

### **Bad Smells and Internal Quality**

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Slide 1 of 77 8. September 2013

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Bad Smells and Refactorings

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- In programmers heaven ...
  - Code is wonderful, efficient and simply beautiful
  - Code is readable and understandable
  - You can always implement new features
  - You don't make mistakes, so you don't have to test
  - Your code works right from the start
  - You are productive and have a lot of fun
- Come back to reality





- You know it better from your daily business
  - Coding can be great mostly if you implement something new
  - Coding can be frustrating when finding ugly pieces of code (bad smells)
  - Finding a bug can be difficult
  - And fixing may be even more difficult
  - So ... maintenance can be a nightmare



Are you sure that you REALLY fixed the bug? Or introduced a new one?

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- There are some answers to these questions
  - Don't start to code before you understood the problem or your tasks
  - Write supplementary unit tests
  - Know common bad smells, pitfalls and traps
  - Use small steps to implement functionality (TDD: test, code, refactor)
  - Do some internal QA

• What can you do?

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- Learn to follow good habits:
  - meaningful names
  - proper algorithms and abstractions
  - Documentation of the right things (but don't overdocument)
  - Being careful, open-minded and self-critical
  - Read books

- Improve your coding skills and do the best you can to write code that is
  - Clear and Readable
  - Understandable and free of redundancy

# Basics: Why this talk? Tricky Assignment



What about this piece of code?

What does it print out????

0, 50, throws Exception?

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### **Basics: Why this talk?** Tricky Assignment



The result is

What?

```
tricky = tricky + ++tricky;
tricky += ++tricky;
                        =>
tricky += tricky++;
                               tricky = tricky + tricky++;
                        =>
```

Was genau macht?

```
++tricky bzw. tricky++;
```

Different semantics (who knows it?)

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# Basics: Why this talk? Tricky Assignment



Different semantics (increment then use vs. use then increment)

```
++tricky
tricky = tricky + 1;
temp = tricky;
tricky = tricky + 1;
return temp
```

We learned till now

```
trickyPre += ++trickyPre; => value is incrementing
trickyPost += trickyPost++; => value stays 0
```

How can we get -1 if we start with zero and increment?

# Basics: Why this talk? Tricky Assignment – Conclusion



#### Let's do some System.out-Debugging:

```
i = 29 / trickyPre = 1073741823 / trickyPost = 0
i = 30 / trickyPre = 2147483647 / trickyPost = 0
i = 31 / trickyPre = -1 / trickyPost = 0
i = 32 / trickyPre = -1 / trickyPost = 0
```

#### PAY ATTENTION FOR SILENT OVERFLOW IN JAVA

$$i=31$$
 2147483647 + (2147483647 + 1) = 2147483647 - 2147483648 = -1  $i=32$  -1 + (-1 + 1) = -1 + 0 = -1

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- Don't underestimate small code changes and their impact
  - Switching between pre- and post-increment can be tricky
  - Silent overflows may occur and cause unexpected calculation results
  - A semicolon at the wrong position od missing { } change behavior

- Knowledge of programming problems, common pitfalls and language abnormalities/traps is helpful
- Because of this we will explore some of this stuff in this talk



### What are Bad Smells?

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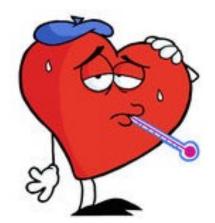
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#### What are Bad Smells?



#### My findings: Bad Smells are pieces of code that ...

- potentially contain errors
- are misleading or hard to understand
- are suspicious
- give you a bad feeling when looking at them
- make you fear if you have to integrate new features



- => code that's ugly, hard to enhance and tends to be unmaintainable
- >> but most of all: code that isn't reliable

#### Bad Smells – A first example



- Just two lines of code can't be too bad, or??
- Here they are:

```
CmdExe ce = new CmdExe(4711);
ce.reg(new Printer("Hi Bad Smell World"));
```

- But what's wrong with these 2 lines of code?
- A lot right! Okay, let's focus on the various problems ...

### Bad Smells – A first example Possible Problems



- Misleading names CmdExe, Printer
- Abbreviation with no or little meaning ce, reg
  - nearly no information about semantics
  - in general abbreviations are often confusing (not only for project newbies)
- Magic Number 4711
  - Not transporting semantics
  - Hard to check if they are valid
- The passed value may be illegal (out of valid range)
  - What will happen? Exception? Wrong or no execution?

### Bad Smells – A first example Magic Number / Illegal value range



Illegal value range

```
CommandExecutor(final int registrationStrategy)
{
    if (registrationStrategy == 0) {
        switchToAddAsLast()
    }
    if (registrationStrategy == 1) {
        switchToAddAsFirst()
    }
    ...
}
```

- You never notice that 4711 is invalid!
- Illegal value range What can we do?

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### Bad Smells – A first example Define constants



```
public static final int ADD AS LAST = 0;
public static final int ADD AS FIRST = 1;
public static final int REPLACE FIRST = 2;
CommandExecutor (final int registrationStrategy)
       if (registrationStrategy == ADD AS LAST) {
             switchToAddAsLast()
          (registrationStrategy == ADD AS FIRST) {
             switchToAddAsFirst()
```

- + is more readable, better understandable
- but still can't prohibit passing wrong numbers

# Bad Smells – A first example Add a range check



```
CommandExecutor(final int registrationStrategy)
{
   if (registrationStrategy < ADD_AS_LAST ||
      registrationStrategy > REPLACE_FIRST )
   {
      throw new IllegalArgumentException("value out of range");
   }

if (registrationStrategy == ADD_AS_LAST) {
   ...
```

- Seems to be a lot of work to check all input parameters especially when things get more complicate => use frameworks / utility classes
- It's worth it => rest of the code operates on valid data and don't have to check again and again

# Bad Smells – A first example Illegal value range – What can we do?



- But think about the erroneous caller?
- Is the warning message "value out of range" really helpful?

Seems to be like these messages:

Any (bad) program: "Unexpected error 1234 occurred."

Deutsche Bahn: "We stopped unexpectedly."

- Thanks a lot! ;-) Yes, I realized it, too
- But: What is the reason, what can I change, do I get my connection trains?

=> Communicate errors clearly and with helpful information for the caller

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# Bad Smells – A first example Illegal value range – What can we do?



- Communicate errors clearly and with helpful information for the caller
  - Error Message should show the valid range

"parameter registrationStrategy is not in range [0-2]"

- Looks good. But what was the value that was passed? 4713? 0815?
- Error Message should show actual value

"parameter registrationStrategy is invalid: value = " + registrationStrategy + " is not in range [0-2]"

• Much better. But there is still room for improvement ...

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### Bad Smells – A first example Provide a list of valid values



#### Console output for input 6:

parameter 'registrationStrategy' is invalid: value = 6 is not in range [0, 1, 2, 4, 7, 9]

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### Bad Smells – A first example Final Correction



```
CommandExecutor executor = new CommandExecutor(ADD_AS_LAST);
executor.register(new PrintToConsole("Hi Bad Smell World"));
```

#### What we achieved

- Code is more readable and understandable
- Transports semantics and communicates more clearly what it will do
- Code is robust and more reliable
- Predictable behaviour even in error situations: object stays in valid state
- A lot easier to maintain and to enhance

### Bad Smells – A first example Parameter Checks – Design By Contract



#### **Conclusion**

- Use meaningful names
- Avoid magic numbers use constants instead
- Ensure that all parameters are valid when passed to your public methods
- Handle errors and communicate well

**Design By Contract:** Pre-/Post-Conditions and Invariants

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### Refactorings as an Answer!?

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### What are Refactorings?



Martin Fowler says ...

"Refactoring is a change made to the internal structure of a software component to make it easier to understand and cheaper to modify without changing the observable behaviour of that software component."

My (less strict) definition:

"A small change that improves the quality of that piece of code"

#### When do we need Refactorings?



### When do we need Refactorings?

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#### When do we need Refactorings?



Nearly all the time while coding

Refactorings are small changes done in little steps

Should be accompanied by unit tests

## Refactorings by Example A short method to refactor



```
public static boolean isNumber(final String strText)
       if (Character.isDigit(strText.charAt(0)))
              for (int i = 1, n = strText.length(); i < n; i++)
                    if (!(Character.isDigit(strText.charAt(i))))
                           return false;
       else
              return false;
       return true;
```

### Refactorings by Example



- **Problems to solve:** 
  - **Unexpected exception**
  - Unclear behaviour
  - **Error prone**
  - A lot of returns
  - A little complicated

But wait! Before we start changing the method what we should do?

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### Refactorings by Example Step 1: Improve the existing unit tests



- Assume that there are some unit tests for normal inputs and invalid inputs and they are showing green
- We asked the RE team and they say a more general solution is desired
  - we add unit tests for signed numbers and fraction
  - we add unit tests for corner cases like empty inputs or null values

We ran the tests and some of them fail and that's absolutely correct because we wanted them to fail

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# Refactorings by Example Step 2: Combine the two conditions



Now it's more clear that it tests every char to be a digit

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# Refactorings by Example Step 3: Use a method from the jdk



```
public static boolean isNumber(final String input)
{
     try
     {
          Double.parseDouble(input); // just parse
          return true;
     }
     catch (final NumberFormatException ex)
     {
          return false;
     }
}
```

Now it's clear what we want to do

But: We changed the observable behaviour! In this case it's okay

# Refactorings by Example Step 4: Check input parameter



```
public static boolean isNumber(final String input)
       if (input== null)
             throw new IllegalArgumentException ("parameter" +
                                 "'input' must not be null");
       try
             Double.parseDouble(strText);
             return true;
       catch (final NumberFormatException ex)
             return false:
```

Now it's understandable, readable and communicates errors clearly

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# **Characteristics Of Good Software**

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#### **Characteristics Of Good Software**



#### Martin Fowler says ...

"Any fool can write a program a computer can understand,

Good programmers write code that humans can understand."

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### **Good Software – Internal Quality**



### **Internal Quality is about CODE:**

- readable
- Easy to understand
- Without traps, no Easter eggs
- Extensible, Maintainable
- Well documented
- Good Test/Code coverage
- •



### Good Software – External Quality



### **External Quality is a user centred view (FEATURES and BEHAVIOUR):**

- Works as expected
- Provides all desired functionality
- Correctness
  - Nearly no (observable) bugs
  - Well tested
- Usability
- Reliability
- •



# Good Software – Common design principles



### Common design principles

- 1. KISS Keep It Simple and Short
- 2. DRY Don't Repeat Yourself
- 3. YAGNI You Ain't Gonna Need It
- 4. SOLID 5 Principles

### SOLID – At a glimpse



- S SRP Single Responsibility Principle
- O OCP Open/Closed Principle
- L LSP Liskov Substitution Principle
- I ISP Interface Segregation Principle
- D DIP Dependency Inversion Principle



### Internal Quality In Depth

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### Internal Quality – What really matters



- Shortness KISS
- 2. Meaningful names
- 3. Structure Of Code
- 4. Find proper abstractions
- 5. Avoid side effects and other surprises
- 6. Separation Of Concerns
- 7. Control of State / Immutability

### **Internal Quality in Depth**

### 1. KISS- Keep it simple and short



- KISS Keep your code base as small as possible
- Use existing the JDK and 3<sup>rd</sup> party libraries wheneve



- SRP Single Responsibility Principle states that
  - methods and classes should have one responsibility
  - methods and classes should be as short or simple as possible

### My advice

- methods => max. 50 100 lines, preferable 10 20 lines
- classes => max. 1000 2000 lines, preferable up to 500 lines



- Keep your code base as small as possible, crispy and precise
- ?-Operator ??? With this, the following is true, right?

```
if (condition)
{
    result = success;
}
else
{
    result = other;
}
```

=>

result = (condition) ? success : other



- Keep your code base as small as possible
- Example: We can get rid of if's when we use conditional operators

```
(x % 2 == 0) ? "even" : "odd"
```

But short is not always preferable ... take a look at this

```
Double value = value1 == null ? value2 : value2 == null ? value1
: new Double(value1 + value2);
```

- Can you figure out, what the code does? Immediately? For sure?
- Bad Smell: Complex logic in conditional operator



- Keep your code readable and understandable at first
- What about the following?

```
Double value = nullsafeAdd(value1, value2);

public static Double nullsafeAdd(Double value1, Double value2)
{
  if (value1 == null)
      return value2;
  if (value2 == null)
      return value1;

  return value1 + value2;
}
```



```
public static Double nullsafeAdd(Double value1, Double value2)
{
   if (value1 == null && value2 == null)
        return null;
   if (value1 == null)
        return value2;
   if (value2 == null)
        return value1;
   return value1 + value2;
}
```

- Handles all the special cases upfront
- Communicate clearly, directly understandable (blue line not necessary, but easier to understand)
- logic can be kept as simple as possible => that's KISS



### Solution / Refactoring(s)

- Use the proper abstractions
- Avoid duplication with helper methods (DRY)
- Use existing the JDK and 3<sup>rd</sup> party libraries whenever possible
- Introduce Convenience Methods

# Internal Quality in Depth! KISS – Builder but irritating Code



// We want the following output: 13.03.2014 17:41:22

#### BAD

#### A LOT BETTER

**final** SimpleDateFormat sdfInput = **new** SimpleDateFormat("dd.MM.yyyy HH:mm:ss");

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### Internal Quality in Depth! KISS – Unused Code



```
private static String getEncoding(final String frequency) {
           String value = "";
          if (frequency.startsWith("M")) {
                     return "710";
           } else if (frequency.startsWith("Q")) {
                     return "708";
          // } else if (frequency.startsWith("H")) {
          // return "704";
          // } else if (frequency.startsWith("T")) {
          // // trimester?
          } else if (frequency.startsWith("A")) {
                     return "702";
          // } else if (frequency.startsWith("D")) {
                     // return "711";
           } else if (frequency.startsWith("W")) {
                     return "716";
          return value;
```

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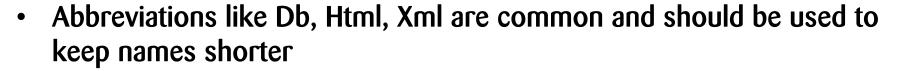
### **Internal Quality in Depth**

### 2. Meaningful names



- Hard to find
- But it's worth the effort
- Names shouldn't be to long but expressive enough









What about these few lines of code?

```
// contains max value
int val = -1;

// iterate through all available table rows
for (int i = 0; i < 50; i++)
{
    val = Math.max(val, values[i].getValue());
}</pre>
```

What can be improved??



- These lines don't communicate what they do
- The comments aren't useful too (!DRY Don't Repeat Yourself)

```
// contains max value
int val = -1;

// iterate through all available table rows
for (int i = 0; i < 50; i++)
{
    val = Math.max(val, values[i]. getValue());
}</pre>
```



Use meaningful names and see what happens:

```
final int PERSON_TABLE_ROW_COUNT = 50;
int maxAge = -1;
for (int rowIndex = 0; rowIndex < PERSON_TABLE_ROW_COUNT; rowIndex++)
{
         maxAge = Math.max(maxAge, persons[rowIndex].getAge());
}</pre>
```

- Okay: We are calculating the age of oldest person listed in the table.
- Pretty clear now!

## Internal Quality in Depth 2. Meaningful names for Collections



#### BAD

name consisting just of data type: map, set, list, vector

```
final List<File> list = new ArrayList<File>();
final List<File> list2 = new ArrayList<File>();
final List<File> list3 = new ArrayList<File>();
```

#### IMPROVED

Use additional "s" for collections of elements: persons, figures
 final Vector<File> files = new Vector<File>();

Repetition of type may be helpful: listOflmages, idToPersonMap

```
final List<File> listOfFiles = new ArrayList<File>();
```



#### EVEN BETTER

What about to communicate what is stored?

```
final List<File> newFiles = new ArrayList<File>();
final List<File> changedFiles = new ArrayList<File>();
final List<File> removedFiles = new ArrayList<File>();
```

### Solution / Refactoring(s)

- Think twice or more about a name
- Try to communicate the purpose ...
   What It stores (for attributes) or it does (for methods)
- Discuss names of business methods with Requirements Engineers

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### Internal Quality in Depth

### 2. Meaningful names: Communicate well



BAD:

cur.getParent().getChildren().remove(cur);

A BIT BETTER

selectedItem.getParent().getChildren().remove(selectedItem);

BETTER

final TreeItem<String> parentItem = selectedItem.getParent();
parentItem.getChildren().remove(selectedItem);

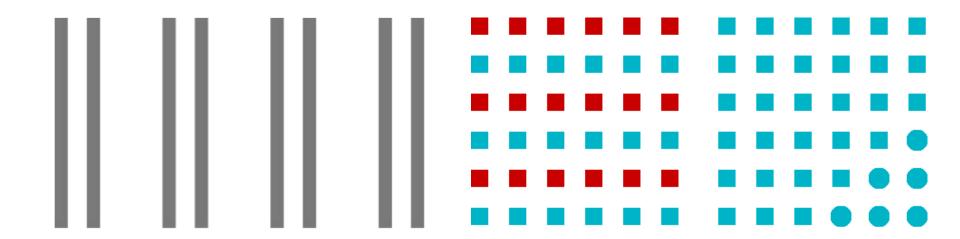
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### Internal Quality in Depth 3. Structure Of Code



If you look at code there is a lot about psychology:

 when looking at something you notice combinations by grouping related things, known as "Gestalt der Nähe", "Gestalt der Ähnlichkeit", ...

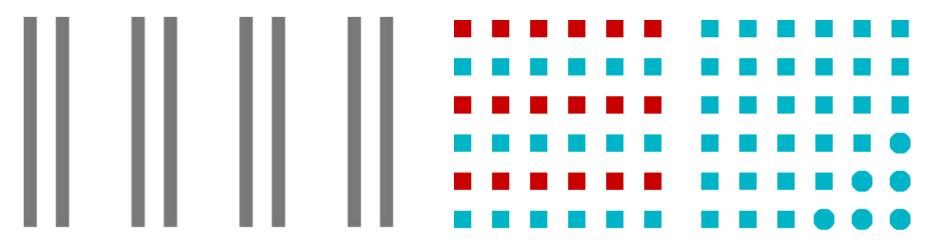


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### Internal Quality in Depth 3. Structure Of Code



If you look at code there is a lot about psychology:



- recognising structures is easier when
  - The layout is clear
  - Curly braces on a separate line (controversy)
  - Spaces and blank lines separate blocks of functionality

# Internal Quality in Depth 3. Structure Of Code – Ugly



```
public final class FormatingExample {
   private
             static final
                           Logger
                                                  log =
Logger.getLogger (...);
          public static String asHex( final
                                                  byte[] tele)
log.info( "asHex("+Arrays.toString(tele)+")");
            final StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer ( "0x");
    for (int i=0;i<tele.length;i++)</pre>
            sb.append (Integer.toHexString (tele[i]));
      return sb.toString();
```

### Internal Quality in Depth 3. Structure Of Code – Well Formatted



```
public final class FormatingExample
     private static final Logger log = Logger.getLogger(...);
     public static String asHex(final byte[] tele)
         log.info("asHex(" + Arrays.toString(tele) + ")");
         final StringBuffer sb = new StringBuffer("0x");
         for (int i = 0; i < tele.length; i++)</pre>
             sb.append(Integer.toHexString(tele[i]));
         return sb.toString();
```

### **Internal Quality in Depth** 3. Structure Of Code



### Solution / Refactoring(s)

- **Use a Code Checker**
- **Use a Layout Formatter**

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### Internal Quality in Depth

### 4. Find proper abstractions



- Almost 3 different abstraction layers in code
  - high- readable business methods (public)

```
isRBLAlive()
rbl.isAlive()
```

medium – a few technical or implementation details (public – private)

```
SystemStateService.isAlive(System.RBL)
```

low- the level of statements (private)

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# Internal Quality in Depth 4. Find proper abstractions



```
public void paint(final Graphics graphics)
    if (showGrid)
       graphics.setColor(Color.DARK GRAY);
       // Raster zeichnen
       for (int x = 0; x < getSize().width; x += GRID SIZE X)
          for (int y = 0; y < getSize().height; y += GRID SIZE Y)</pre>
              graphics.drawLine(x, y, x, y);
    paintFigures(graphics);
```

#### Avoid to mix different levels of abstraction (harder to read)

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# Internal Quality in Depth 4. Find proper abstractions



### Solution / Refactoring(s)

- Stick on the same abstraction level in one method
- Use (and create) helper methods

```
public void paint(final Graphics graphics)
{
    if (showGrid)
    {
        paintGrid(graphics);
    }
    paintFigures(graphics);
}
```





Let's look at the following few apparently innocent lines:

```
private boolean deleteTimeSeries(final String key) {
    if (exists(key)) {
        assert delete(key);
        return true;
    }
    return false;
}
```

- Doesn't look bad at first glance!
- What can be wrong with it?

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- Application code executed in an assert!
- Assertions can be turned on and off and are disabled by default => payload code is NOT executed!

#### Correction:

```
private boolean deleteTimeSeries(final String key) {
    if (exists(key)) {
        final boolean deleted = delete(key);
        assert deleted : "expected TimeSeries to be deleted";
        return deleted;
    }
    return false;
}
```

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Analoges Problem Applikationscode in Logging-Code

```
if (log.isDebugEnabled())
{
    log.debug("some heavy logging");
    resetLineCounter();
}
```

 Sehr schwierig zu finden, wenn Log-Ausgaben mal für Debug und mal nicht konfiguriert sind ... und der Kunde an der Log-Konfiguration herumschauen kann

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```
List<Person> getPersons(String containing)
      setAttributeXyz();
      modifiyAddresses();
      List<Person> filtered = new ArrayList<>();
      for (Person person : this.persons)
                (person.getName().contains(containing))
                    filtered.add(person);
      return filtered;
```

A call to this get method changes state! But GETTERs should be READ ONLY

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Let's come back to our overly complex conditional statement:

```
Double value = value1 == null ? value2 : value2 == null ? value1
: new Double(value1 + value2);
```

- Okay, it's ugly, of course
- The result is hard to figure out, it is everything but obvious

- Did you noticed the new Double (value1 + value2)?
- Should we remove it and replace it with value1 + value2?

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• Okay, let's remove the new Double()

```
Double value = value1 == null ? value2 : value2 == null ? value1
: value1 + value2;
```

- + a little shorter
- + a little more obvious
- + seems to work well
- + so it get's deployed ...



... B A N G . . . We get a NPE

```
Double value = value1 == null ? value2 : value2 == null ? value1
: value1 + value2;
```

- What? A NPE? Ridiculous?
- What can cause a NPE? => value1 and value2 == null
- But why? The problem is, that there is some Auto-Unboxing-Magic
- Remember the original line won't cause a NPE:

```
Double value = value1 == null ? value2 : value2 == null ? value1
: new Double(value1 + value2);
```

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```
boolean returnint = true;
Object val = returnInt ? 5 : 7.0;
System.out.println("val is " + val + " of " + val.getClass());
=> val is 5.0 of class java.lang.Double
if (returnint) val = 5;
else val = 7.0;
System.out.println("val is " + val + ": " + val.getClass());
=> val is 5 of class java.lang.Integer
```

⇒ ACHTUNG: ?-Operator und if sind NICHT 100% äquivalent



#### Hints for this kind of problem

- Long methods
- A lot of parameters
- Strange or long method names like

```
...And... => retrieveAndFilter
```

...After... => searchAfterDbConnect

Solution / Refactoring(s)

Split information retrieval and processing



```
String getResultsAndFormat(final OutputFormat format)
      String representation = "";
      if (format == HTML)
             List results = retrievePersonsFromDb();
             representation = convertToHtml(results)
      if (format == XML)
             List results = retrievePersonsFromDb();
             representation = convertToXml(results)
      return representation;
```



### **Analysis**

- + Names are okay, but can be improved
- + code structure is okay too
- + some functionality is already extracted into separate methods
- Method does a lot / has too many responsibilities
- Not ideal Separation Of Concerns: Retrieval and Conversion to output format bundled and combined together
- Hard to enhance ... new types of representation, what about json (Compile type dependency and using strings / enums)

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```
List getPersonsAndCreateOutput(final OutputFormat format)
      // RETRIEVAL
      List persons = retrievePersonsFromDb();
       // OUTPUT FORMATTING
      String representation = "";
      if (format == HTML)
              representation = convertToHtml(results)
         (format == XML)
              representation = convertToXml(results)
      return representation;
```



```
List getPersonsAndCreateOutput(final OutputFormat format)
      List persons = retrievePersonsFromDb();
      return createRepresenation(persons, format);
String createRepresenation(List persons, OutputFormat format) {
      String representation = "";
      if (format == HTML)
              representation = convertToHtml(results)
      if (format == XML)
              representation = convertToXml(results)
      return representation;
```



### Use OO-Design Principles:

- Use Abstractions (IOutputFormatter)
- Use Polymorphism (HtmlFormatter, XmlFormatter)

Can be easily enhanced (e.g. new JsonFormatter + getByFormat())

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# Internal Quality in Depth 7. Control Of State / Immutabilty



- Always ensure that your objects are in a valid state
- Goal: Reduce the possibility to change the state (directly) from outside by calling setters

```
Person readPersonFromDb(ResultSet rs)
{
    Person newPerson = new Person();
    try
    {
        newPerson.setName(rs.getString("NAME"));
        ...
        newPerson.setHeight(rs.getInt("HEIGHT"));
    }
    catch (SQLException ex)
    { // not correctly handled here (wait a minute) }
    return newPerson;
}
```

# Internal Quality in Depth 7. Control Of State / Immutabilty



#### Problem with the code:

Every single db access may cause a sql exception and the object is in an undefined state

#### What can we do?

- Provide a business behaviour driven interface
- Avoid mutable attribute, prefer immutability
- Have well defined state transitions => Multithreading is getting easier

# Internal Quality in Depth 7. Control Of State / Immutabilty



- Read data into temporary variables
- Create Person instance only when no error has occured

```
Person readPersonFromDb (ResultSet rs)
       try
              String name = rs.getString("NAME");
              int height = rs.getInt("HEIGHT");
              return new Person(name, ..., height);
       catch (SQLException ex)
       { // not correctly handled here (wait a minute) }
       return null;
```

### The End



### Thank you for your attention