



# Use Cases

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*Object-Oriented Modeling and Design  
with UML (Second Edition)*

Blaha & Rumbaugh

Sections 7.1, 8.1



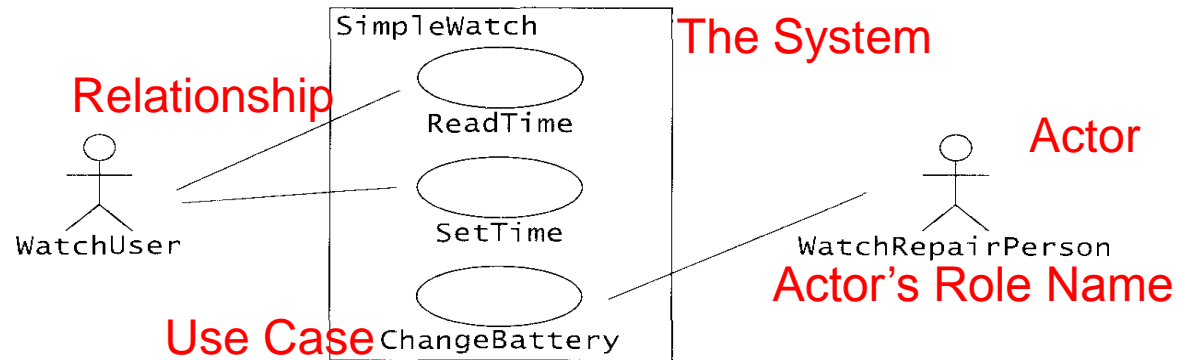
# Use Case Diagrams

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Use case:

- A written description of one use of the system.
  - Who will use the system?
  - What will they be able to do with it?
  - No standard for format and content.
  
- Use case *diagram*
  - A graphical representation of a use case.
  - A diagram type defined in UML.

# Use Case Diagrams



**Figure 2-1** A UML use case diagram describing the functionality of a simple watch. The WatchUser actor may either consult the time on her watch (with the ReadTime use case) or set the time (with the SetTime use case). However, only the WatchRepairPerson actor can change the battery of the watch (with the ChangeBattery use case). Actors are represented with stick figures, use cases with ovals, and the boundary of the system with a box enclosing the use cases.

## Components of a use case diagram:

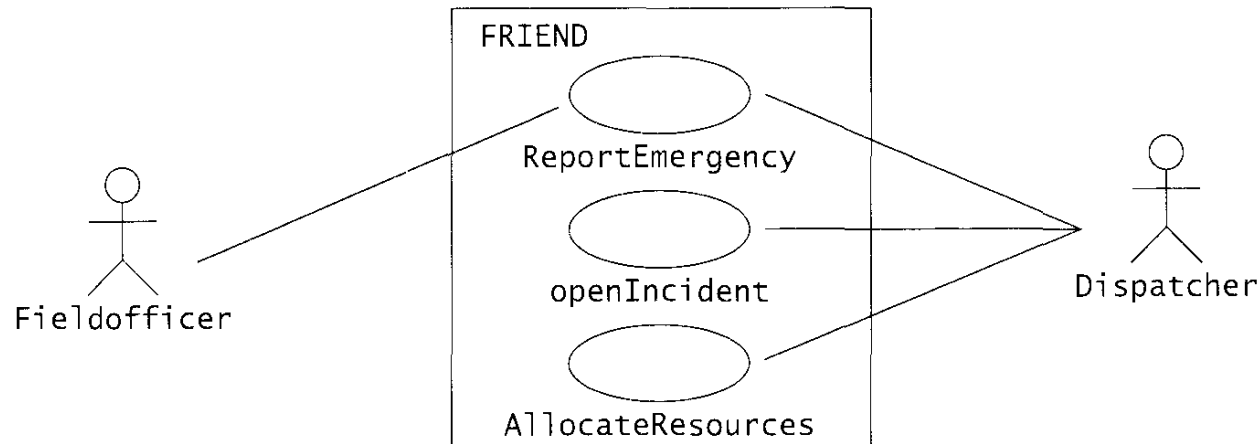
System

Actors

Use Cases

Relationships

# Use Case Example



**Figure 2-13** An example of a UML use case diagram for First Responder Interactive Emergency Navigational Database (FRIEND), an accident management system. Associations between actors and use cases denote information flows. These associations are bidirectional: they can represent the actor initiating a use case (FieldOfficer initiates ReportEmergency) or a use case providing information to an actor (ReportEmergency notifies Dispatcher). The box around the use cases represents the system boundary.



# Use Case Diagrams

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- Use case diagrams give a *high level* view of the system.
  - Outline
  - Table of Contents
- *Starting point* for saying what the system does.
  - Don't try to say too much.
  - Details will come later.

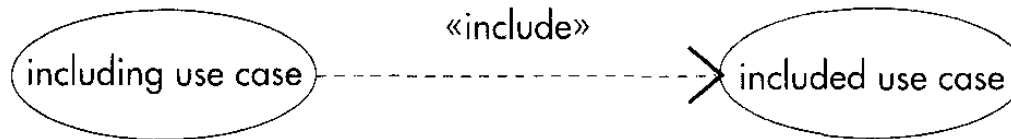
# Generalization in Use Cases

Use case diagrams can show relationships among different use cases.



- Trade Bonds use case “is a” Make Trade use case.
- Generalization is used to indicate inheritance.
  - Factor out common behavior in related use cases.

# The Include Relationship for Use Cases



- "Subroutine" for use cases.
- Note "guillemets" around the word include.
- Means that the included use case is *always* a part of the including use case.



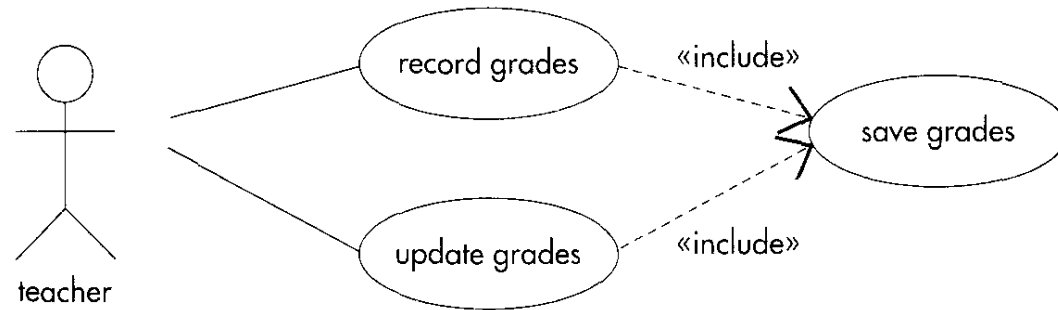
# The Include Relationship for Use Cases

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- Use the Include relationship when the same functionality appears in logically unrelated use cases.
  - Factor out common functionality.
  - Should be a well defined, meaningful activity.

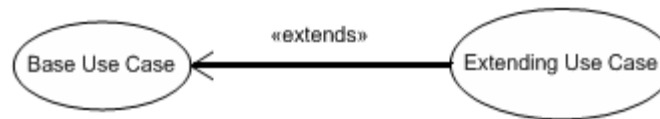


# The Include Relationship for Use Cases



- A teacher will record grades and update grades.
- In either case, grades will *a/ways* be saved.
- Only describe "save grades" in one place.
- Indicates potential for factoring out and reusing functionality in the system that will be developed

# The Extend Relationship for Use Cases



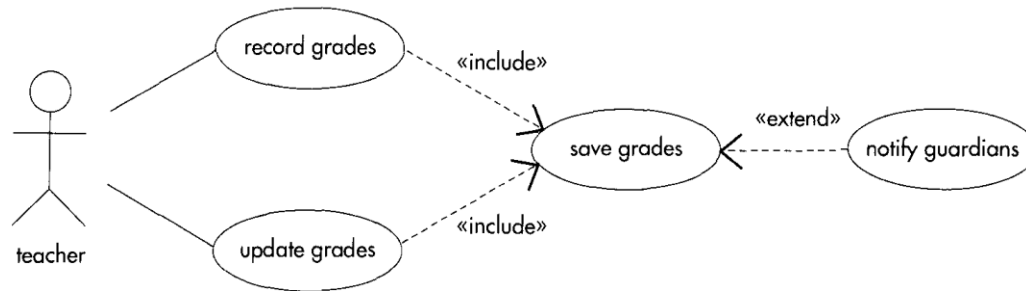
This means that the extending use case *may* be a part of the extended use case.

- Compare to *always* for the include relationship.

Note direction of arrow.

Use Extend for functionality that only applies in exceptional cases.

# The Extend Relationship for Use Cases



- When the teacher either records grades or updates grades, the grades are always saved and guardians *may* be notified.



# Includes vs. Extends

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- By analogy with programming languages
  - Include is like a function
    - Must be explicitly “called” in the including use case.
    - Normally called from more than one place
      - multiple use cases.
  - Extend is like an exception
    - “Just happens”
    - Not mentioned in the extended use case.
    - Might be possible anywhere in the extended use case.
    - Might be possible only at a given point or range in the extended use case



# How to Model Use Cases

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- Identify the actors and use cases
- Prioritize the use cases.
- Detail each use case.
- Structure the case model.
- Prototype user interfaces.



# Identify the Actors and Use Cases

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- Talk to the stakeholders.
  - Product Manager
  - Customers
  - Users



# Questions for Identifying Actors

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- Who will use the system in their work?
- Who will perform administrative or maintenance functions?
- What external hardware or software will the system interact with?



# Identifying Actors

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- Who/What is an actor vs. part of the system?
- May depend on where you draw the boundary
- Example: Database System

Once actors are identified

Determine functionality accessible to each actor





# Scenarios

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- Narrative description of somebody doing something with the system.
- Specific, not abstract
- Think of a movie scenario.
  - Describes exactly what happens throughout a scene.



# Scenario Example

<i>Scenario name</i>	<u>warehouseOnFire</u>
<i>Participating actor instances</i>	<u>bob, alice:FieldOfficer</u> <u>john:Dispatcher</u>
<i>Flow of events</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Bob, driving down main street in his patrol car, notices smoke coming out of a warehouse. His partner, Alice, activates the “Report Emergency” function from her FRIEND laptop.</li><li>2. Alice enters the address of the building, a brief description of its location (i.e., northwest corner), and an emergency level. In addition to a fire unit, she requests several paramedic units on the scene, given that the area appears to be relatively busy. She confirms her input and waits for an acknowledgment.</li><li>3. John, the Dispatcher, is alerted to the emergency by a beep of his workstation. He reviews the information submitted by Alice and acknowledges the report. He allocates a fire unit and two paramedic units to the Incident site and sends their estimated arrival time (ETA) to Alice.</li><li>4. Alice receives the acknowledgment and the ETA.</li></ol>



# Use Cases

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- What is the difference between a scenario and a use case?
- A scenario is *an instance of a use case*.
  - Scenario describes a *specific* case of someone making use of some piece of functionality.
  - Use case describes the functionality in general terms.
    - Covers all possible scenarios for this functionality.



# Where do we start?

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- Suggestion:
  - Sketch use case diagrams.
  - Write scenarios
  - Derive use case descriptions
  - Iterate



# Detail each use case.

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- Describe interactions in detail.
  - Remember: Still from external point of view
- Look for gaps and inconsistencies.
- Dig for details.
- May need to do additional interviews to answer questions and fill in details.



# Structure the Use Case Model.

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- Look for relationships
  - Generalizations
  - Includes
  - Extends
- Draw the use case diagrams.
- Write use case descriptions.

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*Use case name*      ReportEmergency

*Participating  
actors*

*Flow of events*

*Entry condition*

*Exit condition*

*Quality  
requirements*

<i>Use case name</i>	ReportEmergency
<i>Participating actors</i>	Initiated by FieldOfficer Communicates with Dispatcher
<i>Flow of events</i>	
<i>Entry condition</i>	
<i>Exit condition</i>	
<i>Quality requirements</i>	



<i>Use case name</i>	ReportEmergency
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<i>Entry condition</i>	
<i>Exit condition</i>	
<i>Quality requirements</i>	

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<i>Quality requirements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FieldOfficer’s report is acknowledged within 30 seconds.</li> <li>• The selected response arrives no later than 30 seconds after it is sent by the Dispatcher.</li> </ul>