ASPECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING

How do you represent a 3-dimensional object in 2 dimensions?

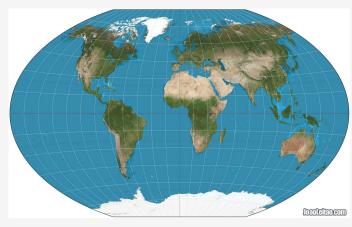
Projection



Earth

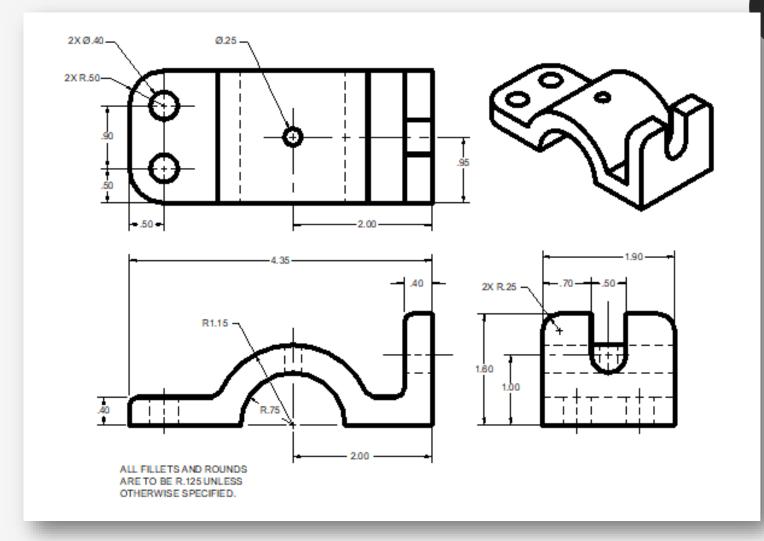


Mercator Projection

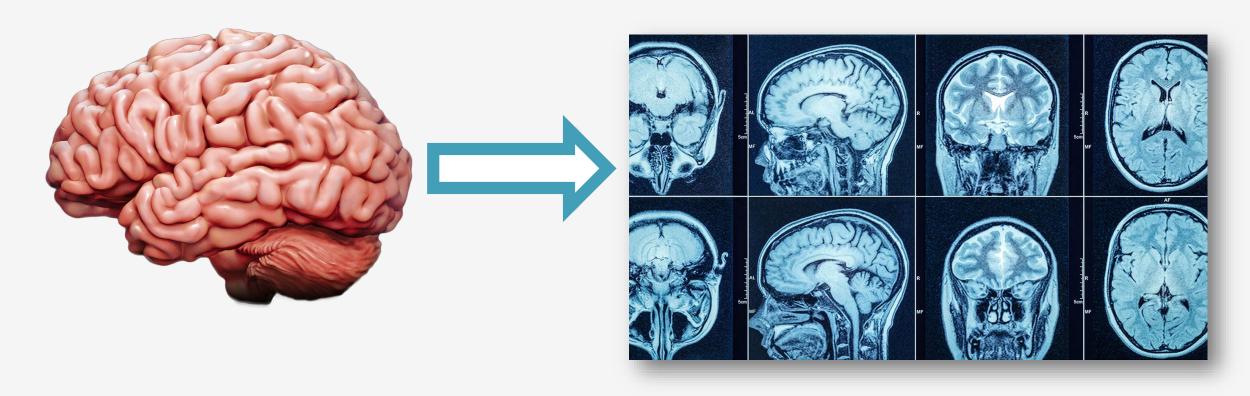


Winkel Tripel Projection

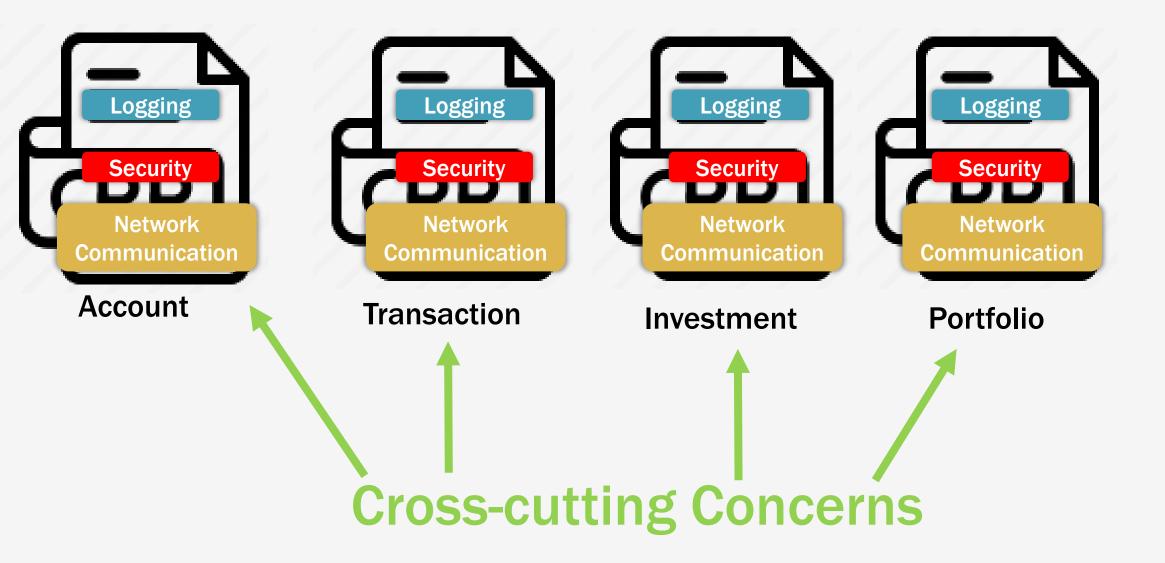
Different Angles of View



Slicing



Software is not two-dimensional!



Cross Cutting Concerns

Concerns which are common across



Problem with OOP (and others)

Concerns are spread across multiple modules

Concerns are tangled up with one another

This leads to...

Poor tracablilty

Hard to see the connection between a concern and its implementation

Lower Productivity

 Shifts developers focus from the main concern to peripheral concerns as they implement them

This leads to...

Less code reuse

 As a module implements multiple concerns, hard to reuse the code

Poor code quality

- Code tangling leads to hidden problems
- Targeting too many concerns leads to not enough attention for some concerns

Hard evolve the system

 Handle today's concern, but what about tomorrow's? Requires re-architecting.

Imperfect (?) Solutions

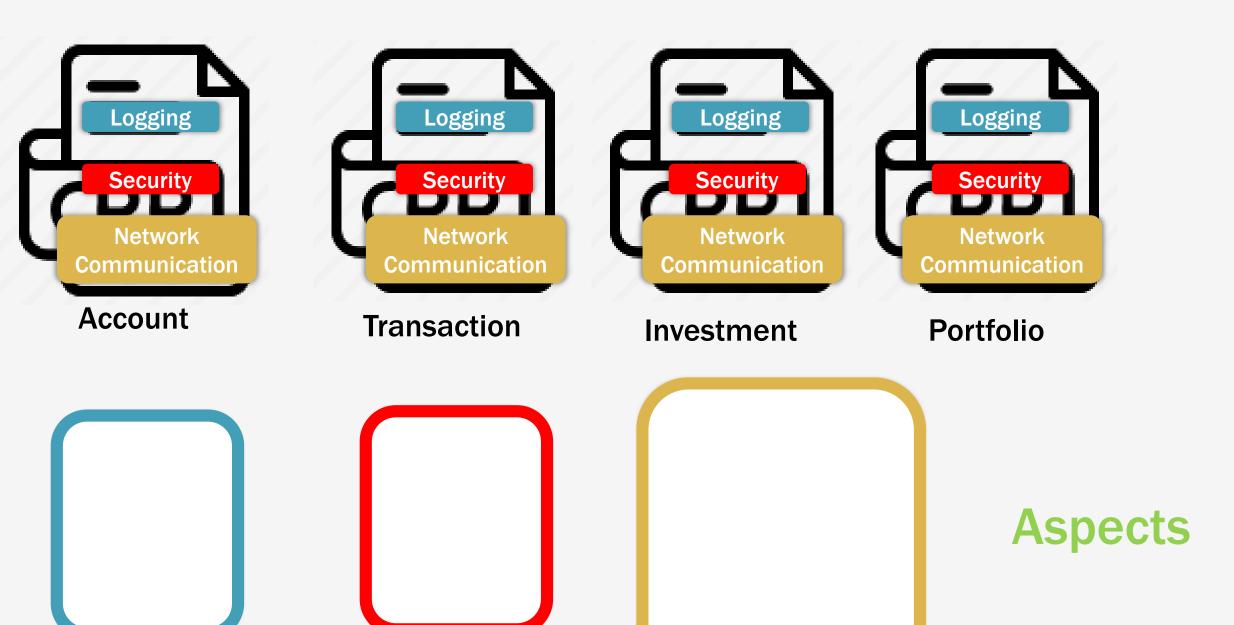
- Mix-in classes
 - Multiple inheritance
 - Dependency Injection
 - Requires the class to call the method(s)

- Behavioural Design Patterns
 - Visitor
 - Template Method
 - Same issue as mix-in

Imperfect (?) Solutions

Domain-specific

- Use of frameworks (e.g. Enterprise Java Beans)
- Requires developers to learn new techniques for each solution
- Any concerns not addressed in framework must be handled ad hoc



Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP)

 A software development methodology that modularizes the "concerns" that crosscut a software product.

- Consists of three steps
 - 1. Aspectual decomposition
 - 2. Concern Implementation
 - 3. Aspectual Recomposition

Aspectual Decomposition

 Identify the crosscutting concerns in the requirements

- Example: Credit Card System
 - Credit card processing
 - Logging
 - Authentication

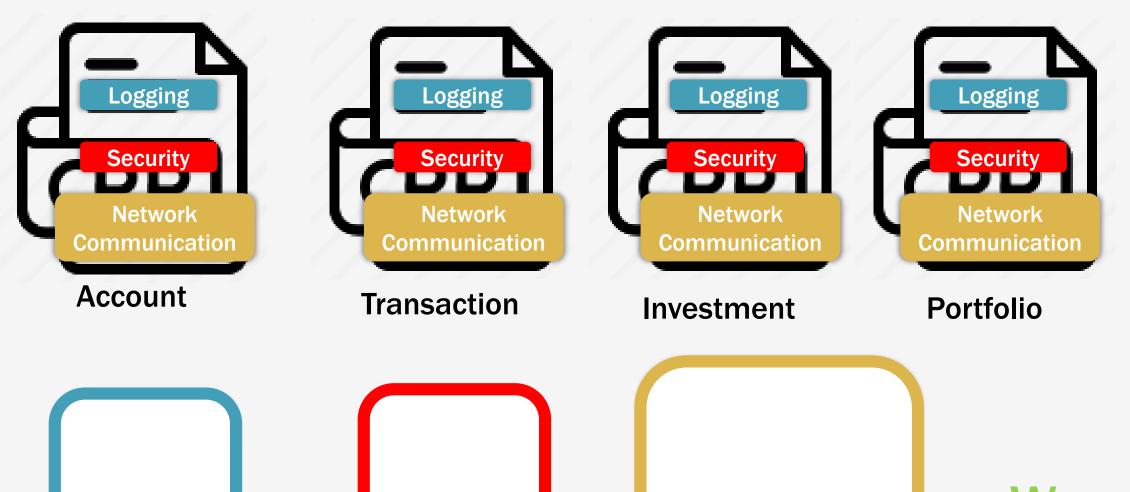
Concern Implementation

- Each concern is implemented separately
 - Standard modules for main concerns
 - Aspects for crosscutting concerns

- Example: Credit Card System
 - Credit card processing module (main)
 - Logging aspect
 - Authentication aspect

Aspectual Recomposition

 A "weaver" integrates the "aspect" code into the final system



Weaving

Model to Model Transformation (specifically, source to source translation)

Benefits of AOP Approach

- Cross cutting concerns are modularized
 - Less duplicated code
 - Less code clutter by tangling
 - Easier to understand and maintain

- Easier to evolve systems
 - Easy to add new concerns
 - Existing aspects apply

Benefits of AOP Approach

- More code reuse
 - Modules are loosely coupled, so can be reused in other systems more easily

- Late binding of design decisions
 - Can put off designing future requirements until needed

Is AOP used in practice?

Yes!

AspectJ is a widely-used AOP extension of Java



The Spring framework is a popular Java framework that uses AOP via AspectJ.

AOP Terminology

Aspect

- The module that contains a crosscutting concern
- Like a class file

Joinpoint

- The point in program execution where an aspect can be run
- Usually a method, but can be a variable

AOP Terminology

Advice

- The "when" of an aspect
 - Before: Run aspect before the joinpoint's code
 - After: Run aspect after the joinpoint's code
 - After-Returning: Run aspect after the joinpoint's code returns, regardless of outcome
 - After-Throwing: Run aspect if the joinpoint throws an exception
 - Around: Run the aspect instead of the joinpoint
 - Often decides if the joinpoint should be executed

AOP Terminology

Pointcut

- All the points in the code that the aspect will be run
- The "where" of an aspect.

ASPECT C++ EXAMPLE

```
#include <iostream>

void hello(){
   std::cout << "Hello" << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

```
aspect World {
  advice execution("void hello()") : after() {
    //print "World" after execution of the 'hello()' function
    std::cout << "World" << std::endl;
  }
};</pre>
```

World.ah

```
#include "hello.h"
int main(){
  hello(); //print "Hello"
  return 0;
}
```

```
$ aop
Hello
```

```
$ aop
Hello
World
```

```
#include <iostream>

void hello(){
   std::cout << "Hello" << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

```
#include <iostream>
aspect World {

advice execution("void hello()") before()
   //print "World" before execution or and mello()' function
   std::cout << "World" << std::endl;
}

};</pre>
```

World.ah

```
#include "hello.h"

int main(){
  hello(); //print "Hello"
  return 0;
}
```

```
$ aop
World
Hello
```

```
#include <iostream>

void hello(){
   std::cout << "Hello" << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

```
#include "hello.h"

int main(){
  hello(); //print "Hello"
  return 0;
}
```

```
#include <iostream>

void hello(){
   std::cout << "Hello" << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

World.ah

```
#include "hello.h"
int main(){
  hello(); //print "Hello"
  return 0;
}
```

```
$ aop
Hello
World
All done!
```

```
#include <iostream>

void hello(){
   std::cout << "Hello" << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

Hello.h

```
World.ah
```

```
#include "hello.h"
int main(){
  hello(); //print "Hello"
  return 0;
}
```

Main.cpp

```
$ aop
Hello
World
All done!
```

The Joinpoint Object (tjp)

 Within an advice, you have access to an object (tjp of clan JoinPoint) that provides information about the joinpoint:

- Examples of data available:
 - That: object that made the call
 - Result: the result of the joinpoint

```
#include <iostream>

void hello(){
   std::cout << "Hello" << std::endl;
}</pre>
```

```
#include "hello.h"

int main(){
  hello(); //print "Hello"
  return 0;
}
```

Main.cpp

```
aspect World {

advice execution("void Greeting::hello()") : after() {
   //print "World" after execution of the 'hello()' function
   std::cout << "World" << std::endl;

   // Example of accessing "the joinpoint" object
   std::cout << "Joinpoint is " << tjp->signature() << std::endl;

   std::cout << "The joinpoint is on line " << tjp->line() << " of file " << tjp->filename() << std::endl;
   std::cout << "Target object of the call is " << typeid(tjp->target()).name() << std::endl;
}

}:</pre>
```

World.ah

Singletons (Review)

• Singleton:

a class that can only have one instance in a system

Singleton Uses

- Database connection (performance)
- Network connection (security)
- Global namespace (control)
- Thread Pools
- Caching
- Logging

Singleton (Review)

- How to control access to a Singleton?
 - Make the constructor(s) private
 - Provide public static method that controls access to constructor

```
class Singleton
 private:
  Singleton() {}
  Singleton(const Singleton&) {}
  ~Singleton() {}
 public:
  static Singleton& getInstance() {
    static Singleton instance;
    return instance;
```

 How do you enforce the singleton constraint when language features allow you to get around them?

A Problem with Singletons

How do you enforce the singleton constraint when language features allow you to get around them?

Allows access to constructor!

```
class FalseFriend;
class Singleton
 private:
 Singleton() {}
  Singleton(const Singleton&) {}
 ~Singleton() {}
 public:
  static Singleton& getInstance() {
    static Singleton instance;
    return instance;
 friend class FalseFriend;
```

A Monitoring Aspect

```
Provide the name of
                                                                      the Singleton class
                               noct CinalotonMoniton (
                                                                     in a sub-aspect
                               pointcut virtual singleton() = 0;
Apply aspect to when the
                                      construction (singleton()) : before() {
object is created
                                 using namespace singletonmonitor;
                                 typedef Counter<JoinPoint::That> InstanceCounter;
                                 InstanceCounter:: val++;
Track the number of
                                 if (InstanceCounter::_val > 1) {
times the aspect is run
                                 std::cerr << "Error: "
                                     << "created instance number "<< InstanceCounter:: val</pre>
                                     << " of singleton class by calling the constructor "
Warn if more than
                                     << JoinPoint::signature()
one is created
                                     << std::endl;
```