

Null Object Design Pattern

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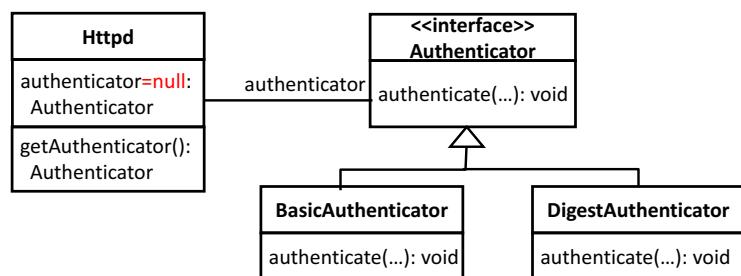
- Intent

- Encapsulate the implementation decisions of how to do nothing and hide those details from clients
- Replace a *null-checking* (i.e., if statement) with a neutral/default object that does nothing.
- B. Woolf, “Null Object,” Chapter 1, PLoP 3, Addison-Wesley, 1998.
- Refactoring: Introduce Null Object
 - <http://sourcemaking.com/refactoring/introduce-null-object>

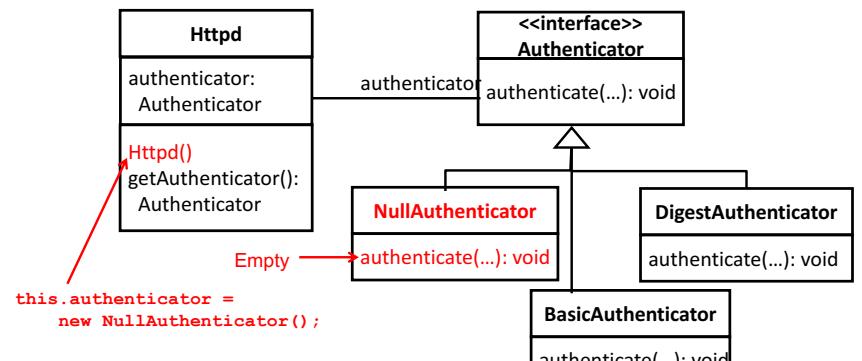
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An Example: Authentication in HTTP



```
if( getAuthenticator() != null ){
    try{
        getAuthenticator().authenticate(...);
    }catch(AuthenticationFailedException afe){
        makeErrorResponse(afe);
    }
}
makeSuccessfulResponse(...);
```



```
this.authenticator =
    new NullAuthenticator();

try{
    getAuthenticator().authenticate(...);
}catch(AuthenticationFailedException afe){
    makeErrorResponse(afe);
}
makeSuccessfulResponse(...);
```

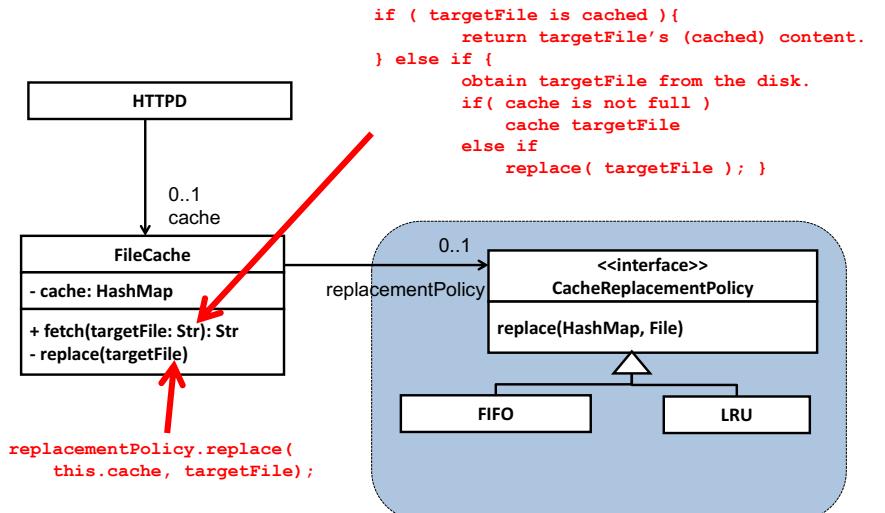
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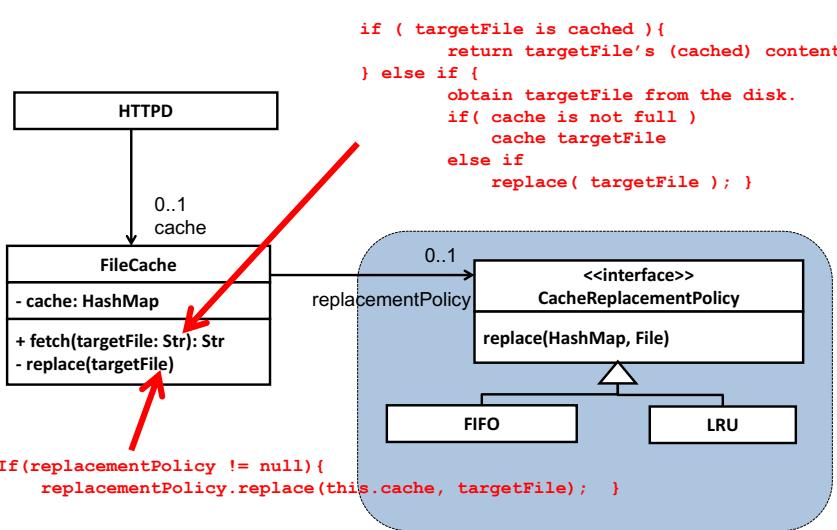
Null Object as Strategy

- Null object
 - A variant/application of *Strategy* that focuses on “doing nothing” by default.

Another Example: File Caching

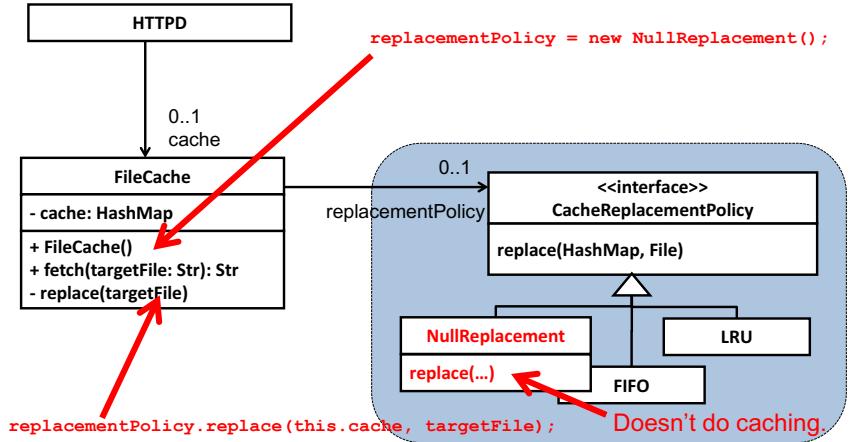


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File Caching with Null Object



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HW 7

- Implement a file caching mechanism with NullReplacement and FIFO.
 - Implement FileCache as a singleton class.
 - Have FileCache use NullReplacement by default.
 - Allow FileCache to dynamically change its replacement policy to FIFO.
- DUE: Nov 28 (Tue) midnight

Observer Design Pattern

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Observer Design Pattern

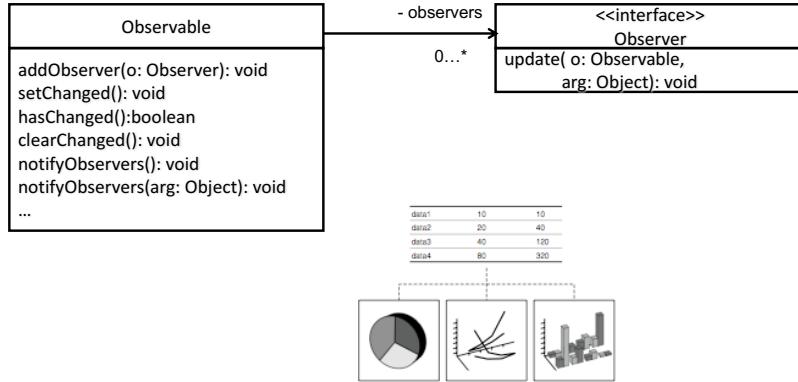
- Intent
 - Event notification
 - Define a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object changes its state, all its dependents are notified automatically
- a.k.a
 - Publish-Subscribe (pub/sub)
 - Event source - event listener
- Two key participants (classes/interfaces)
 - Observable (model, publisher or subject)
 - Propagates an event to its dependents (observers) when its state changes.
 - Observer (view and subscriber)
 - Receives events from an observable object.



- Separate data processing from data management.
 - Data management: Observable
 - Data processing: Observers
 - e.g., Data analysis (e.g. feature extraction), graphical visualization, etc.

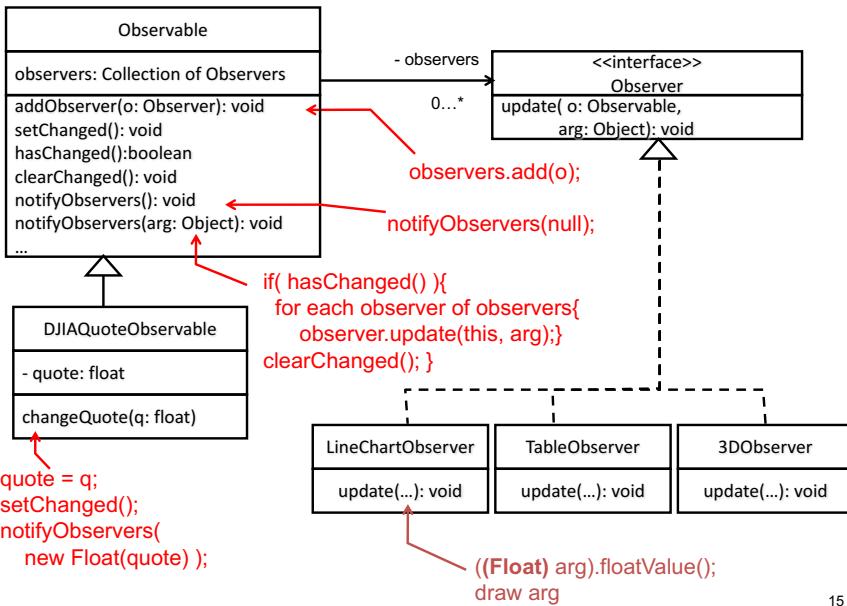
Class Structure

- java.util.Observable
- java.util.Observer

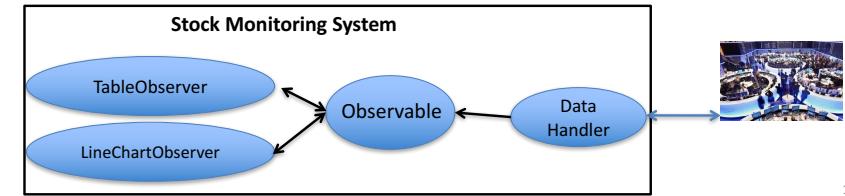


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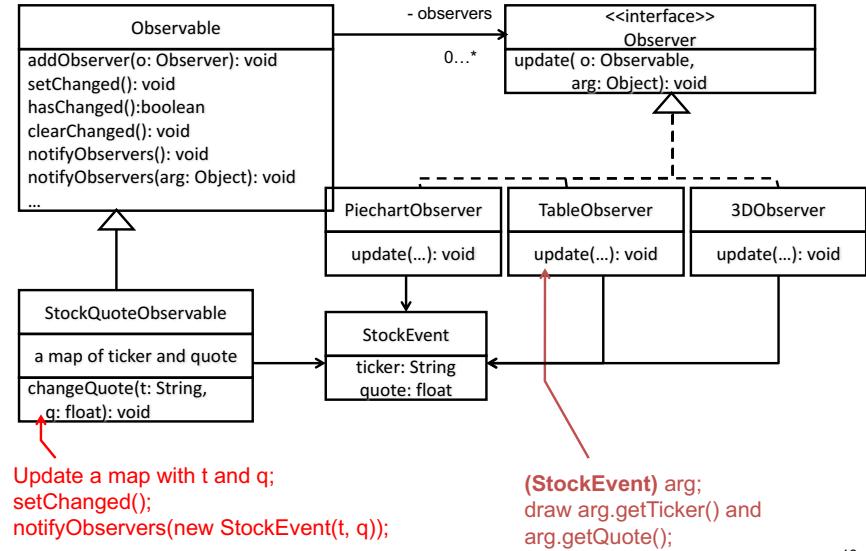
Example: Equity (Stock) Monitoring



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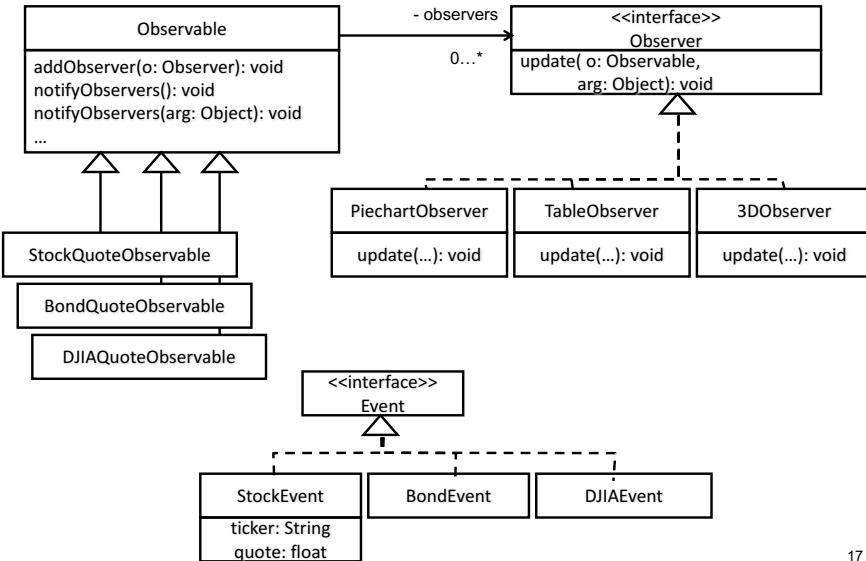


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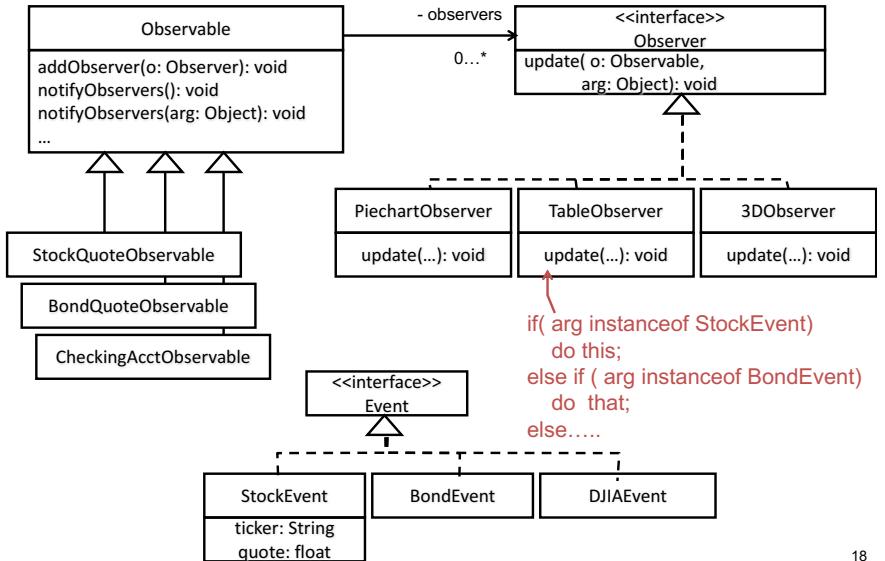


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What if...



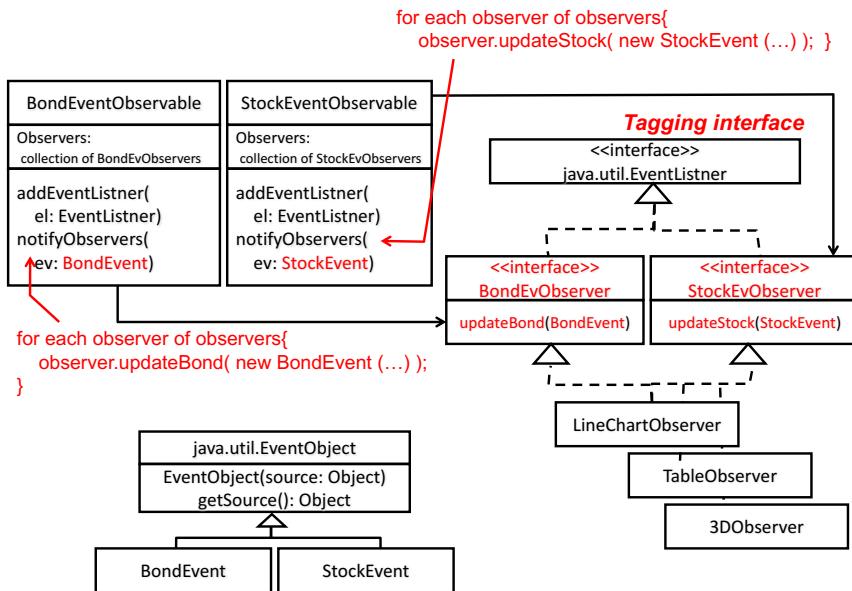
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Multicast Design Pattern

- Intent
 - Basically same as the intent of *Observer*
 - Focus on “many-to-many” event notification
 - Avoid conditional statements in observers.
- a.k.a.
 - “Typed” observer or “type-safe” observer



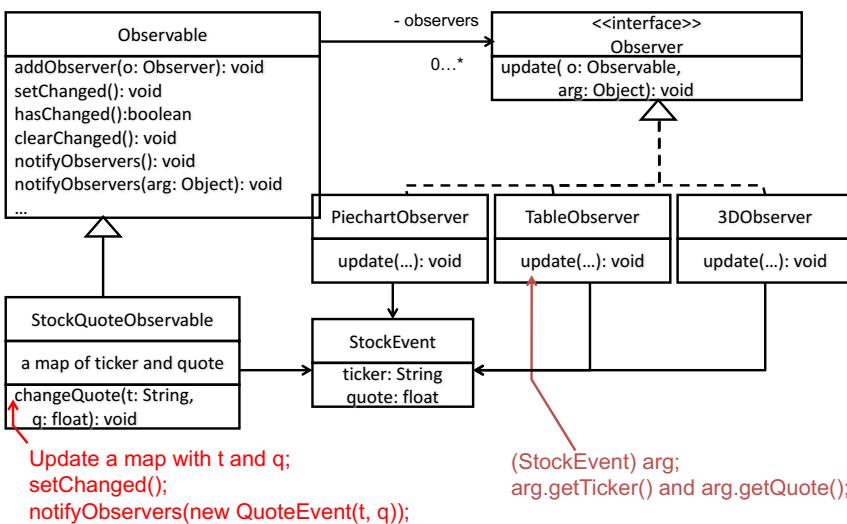
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Which way to go: Observer or Multicast??

- If you do many-to-many event notification, use **Multicast**.
 - If you use many kinds of observables, use **Multicast**.
 - to avoid writing a long sequence of conditional statements in observers
 - If you expect to add extra observables in the future, use **Multicast**.
 - to avoid maintaining/updating conditional statements in observers.
- Otherwise, use **Observer**.
 - Observer's design is a little bit simpler than Multicast.
 - But, Multicast is all right too.

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HW 8: Implement this and its *Multicast* version



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- You can reuse **java.util.Observable** and **java.util.Observer**.
- [OPTIONAL] Avoid using **java.util.Observable** and **java.util.Observer** and implement your own.
 - Use generics to define user-defined Observer and its `update()` so that you don't have to do downcasting in `update()`.
- For a testing purpose, have an observable object randomly change its quote value periodically and notify quote changes to its observers.

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- DUE: Dec 5 (Tue) midnight

Half-Push/Half-Pull Design Pattern

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“Push” and “Pull” in Event Notification

- Push
 - Observer and Multicast
 - Publish-subscribe (pub/sub)
 - Pros:
 - Low workload/traffic from observers to an observable
 - Cons:
 - An observable needs to perform error handling for unavailable (e.g., sleeping, turned-off or dead) observers.
 - An observable assumes that all observers are always-on by default.
 - Need to keep track which observers have received events.
- Pull
 - a.k.a. Polling
 - Observers (periodically) contact an observable to collect data/events.
 - Pros:
 - No error handling in an observable regarding unavailable observers.
 - Cons:
 - Potentially huge incoming workload/traffic on an observable.

Half-Push/Half-Pull

- “Half-Push/Half-Polling,” by Y. Son et al. PLoP ’09, 2009.
 - <http://www.hillside.net/plop/2009/papers/Security/Half-push-Half-polling.pdf>
- Hybridization of push and pull event notification
- Example scenario
 - Firmware update on home appliances and consumer electronics.



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- Pull
 - Each observer contacts an observable when it boots up.
 - If an event (e.g., a firmware update) is available, the observer downloads it from the observable or consults with the user.
 - Pros: No error handling necessary in the observable.
 - Cons: Huge incoming traffic on the observable.

- Push
 - Each observer registers itself to the observable.
 - Whenever an event is available, the observable pushes it to registered observers.
 - Pros: Limited incoming traffic on the observable
 - Cons: Need error handling in the observable. Need to keep track which observers have not responded and which observers have installed which versions of updates.

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- Half-push/half-pull
 - Each observer registers itself to an observable.
 - Whenever an update (event) is available, the observable schedules when it provides the update to which observers. The observable *pushes* an "update schedule" to each observer.
 - The observable ignores unavailable observables. No error handling is performed.
 - According to a given schedule, each observer *pulls* (i.e., downloads) an update from the observable.
 - Update schedules need to be prepared carefully so that too many observers do not overwhelm the observable.
 - When an observer boots up, it requests an update schedule.
 - Pros: Modest incoming traffic on the observable. No error handling is necessary on the observable.

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