Decorator

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Identification
Structure
Discussion
Participants
Related Patterns
Examples

Name and Classification: Decorator
(Object Structural) **Intent:** "Attach
additional responsibilities to an object
dynamically. Decorators provide a flexible
alternative to subclassing for extending
functionality." GoF(175)

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flexible alternative to subclassing for extending functionality." GoF(175)

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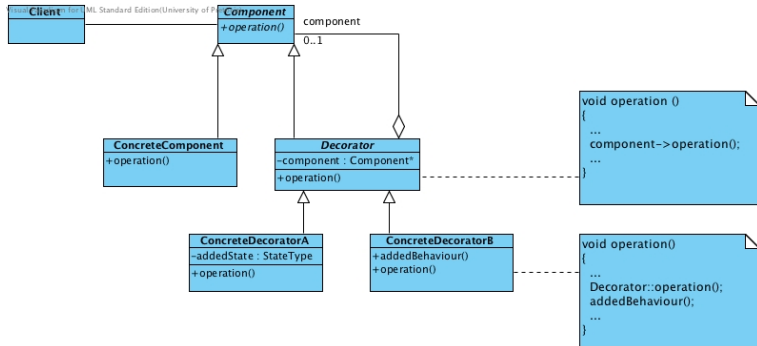
- Looks similar to the Composite. A composite may comprise 0..* or 1..* components, while Decorators comprise of 0..1 component.
- Composite themselves do not have specialisations, while Decorators do.

Component

- interface for objects that can have responsibilities dynamically added to them.

ConcreteComponent

- the object to which the additional responsibilities can be attached

Decorator

- defines a reference to a Component-type object

ConcreteDecorator

- adds the responsibilities to the component

- **Adapter** (139) : Changes the interface to an object while the Decorator only changes responsibilities.

- **Composite** (163) : A Decorator is seen by some as a Composite with only one component that has added responsibility.

- **Strategy** (315) : The Strategy pattern changes the inner workings of an object while the Decorator changes the looks.

Luigi (the restauranteur from the Ashes to Ashes series) has decided to begin a fast pizza outlet called Dumbo's - he was a Disney fan. Luigi wants his clientele to choose the toppings for the pizza. Each topping has a price associated with it. A Hawaiian pizza for example has a tomato base, mozzarella cheese, ham and pineapple.

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Example 1 - Creating a Pizza
- Hawaiian pizza
- First attempt
- Enter the Decorator....
Example 2 - Sales Ticket

```
class Pizza {
  // methods to get a description
  // and the cost
};
class Hawaiian : public Pizza {
  // description and cost methods
  // specifically to Hawaiian pizzas
};
```

What if -

- the cost of ham changes?

- Luigi wants to add salami to the pizza?
  Or maybe even cheddar cheese!

The previous design will require another class to be defined to inherit from Hawaiian which increases the price of the pizza to include salami and updates the description accordingly. You can see where this is going.........
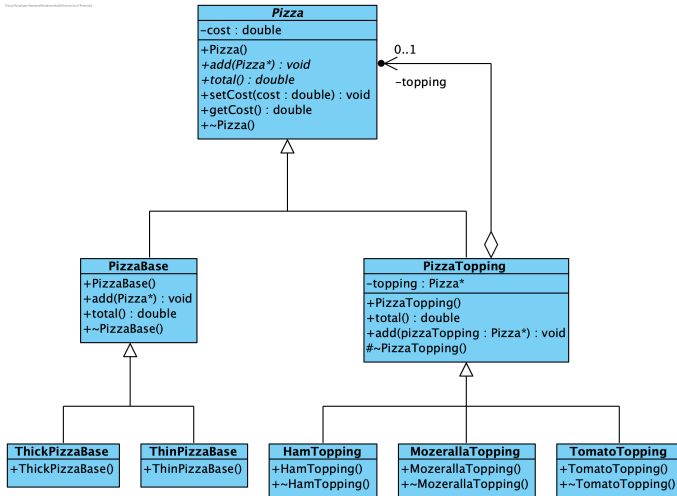How would you use the Decorator pattern to solve your problem?

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