

The Dark Side of Design Patterns: What They Don't Tell You



Who is Chad Green?

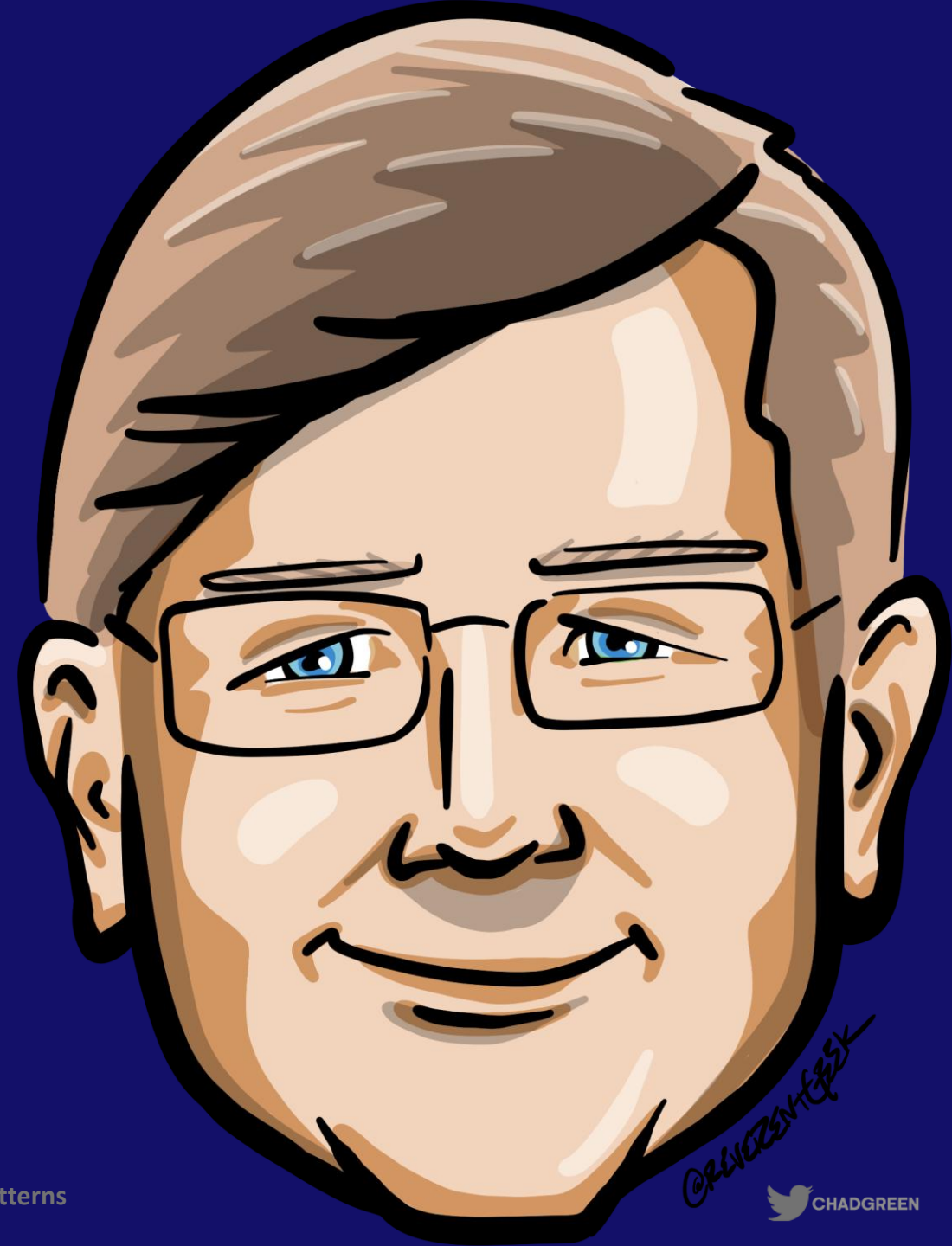
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The Power of Design Patterns

Reevaluating Software Design Patterns

Significance of Design Patterns

Code
Reusability

Significance of Design Patterns

Code
Reusability

Scalability and
Maintainability

Significance of Design Patterns

Code
Reusability

Scalability and
Maintainability

Common
Vocabulary

Significance of Design Patterns

Code
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Scalability and
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Common
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Best Practices

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Documentation

Significance of Design Patterns

**Code
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Best Practices

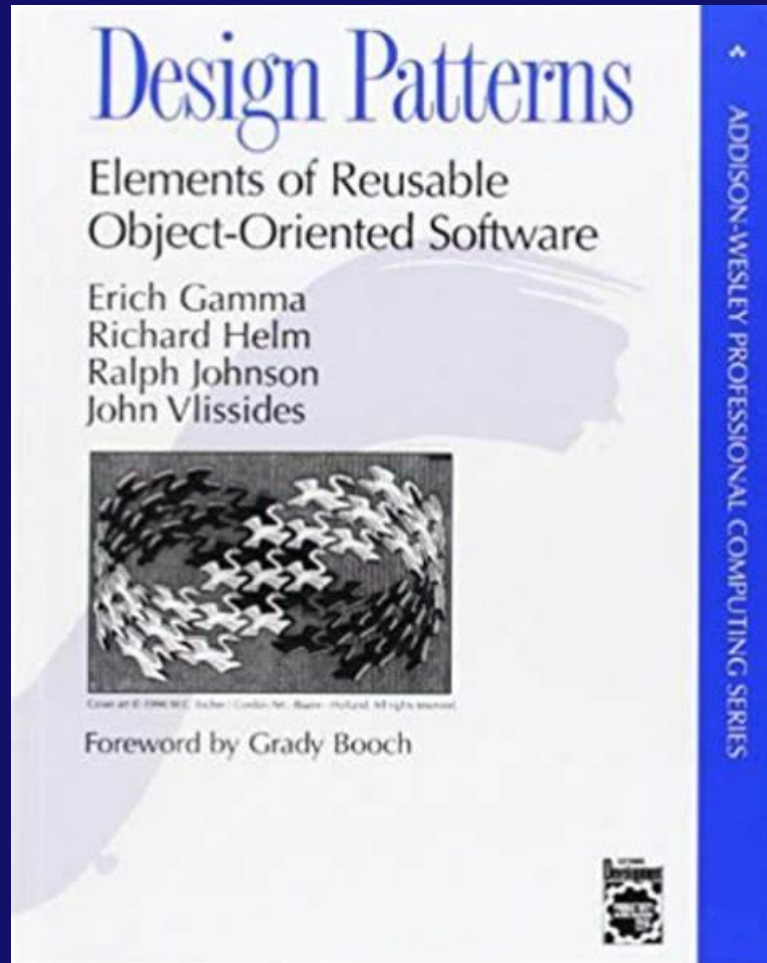
**Abstraction and
Flexibility**

**Ease of
Maintenance**

**Learning and
Onboarding**

Documentation

Gang of Four



Main Types of Design Patterns

Creation

- Interpreter
- Template Method
- Chain of Responsibility
- Command
- Iterator
- Mediator
- Memento
- Observer
- State
- Strategy
- Visitor

Main Types of Design Patterns

Creation

- Factory Method
- Abstract Factory
- Builder

Structural

- Prototype
- Singleton

Main Types of Design Patterns

Creation

- Adapter
- Bridge
- Composite
- Decorator

Structural

- Façade
- Flyweight
- Proxy

Behavioral

Main Types of Design Patterns

Creation

Structural

Behavioral

Architectural

- Model-View-Controller (MVC)
- Layered Architecture
- Microservices
- Event-Driven Architecture
- Service-Oriented Architecture

Not All Patterns Are Created Equal

Reevaluating Software Design Patterns

Not all patterns are created equal

- Should be applied judiciously

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- **Appropriateness influenced by nature of software being developed**

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- **Essential to carefully evaluate trade-offs**

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The Problematic Patterns

Reevaluating Software Design Patterns

Not talking about anti-patterns

- God Object
- Spaghetti Code
- Copy-Paste Programming
- Magic Numbers
- Hard Coding
- Lava Flow
- Circular Dependency
- Premature Optimization

The Problematic Patterns

- Singleton
- Observer
- Factory

Singleton Pattern

Reevaluating Software Design Patterns

Singleton Pattern

Single Instance

Singleton Pattern

Single Instance

Global Access

Singleton Pattern

Single Instance

Global Access

Lazy Initialization

Singleton Pattern

Single Instance

Global Access

Lazy Initialization

Private
Constructor

Singleton Pattern

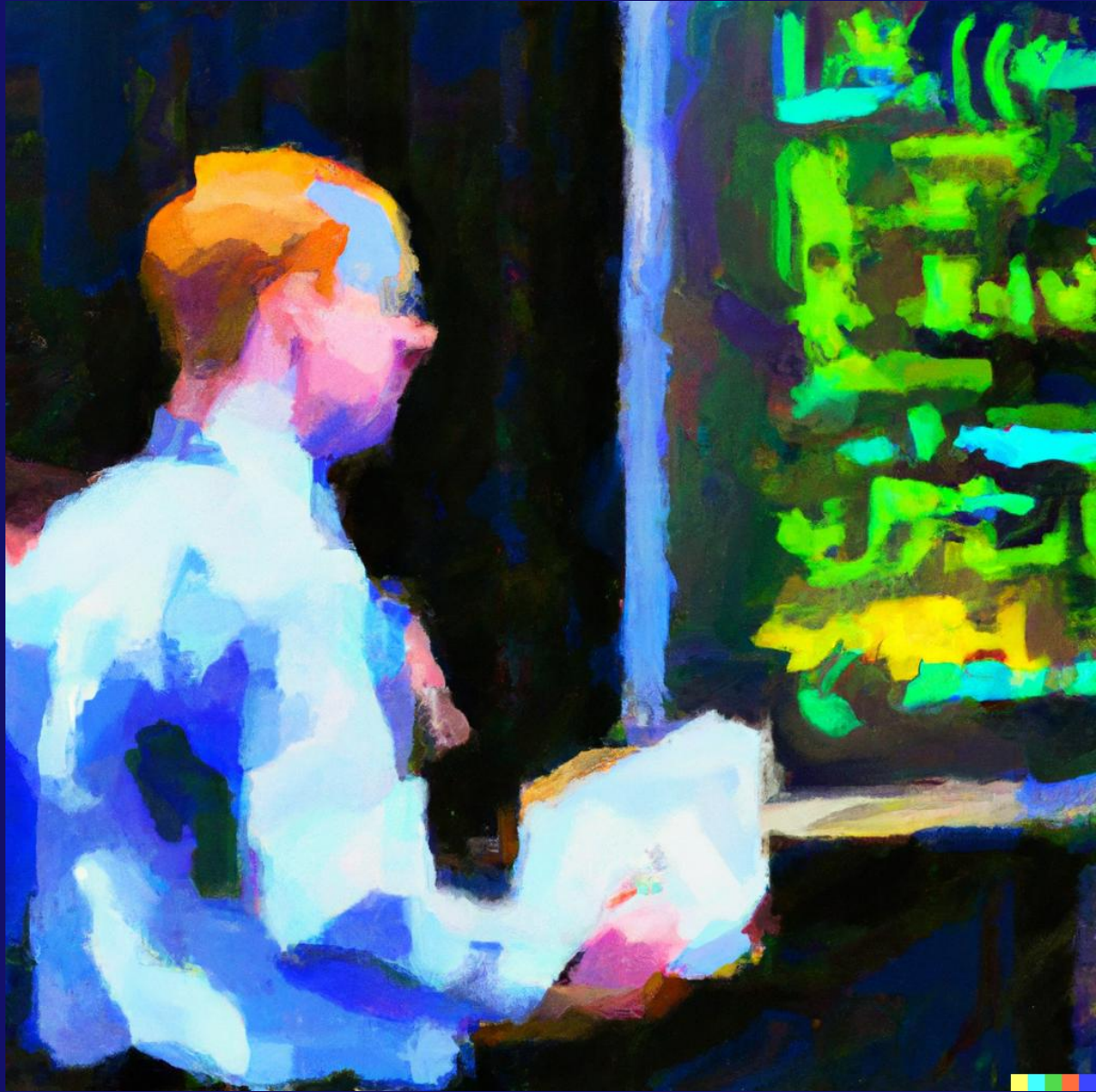
Single Instance

Global Access

Lazy Initialization

Private
Constructor

Static Instance
Method/Property



Demo: Singleton Pattern

Singleton Class

```
public class Logger
{
    private static Logger? instance;

    // Additional properties or methods can be added here

    // Private constructor to prevent instantiation
    private Logger() { }

    // Lazy initialization, create instance only if needed
    public static Logger GetInstance()
    {
        instance ??= new Logger();
        return instance;
    }

    public void LogMessage(string message) => Console.WriteLine($"Logging: {message}");
}
```

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    public void LogMessage(string message) => Console.WriteLine($"Logging: {message}");
}
```

Main Object

```
// Using the Singleton Logger
Logger logger = Logger.GetInstance();
logger.LogMessage("Application started");

// Using the Singleton Logger within a service
UserService userService = new();
userService.PerformUserAction("JohnDoe", "Login");

// Ensure that the same logger instance is used throughout the application
Logger anotherLogger = Logger.GetInstance();
Console.WriteLine($"Same instance? {ReferenceEquals(logger, anotherLogger)}");
```

Main Object

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Logger anotherLogger = Logger.GetInstance();
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```


Another Object

```
public class UserService
{
    private readonly Logger logger;

    public UserService()
    {
        logger = Logger.GetInstance();
    }

    public void PerformUserAction(string userName, string action)
    {
        // Some business logic
        logger.LogMessage($"User '{userName}' performed action: {action}");
    }
}
```

Main Object

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Singleton Pattern: The Good

Centralized
Logging

Singleton Pattern: The Good

Centralized
Logging

Global Access to
Logger

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Straightforward
Usage

Singleton Pattern: The Good

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Simple
Initialization

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Tight Coupling

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Tight Coupling

Testing
Challenges

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Tight Coupling

Testing
Challenges

Hidden
Dependencies

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

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Testing
Challenges

Hidden
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Inflexible
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Singleton Pattern: The Bad

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Testing
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Initialization

Thread Safety
Issues

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

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Testing
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Hidden
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Thread Safety
Issues

- Race Conditions

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Tight Coupling

Testing
Challenges

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- Race Conditions
- **Double-Checked Locking**

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Tight Coupling

Testing
Challenges

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Thread Safety
Issues

- Race Conditions
- Double-Checked Locking
- **Synchronization Overhead**

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Tight Coupling

Testing
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Thread Safety
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- Race Conditions
- Double-Checked Locking
- Synchronization Overhead
- **Deadlocks**

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

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Thread Safety
Issues

- Race Conditions
- Double-Checked Locking
- Synchronization Overhead
- Deadlocks
- **Resource Management**

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

Global State

Tight Coupling

Testing
Challenges

Hidden
Dependencies

Inflexible
Initialization

Non-Thread
Safe Init

Potential for
Misuse

Singleton Pattern: The Bad

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Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
- **Factory Method Pattern**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
- Factory Method Pattern
- **Service Locator Pattern**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
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- Service Locator Pattern
- **Inversion of Control (IoC) Containers**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
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- **Prototype Pattern**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
- Factory Method Pattern
- Service Locator Pattern
- Inversion of Control (IoC) Containers
- Prototype Pattern
- **Thread-Safe Singleton Initialization**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
- Factory Method Pattern
- Service Locator Pattern
- Inversion of Control (IoC) Containers
- Prototype Pattern
- Thread-Safe Singleton Initialization
- **Enum Singleton**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
- Factory Method Pattern
- Service Locator Pattern
- Inversion of Control (IoC) Containers
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- Thread-Safe Singleton Initialization
- Enum Singleton
- **Immutable Objects**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
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- Thread-Safe Singleton Initialization
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- Immutable Objects

Alternatives/Modifications

- Dependency Injection
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- Immutable Objects

Observer Pattern

Reevaluating Software Design Patterns

Observer Pattern

Key Components

- Subject

Observer Pattern

Key Components

- Subject
- Observer

Observer Pattern

Key Components

- Subject
- Observer
- Concrete Subject

Observer Pattern

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Observer Pattern

Key Components

- Subject
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Workflow

Observer Pattern

Key Components

- Subject
- Observer
- Concrete Subject
- Concrete Observer

Workflow

- Registration

Observer Pattern

Key Components

- Subject
- Observer
- Concrete Subject
- Concrete Observer

Workflow

- Registration
- Notification

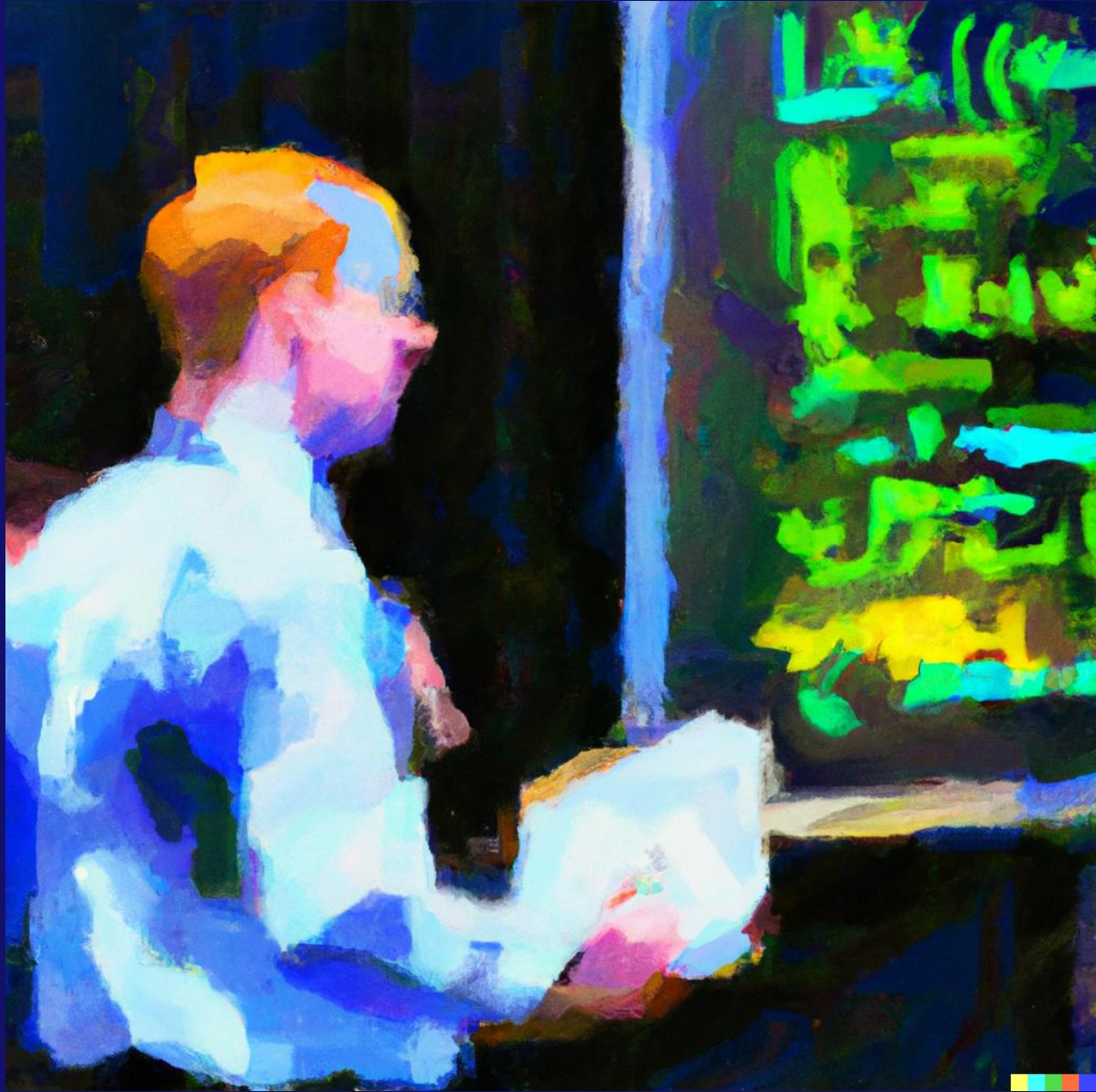
Observer Pattern

Key Components

- Subject
- Observer
- Concrete Subject
- Concrete Observer

Workflow

- Registration
- Notification
- Update



Demo: Observer Pattern

Subject

```
public interface ISubject
{
    void RegisterObserver(IObserver observer);
    void RemoveObserver(IObserver observer);
    void NotifyObservers();
    string Name { get; init; }
}
```

Observer

```
public interface IObserver
{
    void Update(double stockPrice);
    string Name { get; init; }
}
```

Concrete Subject

```
public record StockMarket(string Name) : ISubject
{
    private double _stockPrice;
    private readonly List<IObserver> _observers = [];

    public void SetStockPrice(double price)
    {
        _stockPrice = price;
        NotifyObservers();
    }

    public void RegisterObserver(IObserver observer)
    {
        _observers.Add(observer);
    }

    public void RemoveObserver(IObserver observer)
    {
        _observers.Remove(observer);
    }

    public void NotifyObservers()
    {
        foreach (var observer in _observers)
        {
            observer.Update(_stockPrice);
        }
    }
}
```

ConcreteSubject

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public record StockMarket(string Name) : ISubject
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    private double _stockPrice;
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    private readonly List<IObserver> _observers = [];
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ConcreteSubject

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    public void NotifyObservers()
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```
    public void SetStockPrice(double price)
```

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```
        _stockPrice = price;
```

```
        NotifyObservers();
```

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        _stockPrice = price;
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Concrete Observer

```
public record Investor(string Name) : IObserver
{
    public void Update(double stockPrice)
        => Console.WriteLine($"Stock price for {Name} is {stockPrice}");
}
```

Implementation

```
// Create a stock market
StockMarket stockMarket = new("Omni Consumer Products");

// Create investors
Investor investor1 = new("John");
Investor investor2 = new("Alice");

// Register investors with the stock market
stockMarket.RegisterObserver(investor1);
stockMarket.RegisterObserver(investor2);

// Simulate stock price changes
stockMarket.SetStockPrice(100.00);
stockMarket.SetStockPrice(115.50);

// Investor Alice loses interest and unsubscribes
stockMarket.RemoveObserver(investor2);

// More stock price changes
stockMarket.SetStockPrice(98.75);
```

Observer Pattern: The Good

Loose Coupling

Observer Pattern: The Good

Loose Coupling

Scalability

Observer Pattern: The Good

Loose Coupling

Scalability

**Flexibility and
Extensibility**

Observer Pattern: The Good

Loose Coupling

Scalability

**Flexibility and
Extensibility**

Reusability

Observer Pattern: The Good

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**Flexibility and
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**Dynamic
Relationships**

Observer Pattern: The Good

Loose Coupling

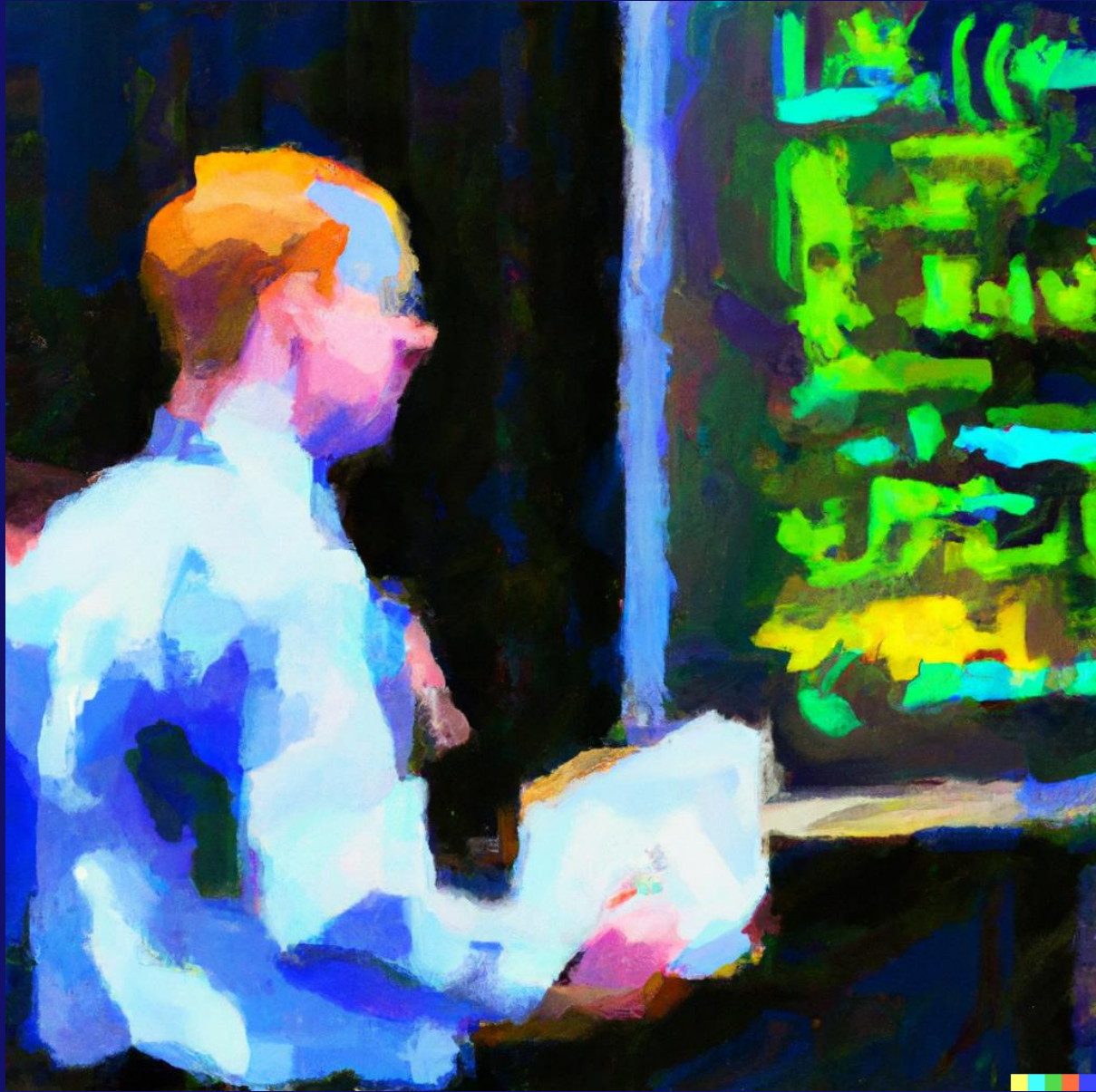
Scalability

**Flexibility and
Extensibility**

Reusability

Maintainability

**Dynamic
Relationships**



Demo: Observer Pattern Problems

Unintended Cascading Updates

```
public record Investor(string Name) : IObserver
{
    public void Update(double stockPrice)
    {
        Console.WriteLine($"Stock price for {Name} is {stockPrice}");

        if (stockPrice > 110.00)
        {
            Console.WriteLine($"Investor {Name} decides to sell stocks.");
        }
    }
}
```


Observer Pattern: The Bad

Performance

Observer Pattern: The Bad

Performance

Memory Leaks

Observer Pattern: The Bad

Performance

Memory Leaks

Ordering
Dependencies

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Security Concerns

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Alternatives/Modifications

- Event Aggregator Pattern

Alternatives/Modifications

- Event Aggregator Pattern
- **Reactive Extensions (Rx)**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Event Aggregator Pattern
- Reactive Extensions (Rx)
- **Mediator Pattern**

Alternatives/Modifications

- Event Aggregator Pattern
- Reactive Extensions (Rx)
- Mediator Pattern
- **Callback/Delegate Approach**

Alternatives/Modifications

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- **Message Queue Pattern**

Alternatives/Modifications

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Alternatives/Modifications

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- Reactive Extensions (Rx)
- Mediator Pattern
- Callback/Delegate Approach
- Message Queue Pattern
- State Pattern
- **Command Pattern**

Alternatives/Modifications

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Factory Pattern

Reevaluating Software Design Patterns

Key Components and Concepts

Factory Pattern

**Factory Interface/
Abstract Class**

Key Components and Concepts

Factory Pattern

**Factory Interface/
Abstract Class**

Concrete Factories

Key Components and Concepts

Factory Pattern

Factory Interface/
Abstract Class

Concrete Factories

Product Interface/
Abstract Class

Key Components and Concepts

Factory Pattern

**Factory Interface/
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**Product Interface/
Abstract Class**

Concrete Products

Key Components and Concepts

Factory Pattern

Factory Interface/
Abstract Class

Concrete Factories

Product Interface/
Abstract Class

Concrete Products

Client

Key Components and Concepts

Factory Pattern

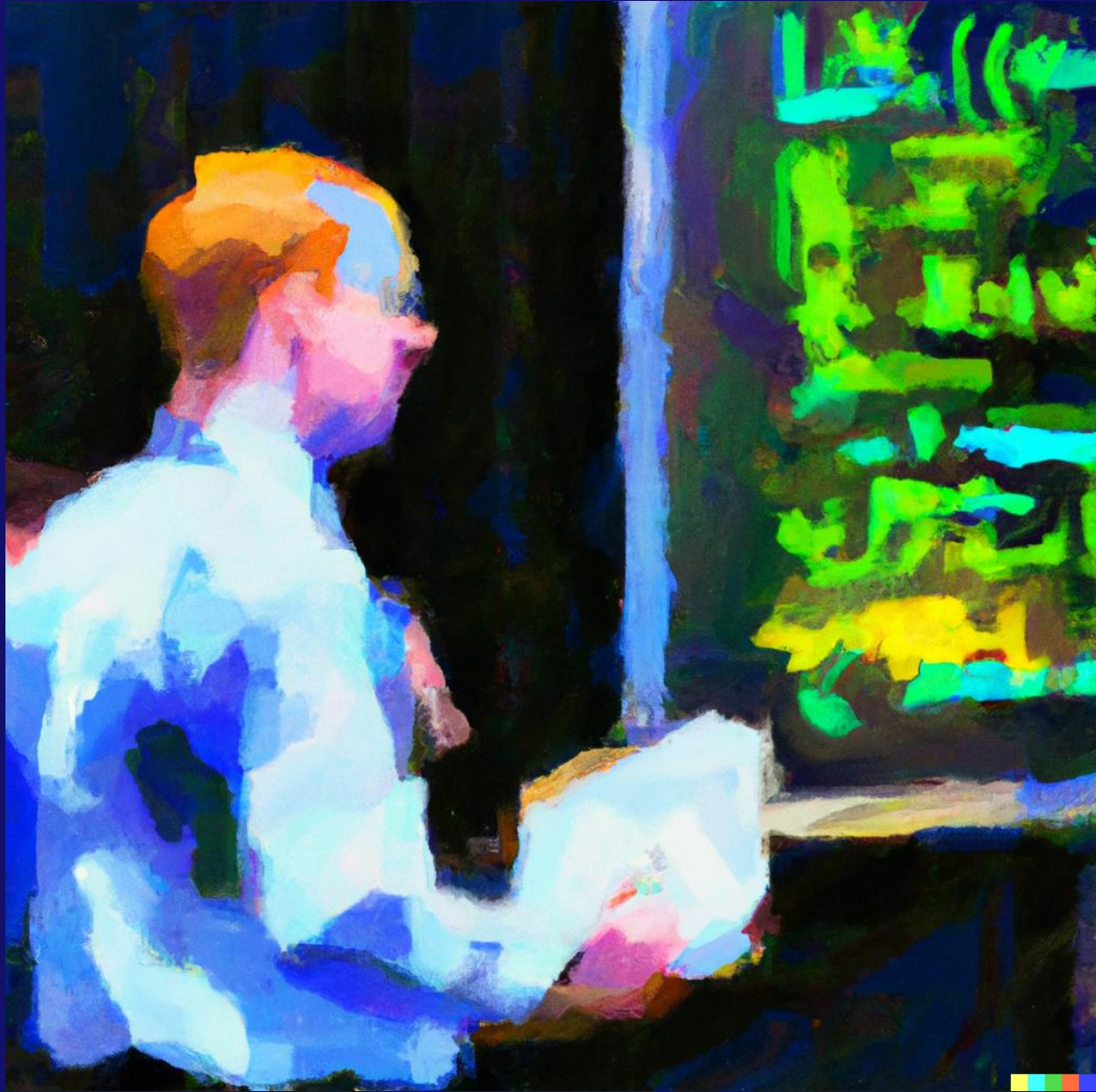
Factory Interface/
Abstract Class

Concrete Factories

Product Interface/
Abstract Class

Concrete Products

Client



Demo: Factory Pattern

Product

```
public interface IProduct
{
    void Display();
}

public class ConcreteProductA : IProduct
{
    public void Display() => Console.WriteLine("Concrete Product A");
}

public class ConcreteProductB : IProduct
{
    public void Display() => Console.WriteLine("Concrete Product B");
}
```

Product

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}
```

```
public class ConcreteProductA : IProduct
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```

```
public class ConcreteProductA : IProduct
{
    public void Display() => Console.WriteLine("Concrete Product A");
}
```

```
public class ConcreteProductB : IProduct
{
    public void Display() => Console.WriteLine("Concrete Product B");
}
```

Factory

```
public interface IFactory
{
    IProduct CreateProduct();
}

public class ConcreteFactory : IFactory
{
    public IProduct CreateProduct()
    {
        return new ConcreteProductA();
    }
}
```

Client

```
IFactory factoryA = new ConcreteFactoryA();  
  
IProduct productA = factoryA.CreateProduct();  
productA.Display();  
  
IProduct productB = factoryA.CreateProduct();  
productB.Display();
```

Factory Pattern: The Good

Abstraction and
Encapsulation

Factory Pattern: The Good

**Abstraction and
Encapsulation**

**Flexibility and
Extensibility**

Factory Pattern: The Good

**Abstraction and
Encapsulation**

**Flexibility and
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**Centralized
Control**

Factory Pattern: The Good

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Maintenance**

Factory Pattern: The Good

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Factory Pattern: The Good

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Factory Pattern: The Bad

Overhead

Factory Pattern: The Bad

Overhead

Excessive
Abstraction

Factory Pattern: The Bad

Overhead

Excessive
Abstraction

Tight Coupling

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Factory
Proliferation

Factory Pattern: The Bad

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Factory
Proliferation

Complex
Hierarchies

Factory Pattern: The Bad

Overhead

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Factory
Proliferation

Complex
Hierarchies

Runtime Config
Overhead

Factory Pattern: The Bad

Overhead

Excessive
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Open/Closed
Principle Violation

Factory Pattern: The Bad

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Learning Curve

Factory Pattern: The Bad

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Excessive
Abstraction

Tight Coupling

Factory
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Complex
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Runtime Config
Overhead

Open/Closed
Principle Violation

Learning Curve

Alternatives to the Factory Pattern

- Direct Instantiation

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- Direct Instantiation
- **Builder Pattern**

Alternatives to the Factory Pattern

- Direct Instantiation
- Builder Pattern
- **Abstract Factory Pattern**

Alternatives to the Factory Pattern

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Alternatives to the Factory Pattern

- Direct Instantiation
- Builder Pattern
- Abstract Factory Pattern
- **Static Factory Method**

Alternatives to the Factory Pattern

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- Static Factory Method
- **Service Locator Pattern**

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- **Dependency Injection (DI)**

Alternatives to the Factory Pattern

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Importance of Context

Reevaluating Software Design Patterns

Importance of Context

Problem
Suitability

Importance of Context

**Problem
Suitability**

**Project
Requirements**

Importance of Context

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**Project
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Team Expertise

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**Performance
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**Trade-offs and
Constraints**

Thank You

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