

Section 11: Abstract Classes and Interfaces

13 July 2024 11:00

102. Abstraction

Next: Abstract Classes

Harsha

What

- Abstraction is a concept of representing objects in a simplified way by focusing only on the essential features and ignoring the irrelevant details.
- It provides a blueprint or a contract for derived classes to follow, ensuring consistency in your code.

Eg:

```
graph TD; Vehicle[Vehicle  
(abstract class or interface)] --> Car[Car  
(derived class)]; Vehicle --> Bus[Bus  
(derived class)];
```

Benefit

- Makes the program loosely coupled (makes the classes less dependent on the other).

Implemented using:

- Abstract classes [or]
- Interfaces

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103. Abstract Classes

Microsoft C#



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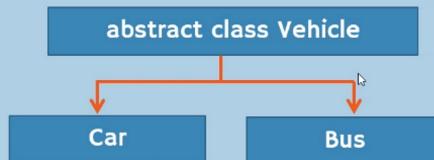
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Abstract Classes & Abstract Methods



- Abstract class is a parent class, for which, we can't create object; but we can create child classes.

Example



Parent Class [Abstract Class]

```

abstract class AbstractClassName
{
    Abstract Class Members here
}
  
```

Child Class of Abstract Class

```

class ChildClassName : AbstractClassName
{
    Child Class Members here
}
  
```

You can't create object of abstract class. You can create object of child class and thorough the object of child class, only you can access any member of the abstract class.

What

- The main intention of abstract class is to provide common set of fields and methods to all of its child classes of a specific group.
- Abstract class can contain all types of members (fields, properties, methods, constructors etc.).
- We can't create object for abstract class; but we can access its members through child class's object.
- So 'creating child class of abstract class' is the only-way to utilize abstract classes.
- Use Abstract class concept, for the classes, for which you feel creating object is not meaningful.

Comparison Table: Class (vs) Abstract Class

Next: Abstract Methods

Harsha

Based on inheritance and object

Class Type	Can Inherit from Other Classes	Can Inherit from Other Interfaces	Can be Inherited	Can be Instantiated
Normal Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abstract Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Comparison Table: Class (vs) Abstract Class

Next: Abstract Methods

Harsha

Based on members:

Type	1. Non-Static Fields	2. Non-Static Methods	3. Non-Static Constructors	4. Non-Static Properties	5. Non-Static Events	6. Non-Static Destructors	7. Constants
Normal Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abstract Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Type	8. Static Fields	9. Static Methods	10. Static Constructors	11. Static Properties	12. Static Events	13. Virtual Methods	14. Abstract Methods	15. Non-Static Auto-Impl Properties	16. Non-Static Indexers
Normal Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Abstract Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Introducing Abstract Methods

Harsha

What

- Abstract methods are declared in parent class, with "abstract" keyword; implemented in child classes, with "override" keyword.

Parent Class [Abstract Class]

```
abstract class AbstractClassName
{
    AccessModifier abstract ReturnDataType MethodName(param1, ...);
}
```

Child Class of Abstract Class

```
class ChildClassName : AbstractClassName
{
    AccessModifier override ReturnDataType MethodName(param1, ...)
    {
    }
}
```

When

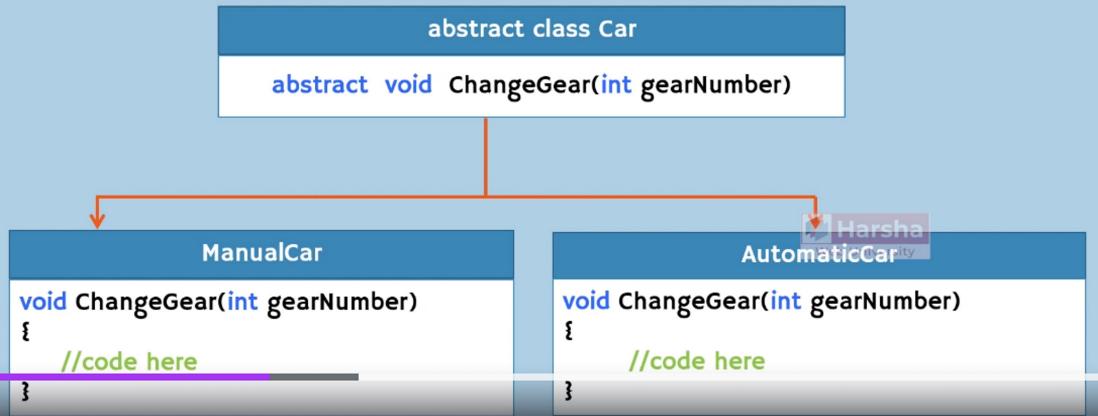
- When the parent class don't want to provide the definition of a method;
- it wants to let child classes to implement the method.

Understanding Abstract Methods

What

- Abstract Methods contain "method declaration" only; but not "method body".
- Child class must provide method body for abstract methods.

Example



From Child Class point of view, it is optional to override 'virtual method'. but it is mandatory to override abstract method.



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Interfaces

Agenda

1

Understanding Interfaces

What is interface and its features.

2

Dynamic Polymorphism

What is Polymorphism and different types of polymorphism.

Achieving dynamic polymorphism using interfaces.

3

Multiple Inheritance

Creating child classes with multiple parent interfaces.



4

Interface Inheritance

Creating child interface with one or more parent interfaces.

Agenda

5

Explicit Interface Implementation

Creating two methods with same signature in two different interfaces and implementing both interfaces in the same child class.

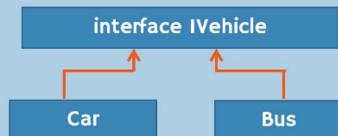
Introducing Interfaces

Next: Comparison Table



- Interface is a set of abstract methods, that must be implemented by the child classes.

Example



Interface

```
interface InterfaceName
{
    ReturnDataType MethodName(param1, ...);
}
```

Child Class of Interface

```
class ChildClassName : InterfaceName
{
    public ReturnDataType MethodName(param1, ...)
}
```

Introducing Interfaces

Next: Comparison Table



- › The child class that implements the interface, MUST implement ALL METHODS of the interface.
- › Interface methods are by default "public" and "abstract".
- › The child class must implement all interface methods, with same signature.
- › You can't create object for interface.
- › You can create reference variable for the interface.
- › The reference variable of interface type can only store the address of objects of any one of the corresponding child classes.
- › You can implement multiple interfaces in the same child class [Multiple Inheritance].
- › An interface can be child of another interface.

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Comparison Table: Abstract Class (vs) Interface

Next: Polymorphism

Based on inheritance and object

Class Type	Can Inherit from Other Classes	Can Inherit from Other Interfaces	Can be Inherited	Can be Instantiated
Normal Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Abstract Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Interface	No	Yes	Yes	No

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Comparison Table: Abstract Class (vs) Interface

Next: Polymorphism

Harsha

Based on members:

Type	1. Non-Static Fields	2. Non-Static Methods	3. Non-Static Constructors	4. Non-Static Properties	5. Non-Static Events	6. Non-Static Destructors	7. Constants		
Normal Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Abstract Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Interface	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No		
Type	8. Static Fields	9. Static Methods	10. Static Constructors	11. Static Properties	12. Static Events	13. Virtual Methods	14. Abstract Methods	15. Non-Static Auto-Impl Properties	16. Non-Static Indexers
Normal Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	 Yes	Yes
Abstract Class	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Interface	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Yes	Yes	NO

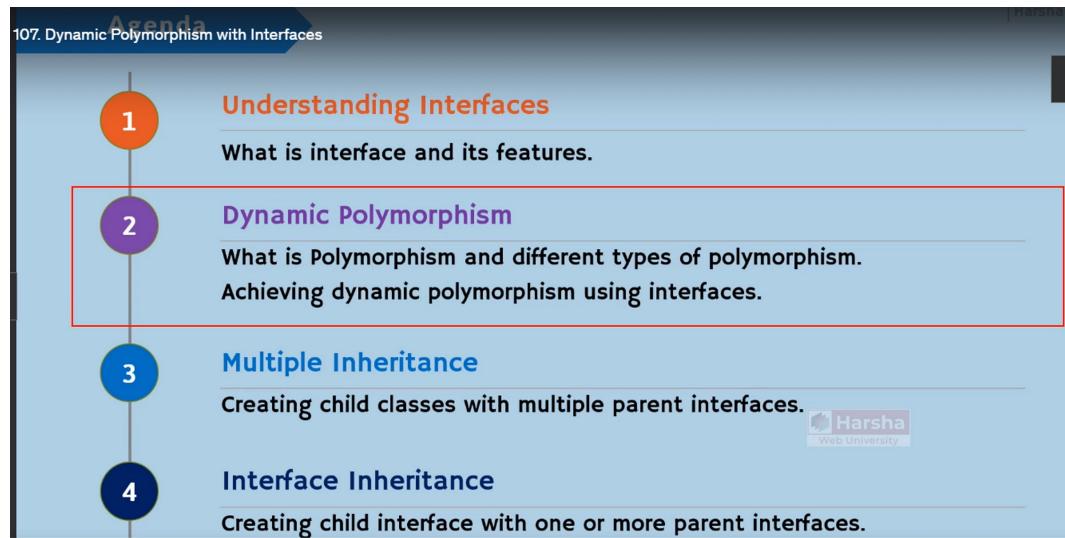
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When exactly you will go for interface and when exactly you will go for abstract class?

Answer: whenever you want to define some methods as abstract methods and remaining methods as non-abstract methods => go for abstract class.

Agenda

107. Dynamic Polymorphism with Interfaces



- 1 Understanding Interfaces
What is interface and its features.
- 2 Dynamic Polymorphism
What is Polymorphism and different types of polymorphism.
Achieving dynamic polymorphism using interfaces.
- 3 Multiple Inheritance
Creating child classes with multiple parent interfaces.
- 4 Interface Inheritance
Creating child interface with one or more parent interfaces.

What

- Polymorphism provides the ability to the developer, to define different implements for the same method in the same class or different classes.

Polymorphism

Compile-Time Polymorphism

- Ex: Method Overloading
- Decision will be taken at compilation time.
- Also Known as "Early Binding" / "Static Polymorphism".

Run-Time Polymorphism

- Ex: Method Overriding
- Decision will be taken at run time.
- Also Known as "Late Binding" / "Dynamic Polymorphism".

Compile-Time Polymorphism Example - Method Overloading:

```
public void Add(int a, int b);
public void Add(int a, int b, int c);
```

Run-Time Polymorphism Example - Method Overriding:

```
abstract class ParentClass
{
    public abstract void Add(int a, int b);
}

class ChildClass1 : ParentClass
{
    public override void Add(int a, int b)
    {
    }
}

class ChildClass2 : ParentClass
{
    public override void Add(int a, int b)
    {
    }
}
```

Run-Time Polymorphism Example - With Interfaces:

```
interface InterfaceName
{
    void Add(int a, int b);
}

class ChildClass1 : InterfaceName
{
    public void Add(int a, int b)
    {
    }
}

class ChildClass2 : InterfaceName
{
    public void Add(int a, int b)
    {
    }
}

InterfaceName c1;
c1 = new ChildClass1();
c1.Add(10, 20); //calls ChildClass1.Add

c1 = new ChildClass2();
c1.Add(10, 20); //calls ChildClass2.Add
```



20:20

Agenda

Harsha

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Understanding Interfaces

What is interface and its features.

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Dynamic Polymorphism

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Multiple Inheritance

Creating child classes with multiple parent interfaces.



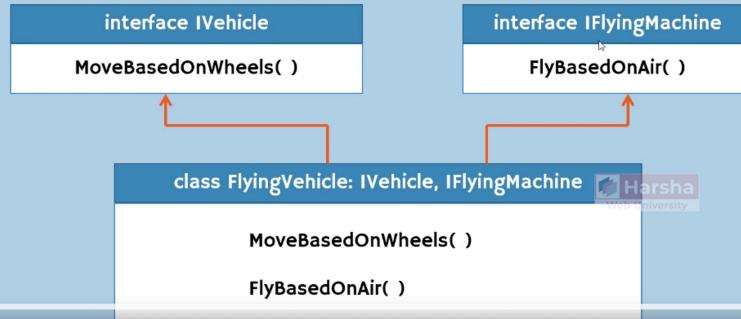
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Interface Inheritance

Creating child interface with one or more parent interfaces.

What

- In C#, "multiple inheritance" IS POSSIBLE with INTERFACES; that means a child class can have multiple parent interfaces.

Example**Example**

```

Multiple Inheritance

interface Interface1
{
    void Method1(param1, param2, ...);
}

interface Interface2
{
    void Method2(param1, param2, ...);
}

class ChildClass : Interface1, Interface2
{
    public void Method1(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }
    public void Method2(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }
}

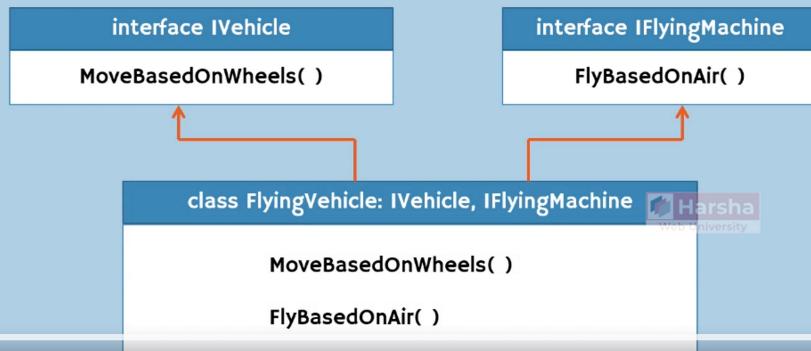
Interface1 c1 = new ChildClass();
c1.Method1(...); //calls ChildClass.Method1

Interface2 c2 = new ChildClass();
c2.Method2(...); //calls ChildClass.Method2
  
```

You can say that through a reference variable of interface, you can access only the methods of the same interface.

What

- In C#, "multiple inheritance" IS POSSIBLE with INTERFACES; that means a child class can have multiple parent interfaces.

Example**Example**

```
Multiple Inheritance
interface Interface1
{
    void Method1(param1, param2, ...);
}

interface Interface2
{
    void Method2(param1, param2, ...);
}

class ChildClass : Interface1, Interface2
{
    public void Method1(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }
    public void Method2(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }
}

Interface1 c1 = new ChildClass();
c1.Method1(...); //calls ChildClass.Method1

Interface2 c2 = new ChildClass();
c2.Method2(...); //calls ChildClass.Method2
```



- › "One Child - Multiple Parent Classes / Parent Interfaces" is called as "Multiple Inheritance".
- › In C#.NET, "multiple inheritance" IS NOT POSSIBLE with CLASSES; that means you can't specify multiple parent classes.
- › The child class MUST IMPLEMENT all methods of all the interfaces, that are inherited from.

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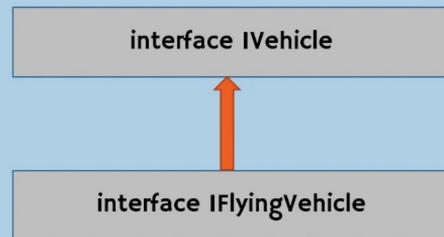
Interface Inheritance

Creating child interface with one or more parent interfaces.

What

- › If an interface inherits from another interface, we call it as "Interface Inheritance".
- › The child class that implements the child interface must implement all the members of both parent interface and child interface too.

Example



Example

```
interface Interface1
{
    public void Method1(param1, param2, ...);
}

interface Interface2 : Interface1
{
    public void Method2(param1, param2, ...);
}

class ChildClass : Interface2
{
    public void Method1(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }
    public void Method2(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }
}

Interface1 c1 = new ChildClass();
c1.Method1(...); //calls ChildClass.Method1

Interface2 c2 = new ChildClass();
c2.Method1(...); //calls ChildClass.Method1
c2.Method2(...); //calls ChildClass.Method2
```

5

Explicit Interface Implementation

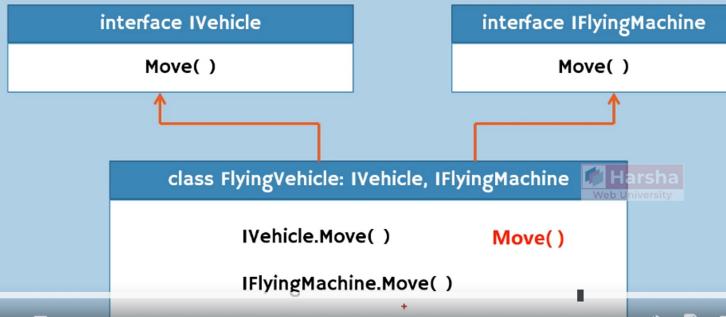
Creating two methods with same signature in two different interfaces and implementing both interfaces in the same child class.

10. Explicit Interface Implementation

What

- "Explicit Interface Implementation" is used to implement an interface method privately; that means the interface method becomes as "private member" to the child class.

Example



Explicit Interface Implementation

Example

Explicit Interface Implementation

```
interface Interface1
{
    void Method1(param1, param2, ...);
}

interface Interface2
{
    void Method1(param1, param2, ...);
}

class ChildClass : Interface1, Interface2
{
    void Interface1.Method1(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }

    void Interface2.Method1(param1, param2, ...)
    {
    }
}

Interface1 c1 = new ChildClass();
c1.Method1(...); //calls Interface1.Method1 at ChildClass

Interface2 c2 = new ChildClass();
c2.Method1(...); //calls Interface2.Method1 at ChildClass
```



- > If a child class inherits from two or more interfaces, and there is a duplicate method (having same name and parameters) among those interfaces; then use "Explicit Interface Implementation", to provide different implementations for different interface methods respectively.
- > You can use "Explicit Interface Implementation" to create private implementation of interface method; so that you can create abstraction for those methods.