns a random integer
<code>nextInt(<i>max</i>)</code>	returns a random integer in the range $[0, max)$ in other words, 0 to $max-1$ inclusive
<code>nextDouble()</code>	returns a random real number in the range $[0.0, 1.0)$

- Example:

```
Random rand = new Random();  
int randomNumber = rand.nextInt(10);    // 0-9
```

Generating random numbers

- Common usage: to get a random number from 1 to N

```
int n = rand.nextInt(20) + 1;    // 1-20 inclusive
```

- To get a number in arbitrary range $[min, max]$ inclusive:

```
name.nextInt(size of range) + min
```

- Where **size of range** is $(max - min + 1)$

- Example: A random integer between 4 and 10 inclusive:

```
int n = rand.nextInt(7) + 4;
```

Random questions

- Given the following declaration, how would you get:

```
Random rand = new Random();
```

- A random number between 1 and 47 inclusive?

```
int random1 = rand.nextInt(47) + 1;
```

- A random number between 23 and 30 inclusive?

```
int random2 = rand.nextInt(8) + 23;
```

- A random even number between 4 and 12 inclusive?

```
int random3 = rand.nextInt(5) * 2 + 4;
```

Random and other types

- `nextDouble` method returns a double between 0.0 - 1.0
 - Example: Get a random GPA value between 1.5 and 4.0:
`double randomGpa = rand.nextDouble() * 2.5 + 1.5;`

- Any set of possible values can be mapped to integers
 - code to randomly play Rock-Paper-Scissors:

```
int r = rand.nextInt(3);
if (r == 0) {
    System.out.println("Rock");
} else if (r == 1) {
    System.out.println("Paper");
} else { // r == 2
    System.out.println("Scissors");
}
```


Random question

- Write a program that simulates rolling two 6-sided dice until their combined result comes up as 7.

```
2 + 4 = 6
```

```
3 + 5 = 8
```

```
5 + 6 = 11
```

```
1 + 1 = 2
```

```
4 + 3 = 7
```

```
You won after 5 tries!
```

Random answer

```
// Rolls two dice until a sum of 7 is reached.
import java.util.*;

public class Dice {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Random rand = new Random();
        int tries = 0;

        int sum = 0;
        while (sum != 7) {
            // roll the dice once
            int roll1 = rand.nextInt(6) + 1;
            int roll2 = rand.nextInt(6) + 1;
            sum = roll1 + roll2;
            System.out.println(roll1 + " + " + roll2 + " = " + sum);
            tries++;
        }

        System.out.println("You won after " + tries + " tries!");
    }
}
```

Random question

- Write a program that plays an adding game.
 - Ask user to solve random adding problems with 2-5 numbers.
 - The user gets 1 point for a correct answer, 0 for incorrect.
 - The program stops after 3 incorrect answers.

$$4 + 10 + 3 + 10 = \underline{27}$$

$$9 + 2 = \underline{11}$$

$$8 + 6 + 7 + 9 = \underline{25}$$

Wrong! The answer was 30

$$5 + 9 = \underline{13}$$

Wrong! The answer was 14

$$4 + 9 + 9 = \underline{22}$$

$$3 + 1 + 7 + 2 = \underline{13}$$

$$4 + 2 + 10 + 9 + 7 = \underline{42}$$

Wrong! The answer was 32

You earned 4 total points

Random answer

```
// Asks the user to do adding problems and scores them.
import java.util.*;

public class AddingGame {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Scanner console = new Scanner(System.in);
        Random rand = new Random();

        // play until user gets 3 wrong
        int points = 0;
        int wrong = 0;
        while (wrong < 3) {
            int result = play(console, rand);    // play one game
            if (result == 0) {
                wrong++;
            } else {
                points++;
            }
        }

        System.out.println("You earned " + points + " total points.");
    }
}
```

Random answer 2

...

```
// Builds one addition problem and presents it to the user.
// Returns 1 point if you get it right, 0 if wrong.
public static int play(Scanner console, Random rand) {
    // print the operands being added, and sum them
    int operands = rand.nextInt(4) + 2;
    int sum = rand.nextInt(10) + 1;
    System.out.print(sum);

    for (int i = 2; i <= operands; i++) {
        int n = rand.nextInt(10) + 1;
        sum += n;
        System.out.print(" + " + n);
    }
    System.out.print(" = ");

    // read user's guess and report whether it was correct
    int guess = console.nextInt();
    if (guess == sum) {
        return 1;
    } else {
        System.out.println("Wrong! The answer was " + total);
        return 0;
    }
}
}
```