



Generative AI Bootcamp

AI System Design Patterns

Week 0, Day 2, Session 1

November 14, 2025



Learning Objectives

- Understand modular AI system architecture
- Learn key software design patterns for AI applications
- Recognize scalability, maintainability, and testability principles

What Is a Design Pattern?

A reusable solution to a common software design problem.

- Encourages consistency and clarity
- Improves collaboration across teams
- Helps manage complex AI codebases



AI System Layers

- 1. Data layer** – Vector DB, prompt/context store, logs
- 2. Model layer** – LLMs, embeddings, fine-tunes
- 3. Orchestration layer** – AI workflows, routing, policies
- 4. Interface layer** – API endpoints, UI, integrations

AI System Layers

Compare with non-AI application

```
flowchart LR subgraph T[Traditional App] T1["Frontend (UI)"] T2["Backend  
(business logic, APIs)"] T3["Data Layer (DB, cache)"] T1 --> T2 --> T3 end  
subgraph A[AI System Layers]
```

A1["Interface Layer (API, UI, integrations)"]

A2["Orchestration Layer (AI workflows, routing, policies)"]

A3["Model Layer (LLMs, embeddings, fine-tunes)"]

A4["Data Layer (vector DB, prompt/context store, logs)"]

A1 --> A2 --> A3

A2 --> A4

end

AI System Layers

Enterprise AI application

```
flowchart LR FE["Frontend"] --> BE["Backend"] BE --> |Business path|  
SVC[Traditional Backend Services] subgraph O[Orchestration Layer] ETL[Ingestion  
/ Preprocessing] AI[AI Services] end subgraph Data[Data Layer] DB[(System of  
Record DB)] VDB[(Vector DB / Artifacts)] LOGS[(Prompt / Result Logs)] end BE --> |  
AI path| O SVC --> DB O --> VDB O --> LOGS O --> MODEL["Model Layer (LLM /  
Embeddings)"]
```



Why Patterns Matter in AI

- Prevent “spaghetti AI pipelines”
- Support reusability and testing
- Enable easier debugging and monitoring

⚙️ Core Patterns for AI Systems

- **Factory Pattern** – dynamic model selection
- **Strategy Pattern** – switch between algorithms or prompts
- **Adapter Pattern** – standardize APIs
- **Observer Pattern** – monitor outputs or feedback



Example: Factory Pattern

```
class ClientFactory:  
    def get_client(self, name):  
        if name == 'openai':  
            from openai import OpenAI  
            return OpenAI()  
        elif name == 'gemini':  
            from google import genai  
            return genai.Client()  
        else:  
            raise ValueError('Unknown client')  
  
factory = ClientFactory()  
client = factory.get_client('openai')
```

Example: Strategy Pattern

```
def summarize_basic(text):
    return text.split('.')[0] + '.'

def summarize_keywords(text):
    return ', '.join(text.split()[:5]) + '...'
```

Want to use different summarization strategies without changing main code.



Example: Strategy Pattern

Can be done via dependency injection:

```
class Summarizer:  
    def __init__(self, strategy):  
        self.strategy = strategy  
    def summarize(self, text):  
        return self.strategy(text)  
  
text = 'Generative AI is revolutionizing industry.'  
summarizer = Summarizer(summarize_keywords)  
print('Keywords:', summarizer.summarize(text))
```



Example: Adapter Pattern

```
from openai import OpenAI

class OpenAIAdapter:
    def __init__(self, client):
        self.client = client
    def generate(self, prompt):
        return self.client.chat.completions.create(
            model="gpt-4o-mini",
            messages=[{"role": "user", "content": prompt}]
        ).choices[0].message.content

adapter = OpenAIAdapter(client)
print(adapter.generate('Hello world!'))
```

👀 Example: Observer Pattern

- Log model outputs in real time
- Capture user feedback for retraining

```
class LoggerObserver:  
    def update(self, data):  
        print("Logging:", data)  
  
observer = LoggerObserver()  
observer.update({'event': 'inference', 'result': 'Success'})
```

⚠ Composition Example

Combine multiple patterns to build modular pipelines:

```
factory = ClientFactory()
client = factory.get_client("openai")
adapter = OpenAIAdapter(client)
observer = LoggerObserver()
output = adapter.generate('Describe AI design patterns.')
observer.update({'event': 'output', 'data': output})
```



AI Pipeline Design Principles

- Separate data, model, and service logic
- Use dependency injection where possible
- Implement logging and monitoring early

Scalability Considerations

- Use async APIs
- Deploy microservices with Docker
- Centralize configuration files

Common Pitfalls

- Hard-coded model names
- Tight coupling between components
- Lack of observability

Summary

- Patterns simplify complex AI system design
- Factory, Strategy, Adapter, and Observer are essential for modularity
- Build scalable, testable, maintainable pipelines



Next Session

Session 2: API Exploration Lab

Hands-on practice integrating multiple model SDKs.