Dependency Inversion

By Steve Faurie

Described in Agile Principles, Patterns and Practices in C# by Robert C. Martin

Dependency Inversion Basic Principles

 High-level modules should not depend on low-level modules. Both should depend on abstractions.

 Abstractions should not depend upon details. Details should depend upon abstractions.

High Level vs Low Level

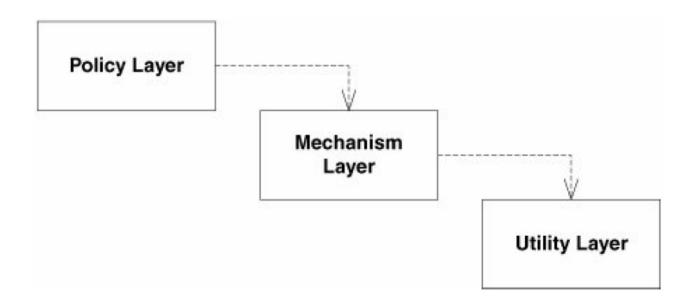
- A high-level module defines what your application does
 - It contains the policy decisions and business models that define the entire purpose of the application
 - A high-level module should be separated from and not dependent upon the implementation details implemented in lower-level modules.

- Low level modules contain implementation details
 - Ex. Calls to a particular type of database

Layering in object-oriented programs

- Well designed object-oriented architectures should have clearly defined layers. Each layer should:
 - Provide some coherent set of services
 - Provide those services through a well-defined interface

Naïve Layering:



In the code:

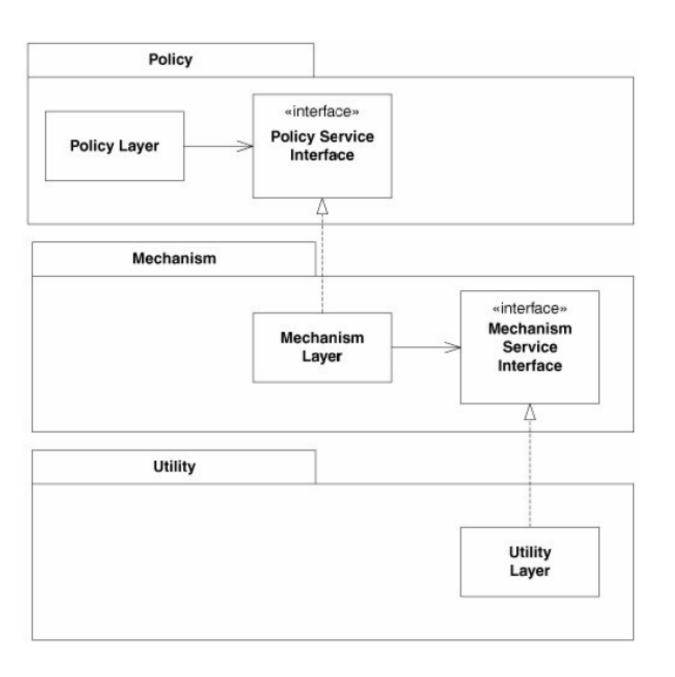
Policy Layer calls new Mechanism Layer

Mechanism Layer calls new Utility Layer

Problems?

Changes to the mechanism layer could require changes to the policy layer.

Policy Layer transitively dependent upon all layers below it.



Ownership Inversion

In Code:

Policy layer does not directly declare Mechanism Layer.

Policy layer shouldn't have code like:

MechanismLayer ml = new MechanismLayer;

Policy layer will have something like:

IPolicyService myService;

myService can be an instance of anything that implements IPolicyService.

Mechanism Layer will implement the IPolicyService interface and must conform to its expectations.

Implementations dependent upon policy now!

How do I "new" up stuff?

Dependency Injection

 Using ISomeInterface, inject the concrete type you have set up the injector to return. TODAY

Factory Pattern

 Returns concrete versions of the interfaces your policy layer uses. LATER

Abstractions

- No variable should have a reference to a concrete class
 - Reference to interface or abstract class means variable can be anything that implements that interface
- No class should derive from a concrete class
 - Don't extend concrete classes
- No method should override an implemented method of any of its base classes
 - If you extend an abstract class don't overwrite the functionality built into it

A Simple Example From Robert C. Martin

- The button is polling for input
 - Upon input it calls the lamp turnOn or turnOff method

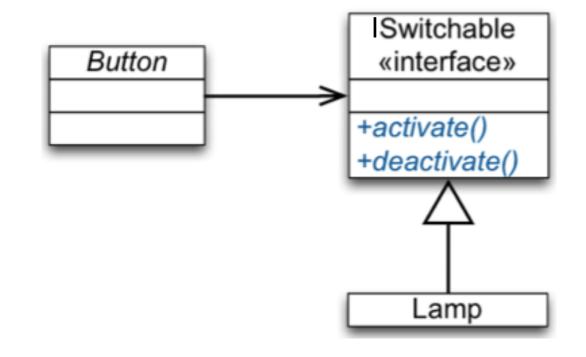
 The button class depends on the lamp class, but shouldn't a button be able to turn other things on or off too?



```
public class Button
{
   private Lamp lamp;
   public void Poll()
   {
     if (/*some condition*/)
       lamp.TurnOn();
   }
}
```

The Button Lamp Example with Inverted Dependency

- The button no longer references a concrete class.
- The button can control anything that implements the ISwitchable interface.
- Does lamp depend on button?
 - No, lamp can be controlled by anything that can control the button server interface



```
public interface ISwitchable {
  void turnOn();
  void turnOff();
public class LightBulb implements ISwitchable {
  @Override
  public void turnOn() {
    System.out.println("LightBulb: Bulb turned on...");
  @Override
  public void turnOff() {
    System.out.println("LightBulb: Bulb turned off...");
```

```
public class Button {
  private ISwitchable client;
  public boolean on;
  public Button (ISwitchable client) {
    this.client = client;
    this.on = false;
  public boolean isOn() {
    return this.on;
 public void press(){
    boolean checkOn = isOn();
    if (checkOn) {
      client.turnOff();
      this.on = false;
    } else {
       client.turnOn();
       this.on = true;
```

Why bother?

- Consider having your policy layer dependent upon a specific type of database.
- What if your IT department doesn't want to support the type of database you are currently using?
- What if the current database you are using is no longer adequate for your needs?
- Your entire policy layer that was based around a connection to a specific type of database is now worthless and will need to be rewritten.

Solution: IMyDataRepository

```
interface IMyDataRepository{
    userProfile getUser(string id);
    void saveUserAddress(userAddress address);
    ...
    void removeUser(string id);
}
```

Your policy layer will not reference specific database objects, rather it will have a variable of type IMyDataRepository

```
class MySQLMyDataRepository: IMyDataRepository{
   userProfile getUser(string id) {
        //mySql implementations
   }
   void saveUserAddress(userAddress address) {
        //mySql implementations
   }
   ...
   void removeUser(string id) {
        //mySql implementations
   }
}
```

```
implements
class MongoDataRepository: IMyDataRepository{
   userProfile getUser(string id) {
        //mongo implementations
   }
   void saveUserAddress(userAddress address) {
        //mongo implementations
   }
   ...
   void removeUser(string id) {
        //mongo implementations
   }
}
```