




IEnumerable, ISaveable, IDontGetIt

Understanding C# Interfaces

Jeremy Clark

jeremybytes.com

github.com/jeremybytes/sdd-2024



An interface contains
definitions for a group of
related functionalities that a
non-abstract class or struct
must implement.

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/csharp/fundamentals/types/interfaces>



An interface describes
a set of capabilities
on an object.

“I have these functions.”

Interface

Defines a contract

Implement any number
of interfaces

Limited implementation code

No automatic properties

Properties
Methods
Events
Indexers

Abstract Class

Shared Implementation

Inherit from a single base class

Unconstrained implementation
code

Can have automatic
properties

Properties	Fields
Methods	Constructors
Events	Destructors
Indexers	



Recommendation

Program to an abstraction
rather than a concrete type.



Recommendation

Program to an **interface**
rather than a **concrete class**.

Various Data Sources

Microsoft SQL Server

MongoDB

CSV

WebAPI

Oracle

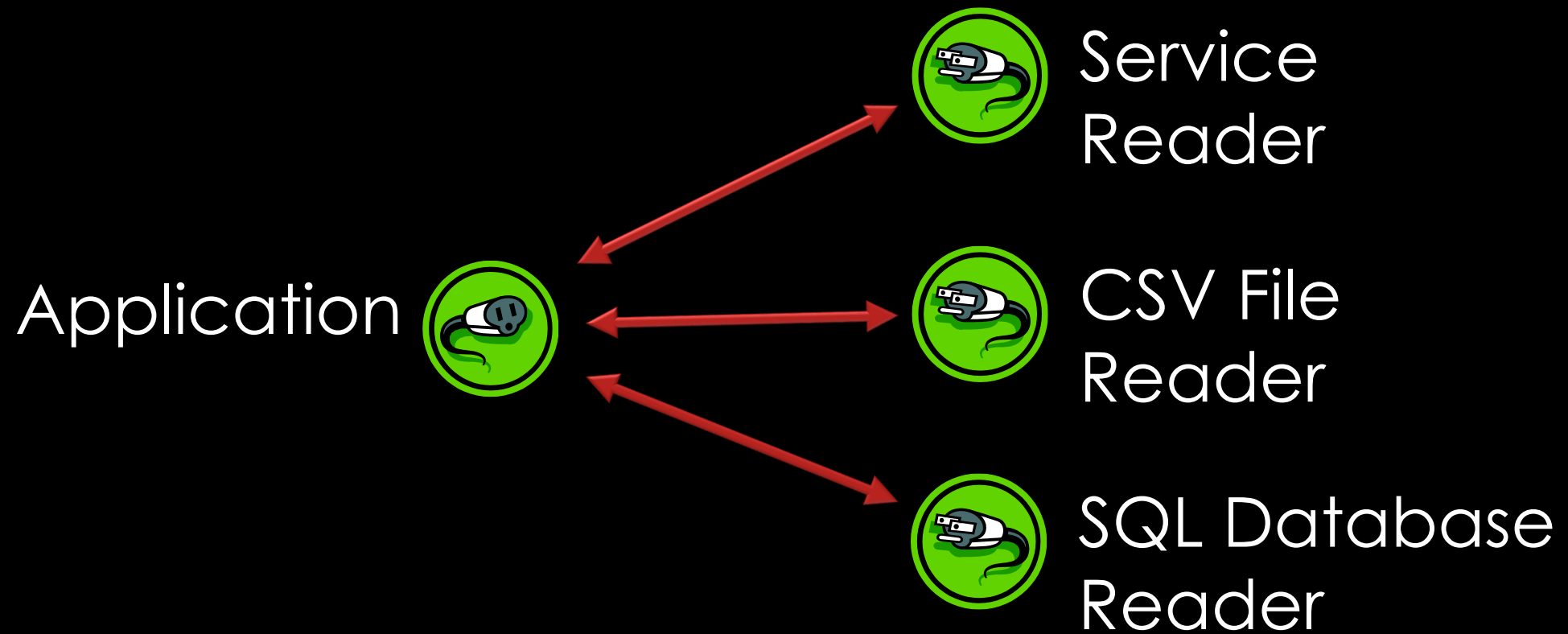
Amazon RDS

JSON

Azure Cosmos DB

Hadoop

Pluggable Data Readers



Data Reader Interface

```
public interface IPersonReader
{
    Task<IReadOnlyCollection<Person>> GetPeople();
    Task<Person?> GetPerson(int id);
}
```

Interfaces and Flexible Code

**Resilience in the
face of change**

**Insulation from
implementation
details**

Dynamic Factory

- Check configuration
- Create an assembly load context
- Load the assembly
- Look for the type
- Create the data reader
- Return the data reader



Other Benefits

Interfaces help us isolate code for easier **unit testing**.



Other Benefits

Interfaces can make
dependency injection easier.

Interface Segregation Principle

```
public class List<T> : IList<T>, IList,  
    ICollection<T>, ICollection,  
    IEnumerable<T>, IEnumerable,  
    IReadOnlyCollection<T>, IReadOnlyList<T>
```

Clients should not be forced to depend upon methods that they do not use.

Interfaces belong to clients,
not hierarchies.

Interface Segregation Principle

```
public class List<T> : IList<T>, IList,  
    ICollection<T>, ICollection,  
    IEnumerable<T>, IEnumerable,  
    IReadOnlyCollection<T>, IReadOnlyList<T>
```

We should have **granular interfaces** that only include the members that a particular function needs.

Interface Inheritance

```
public interface IEnumerable<T> : IEnumerable
```

- `IEnumerable<T>` inherits `IEnumerable`
- When a class implements `IEnumerable<T>`, it must also implement `IEnumerable`

IEnumerable<T> / IEnumerable

```
public interface IEnumerable<T> : IEnumerable
{
    IEnumerator<T> GetEnumerator();
}

public interface IEnumerable
{
    IEnumerator GetEnumerator();
}
```

When a class implements IEnumerable<T>, it must also implement IEnumerable

List<T> Interfaces

```
public class List<T> : IList<T>, IList,  
    ICollection<T>, ICollection,  
    IEnumerable<T>, IEnumerable,  
    IReadOnlyCollection<T>, IReadOnlyList<T>
```

IEnumerable<T>

GetEnumerator()

IEnumerable

GetEnumerator()

List<T> Interfaces

```
public class List<T> : IList<T>, IList,  
ICollection<T>, ICollection,  
IEnumerable<T>, IEnumerable,  
IReadOnlyCollection<T>, IReadOnlyList<T>
```

ICollection<T>

Count
IsReadOnly
Add()
Clear()
Contains()
CopyTo()
Remove()

Plus
Everything in
IEnumerable<T>
and
IEnumerable

List<T> Interfaces

```
public class List<T> : IList<T>, IList,  
    ICollection<T>, ICollection,  
    IEnumerable<T>, IEnumerable,  
    IReadOnlyCollection<T>, IReadOnlyList<T>
```

IList<T>

Item / Indexer
IndexOf()
Insert()
RemoveAt()

Plus
Everything in
ICollection<T>,
IEnumerable<T>,
and
IEnumerable

Granular Interfaces

- **If We Need to**

- Iterate over a Collection / Sequence
- Data Bind to a List Control
- Use LINQ functions



IEnumerable<T>

- **If We Need To**

- Add/Remove Items in a Collection
- Count Items in a Collection
- Clear a Collection



ICollection<T>

- **If We Need To**

- Control the Order Items in a Collection
- Get an Item by the Index



IList<T>



Summary

- An interface describes a set of capabilities of an object.
- Program to an abstraction (interface) rather than a concrete type (class).
- Resilience in the face of change.
- Insulation from implementation details.
- Easier unit testing.
- Easier dependency injection.



Thank You!

Jeremy Clark

- jeremybytes.com
- youtube.com/jeremybytes
- github.com/jeremybytes/sdd-2024