The **Prototype pattern** is a creational pattern based on **cloning a pre-configured object**. The idea is that you **pick an object that is configured for either the default or in the ballpark of some specific use case** and then you **clone this object and configure it to your exact needs**.

The pattern is useful to remove a bunch of boilerplate code when the configuration required would be onerous. I think of **Prototypes as a preset object**, where you **save a bunch of states as a new starting point**.

