Object Creation

Prof. Dr. Dirk Riehle

Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

ADAP C10

Licensed under CC BY 4.0 International

(Design) Patterns of Object Creation

- 1. Switch / Case
- 2. Factory Method
- (Abstract) Factory
- 4. Product Trader
- 5. Prototype

Object Creation Example

- Create a document from its file type (extension)
- Create an application for the document

Application Document Model

Evaluation Criteria

Ease of

- 1. Reading code
- 2. Understanding code
- 3. Changing code
- 4. Extending code

Scenario 1: File-type → **Document**

- Client is run-time environment, e.g. desktop
- Wants to create document for given file

Switch / Case Applied

```
public class Client {
  public Document createDocument(File file) {
    String fileType = file.getFileType();
    Document result = null;
   if (fileType.equals("odt")) {
      result = new TextDocument();
   } else if (fileType.equals("ods")) {
      result = new Spreadsheet();
    } else if (fileType.equals("odp")) {
      result = new Presentation();
    return result;
```

Switch / Case Evaluated

- Advantages
 - Easy to read
 - Easy to understand
 - Easy to change
- Disadvantages
 - Hard to extend
- Additional notes
 - May require use of initialization method

Scenario 2: Application → **Document**

- Client is run-time environment, e.g. desktop
- Wants to create document for given application

Factory Method Applied

```
public abstract class Application {
  public abstract Document createDocument();
public class Writer extends Application {
  public Document createDocument() { return new TextDocument(); }
public class Calc extends Application {
  public Document createDocument() { return new Spreadsheet(); }
public class Impress extends Application {
  public Document createDocument() { return new Presentation(); }
```

Factory Method Evaluated

- Advantages
 - Easy to change
 - Easy to extend
- Disadvantages
 - Creation code is not centralized any longer

Scenario 3: File-type → **Document (v2)**

- Client is run-time environment, e.g. desktop
- Wants to create document for given file
- Wants to add new Document types in one place

Application Document Factory

Abstract Factory Applied

```
public interface AppDocFactory {
  public Application createFrom(Document doc);
  public Document createFrom(File file);
public class DefaultAppDocFactory implements AppDocFactory {
  . . .
  public Document createFrom(File file) {
   String fileType = file.getFileType();
   if (fileType.equals("odt")) {
     result = new TextDocument();
   } else if ...
    return result;
```

Abstract Factory Evaluated

Advantages

- Easy to read
- Easy to change
- Easier to extend (than v1)

Disadvantages

Harder to understand

Additional notes

- Factories are versatile, advantages and disadvantages depend on further choices like
 - how to implement the creation methods

Scenario 4: Document → Application

- Client is run-time environment, e.g. desktop
- Wants to create application for given document
- Wants to add new Application types in one place

Product Trader Applied 1 / 2

```
public interface AppDocFactory {
  public void registerApplicationClass(Class dc, Class ac);
  public Application createFrom(Document doc);
public class DefaultAppDocFactory implements AppDocFactory {
 Map<Class, Class> appClasses = new HashMap<Class, Class>();
 static {
    appClasses.put(TextDocument.class, Writer.class);
    appClasses.put(Spreadsheet.class, Calc.class);
    appClasses.put(Presentation.class, Impress.class);
```

Product Trader Applied 2 / 2

```
public class DefaultAppDocFactory implements AppDocFactory {
 Map<Class, Class> appClasses = new HashMap<Class, Class>();
  public void registerApplicationClass(Class dc, Class ac) {
    assert (dc != null) && (ac != null);
   appClasses.put(dc, ac);
  public Application createFrom(Document doc) {
   Class appClass = appClasses.get(doc.getClass());
    assert appClass != null;
    return createInstance(appClass);
  protected Application createInstance(Class ac) {
```

Product Trader Evaluated

Advantages

- Easy to read
- Easy to change
- Easy to extend

Disadvantages

- Hard to understand
- Hard to debug

Additional notes

- Product Trader delays everything until runtime
- May be viewed as just a complex (abstract) factory

Scenario 5: File-type → **Document (v3)**

- Client is run-time environment, e.g. desktop
- Wants to create document for given file type
- Wants to add new Document types in one place
- Wants to initialize complex but default document

Prototype Applied 1 / 2

```
public interface AppDocFactory {
  public void registerDocumentPrototype(FileType ft, Document doc);
  public Document createFrom(FileType ft);
```

Prototype Applied 2 / 2

```
public class DefaultAppDocFactory implements AppDocFactory {
  Map<String, Document> docProtos = new HashMap<String, Document>();
  public void registerDocumentPrototype(FileType ft, Document doc) {
    assert (ft != null) && (doc != null);
    docProtos.put(ft, doc);
  public Document createFrom(FileType ft) {
    Document prototype = docProtos.get(ft);
    assert (prototype != null) && (prototype.isCloneable());
    return prototype.clone();
```

Prototype Evaluated

- Advantages
 - Easy to read
 - Easy to change
 - Easy to extend
- Disadvantages
 - Hard to understand

Problems with Using Design Patterns

- Many design patterns address multiple issues at once, e.g.
 - Factory method: Creation method and subclassing for configuration
 - Abstract factory: Factory object and subclassing for configuration
 - Prototype: Creation configuration and complex object structures

Design Process for Object Creation

- Use your experience
- Use a pattern language
- Choose from design space
 - Delegation (of object creation)
 - Selection (of concrete class)
 - Configuration (of class mapping)
 - Instantiation (of concrete class)
 - Initialization (of new object)
 - Building (of object structure)

Design Space for Object Creation

- 1. Delegation of object creation
- 2. Selection of concrete class
- 3. Configuration of class mapping
- 4. Instantiation of concrete class
- 5. Initialization of new object
- 6. Building of object structure

Details of Design Space for Object Creation

- **Delegation** (Who gets to create the object?)
 - on-the-spot, this-object, separate-object
- **Selection** (How is the concrete class selected?)
 - on-the-spot, by-switch-case, by-subclassing, by-colocating, by-mapping
- **Configuration** (How is a class mapping configured?)
 - in-code, by-annotation, by-configuration-file
- **Instantiation** (How is the concrete class instantiated?)
 - in-code, by-class-object, by-prototype, by-function-object
- **Initialization** (How is the new object initialized?)
 - default, by-cloning, by-fixed-signature, by-key-value-pairs, in-second-step
- **Building** (How is the object structure built?)
 - default, by-cloning, by-building

1. Delegation of Object Creation

On-the-spot

- Definition: Hard-code in client code
- Use: If product class is unlikely to change, ever

By delegating to this-object

- Definition: Delegate to separate (creation) method
- Use: If this class has multiple places that need this type of new object

By delegating to a separate-object

- Definition: Delegate to a separate (factory) object
- Use: If many places in the system need to create new objects of this type

2. Selection of Concrete Class

On-the-spot

- Definition: Hard-code in place (whether this method, this class or factory)
- Use: If there is no need for varying the concrete class, ever

• **By-switch-case** statement

- Definition: Hard-code in place using switch/case statement
- Use: If there are multiple options, none of which changes, ever

By-subclassing

- Definition: Select concrete class by delegating to subclass
- Use: If you need a family and dual hierarchies need to be satisfied

By-colocating

- Definition: Select concrete class as part of a family selection
- Use: If your concrete class is part of a family of co-dependent classes

By-mapping

- Definition: Look-up concrete class as part of some spec → class mapping
- Use: If your concrete class needs to be configurable at runtime

3. Configuration of Class Mapping

In-code

- Definition: Hard-code mapping in configuration method
- Use: If you need a mapping, but it is unlikely to change, ever

By-annotation

- Definition: Use annotations to (incrementally) configure mapping
- Use: If your mapping is small and does not need to be centralized

By-configuration-file

- Definition: Read mapping from configuration file
- Use: If you need to manage large and changing mappings

4. Instantiation of Concrete Class

In-code

- Definition: Call constructor (new) directly
- Use: If there is no need for configuration

By-class-object

- Definition: Represent each concrete class using its class object
- Use: If you don't need specialized initialization

By-prototype

- Definition: Represent each concrete class using a prototype (object)
- Use: If you don't need specialized initialization and don't have class objects

By-function-object

- Definition: Represent each concrete class using a function object
- Use: If you need specialized initialization or don't have class objects

5. Initialization of New Object

Default

- Definition: Provide a fixed (default) field assignment in constructor
- Use: If there is no need for client-specific initialization (or it can be done later)

By-cloning

- Definition: Provide a fixed field assignment by cloning a prototype
- Use: If there is no need for a client-specific initialization

By-fixed-signature

- Definition: Provide a field assignment using a fixed method signature
- Use: If you can channel everything though a fixed method signature

By-key-value-pair list

- Definition: Provide a field assignment using a variable argument list
- Use: If considerable variation is possible and needed in object initialization

In-second-step

- Definition: Push back object initialization to client until after creation finished
- Use: If there is too much variation in the initialization arguments

6. Building of Object Structure

Default

- Definition: Let the new object create any dependent object structure
- Use: If the client wants no say in creating any dependent objects

By-cloning

- Definition: Create the desired object structure by cloning a prototype
- Use: If someone else needs to define the object structure for the client

By-building

- Definition: Create the desired object structure by building it piece-by-piece
- Use: If the client needs to direct the building of a complex object structure

Design Patterns and Design Space

Review / Summary of Session

- Object creation patterns
 - Several patterns, definitions, examples
 - Switch / case
 - Factory method
 - Abstract factory
 - Product trader
 - Prototype
 - Builder
 - Constituting a design space

Thank you! Questions?

dirk.riehle@fau.de – https://oss.cs.fau.de

dirk@riehle.org – https://dirkriehle.com – @dirkriehle

Credits and License

- Original version
 - © 2012-2021 Dirk Riehle, some rights reserved
 - Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License
- Contributions
 - None yet