

Terminology.doc

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Chapter 1

Terminology.doc

1.1 Terminology

\$RCSfile: Terminology.doc \$
Description: Object-oriented terminology

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A consistent terminology is used throughout the documents and modules in this directory. It is mostly based on "standard" object-oriented terminology and differs from that used in the documents describing Oberon itself.

Class -- an abstract data type (ADT) with inheritance. An ADT is a description of the range of values a variable may take and the operations that may be performed on such variables. Inheritance allows an ADT to be defined in terms of another type (its parent, or supertype), whose behaviour is modified or extended by the inheriting type. In more specific terms, "class" means an Oberon record type and the collection of procedures that operate on variables of that type. The Oberon documents refer to this as an ADT, or simply a type. Inheritance is implemented with Oberon's type extension feature and by redefining type-bound procedures.

Object -- an instance of a class. An object, or instance, of a given class is simply a variable of the class's type.

Method -- a procedure, operating on an object of a given class. This will usually be a type-bound procedure, but can also mean a simple procedure with an object of the class as the main parameter.
