Lecture 07: The Command Pattern

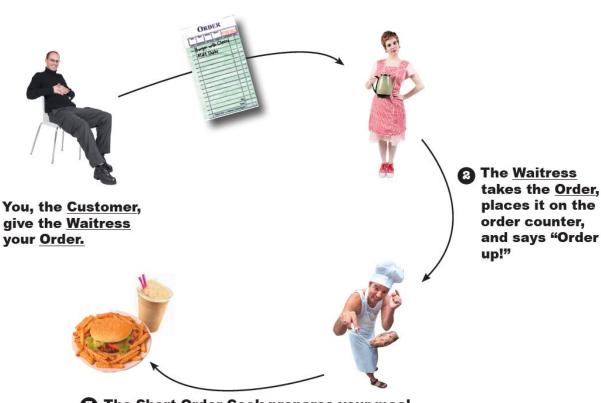
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Chapter 6: The Command Pattern

- "Sometimes it is necessary to issue requests to objects without knowing anything about the operation being requested or the receiver of the request."
- In this lecture, we take encapsulation to a whole new level:
 - We're going to encapsulate method invocation.
 - We're going to encapsulate a "request" as an object.

A brief introduction to the Command Pattern

Let's study the
 interactions
 between the
 customers, the
 waitress, the orders
 and the short-order
 cook.



Let's study the interaction in a little more detail

- The Customer knows what he wants and creates an order.
 - o I'll have a Burger with Cheese and a Malt Shake.

createOrder()

 The Order consists of an order slip and the customer's menu items that are written on it.

takeOrder()

 The Waitress takes the Order, and when she gets around to it, she calls its orderUp() method to begin the Order's preparation.



Let's study the interaction in a little more detail (cont.)

output

orderUp()

The Order has all the instructions needed to prepare the meal. The
 Order directs the Short Order Cook with methods like makeBurger().

makeBurger(), makeShake()

 The Short Order Cook follows the instructions of the Order and produces the meal.

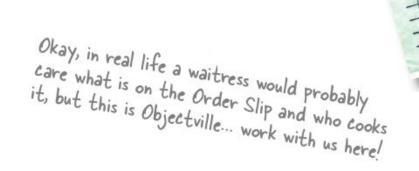




- An Order Slip encapsulates a request to prepare a meal.
 - Think of the Order Slip as an object, an object that acts as a request to prepare a meal.
 - Like any object, it <u>can be passed around</u> from the Waitress to the order counter.
 - It <u>has an interface</u> that consists of <u>only one method</u>, orderUp(), <u>that encapsulates the actions</u> needed to prepare the meal.



- It also <u>has a reference to the object that needs to prepare it (in our case, the Cook).</u>
- It's encapsulated in that the Waitress doesn't have to know what's in the order or even who prepares the meal; she only needs to pass the slip through the order window and call "Order up!"



ORDER

- The Waitress's job is to take Order Slips and <u>invoke</u> the orderUp() method on them. The Waitress has it easy:
 - take an order from the customer,
 - continue helping customers until she makes it back to the order counter,
 - then invoke the orderUp() method to have the meal prepared.
 - As we've already discussed, in Objectville, the Waitress really isn't worried about what's on the order or who is going to prepare it; she just knows Order Slips have an orderUp() method she can call to get the job done.

The Waitress' takeOrder() method gets parameterized with different Order Slips from different customers, but that doesn't faze her; she knows all Order Slips support the orderUp() method and she can call orderUp() any time she needs a meal prepared.



- The Short Order Cook has the knowledge required to prepare the meal.
 - The Short Order Cook is the object that really knows how to prepare meals.
 - Once the Waitress has invoked the orderUp() method; the Short Order Cook takes over and implements all the methods that are needed to create meals.

- Notice the Waitress and the Cook are totally decoupled:
 - The Waitress has Order Slips that encapsulate the details of the meal; she just calls a method on each order to get it prepared.
 - Likewise, the Cook gets his instructions from the Order Slip; he never needs to directly communicate with the Waitress.



- So, we have a Diner with a Waitress who is decoupled from the Cook by an Order Slip.
- Think of the Diner as a model for an OO design pattern that allows us to separate "an object making a request" from "the objects that receive and execute those requests".
- Let's map all this Diner talk to the Command Pattern...

public void execute { receiver.action1(); The actions and the Receiver are bound receiver.action2(); together in the command object. The command object provides one method, action2() createCommandObject() execute(), that encapsulates the actions and Receiver can be called to invoke the actions on the Receiver. Loading the Invoker execute() The client creates a create command object. Command The client does a Object() 8 The client calls setCommand() on setCommand() to store an Invoker object and passes it the command object, where it gets stored until it is needed. the command object in Client the invoker. Later... the client asks The client is the invoker to execute responsible for √setCommand() the command. Note: creating the as you'll see later in command the chapter, once the object. The command is loaded into command setCommand() the invoker, it may be object consists

of a set of

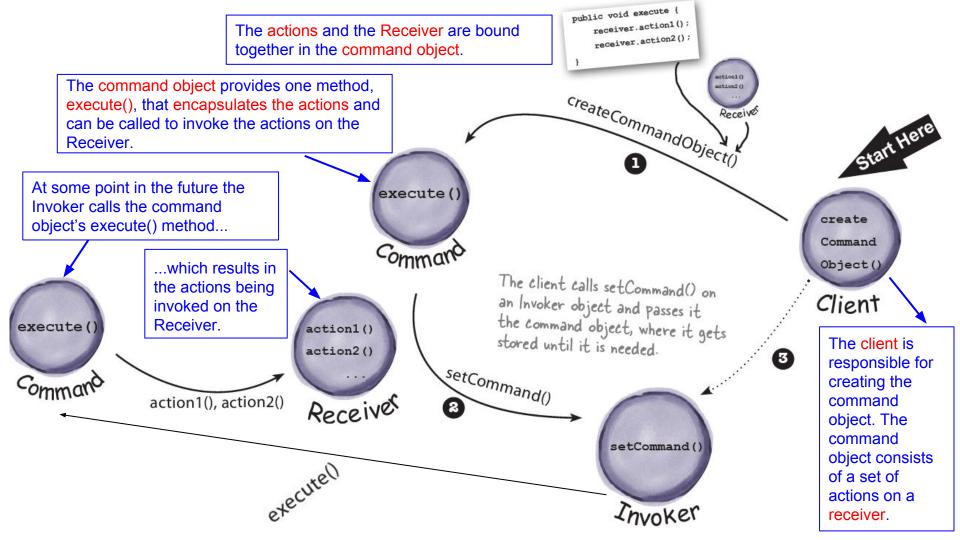
receiver.

actions on a

used and discarded, or

it may remain and be

used many times.



From the Diner to the Command Pattern

- All the players are the same; only the names have changed.
- Match the diner objects and methods with the corresponding names from the Command Pattern.
 - Customer
 - createOrder()
 - Order
 - takeOrder()
 - Waitress
 - orderUp()
 - Short Order Cook

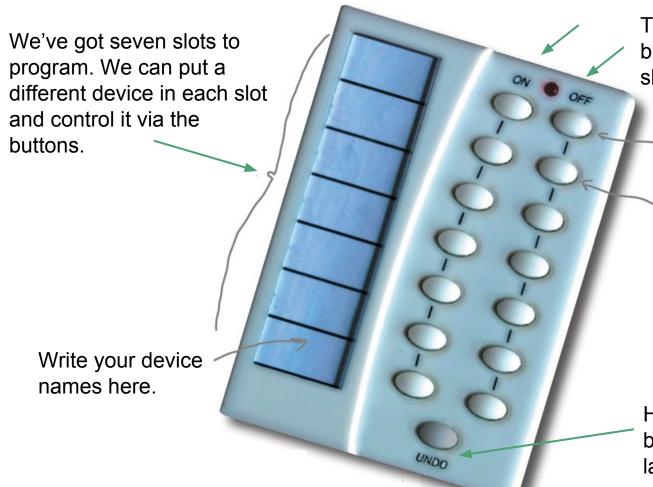
- Invoker
- execute()
- Client
- createCommand()
- Receiver
- Command
- setCommand()

From the Diner to the Command Pattern

- All the players are the same; only the names have changed.
 - Customer --- Client
 - createOrder() --- createCommand()
 - Order --- Command
 - takeOrder() --- setCommand()
 - Waitress --- Invoker
 - orderUp() --- execute()
 - Short Order Cook --- Receiver

Home Automation Remote Control

- We will design the API for a new Home Automation Remote Control.
- Let's check the hardware: the Remote Control...



There are "on" and "off" buttons for each of the seven slots.

These two buttons are used to control the household device stored in slot one...

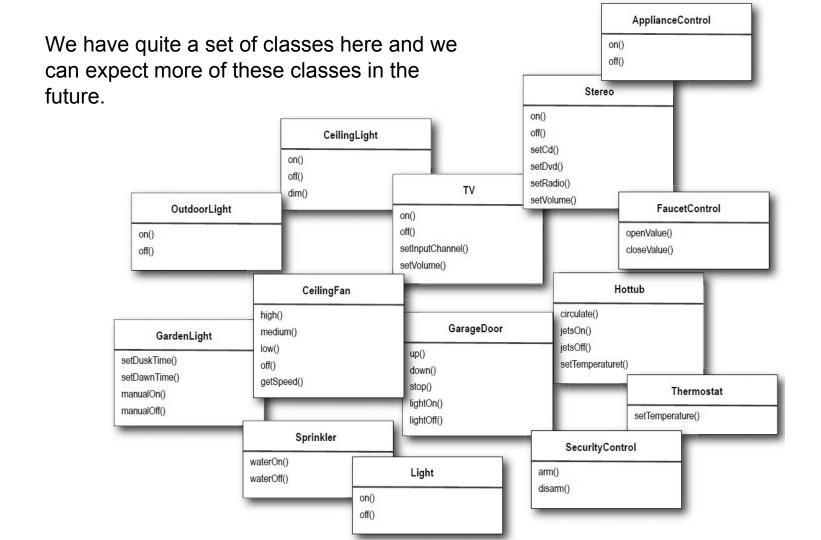
... and these two control the household device stored in slot two...

... and so on.

Here's the global "undo" button that undoes the last button pressed.

Taking a look at the vendor classes

- We will check out the vendor classes that are already exist.
- These should give us some idea of the interfaces of the objects we need to control from the remote.



Discussing how to design the remote control API

- We have a bunch of classes with on() and off() methods, but here we've got methods like dim(), setTemperature(), setVolume(), setDirection().
- Also we can expect more vendor classes in the future with just as diverse methods.
- It's important we view this as a separation of concerns:
 - The remote should know how to interpret button presses and make requests.
 - But it shouldn't know a lot about home automation or how to turn on a hot tub.

Discussing how to design the remote control API (cont.)

- The Command Pattern allows us to decouple "the requester of an action" from "the object that actually performs the action".
- So, here the requester would be the remote control and the object that performs the action would be an instance of one of our vendor classes.
 - We're going to assign each slot to a command in the remote control.
 - This makes the remote control our invoker.

Discussing how to design the remote control API (cont.)

- A command object encapsulates a request to do something (like turn on a light) on a specific object (say, the living room light object).
- So, if we store a command object for each button, when the button is pressed we ask the command object to do some work.
- The remote doesn't have any idea what the work is, it just has a command object that knows how to talk to the right object to get the work done.
- So, you see, the remote is decoupled from the light object!

Our first command object

Implementing the Command interface

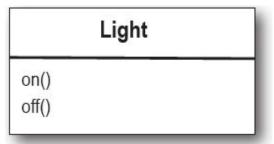
 First things first: all command objects implement the same interface, which consists of one method.

```
public interface Command {
    public void execute();
}
Simple. All we need is one method called execute().
```

Our first command object (cont.)

Implementing a command to turn a light on

- Let's say you want to implement a command for turning a light on.
- Referring to our set of vendor classes, the Light class has two methods: on() and off().





This is a command, so we need to implement the Command interface.

```
public class LightOnCommand implements Command {
    Light light;
    public LightOnCommand(Light light) {
         this.light = light;
                                The execute method calls
    public void execute() {
                                the on() method on the
                                 receiving object, which is
         light.on();
                                 the light we are controlling.
```

The constructor is passed the specific light that this command is going to control – say the living room light—and stashes it in the light instance variable. When execute gets called, this is the light object that is going to be the Receiver of the request.

Using the command object

• Let's make things simple: say we've got a remote control with only one button and corresponding slot to hold a device to control...

```
public class SimpleRemoteControl {
    Command slot;
   public SimpleRemoteControl() {}
   public void setCommand(Command command)
        slot = command;
   public void buttonWasPressed() {
        slot.execute();
```

We have one slot to hold our command, which will control one device.

We have a method for setting the command the slot is going to control. This could be called multiple times if the client of this code wanted to change the behavior of the remote button.

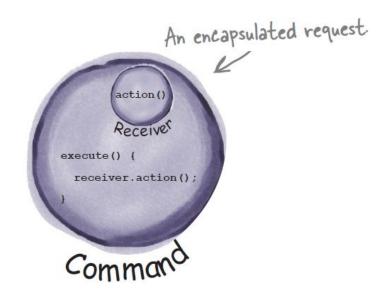
This method is called when the button is pressed. All we do is take the current command bound to the slot and call its execute() method.

Creating a simple test to use the Remote Control

```
This is our Client in Command Pattern-speak.
                                                                                it will be passed a command object that can be used to
public class RemoteControlTest
                                                                                  make requests.
    public static void main(String[] args) {
          SimpleRemoteControl remote = new SimpleRemoteControl();
                                                                              - Now we create a Light object This will be the
         Light light = new Light();
                                                                                 Receiver of the request.
         LightOnCommand lightOn = new LightOnCommand(light);
                                                                    Here, create a command and
          remote.setCommand(lightOn);
                                                                    pass the Receiver to it.
          remote.buttonWasPressed();
                                        Here, pass the command
                                                                     File Edit Window Help DinerFoodYum
                                                                     %java RemoteControlTest
    And then we simulate the
                                                                     Light is On
    button being pressed.
                                       running this test code
```

The Command Pattern defined

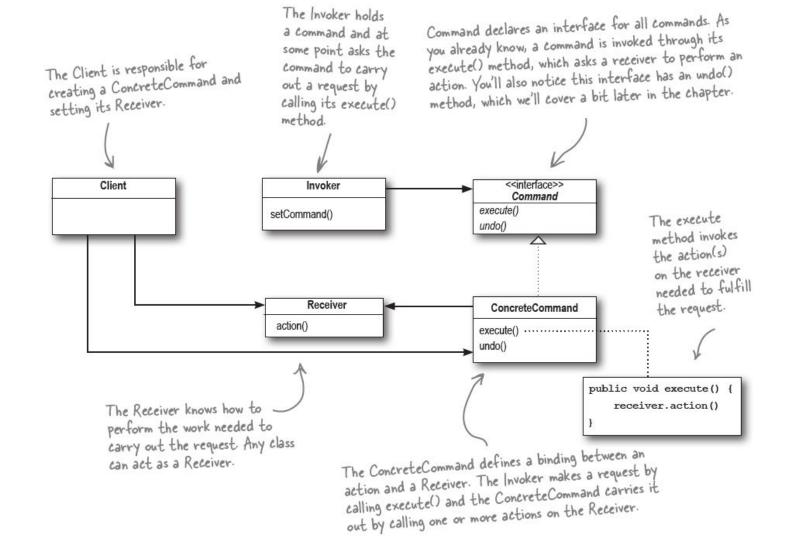
The Command Pattern encapsulates a request as an object, thereby letting you parameterize other objects with different requests, queue or log requests, and support undoable operations.



• We know that a command object **encapsulates a request** by binding together a set of actions on a specific receiver. To achieve this, it packages the actions and the receiver up into an object that exposes just one method, execute().

The Command Pattern defined (cont.)

- When called, execute() causes the actions to be invoked on the receiver.
- We've also seen some examples of parameterizing an object with a command.
 - Back at the diner, the Waitress can be parameterized with multiple orders throughout the day.
 - In the simple remote control, we can first load the button slot with a "light on" command and then later we can replace it with a "garage door open" command.
 - Like the Waitress, the remote slot does not care what command object it has, as long as it implements the Command interface.



Participants of the Command Pattern

Command

declares an interface for executing an operation.

ConcreteCommand

- defines a binding between a Receiver object and an action.
- o implements execute() by invoking the corresponding operation(s) on Receiver.

Client

creates a ConcreteCommand object and sets its receiver.

Invoker

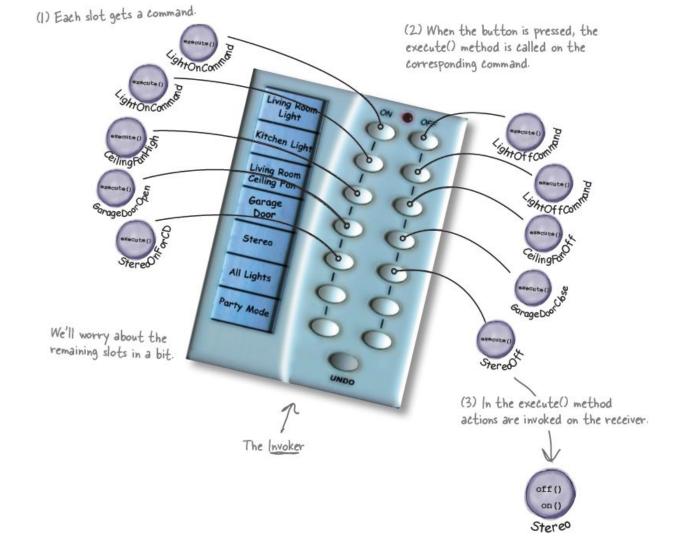
asks the command to carry out the request. (issues a request by calling execute()
on the command.)

Receiver

knows how to perform the operations associated with carrying out a request.

Assigning Commands to slots

- We're going to assign each slot to a command in the remote control.
- This makes the **remote control** our **invoker**.
- When a button is pressed the execute() method is going to be called on the corresponding command, which results in actions being invoked on the receiver (like lights, ceiling fans, and stereos).



Implementing the Remote Control

```
This time around the remote is going to handle seven On and Off commands,
public class RemoteControl {
    Command[] onCommands;
                                                 which we'll hold in corresponding arrays.
    Command[] offCommands;
                                                         In the constructor all we need to
    public RemoteControl() {
                                                        do is instantiate and initialize the
         onCommands = new Command[7];
                                                        on and off arrays.
         offCommands = new Command[7];
         Command noCommand = new NoCommand();
         for (int i = 0; i < 7; i++) {
              onCommands[i] = noCommand;
              offCommands[i] = noCommand;
```

Implementing the Remote Control (cont.)

```
The setCommand() method takes a slot
position and an On and Off command to
be stored in that slot.

public void setCommand(int slot, Command onCommand, Command offCommand) {
    onCommands[slot] = onCommand;
    offCommands[slot] = offCommand;
}

It puts these commands in the on
and off arrays for later use.
```

```
public void onButtonWasPushed(int slot) {
    onCommands[slot].execute();
                                                          When an On or Off button is
                                                  pressed, the hardware takes

care of calling the corresponding

methods on Button Was Pushed() or
public void offButtonWasPushed(int slot) {
                                                          methods on Button Was Pushed () or
    offCommands[slot].execute();
                                                          off Button Was Pushed ().
public String toString() {
    StringBuffer stringBuff = new StringBuffer();
    stringBuff.append("\n----- Remote Control -----\n");
    for (int i = 0; i < onCommands.length; i++) {</pre>
         stringBuff.append("[slot " + i + "] " + onCommands[i].getClass().getName()
              We've overwridden to String() to print out each slot and its corresponding command. You'll see us
    return stringBuff.toString();
                                                   use this when we test the remote control.
```

Implementing the Commands

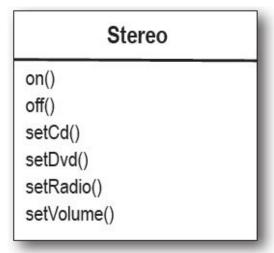
- We've already implemented the LightOnCommand for the SimpleRemoteControl.
- We can plug that same code in here and everything works beautifully.
- Off commands are no different; in fact, the LightOffCommand looks like this...

Implementing the Commands (cont.)

```
public class LightOffCommand implements Command {
    Light light;
    public LightOffCommand(Light light) {
         this.light = light;
                                         The LightOffCommand works exactly the
                                         same way as the LightOnCommand, except
                                         that we are binding the receiver to a
    public void execute() {
                                          different action: the off() method.
         light.off();
```

Implementing the Commands

- Let's try something a little more challenging; how about writing on and off commands for the Stereo?
- Okay, off is easy, we just bind the Stereo to the off() method in the StereoOffCommand.
- On is a little more complicated; let's say we want to write a StereoOnWithCDCommand...



```
public class StereoOnWithCDCommand implements Command {
    Stereo stereo;
                                                            Just like the LightOnCommand, we
    public StereoOnWithCDCommand(Stereo stereo) {
                                                             get passed the instance of the stereo
         this.stereo = stereo;
                                                             we are going to be controlling and we
                                                             store it in a local instance variable.
    public void execute() {
         stereo.on();
                                      To carry out this request, we need to call three
         stereo.setCD();
                                            methods on the stereo: first, turn it on, then set
         stereo.setVolume(11);
                                            it to play the CD, and finally set the volume to 11.
                                            Why 11? Well, it's better than 10, right?
```

Putting the Remote Control through its paces

- Now we need to run some tests and get some documentation together to describe the API.
- We've managed to come up with a design that is going to allow them to produce a remote that is easy to maintain and they're going to have no trouble convincing the vendors to write some simple command classes in the future since they are so easy to write.

```
public class RemoteLoader {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        RemoteControl remoteControl = new RemoteControl();
                                                                   / Create all the devices in their proper locations.
        Light livingRoomLight = new Light("Living Room");
        Light kitchenLight = new Light("Kitchen");
        CeilingFan ceilingFan= new CeilingFan("Living Room");
        GarageDoor garageDoor = new GarageDoor("");
        Stereo stereo = new Stereo("Living Room");
        LightOnCommand livingRoomLightOn =
                 new LightOnCommand(livingRoomLight);
        LightOffCommand livingRoomLightOff =
                                                              Create all the Light
Command objects.
                 new LightOffCommand(livingRoomLight);
        LightOnCommand kitchenLightOn =
                 new LightOnCommand(kitchenLight);
        LightOffCommand kitchenLightOff =
                 new LightOffCommand(kitchenLight);
```

```
Create the On and Off for the ceiling fan.
CeilingFanOnCommand ceilingFanOn =
         new CeilingFanOnCommand(ceilingFan);
CeilingFanOffCommand ceilingFanOff =
         new CeilingFanOffCommand(ceilingFan);
GarageDoorUpCommand garageDoorUp =
                                                          Create the Up and Down commands for the Garage.
         new GarageDoorUpCommand(garageDoor);
GarageDoorDownCommand garageDoorDown =
         new GarageDoorDownCommand(garageDoor);
StereoOnWithCDCommand stereoOnWithCD =
                                                      Create the stereo On and Off commands.
         new StereoOnWithCDCommand(stereo);
StereoOffCommand stereoOff =
         new StereoOffCommand(stereo);
```

```
remoteControl.setCommand(0, livingRoomLightOn, livingRoomLightOff);
remoteControl.setCommand(1, kitchenLightOn, kitchenLightOff);
remoteControl.setCommand(2, ceilingFanOn, ceilingFanOff);
remoteControl.setCommand(3, stereoOnWithCD, stereoOff);
System.out.println(remoteControl);
remoteControl.onButtonWasPushed(0);
                                                        Here's where we use our to String()
                                                        method to print each remote slot and the command that it is assigned to.
remoteControl.offButtonWasPushed(0);
remoteControl.onButtonWasPushed(1);
remoteControl.offButtonWasPushed(1);
remoteControl.onButtonWasPushed(2);
remoteControl.offButtonWasPushed(2);
                                                  All right, we are ready to roll!
Now, we step through each slot
and push its On and Off button.
remoteControl.onButtonWasPushed(3);
remoteControl.offButtonWasPushed(3);
```

Let's check out the execution of our remote control test...

```
File Edit Window Help CommandsGetThingsDone
% java RemoteLoader
----- Remote Control -----
[slot 0] LightOnCommand
                                    LightOffCommand
[slot 1] LightOnCommand
                                    LightOffCommand
[slot 2] CeilingFanOnCommand
                                    CeilingFanOffCommand
[slot 3] StereoOnWithCDCommand
                                    StereoOffCommand
[slot 4] NoCommand
                                    NoCommand
[slot 5] NoCommand
                                    NoCommand
[slot 6] NoCommand
                                    NoCommand
                   On slots Off slots
Living Room light is on
Living Room light is off
Kitchen light is on
                                                Our commands in action! Remember, the output
Kitchen light is off
Living Room ceiling fan is on high
                                                    from each device comes from the vendor classes.
Living Room ceiling fan is off
                                                    For instance, when a light object is turned on it
Living Room stereo is on
                                                    prints "Living Room light is on."
Living Room stereo is set for CD input
Living Room Stereo volume set to 11
Living Room stereo is off
```

A question

Wait a second, what is with that NoCommand that is loaded in slots four through six? Trying to pull a fast one?



Null object

 Good catch. We did sneak a little something in there. In the remote control, we didn't want to check to see if a command was loaded every time we referenced a slot. For instance, in the onButtonWasPushed() method, we would need code like this:

```
public void onButtonWasPushed(int slot) {
    if (onCommands[slot] != null) {
        onCommands[slot].execute();
    }
}
```

Null object (cont.)

So, how do we get around that? Implement a command that does nothing!

```
public class NoCommand implements Command {
    public void execute() { }
}
```

 Then, in our RemoteControl constructor, we assign every slot a NoCommand object by default and we know we'll always have some command to call in each slot.

```
Command noCommand = new NoCommand();
for (int i = 0; i < 7; i++) {
    onCommands[i] = noCommand;
    offCommands[i] = noCommand;
}</pre>
```

Null object (cont.)



The NoCommand object is an example of a *null object*. A null object is useful when you don't have a meaningful object to return, and yet you want to remove the responsibility for handling **null** from the client. For instance, in our remote control we didn't have a meaningful object to assign to each slot out of the box, so we provided a NoCommand object that acts as a surrogate and does nothing when its execute method is called.

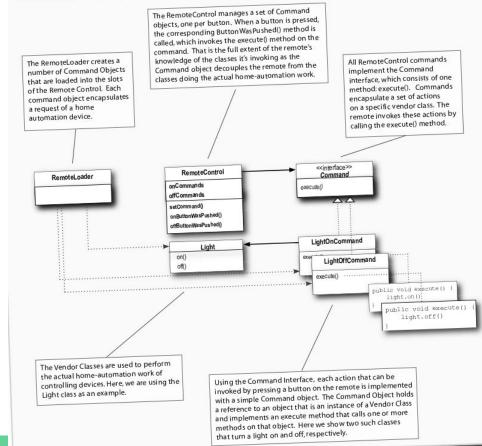
You'll find uses for Null Objects in conjunction with many Design Patterns and sometimes you'll even see Null Object listed as a Design Pattern.

Documentation

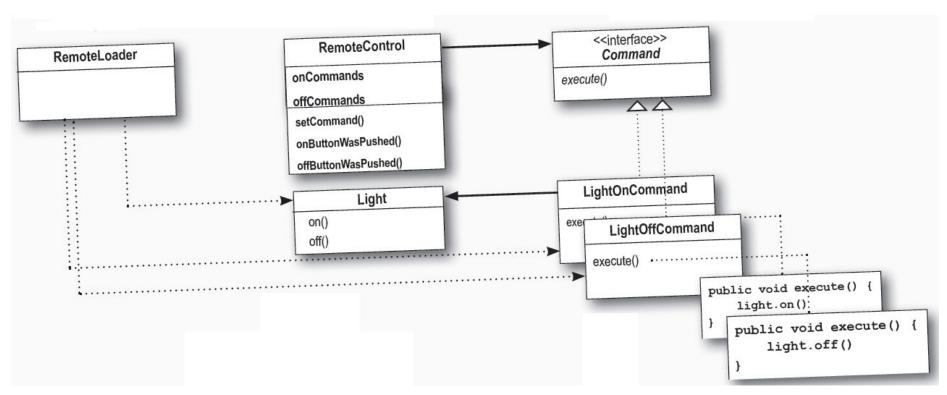
Remote Control API Design for Home Automation or Bust, Inc.,

We are pleased to present you with the following design and application programming interface for your Home Automation Remote Control. Our primary design goal was to keep the remote control code as simple as possible so that it doesn't require changes as new vendor classes are produced. To this end we have employed the Command Pattern to logically decouple the RemoteControl class from the Vendor Classes. We believe this will reduce the cost of producing the remote as well as drastically reduce your ongoing maintenance costs.

The following class diagram provides an overview of our design:



Zooming in to the documentation

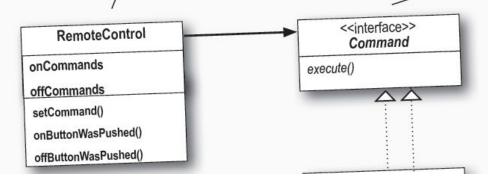


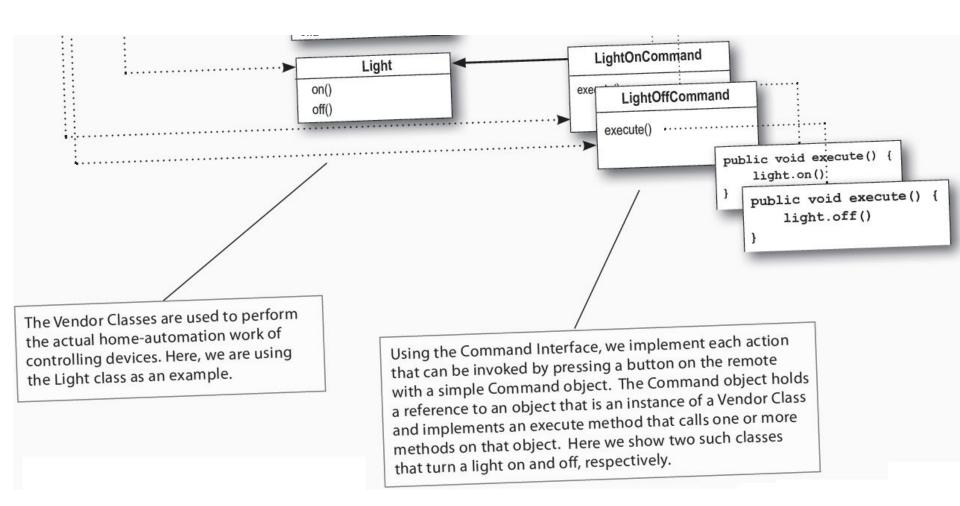
The RemoteLoader creates a number of Command objects that are loaded into the slots of the Remote Control. Each command object encapsulates a request of a home automation device.

RemoteLoader

The RemoteControl manages a set of Command objects, one per button. When a button is pressed, the corresponding ButtonWasPushed() method is called, which invokes the execute() method on the command. That is the full extent of the remote's knowledge of the classes it's invoking as the Command object decouples the remote from the classes doing the actual home-automation work.

All RemoteControl commands implement the Command interface, which consists of one method: execute(). Commands encapsulate a set of actions on a specific vendor class. The remote invokes these actions by calling the execute() method.





Enabling Undo

- The execute() method of a command performs a sequence of actions.
- The undo() method reverses the sequence of actions.

```
public interface Command {
    public void execute();
    public void undo();
}
Here's the new undo() method.
```

- Let's implement the undo() method to the commands...
 - Let's begin with the Light command.

Updating the LightOnCommand

```
public class LightOnCommand implements Command {
    Light light;
    public LightOnCommand(Light light) {
         this.light = light;
    public void execute() {
         light.on();
    public void undo() {

light.off();

on, so undo() simply turns

the light back off.
```

Updating the LightOffCommand

```
public class LightOffCommand implements Command {
   Light light;
   public LightOffCommand(Light light) {
        this.light = light;
   public void execute() {
        light.off();
   public void undo()
        light.on();
```

Updating the Remote Control class

- Here's how we're going to do it:
 - We'll add a new instance variable to track the last command invoked;
 then, whenever the undo button is pressed, we retrieve that command and invoke its undo() method.

```
public class RemoteControlWithUndo {
                                                This is where we'll stash the last
    Command[] onCommands;
                                                command executed for the undo button.
    Command[] offCommands;
    Command undoCommand;
    public RemoteControlWithUndo() {
         onCommands = new Command[7];
         offCommands = new Command[7];
         Command noCommand = new NoCommand();
         for(int i=0;i<7;i++) {
                                                        Just like the other slots, undo
             onCommands[i] = noCommand;
                                                        starts off with a No Command,
             offCommands[i] = noCommand;
                                                       so pressing undo before any other button won't do anything at all.
         undoCommand = noCommand;
    public void setCommand(int slot, Command onCommand, Command offCommand) {
         onCommands[slot] = onCommand;
         offCommands[slot] = offCommand;
```

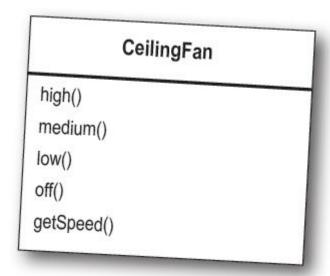
```
public void onButtonWasPushed(int slot) {
    onCommands[slot].execute();
    undoCommand = onCommands[slot];
public void offButtonWasPushed(int slot) {
    offCommands[slot].execute();
    undoCommand = offCommands[slot];
public void undoButtonWasPushed()
    undoCommand.undo();
public String toString() {
    // toString code here...
```

When a button is pressed, we take the command and first execute it; then we save a reference to it in the undoCommand instance variable. We do this for both "on" commands and "off" commands.

When the undo button is pressed, we invoke the undo() method of the command stored in undoCommand. This reverses the operation of the last command executed.

Using state to implement Undo

- Let's try something a little more interesting,
 like the CeilingFan from the vendor classes.
- The CeilingFan allows a number of speeds to be set along with an off method.



```
public class CeilingFan {
    public static final int HIGH = 3;
    public static final int MEDIUM = 2;
                                                       Notice that the CeilingFan class
    public static final int LOW = 1;
                                                       holds local state representing the
    public static final int OFF = 0;
                                                       speed of the ceiling fan.
    String location;
    int speed;
    public CeilingFan(String location) {
        this.location = location;
         speed = OFF;
                                                                                   / public void off() {
                                                                                         speed = OFF;
    public void high() {
                                                                                         // code to turn fan off
        speed = HIGH;
                                                                                     }
                                                                                                              We can get the current speed of the ceiling fan using getSpeed().
        // code to set fan to high
                                                                                     public int getSpeed() {
                                                                                         return speed;
    public void medium() {
         speed = MEDIUM;
        // code to set fan to medium
                                           These methods set the
    public void low() {
                                               speed of the ceiling fan.
        speed = LOW;
        // code to set fan to low
```

Adding Undo to the CeilingFan commands

- Let's tackle adding undo to the various CeilingFan commands.
- To do so, we need to track the last speed setting of the fan and, if the undo()
 method is called, restore the fan to its previous setting.
- Here's the code for the CeilingFanHighCommand...

```
We've added local state to
public class CeilingFanHighCommand implements Command {
                                                                     keep track of the previous speed of the fan.
    CeilingFan ceilingFan;
    int prevSpeed;
    public CeilingFanHighCommand(CeilingFan ceilingFan) {
         this.ceilingFan = ceilingFan;
                                                                     In execute, before we
                                                                     change the speed of the
                                                                    fan, we need to first
    public void execute() {
                                                                     record its previous state,
        prevSpeed = ceilingFan.getSpeed();
                                                                    just in case we need to
        ceilingFan.high();
                                                                     undo our actions.
    public void undo() {
        if (prevSpeed == CeilingFan.HIGH) {
             ceilingFan.high();
         } else if (prevSpeed == CeilingFan.MEDIUM) {
             ceilingFan.medium();
         } else if (prevSpeed == CeilingFan.LOW) {
             ceilingFan.low();
         } else if (prevSpeed == CeilingFan.OFF) {
             ceilingFan.off();
```

Macro Commands

- We can make a new kind of Command that can execute other Commands...
- Macro Commands are a simple extension of Command that allow multiple commands to be invoked.
- Likewise, Macro Commands can easily support undo().

Macro Commands (cont.)

```
public class MacroCommand implements Command {
    Command[] commands;
    public MacroCommand(Command[] commands) {
         this.commands = commands;
                                          Take an array of Commands and store them in the MacroCommand.
    public void execute() {
         for (int i = 0; i < commands.length; i++) {
              commands[i].execute();
                                When the macro gets executed by the remote, execute those commands one at a time.
```

Tools for your Design Toolbox



When you need to decouple an object making requests from the objects that know how to perform the requests, use the Command Pattern.

References

Material in this lecture is taken from Freeman, E., Robson, E., Bates, B., & Sierra, K., *Head First Design Patterns: A Brain-Friendly Guide*, O'Reilly Media, Inc., 2014.