



# Structuur van Computerprogramma's 2

dr. Dirk Deridder  
Dirk.Deridder@vub.ac.be  
<http://soft.vub.ac.be/>



# Chapter 7 - Subtypes and Inheritance

Structuur van Computerprogramma's 2

# Subtypes and Inheritance

# Problem Description

A circular LAN consists of **nodes**.

Nodes process **packets** that are addressed to them; and may pass other packets on to the next node.

Besides “simple nodes” there are several more sophisticated types of nodes:

e.g., **workstations** may generate new packets, **fileservers** save their packets in a file, ...

# Derived Classes

- Thus a workstation **is-a** node and a fileserver **is-a** node as well
- In OO jargon, we say that the class **Workstation** and the class **Fileserver** are **subclasses** of the class **Node**:
  - they **inherit** (data and function) members from the class **Node**
- In C++ we say that the user-defined types **Workstation** and **Fileserver** are **derived from** the type **Node**
- The scope of a derived class forms a subscope of the base class (private?)

```
class Node;  
  
// Workstation is derived from Node  
class Workstation: public Node;  
  
// Fileserver is derived from Node  
class Fileserver: public Node;
```

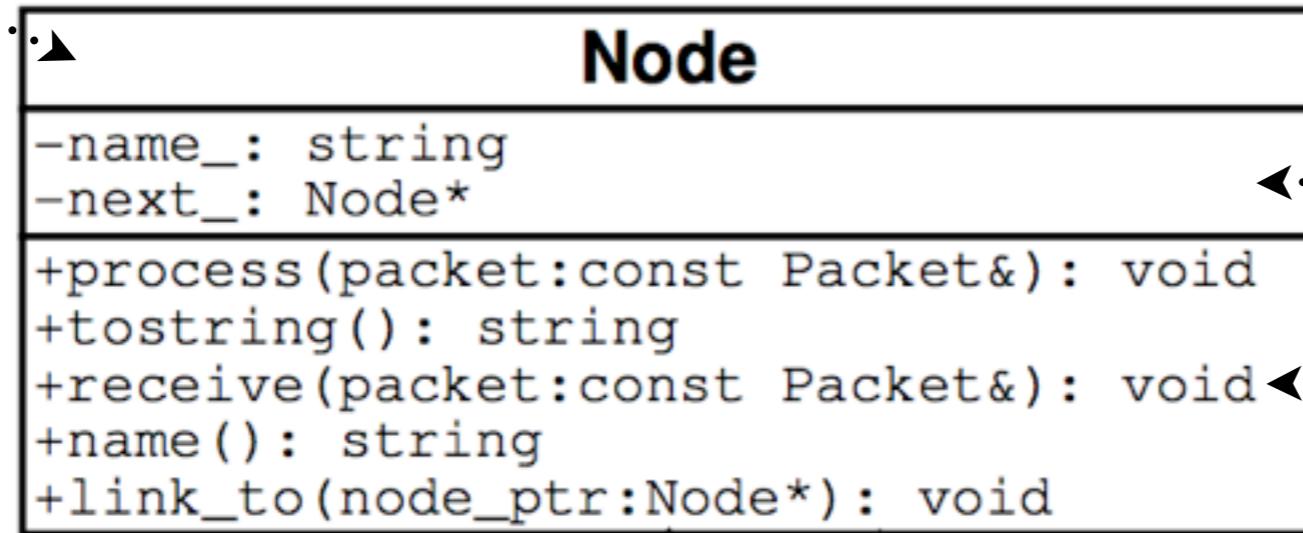
```
class NameOfClass :  
    public NameOfClass  
{ ... };
```

# UML Class Diagram

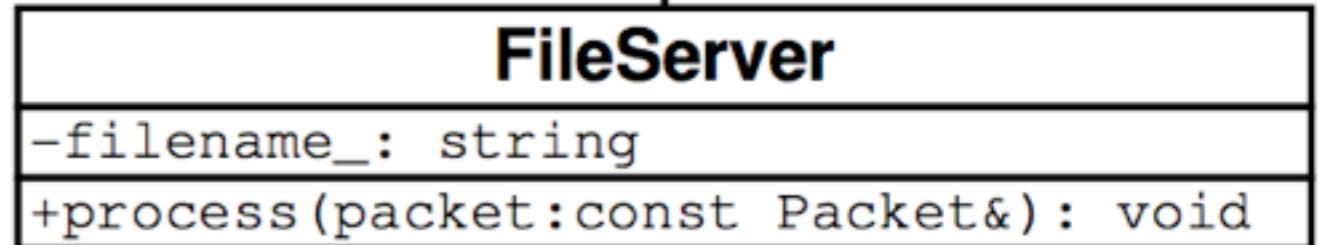
**class name**

**base class (superclass)**

- private
- + public



```
-brand_: string  
+accept(is:istream&): bool  
+brand(): string  
+tostring(): string
```



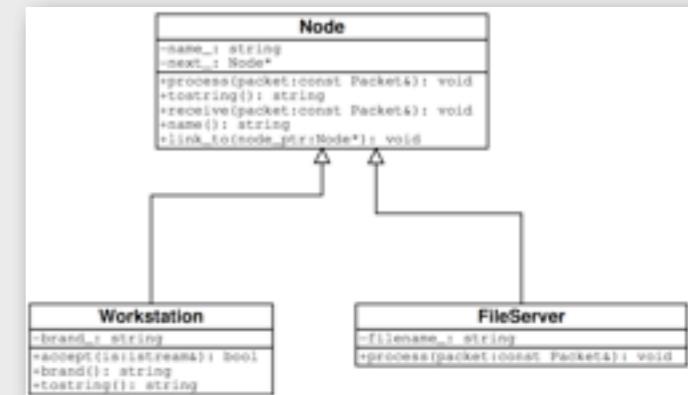
**derived types (subclasses)**

# packet.h

```
#ifndef PACKET_H
#define PACKET_H
#include <string>
#include <iostream>
class Packet { // ‘‘bare bones’’ implementation
public:
    Packet(const std::string& destination, const std::string& load) :
        destination_(destination), contents_(load) { }
    std::string destination() const { return destination_; }
    std::string contents() const { return contents_; }
private:
    std::string destination_;// name of destination node
    std::string contents_;// load of the packet to be passed
};
// Packets can be easily written to an ostream
inline std::ostream&
operator<<(std::ostream& os, const Packet& p) {
    return os << "[" << p.destination()
        << ", \" " << p.contents() << "\"]";
}
#endif
```

# node.h

```
#ifndef NODE_H
#define NODE_H
#include <string>
#include "packet.h"
class Node {
public:
    Node(const std::string& name, Node* next = 0) :
        name_(name), next_(next) { }
    // what we do with a packet we receive
    void receive(const Packet&);
    // what we do with a packet destined for us
    void process(const Packet&);
    void link_to(Node* node_ptr) { next_ = node_ptr; }
    std::string name() const { return name_; }
    std::string tostring() const; // nice printable name
private:
    std::string name_; // unique name of Node
    Node* next_; // in LAN (cf. list)
};
#endif
```



# node.cpp

```
#include "node.h"

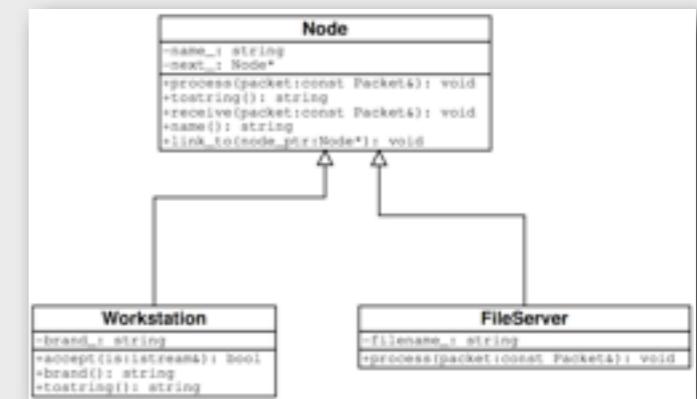
// what we do with a packet we receive
void Node::receive(const Packet& packet) {
    std::cout << toString() << " receives " << packet << std::endl;
    if (packet.destination() == name())
        process(packet);
    else if (next_) // pass it on if there is a next node
        next_->receive(packet);
}

// what we do with a packet destined for us
void Node::process(const Packet& packet) {
    std::cout << toString() << " processes " << packet << std::endl;
}

std::string Node::toString() const {
    return "node " + name_; // explain?
}
```

# workstation.h (a Specialized Node)

```
#ifndef WORKSTATION_H
#define WORKSTATION_H
#include <iostream>
#include "node.h"
// Workstation is publicly derived from Node
class Workstation: public Node {
public:
    // constructor: note the use of the base class constructor
    Workstation(const std::string name, const std::string brand,
                Node* next = 0) :
        Node(name, next), brand_(brand) { }
    // extra function: accept packet from cin and send it to next
    bool accept(std::istream& is);
    // 'override' Node::tostring()
    std::string tostring() const;
    // extra function: accessor for the brand data member
    std::string brand() const { return brand_; }
private:
    std::string brand_; // extra data member
};
#endif
```



# workstation.cpp

```
#include "workstation.h"

bool Workstation::accept(std::istream& is) {
    // packet format: destination contents \n
    std::string destination;
    std::string contents;
    std::cout << toString() << " accepts a packet.." << std::endl;
    is >> destination;
    std::getline(is, contents);
    if (destination.size() == 0) {
        std::cerr << "error: no destination" << std::endl;
        return false;
    }
    Packet packet(destination, contents);
    receive(packet); // ‘‘send’’ the packet to myself
    return true;
}

...→ std::string Workstation::toString() const {
    return Node::toString() + " (" + brand() + ")";
}
```

We override the default version of `toString()` for a `Workstation`

# fileserver.h (another Specialized Node)

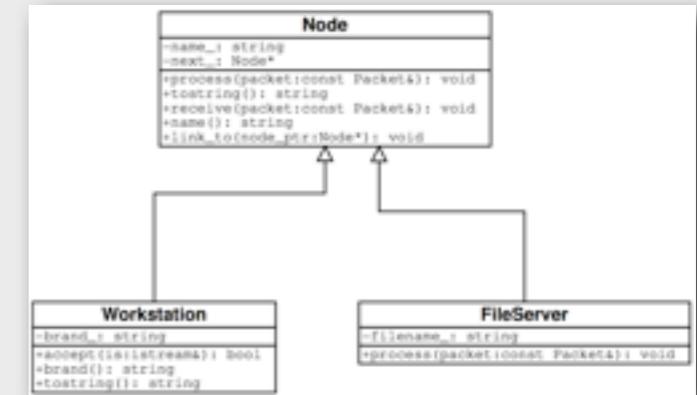
```
#ifndef FILESERVER_H
#define FILESERVER_H

#include <iostream>
#include "node.h"

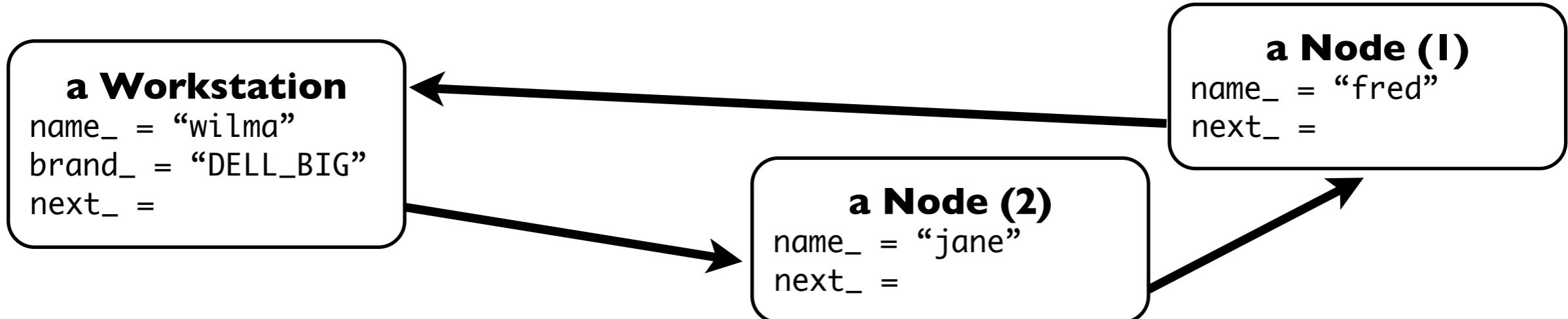
// FileServer is publicly derived from Node
class FileServer: public Node {
public:
    // constructor: simply delegate to base class constructor
    FileServer(const std::string name, Node* next = 0) :
        Node(name, next) { }

    // override Node::process() to alter the way a Packet is processed
    void process(const Packet& packet) {
        std::cout << "FileServer " << toString() << ": storing packet"
              << packet << std::endl;
    }
};

#endif
```



# Program lan.cpp

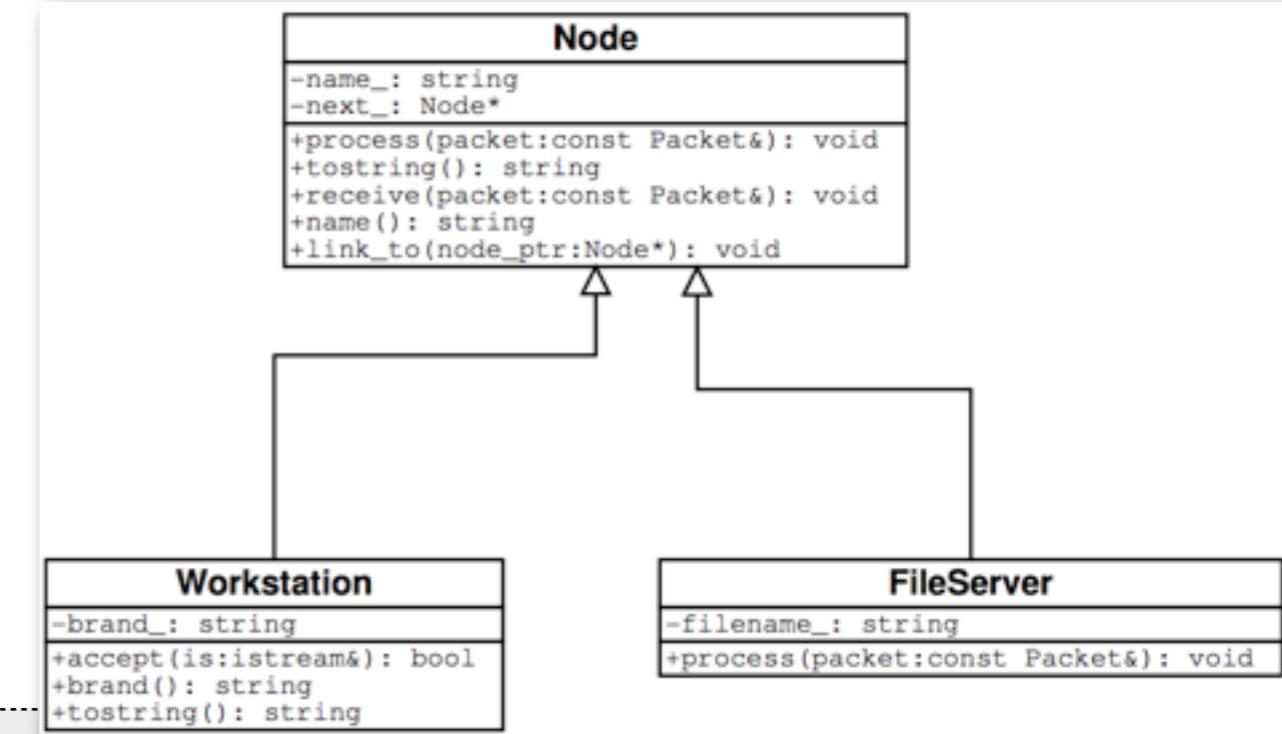
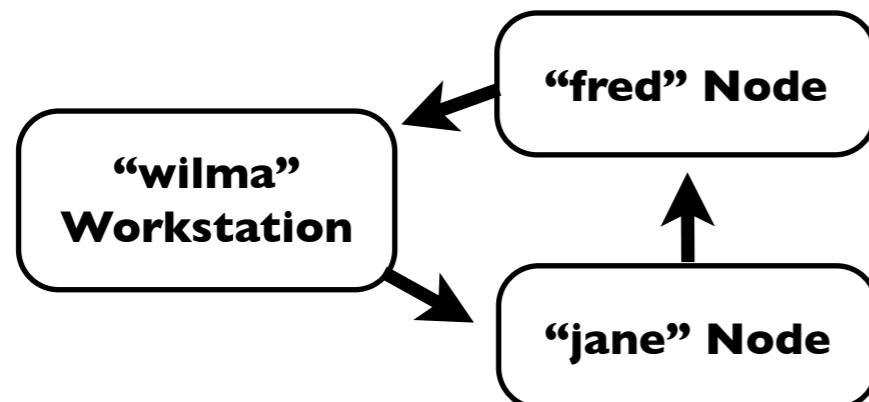


```
#include "node.h"
#include "workstation.h"

int main(int, char**)
{
    Workstation wilma("wilma", "DELL_BIG");
    Node node1("fred", &wilma);           // node1 --> wilma
    Node node2("jane", &node1);          // node2 --> node1
    wilma.link_to(&node2);              // wilma --> node2
    // now we have a circular net:
    // wilma --> node2 --> node1 --> wilma

    while (wilma.accept(std::cin))
    ;
}
```

# Running LAN



node **wilma (DELL\_BIG)** accepts a packet..

**fred** hi there, fred

node **wilma** receives packet [**fred**, "hi there, fred"]

node **jane** receives packet [**fred**, "hi there, fred"]

node **fred** receives packet [**fred**, "hi there, fred"]

node **fred** processes [**fred**, "hi there, fred"]

node **wilma (DELL\_BIG)** accepts a packet..

Explain these lines:

- node **wilma (DELL\_BIG)** accepts a packet.
- node **wilma** receives packet [**fred**, “ hi there, fred”]

# Derived Object Layout



- A **Workstation** contains a “**Node** part” which is initialized using a **Node** constructor
- The address of a **Workstation** is also the address of a **Node**
- The compiler can convert automatically:
  - Workstation\*** → **Node\***
  - Workstation&** → **Node&**
  - Workstation** → **Node**

# Virtual Member Functions

Consider a pointer `nodeptr` (to a `Workstation`) with type `Node*` :

```
Workstation ws("wilma", "DELL_BIG");  
Node* nodeptr(&ws); // ok, base/subclass substitutable
```

nodeptr . . .  
“wilma”  
**Workstation**

We would like `nodeptr->tostring()` to call `Workstation::tostring()`

This can be achieved by declaring `Node::tostring` to be **virtual**:

```
virtual std::string Node::tostring() const;
```

which will cause the compiler to generate code such that which function is actually called for `nodeptr->tostring()` is determined **at runtime (late binding)** and depends on the “**real**” class of `*nodeptr`

# node2.h (virtual version)

```
#ifndef NODE_H
#define NODE_H

#include <string>
#include "packet.h"

class Node { // version with virtual functions
public:
    Node(const std::string& name, Node* next = 0) :
        name_(name), next_(next) { }
    virtual ~Node() { } // virtual destructor, see later
    void receive(const Packet&);
    virtual void process(const Packet&); // for FileServer
    void link_to(Node* node_ptr) { next_ = node_ptr; }
    std::string name() const { return name_; }
    virtual std::string tostring() const;
private:
    std::string name_; // unique name of Node
    Node* next_; // in LAN
};

#endif
```

# Source with virtual functions

No change in `node.cpp`, `workstation.h`,  
`workstation.cpp`, `lan.cpp`, `packet.h`,  
`fileserver.h`

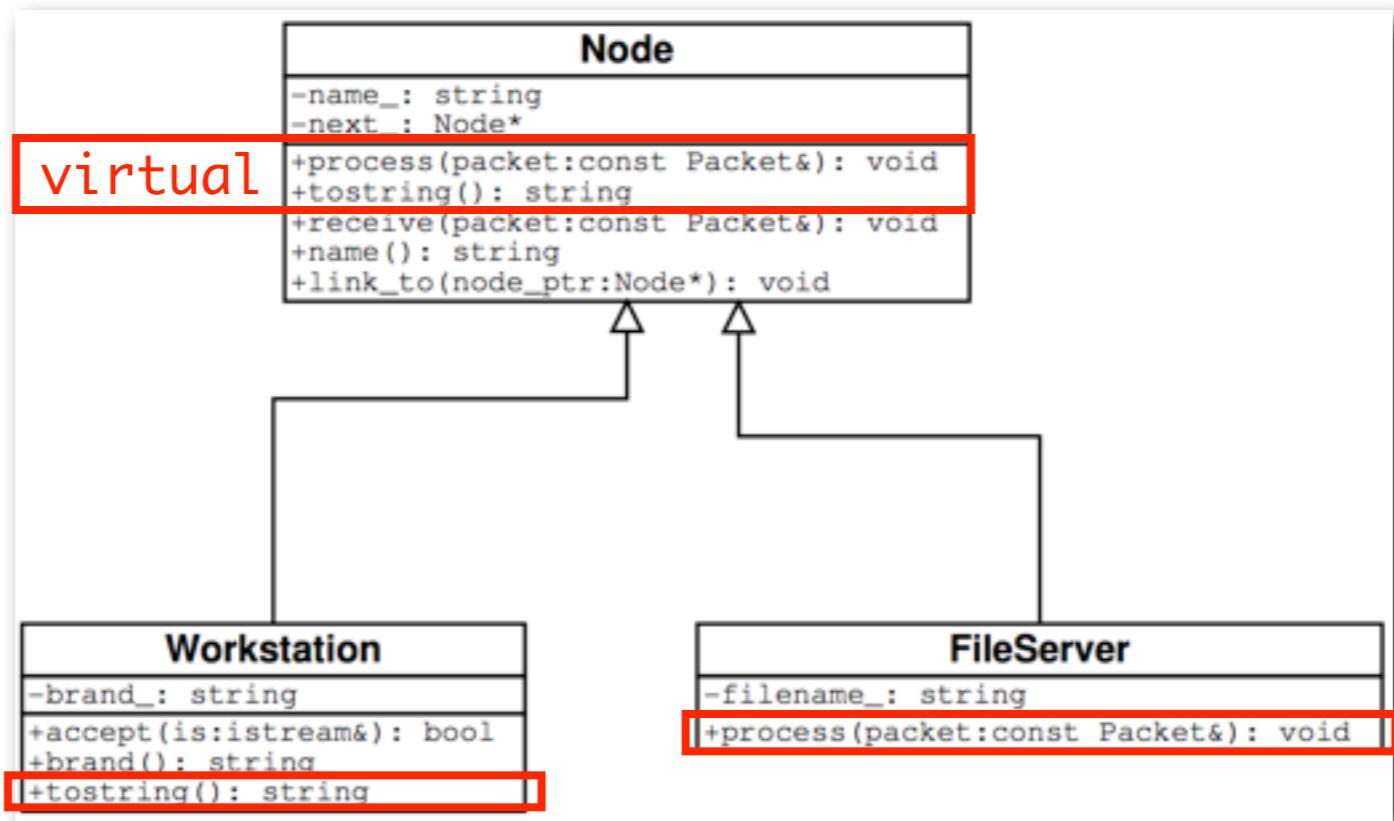
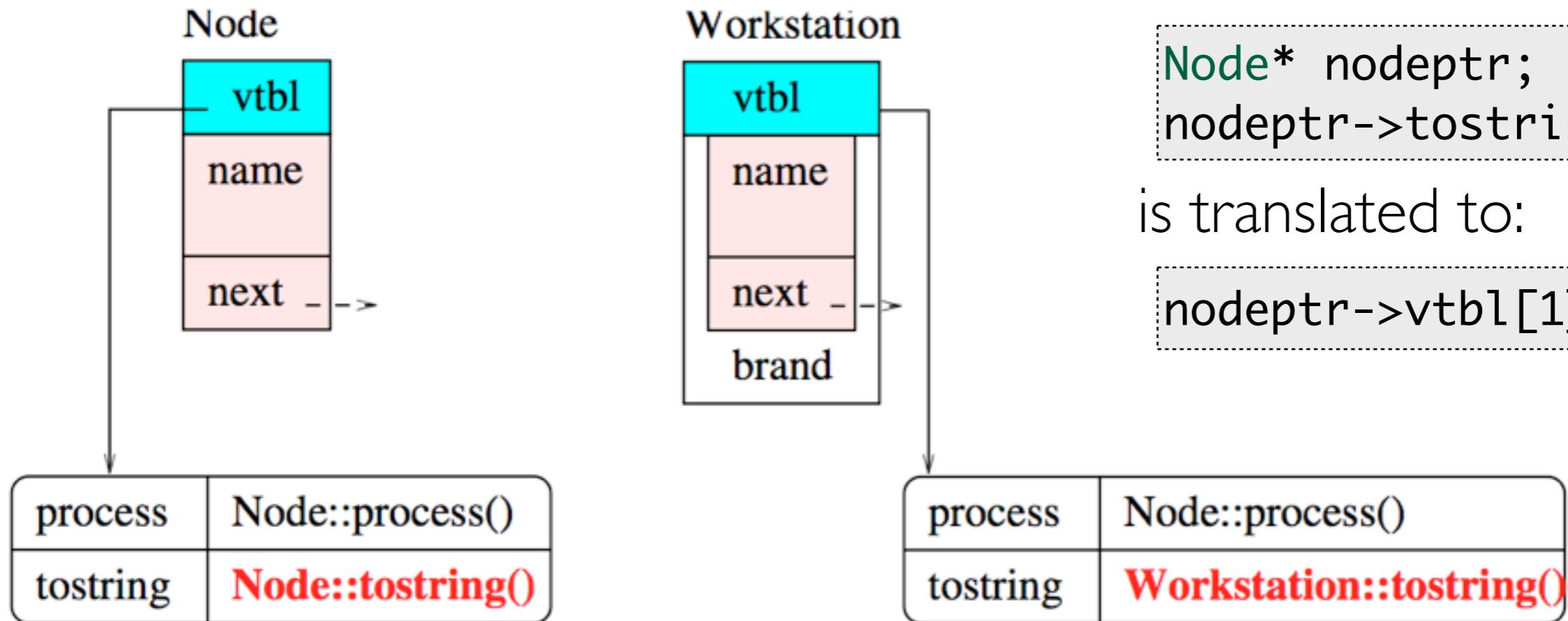
# Running LAN (virtual version)

```
node wilma (DELL_BIG) accepts a packet..  
fred hi there,fred  
.....>node wilma (DELL_BIG) receives packet [fred, "hi there,fred"]  
node jane receives packet [fred, "hi there,fred"]  
node fred receives packet [fred, "hi there,fred"]  
node fred processes [fred, "hi there,fred"]  
node wilma (DELL_BIG) accepts a packet..
```

Explain this line:

- node wilma (DELL\_BIG) receives packet [fred, " hi there,fred"]

# Object Layout with Virtual Functions: vtbls



# Virtual Functions without Refs or Pointers

```
Workstation ws("wilma", "DELL");
Node node(ws);
node.tostring();
```

Which function is executed and why?

# Pure Virtual Functions

```
class Animal {  
public:  
....► virtual std::string sound() const = 0;  
};  
  
class Dog: public Animal {  
    std::string sound() const { return "woef"; }  
};  
  
class Cat: public Animal {  
    std::string sound() const { return "miauw"; }  
};  
  
....► std::set<Animal*> pets;  
for (std::set<Animal*>::const_iterator a=pets.begin();  
     a!=pets.end();  
     ++a)  
    std::cout << (*a)->sound() << std::endl;  
  
....► Animal fred; // error, why?
```

Note how the specific animals 'know' how to respond to `sound()`. As a result no typechecks are needed (or a `switch` on an `enum`-''type-label'') !

# Abstract Classes

**Abstract classes** are **specifications**; they define an **interface** that subclasses will have to implement:

```
#ifndef STACK_H
#define STACK_H
// an abstract class,
// aka interface in Java, subclassResponsibility in Smalltalk
template<typename T>
class Stack {
public:
    virtual T pop() = 0;
    virtual void push(const T&) = 0;
    virtual unsigned int size() const = 0;
    // clear() only uses pure virtual functions
    void clear() {
        while (size() > 0)
            pop();
    }
    virtual ~Stack() { } // see further
};
#endif
```

# Implementing Abstract Classes: a ListStack

```
#ifndef LISTSTACK_H
#define LISTSTACK_H

#include "stack.h"
#include <list>

// We implement a stack using a list; the top of the stack
// is represented by the front of the list. pop(), push(), and
// size() should be implemented as dictated by Stack
template<typename T>
class ListStack: public Stack<T> {
private:
    std::list<T> list_;
public:
    ListStack() : list_() { }
    T pop() { T t = list_.front(); list_.pop_front(); return t; }
    void push(const T& t) { list_.push_front(t); }
    unsigned int size() const { return list_.size(); }
};

#endif
```

# Using ListStack

```
#include "liststack.h"

int main(int, char**)
{
    Stack<int>* s = new ListStack<int> ();
    for (int i = 0; i < 10; ++i)
        s->push(i);

    while (s->size() > 0)
        std::cout << s->pop() << std::endl;
}
```

# Virtual Destructors

```
class Person {  
public:  
    Person(const std::string& name) : name_(name) { }  
    std::string name() const { return name_; }  
private:  
    std::string name_;  
};  
  
class Image { // ... something *BIG*  
};  
  
class FamilyMember: public Person {  
public:  
    FamilyMember(const std::string& name, Image* im = 0) :  
        Person(name), image_(im) { }  
.......► ~FamilyMember() { if (image_) delete image_; }  
    Image* image() const { return image_; }  
private:  
    Image* image_;  
};
```

# Virtual Destructors

```
#include "person.h"
Person* p(new FamilyMember("fred", im));
delete p; // which destructor will be called? why?
```

cf. why we needed  
virtual member functions  
in the first place

To solve it declare the destructor as virtual:

```
class Person {
public:
    Person(const std::string& name) : name_(name) { }
.....→ virtual ~Person() { } // how will this solve the problem
    std::string name() const { return name_; }
private:
    std::string name_;
};
```

# Private Derivation & Multiple Inheritance

```
#ifndef LISTSTACK_H
#define LISTSTACK_H
#include "stack.h"
#include <list>

// inheriting PRIVATELY from list<T> ensures that users of
// ListStack cannot access the underlying list<T>
// operations; this makes ListStack a properly encapsulated
// Abstract Data Type

template<typename T>
class ListStack: public Stack<T>, private std::list<T> {
public:
    ListStack() : std::list<T>() { }
    ...-> T pop() { T t = front(); pop_front(); return t; }
    ...-> void push(const T& t) { push_front(t); }
    ...-> unsigned int size() const { return std::list<T>::size(); }
};

#endif
```

Multiple  
Inheritance

Concrete  
implementations  
for pure virtual  
functions

# Private Derivation & Multiple Inheritance

- Inherit publicly from the abstract base class (**interface**)
- Inherit privately for the **implementation**
- Keep in mind potential naming conflicts (scope resolution)!

| Derivation | Access in Base | Access in Derived |
|------------|----------------|-------------------|
| public     | private        | none              |
| public     | protected      | protected         |
| public     | public         | public            |
| protected  | private        | none              |
| protected  | protected      | private           |
| protected  | public         | protected         |
| private    | private        | none              |
| private    | protected      | private           |
| private    | public         | private           |

# Multiple and Virtual Inheritance

```
#include <string>

struct Person {
    std::string name;
};

struct Staff: public virtual Person {
    int salary;
};

struct Student: public virtual Person {
    int rolnr;
};

struct Tutor: public Student, public Staff {
}; // how many name's does a Tutor have?
```

A derived class contains only a **single copy** of any **virtual base class**.

# Inheritance and Operators

- All operators **except** (why?) constructors, destructors, and assignment are inherited
- Be careful with inherited **new** and **delete** operators: use **size\_t** argument if necessary **and** virtual destructor
- What is the order of initialization for an object of a derived class?
- What if a derived class's constructor does not mention a base class constructor?
- What is the order of finalization for an object of a derived class?

# Inheritance and Arrays

```
struct Base { // 4 bytes
    Base(int i = 0) : i(i) { }
    int i;
};

struct Derived: public Base { // 8 bytes
    Derived(int i = 0, int j = 0) : Base(i), j(j) { }
    int j;
};

void f(Base a[]) {
    std::cout << a[0].i << ", " << a[1].i << std::endl;
}

int main() {
    Derived da[] = { Derived(1, 2), Derived(3, 4) };
    f(da); // prints 1,2 instead of the expected 1,3
}
```