

Software Design Patterns

Your Toolkit for Better Code

Reusable solutions to common software design problems

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. **Explain** what design patterns are and why they matter
2. **Identify** three main categories: Creational, Structural, Behavioral
3. **Recognize** common patterns and when to apply them
4. **Implement** basic patterns in your code
5. **Evaluate** when patterns are appropriate vs. over-engineering

The Building Blocks Analogy

Imagine building a house:

You wouldn't invent a new way to construct a door frame or design stairs from scratch—you'd use proven architectural solutions that have worked for centuries.

Software design patterns work the same way.

They're tested, reusable solutions to problems developers encounter repeatedly.

What Are Design Patterns?

NOT Code Templates

- ✗ Copy-paste solutions
- ✗ Finished code libraries
- ✗ Language-specific syntax

ARE Design Templates

- ✓ Conceptual blueprints
- ✓ Problem-solving approaches
- ✓ Reusable design ideas
- ✓ Shared vocabulary

Example: When you say "let's use a Factory pattern," you're communicating a complete solution concept in just a few words.

Why Design Patterns Matter

Speed up development:

- Proven solutions vs. reinventing the wheel
- Faster problem recognition

Improve code quality:

- Prevent subtle bugs
- Incorporate lessons from thousands of developers

Enhance communication:

- Shared vocabulary among team members
- Clear design intent

Increase maintainability:

- Familiar structures are easier to understand
- Standardized solutions

Pattern Categories: The Taxonomy

Four main categories based on purpose:

1. **Creational** - Object creation mechanisms
2. **Structural** - Object composition
3. **Behavioral** - Object communication
4. **Concurrency** - Multi-threading (advanced)

Each category solves different types of problems

Pattern Categories Overview

Design Patterns Taxonomy

- |
 - +-- Creational (Object Creation)
 - | +-- Singleton
 - | +-- Factory Method
 - | +-- Abstract Factory
 - | +-- Builder
- |
 - +-- Structural (Object Composition)
 - | +-- Adapter
 - | +-- Decorator
 - | +-- Facade
 - | +-- Composite
- |
 - +-- Behavioral (Object Interaction)
 - | +-- Observer
 - | +-- Strategy
 - | +-- Command
 - | +-- Iterator
- |
 - +-- Concurrency (Multi-threading)
 - | +-- Thread Pool
 - | +-- Producer-Consumer



Creational Patterns

Purpose: Control object creation mechanisms

Goal: Make systems independent of how objects are created, composed, and represented

Key Questions Answered:

- What gets created?
- Who creates it?
- How is it created?
- When is it created?

Pattern 1: Singleton

Ensures a class has only ONE instance with global access

Use Cases:

- Database connections
- Configuration managers
- Logging systems
- Thread pools
- Cache managers

Benefits:

- ✓ Single instance guaranteed
- ✓ Global access point
- ✓ Lazy initialization
- ✓ Resource control

Drawbacks:

- ✗ Testing difficulty
- ✗ Hidden dependencies
- ✗ Threading issues

Singleton: Implementation

```
import threading

class DatabaseConnection:
    """
    Singleton pattern ensures only one database connection exists.
    Thread-safe implementation using class-level locking.
    """
    _instance = None
    _lock = threading.Lock()

    def __new__(cls):
        # Double-checked locking for thread safety
        if cls._instance is None:
            with cls._lock:
                if cls._instance is None:
                    cls._instance = super().__new__(cls)
                    cls._instance._initialize_connection()
        return cls._instance

    def _initialize_connection(self):
        """Initialize database connection once"""
        self.connection = self._create_db_connection()
        print("Database connection established")

    def query(self, sql):
        """Execute query using the single connection"""
        return self.connection.execute(sql)
```

Singleton: Usage Example

```
# Usage: Both variables reference the same instance
db1 = DatabaseConnection()
db2 = DatabaseConnection()

assert db1 is db2  # True – same object

# Only one connection created
db1.query("SELECT * FROM users")
db2.query("SELECT * FROM products")
# Both use the same underlying connection
```

Caution: Use Singletons sparingly!

- Makes testing difficult
- Creates hidden dependencies
- Can cause issues in multi-threaded environments

Pattern 2: Factory Method

Defines interface for creating objects, lets subclasses decide which class to instantiate

Use Cases:

- Multiple implementations
- Runtime object creation
- Plugin systems
- Framework extensions

Benefits:

- ✓ Loose coupling
- ✓ Easy to extend
- ✓ Single responsibility
- ✓ Centralized creation

Drawbacks:

- ✗ More classes
- ✗ Complexity increases

Factory Method: Abstract Interface

```
from abc import ABC, abstractmethod

class NotificationSender(ABC):
    """Abstract base class for notification senders"""

    @abstractmethod
    def send(self, message: str, recipient: str):
        """Send notification – implemented by concrete classes"""
        pass

class EmailSender(NotificationSender):
    """Concrete implementation for email notifications"""

    def send(self, message: str, recipient: str):
        print(f"Sending email to {recipient}: {message}")
        # Actual email sending logic here

class SMSSender(NotificationSender):
    """Concrete implementation for SMS notifications"""

    def send(self, message: str, recipient: str):
        print(f"Sending SMS to {recipient}: {message}")
        # Actual SMS sending logic here
```

Factory Method: Factory Implementation

```
class NotificationFactory:
    """
    Factory that creates appropriate notification sender.
    Centralizes object creation logic.
    """

    @staticmethod
    def create_sender(notification_type: str) -> NotificationSender:
        """
        Factory method that returns appropriate sender.
        Easy to extend with new notification types.
        """
        if notification_type == "email":
            return EmailSender()
        elif notification_type == "sms":
            return SMSSender()
        else:
            raise ValueError(f"Unknown notification type: {notification_type}")

# Usage: Client code doesn't need to know about concrete classes
def notify_user(user_preference: str, message: str, recipient: str):
    sender = NotificationFactory.create_sender(user_preference)
    sender.send(message, recipient)

notify_user("email", "Welcome!", "user@example.com")
notify_user("sms", "Your code is 1234", "+1234567890")
```

Factory Method: Benefits

Decoupling:

- Client code doesn't depend on concrete classes
- Adding new types doesn't break existing code

Centralized Logic:

- One place to manage object creation
- Easy to modify creation rules

Extensibility:

- New notification types = new class + factory update
- Existing code unchanged

Example: Adding push notifications:

1. Create `PushSender` class

2. Update factory with new case

Structural Patterns

Purpose: Compose objects into larger structures

Goal: Build flexible, efficient structures while maintaining simplicity

Key Focus:

- How classes and objects are composed
- Relationships between entities
- Building complex structures from simple parts

Pattern 3: Adapter

Allows incompatible interfaces to work together

Use Cases:

- Third-party libraries
- Legacy code integration
- Interface standardization
- System migration

Like a power adapter:

US plug → European outlet

Benefits:

- ✓ Reuse existing code
- ✓ Maintain compatibility
- ✓ Decouple systems
- ✓ Single interface

Drawbacks:

- ✗ Extra abstraction layer
- ✗ Slight complexity

Adapter: The Problem

```
class LegacyPaymentProcessor:
    """
    Old payment system with different interface.
    We can't modify this code (third-party or legacy).
    """

    def process_legacy_payment(self, account_number: str, amount: float):
        print(f"Processing ${amount} from account {account_number}")
        return {"status": "success", "transaction_id": "LEG123"}

class ModernPaymentInterface(ABC):
    """
    New interface that our application expects.
    All payment processors should implement this.
    """

    @abstractmethod
    def pay(self, payment_details: dict) -> dict:
        pass

# Problem: LegacyPaymentProcessor doesn't implement ModernPaymentInterface
# How do we use it without modifying existing code?
```

Adapter: The Solution

```
class PaymentAdapter(ModernPaymentInterface):
    """
    Adapter makes legacy system compatible with modern interface.
    Translates between old and new method signatures.
    """

    def __init__(self, legacy_processor: LegacyPaymentProcessor):
        self.legacy_processor = legacy_processor

    def pay(self, payment_details: dict) -> dict:
        """
        Adapts modern interface to legacy system.
        Extracts data and calls old method.
        """

        account = payment_details.get("account_number")
        amount = payment_details.get("amount")

        # Call legacy method with adapted parameters
        result = self.legacy_processor.process_legacy_payment(account, amount)
        return result

# Usage: Client code uses modern interface consistently
legacy_system = LegacyPaymentProcessor()
adapted_processor = PaymentAdapter(legacy_system)

payment_info = {"account_number": "ACC123", "amount": 99.99}
result = adapted_processor.pay(payment_info) # Works!
```

Pattern 4: Decorator

Adds new functionality to objects dynamically without modifying structure

Use Cases:

- Adding features incrementally
- I/O streams
- Middleware pipelines
- UI components

Like pizza toppings:

Each topping adds functionality without changing the base

Benefits:

- ✓ Add features dynamically
- ✓ No inheritance explosion
- ✓ Single Responsibility
- ✓ Flexible combinations

Drawbacks:

- ✗ Many small objects
- ✗ Order matters
- ✗ Complexity

Decorator: Base Component

```
class Coffee(ABC):
    """Base component interface"""

    @abstractmethod
    def cost(self) -> float:
        pass

    @abstractmethod
    def description(self) -> str:
        pass

class SimpleCoffee(Coffee):
    """Concrete component – basic coffee"""

    def cost(self) -> float:
        return 2.0

    def description(self) -> str:
        return "Simple coffee"

class CoffeeDecorator(Coffee):
    """
    Base decorator class.
    Maintains reference to wrapped component.
    """

    def __init__(self, coffee: Coffee):
        self._coffee = coffee
```

Decorator: Concrete Decorators

```
class MilkDecorator(CoffeeDecorator):
    """Concrete decorator that adds milk"""

    def cost(self) -> float:
        return self._coffee.cost() + 0.5

    def description(self) -> str:
        return self._coffee.description() + ", milk"

class SugarDecorator(CoffeeDecorator):
    """Concrete decorator that adds sugar"""

    def cost(self) -> float:
        return self._coffee.cost() + 0.2

    def description(self) -> str:
        return self._coffee.description() + ", sugar"

class WhipDecorator(CoffeeDecorator):
    """Concrete decorator that adds whipped cream"""

    def cost(self) -> float:
        return self._coffee.cost() + 0.7

    def description(self) -> str:
        return self._coffee.description() + ", whipped cream"
```

Decorator: Usage Example

```
# Start with simple coffee
coffee = SimpleCoffee()
print(f"{coffee.description():} ${coffee.cost()}")
# Output: Simple coffee: $2.0

# Add milk
coffee_with_milk = MilkDecorator(coffee)
print(f"{coffee_with_milk.description():} ${coffee_with_milk.cost()}")
# Output: Simple coffee, milk: $2.5

# Stack multiple decorators
fancy_coffee = WhipDecorator(SugarDecorator(MilkDecorator(SimpleCoffee())))
print(f"{fancy_coffee.description():} ${fancy_coffee.cost()}")
# Output: Simple coffee, milk, sugar, whipped cream: $3.4

# Different combinations possible
simple_sweet = SugarDecorator(SimpleCoffee())
print(f"{simple_sweet.description():} ${simple_sweet.cost()}")
# Output: Simple coffee, sugar: $2.2
```

Decorator: Power of Flexibility

Without Decorator Pattern:

- SimpleCoffee
- CoffeeWithMilk
- CoffeeWithSugar
- CoffeeWithMilkAndSugar
- CoffeeWithMilkAndWhip
- CoffeeWithSugarAndWhip
- CoffeeWithMilkSugarAndWhip
- ... 7 classes for 3 toppings!

With Decorator Pattern:

- SimpleCoffee (1 base)
- MilkDecorator (1 decorator)

Behavioral Patterns

Purpose: Define how objects communicate and distribute responsibilities

Goal: Make interactions flexible and easy to maintain

Key Focus:

- Communication between objects
- Assignment of responsibilities
- Algorithms and workflows
- Object collaboration

Pattern 5: Observer

Defines one-to-many dependency where one object's state changes notify all dependents

Use Cases:

- Event handling
- GUI frameworks
- Pub/Sub systems
- Reactive programming
- Real-time updates

Benefits:

- ✓ Loose coupling
- ✓ Dynamic subscriptions
- ✓ Broadcast communication
- ✓ Event-driven

Drawbacks:

- ✗ Update order uncertain
- ✗ Memory leaks risk
- ✗ Performance overhead

Observer: Subject (Observable)

```
from typing import List

class Subject:
    """
    Subject (Observable) maintains list of observers.
    Notifies all observers when state changes.
    """

    def __init__(self):
        self._observers: List[Observer] = []
        self._state = None

    def attach(self, observer):
        """Register an observer"""
        if observer not in self._observers:
            self._observers.append(observer)

    def detach(self, observer):
        """Unregister an observer"""
        self._observers.remove(observer)

    def notify(self):
        """Notify all observers about state change"""
        for observer in self._observers:
            observer.update(self)

    def set_state(self, state):
        """Change state and notify observers"""
        print(f"Subject: State changed to {state}")
        self._state = state
        self.notify()
```

Observer: Observers

```
class Observer(ABC):
    """Observer interface"""

    @abstractmethod
    def update(self, subject: Subject):
        pass

class EmailNotifier(Observer):
    """Concrete observer that sends email notifications"""

    def update(self, subject: Subject):
        state = subject.get_state()
        print(f"EmailNotifier: Sending email about state: {state}")

class LoggingObserver(Observer):
    """Concrete observer that logs state changes"""

    def update(self, subject: Subject):
        state = subject.get_state()
        print(f"LoggingObserver: Logging state change: {state}")

class AnalyticsObserver(Observer):
    """Concrete observer that tracks analytics"""

    def update(self, subject: Subject):
        state = subject.get_state()
        print(f"AnalyticsObserver: Recording metric: {state}")
```

Observer: Usage Example

```
# Create subject
order_system = Subject()

# Create and attach observers
email_notifier = EmailNotifier()
logger = LoggingObserver()
analytics = AnalyticsObserver()

order_system.attach(email_notifier)
order_system.attach(logger)
order_system.attach(analytics)

# Single state change triggers all observers
order_system.set_state("Order Placed")
# Output:
# Subject: State changed to Order Placed
# EmailNotifier: Sending email about state: Order Placed
# LoggingObserver: Logging state change: Order Placed
# AnalyticsObserver: Recording metric: Order Placed

# Can detach observers dynamically
order_system.detach(email_notifier)
order_system.set_state("Order Shipped")
# Now only logger and analytics are notified
```

Observer: Real-World Applications

GUI Frameworks:

- Button click → Multiple UI components update
- Model changes → View updates automatically

Reactive Systems:

- Data stream changes → Subscribers react
- Price updates → Multiple displays refresh

Event Systems:

- User registration → Email, log, analytics, billing
- Order placement → Inventory, payment, notification

Key Benefit: Loose coupling between components

- Add/remove observers without modifying subject
- Subject doesn't know observer details

Pattern 6: Strategy

Defines family of algorithms, encapsulates each, makes them interchangeable

Use Cases:

- Multiple algorithms
- Payment methods
- Sorting strategies
- Compression methods
- Validation rules

Benefits:

- ✓ Runtime flexibility
- ✓ Eliminate conditionals
- ✓ Easy to add strategies
- ✓ Isolated algorithms

Drawbacks:

- ✗ More classes
- ✗ Client awareness
- ✗ Communication overhead

Strategy: Strategy Interface

```
class PaymentStrategy(ABC):
    """Strategy interface for payment methods"""

    @abstractmethod
    def pay(self, amount: float) -> bool:
        pass

class CreditCardPayment(PaymentStrategy):
    """Concrete strategy for credit card"""

    def __init__(self, card_number: str, cvv: str):
        self.card_number = card_number
        self.cvv = cvv

    def pay(self, amount: float) -> bool:
        print(f"Processing ${amount} via credit card ending in {self.card_number[-4:]}")
        return True

class PayPalPayment(PaymentStrategy):
    """Concrete strategy for PayPal"""

    def __init__(self, email: str):
        self.email = email

    def pay(self, amount: float) -> bool:
        print(f"Processing ${amount} via PayPal account {self.email}")
        return True
```


Strategy: Context Class

```
class ShoppingCart:
    """
    Context class that uses a payment strategy.
    Strategy can be changed at runtime.
    """

    def __init__(self):
        self.items = []
        self.payment_strategy = None

    def add_item(self, item: str, price: float):
        self.items.append({"item": item, "price": price})

    def set_payment_strategy(self, strategy: PaymentStrategy):
        """Change payment method dynamically"""
        self.payment_strategy = strategy

    def checkout(self):
        """Process payment using selected strategy"""
        if not self.payment_strategy:
            raise ValueError("No payment method selected")

        total = sum(item["price"] for item in self.items)
        print(f"Total amount: ${total}")

        success = self.payment_strategy.pay(total)
        if success:
            print("Payment successful!")
            self.items.clear()
        return success
```

Strategy: Usage Example

```
# Create shopping cart
cart = ShoppingCart()
cart.add_item("Laptop", 999.99)
cart.add_item("Mouse", 29.99)

# Customer chooses credit card
cart.set_payment_strategy(CreditCardPayment("1234567890123456", "123"))
cart.checkout()
# Output:
# Total amount: $1029.98
# Processing $1029.98 via credit card ending in 3456
# Payment successful!

# Later, customer uses PayPal for another purchase
cart.add_item("Keyboard", 79.99)
cart.set_payment_strategy(PayPalPayment("user@example.com"))
cart.checkout()
# Output:
# Total amount: $79.99
# Processing $79.99 via PayPal account user@example.com
# Payment successful!
```

Strategy: Eliminating Conditionals

✗ Without Strategy

```
def process_payment(method, amount):  
    if method == "credit_card":  
        # Credit card logic  
        print(f"CC: ${amount}")  
    elif method == "paypal":  
        # PayPal logic  
        print(f"PP: ${amount}")  
    elif method == "crypto":  
        # Crypto logic  
        print(f"Crypto: ${amount}")  
    # Add new method = modify function
```

✓ With Strategy

```
# Each strategy is separate class  
cart.set_payment_strategy(  
    CreditCardPayment("...")  
)  
cart.checkout()  
  
# Add new method = new class  
# No modification to existing code  
# Open/Closed Principle!
```

Practical Example: Notification System

Scenario: E-commerce notification system

Requirements:

- Multiple channels (email, SMS, push)
- Different notification types (orders, promotions, security)
- Easy to extend
- Logging and retry
- Analytics and billing

Solution: Combine multiple patterns!

Notification System: Architecture

PATTERNS USED:

Strategy Pattern

- +-- NotificationChannel (Email, SMS, Push)
- +-- Runtime channel selection

Factory Pattern

- +-- ChannelFactory
- +-- Creates appropriate channel

Decorator Pattern

- +-- LoggingDecorator
- +-- RetryDecorator
- +-- Add features to channels

Observer Pattern

- +-- AnalyticsObserver
- +-- BillingObserver
- +-- Monitor notification events

Singleton Pattern

- +-- NotificationService
- +-- Central coordination

Notification System: Strategy + Factory

```
# STRATEGY: Notification channels
class NotificationChannel(ABC):
    @abstractmethod
    def send(self, recipient: str, message: str, metadata: dict) -> bool:
        pass

class EmailChannel(NotificationChannel):
    def send(self, recipient: str, message: str, metadata: dict) -> bool:
        print(f"✉ Email to {recipient}: {message[:50]}")
        return True

class SMSChannel(NotificationChannel):
    def send(self, recipient: str, message: str, metadata: dict) -> bool:
        print(f"📱 SMS to {recipient}: {message[:160]}")
        return True

# FACTORY: Create channels
class ChannelFactory:
    @staticmethod
    def create_channel(channel_type: str) -> NotificationChannel:
        channels = {"email": EmailChannel, "sms": SMSChannel}
        return channels[channel_type.lower()]()
```

Notification System: Decorator

```
# DECORATOR: Add features to channels
class LoggingDecorator(NotificationChannel):
    """Decorator that logs all attempts"""

    def __init__(self, channel: NotificationChannel):
        self._channel = channel

    def send(self, recipient: str, message: str, metadata: dict) -> bool:
        print(f"[LOG] Attempting send to {recipient}")
        result = self._channel.send(recipient, message, metadata)
        print(f"[LOG] Result: {'SUCCESS' if result else 'FAILED'}")
        return result

class RetryDecorator(NotificationChannel):
    """Decorator that retries failures"""

    def __init__(self, channel: NotificationChannel, max_retries: int = 3):
        self._channel = channel
        self.max_retries = max_retries

    def send(self, recipient: str, message: str, metadata: dict) -> bool:
        for attempt in range(self.max_retries):
            try:
                if self._channel.send(recipient, message, metadata):
                    return True
                print(f"    Retry {attempt + 1}/{self.max_retries}")
            except Exception as e:
                print(f"    Attempt {attempt + 1} failed: {e}")
        return False
```

Notification System: Observer

```
# OBSERVER: Monitor events
class NotificationObserver(ABC):
    @abstractmethod
    def on_notification_sent(self, event_data: dict):
        pass

class AnalyticsObserver(NotificationObserver):
    """Track metrics"""

    def on_notification_sent(self, event_data: dict):
        print(f"📊 Analytics: Recorded notification")
        print(f"    Channel: {event_data['channel']}")
        print(f"    Type: {event_data['type']}")

class BillingObserver(NotificationObserver):
    """Track costs"""

    def on_notification_sent(self, event_data: dict):
        costs = {"email": 0.001, "sms": 0.05, "push": 0.0}
        cost = costs.get(event_data['channel'], 0)
        print(f"💰 Billing: Charged ${cost}")
```


Notification System: Singleton Service

```
# SINGLETON: Central service
class NotificationService:
    _instance = None

    def __new__(cls):
        if cls._instance is None:
            cls._instance = super().__new__(cls)
            cls._instance._observers = []
        return cls._instance

    def attach_observer(self, observer: NotificationObserver):
        self._observers.append(observer)

    def send_notification(self, recipient: str, message: str,
                          channel_type: str, notification_type: str = "general"):
        # Factory: Create channel
        base_channel = ChannelFactory.create_channel(channel_type)

        # Decorator: Add features
        enhanced = RetryDecorator(LoggingDecorator(base_channel))

        # Strategy: Execute
        success = enhanced.send(recipient, message, {})

        # Observer: Notify
        if success:
            for obs in self._observers:
                obs.on_notification_sent({
                    "channel": channel_type, "type": notification_type
                })
```

Notification System: Usage

```
# Get singleton service
service = NotificationService()

# Attach observers
service.attach_observer(AnalyticsObserver())
service.attach_observer(BillingObserver())

# Send notifications
service.send_notification(
    recipient="customer@example.com",
    message="Your order has been confirmed",
    channel_type="email",
    notification_type="order_confirmation"
)

service.send_notification(
    recipient="+1234567890",
    message="Security alert: New login detected",
    channel_type="sms",
    notification_type="security_alert"
)
```

Notification System: Benefits

Pattern Synergy:

Factory creates channels → Easy to add new channels

Strategy selects channel → Runtime flexibility

Decorator adds features → Logging, retry without modifying channels

Observer monitors events → Analytics, billing decoupled

Singleton coordinates → Central service management

Result:

- Easy to extend (new channels, decorators, observers)
- Each pattern solves specific problem
- Loose coupling throughout
- Testable components
- Production-ready architecture

Common Pitfalls

Pitfall #1: Over-Engineering with Patterns

Problem: Using patterns when not needed

Example:

- Factory for single concrete class
- Singleton for non-shared resources
- Strategy for 2 simple conditionals

Impact:

- Unnecessary complexity
- Harder to understand
- More code to maintain

Solution: "Rule of Three"

- Wait for 3+ instances before introducing pattern

Pitfall #2: Singleton Abuse

Problem: Overusing Singletons

Why it's tempting:

- Global access to anything
- Seems convenient
- Easy to implement

Why it's bad:

- Hidden dependencies
- Testing nightmare (can't mock)
- Threading issues
- Global state problems

Solution:

- Use only for truly shared resources (config, logs, pools)

Pitfall #3: Ignoring Pattern Context

Problem: Using patterns in wrong context

Examples:

- Observer for synchronous operations
- Strategy for simple if/else
- Factory for objects created once
- Decorator when inheritance works fine

Solution:

- Study "When to Use" sections
- Understand pattern applicability
- Consider simpler alternatives first
- Pattern should simplify, not complicate

Pitfall #4: Mixing Pattern Responsibilities

Problem: Hybrid patterns doing too much

Examples:

- Singleton + Factory in one class
- Decorator + Adapter combined
- Observer + Strategy mixed

Why it's bad:

- Violates Single Responsibility
- Confusing to understand
- Hard to maintain

Solution:

- Keep patterns focused
- Compose cleanly

Best Practices

Best Practice #1: Document Pattern Usage

```
class DatabaseConnection:
    """
    Singleton pattern ensures only one database connection exists.

    This prevents resource exhaustion and ensures consistent state
    across the application. Thread-safe implementation using locks.

    Pattern: Singleton
    Reason: Single shared connection pool
    Alternatives considered: Connection per request (too expensive)
    """
    pass
```

Benefits:

- Future developers understand design
- Documents "why" not just "what"
- Prevents well-intentioned breaking changes

Best Practice #2: Use Pattern When It Simplifies

✗ Pattern Overkill

```
# Using Strategy for simple choice
class TaxCalculator:
    def __init__(self, strategy):
        self.strategy = strategy

# Could be:
def calculate_tax(amount, rate):
    return amount * rate
```

✓ Pattern Appropriate

```
# Multiple complex algorithms
class SortStrategy(ABC):
    def sort(self, data): pass

class QuickSort(SortStrategy): ...
class MergeSort(SortStrategy): ...
class HeapSort(SortStrategy): ...

# Runtime selection needed
# Algorithms are complex
```

Best Practice #3: Prefer Composition

Many design patterns are about composition:

- Decorator: Wrap objects to add behavior
- Strategy: Compose with different algorithms
- Observer: Compose subject with observers

```
# Instead of deep inheritance:  
class CoffeeWithMilkAndSugar(Coffee): pass  
  
# Use composition:  
coffee = SugarDecorator(MilkDecorator(SimpleCoffee()))
```

Benefits:

- More flexible
- Easier to test
- Runtime changes possible

lotfinejack.com • "Favor composition over inheritance"

Best Practice #4: Start Simple, Refactor to Patterns

Development Flow:

1. **Write simple code** that works
2. **Notice code smells** (duplication, rigidity)
3. **Identify pattern** that solves the problem
4. **Refactor** to pattern
5. **Test** that it still works

Don't start with patterns!

- Start with simplest solution
- Let patterns emerge from real needs
- Refactor when complexity justifies it

"Make it work, make it right, make it fast"



Patterns vs. Alternatives

When NOT to Use Patterns

Use Simple Function When:

- Problem is straightforward
- No runtime flexibility needed
- Single responsibility
- Utility operations

Example: Date formatting

Key: Choose simplest solution that solves your problem

Use Pattern When:

- Anticipate change
- Need runtime flexibility
- Multiple implementations
- Complex behavior

Example: Multiple payment methods

Patterns vs. Language Features

Many patterns built into modern languages:

Pattern	Language Feature
Iterator	<code>for item in collection</code>
Decorator	<code>@decorator</code> syntax
Observer	Event listeners
Strategy	First-class functions
Singleton	Module imports

Guideline: Use language features when available, explicit patterns when you need full structure

Patterns vs. Frameworks

Frameworks implement patterns internally:

- **Django signals** → Observer pattern
- **React components** → Composite pattern
- **Express middleware** → Chain of Responsibility
- **Spring @Bean** → Factory pattern

Guideline:

- Use framework mechanisms when possible
- Implement patterns for framework-independent code
- Explicit patterns for library development

Key Takeaways

Essential Lessons:

1. **Patterns are proven solutions**, not code templates
2. **Three main categories**: Creational, Structural, Behavioral
3. **Patterns work together** in real applications
4. **Avoid over-engineering** - Rule of Three
5. **Context matters** - when to use, not just how
6. **Modern languages/frameworks** often have built-in support
7. **Document your usage** - explain the "why"

Pattern Selection Guide

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATTERN:

Need to control object creation?

- +-- Single instance? → Singleton
- +-- Multiple implementations? → Factory
- +-- Complex construction? → Builder

Need to compose objects?

- +-- Incompatible interfaces? → Adapter
- +-- Add features dynamically? → Decorator
- +-- Simplify complex system? → Facade

Need object communication?

- +-- One-to-many notification? → Observer
- +-- Multiple algorithms? → Strategy
- +-- Request as object? → Command

Not sure? Start simple!

- +-- Write straightforward code first
- +-- Refactor to pattern when needed
- +-- Don't force patterns

When to Introduce Patterns

Green Light (Use Pattern):

- ✓ Three or more similar implementations
- ✓ Anticipate significant future changes
- ✓ Need runtime flexibility
- ✓ Pattern simplifies the design
- ✓ Team familiar with pattern

Red Light (Keep Simple):

- ✗ Only one or two implementations
- ✗ Requirements are stable
- ✗ No need for runtime changes
- ✗ Pattern adds complexity
- ✗ Team unfamiliar with pattern



Practice Quiz #1

Pattern Category Question:

You need a logging system that writes to multiple destinations (file, database, cloud) simultaneously. When a log entry is created, all destinations should update automatically.

Which pattern category and specific pattern?

- A) Creational - Factory Method
- B) Structural - Adapter
- C) Behavioral - Observer
- D) Structural - Decorator

Think before next slide...

Quiz #1: Answer

Answer: C) Behavioral - Observer

Explanation:

Why Observer:

- One-to-many notification relationship
- Log entry creation (Subject) notifies all destinations (Observers)
- Automatic updates when event occurs
- Destinations are independent

Why not others:

- **Factory:** Creates destinations, doesn't handle notification
- **Adapter:** Makes incompatible interfaces work together
- **Decorator:** Adds features to single object, not multiple destinations

Key Indicator: "all destinations should be updated automatically" = Observer



Practice Quiz #2

Singleton Application Question:

Which is the **BEST** use case for Singleton?

- A) User class representing individual users
- B) Database connection pool shared across application
- C) Product class in e-commerce system
- D) Utility class with static helper methods

Think before next slide...

Quiz #2: Answer

Answer: B) Database connection pool shared across application

Explanation:

Why connection pool:

- Shared resource
- Single point of coordination
- Global access needed
- Resource management

Why not others:

- **User class:** Need many instances (one per user)
- **Product class:** Need many instances (one per product)
- **Utility class:** Static methods don't need Singleton (no state)



Practice Quiz #3

Pattern Combination Question:

In the notification system, we used Factory and Decorator together.

Why use BOTH patterns?

- A) Factory creates channels, Decorator adds features like logging/retry
- B) Factory and Decorator do same thing, so using both is redundant
- C) Factory handles runtime, Decorator handles compile-time
- D) Decorator creates channels, Factory adds features

Think before next slide...

Quiz #3: Answer

Answer: A) Factory creates channels, Decorator adds features

Explanation:

Separation of concerns:

- **Factory:** Handles object creation (Email/SMS/Push)
- **Decorator:** Adds cross-cutting concerns (logging, retry)

Why it works:

- Factory decides WHAT to create
- Decorator decides WHAT FEATURES to add
- Can add new channels without changing decorators
- Can add new decorators without changing channels

Pattern synergy:



Practice Quiz #4

Avoiding Pitfalls Question:

You need to format dates in two ways: "MM/DD/YYYY" or "DD-MM-YYYY". Colleague suggests Strategy pattern.

What's the BEST response?

- A) Great! Strategy perfect for multiple options
- B) No, too simple for Strategy. Use function with parameter
- C) Yes, but only if we add Factory pattern too
- D) Strategy never appropriate for formatting

Think before next slide...

Quiz #4: Answer

Answer: B) No, too simple for Strategy. Use function with parameter

Explanation:

Why not Strategy:

- Only 2 simple format options
- Strategy adds unnecessary complexity
- Multiple classes, interfaces, indirection

Better solution:

```
def format_date(date, format_type):  
    if format_type == "US":  
        return date.strftime("%m/%d/%Y")  
    else:  
        return date.strftime("%d-%m-%Y")
```

When to use Strategy:

- Multiple COMPLEX algorithms



Practice Quiz #5

Pattern Selection Question:

Integrating third-party payment library: `processPayment(amount, card)` , but your app expects: `pay(payment_details)` .

Which pattern solves this?

- A) Factory Method - create compatible processors
- B) Adapter - translate between incompatible interfaces
- C) Decorator - add compatibility features
- D) Observer - notify when payments occur

Think before next slide...

Quiz #5: Answer

Answer: B) Adapter - translate between incompatible interfaces

Explanation:

Why Adapter:

- Two incompatible interfaces
- Third-party code (can't modify)
- Need translation layer
- Make them work together

How it works:

```
class PaymentAdapter(YourInterface):  
    def __init__(self, third_party_lib):  
        self.lib = third_party_lib  
  
    def pay(self, payment_details):  
        # Translate your interface to their interface  
        amount = payment_details['amount']  
        card = payment_details['card']  
        # ... lib = third_party_lib.PaymentAdapter(payment_details)
```

Summary: Pattern Quick Reference

Pattern	Purpose	When to Use
Singleton	One instance	Shared resources
Factory	Object creation	Multiple implementations
Adapter	Interface translation	Incompatible interfaces
Decorator	Add features	Dynamic behavior
Observer	Event notification	One-to-many updates
Strategy	Algorithm selection	Runtime flexibility

Remember: Patterns are tools, not goals. Choose simplest solution that solves your problem.

Resources for Continued Learning

Essential Books:

- **Design Patterns** by Gang of Four (Gamma et al.)
- **Clean Code** by Robert Martin
- **Refactoring** by Martin Fowler
- **Head First Design Patterns** by Freeman & Freeman

Online Resources:

- Refactoring.Guru (refactoring.guru/design-patterns)
- SourceMaking (sourcemaking.com/design_patterns)
- Microsoft Patterns (docs.microsoft.com/patterns)

Practice:

- Identify patterns in frameworks you use

lotfine Refactor existing code to patterns

Action Items

This Week:

1. Identify ONE pattern in code you're currently working on
2. Read about one pattern in depth
3. Implement one simple pattern in a side project
4. Discuss patterns with your team

This Month:

- Read "Head First Design Patterns"
- Refactor existing code using appropriate patterns
- Document pattern usage in your codebase
- Share pattern knowledge with team

Practice:

- Look for patterns in libraries you use

Final Thoughts

Design Patterns Are:

- Templates, not code
- Solutions to common problems
- Shared vocabulary
- Tools in your toolkit

Success Comes From:

- Understanding when to use patterns
- Knowing when NOT to use patterns
- Starting simple, adding complexity when needed
- Documenting your design decisions
- Learning from real-world examples

Thank You!

Questions?

Key Message:

Design patterns are powerful tools for solving common problems, but use them judiciously. Start simple, let patterns emerge from real needs, and always choose readability over cleverness.

Pattern wisely, code simply, document clearly.

Lesson Complete

You Are Now Equipped To:

- ✓ Explain what design patterns are and why they matter
- ✓ Identify three main categories (Creational, Structural, Behavioral)
- ✓ Recognize common patterns in codebases
- ✓ Implement basic patterns in your code
- ✓ Evaluate when patterns help vs. when they over-engineer
- ✓ Combine patterns for real-world solutions
- ✓ Avoid common pattern pitfalls
- ✓ Document pattern usage effectively

Now go build better code!

Keep learning, keep coding, keep simplifying!

