

Demoting and Promoting Serialised Objects

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I see a general problem I call demoting and promoting objects.

A Dog gets promoted to a Dalmatian object by gaining extra Dalmatian-specific fields.

A Dalmatian gets demoted to Dog object by stripping off its Dalmatian specific fields.

The object itself is unchanged. You create a new modified object and discard the old one.

Why would you do such a thing?

1. to strip an object down for export, serialisation, or RMI transport.
2. to strip an object of confidential information before handing in on.
3. to avoid having to give confidential code used to process, edit or construct your objects when all they will do is view them.

The way you did the equivalent thing in COBOL was a MOVE CORRESPONDING that copied field by field. In Java traditionally you do the same thing writing code guaranteed to stop working the instant any of the class structure changes.

How might you handle this more elegantly?

1. a class parser then generates code to do the move-corresponding.
2. Java gain some feature to easily create copy constructor so you could say:

something like:

```
/**  
* cloning constructor
```

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```
* Makes a Dog out of any Dog object including a Dalmatian object.  
* The new object will have only the Dog fields and methods, even if  
* cast back to the original type.  
*/  
Dog ( Dog ) { Magic.copy(); }
```

Where copy is some magic JNI or new Java feature.

The assembler code theoretically could be just a block byte move of dog's object size bytes — extremely fast compared with field by field copy.

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Complicit Bush-friendly media keeps mum. Rumsfeld confesses on video.
http://www.infowars.com/articles/us/mckinney_grills_rumsfeld.htm

Canadian Mind Products, Roedy Green.
See <http://mindprod.com/iraq.html> photos of Bush's war crimes

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- ***Follow-Ups:***
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 - ◇ *From:* Boudewijn Dijkstra
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