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The Muppets' Game Show

Last week in Muppetville, elections were held for president. The four candidates were Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie, and the Swedish Chef. However, on Saturday at 5 am, a massive revolution occurred. Gonzo invaded Muppetville with his troop of chickens and took over as President. Kermit, Fozzie, and the Swedish Chef were a bit upset, but since they weren't as interested in becoming President, they soon got over it. However, Miss Piggy is still furious. As President, Gonzo started his own game show.

Gonzo: Welcome to the Great Gonzo's Gameshow! Tonight, I will be asking our four candidates, Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie, and the Swedish Chef, questions about handling errors in computer programs! Our first question: What is the best way for a server to report problems when they occur?

Swedish Chef: Well, if a server dropped food that I cooked, I would personally beat him to death with my egg beater! Bork, Bork, Bork!

Gonzo: NO, I do not mean server as in waiter, I mean server as in computer server!

Kermit: Hi ho! I know the answer! You could either pop up a box that says "Error", but that makes the assumption that a human user is using the application, which may not be true. The best option is to throw an exception from the server method!

Gonzo: That is correct!

Miss Piggy: Do you know what moi would like to *throw* at you right now, Gonzo? My hair dryer! How dare you sabotage our elections? Moi is very very angry!

Kermit: Oh, calm down, Miss Piggy, and let's get on with the game show.

Gonzo: Next question: What is an exception?

Fozzie: To every rule there is an exception! Wocka wocka!

Gonzo: I am sorry, Fozzie, that is not correct.

Swedish Chef: Vergoofin der flicke stoobin mit der bork-bork yubetcha!

Gonzo: I am sorry, I did not understand your answer.

Kermit: Hi, ho! I can tell you the answer! An exception is an object representing details of a program failure. When an exception is thrown, this indicates that a failure has occurred.

Gonzo: Correct! Next question: What is the difference between checked and unchecked exceptions?

Miss Piggy: Do you know how elections work, Gonzo? Voters *check* a box next to the name of the candidate they are voting for, and the winner becomes president!

Kermit: Sheesh, Piggy; you're not going to win by arguing! A checked exception is intended for cases where the client should expect that an operation could fail. Its use requires extra checks from the compiler. Unchecked exceptions are intended for cases that should never fail in normal operation. They usually indicate a program error. Their use does not require an extra check from the compiler.

Gonzo: That's right. Next question: What is an exception handler?

Swedish Chef: It sounds like one of my oven mitts! I use it to *handle* hot trays!

Kermit: No, an exception handler is program code that protects statements in which an exception might be thrown. It provides reporting and/or recovery code in case one should arise.

Gonzo: Right! Next question: What is serialization?

Miss Piggy: It's when a TV series is created! Moi loves soap operas! And moi hates Gonzo for what he did to moi!

Kermit: No, serialization allows whole objects and object hierarchies to be read and written in one operation. Each object involved has to be from a class that implements the Serializable interface.

Gonzo: That would be correct! And the winner is…Kermit! He was the only one who answered anything right!

Kermit: Yaaaay!

Miss Piggy: Hmmpph! Moi should have been president! If moi was president, moi would have made a much more interesting game show than yours…mine would not have been about computers, it would have been about…makeup! *(Walks off the stage angrily.)*

Gonzo: Goodbye and good night, everyone!