

Core C++ 2025

19 Oct. 2025 :: Tel-Aviv

The Effects of C++ Evolution on Design Patterns

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Who am I

- ▶ Enjoying coding in C++ for three decades
- ▶ Software Security Professional
- ▶ Co-author and instructor of several Modern C++ trainings
- ▶ Member of Israel National body for C++ standard



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Agenda

- ▶ What are Design Patterns?
- ▶ What is Modern C++?
- ▶ The patterns themselves





Legend

`int i = 5;`

Regular "not that interesting" source code

`using data_t = std::vector<int>;`

Source code actually worth looking at ☺

`int *a = nullptr;`

Feature in subject

Design Patterns



What are Design Patterns?

- ▶ “Design pattern is a general, reusable solution to a commonly occurring problem in many contexts in software design”

— Andrei Alexandrescu

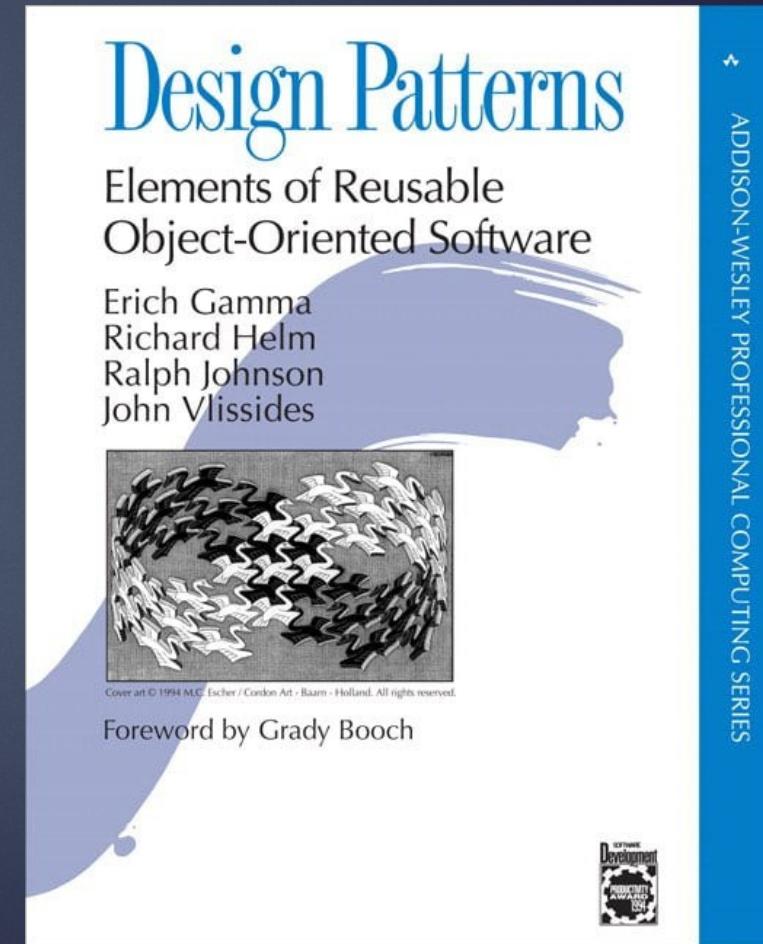
- ▶ “The design patterns are descriptions of communicating **objects** and **classes** that are customized to solve a general design problem in a particular context.”

— Gang of Four



Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software (GoF)

- ▶ Published in 1994
- ▶ Strong Object-Oriented Design
- ▶ 23 classic software design patterns
- ▶ C++ code examples



Modern C++



What is Modern C++?

- ▶ “C++11 feels like a new language...”
— Bjarne Stroustrup
- ▶ “Modern C++ stands for C++, which is based on C++11, C++14, and C++17.”
- ▶ “With C++11, we had a revolution. That revolution began with C++14 and became with C++17 to an evolution.”
— the late Rainer Grimm



The patterns themselves



The patterns themselves

- ▶ Patterns from GoF Book
- ▶ Eclectic list, ordered by “popularity”
- ▶ Code samples showing Modern C++ implementations





Abstract Base Class (1)

```
struct Abc {  
    virtual ~Abc() = default;  
    virtual void f() = 0;  
    virtual void g() = 0;  
};  
  
struct Def : public Abc { // Default implementation class  
    void f() override { std::cout << "Def::f\n"; }  
    void g() override { std::cout << "Def::g\n"; }  
protected:  
    Def() = default; // prevents direct construction  
};
```



Abstract Base Class (2)

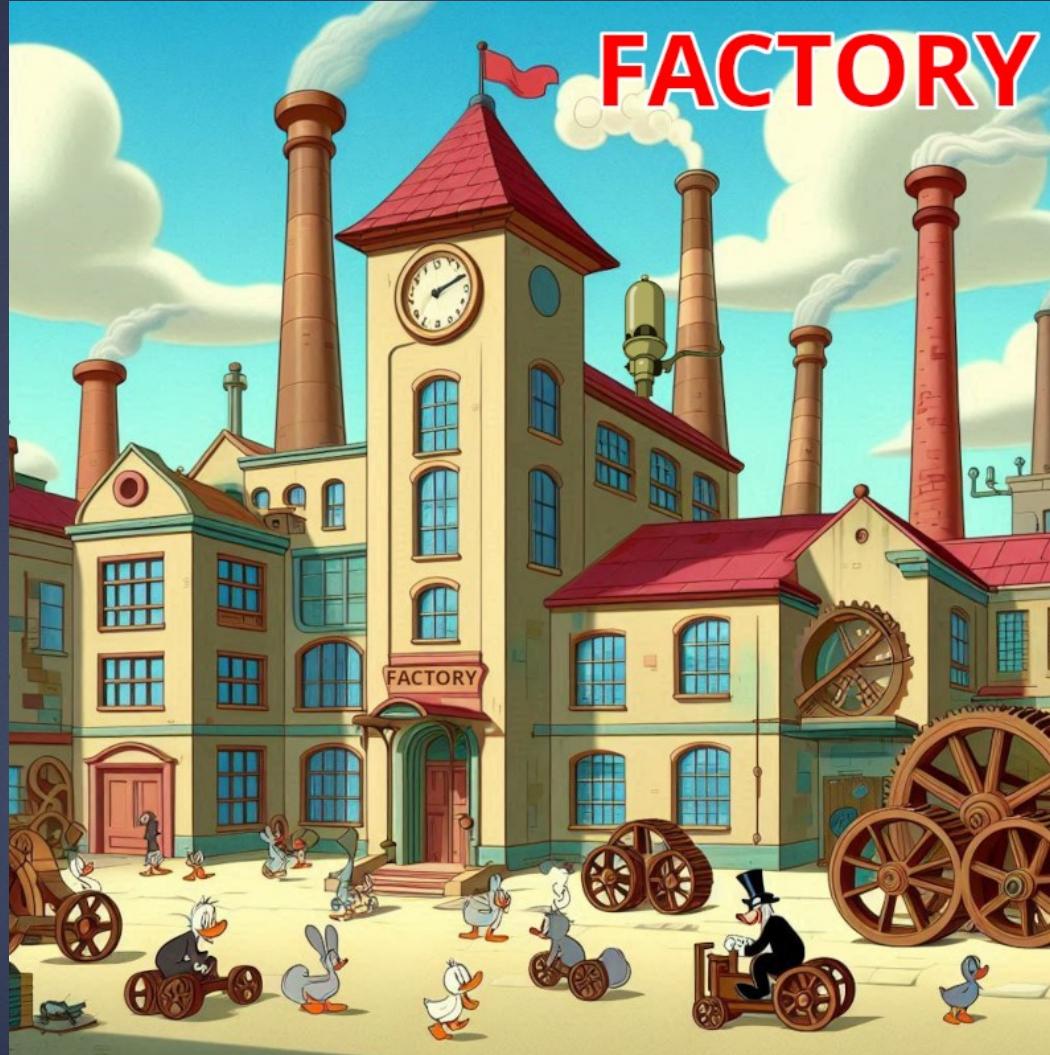
```
struct G1 : public Def {  
    void g() override { std::cout << "g1::g\n";}  
};  
struct G2 : public Def {...};  
struct G3 : public Def {...};  
int main() {  
    using namespace std;  
    unique_ptr<Abc> g1 = make_unique<G1>(); g1->f(); g1->g();  
    unique_ptr<Abc> g2 = make_unique<G2>(); g2->f(); g2->g();  
    unique_ptr<Abc> g3 = make_unique<G3>(); g3->f(); g3->g();  
    // Def badDef1; // error: ‘constexpr Def::Def()’ is protected within this context  
    // unique_ptr<Abc> badDef2 = make_unique<Def>(); // error: ‘constexpr Def::Def()’  
                                            // is protected within this context  
    // unique_ptr<Abc> badG1 = g1; // error: use of deleted function ‘std::unique_ptr<_Tp,  
                                // _Dp>::unique_ptr(const std::unique_ptr<_Tp, _Dp>&)’  
    return 0;  
}
```



Abstract Base Class — Takeaways

1. `override` specifier – ensures correct overriding of virtual functions.
2. `= default` for special member functions
3. `std::unique_ptr` – smart pointer for unique ownership and `std::make_unique` concise smart pointer creation
4. Movable (Non-copyable) objects





Factory

- ▶ “Creational Pattern” deals with object creation in a well-defined way
- ▶ Provide an interface for creating objects without specifying their concrete classes



Factory (1)

```
enum class AnimalSpecies { GenericAnimal, Dog, Cat, Rooster };

class Animal {
public:
    virtual ~Animal() = default;
    virtual void make_sound() const = 0;
    virtual void move() const = 0;
    virtual std::string get_name() const = 0;
};

class GenericAnimal : public Animal {
public:
    void make_sound() const override { std::cout << "a sound" << "\n"; }
    void move() const override { std::cout << "moves" << "\n"; };
    std::string get_name() const override { return "Animal"; };
};
```



Factory (2)

```
class Dog : public Animal {  
public:  
    void make_sound() const override { std::cout << "woof" << "\n"; }  
    void move() const override { std::cout << "walks" << "\n"; }  
    std::string get_name() const override { return "Dog"; };  
};  
  
class Cat : public Animal {...};  
  
class Rooster : public Animal {...};  
};
```



Factory (3)

```
class AnimalFactory
{
    using Creator = std::function<std::unique_ptr<Animal>()>;
    using Creators = std::unordered_map<AnimalSpecies, Creator>;
private:
    AnimalFactory() = default;
public:
    static std::unique_ptr<Animal> create_animal(AnimalSpecies animalSpecies) {
        static Creators creators = {
            {AnimalSpecies::Dog, []() {return std::make_unique<Dog>();} },
            {AnimalSpecies::Cat, []() {return std::make_unique<Cat>();} },
            {AnimalSpecies::Rooster, []() {return std::make_unique<Rooster>();} },
            {AnimalSpecies::GenericAnimal, []() {return std::make_unique<GenericAnimal>();} }
        };
        auto creator = creators.find(animalSpecies);
        if (creator == std::end(creators)) { // not found
            return std::make_unique<GenericAnimal>();
        }
        return creator->second();
    }
};
```



Factory (4)

```
int main() {
    std::vector<std::unique_ptr<Animal>> animals;
    animals.emplace_back(AnimalFactory::create_animal(AnimalSpecies::Dog));
    animals.emplace_back(AnimalFactory::create_animal(AnimalSpecies::Rooster));
    animals.emplace_back(AnimalFactory::create_animal(AnimalSpecies::Cat));
    animals.emplace_back(AnimalFactory::create_animal(AnimalSpecies::GenericAnimal));
    for (const auto& animal : animals) {
        std::cout << "The " << animal->get_name() << " says ";
        animal->make_sound();
        std::cout << "The " << animal->get_name() << ' ';
        animal->move();
    }
    return 0;
}
```



Factory — Takeaways

1. Use `auto` improves readability, maintainability, and type safety.
2. Use `std::function` and `std::unordered_map` to store the creators instead of `switch/if` chains
3. `using` Alias template instead of `typedef` to improve readability
4. `emplace_back` in place appending to `vector`
5. Range-based for-loops improved readability, safety, flexibility and efficiency
6. `enum class` enumerations for type safety and readability





SINGLETON



Singleton

- ▶ “Creational Pattern” deals with object creation in a well-defined way
- ▶ Ensure a class only has one instance, and provide a global point of access to it
- ▶ The most controversial Design Pattern — Seen by some as “anti-pattern”



Singleton (1)

```
class Singleton {  
public:  
    static Singleton& instance() {  
        static Singleton singleton;  
        return singleton;  
    }  
    std::string get_db_Connection() const { return db_connection_; }  
private:  
    Singleton() : db_connection_{"server=theserver;user=me"} {};  
    ~Singleton() = default;  
    std::string db_connection_;  
};  
void use_singleton(const std::string& name) {  
    const auto& connection = Singleton::instance().get_db_Connection();  
    std::cout << "singleton in use by " << name << " connection is " << connection  
          << "object " << &connection << std::endl;  
    std::this_thread::sleep_for(std::chrono::milliseconds(100)); // simulate some work  
}
```



Singleton (2)

```
int main() {
{
    std::thread thread1{&use_singleton, "thread1"};
    std::cout << "thread1 created " << thread1.get_id() << " " << std::endl;
    thread1.detach();
}
{
    std::thread thread2{&use_singleton, "thread2"};
    std::cout << "thread2 created " << thread2.get_id() << std::endl;
    thread2.detach();
}
using namespace std::chrono_literals;
std::this_thread::sleep_for(2s); // give some time to thread's work
std::cout << "Leaving main()" << std::endl;
}
```



Singleton — Takeaways

1. Use `static` function variable instead of raw pointers
(Meyers Singleton)
2. Threads and thread safety — Threads didn't exist in the language
3. `chrono` time units and time literals



Templated Singleton (1)

```
Template<class T>
class Singleton {
public:
    static T& instance() {
        static T singleton{};
        return singleton;
    }
    // Singleton would not be copyable or movable
    Singleton(const Singleton&) = delete;
    Singleton& operator=(const Singleton&) = delete;
    Singleton(Singleton&&) noexcept = delete;
    Singleton& operator=(Singleton&&) noexcept = delete;
protected:
    Singleton() = default;
    virtual ~Singleton() = default;
};
```





Templated Singleton (2)

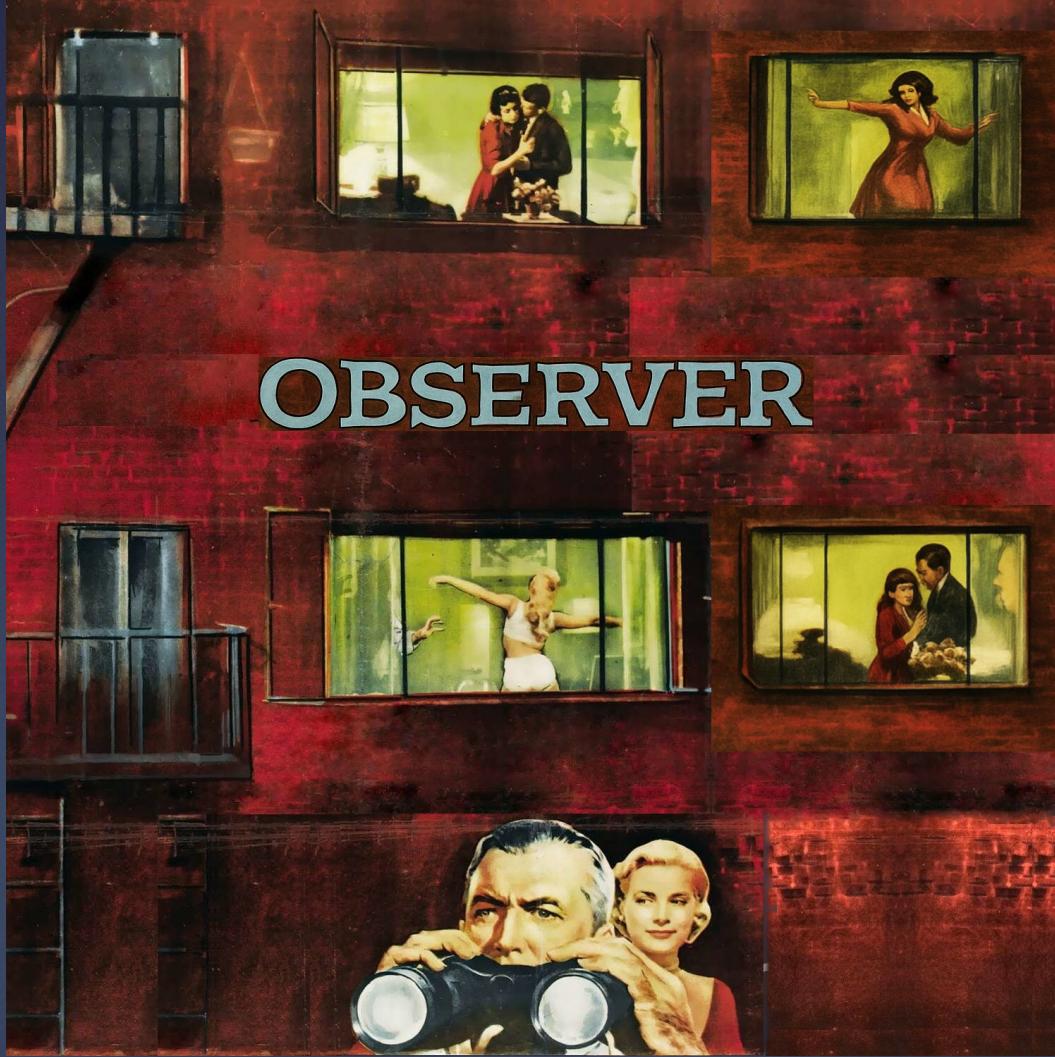
```
class A : public Singleton<A> {
public:
    friend class Singleton<A>;
    std::string getA() const { return a_resource_; }
    void doA(const std::string& name) const {
        std::cout << (std::stringstream{} << "singleton A in use by thread " << name
                     << " the resource is " << getA()).str() << std::endl;
        std::this_thread::sleep_for(std::chrono::milliseconds(100)); // simulate some work
    }
protected:
    A() = default; // call Singleton<A>'s protected default constructor
private:
    std::string a_resource_ = "The only A";
};

class B : public Singleton<B> {...};
void use_singleton(const std::string& name) {
    A::instance().doA(name);
    B::instance().doB(name);
}
int main() {...}
```

Templated Singleton — Takeaways

1. CRTP (static compile-time polymorphism) instead of runtime inheritance
2. Non-Movable objects





Observer

- ▶ “Behavioral Pattern” identify common communication patterns among objects
- ▶ Define a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object changes state, all its dependents are notified and updated automatically



Observer (1)

```
class Observer {  
public:  
    virtual ~Observer() = default;  
    virtual void update(const Subject& subject) = 0;  
};  
class Subject {  
public:  
    virtual ~Subject() = default;  
    // The subscription management functions.  
    virtual void attach(Observer& observer) = 0;  
    virtual bool detach(Observer& observer) = 0;  
    virtual void notify() const = 0;  
};
```



Observer (2)

```
class DefaultSubject : public Subject {  
    using ObserverRef = std::reference_wrapper<Observer>;  
public:  
    void attach(Observer& observer) override {  
        observers_.emplace_back(observer);  
    }  
    bool detach(Observer& observer) override {  
        const auto siz = observers_.size();  
        observers_.erase(std::remove_if(begin(observers_), end(observers_),  
            [&observer](const auto& obs) {return &(obs.get()) == &observer;}),  
            end(observers_));  
        return siz - observers_.size() > 0U;  
    }  
    void notify() const override {  
        observers_count();  
        for (const auto& observer : observers_) {observer.get().update(*this);}  
    }  
    void observers_count() const { ... }  
    static int next_seq() { ... }  
private:  
    std::vector<ObserverRef> observers_;  
};
```



Observer (3)

```
class MessageSubject : public DefaultSubject {  
public:  
    void create_message(const std::string& message = "Empty") {  
        message_ = message;  
        notify();  
    }  
    void some_business_logic() {  
        message_ = "changing message to Don't Panic";  
        notify();  
        std::cout << "Subject about to do something\n";  
    }  
    std::string get_message() const {return message_;}  
private:  
    std::string message_;  
};
```



Observer (4)

```
class MessageObserver : public Observer {  
public:  
    explicit MessageObserver(MessageSubject& subject) : subject_{subject}, id_{DefaultSubject::next_seq()} {  
        subject_.attach(*this);  
    }  
    MessageObserver(const MessageObserver&) = delete; // (1)  
    MessageObserver& operator=(const MessageObserver&) = delete; // (2)  
    MessageObserver(MessageObserver&&) noexcept = delete; // (3)  
    MessageObserver& operator=(MessageObserver&&) noexcept = delete; // (4)  
    ~MessageObserver() { // (5)  
        if (subject_.detach(*this)) {std::cout << "MessageObserver '" << id_ << "' detached from the list.\n";}  
        else {std::cout << "MessageObserver '" << id_ << "' was already detached.\n";}  
    }  
    void update(const Subject& subject) override {  
        if (&subject == &subject_) {std::cout << "MessageObserver '" << id_ << "' : a new message is available: '"  
            << subject_.get_message() << "'\n";}  
    }  
private:  
    MessageSubject& subject_;  
    int id_ = 0;  
};
```



Observer (5)

```
int main() {
    auto subject = std::make_unique<MessageSubject>();
    auto observer1 = std::make_unique<MessageObserver>(*subject);
    auto observer2 = std::make_unique<MessageObserver>(*subject);
    subject->create_message("The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, "
                            "The Universe, and Everything is 42");
observer2 = nullptr; // implicit detach
    subject->some_business_logic();
    subject->create_message("How many roads must a man walk down?");
    auto observer3 = std::make_unique<MessageObserver>(*subject);
subject->detach(*observer1); // explicit detach
observer1 = nullptr; // still needs to nullify the pointer
    subject->create_message("What do you get if you multiply 6 by 9?");
    return 0;
}
```



Observer — Takeaways

1. `nullptr` is the NULL pointer, and use assignment to null as destructor invocation for smart pointers
2. `std::reference_wrapper` stores the observers as references in a vector, eliminating raw pointers in attach and detach. references are emplaced.
3. Using erase-remove idiom and lambda expressions for detach
4. `explicit` single-argument constructors
5. Non-Movable class prevents copying or moving
 Invoking ‘Rule of five’
6. Unique pointers implementing RAII



Observer C++17 (1)

```
class Subject {  
    using Callback = std::function<void(int, std::string_view)>;  
    using IdCb = std::pair<int, Callback>;  
private:  
    static int next_seq() { ... }  
    std::vector<IdCb> callbacks_;  
public:  
    int attach(Callback&& cb) {  
        const auto id = next_seq();  
        callbacks_.emplace_back(id, std::move(cb));  
        return id;  
    }  
    bool detach(int id) {  
        using std::cout; // also invoke ADL  
        auto is_registered = [id](const IdCb& id_cb) {return id_cb.first == id;};  
        const auto it = find_if(begin(callbacks_), end(callbacks_), is_registered);  
        if (it == end(callbacks_)) {return false;} // notfound  
        callbacks_.erase(it);  
        cout << "Detached callback " << id << ".\n";  
        return true;  
    }  
    ...
```





Observer C++17 (2)

```
void notify(std::string_view msg) const {
    callbacks_count();
    for (const auto& pair : callbacks_) { // we don't really mind what's
        // the callback name is, as long as it matches the types (Callback type)
        pair.second(pair.first, msg);
    }
}
void callbacks_count() const { ... }
};

class Observer {
public:
    void update(int id, std::string_view msg) {
        std::cout << "Observer " << id
            << "::update() called with msg "<< msg << ".\n";
    }
};
```

Observer C++17 (3)

```
int main() {
    Subject subject;
    Observer obs1; const auto obs1_id = subject.attach(std::bind(
        std::mem_fn(&Observer::update), &obs1, std::placeholders::_1,
        std::placeholders::_2));
    Observer obs2; const auto obs2_id = ... ;
    subject.notify("The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, "
                   "The Universe, and Everything is 42");
    subject.detach(obs2_id);
    subject.notify("How many roads must a man walk down?");
    Observer obs3; [[maybe_unused]] const auto obs3_id = ... ;
    subject.detach(obs1_id);
    subject.notify("What do you get if you multiply 6 by 9?");
    return 0;
}
```



Observer C++17 — Takeaways

19-Oct-2025
The Effects of C++ Evolution on Design Patterns

1. Use `std::function` to store Observers as callbacks (C++11)
2. `std::bind` and `std::mem_fn` are used as callback wrappers instead of concrete observer classes (C++11)
3. ADL (Argument-dependent lookup) makes some expressions clearer (Pre- C++11)
4. Use non-owning `string_view` for notify strings
5. `[[maybe_unused]]` attribute suppress warnings



Observer C++20 (1)

```
class Subject;
class Observer;
class Scheduler;
// Coroutine: Task and Scheduler
// Task represents a coroutine, Promise is coroutine communication channel
struct Task {
    struct promise_type;
    using handle_type = std::coroutine_handle<promise_type>;
    struct promise_type {
        Task get_return_object() {return Task{handle_type::from_promise(*this)};}
        std::suspend_always initial_suspend() { return {}; }
        std::suspend_always final_suspend() noexcept { return {}; }
        void return_void() {}
        void unhandled_exception() {std::terminate();}
    }
```



Observer C++20 (2)

```
Task(handle_type h) : handle(h) {}

~Task() {if (handle) {handle.destroy();}}

// Task is movable, but when moving handle is invalidated

Task(const Task&) = delete;
Task& operator=(const Task&) = delete;
Task(Task&& other) noexcept : handle(other.handle) {
    other.handle = nullptr;
}
Task& operator=(Task&& other) noexcept {
    if (this != &other) { if (handle) { handle.destroy(); }
        handle = other.handle; other.handle = nullptr;
    }
    return *this;
}
handle_type handle;
};
```



Observer C++20 (3)

```
class Scheduler {
public:
    void add_task(Observer* observer, Task&& task) {
        tasks_[observer].emplace_back(std::move(task));
    }
    void resume_tasks_for(Observer* observer) {
        auto it = tasks_.find(observer);
        if (it == tasks_.end()) return;
        resume_tasks(it->second);
    }
    void resume_all() { for (auto& [_, task_list] : tasks_) { resume_tasks(task_list); } }
    bool has_pending_tasks_for(Observer* observer) const {
        if (tasks_.count(observer) > 0U) {
            return std::any_of(cbegin(tasks_.at(observer)), cend(tasks_.at(observer)),
                               [] (const auto& task) { return !task.handle.done(); });
        }
        return false;
    }
    ...
}
```



Observer C++20 (4)

```
bool has_any_pending_tasks() const {
    return std::any_of(std::cbegin(tasks_), std::cend(tasks_),
                      [] (const auto& pair) { return !pair.second.empty(); });
}

private:
    static void resume_tasks(std::vector<Task>& task_list) {
        for (auto& task : task_list) {
            if (task.handle && !task.handle.done()) {
                task.handle.resume();
            }
        }
        std::erase_if(task_list, [] (const Task& task) { return task.handle.done(); });
    }
    std::unordered_map<Observer*, std::vector<Task>> tasks_;
};
```



Observer C++20 (5)

```
// Coroutine: Awaitable defines the behavior of a co_await
struct Awaitable {
    Scheduler& scheduler;
    Observer* observer;

    bool await_ready() const noexcept { return false; }
    void await_suspend(std::coroutine_handle<> handle) const {
        scheduler.add_task(observer, Task{std::coroutine_handle<Task::promise_type>
                                         ::from_address(handle.address())});
    }
    void await_resume() const noexcept {}
};
```



Observer C++20 (6)

```
class Observer {  
public:  
    virtual ~Observer() = default;  
    // Pass std::string by value to copy it  
    // into the coroutine frame.  
    virtual Task update(const Subject& subject,  
                        const std::string message) = 0;  
    virtual bool has_pending_tasks() const = 0;  
};
```



Observer C++20 (7)

```
class Subject {  
public:  
    explicit Subject(Scheduler& scheduler) : scheduler_{scheduler} {}  
    void attach(std::shared_ptr<Observer> observer) {  
        observers_.emplace_back(std::move(observer));  
    }  
    void detach(Observer* observer) {  
        using namespace std::chrono_literals;  
        while (observer->has_pending_tasks()) {  
            scheduler_.resume_tasks_for(observer);  
            std::this_thread::sleep_for(100ms); // Sleep to not busy-wait  
        }  
        std::erase_if(observers_, [&](const std::shared_ptr<Observer>& obs) {return obs.get() == observer;});  
    }  
    void notify(const std::string& message) {  
        for (const auto& observer : observers_) {  
            scheduler_.add_task(observer.get(), observer->update(*this, message));  
        }  
    }  
    static int next_seq() {static atomic_int seq = 0; return ++seq;}  
private:  
    std::vector<std::shared_ptr<Observer>> observers_;  
    Scheduler& scheduler_;  
};
```



Observer C++20 (8)

```
class MessageObserver : public Observer {  
public:  
    MessageObserver(Subject& subject, Scheduler& scheduler)  
        : name_{std::format("Observer {}", subject.next_seq())},  
          subject_{subject}, scheduler_{scheduler} {}  
    ~MessageObserver() { subject_.detach(this); }  
    Task update(const Subject& subject, const std::string message) override {  
        if (&subject != &subject_) {co_return;}  
        std::cout << format("{} received: '{}'\n", name_, message);  
        // Simulate async steps  
        co_await Awaitable{scheduler_, this};  
        co_await Awaitable{scheduler_, this};  
        std::cout << format("  {}: Done processing: '{}'\n", name_, message);  
        co_return;  
    }  
    ...
```



Observer C++20 (9)

```
bool has_pending_tasks() const override {
    return scheduler_.has_pending_tasks_for(const_cast<MessageObserver*>(this));
}

private:
    std::string name_;
    Subject& subject_;
    Scheduler& scheduler_;
};

void business_logic(Scheduler& scheduler) {
    using namespace std::chrono_literals;
    while (scheduler.has_any_pending_tasks()) {
        scheduler.resume_all();
        std::this_thread::sleep_for(50ms);
    }
}
```





Observer C++20 (10)

```
int main() {
    Scheduler scheduler;
    auto subject = make_shared<Subject>(scheduler);
    auto observer1 = make_shared<MessageObserver>(*subject, scheduler); subject->attach(observer1);
    auto observer2 = make_shared<MessageObserver>(*subject, scheduler); subject->attach(observer2);
    subject->notify("The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, "
                    "The Universe, and Everything is 42");
    subject->detach(observer3);
    business_logic(scheduler);
    subject->notify("How many roads must a man walk down?");
    auto observer3 = make_shared<MessageObserver>(*subject, scheduler); subject->attach(observer3);
    subject->detach(observer2);
    observer2 = nullptr;
    subject->notify("What do you get if you multiply 6 by 9?");
    return 0;
}
```

Observer C++20 — Takeaways

1. Coroutine processing the messages asynchronously
 - coroutine Task, Promise and Awaitable
 - coroutine Scheduler
 - coroutine keywords
 - `co_return`
 - `co_await`
2. `erase_if` replaces erase-remove
3. Structured binding for assigning multiple values returned from a function, struct or tuple (C++17)
4. `any_of` instead of loop search (C++11)
5. `std::shared_ptr` – smart pointer for shared ownership and `std::make_shared` concise smart pointer creation (C++11)
6. `std::format` for formatted string



Q & A

