

to use a customized parser for its source code. For example, a client can define a class `SQLParser` to analyze the source code of a class with embedded SQL statements. The Behavior class implements `parserClass` to return the standard `Smalltalk Parser` class. A class that includes embedded SQL statements overrides this method (as a class method) and returns the `SQLParser` class.

The Orbix ORB system from IONA Technologies [ION94] uses `Factory Method` to generate an appropriate type of proxy (see Proxy (207)) when an object requests a reference to a remote object. `Factory Method` makes it easy to replace the default proxy with one that uses client-side caching, for example.

Related Patterns

`Abstract Factory` (87) is often implemented with factory methods. The Motivation example in the `Abstract Factory` pattern illustrates `Factory Method` as well.

Factory methods are usually called within `Template Methods` (325). In the document example above, `NewDocument` is a template method.

Prototypes (117) don't require subclassing `Creator`. However, they often require an initialize operation on the `Product` class. `Creator` uses `Initialize` to initialize the object. `Factory Method` doesn't require such an operation.