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♦ Design pattern intents interview Q&A

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Q1. Why do Proxy, Decorator, Adapter, Bridge, and Facade design patterns look very similar?

A1. Some design patterns do have subtle differences, and it is important to understand the intent of a pattern. Decorator and chain of responsibility may look similar but the intent is different. Decorator has a subtle difference with a proxy design pattern. Proxy, Decorator, Adapter, and Bridge are all variations on “wrapping” a class. Facade design pattern is a container for the classes in another sub system.

One of the reasons to use a design pattern is to talk the common vocabulary with the designers and the developers. The intent and naming conventionsof these design patterns

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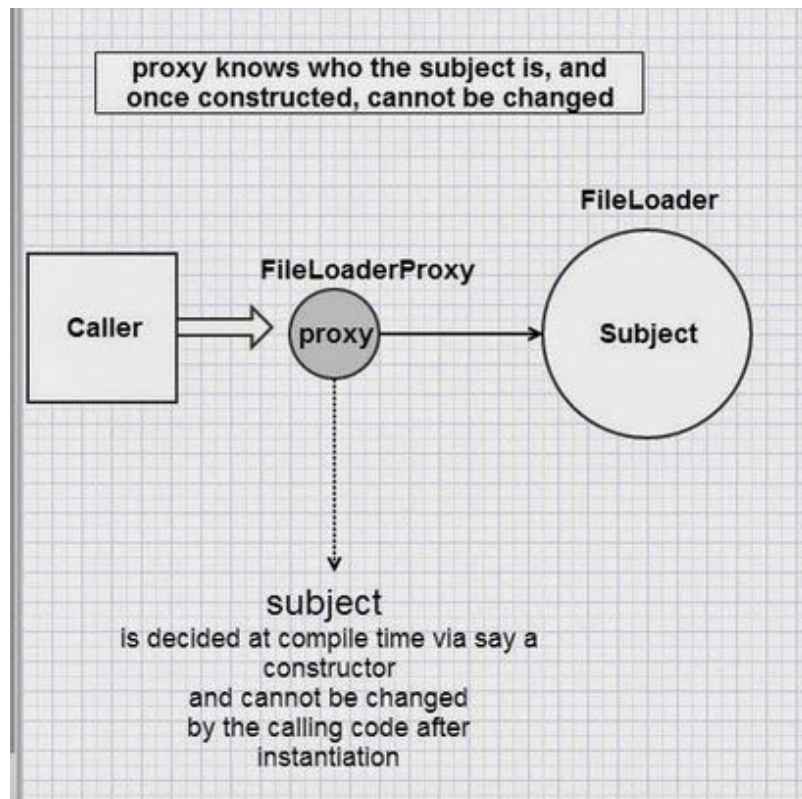
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form a common vocabulary. For example, FileLoaderProxy, FileLoaderBridege, etc.

Proxy

is good to act as a surrogate to provide performance optimization, synchronization, remote access, house keeping, etc. The binding of the actual subject to the proxy happens at **compile-time**.

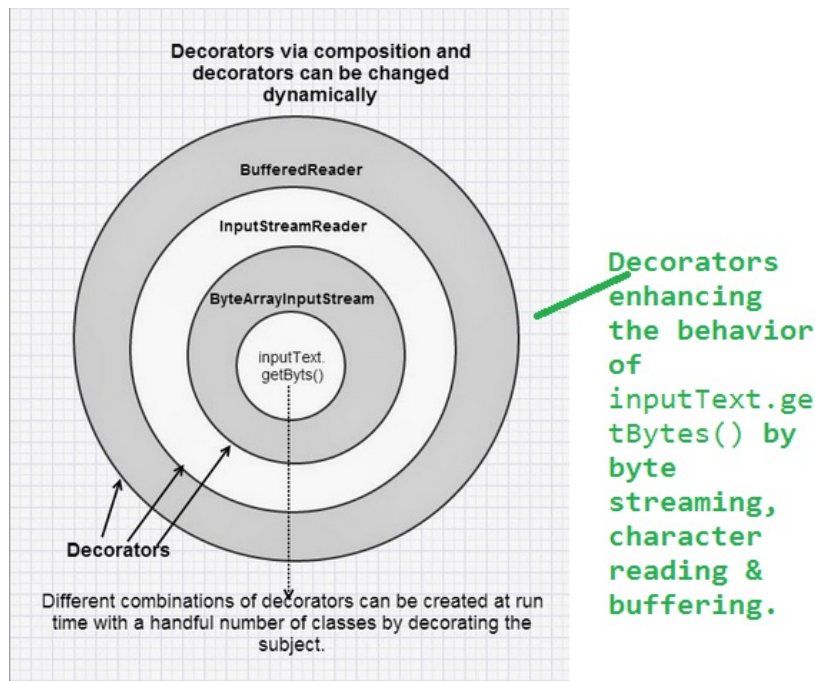


proxy design pattern

Decorator

is good to avoid out of control type hierarchies. A decorator is also known as a “smart proxy” because it enhances the behavior of a subject at run time. In other words binding is dynamic. The Java I/O classes are good example of a decorator design pattern. At run time different permutations can can be carried out **via composition**.

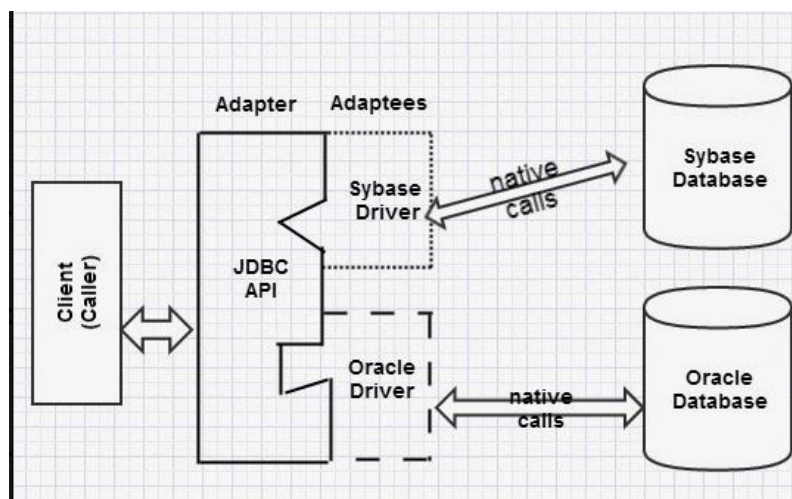
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decorator design pattern

Adapter

Adapts at run time like the decorator design pattern. Adapter design pattern is one of the structural design patterns and its intent is to get two unrelated interfaces work together. Think of using a laptop in UK that was bought in Japan as the sockets are different, and you need an adapter. So, the adapter's intent is to adapt between the Japanese laptop plug with UK's wall socket. The key point is that parties are different. Japanese laptop used in third-party or external (i.e. UK) wall socket.



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Adapter design pattern

Adapter is used when you have an abstract interface, for example a JDBC API and you want to map that interface to another object which has similar functional role, but a different interface, for example different JDBC drivers for different databases like Oracle, Sybase, DB2, SQL server, MySQL, etc. The JEE have multiple adaptors for JMS, JNDI, JDBC, JCA, etc. The drivers and implementations are generally provided by the third party vendors. For example, JMS implementations provided by third-party vendors and open source providers web Methods, IBM MQ Series, ActiveMQ, etc. You can accomplish this using either inheritance or composition.

— **Class Adapter** – This form uses Java inheritance and extends the source interface.

— **Object Adapter** – This form uses Java Composition and adapter contains the source object.

Bridge

is very similar to Adapter, but you call it a Bridge when you define both the abstract interface and the underlying implementation (no external or third-party vendors). Adapter makes things work after they're designed, but bridge makes them work before they are. Abstraction and implementation should be bound at compile time. You need to swap for different implementations. For example, you are designing a graphics application that needs to swap between graphics driver and printer driver for the same draw() .

As shown below, you can have different permutations of a user like local user, external user, provisional user, local admin user, local support user, and so on. re-factoring this into users and roles will prevent the explosion of class hierarchy. A decorator does this at run-time, whereas a bridge does this at compile-time.

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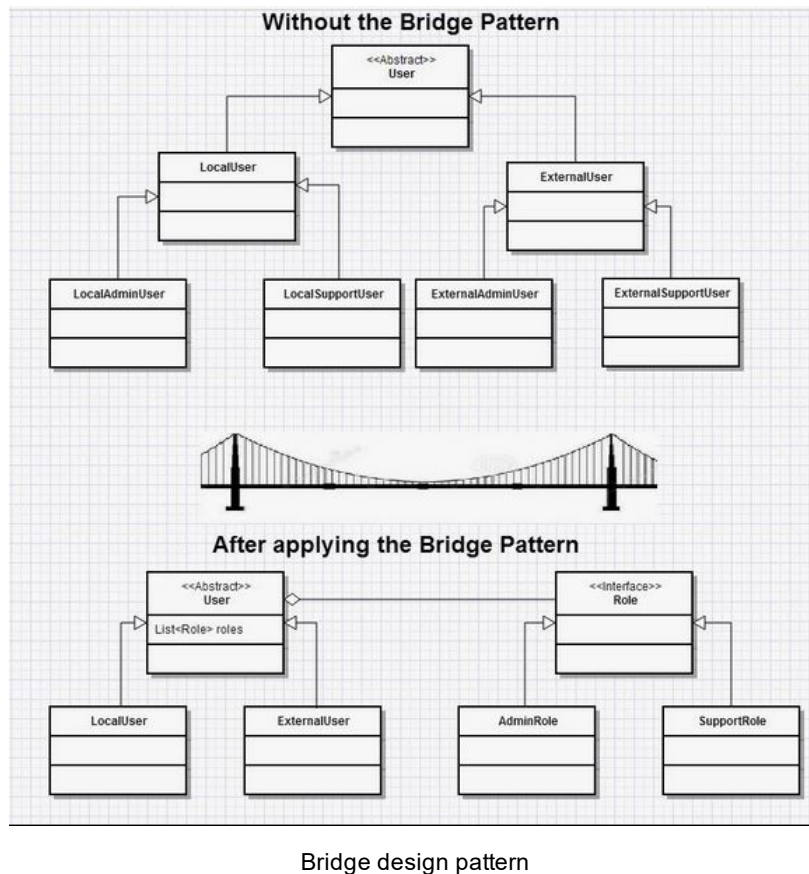
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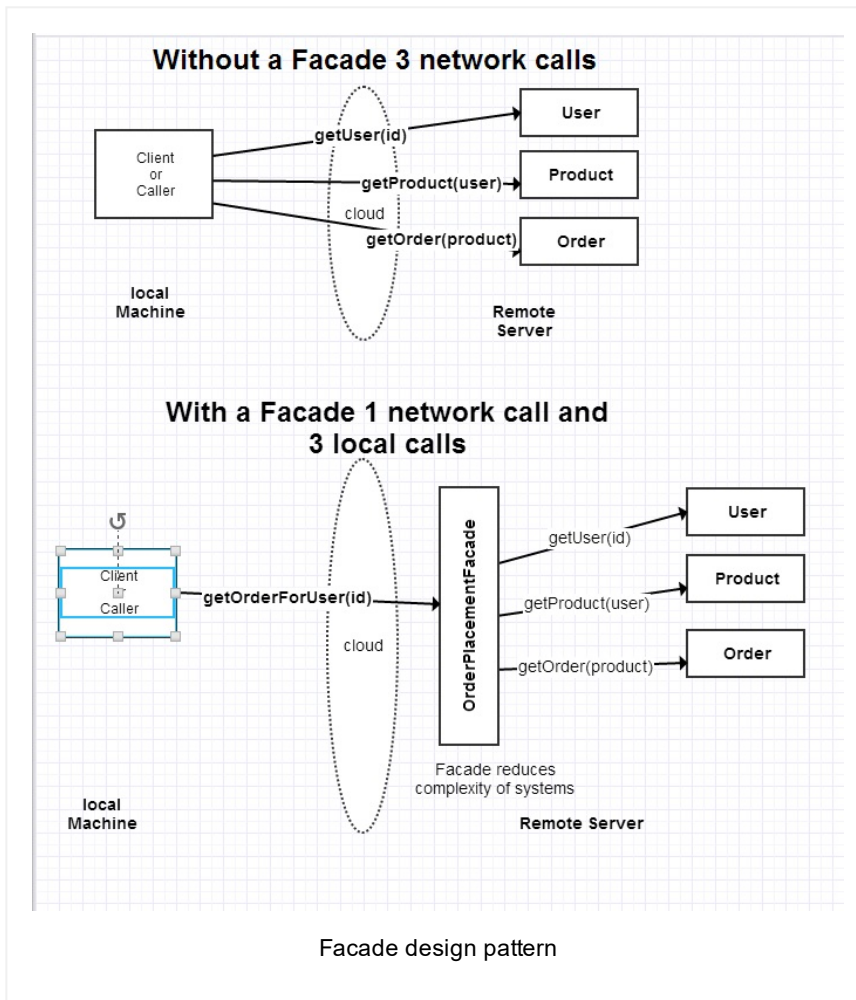
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If you are writing unit tests, the bridge pattern is indispensable when it comes down to implementing mocks and mock services. You can use a bridge (or mock) web services in integration testing until the real services become available.

Facade

is a higher-level interface to a subsystem of one or more classes. Think of Facade as a sort of container for other objects, as opposed to a wrapper.

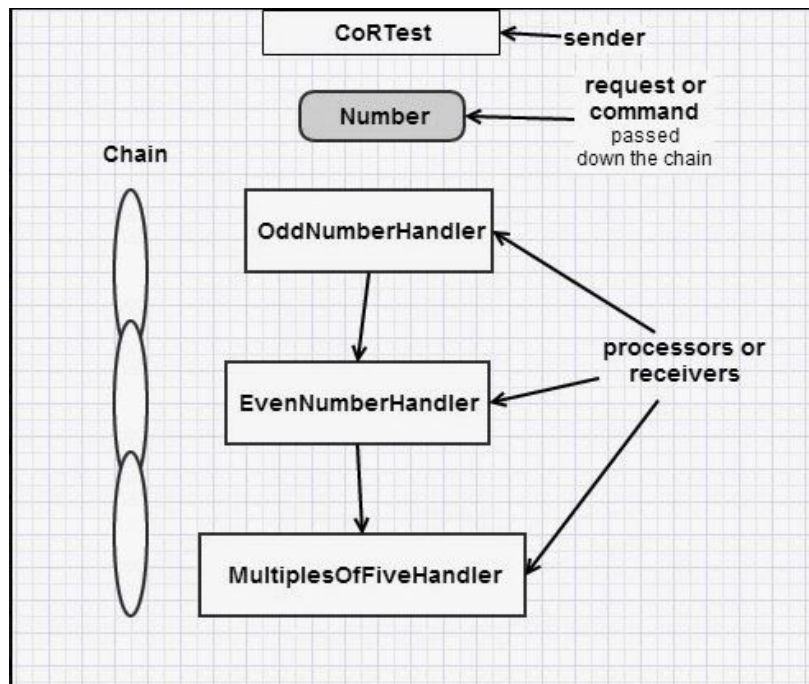


For example, when you have remote calls via EJBs, Web Services, RMI, etc, making fine grained remote calls each time can be expensive and adversely affects performance. So, in between the caller and the callee, you can define a facade that makes many fine grained local calls for a single remote call from the caller. It also simplifies the client code with just a single method call by hiding the complexity of the subsystem classes via a facade.

Chain of Responsibility

Use the Chain of Responsibility pattern when you can conceptualize your program as a chain made up of links, where each link (or processor) can either handle a request/command or pass it down the chain. The fact that you can break the chain at any point and each chain can either handle or pass it differentiates the Chain of Responsibility pattern from the Decorator pattern. In other words, if you

chain, each link will be called along the chain, and with a decorator, you're not guaranteed of this order, but you can be confident that additional responsibilities can be attached.



Chain of Responsibility design pattern

Example 1: Java's own Exception Handling mechanism because

1. Sender of an exception will not know which object in the chain will serve its request.
2. Each processor in the chain may decide to serve the exception by catching and logging or
3. wrapping it with an application specific exception and then rethrowing it to the caller or
4. don't handle it and leave it to the caller

Example 2: Servlet filters are implementation of the chain of responsibility pattern.

```
1 void doFilter(..) {
2     // do things like security check, parsing pay
3
4     // invoke the servlet, or any other filters m
5     chain.doFilter(..);
6 }
```

```

7 // do stuff after the servlet finishes
8 }
9

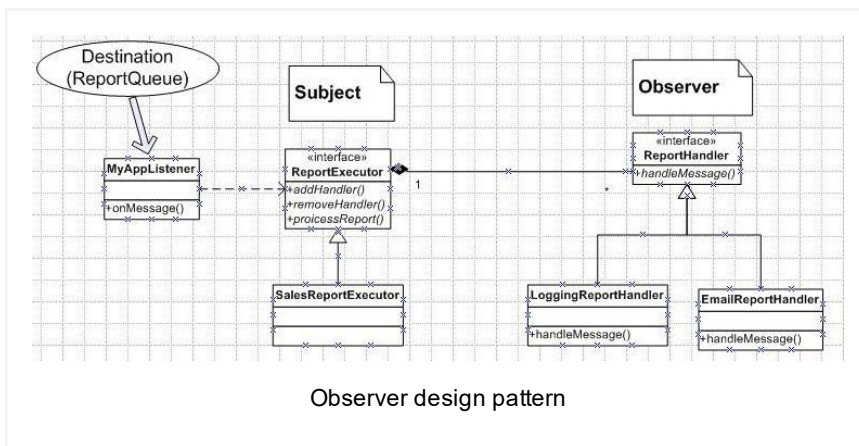
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Example 3: An interceptor is generally a link in a chain of responsibility. Interceptors in Java frameworks like Spring MVC, Struts 2, etc intercept, handle or pass a message down the chain for other interceptors to handle.

Observer

The Observer pattern is a behavioral design pattern that allows an object (an Observer) to watch another object (a Subject). The subject and observer to have a publish/subscribe relationship. Observers can register to receive events from the Subject. Some of the practical uses of observer pattern are:

- When a change to one object requires changing of others, and you don't know how many objects need to be changed.
- When an object should be able to notify other objects without making assumptions about who these objects are and not tightly coupling them.
- When a report is received or an event occurs, a message needs to be sent to the subscribed handlers.



Examples:

- The Java Message Service (JMS) models the observer pattern, with its guaranteed delivery, non-local distribution, and persistence, to name a few of its benefits. The JMS

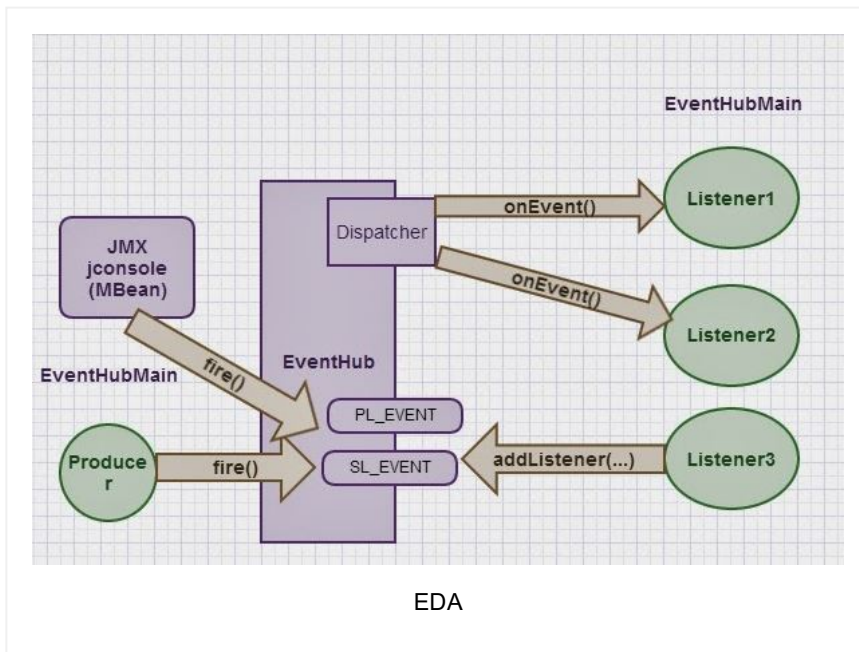
publish-subscribe messaging model allows any number of subscribers to listen to topics of interest. When a message for the published topic is produced, all the associated subscribers are notified.

— The Java Foundation Classes (JFC) like JList, JTree and the JTable components manipulate data through their respective data models. The components act as observers of their data models.

— In the java.util package, we have the Observer interface and the Observable class.

— In an MVC (Model-View-Controller) architecture, the view gets its own data from the model or in some cases the controller may issue a general instruction to the view to render itself. In others, the view acts as an observer and is automatically notified by the model of changes in state that require a screen update.

— Event Driven Architecture aka EDA loosely couples event producers and event consumers.



An event can be defined as “a change in state”. For example, when an event producer fires an event to notify all its registered listeners that either “securities” or “security prices”

have been loaded, the listeners are notified to update their data via a synchronous or asynchronous dispatcher. Both the “Event” producers and listeners are loosely coupled via an “EventHub” and “Event”. An “EventHub” is used to register and unregister listeners.

The “EventHub” can be registered as a JMX bean to control behaviors at runtime via a jconsole like firing an event, count number of events, etc.

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