

Object-Oriented php:Visibility Indicators

One of the benefits of hosting data (variable, attributes) and functions (methods) in the same structure is that we can control access to the data.

Good OO practice suggests that data in an object should only be accessible via the functions of the object.

To achieve this we add **visibility indicators** to a class declaration. Initially we will make all data **private** and all functions **public** where:

- private entities may only be accessed from within their class
- public entities may be accessed from everywhere

Object-Oriented php:Visibility Indicators

```

class Name{
    var $title;
    var $firstName;
    var $surname;

    function __construct($t,$f,$s){
        $this->title = $t;
        $this->firstName = $f;
        $this->surname = $s;
    }

    function makeName(){
        return ($this->title . " " . $this->firstName
            . " " . $this->surname);
    }
}

```

Object-Oriented php:Visibility Indicators

```

class Name{
    private $title;
    private $firstName;
    private $surname;

    function __construct($t,$f,$s){
        $this->title = $t;
        $this->firstName = $f;
        $this->surname = $s;
    }

    function makeName(){
        return ($this->title . " " . $this->firstName
            . " " . $this->surname);
    }
}

```

All variables are made private – they may only be accessed from the class

Object-Oriented php:Visibility Indicators

```

class Name{
    private $title;
    private $firstName;
    private $surname;

    public function __construct($t,$f,$s){
        $this->title = $t;
        $this->firstName = $f;
        $this->surname = $s;
    }

    public function makeName(){
        return ($this->title . " " . $this->firstName
            . " " . $this->surname);
    }
}

```

All functions are made public – they may be accessed everywhere

Object-Oriented php:get and set functions

Along with the visibility indicators, it is good practice to define get and set functions, where appropriate, for the variables in a class.

A get function simply returns the variable, and a set function sets the value of a variable.

Thus to access any of an object's data one has to use a (public) function of its class, and to change the value of any of an object's data one has to use a (public) function of its class.

This once again reinforces the idea of the functions in a class acting on the data in the class.

Object-Oriented php:get and set functions

```

class Name{
    private $title;
    private $firstName;
    private $surname;

    ...

    public function getTitle(){
        return $this->title;
    }

    public function setTitle($newTitle){
        $this->title = $newTitle;
    }

    ...
}

```
