New types as a solution to primitive obsession





Scala Love 18th of February 2022





https://iteratorshq.com/



Primitive obsession

```
case class Person(firstName: String, lastName: String)
val johnDoe: Person = Person("John", "Doe")
val doeJohn: Person = Person("Doe", "John")
```



New types

```
case class Person(firstName: FirstName, lastName: LastName)
```

```
val johnDoe: Person = Person(FirstName("John"), LastName("Doe"))
```

- less error-prone
- possibility to enrich types with methods



Value classes: code

```
case class FirstName(value: String) extends AnyVal
```

case class LastName(value: String) extends AnyVal



Value classes: pros and cons

PROS

- simple
- not much additional code
- works in Scala 3 and Scala 2

CONS

- sometimes not cost-free
- serialization/codecs require additional code



Tagged types: code

```
trait FirstNameTag
type FirstName = String with FirstNameTag
object FirstName:
 def apply(value: String): FirstName =
   value.asInstanceOf[FirstName]
trait LastNameTag
type LastName = String with LastNameTag
object LastName:
 def apply(value: String): LastName =
   value.asInstanceOf[LastName]
```

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Tagged types: pros and cons

PROS

- cost-free
- works in Scala 3 and Scala 2

CONS

- complex
- boilerplate code
- serialization/codecs require additional code



Opaque types: code

```
opaque type FirstName = String
object FirstName:
   def apply(value: String): FirstName = value

opaque type LastName = String
object LastName:
   def apply(value: String): LastName = value
```



Opaque types: pros and cons

PROS CONS

cost-free

- boilerplate code
- serialization/codecs require additional code
- only Scala 3



Libraries



Monix's Newtypes

https://newtypes.monix.io/



Monix's Newtypes: simple type

```
import monix.newtypes._

type FirstName = FirstName.Type
object FirstName extends NewtypeWrapped[String]

type LastName = LastName.Type
object LastName extends NewtypeWrapped[String]
```



Monix's Newtypes: validated type (1)

```
type Title = Title.Type
object Title extends NewtypeValidated[String]:
   def apply(value: String): Either[BuildFailure[Title], Title] =
     if !value.isBlank then
        Right(unsafeCoerce(value))
     else
        Left(BuildFailure("empty title"))
```



Monix's Newtypes: validated type (2)

```
type ISBN = ISBN.Type
object ISBN extends NewtypeValidated[String]:
   def apply(value: String): Either[BuildFailure[ISBN], ISBN] =
     if IsbnValidator.validate(value) then
        Right(unsafeCoerce(value))
   else
        Left(BuildFailure("invalid ISBN"))
```

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[Demo]



Monix's Newtypes: pros and cons

PROS

- cost-free
- same code for Scala 3 and Scala 2
- built-in support for implementing custom validations (but only runtime)
- no dependencies
- integration with circe

CONS

- serialization/codec (except circe)
 require additional code
- need to use unsafeCoerce in NewtypeValidated



ZIO Prelude

https://zio.github.io/zio-prelude/





ZIO Prelude: simple type

```
import zio.prelude.Newtype

type FirstName = FirstName.Type
object FirstName extends Newtype[String]

type LastName = LastName.Type
object LastName extends Newtype[String]
```



ZIO Prelude: validated type (1)

```
type Title = Title.Type
object Title extends Newtype[String]:
  override inline def assertion: Assertion[String] =
    matches(".*\\S+.*".r)
```



ZIO Prelude: validated type (2)

```
type ISBN = ISBN.Type
object ISBN extends Subtype[String]:
   override inline def assertion: Assertion[String] =
        matches("\\d{9}[0-9X]|\\d{13}".r)
   extension (self: ISBN)
   def validated: Validation[String, ISBN] =
        Validation.fromPredicateWith("Invalid ISBN")(self)(
        IsbnValidator.validate
    )
```



[Demo]



ZIO Prelude: pros and cons

PROS

- cost-free
- new types and sub-types
- same code for Scala 3 and Scala 2 (if assertions are not used)
- built-in support for compile time assertions
- built-in support for implementing custom validations

CONS

- different code for assertions in Scala 3 and Scala 2
- serialization/codec require additional code
- adds ZIO to dependencies



Kebs

https://github.com/theiterators/kebs





Kebs opaque: simple type

```
import pl.iterators.kebs.opaque._
opaque type FirstName = String
object FirstName extends Opaque[FirstName, String]
opaque type LastName = String
object LastName extends Opaque[LastName, String]
```



Kebs opaque: validated type (1)

```
opaque type Title = String
object Title extends Opaque[Title, String]:
   override protected def validate(value: String):
        Either[String, Title] =
        if !value.isBlank then
            Right(value)
        else
        Left("empty title")
```



Kebs opaque: validated type (2)

```
opaque type ISBN = String
object ISBN extends Opaque[ISBN, String]:
   override protected def validate(value: String):
       Either[String, ISBN] =
       if IsbnValidator.validate(value) then
           Right(value)
       else
       Left("invalid ISBN")
```



[Demo]



Kebs opaque: pros and cons

PROS CONS

- cost-free
- built-in support for implementing custom validations
- no dependencies
- built-in codecs for:
 - circe [COMING SOON]
 - play-json [PROBABLY COMING SOON]
 - o akka-http [PROBABLY COMING SOON]
 - scalacheck [PROBABLY COMING SOON]

only Scala 3



Kebs tagged: simple type

```
import pl.iterators.kebs.tagged.
import pl.iterators.kebs.tag.meta.tagged
@tagged object PersonDomain {
 trait FirstNameTag
  type FirstName = String @@ FirstNameTag
 trait LastNameTag
  type LastName = String @@ LastNameTag
```

www.iteratorshq.com



Kebs tagged: validated type (1)

```
trait TitleTag
type Title = String @@ TitleTag
object Title {
  def validate(value: String): Either[String, String] =
    if (!value.isBlank)
       Right(value)
    else
      Left("empty title")
}
```



Kebs tagged: validated type (2)

```
trait ISBNTag

type ISBN = String @@ ISBNTag

object ISBN {
  def validate(value: String): Either[String, String] =
    if (IsbnValidator.validate(value))
        Right(value)
    else
        Left("invalid ISBN")
}
```



[Demo]



Kebs tagged: pros and cons

PROS CONS

- cost-free
- built-in support for implementing custom validations
- no dependencies
- built-in codecs for:
 - circe
 - slick
 - o play-json
 - spray-json
 - o akka-http
 - jsonschema
 - scalacheck
- plugin for IntelliJ

• only Scala 2



Other

- Refined + scala-newtypes in Scala 2
 - https://github.com/fthomas/refined
 - https://github.com/estatico/scala-newtype
- Refined in Scala 3
- Mazboot (Scala 3)
 - o https://github.com/tabdulradi/mazboot



Summary



Final conclusions

- new types can be created using Scala language features:
 - value classes
 - tagged types
 - opaque types
- or libraries:
 - Monix's Newtypes
 - o ZIO Prelude
 - kebs



Which should I choose?

- **if** ZIO **then** use ZIO Prelude
- **if** scala2 **then** use kebs or Refined+scala-newtypes or Monix
- **else** use kebs or Monix



Links

- Libraries
 - https://newtypes.monix.io/
 - https://zio.github.io/zio-prelude/
 - https://github.com/theiterators/kebs
 - https://github.com/fthomas/refined
 - https://github.com/estatico/scala-newtype
 - https://github.com/tabdulradi/mazboot
- Sample code from this presentation
 - https://github.com/rpiotrow/scala-love-2022



Thank you!