

Prototype Pattern

Intent

 Specify the kind of objects to create using a prototypical instance, and create a new instance by copying this prototype

Motivation

- Copy & Paste function in the editor
- Tool palette with prototype objects which can be copied

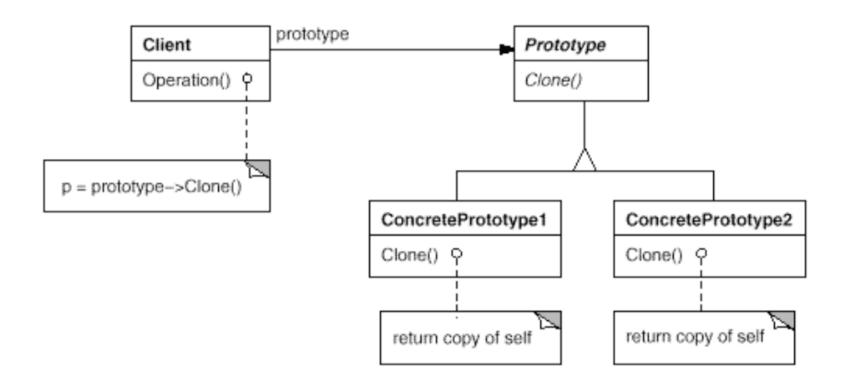
Prototype Pattern

Problem: Copy & Paste in JDraw

```
Figure copyFigure(Figure f) {
   Rectangle r = f.getBounds();
   if(f instanceof RectangleFigure) {
      return new RectangleFigure(r.x, r.y, r.w, r.h);
   } else if(f instance of OvalFigure) {
      return new Ovalfigure(r.x, r.y, r.w, r.h);
   } else if(f instance of LineFigure) {
      Line line = (LineFigure) f;
      return new LineFigure(line.getFrom(), line.getTo());
   } else {
      ...
   }
}
```

- Violates open-closed principle
- Solution: delegate copying to instance itself

Prototype Pattern: Structure



Prototype Pattern

Implementation of the clone method

```
public class Point {
   private int x, y;

public Point(int x, int y) {
     this.x = x; this.y = y;
   }

public Object clone() {
   ...
  }
}
```



Object.clone

Object.clone

```
class Object {
   protected Object clone() throws CloneNotSupportedException {
        ...
   }
}
```

General intent of this method (not absolute requirements, SHOULD)

```
    x.clone() != x
    x.clone().getClass() == x.getClass()
    x.clone().equals(x)
    new instance
    same dynamic type
    equal
```

- Visibility: protected
 - Can only be invoked if clone is overridden in a subclass with a method visible by the client
 - Cannot be invoked on objects of static type Object



Object.clone

Implementation

- 1. Implementation checks whether the class implements the Cloneable interface
 - Cloneable is a marker interface
 - Cloneable is used to declare that a class supports cloning
 - If Object.clone is called on a class without Cloneable
 - => CloneNotSupportedException
- 2. New instance is created (no constructor invocation!!!)
- 3. All attributes are copied (memory-copy)

Object.clone: Harmony Implementation

Object

VMMemoryManager

```
class VMMemoryManager {
   static native Object clone(Object object);
   ...
}
```

Object.clone: Harmony Implementation

C-Code (object_clone, simplified)

```
jobject object_clone(JNIEnv *jenv, jobject jobj) {
    ManagedObject *result;
    ObjectHandle h = (ObjectHandle) jobj;
    VTable *vt = h->object->vt();
    size = vt->allocated_size;
    result = vt->clss->allocate_instance();

    memcpy(result, h->object, size);
    result->set_obj_info(0);
    ObjectHandle new_handle = oh_allocate_local_handle();
    new_handle->object = result;
    return (jobject) new_handle;
}
```

Object.clone: Example Point

Implementation of the clone method

```
public class Point implements Cloneable {
   private int x, y;
   public Point(int x, int y) {
      this.x = x; this.y = y;
   @Override
   public Object clone() {
      try {
         return super.clone();
      } catch (CloneNotSupportedException e) {
         throw new InternalError(e.getMessage());
```

Object.clone: Example Point

Implementation of the clone method

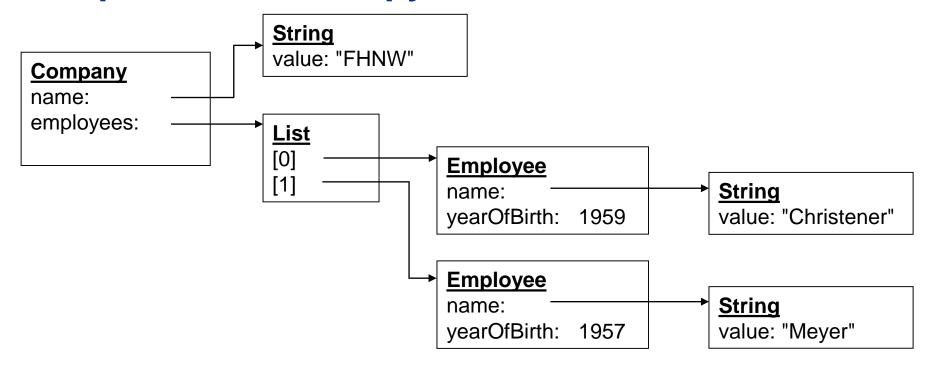
```
class ColorPoint extends Point {
  private Color c;
  public ColorPoint(int x, int y, Color c) {
     super(x, y); this.c = c;
  }
}
```

Company with Employees

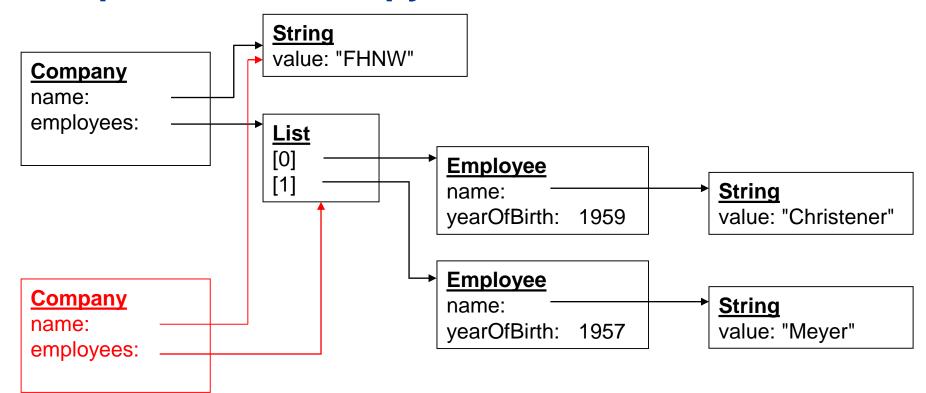
```
pubic class Company {
   private String name;
   private List<Employee> employees = new ArrayList<>();
}

public class Employee {
   private String name;
   private int yearOfBirth;
}
```

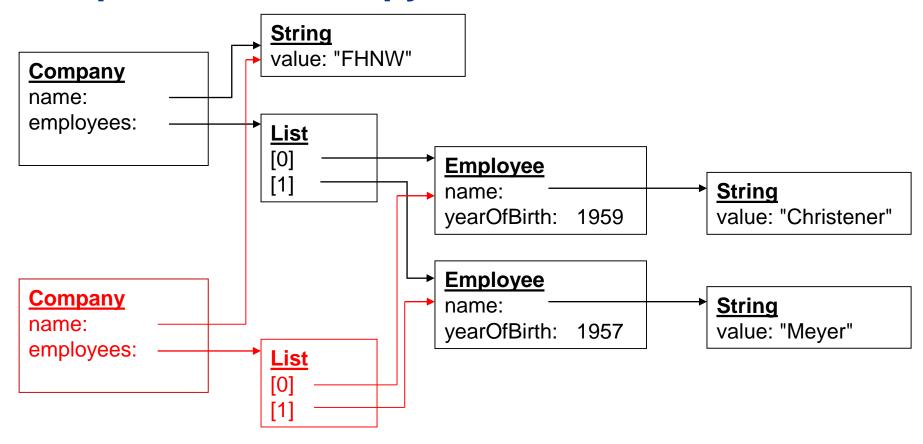




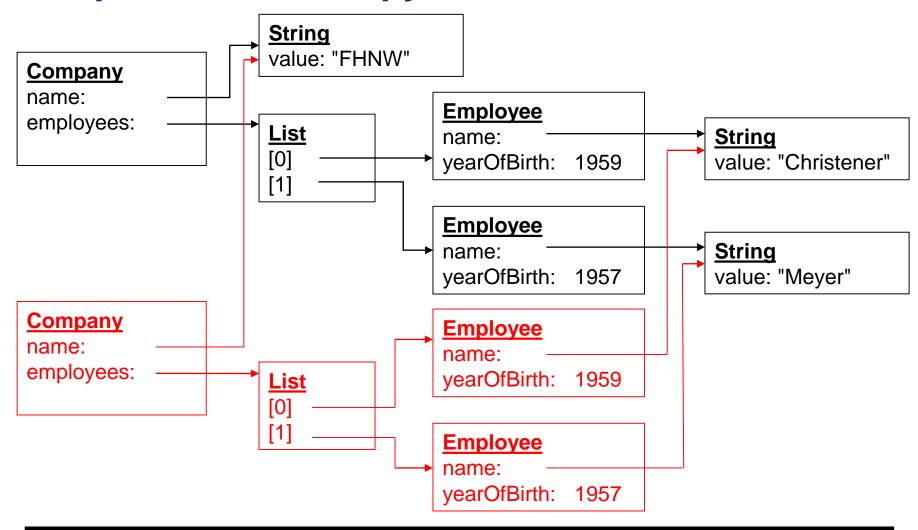














Remarks

References to immutable objects

 Immutable objects need not be cloned, as they cannot be changed (and typically cannot be cloned)

Final fields

Final fields cannot be changed in the clone method

Signature: return type

Java allows covariant typing, e.g. type of result may be strengthened

Alias references

 Alias references (and cycles) have to be handled manually when implementing a deep-copy

Clone With Copy Constructor

Every cloneable class contains a copy constructor

```
class Company {
   public Company(Company c) {
      if(c==null) throw new IllegalArgumentException();
      // initialize this with attributes of c
   }
   ...
}
```

Method clone invokes this copy constructor

```
class Company {
   public Object clone() {
     return new Company(this);
   }
   ...
}
```



Clone With Copy Constructor

Subclass invokes copy constructor of base class

```
class SmallBusinessCompany extends Company {
   public SmallBusinessCompany(SmallBusinessCompany c) {
      super(c);
      // initialize this with attributes of c
   }
   ...
}
```

Deep-Copy

For a deep copy the attributes need to be copied in the constructor