Design Patterns Tutorial

Design Patterns - Observer Pattern

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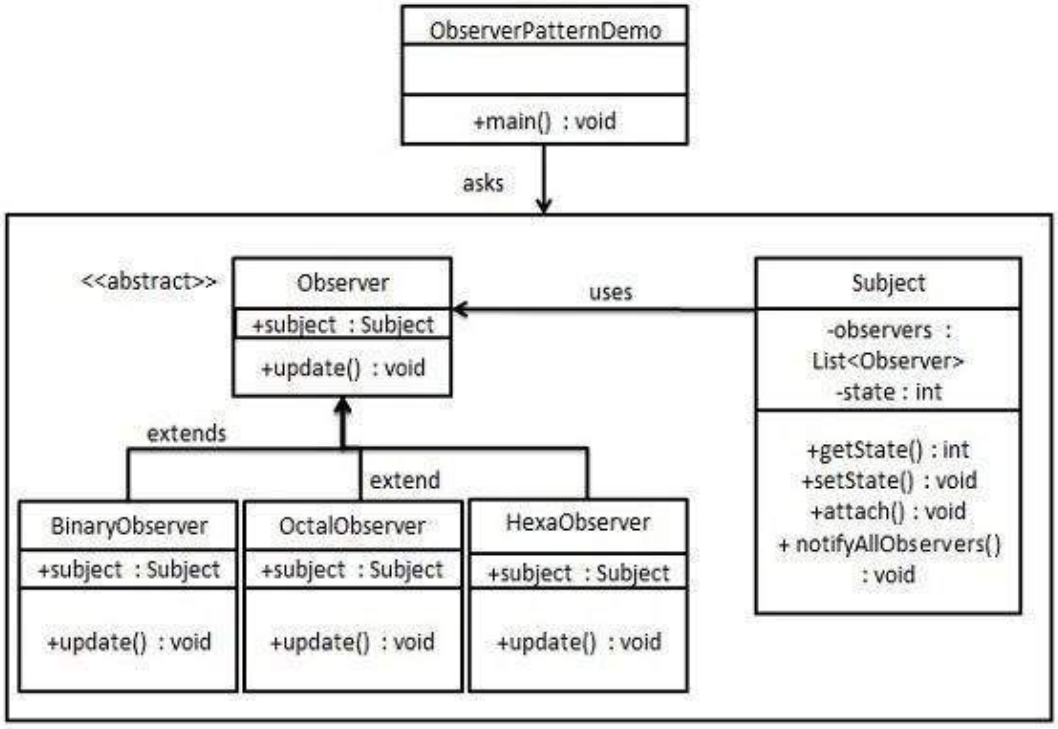
Observer pattern is used when there is one-to-many relationship between objects such as if one object is modified, its depenedent objects are to be notified automatically. Observer pattern falls under behavioral pattern category.

Implementation

Observer pattern uses three actor classes. Subject, Observer and Client. Subject is an object having methods to attach and detach observers to a client object. We have created an abstract class *Observer* and a concrete class *Subject* that is extending class *Observer*.

ObserverPatternDemo, our demo class, will use *Subject* and concrete class object to show observer pattern in action.



Step 1

Create Subject class.

Subject.java

```
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.List;
```

```
   public int getState() {
      return state;
   }

   public void setState(int state) {
      this.state = state;
      notifyAllObservers();
   }

   public void attach(Observer observer){
      observers.add(observer);
   }

   public void notifyAllObservers(){
      for (Observer observer : observers) {
         observer.update();
      }
   }
}
```

Step 2

Create Observer class.

Observer.java

```
public abstract class Observer {
   protected Subject subject;
   public abstract void update();
}
```

Step 3

Create concrete observer classes

BinaryObserver.java

```
public class BinaryObserver extends Observer{

   public BinaryObserver(Subject subject){
      this.subject = subject;
      this.subject.attach(this);
   }

   @Override
   public void update() {
      System.out.println( "Binary String: " + Integer.toBinaryString( subject.getState() ) );
   }
}
```

OctalObserver.java

```
   }

   @Override
   public void update() {
     System.out.println( "Octal String: " + Integer.toOctalString( subject.getState() ) );
   }
}
```

HexaObserver.java

```
public class HexaObserver extends Observer{

   public HexaObserver(Subject subject){
      this.subject = subject;
      this.subject.attach(this);
   }

   @Override
   public void update() {
      System.out.println( "Hex String: " + Integer.toHexString( subject.getState() ).toUpperCase() );
   }
}
```

Step 4

Use *Subject* and concrete observer objects.

ObserverPatternDemo.java

```
public class ObserverPatternDemo {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      Subject subject = new Subject();

      new HexaObserver(subject);
      new OctalObserver(subject);
      new BinaryObserver(subject);

      System.out.println("First state change: 15");
      subject.setState(15);
      System.out.println("Second state change: 10");
      subject.setState(10);
   }
}
```

Step 5

Verify the output.

```
First state change: 15
Hex String: F
```

```
Octal String: 12
Binary String: 1010
```

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