

# SOLID Design Principles

Dr. Rodrigo Spínola



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

**TDresearchteam**  
Technical Debt Research Team



**VCU**  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering

2

## Agenda

- **Motivation:** minimize cost of change

**S**

ingle responsibility principle

**O**

pen/closed principle

**L**

iscov substitution principle

**I**

nterface segregation principle

**D**

ependency inversion principle



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

**TDresearchteam**  
Technical Debt Research Team



**VCU**  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering

3

# Classes are SOLID, Methods are SOFA

- **SOFA:** methods are short, do one thing, have few arguments, single level of abstraction

SOLID concerns itself with designing classes,  
**assuming** the methods are SOFA



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team



4

# Single Responsibility Principle

- A class should have one and only one reason to change
  - Each responsibility is a possible axis of change
  - Changes to one axis shouldn't affect others
- E.g., a user is a moviegoer, and an authentication principal, and a social network member, ... etc. **Bad!!!**
  - Really big class files are a tipoff
    - Lines of code is a coarse metric to detect this



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

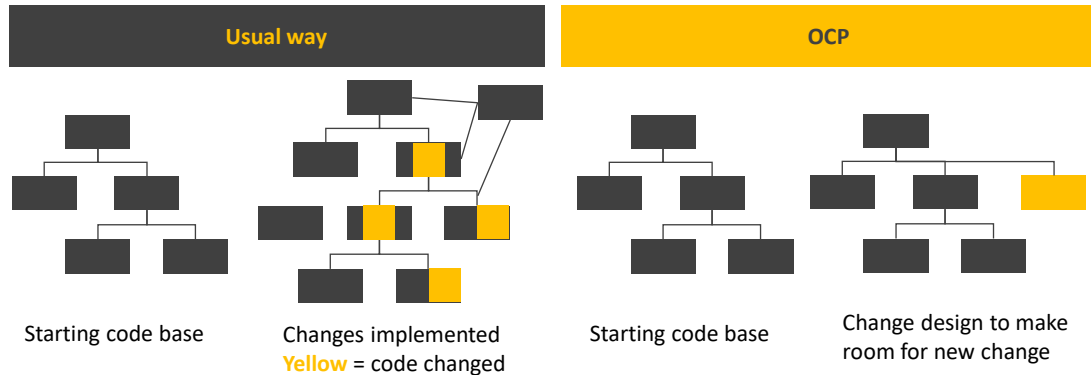
TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team



5

# Open/Closed Principle

- Classes should be **open** for extension, but **closed** for source modification



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

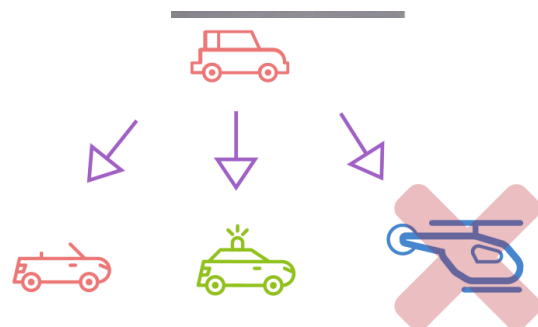
TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team

VCU  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering

6

# Liskov Substitution Principle

- Attributed to ACM Turing Award winner Barbara Liskov
  - pioneered many ideas in OOP
- “A method that works on an instance of type T, should also work on any subtype of T”



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team

VCU  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering



# Interface Segregation Principle

- ISP states that interface creation should be as refined as possible in the sense that all included **method declarations** in interfaces should be logically bound to the **same context** and should contain **only related functionality**
- Breaking this principle is clear when we use interfaces for which classes only implement some methods and leave other methods unimplemented
- You can think of this principle as “the Single Responsibility Principle for Interfaces”



# Interface Segregation Principle

- Imagine we have an interface with three methods, a class that provides an implementation for all three methods, and a newer class that only provides implementations for two of the methods
- When other developers will use the second implementation, they would normally assume that all methods are correctly implemented and will have an unpleasant surprise when it turns out they have been using an empty method in their code



11

## Another example...

Clients should not be forced to depend on interfaces that they don't use!

Segregate your interfaces!

```
Iworker
SignIn()
StartWork()
Continue()
SignOut()
```



```
IHuman
TeaBreak()
Lunch()
```



```
IRobot
ReCharge()
OilCheck()
```



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

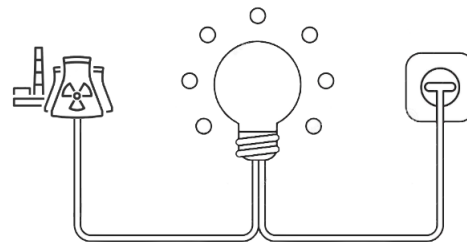
TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team

VCU  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering

12

## Dependency Inversion Principle

- **Problem:** High-level modules, which provide complex logic, should be easily reusable and unaffected by changes in low-level modules, which provide utility features



Dependency Inversion Principle

When knowing how things work becomes a burden



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team

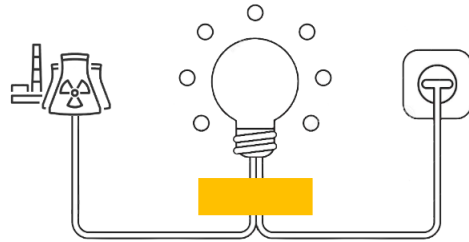
VCU  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering

13

# Dependency Inversion Principle

- **Solution:** introduce an **abstraction** that decouples the high-level and low-level modules from each other:

1. High-level modules should not depend on low-level modules. Both should depend on abstractions
2. Abstractions should not depend on details. Details should depend on abstractions



Dependency Inversion Principle

When knowing how things work becomes a burden



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team

VCU  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering

14

# Dependency Inversion Principle

The DIP does not just change the direction of the dependency. It **splits the dependency between the high-level and low-level modules** by introducing an **abstraction between them**.

- In the end, you get two dependencies:
  - the high-level module depends on the abstraction, and
  - the low-level depends on the same abstraction.



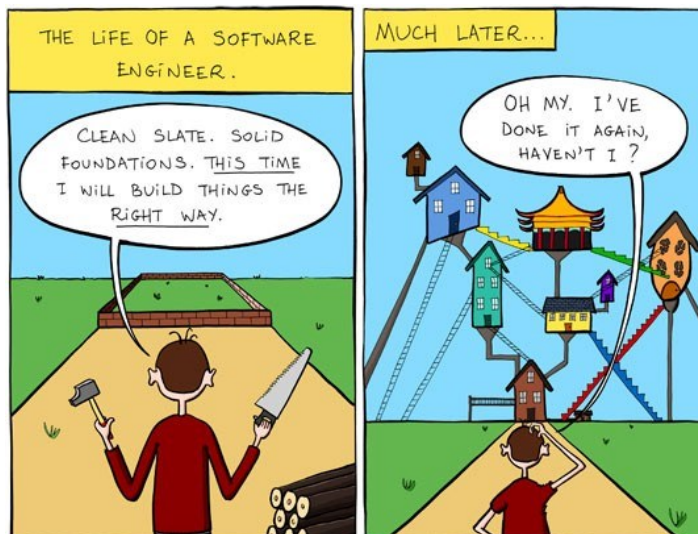
Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

TDresearchteam  
Technical Debt Research Team

VCU  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering

# SOLID is not absolute

- The SOLID design principles provide advice
  - Keep it in mind
  - Know when to refactor code
  - Know when not to refactor, when specific advice may not apply





# Summary



## **S**ingle Responsibility Principle

A class should have only a single responsibility (i.e. only one potential change in the software's specification should be able to affect the specification of the class)



## **I**nterface Segregation Principle

Clients should not be forced to depend upon the interfaces that they do not use.



## **O**pen / Closed Principle

A software module (it can be a class or method) should be open for extension but closed for modification.



## **D**ependency Inversion Principle

Program to an interface, not to an implementation.



## **L**iskov Substitution Principle

Objects in a program should be replaceable with instances of their subtypes without altering the correctness of that program.

We also formalized good method design characteristics using the SOFA: methods are short, do one thing, have few arguments, single level of abstraction.



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design Principles

**TDresearchteam**  
Technical Debt Research Team



**VCU**  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering



Class is  
over,  
questions?

# SOLID Design Principles

Dr. Rodrigo Spínola



Lecture 24 - SOLID Design  
Principles

**TDresearchteam**  
Technical Debt Research Team



**VCU**  
Computer Science  
College of Engineering