10. Guidelines, Idioms and Patterns

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Roadmap

> Idioms, Patterns and Frameworks
  — Programming style: Code Talks; Code Smells

> Basic Idioms
  — Delegation, Super, Interface

> Some Design Patterns
  — Adapter, Proxy, Template Method, Composite, Observer, Visitor, State
Roadmap

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Sources


Kent Beck, *Smalltalk Best Practice Patterns*, Prentice Hall, 1997


**Code Talks**

> Do the simplest thing you can think of (KISS)
  — Don't over-design
  — Implement things *once and only once*
  — *First do it, then do it right, then do it fast* (don’t optimize too early)

> Make your intention clear
  — Write *small methods*
  — Each method should *do one thing only*
  — Name methods for *what they do*, not how they do it
  — Write to an *interface*, not an implementation
Refactoring

Redesign and refactor when the code starts to “smell”


> Methods too long or too complex
  — decompose using helper methods

> Duplicated code
  — factor out the common parts
    (e.g., using a Template method Pattern)

> Violation of encapsulation
  — redistribute responsibilities

> Too much communication (high coupling)
  — redistribute responsibilities

Many idioms and patterns can help you improve your design ...
Refactoring Long Methods

2. From the selection's context menu in the editor, select Refactor \(\rightarrow\) Extract Method....

```java
Class superClass = theClass;
Vector names = new Vector();
while (true) {
    methodNames.add(supertypes[1], names, theClass);
    superClass = superClass.getSuperclass();
    if (superClass == superclass) {
        for (int i = 0; i < superClass.getDeclaredMethods().length; i++) {
            superClass.getDeclaredMethods()[i].setName("found in " + superClass.getName());
        }
        break;
    }
}

/**
 * Constructor
 */
public
setter

/**
 * Adder
 */
public
setter

/**
 * Getter
 */
private
setter
```

Move...  Alt+Shift+V
Change Method Signature... Alt+Shift+C
Extract Method... Alt+Shift+M
Extract Interface...  Use Supertype Where Possible...
Refactoring Long Methods

short is good!

If I need to comment then extract as method
## What are Idioms and Patterns?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Idioms</strong></th>
<th>Idioms are <em>common programming techniques</em> and conventions. They are often language-specific. (<a href="http://c2.com/ppr/wiki/JavaIdioms/JavaIdioms.html">http://c2.com/ppr/wiki/JavaIdioms/JavaIdioms.html</a>)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patterns</strong></td>
<td>Patterns document <em>common solutions to design problems</em>. They are language-independent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Libraries</strong></td>
<td>Libraries are <em>collections of functions, procedures or other software components</em> that can be used in many applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Frameworks</strong></td>
<td>Frameworks are open libraries that define the <em>generic architecture</em> of an application, and can be extended by adding or deriving new classes. (<a href="http://martinfowler.com/bliki/InversionOfControl.html">http://martinfowler.com/bliki/InversionOfControl.html</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frameworks typically make use of common idioms and patterns.
Idioms, Patterns and Frameworks
— Programming style: Code Talks; Code Smells

> **Basic Idioms**
— Delegation, Super, Interface

> **Some Design Patterns**
— Adapter, Proxy, Template Method, Composite, Observer, Visitor, State
Delegation

How can an object share behaviour without inheritance?

Delegate some of its work to another object

Inheritance is a common way to extend the behaviour of a class, but can be an inappropriate way to combine features.

Delegation reinforces encapsulation by keeping roles and responsibilities distinct.
Delegation

Example
> When a TestSuite is asked to run(), it delegates the work to each of its TestCases.

Consequences
> More flexible, less structured than inheritance.

*Delegation is one of the most basic object-oriented idioms, and is used by almost all design patterns.*
public class TestSuite implements Test {

    ... 

    public void run(TestResult result) {
        for(Enumeration e = fTests.elements();
            e.hasMoreElements();
        )
        {
            if (result.shouldStop())
                break;
            Test test = (Test) e.nextElement();
            test.run(result);
        }
    }

}
How do you extend behavior inherited from a superclass?

✓ Overwrite the inherited method, and send a message to “super” in the new method.

Sometimes you just want to extend inherited behavior, rather than replace it.
**Examples**

> `Place.paint()` extends `Panel.paint()` with specific painting behaviour

> Constructors for many classes, e.g., `TicTacToe`, invoke their superclass constructors.

**Consequences**

> Increases coupling between subclass and superclass: if you change the inheritance structure, super calls may break!

*Never use super to invoke a method different than the one being overwritten — use “this” instead!*
public class Place extends Panel {
   ...
   public void paint(Graphics g) {
      super.paint(g);
      Rectangle rect = g.getClipBounds();
      int h = rect.height;
      int w = rect.width;
      int offset = w/10;
      g.drawRect(0,0,w,h);
      if (image != null) {
         g.drawImage(image, offset, offset, w-2*offset, h-2*offset, this);
      }
   }
   ...
}

public class TicTacToe extends AbstractBoardGame {
   public TicTacToe(Player playerX, Player playerO) {
      super(playerX, playerO);
   }
}
How do you keep a client of a service independent of classes that provide the service?

Have the client use the service through an interface rather than a concrete class.

If a client names a concrete class as a service provider, then only instances of that class or its subclasses can be used in future.

By naming an interface, an instance of any class that implements the interface can be used to provide the service.
Interface

Example

> Any object may be registered with an Observable if it implements the Observer interface.

> **Consequences**

> Interfaces *reduce coupling* between classes.

> They also *increase complexity* by adding indirection.
public class GameGUI extends JFrame implements Observer {
    ...
    public void update(Observable o, Object arg) {
        Move move = (Move) arg;
        showFeedback("got an update: " + move);
        places_[move.col][move.row].setMove(move.player);
    }
    ...
}
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How do you use a class that provide the right features but the wrong interface?

Introduce an adapter.

An adapter converts the interface of a class into another interface clients expect.

> The client and the adapted object remain independent.
> An adapter adds an extra level of indirection.

Also known as Wrapper
Adapter Pattern

Examples

> A WrappedStack adapts java.util.Stack, throwing an AssertionError when top() or pop() are called on an empty stack.

> An ActionListener converts a call to actionPerformed() to the desired handler method.

> Consequences

> The client and the adapted object remain independent.

> An adapter adds an extra level of indirection.
public class WrappedStack implements StackInterface {

    private java.util.Stack stack;

    public WrappedStack() {
        this(new Stack());
    }

    public WrappedStack(Stack stack) {
        this.stack = stack;
    }

    public void push(Object item) {
        stack.push(item);
        assert this.top() == item;
        assert invariant();
    }
}
Proxy Pattern

How do you hide the complexity of accessing objects that require pre- or post-processing?

Introduce a proxy to control access to the object.

Some services require special pre or post-processing. Examples include objects that reside on a remote machine, and those with security restrictions.

A proxy provides the same interface as the object that it controls access to.
Proxy Pattern - UML

Client «uses» Subject

Proxy «delegates» RealSubject
Proxy Pattern Example (1)

- **Client** «uses» **Proxy**
- **Proxy** «delegates» **RealImage**
- **Image** «interface» displayImage()
public class ProxyImage implements Image {
    private String filename;
    private Image image;

    public ProxyImage(String filename) {
        this.filename = filename;
    }

    public void displayImage() {
        if (image == null) {
            image = new RealImage(filename); //load only on demand
        }
        image.displayImage();
    }
}

delegate request to real subject
public class RealImage implements Image {
    private String filename;
    public RealImage(String filename) {
        this.filename = filename;
        System.out.println("Loading " + filename);
    }

    public void displayImage() {
        System.out.println("Displaying " + filename);
    }
}

public class ProxyExample {
    public static void main(String[] args) {

        ArrayList<Image> images = new ArrayList<Image>();
        images.add(new ProxyImage("HiRes_10MB_Photo1"));
        images.add(new ProxyImage("HiRes_10MB_Photo2"));
        images.add(new ProxyImage("HiRes_10MB_Photo3"));

        images.get(0).displayImage();
        images.get(1).displayImage();
        images.get(0).displayImage(); // already loaded

    }
}

Proxies are used for remote object access

**Example**

- A Java “stub” for a remote object accessed by Remote Method Invocation (RMI).

**Consequences**

- A Proxy decouples clients from servers. A Proxy introduces a level of indirection.

*Proxy differs from Adapter in that it does not change the object’s interface.*
Proxy remote access example

Machine A

:ServiceStub

1:doit()

1.1:doit()

Machine B

:Service

Proxy remote access example
How do you implement a generic algorithm, deferring some parts to subclasses?

Define it as a Template Method.

A Template Method factors out the common part of similar algorithms, and delegates the rest to:

— hook methods that subclasses may extend, and
— abstract methods that subclasses must implement.
Template Method Pattern (2)

**Example**

> `TestCase.runBare()` is a template method that calls the hook method `setUp()`.

> `AbstractBoardGame`’s constructor defers initialization to the abstract `init()` method

**Consequences**

> Template methods lead to an *inverted control structure* since a parent classes calls the operations of a subclass and not the other way around.

*Template Method is used in most frameworks to allow application programmers to easily extend the functionality of framework classes.*
The template method defines the skeleton of an algorithm. Concrete methods override the hook methods.
Template Method Pattern Example

Subclasses of TestCase are expected to *override hook method* setUp() and possibly tearDown() and runTest().

```java
public abstract class TestCase implements Test {
    ... 
    public void runBare() throws Throwable {
        setUp();
        try { runTest(); } 
        finally { tearDown(); } 
    }
    protected void setUp() { }       // empty by default
    protected void tearDown() { }
    protected void runTest() throws Throwable { ... }
}
```
Composite Pattern

How do you manage a part-whole hierarchy of objects in a consistent way?

Define a common interface that both parts and composites implement.

Typically composite objects will implement their behavior by delegating to their parts.
> **Composite** allows you to treat a single instance of an object the same way as a **group** of objects.

> Consider a **Tree**. It consists of Trees (subtrees) and **Leaf** objects.
Composite Pattern Example (2)

```
addComponent(IComponent)
removeComponent(IComponent)
getChildren() : Collection
```

```
«interface»
IComponent
```

- Leaf
- Composite

hook()
public class Composite implements IComponent {
    private String id;
    private ArrayList<IComponent> list = new ArrayList<IComponent> ();
    public boolean addComponent(IComponent c) {
        return list.add(c);
    }
    public Collection getChildren() { 
        return list;
    }
    public boolean removeComponent(IComponent c) {
        return list.remove(c);
    }
    ...
}
public class CompositeClient {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        Composite switzerland = new Composite("Switzerland");
        Leaf bern = new Leaf("Bern");
        Leaf zuerich = new Leaf("Zuerich");
        switzerland.addComponent(bern);
        switzerland.addComponent(zuerich);
        Composite europe = new Composite("Europe");
        europe.addComponent(switzerland);
        System.out.println(europe.toString());
    }
}
Observer Pattern

How can an object inform arbitrary clients when it changes state?

Clients implement a common Observer interface and register with the “observable” object; the object notifies its observers when it changes state.

An observable object publishes state change events to its subscribers, who must implement a common interface for receiving notification.
Example

> See GUI Lecture

> A Button expects its observers to implement the ActionListener interface.

(see the Interface and Adapter examples)

Consequences

> Notification can be slow if there are many observers for an observable, or if observers are themselves observable!
Null Object Pattern

How do you avoid cluttering your code with tests for null object pointers?

Introduce a Null Object that implements the interface you expect, but does nothing.

Null Objects may also be Singleton objects, since you never need more than one instance.
Null Object Pattern — UML

Client «uses» AbstractClass

- AbstractClass
  - request()

- RealObject
  - request()

- NullObject
  - request()

Null Object Pattern — UML
Null Object

Examples

> NullOutputStream extends OutputStream with an empty write() method

Consequences

> Simplifies client code
> Not worthwhile if there are only few and localized tests for null pointers
Some other Design Patterns...

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>State</strong></td>
<td>The state pattern is a behavioral design pattern, also known as the objects for states pattern. This pattern is used in to represent the state of an object. This is a clean way for an object to partially change its type at runtime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decorator</strong></td>
<td>that allows new/additional behaviour to be added to an existing method of an object dynamically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Visitor</strong></td>
<td>a way of separating an algorithm from an object structure. A practical result of this separation is the ability to add new operations to existing object structures without modifying those structures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and many more…
What Problems do Design Patterns Solve?

*Patterns:*
- document *design experience*
- enable widespread *reuse of software architecture*
- *improve communication* within and across software development teams
- *explicitly capture knowledge* that experienced developers already understand implicitly
- arise from *practical experience*
- help *ease the transition* to object-oriented technology
- *facilitate training* of new developers
- help to transcend “programming language-centric” viewpoints

*Doug Schmidt, CACM Oct 1995*
What you should know!

- What’s wrong with long methods? How long should a method be?
- What’s the difference between a pattern and an idiom?
- When should you use delegation instead of inheritance?
- When should you call “super”?
- How does a Proxy differ from an Adapter?
- How can a Template Method help to eliminate duplicated code?
- When do I use a Composite Pattern? Do you know any examples from the Frameworks you know?
Can you answer these questions?

✎ What idioms do you regularly use when you program? What patterns do you use?
✎ What is the difference between an interface and an abstract class?
✎ When should you use an Adapter instead of modifying the interface that doesn’t fit?
✎ Is it good or bad that java.awt.Component is an abstract class and not an interface?
✎ Why do the Java libraries use different interfaces for the Observer pattern (java.util.Observer, java.awt.event.ActionListener etc.)?
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