Simple Classes

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A Slice class definition is similar to a structure definition, but uses the `class` keyword. For example:

Slice

```
module M
{
    class TimeOfDay
    {
        short hour;         // 0 - 23
        short minute;       // 0 - 59
        short second;       // 0 - 59
    }
}
```

Apart from the keyword `class`, this definition is identical to the structure example. You can use a Slice class wherever you can use a Slice structure (but, as we will see shortly, for performance reasons, you should not use a class where a structure is sufficient). Unlike structures, classes can be empty:

Slice

```
class EmptyClass {}    // OK
struct EmptyStruct {}  // Error
```

Much the same design considerations as for empty interfaces apply to empty classes: you should at least stop and rethink your approach before committing yourself to an empty class.

A class can define any number of data members, including optional data members. You can also specify a default value for a data member if its type is one of the following:

- An integral type (`byte`, `short`, `int`, `long`)
- A floating point type (`float` or `double`)
- `string`
- `bool`
- `enum`

For example:

Slice

```
class Location
{
    string name;
    Point pt;
    bool display = true;
    string source = "GPS";
}
```

The legal syntax for literal values is the same as for Slice constants, and you may also use a constant as a default value. The language mapping guarantees that data members are initialized to their declared default values using a language-specific mechanism.

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See Also

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- Constants and Literals
- Optional Data Members

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