Design Patterns

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Outline

• Overview of design patterns
• Creational patterns
• Structural patterns
• Behavioral patterns
overview of design patterns
What is a design pattern?
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- A **standard** solution to a common programming problem
  - a design or implementation structure that achieves a particular purpose
  - a high-level programming idiom
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  - reduce coupling among program components
  - reduce memory overhead
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• **Shorthand** for describing program design
  • a description of connections among program components
  • the shape of a heap snapshot or object model
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- But you shouldn't have to!
Why should you care?

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• A design pattern is a known solution to a known problem.
Types of design patterns
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• Creational patterns
  • how objects are instantiated
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• Structural patterns
  • how objects / classes can be combined
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• Behavioral patterns
  • how objects communicate

• Concurrency patterns
  • how computations are parallelized / distributed
When (not) to use design patterns
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• Rule 1: delay
  • Understand the problem & solution first, then improve it
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• Design patterns can increase or decrease understandability of code
  • Add indirection, increase code size
  • Improve modularity, separate concerns, ease description
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• References:
  • Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software, by Erich Gamma, Richard Helm, Ralph Johnson, and John Vlissides, 1995.
creational patterns
Kinds of creational patterns

- Factory (method)
- Abstract factory
- Builder
- Prototype
- Flyweight
- Singleton

Creational patterns address inflexibility of constructors in Java:

1. Can't return a subtype of the class they belong to
2. Always return a fresh new object, never re-use one
Factory pattern: problem

interface Matrix {
    ... 
}
class SparseMatrix implements Matrix {
    ... 
}
class DenseMatrix implements Matrix {
    ... 
}

• Clients use the supertype (Matrix)
  • But still need to use a SparseMatrix or DenseMatrix constructor
  • Must decide concrete implementation somewhere

• Don’t want to change code to use a different constructor
Factory pattern: solution

class MatrixFactory {
    public static Matrix createMatrix() {
        return new SparseMatrix();
    }
}

• Clients call createMatrix instead of a particular constructor
• Advantages:
  • To switch the implementation, change only one place
  • createMatrix can do arbitrary computations to decide what kind of matrix to make
• Frequently used in frameworks (e.g., Java swing)
  • BorderFactory.createRaisedBevelBorder()
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A variation: factory method / class pattern

A factory class that can be subclassed (to make new kinds of factories) and that has an overridable method to create its objects.
shape

structural patterns
Kinds of structural patterns

- Composite
- Decorator
- Adapter
- Proxy
- ...

Structural patterns enable client code to
1. modify the interface
2. extend behavior
3. restrict access
4. unify access
Composite pattern

A client can manipulate the whole or any part uniformly.
Composite pattern example: Java GUI

```java
Container north = new JPanel(new FlowLayout());
north.add(new JButton("Button 1"));
north.add(new JButton("Button 2"));

Container south = new JPanel(new BorderLayout());
south.add(new JLabel("Southwest"), BorderLayout.WEST);
south.add(new JLabel("Southeast"), BorderLayout.EAST);

Container overall = new JPanel(new BorderLayout());
overall.add(north, BorderLayout.NORTH);
overall.add(new JButton("Center Button"), BorderLayout.CENTER);
overall.add(south, BorderLayout.SOUTH);
frame.add(overall);
```
A decorator is a wrapper object that modifies behavior of, or adds features to, another object.
Decorator pattern example: Java IO

• InputStream class has only public int read() method to read one letter at a time.

• Decorators such as BufferedReader add functionality to read the stream more easily.

// InputStreamReader/BufferedReader decorate InputStream
InputStream in = new FileInputStream("hardcode.txt");
InputStreamReader isr = new InputStreamReader(in);
BufferedReader br = new BufferedReader(isr);

// With a BufferedReader decorator, read an entire line from the file in one call
// (InputStream only provides public int read() )
String wholeLine = br.readLine();
behave

behavioral patterns
Kinds of behavioral patterns

- Null object
- Template method
- Iterator
- Strategy
- …

Behavioral patterns identify and capture common patterns of communication between objects.
Null object pattern

A client can treat the absence of an object transparently.
Null object pattern example: empty list

List<Object> search(String value) {
    if ("".equals(value))
        return Collections.emptyList(); // null object (empty list)
    else
        return ...;
}

if (search(userInput).isEmpty()) // no NullPointerException
    ...
else
    ...
Template method pattern

Subclasses can redefine certain steps of an algorithm without changing the algorithm's structure.
abstract class Game {

    protected int playersCount;
    abstract void initializeGame();
    abstract void makePlay(int player);
    abstract boolean endOfGame();
    abstract void printWinner();

    // template method
    public final void playOneGame(int playersCount) {
        this.playersCount = playersCount;
        initializeGame();
        int j = 0;
        while (!endOfGame()) {
            makePlay(j);
            j = (j + 1) % playersCount;
        }
        printWinner();
    }

}

class Monopoly extends Game { ... }
class Chess extends Game { ... }
Summary

• A design pattern is a known solution to a known problem.
  • Creational, structural, behavioral

• If your design or implementation has a problem, then (and only then) consider design patterns that address that problem.