

Understanding EF Encapsulation and the Great Repository Debates



Julie Lerman

MOST TRUSTED AUTHORITY ON ENTITY FRAMEWORK

@julielerman thedatafarm.com



Module Overview



Benefits to Encapsulating EF Code

Reuse and Separation of Concerns

What About Repositories?

IQueryable or IEnumerable?



Encapsulation



Encapsulation in Object-Oriented Programming

A technique for hiding data and implementation of a class providing accessors in the form of public methods and properties.



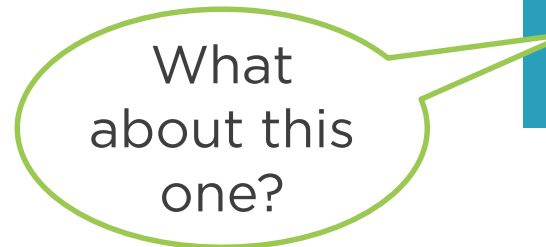
Reusable Components



But Don't Overdo It!



Separation of Concerns



Is this just
a
customer?

Is it a
customer
with
orders?

Customer

Customer

Is this
new?
Edited?
Deleted?

Order

Order

What
about this
one?



Win

Building the Focused Class

Win

Consuming the Focused Class





Repository

DbSet Is A Repository

Entity Framework DbSet

*“represents the collection of all entities [of a single type] in the context, or that can be queried from the database”**

DbSet.(LINQ query methods)

DbSet<Type>.Add/Attach

DbSet.Remove

Repository Pattern

*“in-memory domain object collection”**

Execute Queries defined elsewhere

Add objects to repository

Remove objects from repository

*[msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/gg696460\(v=vs.113\).aspx](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/gg696460(v=vs.113).aspx)

*martinfowler.com/eaCatalog/repository.html



Impact of DbSet Methods on Entities New to Change Tracker

DbSet Method	Change Tracker State	SQL Command on SaveChanges
DbSet.Add	Added	INSERT
DbSet.Attach, <i>Set State=Modified</i>	Modified	UPDATE
DbSet.Attach	Unchanged	--
DbSet.Remove	Deleted	DELETE



Repositories & EF: Pros, Cons & Observations



Repositories Are Not Always the Answer

Generic Repositories

Simple Objects

Graphs complicate things

Straightforward CUD

Create, Update, Delete

Basic Queries

GetAll (+Filter/Sort/Eager), Find By Id

Predictable, Repeatable Patterns

No special domain behavior required

Explicit Persistence Classes

Aggregates/Graphs

Special handling of objects within graph

Create, Update, Delete Not A Given

Varying persistence rules/needs

Explicit Querying

Queries align with domain needs

Behaviors Are Unique

Needs Vary from Domain to Domain



Baby-Step Repositories

```
public class CustomerRepository
{
    [_context setup code]

    public IQueryable<Customer> All {
        get { return _context.Customers; }
    }
    public Customer Find(int id) {
        return _context.Customers.Find(id);
    }
    public void Insert(Customer customer) {
        _context.Customers.Add(customer);
    }
    public void Update(Customer customer) {
        _context.Customers.Attach(customer);
        _context.Entry(customer).State = EntityState.Modified;
    }
    public void Delete(int id) {
        var customer = _context.Customers.Find(id);
        _context.Customers.Remove(customer);
    }
}
```



Redundant Repositories

```
public class CustomerRepository
{
    {_context setup code}

    public IQueryable<Customer> All {
        get { return _context.Customers; }
    }

    public Customer Find(int id) {
        return _context.Customers.Find(id);
    }

    public void Insert(Customer customer) {
        _context.Customers.Add(customer);
    }

    public void Update(Customer customer) {
        _context.Customers.Attach(customer);
        _context.Entry(customer).State =
            EntityState.Modified;
    }

    public void Delete(int id) {
        var customer = _context.Customers.Find(id);
        _context.Customers.Remove(customer);
    }
}
```

```
public class OrderRepository
{
    {_context setup code}

    public IQueryable<Order> All {
        get { return _context.Orders; }
    }

    public Order Find(int id) {
        return _context.Orders.Find(id);
    }

    public void Insert(Order order) {
        _context.Orders.Add(order);
    }

    public void Update(Order order) {
        _context.Orders.Attach(order);
        _context.Entry(order).State =
            EntityState.Modified;
    }

    public void Delete(int id) {
        var order = Find(id);
        _context.Orders.Remove(order);
    }
}
```

```
public class ShipmentRepository
{
    {context setup code}

    public IQueryable<Shipment> All {
        get { return _context.Shipments; }
    }

    public Shipment Find(int id) {
        return _context.Shipments.Find(id);
    }

    public void Insert(Shipment shipment) {
        _context.Shipments.Add(shipment);
    }

    public void Update(Shipment shipment) {
        _context.Shipments.Attach(shipment);
        _context.Entry(shipment).State =
            EntityState.Modified;
    }

    public void Delete(int id) {
        var order = Find(id);
        _context.Shipments.Remove(shipment);
    }
}
```



Repository Contract

```
public interface IRepository<T> : IDisposable {  
    IQueryable<T> All { get; }  
    T Find(int id);  
    void Insert(T entity);  
    void Update entity;  
    void Delete(int id);  
}
```

```
public class CustomerRepository : IRepository  
{  
    {_context setup code}  
  
    public IQueryable<Customer> All {  
        get { return _context.Customers; }  
    }  
  
    public Customer Find(int id) {  
        return _context.Customers.Find(id);  
    }  
  
    public void Insert(Customer customer) {  
        _context.Customers.Add(customer);  
    }  
  
    public void Update(Customer customer) {  
        _context.Customers.Attach(customer);  
        _context.Entry(customer).State =  
            EntityState.Modified;  
    }  
  
    public void Delete(int id) {  
        var customer = _context.Customers.Find(id);  
        _context.Customers.Remove(customer);  
    }  
}
```

```
public class OrderRepository : IRepository  
{  
    {_context setup code}  
  
    public IQueryable<Order> All {  
        get { return _context.Orders; }  
    }  
  
    public Order Find(int id) {  
        return _context.Orders.Find(id);  
    }  
  
    public void Insert(Order order) {  
        _context.Orders.Add(order);  
    }  
  
    public void Update(Order order) {  
        _context.Orders.Attach(order);  
        _context.Entry(order).State =  
            EntityState.Modified;  
    }  
  
    public void Delete(int id) {  
        var order = Find(id);  
        _context.Orders.Remove(order);  
    }  
}
```

```
public class ShipmentRepository : IRepository  
{  
    {_context setup code}  
  
    public IQueryable<Shipment> All {  
        get { return _context.Shipments; }  
    }  
  
    public Shipment Find(int id) {  
        return _context.Shipments.Find(id);  
    }  
  
    public void Insert(Shipment shipment) {  
        _context.Shipments.Add(shipment);  
    }  
  
    public void Update(Shipment shipment) {  
        _context.Shipments.Attach(shipment);  
        _context.Entry(shipment).State =  
            EntityState.Modified;  
    }  
  
    public void Delete(int id) {  
        var order = Find(id);  
        _context.Shipments.Remove(shipment);  
    }  
}
```



Generic Repository (Simplified)

```
public class GenericRepository<TEntity> where TEntity : class {  
  
    internal DbContext _context;  
    internal DbSet<TEntity> _dbSet;  
  
    public GenericRepository(DbContext context) {  
        _context = context;  
        _dbSet = context.Set<TEntity>();  
    }  
  
    public IQueryable<TEntity> All {  
        IQueryable<TEntity> query = _dbSet;  
        return query;  
    }  
  
    public T Find(int id) {  
        return _dbSet.Find(id);  
    }  
  
    public void Insert(TEntity entity) {  
        _dbSet.Add(entity);  
    }  
  
    public void Update(TEntity entity) {  
        _dbSet.Attach(entity);  
        _context.Entry(entity).State = EntityState.Modified;  
    }  
  
    public void Delete(int id) {  
        var entity = Find(id);  
        _dbSet.Remove(entity);  
    }  
}
```



Sage Advice:
Use a DbContext in
Generic Repositories,
Not An Abstraction



Short-Lived DbContext Transactions

```
using (context=new SalesContext())  
{  
    return context.Orders.Where(o=>o.SubTotal>100);  
}
```

```
using (context=new SalesContext())  
{  
    context.Orders.Add(someNewOrder);  
    context.SaveChanges();  
}
```



Ongoing Transactions in Client-Side Apps

```
var context=new SalesContext()  
var orders= context.Orders.Where(o=>o.Total>100).ToList();  
orders[0].Total+=5;  
orders[1].Total+=5;  
orders.Add(new Order(...));  
context.SaveChanges();  
order2.ModifiedDate=DateTime.Today;  
context.SaveChanges();
```



Typical UOW with EF

```
public class UnitOfWork
{
    OrderSystemContext _context;
    public UOW() {
        _context = new OrderSystemContext();
    }
    public int Save() {
        return _context.SaveChanges();
    }
}
```



UOW Encapsulating Generic EF

```
public class UnitOfWork {
    private GenericRepository<Customer> _custRepo;
    private GenericRepository<Order> _orderRepo;
    OrderSystemContext _context;

    public UnitOfWork () {
        _context = new OrderSystemContext();
    }

    public GenericRepository<Customer> CustomerRepository {
        get {
            if (_custRepo == null) {
                _custRepo = new GenericRepository<Customer>(_context);
            }
            return _custRepo;
        }
    }

    public GenericRepository<Order> OrderRepository { . . . }

    public GenericRepository<Detail> DetailRepository { . . . }

    public int Save() {
        return _context.SaveChanges();
    }
}
```

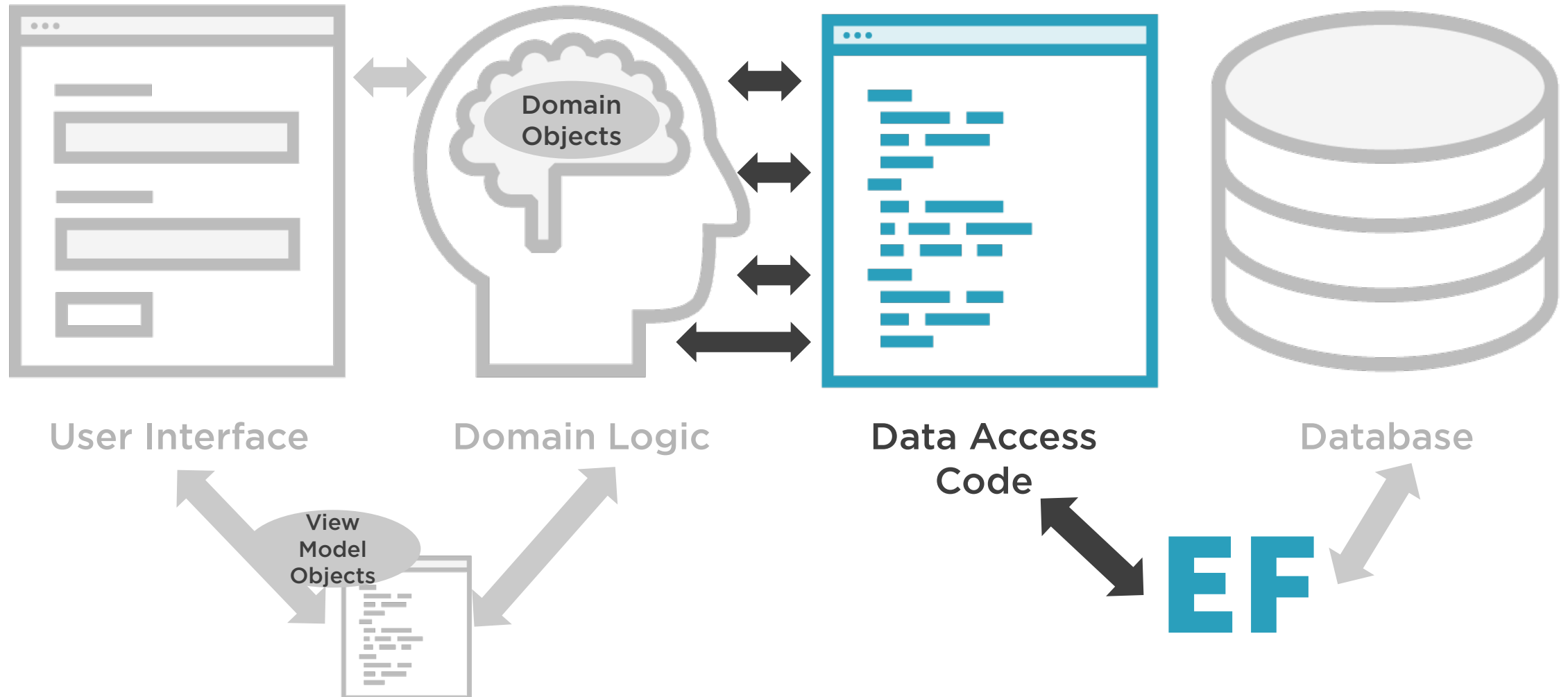


IQueryable
or
IEnumerable?

“It depends”



Encapsulated EF Code in Your Architecture



Module Summary



Benefits to Encapsulating EF Code

Reuse and Separation of Concerns

What About Repositories?

IQueryable or IEnumerable?



Resources

Helpful Pluralsight Courses

SOLID Principles of Object Oriented Design bit.ly/1PhN6ny

Object-Oriented Programming Fundamentals in C# bit.ly/1RkzpYm

Encapsulation & Solid bit.ly/1TBZFck

For Repositories:

Implementing the Repository & Unit of Work Patterns in an ASP.NET MVC App bit.ly/1K8fCMo

Clean, Better, & Sexier Generic Repository Implementation for EF, Tugberk Ugurlu bit.ly/UD9sV6

EFReversePoco.com

Against Repositories:

Repositories On Top UnitOfWork Are Not a Good Idea, Rob Conery: bit.ly/21cw0De

Favor query objects over repositories, Jimmy Bogard: bit.ly/1SQqhy5

Limiting your abstractions, Jimmy Bogard bit.ly/1KH8Ptm

Ayende.com/blog: Many good repository posts

martinfowler.com/eaCatalog/unitOfWork.html



Thanks to 100proofpress.com for permission to use my Queen of Hearts stamp in this video



Understanding EF Encapsulation and the Great Repository Debates



Julie Lerman

MOST TRUSTED AUTHORITY ON ENTITY FRAMEWORK

@julielerman thedatafarm.com

