

Lec 05 - Software Design

Topic covered



- ♦ Introduction to Software Design.
- ♦ Goals of software design.

What is Software Design?



♦ A "Software design" is a set of documents on whose basis a software can be fully programmed.

♦ A complete design should be so explicit that a programmer could code the application from it without the need for any other documents.

♦ Software designs are like the blueprints of a building.

What is Software Design?



- The purpose of design is to produce a solution to a problem:
 - The problem: requirements specification.
 - The solution: your description of **how** the requirements are to be met.
- Design is the creative process of describing and transforming a problem into a solution.
- ♦ A set of documents on whose basis a software can be fully programmed.
- ♦ Software design describe:
 - The system well enough that coders can build it and deploy it without serious problems.
 - All the parts of the system and how they fit together (architecture, high-level design)
 - Each part in detail so that it can be coded.

Goals of Software Design



- ♦ Correctness
- ♦ Robustness
- ♦ Flexibility
- ♦ Reusability
- ♦ Efficiency
- ♦ Reliability
- ♦ Usability

Correctness



- ♦ Software design must satisfy the requirements for the application
- ♦ We are primarily responsible for ensuring that our code does what it's intended to.

Robustness



- ♦ A design or implementation is robust if it is able to handle miscellaneous and unusual conditions such as:
 - Bad data.
 - User error.
 - Programmer error.
 - Environmental conditions.

Flexibility



- ♦ Requirements of an application can change in many ways.
 - Design should be flexible to accommodate these changes.
- ♦ Aspects of flexibility
 - Obtaining more or less of what's already present
 - e.g. handle more kinds of account
 - Adding new functionality
 - Add withdraw to existing deposit function
 - Change functionality
 - Allow withdrawal to create an overdraft

Reusability



- ♦ The trend in software is to reuse parts among applications
 - Example, Java API --- a large, extensive body of widely reused classes
- ♦ Types of reusability
 - Object code
 - Example: sharing dll's between word processor and spreadsheet
 - Classes in source code form
 - Example: Customer class used by several applications
 - Assemblies of Related Classes
 - Example: the java.awt package

Efficiency



♦ Efficiency refers to the use of available machine cycles and memory.

♦ Create designs and implementations that are as fast as required, and which make use of no more than available memory.

Reliability



- ♦ An application is reliable if it is relatively defect free.
- ♦ Metric for reliability.
 - Average time between failures.
- ♦ Clean designs make it easier for developers to produce error-free applications.

Usability



- ♦ An application has high usability if users find it easy to use.
- ♦ Usability is attained through human-interface design.

Summary



- ♦ A "Software design" is a set of documents on whose basis a software can be fully programmed.
- - Correctness
 - Robustness
 - Flexibility
 - Reusability
 - Efficiency
 - Reliability
 - Usability