Retiring the Singleton Pattern

Concrete suggestions for what to use instead

Engineering

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Questions

#include <slide_numbers>

What's currently out there

Google: The Clean Code Talks - "Global State and Singletons"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FRm3VPhsel

Stack Overflow: What is so bad about Singletons?

"The worst part of this whole topic is that the people who hate singletons

rarely give concrete suggestions for what to use instead."

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/137975/what-is-so-bad-about-singletons

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Talk outline

- 1. Examine the Singleton Pattern
- 2. Refactoring out the Singleton in an example function
 - Ensuring the callers of that function do not need to modify code
- 3. Dealing with non-copyable types
- 4. Dealing with delayed construction
- 5. Dealing with phased introduction of the replacement pattern
- 6. Dealing with initialization order of interdependent Singletons
- 7. Dealing with groups of Singleton dependencies
- 8. Stateful groupings of dependencies
- 9. Review of covered topics & Questions

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Classic Singleton

```
class Singleton
public:
  static Singleton* instance()
    static Singleton* instance = NULL;
    if(!instance )
      instance = new Singleton();
    return instance ;
  void func(...);
private:
  Singleton();
  Singleton (const Singleton &);
  void operator=(const Singleton&);
};
// Somewhere else.cpp
Singleton::instance() ->func(...);
```

Notable Characteristics

- Single Global instance of a <u>Type</u>
- Is globally accessible
- Holds a Global state that's mutable and tied to program lifetime
- Initialization is out of your control (private constructor, assignment)

Classic Singleton

```
class Singleton
public:
  static Singleton* instance()
    static Singleton* instance = NULL;
    if(!instance )
      instance = new Singleton();
    return instance ;
  void func(...);
  static void init(...);
private:
  Singleton();
  Singleton (const Singleton &);
  void operator=(const Singleton&);
};
// Somewhere else.cpp
Singleton::instance() ->func(...);
```

Notable Characteristics

- Single Global instance of a <u>Type</u>
- Is globally accessible
- Holds a Global state that's mutable and tied to program lifetime
- Initialization is out of your control (private constructor, assignment)

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Drawbacks of a Singleton

- Acts as hidden dependencies in functions that use it
- No dependency injection for testing
- Initialization is out of your control
- Multiple runs can yield different results
- Usually in groups and may need initialization calls in a particular order to setup other singletons it depends on
- State is tied to program lifetime frequently function calls in a particular order are necessary

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Reasons given for using a Singleton anyway

- Passing parameters up & down long function call chains can be daunting so it's easier to have a global grab bag
- Other user groups using a long established API in legacy codebase are unwilling to change their function calls
- Efficiency, I only create one of them and reuse it

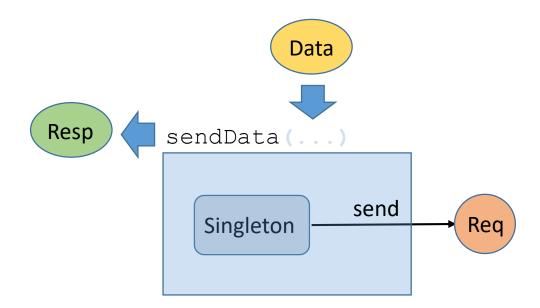
The point of a Singleton should <u>not</u> be to grant global access to a value, but to control the instantiation of a type

However it's frequently used for easy access

Singleton or Not?

```
#include; rios>
                     #include <streamb
#include <istream>
#include <ostream>
#include <ostream>
#include <ostream>
#include <ostream>
#include <ostream>
// in my limits.h
extern int ThrottleLimit;
int getThreadLimit();
                                                                 extern ostream cout;
// in my limits.cpp
                                                                 extern ostream cerr;
int ThrottleLimit = 100s
int getThreadLimit()
                                                                 extern ostream clog;
                                                                 extern wistream wcin;
                                                                 extern wostream wcout;
{ static int y 21 figureLimit(); return y;}
                                                                 extern wostream wcerr;
                                                                 extern wostream wclog;
```

```
// Original Code with singleton in processor.cpp
Response sendData(const Data& data)
{
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // .....
    return CommSingleton::instance()->send(req);
}
```



```
// Original Code with singleton in processor.cpp
Response sendData(const Data& data)
{
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // .....
    return CommSingleton::instance()->send(req);
}
```

Minimum requirements to remove the hidden Singleton call

- New function <u>must</u> be at least source compatible
- Express the involvement of outside agencies
- Allow dependency injection for testing purposes

Minimum requirements to remove the hidden Singleton call

- New function <u>must</u> be source compatible ✓
- Express the involvement of an outside agency ✓
- Allow dependency injection for testing purposes *

```
// New wrapper class to replace singleton - CommWrapper.h
class CommWrapper
    enum { SERVICE ID = 249409 };
public :
    CommWrapper(int service id = SERVICE ID);
    Response send (const Request& req);
private:
    TcpClient raw client;
};
struct Service {
    static CommWrapper comm ;
};
```

```
// in processor.h
Response sendData(const Data& data, CommWrapper& comms=Service::comm)
// Completed transformation of original function with backwards compatible
non-singleton version
// in processor.cpp
Response sendData (const Data & data, CommWrapper & comms)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // . . . . . .
    return comms.send(req);
```

Can we now test via dependency injection? *

```
// New wrapper class to replace singleton CommWrapper.h
class CommWrapper
{
    enum { SERVICE_ID = 249409 };

public :
    CommWrapper(int service_id = SERVICE_ID);
    Response send(const Request& req);

private:
    TcpClient raw_client;
};
```

```
// New wrapper class to replace singleton CommWrapper.h
class CommWrapper
{
    enum { SERVICE_ID = 249409 };

public :
    CommWrapper(int service_id = SERVICE_ID):raw_client(service_id){...};
    virtual Response send(const Request& req);

private:
    TcpClient raw_client;
};
```

```
// in processor.h
Response sendData(const Data& data, CommWrapper& comms=Service::comm )
// Completed transformation of original function with backwards compatible
non-singleton version
// in processor.cpp
Response sendData (const Data data, CommWrapper comms)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // ....
    return comms.send(req);
```

Can we now test via dependency injection? ✓

```
class CommTester : public CommWrapper
    public:
    CommTester(Request& req) : req (req){}
    Response send(const Request& req) {req = req; return Response();}
   Request& req ;
};
int TestSendData()
    Data rec;
    rec.id = 999;
    // Fill in more rec values ...
    Request req;
    CommTester a client(req);
    sendData(rec, a client);
    if(req.senderId != rec.id)
        std::cout << "Error ..." << std::endl;</pre>
    // Further validation of rec values ...
```

```
class MockClient : public CommWrapper
   public:
    MOCK METHOD1 (send, Response (const Request&));
};
TEST (XTest, sendData)
   MockClient a client;
    Response resp;
    Request req;
    EXPECT CALL(a client, send()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&req),
                  return (resp)));
    Data rec;
    rec.id = 999;
    // Fill in more rec values ....
    sendData(rec, a client);
    ASSERT EQ(req.senderId , rec.id);
    // Further validation of rec values ...
```

```
// in processor.h
using comms func = std::function < Response (Request) >;
Response sendData(const Data& data, comms func comms=Service::comm)
// in processor.cpp
Response sendData (const Data data, comms func comms)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // ...
    return comms(std::move(req));
```

Possible Problem - A copy has been introduced

```
// in processor.h
using comms func = std::function<Response(Request)>;
Response sendData(const Data& data, comms func comms = std::ref(Service::comm)
// in processor.cpp
Response sendData (const Data data, comms func comms)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    return comms(std::move(req));
```

```
// New wrapper class to replace singleton CommWrapper.h
class CommWrapper
    enum { SERVICE ID = 249409 };
public:
    CommWrapper(int service id = SERVICE ID):raw client(service id) {...};
    Response operator() (Request req);
private:
    TcpClient raw client;
};
struct Service {
    static CommWrapper comm ;
};
```

```
struct MockClient
    MOCK METHOD1 (send, Response (Request));
    Response operator() (Request req) { return send(std::move(req)); }
};
TEST (XTest, sendData)
   MockClient a client;
    Data rec;
    rec.id = 999;
    // Fill in more rec values ....
    Response resp;
    Request req;
    EXPECT CALL(a client, send()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&req),
                  Return(resp)));
    sendData(rec, std::ref(a client));
    ASSERT EQ(req.senderId , rec.id);
    // Further validation of rec values ...
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```

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```
// in processor.h
using comms func = std::function<Response(Request)>;
Response sendData(const Data& data, comms func comms = std::ref(Service::comm);
// in processor.cpp
Response sendData (const Data data, comms func comms)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // ...
    return comms(std::move(req));
```

Modern C++ - Better performance

```
class CommWrapperImpl
public:
    CommWrapperImpl();
    Response operator() (const Request& req);
};
using comms func = std::function<Response(Request)>;
class CommWrapper
public:
    CommWrapper(comms func sender):sender(std::move(sender)){};
    Response operator()(const Request& req) { return sender(req); };
private:
    comms func sender;
};
struct AutoClient {
    static CommWrapper comm (CommWrapperImpl());
};
                                    Bloomberg
```

Modern C++ - Better performance

```
Response sendData(const Data& data, CommWrapper& comms = Service::comm_)

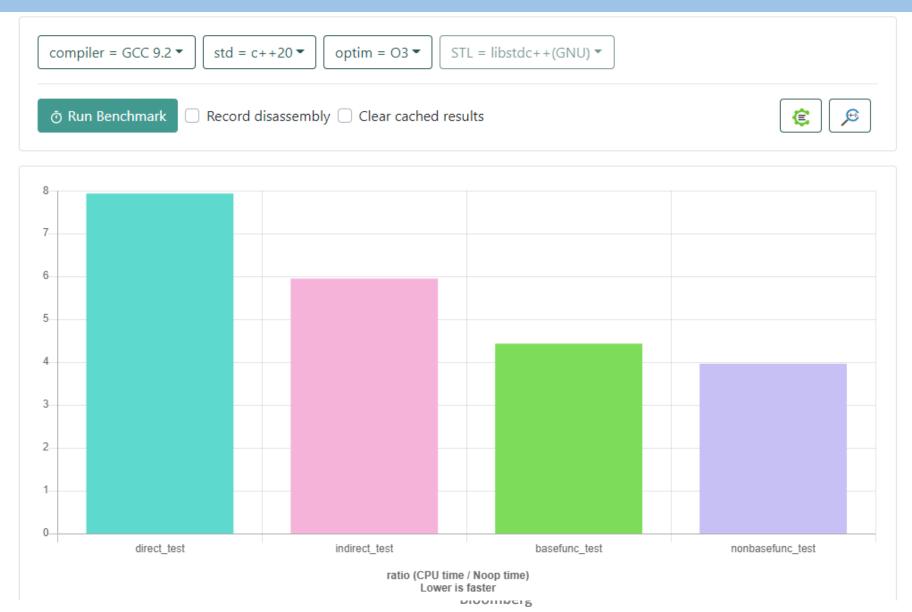
// in processor.cpp
Response sendData(const Data& data, comms_func comms)
{
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // ...
    return comms(std::move(req));
}
```

Method Performance(noipa, -O1)



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Method Performance(noipa, -O3)



Preserving The Application Binary Interface (ABI)

```
// in processor.h
Response sendData(const Data& data, CommWrapper& comms=Service::comm_)

// Completed transformation of original function with backwards compatible
// non-singleton version in processor.cpp
Response sendData(const Data& data, CommWrapper& comms)
{
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // ....
    return comms.send(req);
}
```

- So far, new function is source compatible via unchanged API
 - requires recompile of application
- Shipping shared libraries, requires function signatures to be stable

Preserving The Application Binary Interface (ABI)

```
New overload that replaces singleton
Response sendData(const Data& data, CommWrapper& comms)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // ....
    return comms.send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData(const Data& data)
    return sendData(data, Service::comm );
```

```
// Holds default wrapper class to replace singleton.
struct Service {
    static CommWrapper comm_;
};
```

Potential problem: Default instance is created before main runs.

- There may be static dependencies across TUs
- Some setup initialization may occur prior to this code being usable
 Need to delay creation of default instance post main() start preferably using lazy initialization

Lazy Initialization – pre C++11

```
// CommWrapper.cpp

static CommWrapper* comm_ = NULL;

// Lazy Initialization
CommWrapper& getDefaultComms()
{
        COMPILER_DO_ONCE {
            comm_ = new CommWrapper(arg1, arg2, ...);
        }
        return *comm_;
}
```

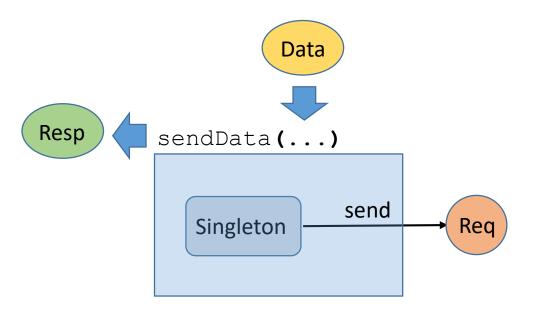
Lazy Initialization – Modern C++

```
// comm wrapper.h
CommWrapper& getDefaultComms();
// comm wrapper.cpp
struct Service {
    CommWrapper comm ;
};
// Lazy Initialization
CommWrapper& getDefaultComms() {
    static Service client;
    return client.comm ;
```

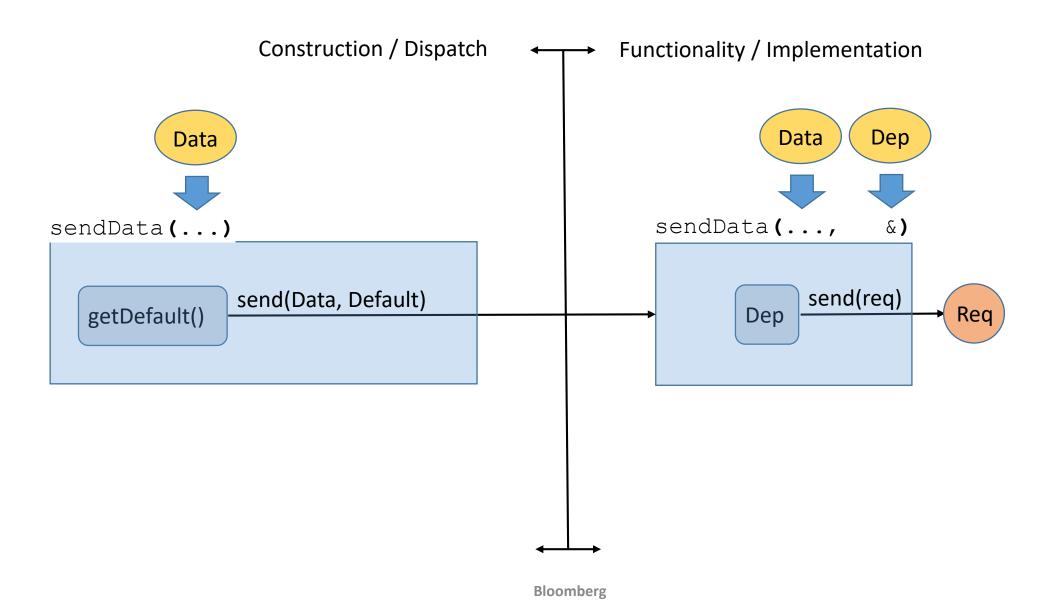
Lazy Initialization

```
// New overload that replaces singleton
Response sendData(const Data& data, CommWrapper& comms)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
   // ....
    return comms.send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData(const Data& data)
    return sendData(data, getDefaultComms());
```

Separation of Concerns



Separation of Concerns



```
// New overload that replaces
                                     // Other Code with singleton use
// singleton
                                     Response sendXData(const XData& data)
Response sendData (const Data & data,
                CommWrapper& comms)
                                         Request req;
                                         // Tranform XData into Request
   Request req;
                                         // . . . . .
    // Tranform Data into Request
                                         return CommSingleton::
                                                   instance()->send(req);
    return comms.send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData(const Data& data)
  return sendData(data,
           getDefaultComms());
```

```
class CommSingleton
public:
  static CommSingleton* instance()
    COMPILER DO ONCE {
      static CommSingleton* instance = new CommSingleton();
    return instance ;
  Response send (const Request& req);
private:
  CommSingleton();
  CommSingleton (const CommSingleton &);
  void operator=(const CommSingleton&);
};
// elsewhere
CommSingleton::instance()->send(req);
```

```
class CommSingleton
public:
  static CommWrapper* instance()
    return & (getDefaultComms());
private:
  CommSingleton();
  CommSingleton (const CommSingleton &);
  void operator=(const CommSingleton&);
};
// elsewhere
CommSingleton::instance()->send(req);
```

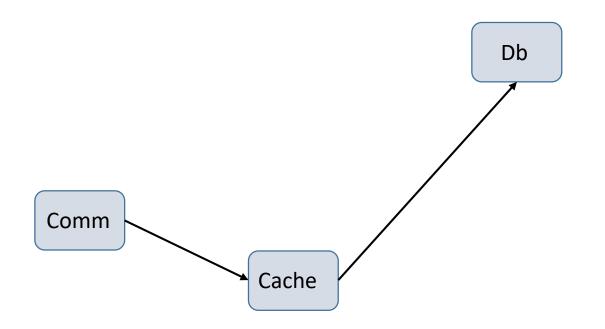
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```
// New overload that replaces
singleton
Response sendData(const Data&
data, CommWrapper& comms)
   Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    return comms.send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData(const Data&
data)
  return sendData(data,
          getDefaultComms());
```

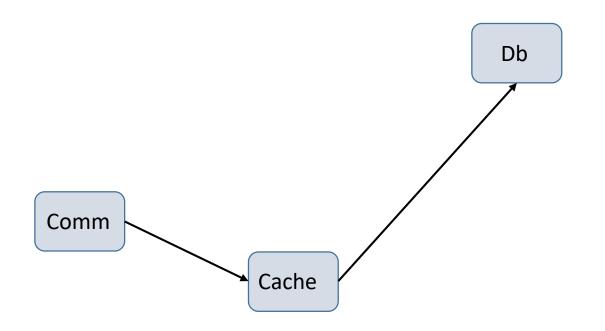
```
// Other Code with singleton use
Response sendXData(const XData& data)
{
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // .....
    return CommSingleton::
        instance()->send(req);
}
```

Questions

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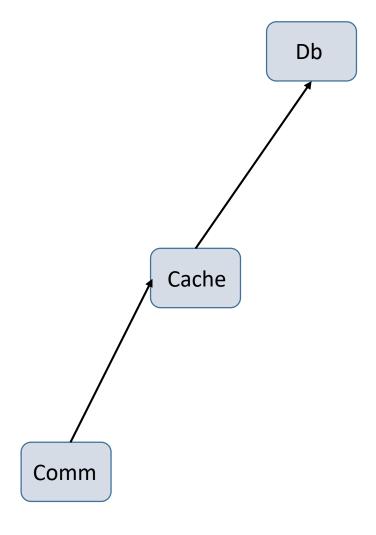
```
int main(int argc, char* argv[])
{
    ...
    Comm::init();
    Cache::init();
    Db::init();
    ...
}
```



```
int main(int argc, char* argv[])
{
    ...
    Db::init(); // Correct
    Cache::init();
    Comm::init();
    ...
}
```

```
class CacheWrapper {
public:
    CacheWrapper(DataBaseWrapper& db):db (db) {...}
    virtual int save(const Request& req);
private:
    DataBaseWrapper& db ;
};
class CommWrapper {
public:
    CommWrapper(CacheWrapper& cache):cache (cache) { . . . };
    virtual Response send(const Request& req);
private:
    CacheWrapper& cache ;
};
```

```
DataBaseWrapper& getDefaultDb()
    static DataBaseWrapper db;
    return db;
CacheWrapper& getDefaultCache()
    static CacheWrapper cache(getDefaultDb());
    return cache;
CommWrapper& getDefaultComms()
    static CommWrapper comms(getDefaultCache());
    return comms;
```



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```
struct MockDbClient : public DataBaseWrapper
   MOCK METHOD1 (save, Response (const Request&));
};
struct MockCacheClient : public CacheWrapper
   MockCacheClient(MockDbClient& mdb):CacheWrapper(mdb){}
   MOCK METHOD1 (save, Response (const Request&));
};
struct MockCommClient : public CommWrapper
   MockCommClient(MockCacheClient& mch):CommWrapper(mch) {}
   MOCK METHOD1 (send, Response (const Request&));
};
```

```
TEST (XTest, sendData)
   MockDbClient db client;
    MockCacheClient cache client(db client);
    MockCommClient comm client(cache client);
    Data rec;
    rec.id = 999;
    //....
    Response resp;
    Request db req, cache req, comm req;
    EXPECT CALL(db client, save()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&db req),
                  Return(resp)));
    EXPECT CALL(cache client, save()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&cache req),
                  Return(resp)));
    EXPECT CALL(comm client, send()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&comm req),
                  Return(resp)));
    sendData(rec, comm client);
    ASSERT EQ(comm req.senderId , rec.id);
    //Further validation of various req values;
                                                                           48
                                    Bloomberg
```

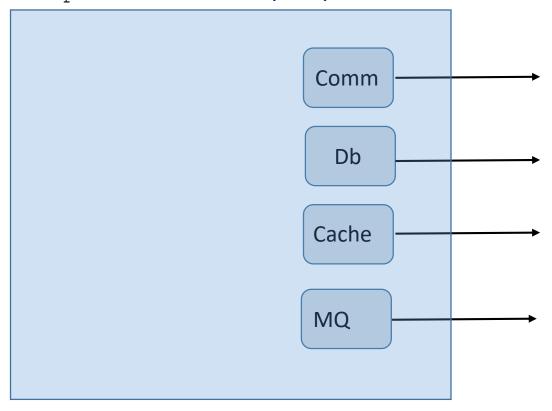
Grouping Dependencies

In Reality, Singletons run in groups

- There may be multiple singletons embedded in a large legacy function
- How to pass in a group of dependencies
 - Without a lot of boilerplate
 - Be natural looking

Multiple Dependencies

Response sendData(...)



Brute force

```
// New overload that replaces singleton
Response sendData (const Data & data, CommWrapper & comms, MqWrapper & mq,
CacheWrapper& cache, DbWrapper& db)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into various data structures
    // ...
    db.save(db data);
    cache.save(cache struct);
    mq.send(req);
    return comms.send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData(const Data& data)
   // Inject defaults here
   return sendData(data, getDefaultComms(), getDefaultMq(),
getDefaultCache(), getDefaultDb());
                                   Bloomberg
```

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Grouping Dependencies

```
// Groups Dependencies
struct Service {
    CommWrapper comms ;
    DataBaseWrapper db ;
    CacheWrapper cache ;
   MqWrapper mq ;
};
// Lazy Initialization
Service& getDefaultServices() {
    static Service services;
    return services;
```

Grouping Dependencies

```
// Refactored function that replaces singleton
Response sendData(const Data& data, Service& services)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // . . .
    services.db .save(req);
    services.cache .save(req);
    services.mq .send(req);
    services.comms .send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData (const Data & data)
    // Inject default here
    return sendData(data, getDefaultServices());
```

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```
#include "MockService.t.h"
// Refactored function that replaces singleton
template< typename SERVICE >
Response sendData(const Data& data, SERVICE& services)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // . . .
    services.db .save(req);
    services.cache .save(req);
    services.mq .send(req);
    return services.comms .send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData(const Data& data)
    // Inject default here
    return sendData(data, getDefaultServices());
template Response sendData < MockService > (const Data & data, MockService &
services);
```

```
// Service.h : Groups Dependencies
struct Service
    Service (CommWrapper& comms, DataBaseWrapper& db,
      CacheWrapper& cache, MqWrapper& mq)
      : comms (comms), db (db), cache (cache), mq_(mq) {};
    CommWrapper € comms ;
    DataBaseWrapper& db;
    CacheWrapper& cache ;
    MqWrapper& mq ;
};
// Service.cpp : Lazy Initialization
Service & getDefaultServices ()
    static CommWrapper comms;
    static DataBaseWrapper db;
    static CacheWrapper cache;
    static MqWrapper mq;
    static Service services (comms, db, cache, mq);
    return services;
};
```

```
// Refactored function that replaces singleton
Response sendData(const Data& data, Service& services)
    Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // . . .
    services.db .save(req);
    services.cache .save(req);
    services.mq .send(req);
    return services.comms .send(req);
// keep original signature
Response sendData(const Data& data)
    // Inject default here
    return sendData(data, getDefaultServices());
```

```
struct MockCommClient : public CommWrapper
   MOCK METHOD1 (send, Response (const Request&));
};
struct MockDbClient : public DatabaseWrapper
   MOCK METHOD1 (save, int (const Request&));
};
struct MockCacheClient : public CacheWrapper
   MOCK METHOD1 (save, int (const Request&));
};
struct MockMqClient : public MqWrapper
   MOCK METHOD1 (send, int (const Request&));
};
```

```
TEST (XTest, sendData)
    // Setup
   MockCommClient comms;
   MockDbClient db:
   MockMqClient mq;
   MockCacheClient cache;
    Service services (comms, db, cache, mq);
    Request comm upd;
    Request cache upd;
    Request db upd;
    Request mq upd;
    EXPECT CALL (comms, send()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&comm upd), Return(resp)));
    EXPECT CALL(mq, send()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&mq upd), Return(1)));
    EXPECT CALL(db, save()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&db upd), Return(1)));
    EXPECT CALL(cache, save()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&cache upd), Return(1)));
```

```
TEST(XTest, sendData)
    // Previous Mock Setup
    // Input Data Setup
    Data rec;
    rec.id = 999;
    // ....
    sendData(rec, services);
    ASSERT EQ(comm upd.senderId , rec.id);
    ASSERT EQ(cache upd.senderId , rec.id);
    ASSERT_EQ(db_upd.senderId , rec.id);
    ASSERT_EQ(mq_upd.senderId , rec.id);
    // ...
```

```
using CallFunc=std::function<int(Request)>;
// Groups Dependencies
struct Service
    CallFunc comms ;
    CallFunc db ;
    CallFunc cache ;
    CallFunc mq ;
};
// Lazy Initialization
Service & getDefaultServices ()
    static CommWrapper comms;
    static DatabaseWrapper db;
    static CacheWrapper cache;
    static MqWrapper mq;
    static Service services{std::ref(comms), std::ref(db),
                                std::ref(cache), std::ref(mq)};
    return services;
```

```
// Refactored function that replaces singleton
int sendData(const Data& data, Service& services)
   Request req;
    // Transform Data into Request
    // ...
    services.db_(req);
    services.cache_(req);
    services.mq (req);
    return services.comms (req);
// keep original signature
int sendData(const Data& data)
    // Inject default here
    return sendData(data, getDefaultServices());
```

```
class SendProcessor {
public:
  // Refactored implementation functions that removes singleton
 Response sendData(const Data& data, AutoClient& services);
 Response sendXData(const XData& xdata, AutoClient& services);
  // Dispatch functions
 Response sendData(const Data& data);
 Response sendXData(const XData& xdata);
};
```

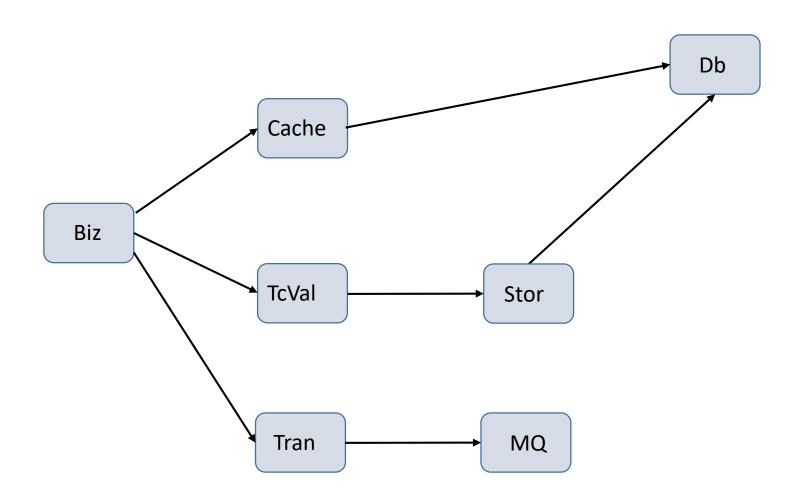
```
class SendProcessor {
public:
  SendProcessor(AutoClient& services): services (services) {...} // Move to cpp
  SendProcessor() : SendProcessor(getDefaultServices()) { ... } // Move to cpp
  // Refactored functions that replaces singleton
 Response sendData(const Data& data, AutoClient& services);
  Response sendXData(const XData& xdata, AutoClient& services);
  . . .
  // Dispatch functions
 Response sendData(const Data& data);
 Response sendXData(const XData& xdata);
private:
   AutoClient& services ;
};
```

```
class SendProcessor {
public:
  SendProcessor (AutoClient& services) : services (services); // Move to cpp
  SendProcessor() : SendProcessor(getDefaultServices()); // Move to cpp
  // Refactored functions with internal dispatch
 Response sendData(const Data& data);
 Response sendXData(const XData& xdata);
  . . .
private:
   AutoClient& services;
};
```

```
TEST (XTest, sendData)
    // Setup
    MockCommClient comms;
    MockDbClient db;
    MockMqClient mq;
    MockCacheClient cache;
    Service services (comms, db, cache, mq);
    Request comm upd;
    Request cache upd;
    Request db upd;
    Request mq upd;
    Response resp;
    EXPECT CALL (comms, send()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&comm upd), Return(resp)));
    EXPECT CALL(mq, send()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&mq upd), Return(1)));
    EXPECT CALL(db, save()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&db upd), Return(1)));
    EXPECT CALL(cache, save()).WillOnce(DoAll(SaveArg<0>(&cache upd), Return(1)));
    . . .
```

```
TEST (XTest, sendData)
    // Previous Mock Setup
    // Input Data Setup
    Data rec;
    rec.id = 999;
    // . . .
    Processor processor (services);
    processor.sendData(rec);
    ASSERT EQ(comm upd.senderId , rec.id);
    ASSERT EQ(cache upd.senderId , rec.id);
    ASSERT EQ(db upd.senderId , rec.id);
    ASSERT EQ (mq upd.senderId , rec.id);
    // . . . .
    processor.sendXData(rec2);
    ASSERT EQ(comm upd.senderId , rec2.id);
```

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Review

Replacing Singletons while ...

- Keeping API Source compatible
- Keeping ABI compatible
- Avoiding Copies for classes with deleted/private copy constructor
- Delayed Initialization of resources, if necessary
- Phased Introduction for replacing singleton calls
- Initialization order of interdependent singletons
- Grouping Multiple Singleton dependencies together
- Stateful grouping of dependencies
- * With Testable code

How has it worked out? / What's been the uptake?

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Questions?