THE ITERATOR PATTERN

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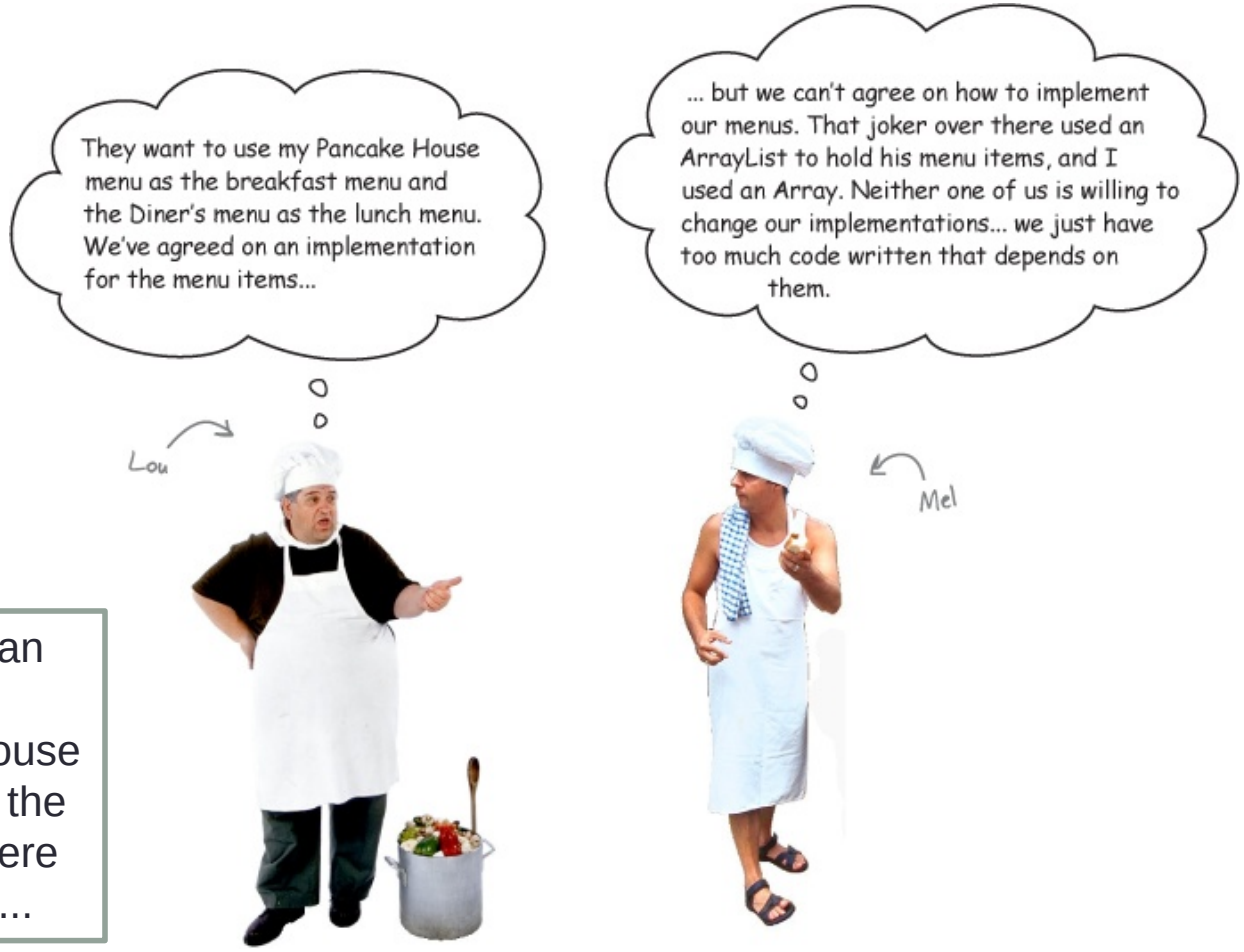
Week 7-1

Today

How to allow access to members of an aggregate without exposing the aggregate's internal representation

Use polymorphism to support use of multiple aggregates without breaking the client code

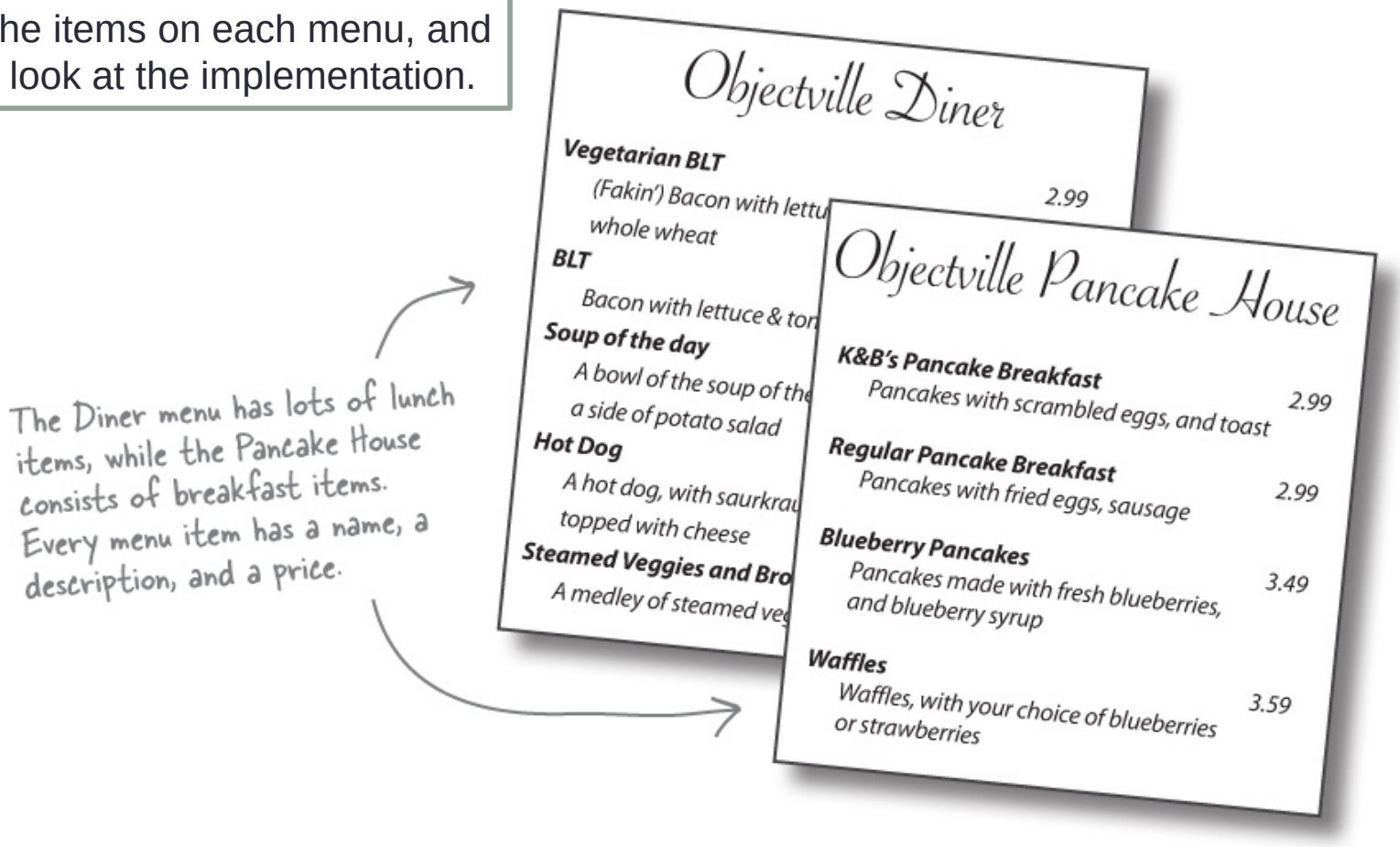
Breaking News: Objectville Diner and Objectville Pancake House Merge



That's great news! Now we can get those delicious pancake breakfasts at the Pancake House and those yummy lunches at the Diner all in one place. But, there seems to be a slight problem...

Check out the Menu Items

At least Lou and Mel agree on the implementation of the MenuItems. Let's check out the items on each menu, and also take a look at the implementation.



Implementation of MenuItem

```
public class MenuItem {
    String name;
    String description;
    boolean vegetarian;
    double price;

    public MenuItem(String name,
                    String description,
                    boolean vegetarian,
                    double price)
    {
        this.name = name;
        this.description = description;
        this.vegetarian = vegetarian;
        this.price = price;
    }

    public String getName() {
        return name;
    }

    public String getDescription() {
        return description;
    }

    public double getPrice() {
        return price;
    }

    public boolean isVegetarian() {
        return vegetarian;
    }
}
```

A MenuItem consists of a name, a description, a flag to indicate if the item is vegetarian, and a price. You pass all these values into the constructor to initialize the MenuItem.

These getter methods let you access the fields of the menu item.

Lou's Code

I used an ArrayList so I can easily expand my menu.

Here's Lou's implementation of the Pancake House menu.

```
public class PancakeHouseMenu {
    ArrayList<MenuItem> menuItems;

    public PancakeHouseMenu() {
        menuItems = new ArrayList<MenuItem>();

        addItem("K&B's Pancake Breakfast",
            "Pancakes with scrambled eggs, and toast",
            true,
            2.99);

        addItem("Regular Pancake Breakfast",
            "Pancakes with fried eggs, sausage",
            false,
            2.99);

        addItem("Blueberry Pancakes",
            "Pancakes made with fresh blueberries",
            true,
            3.49);

        addItem("Waffles",
            "Waffles, with your choice of blueberries or strawberries",
            true,
            3.59);
    }

    public void addItem(String name, String description,
                        boolean vegetarian, double price)
    {
        MenuItem menuItem = new MenuItem(name, description, vegetarian, price);
        menuItems.add(menuItem);
    }

    public ArrayList<MenuItem> getMenuItems() {
        return menuItems;
    }

    // other menu methods here
}
```

Lou's using an ArrayList to store his menu items.

Each menu item is added to the ArrayList here, in the constructor.

Each MenuItem has a name, a description, whether or not it's a vegetarian item, and the price.

To add a menu item, Lou creates a new MenuItem object, passing in each argument, and then adds it to the ArrayList.

The getMenuItems() method returns the list of menu items.

Lou has a bunch of other menu code that depends on the ArrayList implementation. He doesn't want to have to rewrite all that code!

Mel's Code

Haah! An ArrayList... I used a REAL Array so I can control the maximum size of my menu.

And here's Mel's implementation of the Diner menu.

Mel takes a different approach; he's using an Array so he can control the max size of the menu.

Like Lou, Mel creates his menu items in the constructor, using the addItem() helper method.

addItem() takes all the parameters necessary to create a MenuItem and instantiates one. It also checks to make sure we haven't hit the menu size limit.

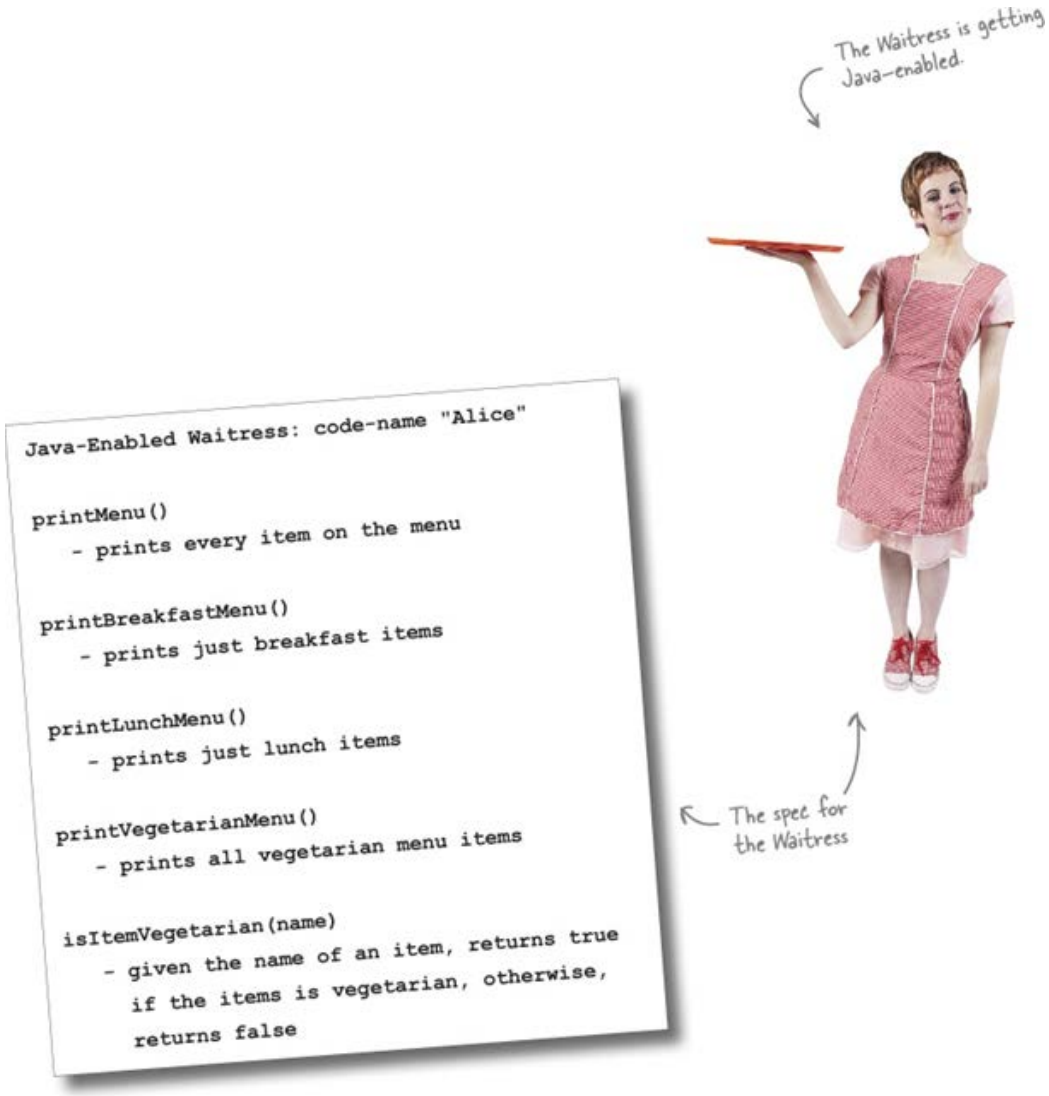
Mel specifically wants to keep his menu under a certain size (presumably so he doesn't have to remember too many recipes).

getMenuItems() returns the array of menu items.

Like Lou, Mel has a bunch of code that depends on the implementation of his menu being an Array. He's too busy cooking to rewrite all of this.

```
public class DinerMenu {
    static final int MAX_ITEMS = 6;
    int numberOfItems = 0;
    MenuItem[] menuItems;

    public DinerMenu() {
        menuItems = new MenuItem[MAX_ITEMS];

        addItem("Vegetarian BLT",
            "(Fakin') Bacon with lettuce & tomato on whole wheat", true, 2.99);
        addItem("BLT",
            "Bacon with lettuce & tomato on whole wheat", false, 2.99);
        addItem("Soup of the day",
            "Soup of the day, with a side of potato salad", false, 3.29);
        addItem("Hotdog",
            "A hot dog, with saurkraut, relish, onions, topped with cheese",
            false, 3.05);
        // a couple of other Diner Menu items added here
    }

    public void addItem(String name, String description,
                        boolean vegetarian, double price)
    {
        MenuItem menuItem = new MenuItem(name, description, vegetarian, price);
        if (numberOfItems >= MAX_ITEMS) {
            System.err.println("Sorry, menu is full!  Can't add item to menu");
        } else {
            menuItems[numberOfItems] = menuItem;
            numberOfItems = numberOfItems + 1;
        }
    }

    public MenuItem[] getMenuItems() {
        return menuItems;
    }

    // other menu methods here
}
```

A Java-Enabled Waitress Spec.



Implementation of printMenu()

```
PancakeHouseMenu pancakeHouseMenu = new PancakeHouseMenu();
ArrayList<MenuItem> breakfastItems = pancakeHouseMenu.getMenuItems();

DinerMenu dinerMenu = new DinerMenu();
MenuItem[] lunchItems = dinerMenu.getMenuItems();
```

The method looks the same, but the calls are returning different types.

The implementation is showing through: breakfast items are in an ArrayList, and lunch items are in an Array.

```
for (int i = 0; i < breakfastItems.size(); i++) {
    MenuItem menuItem = breakfastItems.get(i);
    System.out.print(menuItem.getName() + " ");
    System.out.println(menuItem.getPrice() + " ");
    System.out.println(menuItem.getDescription());
}
for (int i = 0; i < lunchItems.length; i++) {
    MenuItem menuItem = lunchItems[i];
    System.out.print(menuItem.getName() + " ");
    System.out.println(menuItem.getPrice() + " ");
    System.out.println(menuItem.getDescription());
}
```

Now, we have to implement two different loops to step through the two implementations of the menu items...

...one loop for the ArrayList...

...and another for the Array.

What now?

Would really be nice if we could find a way to allow them to implement the same interface for their menus

That way we can minimize the concrete references in the Waitress code and also hopefully get rid of the multiple loops required to iterate over both menus

Even if we use for each loops to iterate through the menus, the Waitress still has to know about the type of each menu.

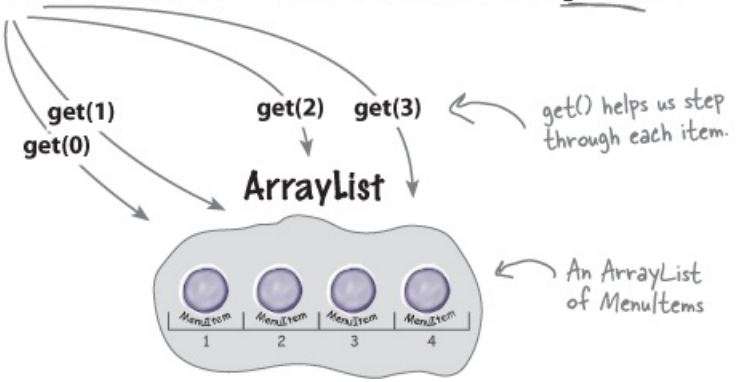
```
PancakeHouseMenu pancakeHouseMenu = new PancakeHouseMenu();
ArrayList<MenuItem> breakfastItems = pancakeHouseMenu.getMenuItems();

DinerMenu dinerMenu = new DinerMenu();
MenuItem[] lunchItems = dinerMenu.getMenuItems();

for (MenuItem menuItem : breakfastItems) {
    System.out.print(menuItem.getName());
    System.out.println("\t\t" + menuItem.getPrice());
    System.out.println("\t" + menuItem.getDescription());
}
for (MenuItem menuItem : lunchItems) {
    System.out.print(menuItem.getName());
    System.out.println("\t\t" + menuItem.getPrice());
    System.out.println("\t" + menuItem.getDescription());
}
```

Yes, but we've got two different implementations of the menus, and the Waitress has to know how each kind of menu is implemented.

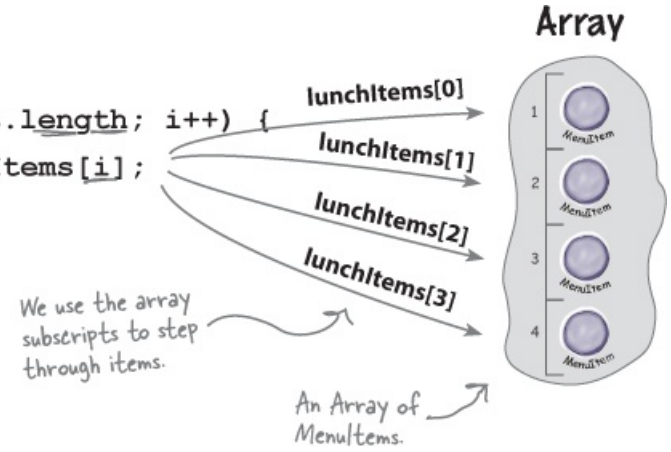
Can we encapsulate the iteration? 1/3

If we've learned one thing in this class, it's encapsulate what varies!

```
for (int i = 0; i < breakfastItems.size(); i++) {
    MenuItem menuItem = breakfastItems.get(i);
}
```

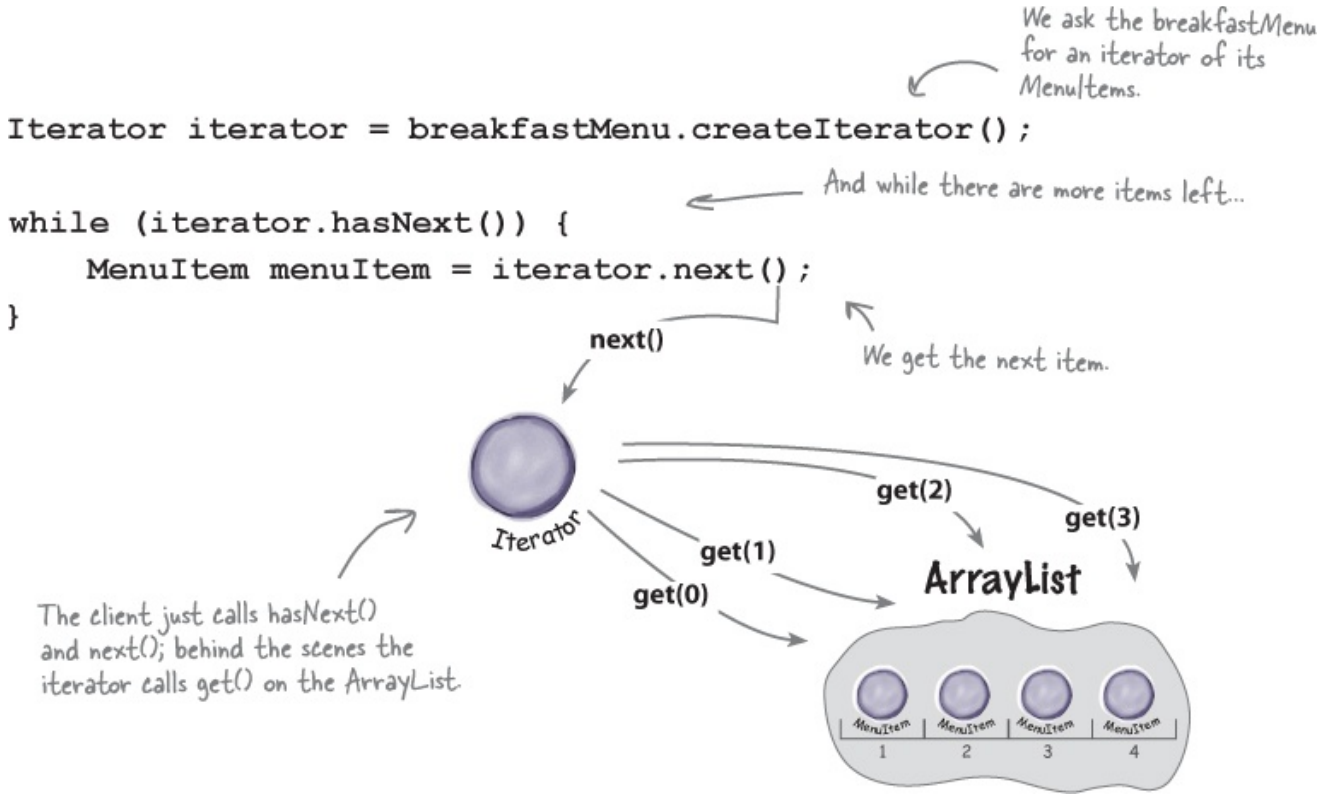



```
for (int i = 0; i < lunchItems.length; i++) {
    MenuItem menuItem = lunchItems[i];
}
```



Can we encapsulate the iteration? 2/3

Now what if we create an object, let's call it an Iterator, that encapsulates the way we iterate through a collection of objects? Let's try this on the ArrayList



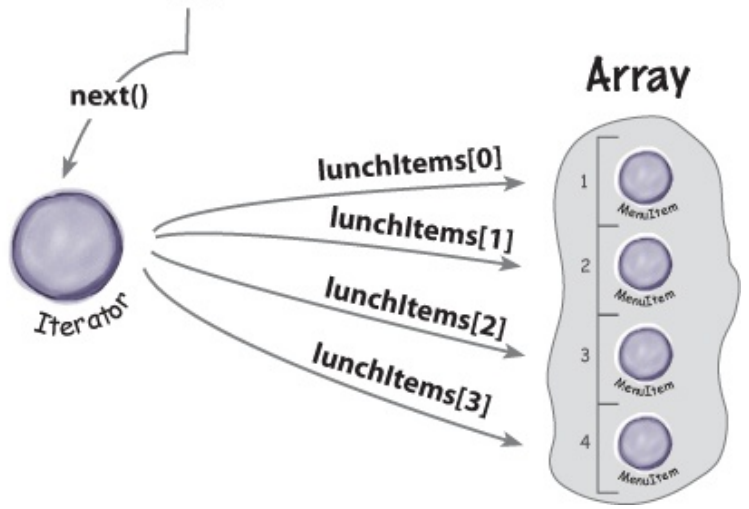
Can we encapsulate the iteration? 3/3

Let's try that on the Array too

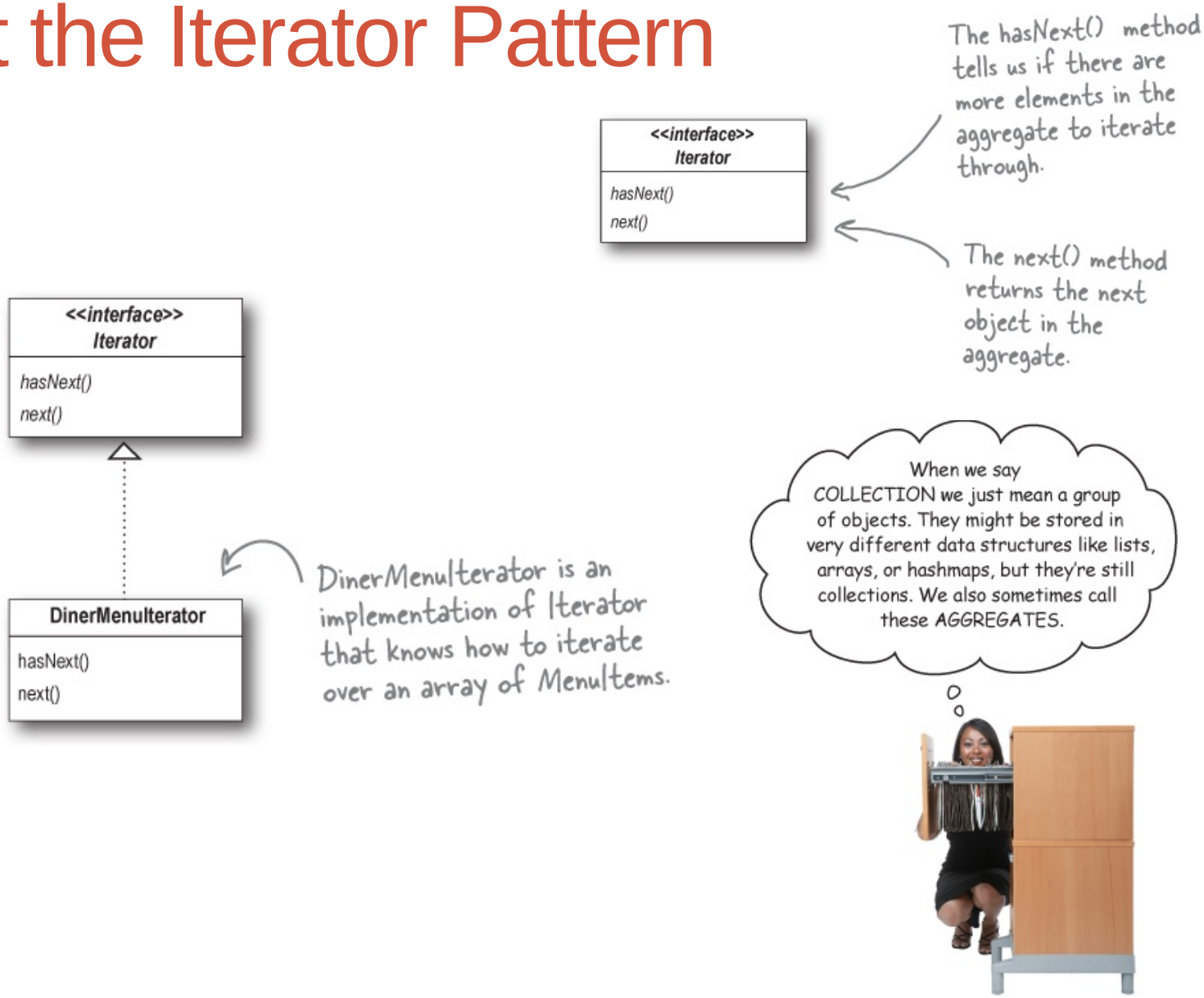
```
Iterator iterator = lunchMenu.createIterator();

while (iterator.hasNext()) {
    MenuItem menuItem = iterator.next();
}
```

Wow, this code is exactly the same as the breakfastMenu code.

Same situation here: the client just calls hasNext() and next(); behind the scenes, the iterator indexes into the Array.



Meet the Iterator Pattern



Adding an Iterator to DinnerMenu

```
public interface Iterator {
    boolean hasNext();
    Object next();
}
```

```
public class DinerMenuIterator implements Iterator {
    MenuItem[] items;
    int position = 0;

    public DinerMenuIterator(MenuItem[] items) {
        this.items = items;
    }

    public MenuItem next() {
        MenuItem menuItem = items[position];
        position = position + 1;
        return menuItem;
    }

    public boolean hasNext() {
        if (position >= items.length || items[position] == null) {
            return false;
        } else {
            return true;
        }
    }
}
```

We implement the Iterator interface.

position maintains the current position of the iteration over the array.

The constructor takes the array of menu items we are going to iterate over.

The next() method returns the next item in the array and increments the position.

The hasNext() method checks to see if we've seen all the elements of the array and returns true if there are more to iterate through.

Because the diner chef went ahead and allocated a max sized array, we need to check not only if we are at the end of the array, but also if the next item is null, which indicates there are no more items.

Reworking the Diner Menu with Iterator

```
public class DinerMenu {
    static final int MAX_ITEMS = 6;
    int numberOfItems = 0;
    MenuItem[] menuItems;

    // constructor here

    // addItem here

    public MenuItem[] getMenuItems() {
        return menuItems;
    }

    public Iterator createIterator() {
        return new DinerMenuIterator(menuItems);
    }

    // other menu methods here
}
```

We're not going to need the getMenuItems() method anymore and in fact, we don't want it because it exposes our internal implementation!

Here's the createIterator() method. It creates a DinerMenuIterator from the menuItems array and returns it to the client.

We're returning the Iterator interface. The client doesn't need to know how the menuItems are maintained in the DinerMenu, nor does it need to know how the DinerMenuIterator is implemented. It just needs to use the iterators to step through the items in the menu.

Fixing up the Waitress Code

New and improved with Iterator.

```
public class Waitress {
    PancakeHouseMenu pancakeHouseMenu;
    DinerMenu dinerMenu;

    public Waitress(PancakeHouseMenu pancakeHouseMenu, DinerMenu dinerMenu) {
        this.pancakeHouseMenu = pancakeHouseMenu;
        this.dinerMenu = dinerMenu;
    }

    public void printMenu() {
        Iterator pancakeIterator = pancakeHouseMenu.createIterator();
        Iterator dinerIterator = dinerMenu.createIterator();

        System.out.println("MENU\n----\nBREAKFAST");
        printMenu(pancakeIterator);
        System.out.println("\nLUNCH");
        printMenu(dinerIterator);
    }

    private void printMenu(Iterator iterator) {
        while (iterator.hasNext()) {
            MenuItem menuItem = iterator.next();
            System.out.print(menuItem.getName() + ", ");
            System.out.print(menuItem.getPrice() + " -- ");
            System.out.println(menuItem.getDescription());
        }
    }

    // other methods here
}
```

In the constructor the Waitress takes the two menus.

The printMenu() method now creates two iterators, one for each menu.

And then calls the overloaded printMenu() with each iterator.

Test if there are any more items.

Get the next item.

The overloaded printMenu() method uses the Iterator to step through the menu items and print them.

Use the item to get name, price, and description and print them.

Note that we're down to one loop.

Testing our code

```
public class MenuTestDrive {

    public static void main(String args[]) {

        PancakeHouseMenu pancakeHouseMenu = new PancakeHouseMenu();
        DinerMenu dinerMenu = new DinerMenu();

        Waitress waitress = new Waitress(pancakeHouseMenu, dinerMenu);

        waitress.printMenu();

    }

}
```

First we create the new menus.

Then we create a Waitress and pass her the menus.

Then we print them.

```
File  Edit  Window  Help  GreenEggs&Ham

% java DinerMenuTestDrive

MENU
----
BREAKFAST
K&B's Pancake Breakfast, 2.99 -- Pancakes with scrambled eggs, and toast
Regular Pancake Breakfast, 2.99 -- Pancakes with fried eggs, sausage
Blueberry Pancakes, 3.49 -- Pancakes made with fresh blueberries
Waffles, 3.59 -- Waffles, with your choice of blueberries or strawberries

LUNCH
Vegetarian BLT, 2.99 -- (Fakin') Bacon with lettuce & tomato on whole wheat
BLT, 2.99 -- Bacon with lettuce & tomato on whole wheat
Soup of the day, 3.29 -- Soup of the day, with a side of potato salad
Hotdog, 3.05 -- A hot dog, with saurkraut, relish, onions, topped with cheese
Steamed Veggies and Brown Rice, 3.99 -- Steamed vegetables over brown rice
Pasta, 3.89 -- Spaghetti with Marinara Sauce, and a slice of sourdough bread

%
```

First we iterate through the pancake menu.

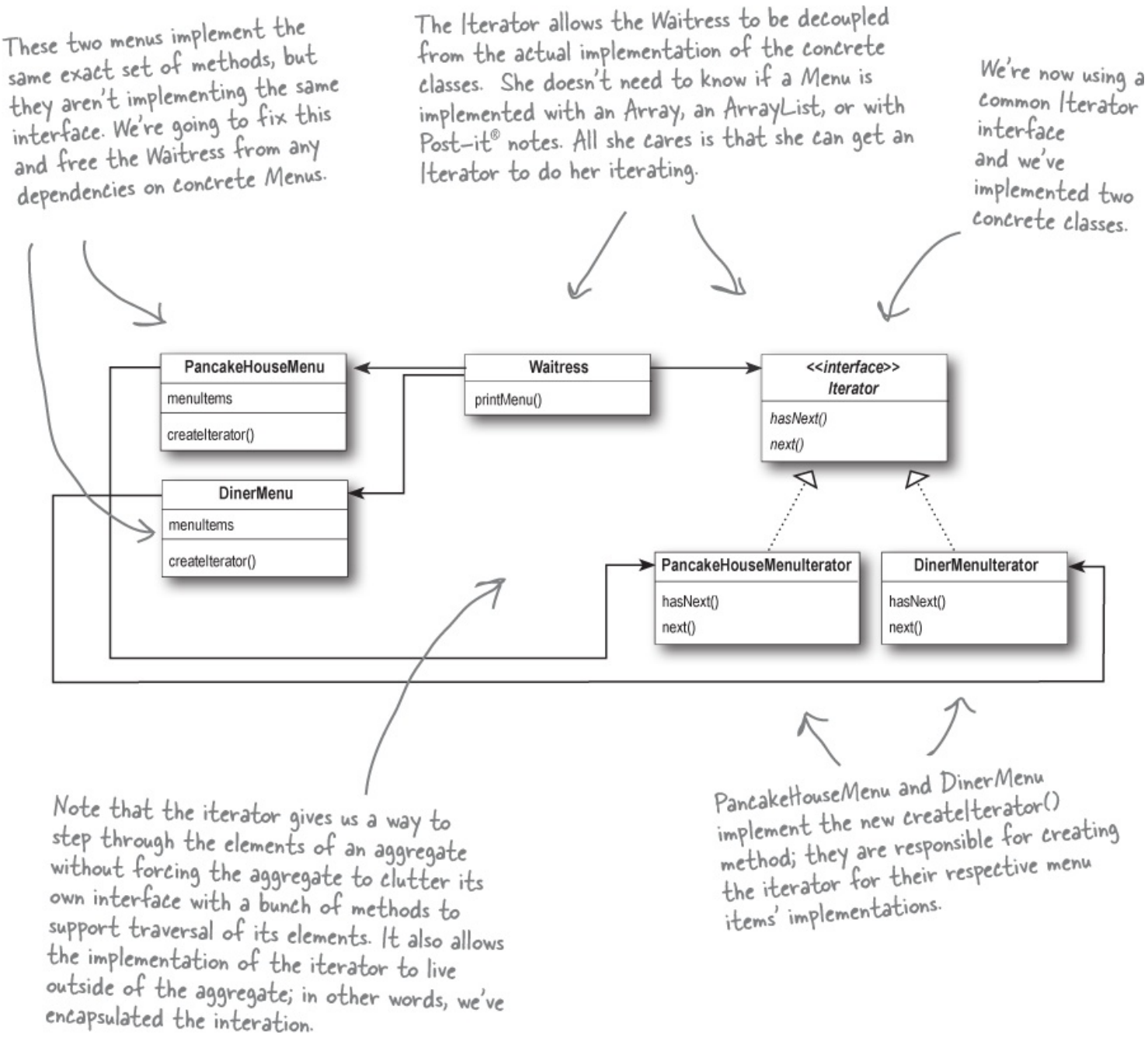
And then the lunch menu, all with the same iteration code.

Woohoo! No code changes other than adding the createIterator() method.

Veggie burger

Q2

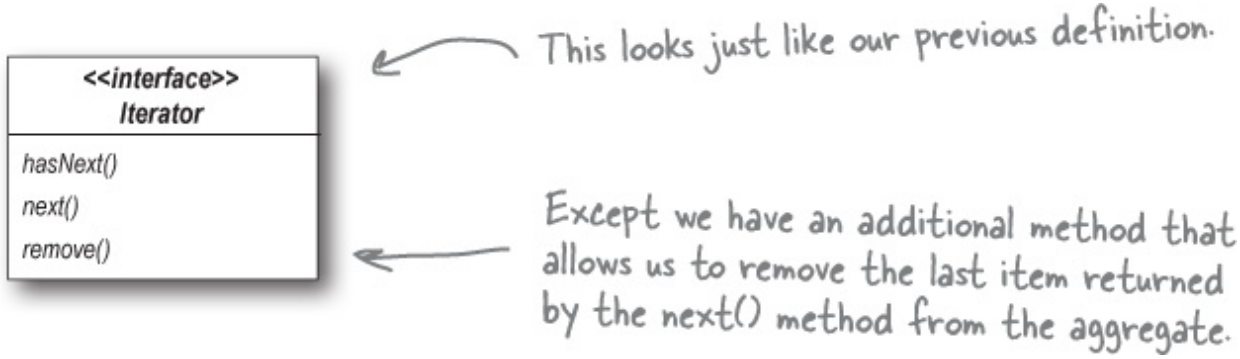
What we have so far …



Making some more improvements …

Chandan, why are you not using Java Collection's Iterator?

So that you could see how to build an iterator from scratch. Now that we've done that, we're going to switch to using the Java Iterator interface



Cleaning things up with java.util.Iterator

```
public Iterator<MenuItem> createIterator() {
    return menuItems.iterator();
}
```

Instead of creating our own iterator now, we just call the iterator() method on the menuItems ArrayList.

```
import java.util.Iterator;
```

First we import java.util.Iterator, the interface we're going to implement.

```
public class DinerMenuIterator implements Iterator {
    MenuItem[] list;
    int position = 0;

    public DinerMenuIterator(MenuItem[] list) {
        this.list = list;
    }

    public MenuItem next() {
        //implementation here
    }

    public boolean hasNext() {
        //implementation here
    }
```

None of our current implementation changes...

...but we do need to implement remove(). Here, because the chef is using a fixed-size Array, we just shift all the elements up one when remove() is called.

```
    public void remove() {
        if (position <= 0) {
            throw new IllegalStateException
                ("You can't remove an item until you've done at least one next()");
        }
        if (list[position-1] != null) {
            for (int i = position-1; i < (list.length-1); i++) {
                list[i] = list[i+1];
            }
            list[list.length-1] = null;
        }
    }
}
```

Let's take abstraction a notch further

```
public interface Menu {
    public Iterator<MenuItem> createIterator();
}
```

This is a simple interface that just lets clients get an iterator for the items in the menu.

```
import java.util.Iterator;
```

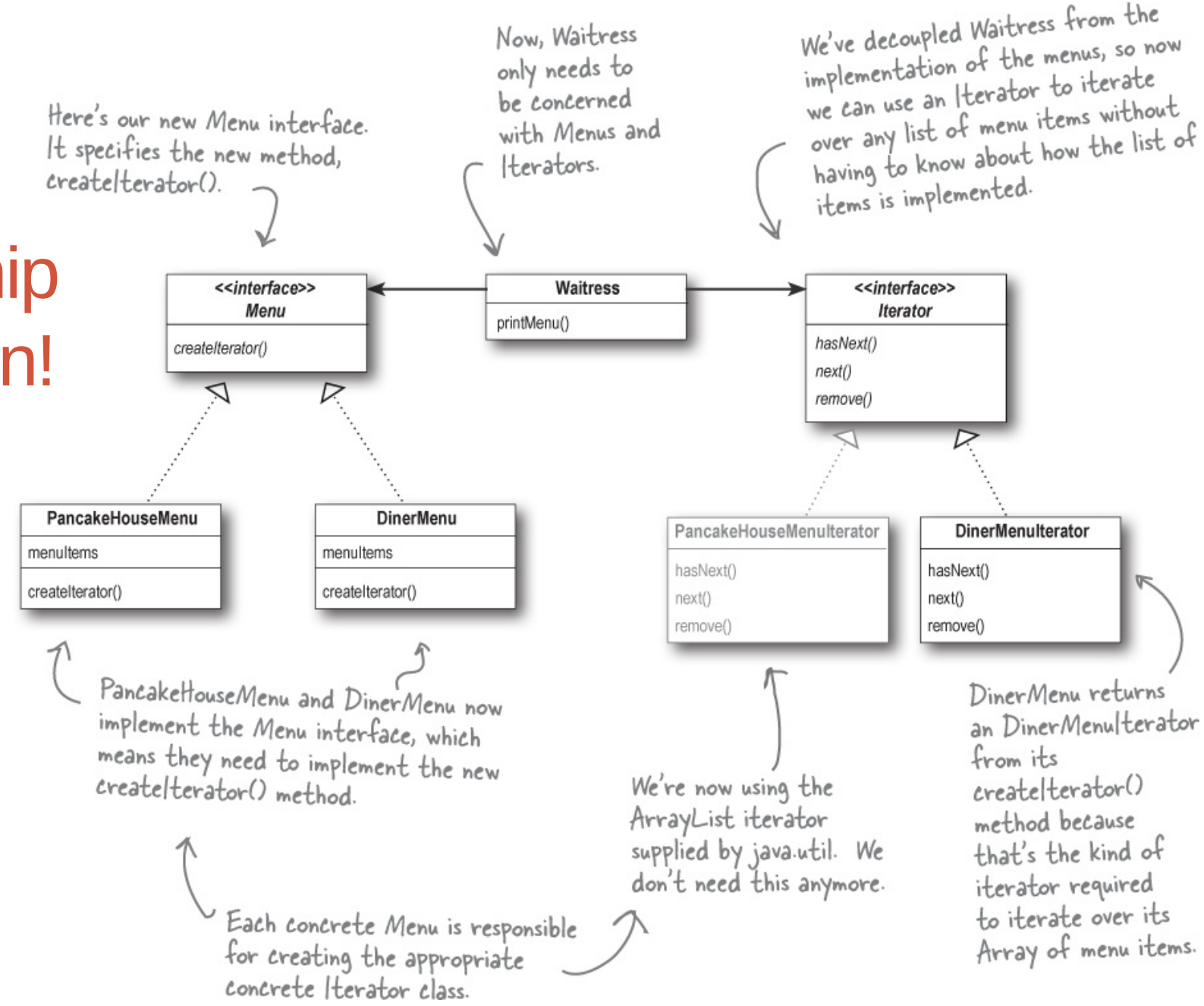
Now the Waitress uses the java.util.Iterator as well.

```
public class Waitress {
    Menu pancakeHouseMenu;
    Menu dinerMenu;

    public Waitress(Menu pancakeHouseMenu, Menu dinerMenu) {
        this.pancakeHouseMenu = pancakeHouseMenu;
        this.dinerMenu = dinerMenu;
    }

    public void printMenu() {
        Iterator<MenuItem> pancakeIterator = pancakeHouseMenu.createIterator();
        Iterator<MenuItem> dinerIterator = dinerMenu.createIterator();
        System.out.println("MENU\n----\nBREAKFAST");
        printMenu(pancakeIterator);
        System.out.println("\nLUNCH");
        printMenu(dinerIterator);
    }

    private void printMenu(Iterator iterator) {
        while (iterator.hasNext()) {
            MenuItem menuItem = (MenuItem)iterator.next();
            System.out.print(menuItem.getName() + ", ");
            System.out.print(menuItem.getPrice() + " -- ");
            System.out.println(menuItem.getDescription());
        }
    }

    // other methods here
}
```

We need to replace the concrete Menu classes with the Menu Interface.

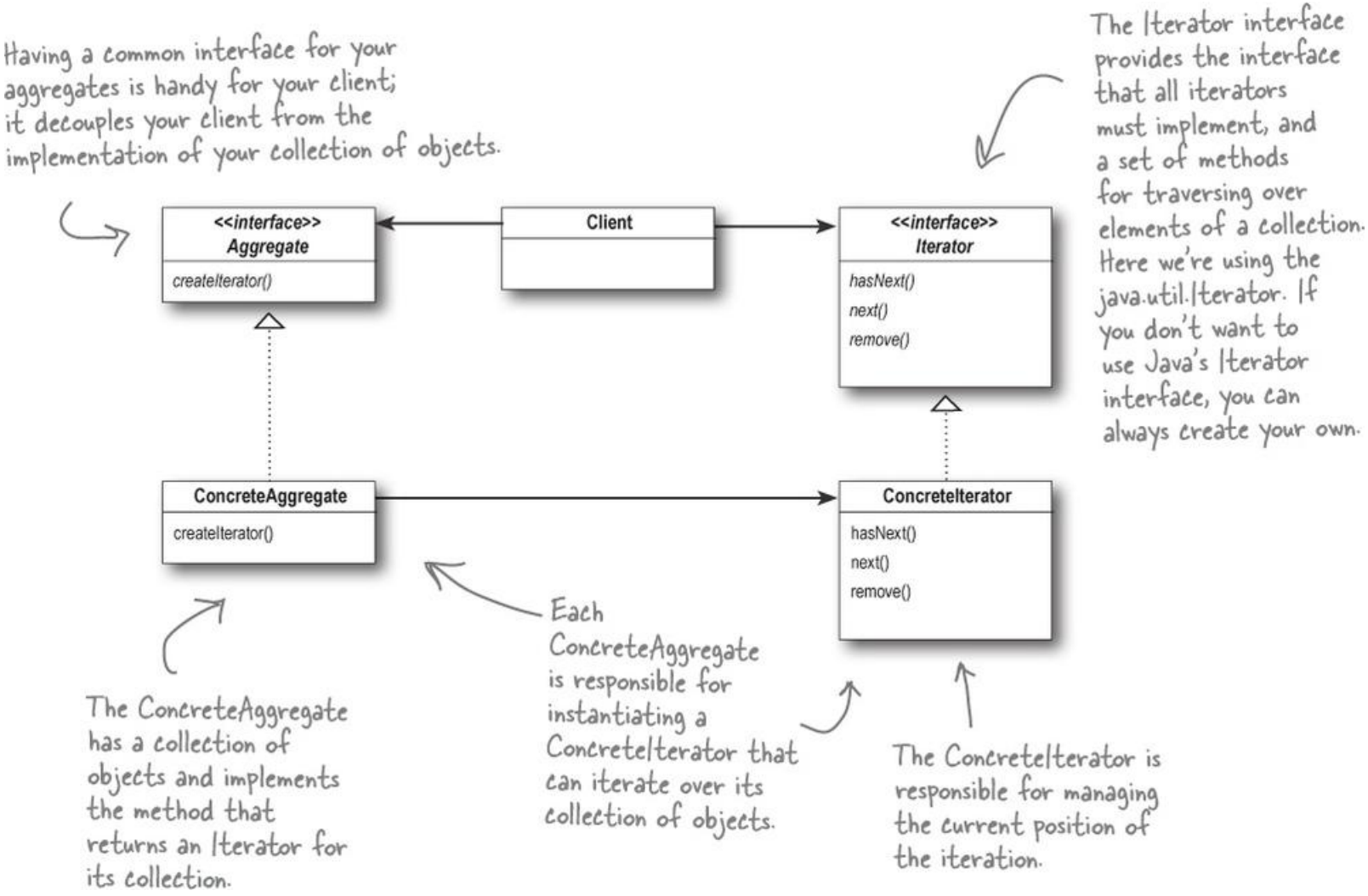
Nothing changes here.

The new and hip design!



Iterator Pattern Defined

The Iterator Pattern provides a way to access the elements of an aggregate object sequentially without exposing its underlying representation.



Recap

An Iterator allows **access to an aggregate's elements** without exposing its internal structure

When using an Iterator, we **relieve the aggregate** of the responsibility of supporting **operations for traversing its data**

An Iterator provides a **common interface for traversing** the items of an aggregate, **allowing you to use polymorphism** when writing code that makes use of the items of the aggregate