



Encapsulation

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## Encapsulation

**Encapsulation** is the grouping together of data and logic into a single unit. In object-oriented programming, classes encapsulate data and functions that operate on that data.

This can be a delicate balance, because on the one hand we want to group together relevant data and functions, but on the hand we want to **limit member functions to only those functions that need direct access to the representation of a class**.

In the context of a Date class, a function Date Tomorrow(Date const & date) probably does not need to be encapsulated as a class member. It can exist outside the Date class.

However, a function that calculates the number of days in a month probably should be encapsulated with the class, because the class needs this function in order to operate correctly.

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