C# Design Patterns Demystified: Upgrade your skill to senior development

**What are design patterns and what problems solve?**

Design patterns are reusable and generalizable solutions to common problems that software developers encounter when designing and building software applications.

They are established best practices that have evolved over time and have been identified as effective solutions to recurring design and architectural challenges in software development.

Design patterns provide a common vocabulary and framework for developers to communicate and share their knowledge about how to solve specific problems in a structured and maintainable way, addressing a variety of issues and problems in software development, including:

**Code Reusability:** Design patterns promote the reuse of proven, well-tested design and coding techniques, this can lead to more efficient development processes and less duplication of effort.

**Scalability:** They help in designing systems that can easily adapt and scale to changing requirements, whether it's adding new features or handling increased user loads.

**Maintainability:** Design patterns encourage clean and modular code, making it easier to maintain and extend software over time.

This can reduce the cost of maintenance and decrease the likelihood of introducing bugs.

**Flexibility:** Design patterns allow for flexibility in system design; developers can modify or extend existing patterns to fit specific project requirements without completely redesigning the entire system.

**Communication:** Design patterns provide a common language for developers to discuss and document solutions to common problems; this improves collaboration and knowledge sharing among team members.

**Performance:** While not all design patterns directly address performance concerns, some can help optimize code for better runtime efficiency.

**Separation of Concerns:** Many design patterns promote the separation of different concerns within an application, such as separating user interface logic from business logic, this separation improves code organization and maintainability.

**Testability:** Patterns that encourage loose coupling and modularity often make it easier to write unit tests and perform testing in isolation.

There are numerous design patterns, which are typically categorized into three main groups:

**Creational Patterns:** These patterns focus on object creation mechanisms, trying to create objects in a manner suitable to the situation.

Examples include the Singleton, Factory Method, and Abstract Factory patterns.

**Structural Patterns:** Structural patterns deal with object composition, helping to form relationships between objects to create larger, more complex structures.

Examples include the Adapter, Decorator, and Composite patterns.

**Behavioral Patterns:** Behavioral patterns are concerned with how objects interact and communicate with one another.

They help define the responsibilities of objects and how they collaborate.

Examples include the Observer, Strategy, and Command patterns.

By applying these design patterns appropriately, developers can make their software more maintainable, scalable, and adaptable while solving common design challenges effectively.

However, it's essential to use design patterns judiciously and not overcomplicate a solution by applying patterns unnecessarily.

The choice of a design pattern should always align with the specific needs and constraints of the project.

**SOLID principles.**

The SOLID principles were formulated in the early 2000s and deal with defining a certain style in software development.

If the programmer adopts certain practices, they will be able to write code that is clearer, more maintainable, modular, and testable.

These principles were formulated to address architectural issues in the development of larger projects that need to be maintained over time.

SOLID is an acronym and defines 5 important principles:

(S) Single Responsibility Principle (SRP)

(O) Open-Closed Principle (OCP)

(L) Liskov Substitution Principle (LSP)

(I) Interface Segregation Principle (ISP)

(D) Dependency Inversion Principle (DIP)

**Single responsability principle (SRP)**

This principle states that each object should have a single responsibility, dealing with a specific, singular task.

For example, if we have a bulletin board class, it should be responsible for post management, including creation, modification, and deletion, but not, for instance, for saving those posts.

The responsibility of the bulletin board class is therefore to handle posts, while the saving task would be delegated to another class.

This separation is important because, if we were to change the way posts are saved, such as switching from a database to a text file in the file system or the cloud, we would be forced to modify the bulletin board class, this would go against another principle we'll discuss, the Open-Closed Principle.

The goal is to write code that minimizes impact: if we need to modify the logic of post writing, we'll only need to modify the class responsible for that, such as, for example, a Feed class, which would be responsible solely for post management.

public class Feed

{

private readonly List<string> Posts = new List<string>();

private static int Count = 0;

public void AddPost(string Text)

{

Posts.Add($"{++Count}: {Text}");

}

public void RemovePost(int index)

{

Posts.RemoveAt(index);

}

public override string ToString()

{

StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();

Posts.ForEach(x => sb.Append(x));

return sb.ToString();

}

}

We might be tempted to add a "save" method to the class to save the posts, but this would violate the Single Responsibility Principle, therefore, we delegate the sole responsibility of saving the posts to a new manager:

public class SavingManager

{

public void Save(Feed feed, string fileName, bool overwrite = false)

{

if (overwrite || !File.Exists(fileName))

{

File.WriteAllText(fileName, feed.ToString());

}

}

}

So we can use the "feed" object and later save it using the following code.

It becomes evident that the creation and deletion of feeds, as well as their saving, are different activities delegated to different objects:

Feed feed = new Feed();

feed.AddPost($"This is the first post {Environment.NewLine}");

feed.AddPost($"This is the second post {Environment.NewLine}");

SavingManager savingManager = new SavingManager();

savingManager.Save(feed, @"C:\feed.txt");

**Open close principle (OCP).**

This principle dictates that well-structured code should always allow for the extension of its functionality while simultaneously preventing the modification of existing classes.

This is done so that the addition of new features happens through new modules, rather than by modifying existing ones, which would have significant impacts on the already written code.

Let's take an example: suppose we need to implement different types of invoices, each of which gives rise to a specific discount.

At first glance, we could write the following code, using enumeration to distinguish between the types and using an "if" statement to apply a specific discount based on the type:

public class Invoice

{

public double GetInvoiceDiscount(double amount, InvoiceType invoiceType)

{

double finalAmount = 0;

if (invoiceType == InvoiceType.FinalInvoice)

{

finalAmount = amount - 100;

}

else if (invoiceType == InvoiceType.ProposedInvoice)

{

finalAmount = amount - 50;

}

return finalAmount;

}

}

public enum InvoiceType

{

FinalInvoice,

ProposedInvoice

};

However, this code has a problem: it violates the Open-Closed Principle, because if in the future we need to add a new type of invoice, we will have to modify this class by adding a new "if" statement.

The solution is to create a base class that implements default behavior that can be overridden in the classes that inherit from it.

public class Invoice

{

public virtual double GetInvoiceDiscount(double amount)

{

return amount - 10;

}

}

Then, we proceed to have our concrete classes inherit from the interface, implementing the specific discount logic based on the type of invoice.

We will create a concrete class for each invoice type:

public class FinalInvoice : Invoice

{

public override double GetInvoiceDiscount(double amount)

{

return base.GetInvoiceDiscount(amount) - 50;

}

}

public class ProposedInvoice : Invoice

{

public override double GetInvoiceDiscount(double amount)

{

return base.GetInvoiceDiscount(amount) - 30;

}

}

This way, if we want to add a new invoice type, we will create a new concrete class, just like we did with FinalInvoice or ProposedInvoice.

In other words, we will simply add a new module without modifying an existing one.

The code that now adheres to the Open-Closed Principle can be used as follows:

Invoice finalInvoice = new FinalInvoice();

Invoice proposedInvoice = new ProposedInvoice();

double finalInvoiceAmount = finalInvoice.GetInvoiceDiscount(20000);

double proposedInvoiceAmount = proposedInvoice.GetInvoiceDiscount(20000);

**Liskov sobstitution principle**

This principle dictates that derived classes should be able to extend their base classes without modifying their behavior, meaning that derived classes should be substitutable for their base types.

Let's look at an example of a violation of this principle to better understand the concept.

Suppose you have a base class Animal:

public class Animal

{

public virtual void MakeSound()

{

Console.WriteLine("An animal makes a sound.");

}

}

Now, you create two derived classes, Dog and Cat, which inherit from the Animal class:

public class Dog : Animal

{

public override void MakeSound()

{

Console.WriteLine("A dog barks.");

}

}

public class Cat : Animal

{

public override void MakeSound()

{

Console.WriteLine("A cat meows.");

}

}

Suppose we introduce a new derived class called Fish that inherits from the Animal class:

public class Fish : Animal

{

// This class does not override the MakeSound method becouse Fish doesn't make sound

}

In this case, SilentAnimal is derived from Animal but does not override the MakeSound() method, which means it inherits the default behavior from the base class.

Now, let's see how this violates the Liskov Substitution Principle:

Animal myPet3 = new Fish();

myPet3.MakeSound(); // Output: An animal makes a sound.

In this example, we have created an instance of SilentAnimal and assigned it to a variable of type Animal.

When we call MakeSound() on myPet3, we get "An animal makes a sound," which is the default behavior inherited from the Animal base class, but this is wrong because the derived class contradicts the behavior of the base class

To implement a Fish class that adheres to the Liskov Substitution Principle you can override the MakeSound() method to provide a silent behavior, which is typically represented by an empty or minimal sound.

Here's how you can implement a Fish class:

public class Fish : Animal

{

public override void MakeSound()

{

// This class does not override the MakeSound method becouse Fish doesn't make sound

Console.WriteLine("A fish doesn't make sound");

}

}

**Interface segregation principle (ISP)**

The Interface Segregation Principle states that no client should be forced to implement large interfaces with numerous methods; a component should be scalable and, as such, should implement only the methods it needs by inheriting simple interfaces.

Let's take an example: suppose we need to implement a multifunction printer that can print, scan, and fax documents, if we build it this way, it consumes an interface with many heterogeneous methods:

class MultifunctionalPrinter : IMachine

{

public void fax(Document document)

{

}

public void Print(Document document)

{

}

public void Scan(Document document)

{

}

}

This is the interface implemented by the class above:

public interface IMachine

{

void Print(Document document);

void fax(Document document);

void Scan(Document document);

}

It's evident that the interface above is not generic and does not abstract, as if you wanted to implement a simple printer that only prints or a simple scanner, etc., and if we make our classes implement the same interface, we would be forced to implement unnecessary methods declared in the interface.

The solution is to break down the interface with many methods into multiple simple interfaces.

Afterward, the component can inherit from more than one interface (a class supports the ability to inherit from multiple interfaces in .NET, which is not possible when it tries to inherit from multiple classes).

public interface IPrinter

{

void Print(Document document);

}

public interface IScanner

{

void Scan(Document document);

}

public interface IFax

{

void Fax(Document document);

}

So, our simple printer will implement only the "print" method using the IPrint interface:

class Printer : IPrinter

{

public void Print(Document document)

{

}

}

While the multifunction printer can inherit from multiple interfaces.

class MultifunctionalPrinter : IPrinter, IScanner, IFax

{

public void Fax(Document document)

{

}

public void Scan(Document document)

{

}

public void Print(Document document)

{

}

}

**Dependency inversion principle (DIP)**

The Dependency Inversion Principle states that a high-level module should not depend on a low-level module, but both should depend on an abstraction.

An abstraction should not depend on details, and details should not depend on an abstraction.

In other words, the interaction between classes should occur through abstract classes or interfaces.

Let's see an example.

Suppose we want to implement a class that allows us to log errors:

class ExceptionLogger

{

private ILogger logger;

public ExceptionLogger(ILogger logger)

{

this.logger = logger;

}

public void LogException(Exception ex)

{

logger.LogMessage(ex.Message);

}

}

As we can see, the class is associated with an interface of type ILogger and not directly with a Logger object.

This association is referred to as loose coupling, as opposed to tight coupling where objects are strongly dependent on each other.

The ILogger interface is defined as follows:

public interface ILogger

{

void LogMessage(string message);

}

Weak coupling allows us to delegate the concrete implementation of how to log the message to a third class, so that the logic of the third class is completely independent of the described implementation context.

For example, we could decide to save messages to a database rather than a file like this:

class DbLogger : ILogger

{

public void LogMessage(string message)

{

//here saving logic on DB

}

}

class FileLogger : ILogger

{

public void LogMessage(string message)

{

//here saving logic on file

}

}

The client that instantiates the ExceptionLogger object to save the exception can decide whether to save errors to a database or a file like this:

ExceptionLogger el = new ExceptionLogger(new DbLogger());

//or

//ExceptionLogger el = new ExceptionLogger(new FileLogger());

try

{

//here some code...

}

catch (Exception ex)

{

el.LogException(ex);

}

Notice how we pass a concrete object, DbLogger, that implements the Ilogger interface to the ExceptionLogger constructor.

Therefore, the LogException method will use the logic defined in the DbLogger class to save the message to the database.

If we had passed an instance of FileLogger to our constructor, the message would be stored in a file.

This change has minimal impact on the overall logic, which remains almost identical in both cases.

If we needed to add a third error storage method, we would simply add a new concrete class that implements Ilogger, following the Open-Closed Principle.

In other words, we have created code that is open to future changes without impacting existing code.

**How design patterns follow SOLID principles?**

Design patterns and SOLID principles are complementary concepts in software engineering. SOLID is an acronym that represents a set of five principles aimed at promoting clean, maintainable, and flexible software design.

These principles guide developers in creating software that is easier to understand, extend, and maintain.

Design patterns, on the other hand, provide proven solutions to common design challenges.

Let's see how design patterns align with the SOLID principles:

**Single Responsibility Principle (SRP):**

This principle states that a class should have only one reason to change.

Design patterns often help in achieving SRP by promoting separation of concerns.

For example, the Observer pattern separates the subject (which changes) from the observers (which react to changes), thereby adhering to SRP.

**Open/Closed Principle (OCP):**

The OCP encourages software entities to be open for extension but closed for modification.

Many design patterns, such as the Strategy and Decorator patterns, follow this principle.

They allow you to add new behavior or features to a system without changing existing code.

**Liskov Substitution Principle (LSP):**

This principle states that objects of a derived class should be substitutable for objects of the base class without affecting the correctness of the program.

Some design patterns, like the Factory Method and Abstract Factory patterns, support the LSP by providing a way to create objects without specifying their concrete classes, thus ensuring that derived classes can be used interchangeably with their base class.

**Interface Segregation Principle (ISP):**

ISP suggests that clients should not be forced to depend on interfaces they don't use.

Design patterns like the Adapter and Bridge patterns can help adhere to ISP by allowing clients to interact with specific interfaces that are tailored to their needs rather than having a monolithic interface with unnecessary methods.

**Dependency Inversion Principle (DIP):**

DIP advocates that high-level modules should not depend on low-level modules but instead both should depend on abstractions.

Design patterns like the Dependency Injection (DI) pattern and the Observer pattern with the use of interfaces help achieve this principle by promoting the use of abstractions (interfaces or abstract classes) to decouple high-level and low-level modules.

In summary, design patterns can be seen as practical implementations of SOLID principles.

By applying design patterns in your software design, you are more likely to adhere to these principles, resulting in code that is modular, maintainable, and easier to extend without causing widespread changes.

Design patterns help to guide you in making design decisions that align with SOLID principles and promote good software design practices.

However, it's essential to understand both the principles and the patterns thoroughly and apply them judiciously to meet the specific needs of your project.

**Creational patterns.**

Creational design patterns are a category of design patterns that deal with object creation mechanisms, providing various ways to create objects while abstracting the instantiation process.

These patterns help manage object creation by controlling which classes to instantiate, how to instantiate them, and where to instantiate them.

Creational patterns aim to make a system more flexible, extensible, and independent of the specific classes it uses for object creation.

**Singleton Pattern**

The Singleton pattern is a creational design pattern that restricts the instantiation of a class to only one instance and provides a global point of access to that instance.

It is used to ensure that there is only one instance of a particular class in an application, and that instance can be easily accessed from anywhere in the codebase.

This is one example:

public sealed class Singleton

{

private static Singleton instance;

private static readonly object lockObject = new object();

private Singleton()

{

// Private constructor to prevent the creation of external instances.

}

public static Singleton Instance

{

get

{

if (instance == null)

{

lock (lockObject)

{

if (instance == null)

{

instance = new Singleton();

}

}

}

return instance;

}

}

// Other methods and properties of the Singleton class can be added here.

}

In this example:

The Singleton class has a private constructor, which means that instances of this class cannot be created directly from the outside.

The static variable instance keeps track of the single instance of the Singleton class. It is initialized as null initially.

The static property Instance is the access point to get the Singleton instance. If instance is null, a new Singleton object is created within a synchronized block to avoid concurrency issues.

The synchronized block ensures that only one thread at a time can create the Singleton instance and that the instance is created only when necessary.

Now you can use the Singleton in your code like this:

Singleton singleton1 = Singleton.Instance;

Singleton singleton2 = Singleton.Instance;

// The two variables singleton1 and singleton2 share the same Singleton instance.

Console.WriteLine(singleton1 == singleton2); // Should be "True".

When you call Singleton.Instance, it will always return the same shared instance of the Singleton class, regardless of how many times it is called.

This is useful for maintaining shared state or ensuring that there is only one instance of a class that manages, for example, database connections or application settings.

Here is a concrete example of using the Singleton pattern in a C# application to create a database connection manager:

public class DatabaseConnection

{

private static DatabaseConnection instance;

private string connectionString;

// Private constructor to avoid creating external instances.

private DatabaseConnection()

{

// Initialize the database connection string.

connectionString = “Server=example.com;Database=mydb;User=myuser;Password=mypassword;";

}

// Properties to access the Singleton instance.

public static DatabaseConnection Instance

{

get

{

if (instance == null)

{

instance = new DatabaseConnection();

}

return instance;

}

}

// Method for opening a database connection.

public void OpenConnection()

{

Console.WriteLine("Open database connection: " + connectionString);

// Here you can implement the code to open the database connection.

}

// Method for closing the database connection.

public void CloseConnection()

{

Console.WriteLine("Database connection closed: " + connectionString);

// Here you can implement the code to close the database connection.

}

}

you can use the DatabaseConnection in your code like this:

// Get the singleton instance of the database connection manager.

DatabaseConnection dbConnection = DatabaseConnection.Instance;

// Open and close the database connection.

dbConnection.OpenConnection();

dbConnection.CloseConnection();

// Verify that the singleton instances are the same.

DatabaseConnection dbConnection2 = DatabaseConnection.Instance;

Console.WriteLine(dbConnection == dbConnection2); // Should print "True".

In this example, DatabaseConnection is a Singleton class that manages the database connection.

The Singleton instance is accessible through the static property Instance.

You can open and close the database connection using the OpenConnection and CloseConnection methods. Being a Singleton class, the operations of opening and closing the connection are performed on the same instance throughout the application, ensuring that multiple connections to the database are not opened.

Here is another concrete example of Singleton represented by the general setting options for managing an application:

public class AppSettings

{

private Dictionary<string, string> settings;

// Instantiate the Singleton when the class is loaded.

private static readonly AppSettings instance = new AppSettings();

// Private constructor to avoid creating external instances.

private AppSettings()

{

// Initialize settings with default values.

settings = new Dictionary<string, string>

{

{ "BackgroundColor", "White" },

{ "FontColor", "Black" },

{ "FontSize", "12pt" }

};

}

// Property for accessing the Singleton instance.

public static AppSettings Instance

{

get { return instance; }

}

// Method to get the value of a specific setting.

public string GetSetting(string key)

{

if (settings.ContainsKey(key))

{

return settings[key];

}

else

{

return null;// Return null if the key does not exist.

}

}

// Method for setting the value of a specific setting.

public void SetSetting(string key, string value)

{

if (settings.ContainsKey(key))

{

settings[key] = value;

}

else

{

settings.Add(key, value);

}

}

}

It's interesting to note that the appsetting instance is obtained when the instance is loaded, which has a drawback - the instance will occupy memory for the entire lifetime of the application, and there's no way to finalize it.

You can use Appsettings in your code like this:

// Get the Singleton instance of the application settings.

AppSettings appSettings = AppSettings.Instance;

// Read and change settings.

Console.WriteLine("Background Color: " + appSettings.GetSetting("BackgroundColor"));

Console.WriteLine("Font Color: " + appSettings.GetSetting("FontColor"));

// Changing the setting.

appSettings.SetSetting("BackgroundColor", "Blue");

Console.WriteLine("Updated Background Color: " + appSettings.GetSetting("BackgroundColor"));

// Check that changes are reflected everywhere.

AppSettings appSettings2 = AppSettings.Instance;

Console.WriteLine("Background Color in Another Instance: " + appSettings2.GetSetting("BackgroundColor"));

// The Singleton instance is the same for appSettings and appSettings2.

Console.WriteLine(appSettings == appSettings2); // Should print "True".

In this example, AppSettings is a Singleton class that manages application settings.

There is only one instance of AppSettings, accessible through the static property Instance.

You can read and modify settings through the GetSetting and SetSetting methods.

Changes made to settings through one instance are reflected in all other instances since they share the same Singleton instance.

**Mediator.**

The Mediator pattern is a pattern that promotes loose coupling between components in a software system by centralizing communication between them.

It is often used to simplify complex communication between multiple objects or classes.

In this pattern, a mediator object encapsulates the interactions between these objects, allowing them to communicate without being directly aware of each other.

Here's a description of the Mediator pattern and an example in C#:

**Mediator Pattern Components:**

**Mediator:** This is an interface or abstract class that defines the contract for communication between various components (colleagues).

**Concrete Mediator:** This is the actual implementation of the mediator interface. It manages the interactions and relationships between the colleagues.

**Colleague:** These are the individual components that need to communicate with each other. Colleagues are typically unaware of each other and communicate through the mediator.

**Concrete Colleagues:** These are the specific implementations of colleagues. They rely on the mediator to coordinate their interactions.

Here below a practical example:

Let's say we have a chat application where users can send messages to each other. We can use the Mediator pattern to facilitate communication between users without them knowing about each other.

// Mediator interface

public interface IChatMediator

{

void SendMessage(string message, IUser user);

}

// Concrete Mediator

public class ChatMediator : IChatMediator

{

private List<IUser> users = new List<IUser>();

public void AddUser(IUser user)

{

users.Add(user);

}

public void SendMessage(string message, IUser sender)

{

foreach (var user in users)

{

// Don't send the message back to the sender

if (user != sender)

{

user.ReceiveMessage(message);

}

}

}

}

// Colleague interface

public interface IUser

{

void SendMessage(string message);

void ReceiveMessage(string message);

}

// Concrete Colleague

public class ChatUser : IUser

{

private readonly IChatMediator mediator;

private string name;

public ChatUser(IChatMediator mediator, string name)

{

this.mediator = mediator;

this.name = name;

}

public void SendMessage(string message)

{

Console.WriteLine($"{name} sends message: {message}");

mediator.SendMessage(message, this);

}

public void ReceiveMessage(string message)

{

Console.WriteLine($"{name} receives message: {message}");

}

}

Here the client side code:

IChatMediator chatMediator = new ChatMediator();

IUser user1 = new ChatUser(chatMediator, "User 1");

IUser user2 = new ChatUser(chatMediator, "User 2");

IUser user3 = new ChatUser(chatMediator, "User 3");

chatMediator.AddUser(user1);

chatMediator.AddUser(user2);

chatMediator.AddUser(user3);

user1.SendMessage("Hello, everyone!");

user2.SendMessage("Hi, User 1!");

In this example, the ChatMediator manages communication between ChatUser instances.

Users send messages through the mediator, and the mediator forwards the messages to other users.

This allows users to communicate without needing to know about each other directly, demonstrating the Mediator pattern's use for decoupling components in a system.

**Iterator.**

The Iterator Pattern is used to provide a way to access elements of an aggregate object (such as a collection) sequentially without exposing the underlying representation of the object.

It allows you to iterate over the elements of a collection without needing to know the internal details of how the collection is structured.

Here's how the Iterator Pattern works:

**Iterator Interface (or Abstract Class):** This defines the interface for accessing and traversing the elements of the collection. It typically includes methods like Next(), HasNext(), and CurrentItem().

**Concrete Iterator:** This class implements the Iterator interface and keeps track of the current position within the collection. It provides the actual implementation for iterating over the collection.

**Aggregate (Collection):** This is the collection of objects that you want to iterate over. It may also provide a method to create an Iterator object.

**Concrete Aggregate:** This class implements the Aggregate interface and provides the concrete collection of objects. It also has a method that creates a Concrete Iterator for the collection.

Let’s see an example:

// Step 1: Create the Iterator interface

public interface IIterator<T>

{

bool HasNext();

T Next();

}

// Step 2: Create the Concrete Iterator

public class StudentIterator : IIterator<Student>

{

private List<Student> \_students;

private int \_position = 0;

public StudentIterator(List<Student> students)

{

\_students = students;

}

public bool HasNext()

{

return \_position < \_students.Count;

}

public Student Next()

{

if (HasNext())

{

Student nextStudent = \_students[\_position];

\_position++;

return nextStudent;

}

else

{

return null;

}

}

}

// Step 3: Create the Aggregate interface

public interface IAggregate<T>

{

IIterator<T> CreateIterator();

}

// Step 4: Create the Concrete Aggregate

public class StudentList : IAggregate<Student>

{

private List<Student> \_students = new List<Student>();

public void AddStudent(Student student)

{

\_students.Add(student);

}

public IIterator<Student> CreateIterator()

{

return new StudentIterator(\_students);

}

}

// Student class representing individual student records

public class Student

{

public string Name { get; set; }

public int StudentID { get; set; }

public Student(string name, int studentID)

{

Name = name;

StudentID = studentID;

}

}

Here the client side code:

StudentList studentList = new StudentList();

studentList.AddStudent(new Student("Alice", 1001));

studentList.AddStudent(new Student("Bob", 1002));

studentList.AddStudent(new Student("Charlie", 1003));

IIterator<Student> iterator = studentList.CreateIterator();

while (iterator.HasNext())

{

Student student = iterator.Next();

Console.WriteLine($"Student Name: {student.Name}, Student ID: {student.StudentID}");

}

In this revised example, we've created a student management system where we can add student records to the StudentList collection and use the StudentIterator to iterate through these records.

The Iterator Pattern allows us to iterate over the students without exposing the internal structure of the StudentList class, providing a clean way to manage and access student data.

By the way this pattern permit you to change the iterable object without affecting the client code, infact here is used a list, but it's possible to replace it with an array or other.

This code could be used only to iterate through iterable of type student, let's generalize it using generic.

Here below an example:

//the Iterator interface

public interface IIterator<T>

{

bool HasNext();

T Next();

}

//the Concrete Iterator

public class BookIterator : IIterator<Book>

{

private List<Book> \_books;

private int \_position = 0;

public BookIterator(List<Book> books)

{

\_books = books;

}

public bool HasNext()

{

return \_position < \_books.Count;

}

public Book Next()

{

if (HasNext())

{

Book nextBook = \_books[\_position];

\_position++;

return nextBook;

}

else

{

return null;

}

}

}

//the Aggregate interface

public interface IAggregate<T>

{

IIterator<T> CreateIterator();

}

//the Concrete Aggregate

public class BookCatalog : IAggregate<Book>

{

private List<Book> \_books = new List<Book>();

public void AddBook(Book book)

{

\_books.Add(book);

}

public IIterator<Book> CreateIterator()

{

return new BookIterator(\_books);

}

}

// Book class

public class Book

{

public string Title { get; set; }

public string Author { get; set; }

public Book(string title, string author)

{

Title = title;

Author = author;

}

}

Here below the code to text the example above:

BookCatalog catalog = new BookCatalog();

catalog.AddBook(new Book("Book 1", "Author 1"));

catalog.AddBook(new Book("Book 2", "Author 2"));

catalog.AddBook(new Book("Book 3", "Author 3"));

IIterator<Book> iterator = catalog.CreateIterator();

while (iterator.HasNext())

{

Book book = iterator.Next();

Console.WriteLine($"Title: {book.Title}, Author: {book.Author}");

}

In this use case, the Iterator Pattern allows library patrons to iterate through the books in the catalog without exposing the internal structure of the BookCatalog class, providing a clean and encapsulated way to browse the library's collection.

**Memento.**

The Memento pattern is used to capture and externalize the internal state of an object so that the object can be restored to that state later.

This pattern is useful in scenarios where you need to implement features like undo functionality, or you want to save and restore the state of an object without exposing its internal details.

The Memento pattern typically involves three main roles:

Originator: This is the object whose state you want to save and restore.

It creates and returns Memento objects that represent its internal state.

Memento: This is an object that stores the state of the Originator.

It has two main responsibilities: storing the state and allowing the Originator to restore its state from the Memento.

Caretaker: This is the client code that uses the Originator and Memento to save and restore the state.

The Caretaker is responsible for keeping track of the Memento objects and applying them to the Originator when needed.

Here's an example of the Memento pattern in C#:

// Originator class

class TextEditor

{

private string text;

public string Text

{

get { return text; }

set { text = value; }

}

public TextEditorMemento Save()

{

return new TextEditorMemento(text);

}

public void Restore(TextEditorMemento memento)

{

text = memento.SavedText;

}

public override string ToString()

{

return text;

}

}

// Memento class

class TextEditorMemento

{

public string SavedText { get; private set; }

public TextEditorMemento(string text)

{

SavedText = text;

}

}

// Caretaker class

class TextEditorHistory

{

public TextEditorMemento Memento { get; set; }

}

Here is client side code:

TextEditor textEditor = new TextEditor();

TextEditorHistory history = new TextEditorHistory();

// Editing and saving state

textEditor.Text = "First draft";

history.Memento = textEditor.Save();

textEditor.Text = "Second draft";

// Restoring state

textEditor.Restore(history.Memento);

Console.WriteLine("Current text: " + textEditor);

In this example, we have an TextEditor class representing the Originator, a TextEditorMemento class representing the Memento, and a TextEditorHistory class representing the Caretaker.

The Caretaker keeps track of the Memento object, which stores the state of the TextEditor.

You can see how we save and restore the state of the TextEditor object using Memento objects.

**Null object**

The Null Object Pattern is a design pattern used in object-oriented programming to handle the absence of an object or the need for a default behavior when dealing with objects.

It is particularly useful in situations where you want to avoid explicit null checks or conditional statements that often lead to code that is difficult to maintain and error-prone.

Here's an explanation of the Null Object Pattern:

**Problem:** In many programming scenarios, you encounter situations where you need to deal with objects that may or may not exist or have a valid value.

For example, you might have a reference to an object, and you want to call methods or access properties on it, but there's a possibility that the object is null or undefined.

This can lead to code cluttered with if-else checks to handle these cases, making the code harder to read and maintain.

**Solution:** The Null Object Pattern suggests creating a special "Null" or "Default" object that behaves like a regular object but implements default behavior for the methods and properties you might call on it when the actual object is absent.

Here are the key elements of the Null Object Pattern:

**Interface or Base Class**: Define an interface or base class that represents the common interface for all objects in the hierarchy.

**Concrete Classes**: Create concrete classes that implement this interface or inherit from the base class. These are the real objects in your system.

**Null Object**: Create a special Null Object class that also implements the same interface but provides default or do-nothing implementations for the methods and properties.

This Null Object is used when an actual object is absent.

**Client Code**: In your client code, instead of checking for null or undefined objects, you simply use the Null Object.

Since the Null Object adheres to the same interface, it can be used interchangeably with the real objects without causing runtime errors.

**Benefits of Null Object Pattern:**

**Reduced Conditional Statements**: The pattern eliminates the need for explicit null checks, resulting in cleaner and more readable code.

**Default Behavior**: It provides a consistent default behavior for missing or null objects, reducing the risk of unexpected errors.

**Simplifies Client Code**: Client code becomes more straightforward and doesn't need to handle special cases for null objects.

**Encapsulation**: The pattern encapsulates the null-checking logic within the Null Object itself, making the client code cleaner and more maintainable.

Let’s see a concrete example, suppose you have a customer management system, and you want to implement a customer notification system.

Customers can have different notification preferences, such as email or SMS. However, some customers might not have specified any preference.

In this case, you want to use a Null Notification object to handle the absence of a notification preference.

Here's the C# example:

// Define the INotification interface

public interface INotification

{

void SendNotification(string message);

}

// Concrete notification implementations

public class EmailNotification : INotification

{

private string email;

public EmailNotification(string email)

{

this.email = email;

}

public void SendNotification(string message)

{

// Implement sending an email notification logic here

Console.WriteLine($"Sending email to {email}: {message}");

}

}

public class SMSNotification : INotification

{

private string phoneNumber;

public SMSNotification(string phoneNumber)

{

this.phoneNumber = phoneNumber;

}

public void SendNotification(string message)

{

// Implement sending an SMS notification logic here

Console.WriteLine($"Sending SMS to {phoneNumber}: {message}");

}

}

// Null Notification implementation

public class NullNotification : INotification

{

public void SendNotification(string message)

{

// Do nothing (no-op) when using the Null Notification

}

}

// Customer class

public class Customer

{

public string Name { get; }

private INotification notificationPreference;

public Customer(string name, INotification notificationPreference = null)

{

Name = name;

// Use the Null Notification if no preference is specified

this.notificationPreference = notificationPreference ?? new NullNotification();

}

public void Notify(string message)

{

notificationPreference.SendNotification(message);

}

}

Here is the client code:

// Create customers with and without notification preferences

var customer1 = new Customer("Carl", new EmailNotification("alice@example.com"));

var customer2 = new Customer("Bob", new SMSNotification("+123456789"));

var customer3 = new Customer("Charlie"); // No preference, uses Null Notification

// Notify customers

customer1.Notify("Your order has shipped.");

customer2.Notify("Payment received.");

customer3.Notify("Special offer!");

// Customer 3 won't receive any notifications due to Null Notification.

In this example:

We define the INotification interface for sending notifications.

Concrete notification classes (EmailNotification and SMSNotification) implement the INotification interface with specific notification methods.

The NullNotification class is a Null Object that implements the INotification interface with no-op methods.

The Customer class has a name and an optional notification preference.

If no preference is specified during customer creation, it defaults to the Null Notification.

The Notify method of the Customer class uses the notification preference to send notifications.

If the preference is the Null Notification, no actual notification is sent.

In the client code (Program class), we create customers with and without notification preferences and demonstrate how the Null Object Pattern handles the absence of notification preferences gracefully.

Customers with notification preferences receive notifications, while customer3 (Charlie) doesn't have a specified preference and uses the Null Notification, effectively ignoring notifications.

**Observer**

The Observer Pattern is a behavioral design pattern that defines a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object (the subject or observable) changes state, all its dependents (observers) are notified and updated automatically.

This pattern is often used to implement distributed event handling systems, in which one object (the subject) maintains a list of dependent objects (observers) that are notified of state changes.

Let's create a concrete example of the Observer Pattern in C# for a real-world scenario.

We'll implement a stock market monitoring system where multiple investors (observers) are interested in receiving updates about the changes in the stock prices (subject).

When the stock price changes, all investors should be notified and updated with the new stock price.

//Define the Observer interface

public interface IInvestor

{

void Update(string stockSymbol, decimal stockPrice);

}

//Define the Subject (Observable)

public class StockMarket

{

private Dictionary<string, decimal> stocks = new Dictionary<string, decimal>();

private List<IInvestor> investors = new List<IInvestor>();

public void AddStock(string symbol, decimal price)

{

stocks[symbol] = price;

}

public void Attach(IInvestor investor)

{

investors.Add(investor);

}

public void Detach(IInvestor investor)

{

investors.Remove(investor);

}

public void UpdateStockPrice(string symbol, decimal newPrice)

{

if (stocks.ContainsKey(symbol))

{

stocks[symbol] = newPrice;

NotifyInvestors(symbol, newPrice);

}

}

private void NotifyInvestors(string symbol, decimal newPrice)

{

foreach (var investor in investors)

{

investor.Update(symbol, newPrice);

}

}

}

//Define Concrete Observers (Investors)

public class Investor : IInvestor

{

private string name;

public Investor(string name)

{

this.name = name;

}

public void Update(string stockSymbol, decimal stockPrice)

{

Console.WriteLine($"{name} received an update for {stockSymbol} - New Price: {stockPrice:C}");

}

}

Now you can use this pattern in your client in the following way:

//Create the stock market and investors

StockMarket stockMarket = new StockMarket();

Investor investor1 = new Investor("John");

Investor investor2 = new Investor("Alice");

// Step 5: Attach investors to the stock market

stockMarket.Attach(investor1);

stockMarket.Attach(investor2);

// Step 6: Add stocks to the market

stockMarket.AddStock("AAPL", 150.0m);

stockMarket.AddStock("GOOGL", 2800.0m);

// Step 7: Update stock prices

stockMarket.UpdateStockPrice("AAPL", 155.0m);

stockMarket.UpdateStockPrice("GOOGL", 2850.0m);

In this example:

StockMarket is the observable object representing the stock market.

It maintains a list of stocks and a list of investors. It provides methods to add stocks, attach and detach investors, and update stock prices.

Investor is the concrete observer class that implements the IInvestor interface.

Each investor is interested in receiving updates about specific stocks.

When a stock price changes, the Update method is called to notify the investor with the new stock price.

In the Main method, we create a stock market, two investors, attach them to the stock market, add some stocks, and then update the stock prices.

When the stock prices are updated, both investors are notified and display the new prices.

**State**

The State Pattern is a behavioral design pattern that allows an object to alter its behavior when its internal state changes.

The pattern achieves this by defining a set of state classes that encapsulate the behavior associated with different states and allowing the context (the object whose behavior changes) to switch between these states seamlessly.

Here's a breakdown of the key components of the State Pattern:

**Context**: This is the object that maintains a reference to the current state object and delegates the behavior to that state object.

The context can change its state by transitioning to a different state object.

**State**: This is an interface or an abstract class that defines a set of methods that represent the different states the context can be in.

Each concrete state class implements these methods to provide specific behavior for that state.

**Concrete State**: These are the classes that implement the State interface or inherit from the State abstract class. Each concrete state class defines the behavior associated with a particular state of the context.

Now, let's see an example of the State Pattern in C#:

Suppose we are building a simple audio player that can be in different playback states: Playing, Paused, and Stopped. We'll use the State Pattern to manage these states.

// State interface

public interface IState

{

void Play();

void Pause();

void Stop();

}

// Concrete State classes

public class PlayingState : IState

{

public void Play()

{

Console.WriteLine("Already playing.");

}

public void Pause()

{

Console.WriteLine("Pausing the playback.");

}

public void Stop()

{

Console.WriteLine("Stopping the playback.");

}

}

public class PausedState : IState

{

public void Play()

{

Console.WriteLine("Resuming the playback.");

}

public void Pause()

{

Console.WriteLine("Already paused.");

}

public void Stop()

{

Console.WriteLine("Stopping the playback.");

}

}

public class StoppedState : IState

{

public void Play()

{

Console.WriteLine("Starting playback.");

}

public void Pause()

{

Console.WriteLine("Cannot pause, the player is stopped.");

}

public void Stop()

{

Console.WriteLine("Already stopped.");

}

}

// Context class

public class AudioPlayer

{

private IState currentState;

public AudioPlayer()

{

currentState = new StoppedState(); // Initial state is Stopped

}

public void ChangeState(IState newState)

{

currentState = newState;

}

public void Play()

{

currentState.Play();

}

public void Pause()

{

currentState.Pause();

}

public void Stop()

{

currentState.Stop();

}

}

Now you can use your state pattern in your client application like that:

AudioPlayer player = new AudioPlayer();

player.Play(); // Output: Starting playback.

player.Pause(); // Output: Cannot pause, the player is stopped.

player.Stop(); // Output: Already stopped.

player.Play(); // Output: Starting playback.

player.Pause(); // Output: Pausing the playback.

In this example, we have the AudioPlayer context class that can be in different states (Playing, Paused, Stopped).

The IState interface defines the methods that represent the possible actions the player can take in each state.

The concrete state classes (PlayingState, PausedState, and StoppedState) implement these methods to provide specific behavior for each state.

By changing the state of the AudioPlayer using the ChangeState method, we can control its behavior based on its current state.

This is the essence of the State Pattern, where the behavior of an object changes based on its internal state.

Let’s see another example: a traffic light implementation.

A traffic light can be in several states: Red, Yellow, and Green.

// State interface

public interface ITrafficLightState

{

void Handle(TrafficLight trafficLight);

}

// Concrete State classes

public class RedState : ITrafficLightState

{

public void Handle(TrafficLight trafficLight)

{

Console.WriteLine("Traffic light is red. Stop!");

Thread.Sleep(2000); // Simulate red light duration

trafficLight.ChangeState(new GreenState());

}

}

public class YellowState : ITrafficLightState

{

public void Handle(TrafficLight trafficLight)

{

Console.WriteLine("Traffic light is yellow. Prepare to stop.");

Thread.Sleep(1000); // Simulate yellow light duration

trafficLight.ChangeState(new RedState());

}

}

public class GreenState : ITrafficLightState

{

public void Handle(TrafficLight trafficLight)

{

Console.WriteLine("Traffic light is green. Go!");

Thread.Sleep(2000); // Simulate green light duration

trafficLight.ChangeState(new YellowState());

}

}

// Context class

public class TrafficLight

{

private ITrafficLightState currentState;

public TrafficLight()

{

currentState = new RedState(); // Initial state is Red

}

public void ChangeState(ITrafficLightState newState)

{

currentState = newState;

}

public void Request()

{

currentState.Handle(this);

}

}

And here the code to simulate the change of traffic light’s state:

TrafficLight trafficLight = new TrafficLight();

for (int i = 0; i < 5; i++)

{

trafficLight.Request();

}

In this example, we have a TrafficLight context class that can be in three states: RedState, YellowState, and GreenState.

Each state implements the ITrafficLightState interface and defines the behavior associated with that state.

The TrafficLight class uses the State Pattern to change its state based on the current state of the traffic light.

In the Main method, we create a TrafficLight object and simulate the behavior of a traffic light by repeatedly calling the Request method.

The traffic light transitions between red, yellow, and green states based on the specified durations, simulating a real-world traffic light.

**Strategy**

The Strategy Pattern is a behavioral design pattern that defines a family of algorithms, encapsulates each one, and makes them interchangeable.

It allows you to select an algorithm at runtime based on the context or the specific requirements of a task.

This pattern promotes the principle of "composition over inheritance" by favoring object composition over static inheritance.

Here's how the Strategy Pattern works:

Define a family of algorithms (strategies) that perform a specific task.

Create an interface or an abstract class that declares a method to execute the strategy.

Implement concrete strategy classes that provide different implementations of the strategy interface.

In the context class, maintain a reference to the strategy interface and use it to execute the selected strategy.

Here's a simple example of the Strategy Pattern in C#:

Suppose you are building a payment processing system where you can apply different payment methods (e.g., credit card, PayPal, Bitcoin) to make payments.

You want to make the payment method interchangeable at runtime.

Define the strategy interface:

public interface IPaymentStrategy

{

void ProcessPayment(double amount);

}

Implement concrete strategy classes for different payment methods:

public class CreditCardPayment : IPaymentStrategy

{

public void ProcessPayment(double amount)

{

Console.WriteLine($"Paid {amount:C} using Credit Card.");

// Add logic to process payment via credit card here

}

}

public class PayPalPayment : IPaymentStrategy

{

public void ProcessPayment(double amount)

{

Console.WriteLine($"Paid {amount:C} using PayPal.");

// Add logic to process payment via PayPal here

}

}

public class BitcoinPayment : IPaymentStrategy

{

public void ProcessPayment(double amount)

{

Console.WriteLine($"Paid {amount:C} using Bitcoin.");

// Add logic to process payment via Bitcoin here

}

}

Create a context class that allows you to change the payment strategy:

public class ShoppingCart

{

private IPaymentStrategy paymentStrategy;

public ShoppingCart(IPaymentStrategy strategy)

{

this.paymentStrategy = strategy;

}

public void Checkout(double totalAmount)

{

paymentStrategy.ProcessPayment(totalAmount);

}

public void SetPaymentStrategy(IPaymentStrategy strategy)

{

this.paymentStrategy = strategy;

}

}

Now, you can use the Strategy Pattern in your client:

var cart = new ShoppingCart(new CreditCardPayment());

// Make a payment

cart.Checkout(100.00);

// Change the payment method to PayPal

cart.SetPaymentStrategy(new PayPalPayment());

// Make another payment with the new payment method (PayPal)

cart.Checkout(50.00);

// Change the payment method to Bitcoin

cart.SetPaymentStrategy(new BitcoinPayment());

// Make another payment with the new payment method (Bitcoin)

cart.Checkout(200.00);

**Template method.**

The Template Method Pattern is used in object-oriented programming to define the skeleton or outline of an algorithm in a method, while allowing some of the steps within the algorithm to be implemented by subclasses.

This pattern promotes code reusability and helps in defining a common structure for a set of related algorithms.

Here's how the Template Method Pattern works:

A superclass (or abstract class) defines a template method that outlines the steps of an algorithm but leaves certain steps to be implemented by concrete subclasses.

This template method is often declared as final to prevent subclasses from altering the algorithm's structure.

The template method consists of a series of method calls, which are either abstract or concrete methods.

The abstract methods are placeholders for the steps that subclasses need to implement, while the concrete methods provide default or shared behavior that can be reused by all subclasses.

Subclasses inherit from the superclass and provide concrete implementations for the abstract methods, customizing the algorithm to their specific needs.

They can also choose to override any of the concrete methods to tailor the behavior as required.

When a client code interacts with the template method, it uses the method provided by the superclass.

This ensures that the algorithm's structure remains consistent across different subclasses while allowing for customization of specific steps.

Benefits of the Template Method Pattern are:

**Code Reusability:** The common steps of an algorithm are implemented in the template method, promoting code reuse among subclasses.

**Consistency:** The pattern enforces a consistent structure for related algorithms, making the code easier to understand and maintain.

**Customization:** Subclasses can customize specific steps of the algorithm while keeping the overall structure intact.

**Reduced Duplication:** The pattern reduces code duplication by encapsulating shared behavior in the superclass.

**Extension without Modification:** You can add new subclasses with different implementations without modifying the existing code in the superclass.

Example use cases for the Template Method Pattern include implementing sorting algorithms (where the comparison and swapping steps are customized by subclasses), document processing (where different document types may have unique processing steps), and game frameworks (where game loops or player actions may vary but share common structures).

Here's an example of the Template Method Pattern in C#. In this example, we'll create a template for building different types of sandwiches:

// Abstract class defining the template method

abstract class Sandwich

{

public void MakeSandwich()

{

PrepareBread();

AddIngredients();

AddCondiments();

WrapSandwich();

}

protected abstract void PrepareBread();

protected abstract void AddIngredients();

protected abstract void AddCondiments();

protected virtual void WrapSandwich()

{

Console.WriteLine("Wrap the sandwich in paper.");

}

}

// Concrete subclass 1 for creating a BLT sandwich

class BLTSandwich : Sandwich

{

protected override void PrepareBread()

{

Console.WriteLine("Prepare white bread for BLT.");

}

protected override void AddIngredients()

{

Console.WriteLine("Add bacon, lettuce, and tomato.");

}

protected override void AddCondiments()

{

Console.WriteLine("Add mayonnaise and mustard.");

}

}

// Concrete subclass 2 for creating a Veggie sandwich

class VeggieSandwich : Sandwich

{

protected override void PrepareBread()

{

Console.WriteLine("Prepare whole wheat bread for Veggie sandwich.");

}

protected override void AddIngredients()

{

Console.WriteLine("Add lettuce, tomato, cucumber, and bell peppers.");

}

protected override void AddCondiments()

{

Console.WriteLine("Add hummus and balsamic dressing.");

}

protected override void WrapSandwich()

{

Console.WriteLine("Wrap the Veggie sandwich in foil.");

}

}

You can use Template method pattern in your code like this:

Console.WriteLine("Making a BLT Sandwich:");

Sandwich bltSandwich = new BLTSandwich();

bltSandwich.MakeSandwich();

Console.WriteLine("\nMaking a Veggie Sandwich:");

Sandwich veggieSandwich = new VeggieSandwich();

veggieSandwich.MakeSandwich();

In this C# example:

Sandwich is an abstract class that defines the template method MakeSandwich().

It also declares three abstract methods PrepareBread(), AddIngredients(), and AddCondiments(), which must be implemented by concrete subclasses.

It also provides a default implementation for the WrapSandwich() method, which can be overridden by subclasses.

BLTSandwich and VeggieSandwich are concrete subclasses that inherit from Sandwich.

They provide specific implementations for the abstract methods to create different types of sandwiches.

The VeggieSandwich class overrides the WrapSandwich() method to customize the wrapping behavior.

In the Main method, we create instances of BLTSandwich and VeggieSandwich and then make sandwiches using the MakeSandwich() method.

The template method ensures that the sandwich-making process follows a consistent structure, with bread preparation, ingredient addition, and condiment application, while allowing for customization in each sandwich type.

When you run this C# code, you will see output demonstrating the use of the Template Method Pattern to create different types of sandwiches with a shared preparation process but varying ingredients and wrapping.

**Visitor Pattern.**

The Visitor pattern is used in object-oriented programming to separate the algorithm from the structure of an object.

It allows you to add new operations or behaviors to a set of objects without modifying their class definitions.

The primary purpose of the Visitor pattern is to achieve the following goals:

**Separation of Concerns:** The Visitor pattern separates the behavior (or algorithm) from the elements (or objects) that it operates on.

This separation makes it easier to add new behaviors to a set of objects without modifying their classes, which can be especially useful when working with classes that you don't have control over or that are part of a complex inheritance hierarchy.

**Open-Closed Principle:** The pattern adheres to the open-closed principle, which states that software entities (classes, modules, functions, etc.) should be open for extension but closed for modification. With the Visitor pattern, you can introduce new behaviors (visitor implementations) without altering the existing codebase.

**Double Dispatch:** The Visitor pattern allows for double dispatch, which is a mechanism that enables the selection of a specific method or operation based on both the type of the object being visited and the type of the visitor.

This enables more flexible and dynamic behavior selection.

Common scenarios where the Visitor pattern is useful include:

When you have a complex object structure with various classes, and you want to perform different operations on these objects without modifying their class hierarchy.

When you need to add new behaviors or operations to a set of classes without altering their source code, especially in situations where you can't modify the existing classes.

When you want to achieve dynamic dispatch based on both the type of the object being visited and the type of the visitor.

In essence, the Visitor pattern provides a way to achieve polymorphism in situations where traditional inheritance and method overriding may not be the most suitable solution.

It allows you to extend the functionality of classes in a more modular and maintainable manner.

However, it does introduce some complexity and can make the code harder to understand if not used judiciously, so it should be applied with care.

// Define the abstract Element class that will be visited by the Visitor.

abstract class Element

{

public abstract void Accept(IVisitor visitor);

}

// Concrete TextElement class representing text content.

class TextElement : Element

{

public string Text { get; set; }

public override void Accept(IVisitor visitor)

{

visitor.VisitTextElement(this);

}

}

// Concrete HyperlinkElement class representing hyperlinks.

class HyperlinkElement : Element

{

public string Url { get; set; }

public string Text { get; set; }

public override void Accept(IVisitor visitor)

{

visitor.VisitHyperlinkElement(this);

}

}

// Define the Visitor interface.

interface IVisitor

{

void VisitTextElement(TextElement textElement);

void VisitHyperlinkElement(HyperlinkElement hyperlinkElement);

}

// Concrete implementation of HTML generation visitor.

class HtmlVisitor : IVisitor

{

public void VisitTextElement(TextElement textElement)

{

Console.WriteLine($"<p>{textElement.Text}</p>");

}

public void VisitHyperlinkElement(HyperlinkElement hyperlinkElement)

{

Console.WriteLine($"<a href=\"{hyperlinkElement.Url}\">{hyperlinkElement.Text}</a>");

}

}

// Concrete implementation of plain text generation visitor.

class PlainTextVisitor : IVisitor

{

public void VisitTextElement(TextElement textElement)

{

Console.WriteLine(textElement.Text);

}

public void VisitHyperlinkElement(HyperlinkElement hyperlinkElement)

{

Console.WriteLine($"{hyperlinkElement.Text} ({hyperlinkElement.Url})");

}

}

You can use Visitor pattern in your code like this:

// Create a list of elements in a document.

List<Element> elements = new List<Element>

{

new TextElement { Text = "This is a paragraph of text." },

new HyperlinkElement { Url = "https://www.example.com", Text = "Visit Example.com" }

};

// Create visitors (HTML and plain text) and apply them to the elements.

IVisitor htmlVisitor = new HtmlVisitor();

IVisitor plainTextVisitor = new PlainTextVisitor();

Console.WriteLine("HTML Output:");

foreach (var element in elements)

{

element.Accept(htmlVisitor);

}

Console.WriteLine("\nPlain Text Output:");

foreach (var element in elements)

{

element.Accept(plainTextVisitor);

}

In this example:

We define two concrete element classes: TextElement representing text content and HyperlinkElement representing hyperlinks.

Both classes inherit from the abstract Element class and implement the Accept method.

We define an IVisitor interface with methods for visiting each type of element (e.g., VisitTextElement and VisitHyperlinkElement).

We implement two concrete visitor classes: HtmlVisitor for generating HTML output and PlainTextVisitor for generating plain text output.

Both visitors implement the IVisitor interface and define how to process each type of element.

In the Main method, we create a list of elements in a document and two visitors.

We then iterate through the elements, applying each visitor, which generates the desired output format based on the type of element.

This example demonstrates how the Visitor pattern allows you to separate the behavior (output generation) from the structure of the document elements, enabling you to add new output formats (visitors) without modifying the element classes.