



Johnny's Software Lab

Code Complexity

When is it too complex?



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Introduction

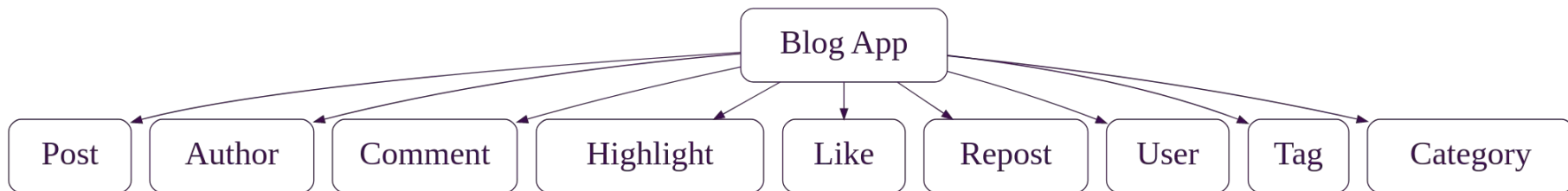
- Code complexity kills productivity
 - Difficult to understand code
 - Difficult to modify
 - A lot of time to get to know the code
- More difficult to deliver features
- More difficult to debug
- How do we measure complexity?
 - Many metrics





Fan-Out

- Fan-Out - number of classes used by your class

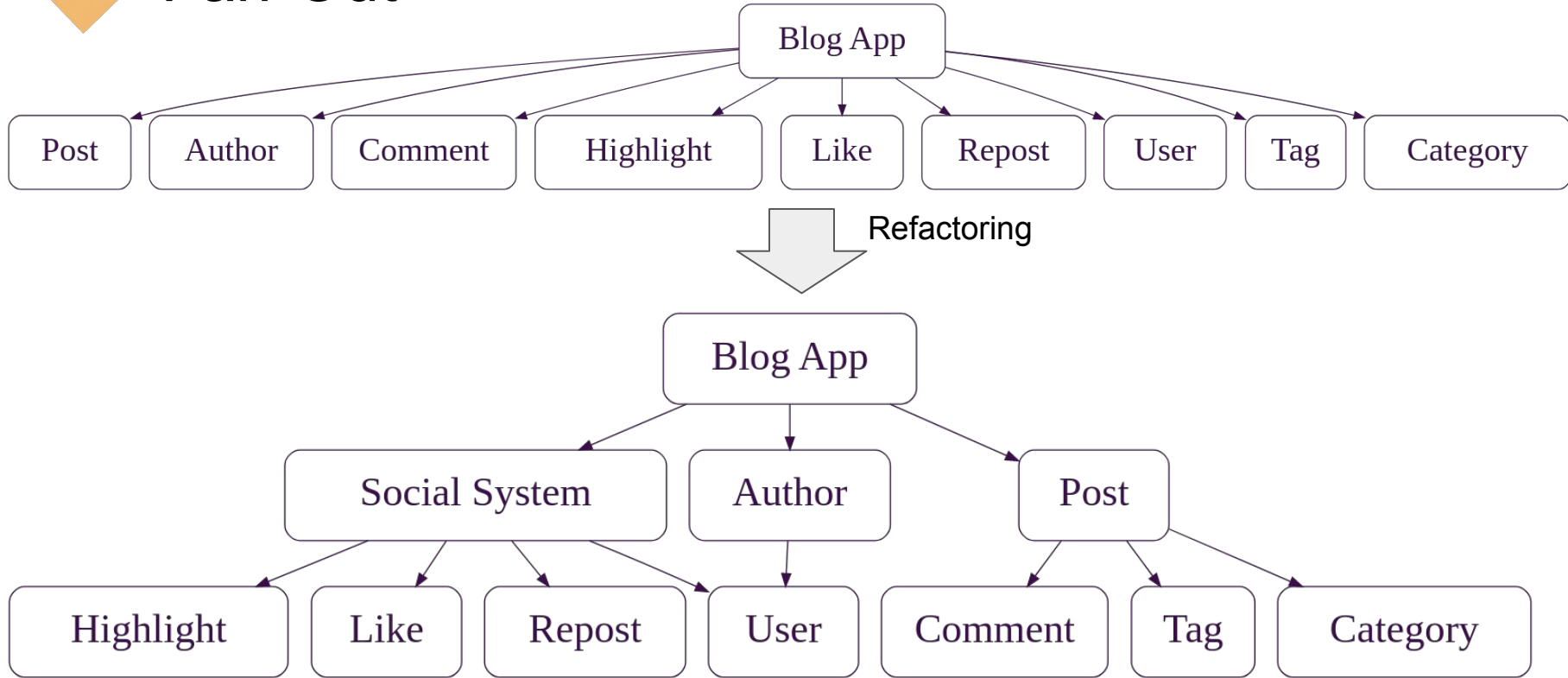


- What are the good values for fan-out?





Fan-Out





Fan-Out

- There is not a perfect number, but too large fan-out makes the class too large and difficult to maintain
- Too small fan-out makes the class a wrapper class
- Large fan-outs are definitely places where there is *interleaved complexity* and that would profit from refactoring, i.e. separating responsibility into separate classes
- On experience, a recommended value for fan-out is between 3 and 5, although it can be a bit larger, e.g. 7
 - There are many projects that have classes with fan-out several tens or even hundreds of classes





Fan-In

- Number of classes that use your class
- Example `std::vector`
- Useful classes have a large fan-in, and this is in general desirable

