# Chapter 12 (revised by JAS)

## Pattern-Based Design

*Slide Set to accompany*

*Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach, 7/e*

**by Roger S. Pressman**

# Design Patterns

- *Each pattern describes a problem that occurs over and over again in our environment and then describes the core of the solution to that problem in such a way that you can use the solution a million times over without ever doing it the same way twice.*
  - Christopher Alexander, 1977
- "a three-part rule which expresses a relation between a certain context, a problem, and a solution."
- Good book on Patterns:
  - Head First Design Patterns (Freeman, Freeman et al.)
  - http://www.amazon.com/First-Design-Patterns-Elisabeth-Freeman/dp/0596007124/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1256671704&sr=8-1

# Effective Patterns

- Coplien [Cop05] characterizes an effective design pattern in the following way:
  - *It solves a problem*: Patterns capture solutions, not just abstract principles or strategies.
  - *It is a proven concept*: Patterns capture solutions with a track record, not theories or speculation.
  - *The solution isn't obvious*: Many problem-solving techniques (such as software design paradigms or methods) try to derive solutions from first principles. The best patterns *generate* a solution to a problem indirectly--a necessary approach for the most difficult problems of design.
  - *It describes a relationship*: Patterns don't just describe modules, but describe deeper system structures and mechanisms.
  - *The pattern has a significant human component (minimize human intervention).* All software serves human comfort or quality of life; the best patterns explicitly appeal to aesthetics and utility.

# Kinds of Patterns

- *Architectural patterns* describe broad-based design problems that are solved using a structural approach.
- *Data patterns* describe recurring data-oriented problems and the data modeling solutions that can be used to solve them.
- *Component patterns* (also referred to as *design patterns*) address problems associated with the development of subsystems and components, the manner in which they communicate with one another, and their placement within a larger architecture
- *Interface design patterns* describe common user interface problems and their solution with a system of forces that includes the specific characteristics of end-users.
- *WebApp patterns* address a problem set that is encountered when building WebApps and often incorporates many of the other patterns categories just mentioned.

# Kinds of Patterns

- ***Creational patterns*** focus on the "creation, composition, and representation of objects, e.g.,
  - **Abstract factory pattern:** centralize decision of what factory to instantiate
  - **Factory method pattern:** centralize creation of an object of a specific type choosing one of several implementations
- ***Structural patterns*** focus on problems and solutions associated with how classes and objects are organized and integrated to build a larger structure, e.g.,
  - **Adapter pattern:** 'adapts' one interface for a class into one that a client expects
  - **Aggregate pattern:** a version of the Composite pattern with methods for aggregation of children
- ***Behavioral patterns*** address problems associated with the assignment of responsibility between objects and the manner in which communication is effected between objects, e.g.,
  - **Chain of responsibility pattern:** Command objects are handled or passed on to other objects by logic-containing processing objects
  - **Command pattern:** Command objects encapsulate an action and its parameters

# Frameworks

- Patterns themselves may not be sufficient to develop a complete design.
  - In some cases it may be necessary to provide an implementation-specific skeletal infrastructure, called a *framework*, for design work.
  - That is, you can select a "*reusable mini-architecture* that provides the generic structure and behavior for a family of software abstractions, along with a context … which specifies their collaboration and use within a given domain." [Amb98]
- A framework is not an architectural pattern, but rather a skeleton with a collection of "plug points" (also called *hooks* and *slots*) that enable it to be adapted to a specific problem domain.
  - The plug points enable you to integrate problem specific classes or functionality within the skeleton.

# Describing a Pattern

- ***Pattern name***—describes the essence of the pattern in a short but expressive name
- ***Problem***—describes the problem that the pattern addresses
- ***Motivation***—provides an example of the problem
- ***Context***—describes the environment in which the problem resides including application domain
- ***Forces***—lists the system of forces that affect the manner in which the problem must be solved; includes a discussion of limitation and constraints that must be considered
- ***Solution***—provides a detailed description of the solution proposed for the problem
- ***Intent***—describes the pattern and what it does
- ***Collaborations***—describes how other patterns contribute to the solution
- ***Consequences***—describes the potential trade-offs that must be considered when the pattern is implemented and the consequences of using the pattern
- ***Implementation***—identifies special issues that should be considered when implementing the pattern
- ***Known uses***—provides examples of actual uses of the design pattern in real applications
- ***Related patterns***—cross-references related design patterns

# Pattern Languages

- A *pattern language* encompasses a collection of patterns
  - each described using a standardized template (Section 12.1.3) and
  - interrelated to show how these patterns collaborate to solve problems across an application domain.
- a pattern language is analogous to a hypertext instruction manual for problem solving in a specific application domain.
  - The problem domain under consideration is first described hierarchically, beginning with broad design problems associated with the domain and then refining each of the broad problems into lower levels of abstraction.

# Design Tasks

- Examine the requirements model and develop a problem hierarchy.
- Determine if a reliable pattern language has been developed for the problem domain.
- Beginning with a broad problem, determine whether one or more architectural patterns are available for it.
- Using the collaborations provided for the architectural pattern, examine subsystem or component level problems and search for appropriate patterns to address them.
- Repeat steps 2 through 5 until all broad problems have been addressed.

# Common Design Mistakes

- Not enough time has been spent to understand the underlying problem, its context and forces, and as a consequence, you select a pattern that looks right, but is inappropriate for the solution required.
- Once the wrong pattern is selected, you refuse to see your error and force fit the pattern.
- In other cases, the problem has forces that are not considered by the pattern you've chosen, resulting in a poor or erroneous fit.
- Sometimes a pattern is applied too literally and the required adaptations for your problem space are not implemented.

# Design Granularity

- **Architectural patterns.** This level of abstraction will typically relate to patterns that define the overall structure of the WebApp, indicate the relationships among different components or increments, and define the rules for specifying relationships among the elements (pages, packages, components, subsystems) of the architecture.
- **Design patterns.** These address a specific element of the design such as an aggregation of components to solve some design problem, relationships among elements on a page, or the mechanisms for effecting component to component communication. An example might be the *Broadsheet* pattern for the layout of a WebApp homepage.
- **Component patterns.** This level of abstraction relates to individual small-scale elements of a WebApp. Examples include individual interaction elements (e.g. radio buttons, text books), navigation items (e.g. how might you format links?) or functional elements (e.g. specific algorithms).

# Architectural Patterns

- Example: every house (and every architectural style for houses) employs a **Kitchen** pattern.
- The **Kitchen** pattern and patterns it collaborates with address problems associated with the storage and preparation of food, the tools required to accomplish these tasks, and rules for placement of these tools relative to workflow in the room.
- In addition, the pattern might address problems associated with counter tops, lighting, wall switches, a central island, flooring, and so on.
- Obviously, there is more than a single design for a kitchen, often dictated by the context and system of forces. But every design can be conceived within the context of the 'solution' suggested by the **Kitchen** pattern.

# User Interface (UI) Patterns

- **Whole UI.** Provide design guidance for top-level structure and navigation throughout the entire interface.
- **Page layout.** Address the general organization of pages (for Websites) or distinct screen displays (for interactive applications)
- **Forms and input.** Consider a variety of design techniques for completing form-level input.
- **Tables.** Provide design guidance for creating and manipulating tabular data of all kinds.
- **Direct data manipulation.** Address data editing, modification, and transformation.
- **Navigation.** Assist the user in navigating through hierarchical menus, Web pages, and interactive display screens.
- **Searching.** Enable content-specific searches through information maintained within a Web site or contained by persistent data stores that are accessible via an interactive application.
- **Page elements.** Implement specific elements of a Web page or display screen.
- **E-commerce.** Specific to Web sites, these patterns implement recurring elements of e-commerce applications.

# WebApp Patterns

- **Information architecture patterns** relate to the overall structure of the information space, and the ways in which users will interact with the information.
- **Navigation patterns** define navigation link structures, such as hierarchies, rings, tours, and so on.
- **Interaction patterns** contribute to the design of the user interface. Patterns in this category address how the interface informs the user of the consequences of a specific action; how a user expands content based on usage context and user desires; how to best describe the destination that is implied by a link; how to inform the user about the status of an on-going interaction, and interface related issues.
- **Presentation patterns** assist in the presentation of content as it is presented to the user via the interface. Patterns in this category address how to organize user interface control functions for better usability; how to show the relationship between an interface action and the content objects it affects, and how to establish effective content hierarchies.
- **Functional patterns** define the workflows, behaviors, processing, communications, and other algorithmic elements within a WebApp.

# Pattern Repositories

- http://hillside.net/patterns/
- http://c2.com/ppr/index.html
- http://www.hcipatterns.org/patterns
- http://www.time-tripper.com/uipatterns/
- http://developer.yahoo.com/ypatterns/
- http://webpatterns.org/

# Gang of Four: Design Patterns

- Erich Gamma, John Vlissides, Richard Helm, Ralph Johnson, "**Design Patterns**"
  - Seminal work in exploiting 'already-invented' computing solutions
  - Example patterns include: Singleton, Factory, Iterator, Composite, Template, and Adapter patterns
  - See PDF in the slides directory:
- http://mathcs.emory.edu/~cs584000/slides/designpatternscard.pdf

- **Head First Design Patterns** by Freeman & Freeman
  - Concretizes the concepts with both practical and amusing examples
  - Quizzes and solutions for each pattern type
  - Example Java code
  - Highly readable