

Designing with Inheritance and Polymorphism



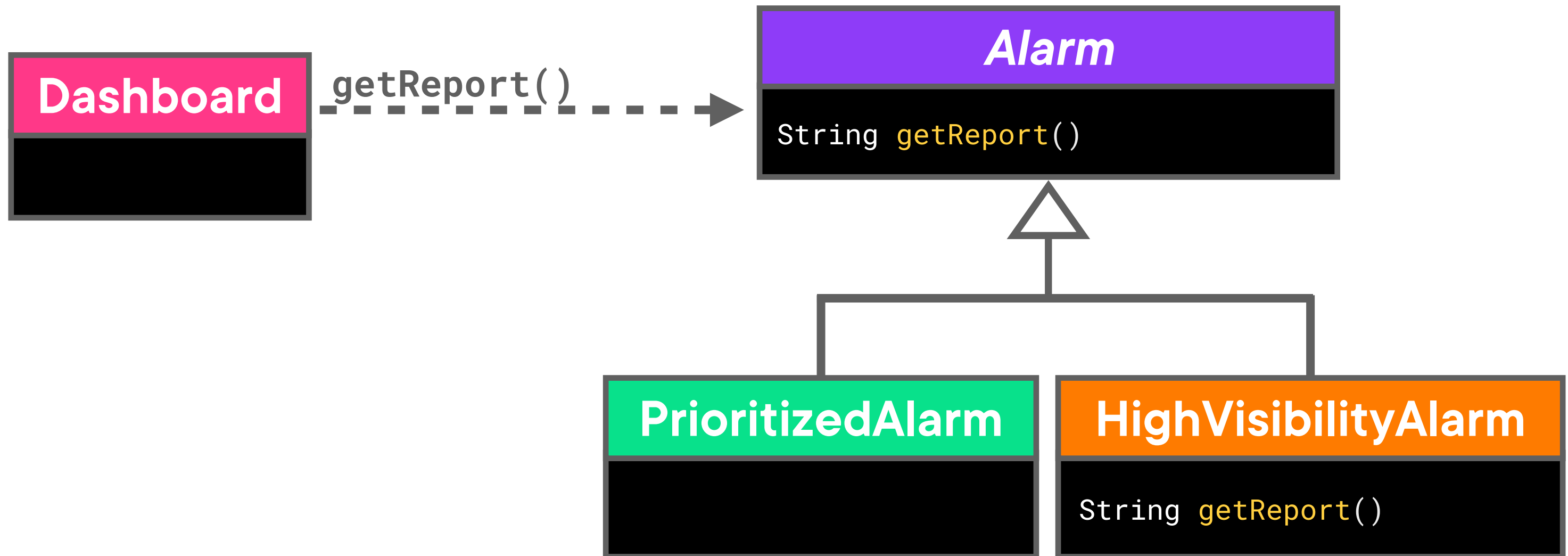
Paolo Perrotta

Developer, Author

@nusco | www.paoloperrotta.com



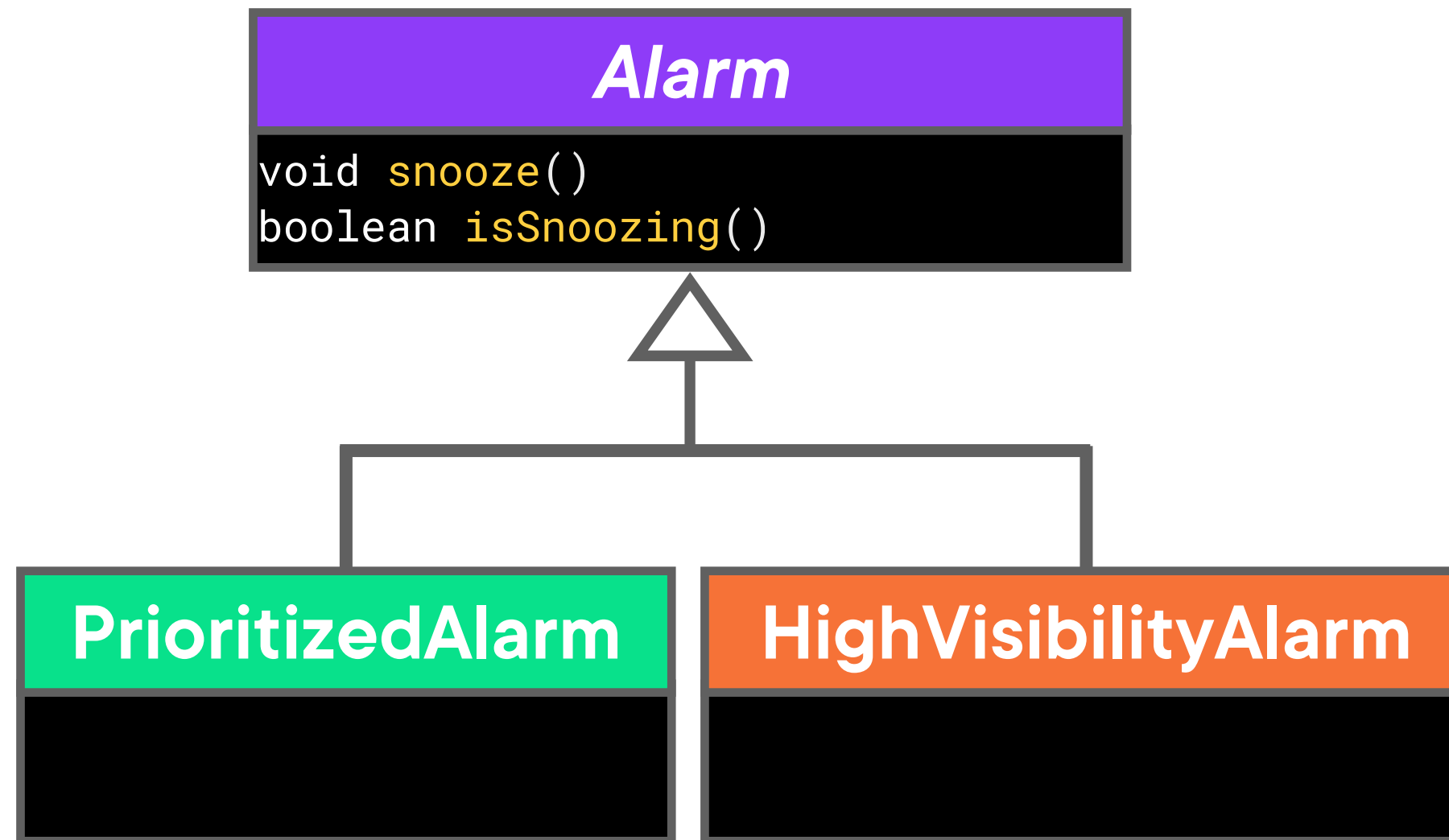
What Inheritance Is About



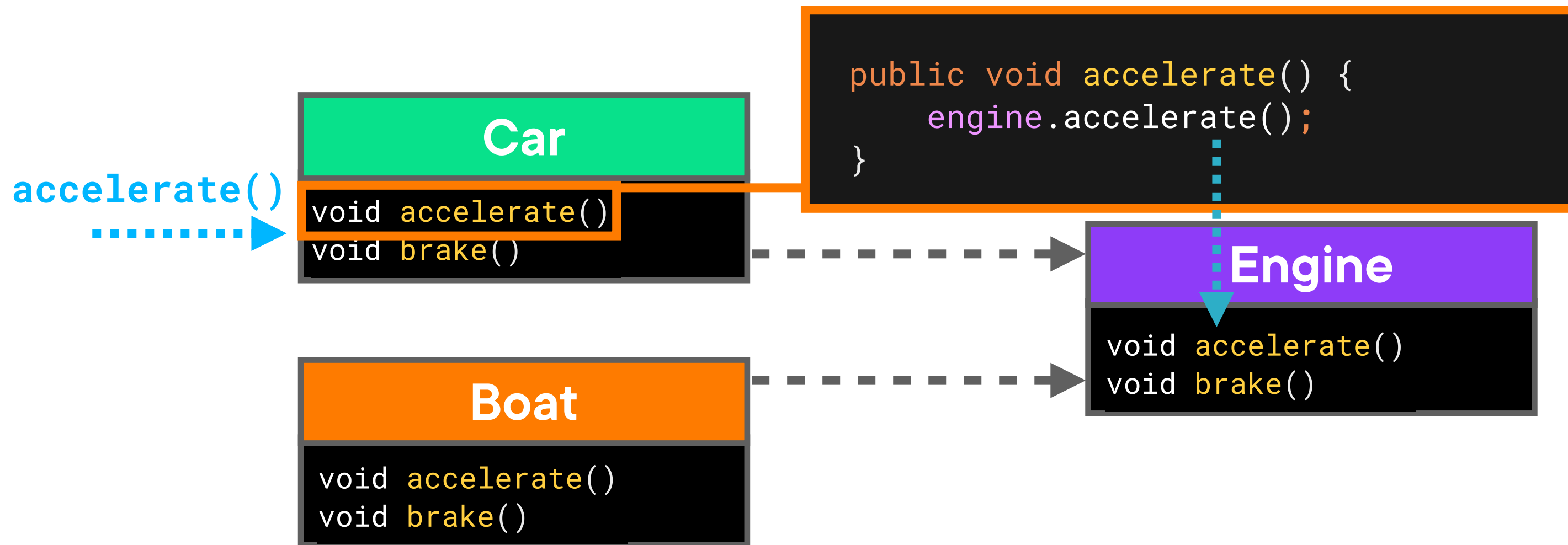
**Inheritance is (mostly) about
upcasting.**



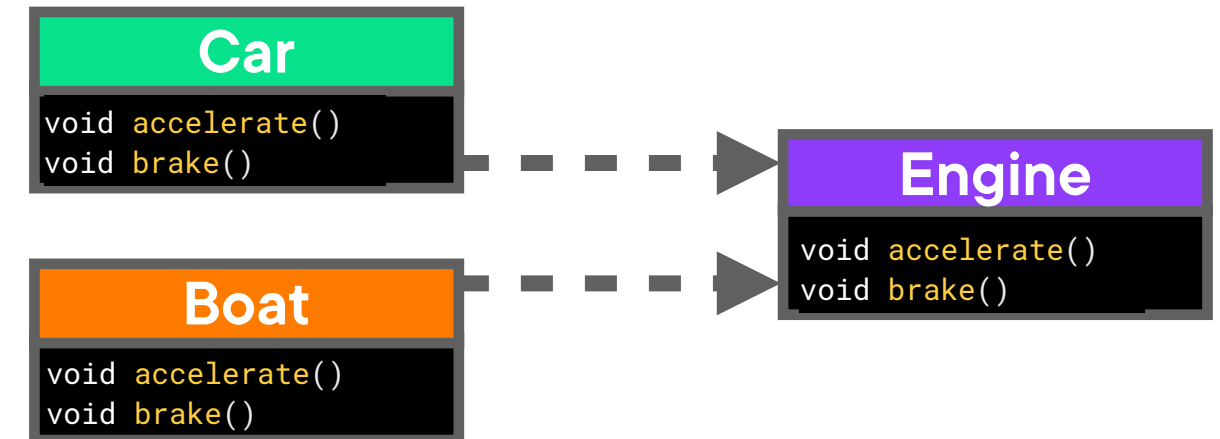
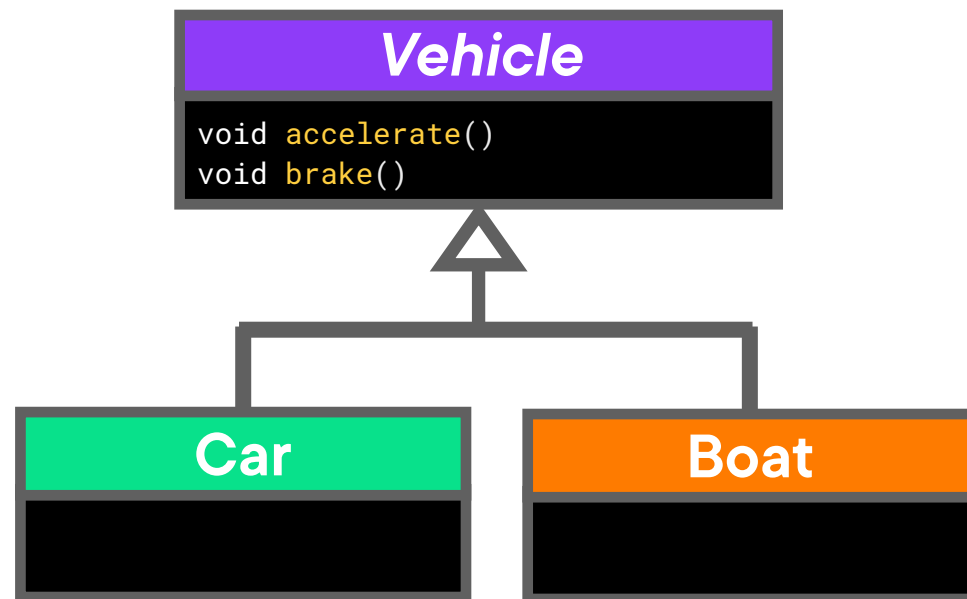
Using Inheritance to Share Code



Another Way to Share Code: Delegation



Inheritance vs. Delegation



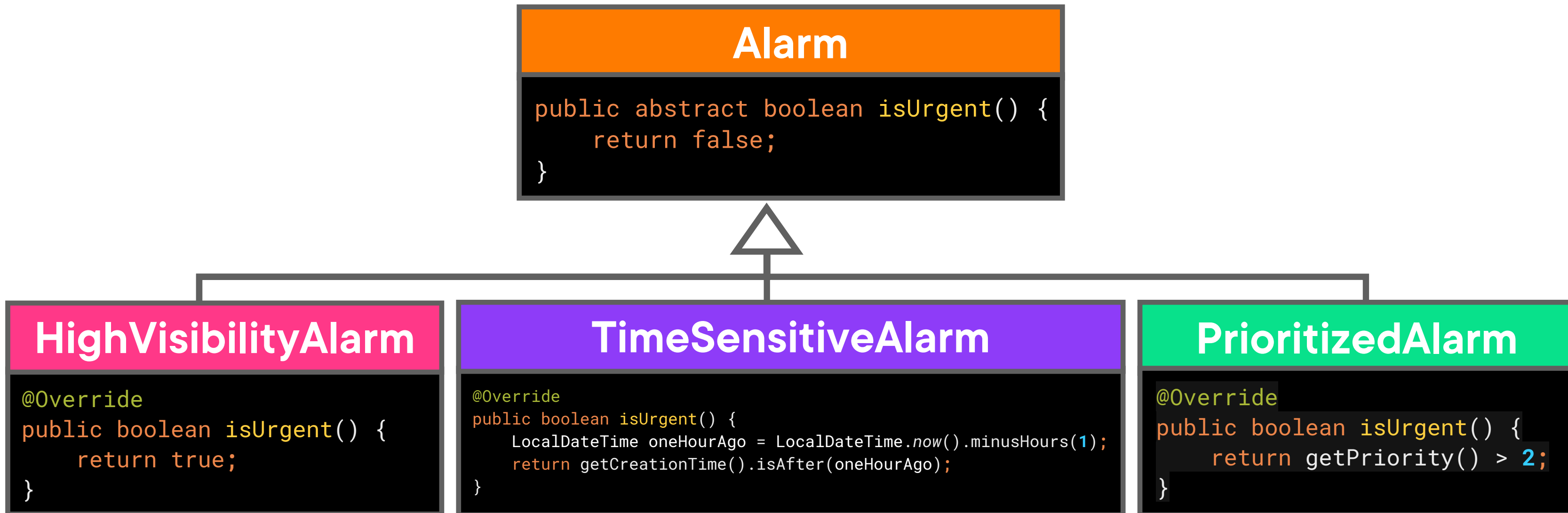
Switching on Type



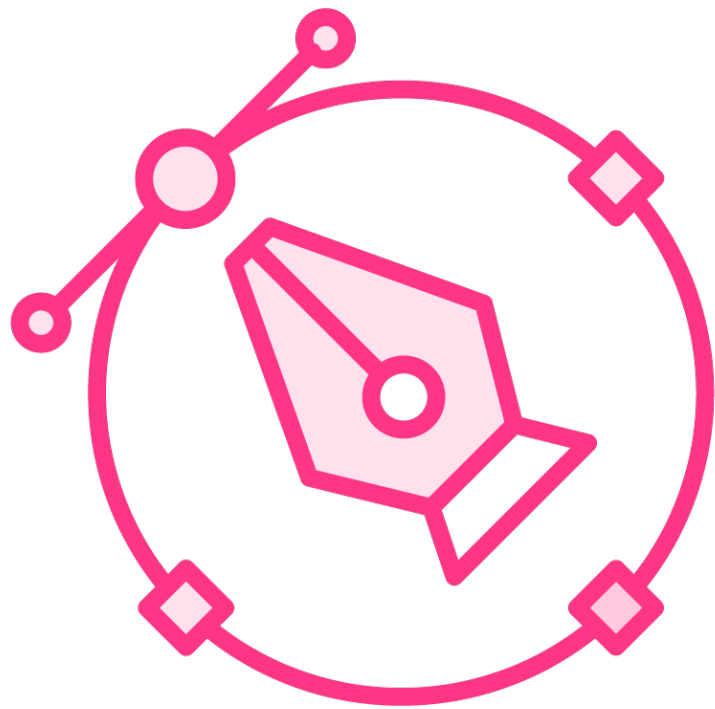
```
public static boolean isAlarmUrgent(Alarm alarm) {  
    if (alarm instanceof PrioritizedAlarm) {  
        PrioritizedAlarm prioritizedAlarm = (PrioritizedAlarm)alarm;  
        return prioritizedAlarm.getPriority() > 2;  
    } else if (alarm instanceof HighVisibilityAlarm) {  
        return true;  
    } else if (alarm instanceof TimeSensitiveAlarm) {  
        TimeSensitiveAlarm timeSensitiveAlarm = (TimeSensitiveAlarm)alarm;  
        LocalDateTime oneHourAgo = LocalDateTime.now().minusHours(1);  
        return timeSensitiveAlarm.getCreationTime().isAfter(oneHourAgo);  
    } else  
        return false;  
}
```



Replacing Switches on Type with Polymorphism



Two Design Guidelines



Use inheritance when you want to upcast

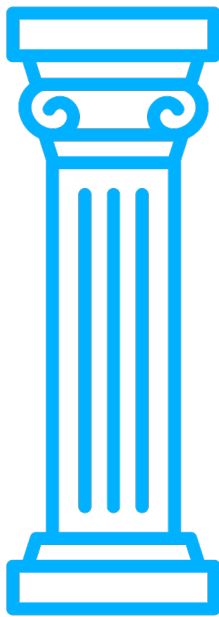
- That's what inheritance is about
- If you want to share code, consider delegation

Don't switch on type

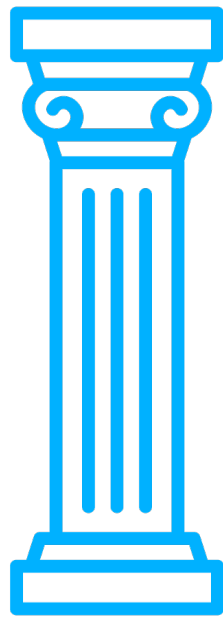
- Avoid chains of *instanceof* and downcasts
- Use polymorphism instead



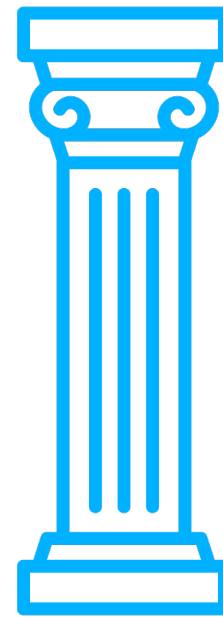
The Pillars of OOP



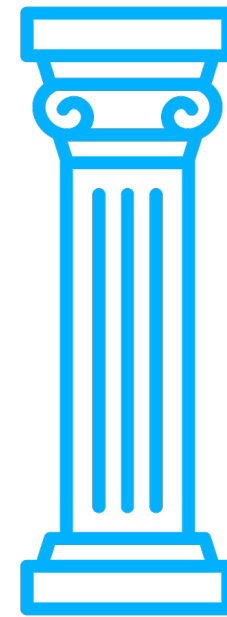
Abstraction



Encapsulation



Inheritance



Polymorphism



Up Next:

Using the *static* Keyword

