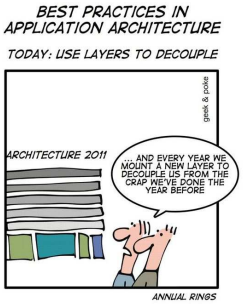


Software Design

www.cs.uoi.gr/~zarras/http://www.cs.uoi.gr/~zarras/se.htm

Slides material sources:

Software Engineering - Theory & Practice, S. L. Pfleeger

Introduction to Software Engineering, I. Sommerville

SWEBOK v3: IEEE Software Engineering Body of Knowledge

R.C. Martin, Agile Software Development, Principles, Patterns, and Practices, 2003

GoF, Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable OO Software, 1995

Design fundamentals

What is software design?

What is software design?

In the general sense, **design** can be viewed as a form of a problem solving process.

In the case of software the input of the design process is the requirements.

What are the basic steps of the design process?

What are the basic steps of the design process?

Architectural design (also referred to as high level design and top-level design) describes how software is organized into components.

Detailed design describes the desired behavior of these components.

What is the outcome of the design process?

What is the outcome of the design process?

The output of these two processes is a set of models and artifacts that record the major decisions that have been taken, along with an explanation of the rationale for each nontrivial decision.

By recording the rationale, long-term maintainability of the software product is enhanced..

What makes a good design?

Modularity & Decomposition

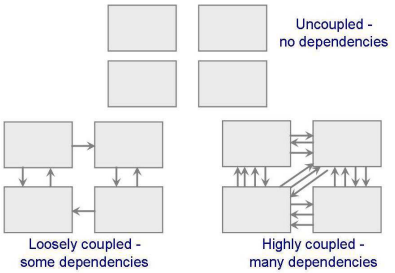
Decomposing and modularizing means that large software is divided into a number of smaller named components having well-defined interfaces that describe component interactions.

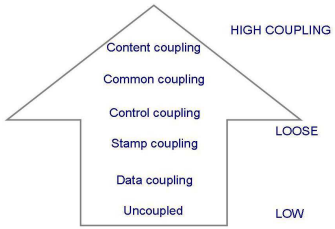
Usually the goal is to place different functionalities and responsibilities in different components.

What makes a good split?

Low coupling

Coupling is a measure of the interdependence among components in a computer program.

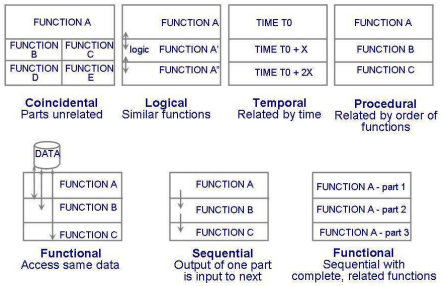


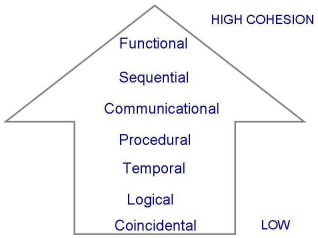


W. P. Stevens, G. J. Myers and L. L. Constantine, Structured design, *IBM Systems Journal*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 115-139, 1974.

High cohesion

Cohesion is a measure of the strength of association of the elements within a component.





W. P. Stevens, G. J. Myers and L. L. Constantine, Structured design, *IBM Systems Journal*, vol. 13, no. 2, pp. 115-139, 1974.

Abstraction, encapsulation & information hiding

Abstraction is generally defined as a view of an object that focuses on the information relevant to a particular purpose and ignores the remainder of the information.

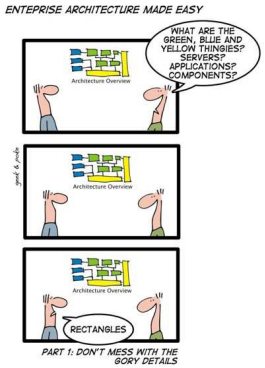
Encapsulation *and* ***information hiding*** *means* grouping and packaging the internal details of an abstraction and making those details inaccessible to external entities.

D. L. Parnas, On the Criteria To Be Used in Decomposing Systems into Modules. *Communications of the ACM*. 15 (12): 1053–58, 1972.

Software Structure & Architecture

What do we mean by software architecture?

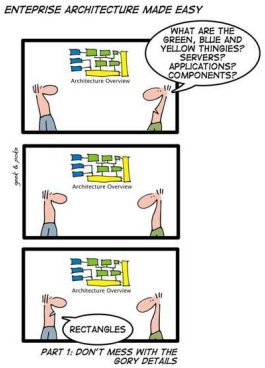
What do we mean by software architecture?



In its strict sense, a **software architecture** is the set of structures needed to reason about the system, which comprise software elements, relations among them, and properties of both.

P. Clements et al., Documenting Software Architectures: Views and Beyond, Pearson, 2010

What do we mean by software architecture?



During the mid-1990s, however, software architecture **emerged** as **a broader discipline** that involved the study of software structures and architectures in a more generic way.

This gave rise to a number of interesting concepts about software design at different levels of abstraction.

Some of these concepts can be useful during the architectural design (**architectural styles**) as well as during the detailed design (**design patterns**).

Interestingly, most of these **concepts** can be seen as attempts to **describe**, and thus **reuse**, **design knowledge.**

Architectural Styles

What do we mean by architectural style?

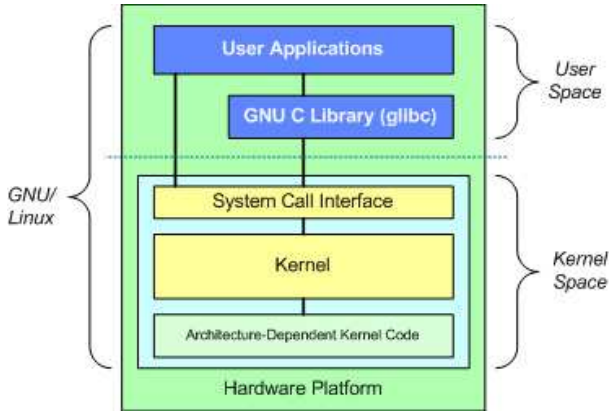
What do we mean by architectural style?

An architectural style determines the vocabulary of components (elements) and connectors (relations) that can be used in instances (architectures) of that style), together with a set of constraints on how they can be combined.

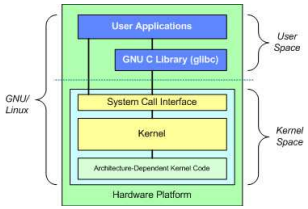
D. Garlan and M. Shaw, An Introduction to Software Architecture, Advances in Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, Volume I , 1993

Which are the major architectural styles?

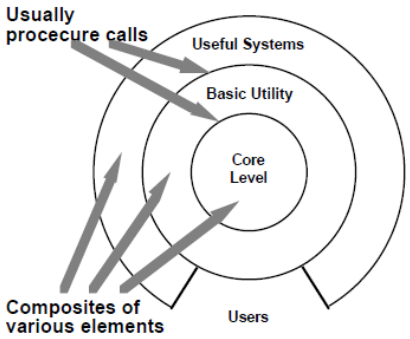
Architectural styles



Architectural styles



Layered architectures



D. Garlan and M. Shaw, An Introduction to Software Architecture, Advances in Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, Volume I , 1993

Architectural styles

```
$ls -l | grep "Aug"

-rw-rw-rw- 1 john doc 11008 Aug 6 14:10 ch02
-rw-rw-rw- 1 john doc 8515 Aug 6 15:30 ch07
-rw-rw-r-- 1 john doc 2488 Aug 15 10:51 intro
-rw-rw-r-- 1 carol doc 1605 Aug 23 07:35 macros $
```

```
$ls -l | grep "Aug" | sort +4n | more

-rw-rw-r-- 1 carol doc 1605 Aug 23 07:35 macros
-rw-rw-r-- 1 john doc 2488 Aug 15 10:51 intro
-rw-rw-rw- 1 john doc 8515 Aug 6 15:30 ch07
-rw-rw-r-- 1 john doc 14827 Aug 9 12:40 ch03 . . .
-rw-rw-rw- 1 john doc 16867 Aug 6 15:56 ch05

--More--(74%)
```

Architectural styles


```
$ls -l | grep "Aug"

-rw-rw-rw- 1 john doc 11008 Aug 6 14:10 ch02
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-rw-rw-rw- 1 john doc 16867 Aug 6 15:56 ch05

--More--(74%)
```
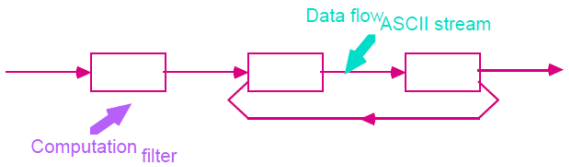
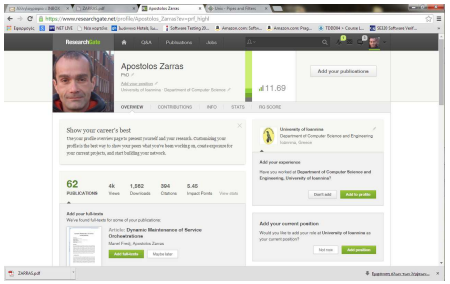


Pipes and filters



D. Garlan and M. Shaw, An Introduction to Software Architecture, Advances in Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, Volume I , 1993

Architectural styles



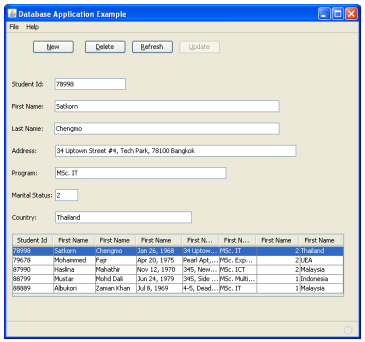
Social networking sites
like ResearchGate Linkedin for professionals and researchers to share papers, ask and answer questions, and find collaborators

People create their profile
People can follow other people

Anyone is an **event producer**
- publication updates
- profile updates
- questions raised

Followers are **event consumers**
- an update to someone you follow results in notifications sent to the followers

Architectural styles



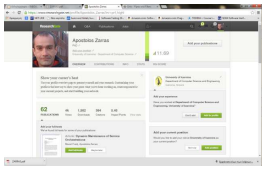
GUI development toolkits

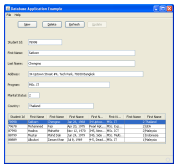
Widgets produce events.

Application objects handle/consume events.

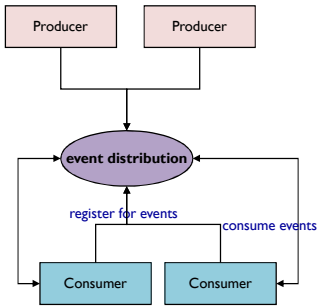
What do these cases have in common ???

Architectural styles





Implicit invocation / event based



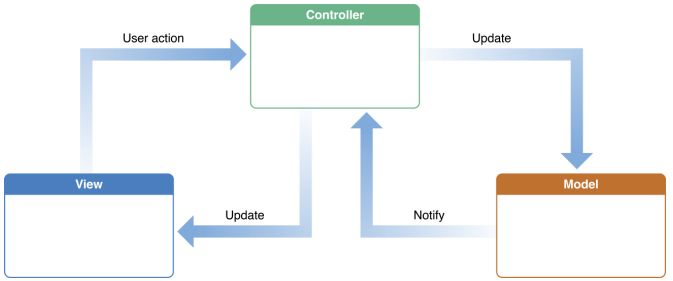
D. Garlan and M. Shaw, An Introduction to Software Architecture, Advances in Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, Volume I , 1993

Architectural styles

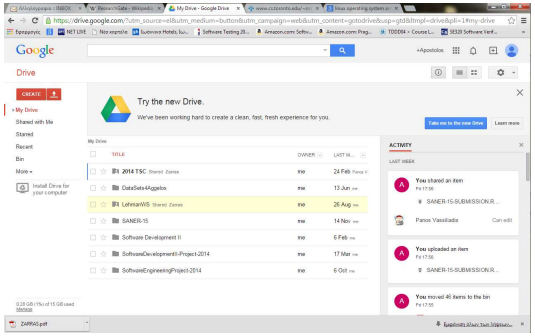
Model – View – Controller (MVC)

MVC consists of three kinds of objects. The **Model** is the application objects, the **View** is its screen presentation, and the **Controller** defines the way the user interface reacts to user input.

Before MVC, user interface designs tended to lump these objects together. MVC **decouples** them to **increase flexibility** and **reuse**.

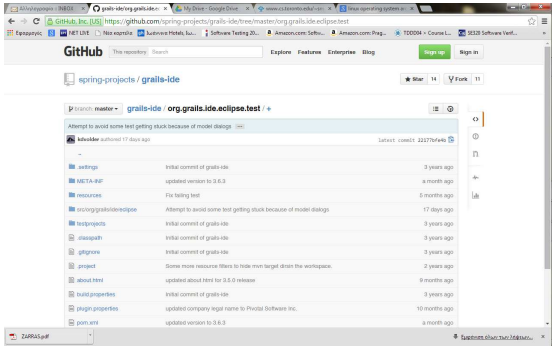


Architectural styles



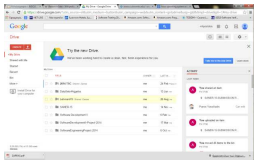
Google Drive is a file storage and synchronization service which enables user cloud storage, file sharing and collaborative editing.

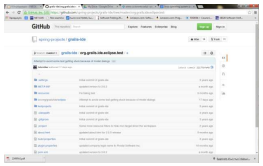
Architectural styles



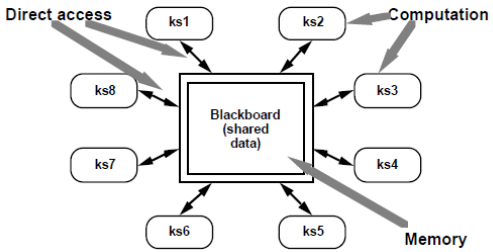
Software repositories like GitHub, SourceForge

Architectural styles





Blackboard/repository



D. Garlan and M. Shaw, An Introduction to Software Architecture, Advances in Software Engineering and Knowledge Engineering, Volume I , 1993

Design patterns

For practical examples on this section see the eclipse projects in the materials zip file

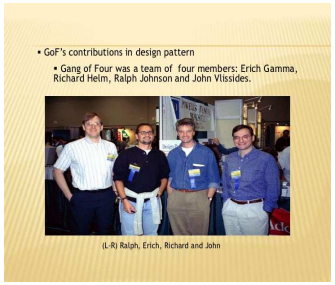
What do we mean by design pattern?

What do we mean by design pattern?

Christopher Alexander says,

"Each **pattern** describes a problem which 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 this solution a million times over, without ever doing it the same way twice"

What do we mean by design pattern?



GoF say:

The **design patterns** are descriptions of communicating objects and classes that are customized to solve a **general design problem** in a particular context.

Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable Object Oriented Software," Gamma, Helm, Johnson, Vlissides, Addison-Wesley, 1995

Classification of GoF patterns

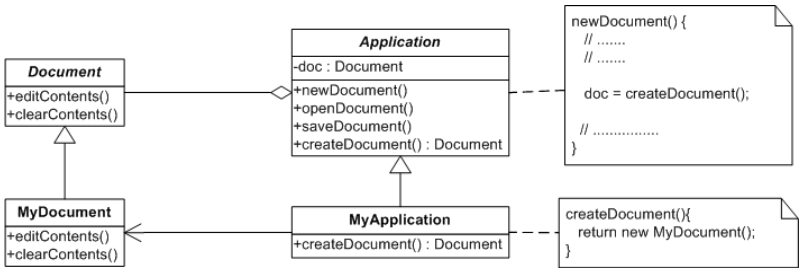
Creational	Structural	Behavioral
Factory Method	Adapter	Interpreter
Abstract Factory	Bridge	Template Method
Builder	Composite	Chain of Responsibility
Prototype	Decorator	Command
Singleton	Flyweight	Iterator
	Facade	Mediator
	Proxy	Memento
		Observer
		State
		Strategy
		Visitor

Common creational patterns

Factory Method (& Parameterized Factory Variant)

Factory Method

Motivation



Factory Method

Intent

Factory Method lets a class **defer instantiation of the objects it needs to its subclasses**.

Applicability

Use the Factory Method pattern when

- a class can't anticipate the class of objects it must create.
- a class wants its subclasses to specify the objects it creates.

Factory Method

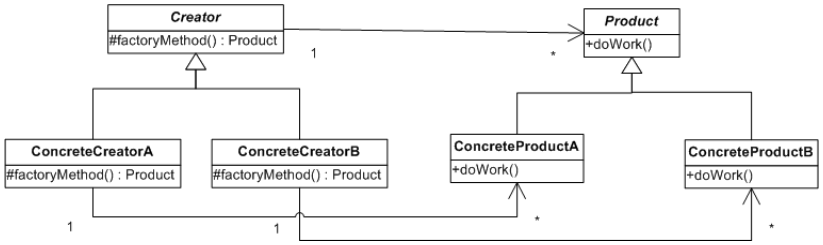
Structure

Product (Document) defines the interface of objects the factory method creates.

ConcreteProduct (MyDocument) implements the Product interface.

Creator (Application) declares the factory method, which returns an object of type Product; may call the factory method to create a Product object.

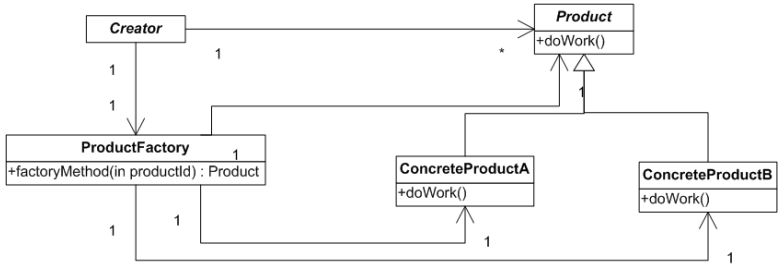
ConcreteCreator (MyApplication) overrides the factory method to return an instance of a ConcreteProduct.



Parameterized Factory

Structure

Parameterized factory.Another variation on the pattern lets the factory method create multiple kinds of products.The factory method takes a parameter that identifies the kind of object to create.

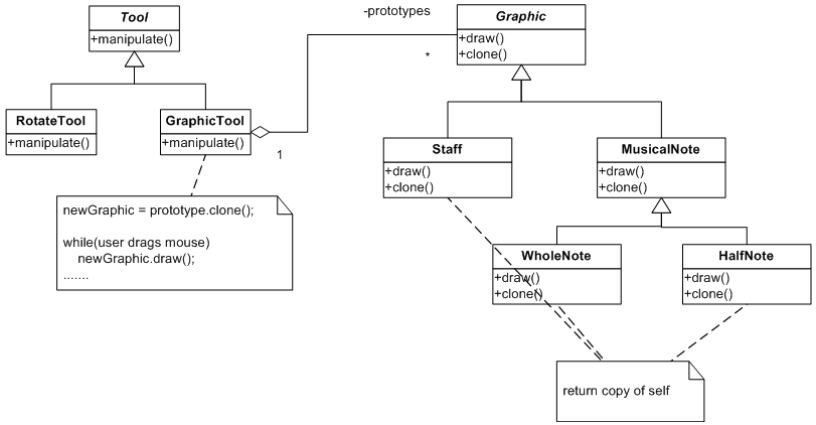


Prototype

Prototype

Motivation To realize the tools…

To realize the graphic elements…



Prototype

Intent

Specify the kinds of objects to create using a prototypical instance, and create new objects by copying this prototype.

Applicability

- As an alternative to **parameterized factories** or **factory methods** to avoid building a class hierarchy of factories that parallels the class hierarchy of products; or
- when instances of a class can have one of only a few different **combinations of state**. It may be convenient (e.g. to avoid complex conditional logic) to install a corresponding number of prototypes and clone them; or
- when the classes/objects to instantiate are specified at run-time/dynamically, while the application is running (see Java reflection or serialization for instance….).

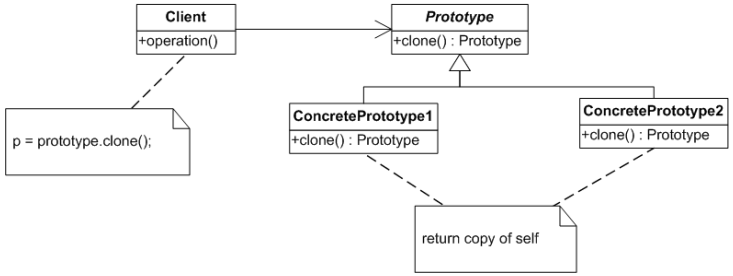
Prototype

Structure

Prototype (Graphic) declares an interface for cloning itself.

ConcretePrototype (Staff, WholeNote, HalfNote) implements an operation for cloning itself.

Client (GraphicTool) creates a new object by asking a prototype to clone itself.



Singleton

Singleton

Motivation

It's important for some classes to have exactly one instance.

Although there can be many printers in a system, there should be only one printer spooler.

There should be only one file system and one window manager.

An accounting system will be dedicated to serving one company.

How do we ensure that a class has only one instance and that the instance is easily accessible?

A nice solution is to make the class itself responsible for keeping track of its sole instance.

Singleton

Intent

Ensure a class only has **one instance**, and provide a **global point of access** to it.

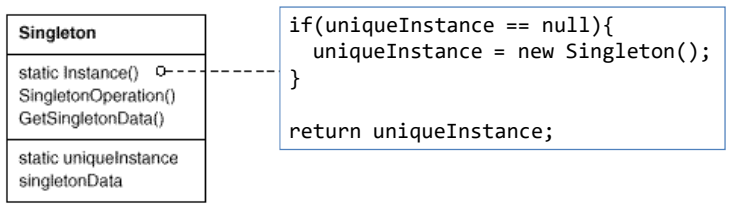
Applicability

Use the Singleton pattern when

- there must be exactly one instance of a class, and it must be accessible to clients from a well-known access point

Singleton

Structure

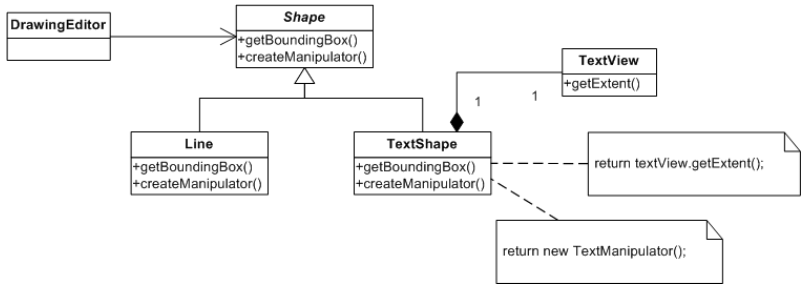


Common structural patterns

Adapter

Adapter

Motivation



Adapter

Intent

Convert the **interface** of a **class** into **another interface clients expect**. Adapter lets classes work together that couldn't otherwise because of **incompatible interfaces**.

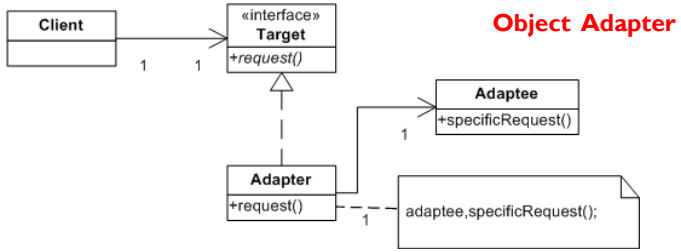
Applicability

- you want to **use an existing class**, and its interface does not match the one you need
- you want to create a **reusable class** that cooperates with unrelated or unforeseen classes, that is, classes that don't necessarily have compatible interfaces.

Adapter

Structure

Object Adapter



Target (Shape) defines the domain-specific interface that Client uses.

Client (DrawingEditor) collaborates with objects conforming to the Target interface.

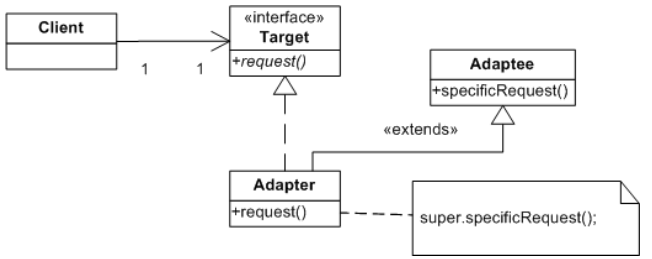
Adaptee (TextView) defines an existing interface that needs adapting.

Adapter (TextShape) adapts the interface of Adaptee to the Target interface.

Adapter

Structure

Class Adapter



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Client (DrawingEditor) collaborates with objects conforming to the Target interface.

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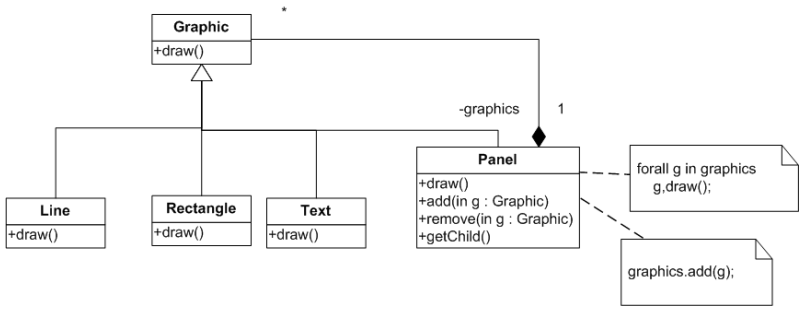
Composite

Composite

Motivation

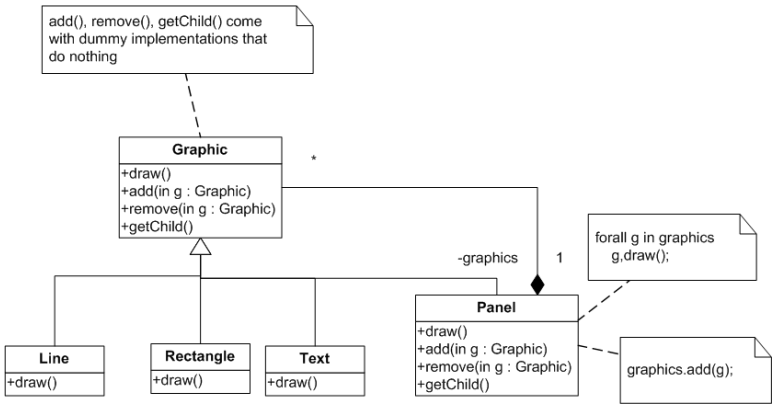
To realize the graphics….



Composite

Motivation

We can maximize the common interface of primitive and composite objects….



Composite

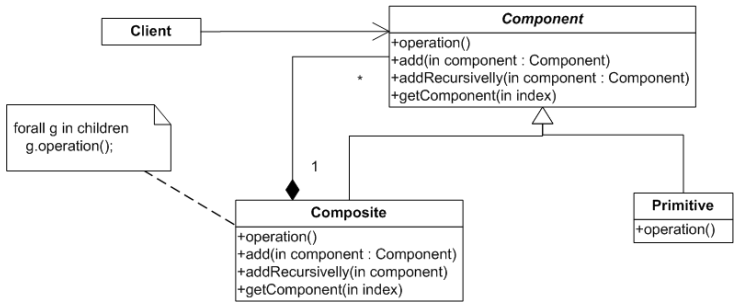
Intent

Compose objects into **structures** to represent **part-whole hierarchies**. Composite lets **clients treat** individual **objects** and **compositions** of objects **uniformly**.

Applicability

- you want to **represent part-whole hierarchies of objects**
- you want **clients** to be able to **ignore** the **difference** between compositions of objects and individual objects. Clients will treat all objects in the composite structure uniformly

Composite



Structure

Component (Graphic) declares the interface for objects in the composition; implements default behavior for the interface common to all classes.

Primitive (Rectangle, Line, Text, etc.) represents leaf objects in the composition.

Composite (Picture) defines behavior for components having children.

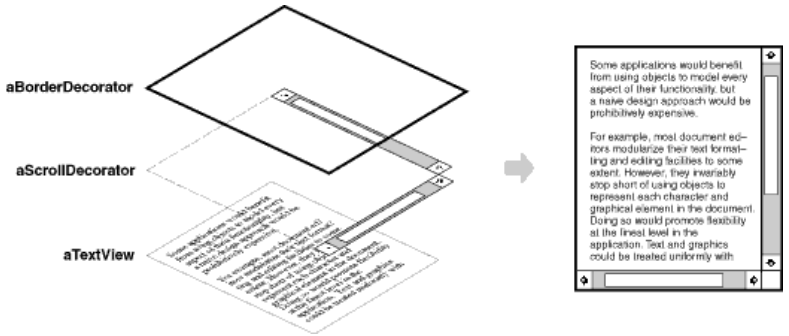
Client manipulates objects in the composition through the Component interface.

Decorator

Decorator

Motivation

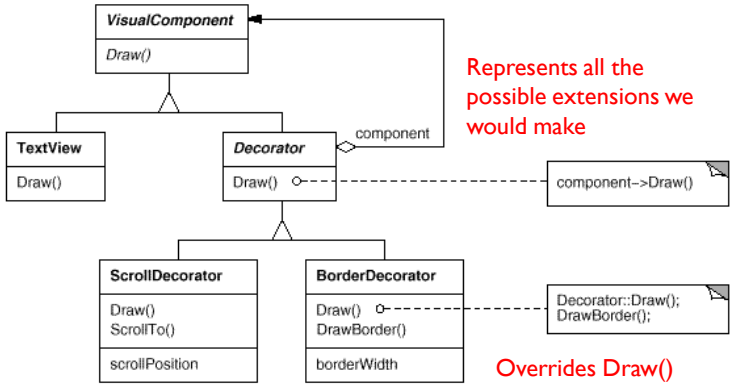
Inheritance is static: from the moment you create an object you cannot add/remove Functionalities/features



With inheritance cannot add functionalities dynamically – after the object creation

Decorator

Motivation



Represents all the possible extensions we would make

Overrides Draw() to realize the extended functionality

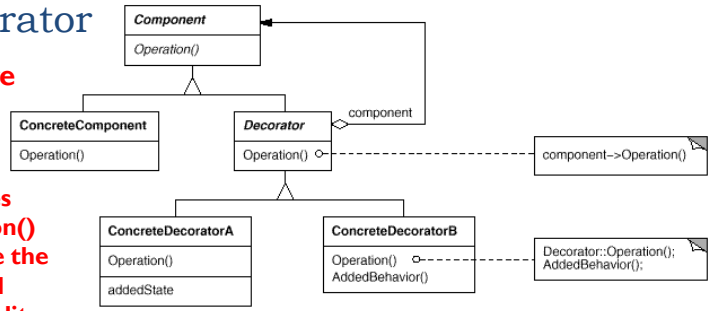
Decorator

Intent
Decorators provide a flexible **alternative to subclassing** for extending functionality.

Applicability
- to add responsibilities to individual objects dynamically.
- when extension by subclassing is impractical. Sometimes a large number of independent extensions are possible and would produce an explosion of subclasses to support every combination.
- When a class definition may be hidden or otherwise unavailable for subclassing.

Decorator

Structure



Overrides Operation() to realize the extended functionality

Component (VisualComponent) defines the interface for objects that can have responsibilities added to them dynamically.

ConcreteComponent (TextView) defines a class of objects to which additional responsibilities can be attached.

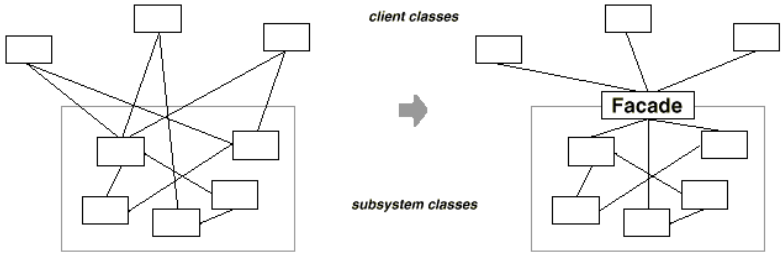
Decorator maintains a reference to a Component object and defines an interface that conforms to Component's interface.

ConcreteDecorator (BorderDecorator, ScrollDecorator) adds responsibilities to the component.

Façade

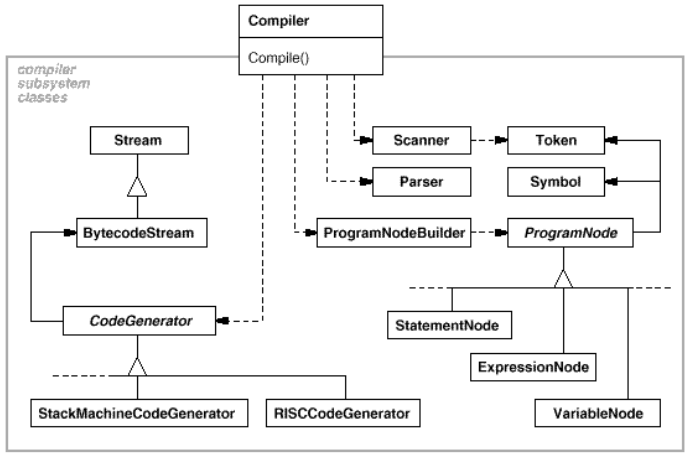
Façade

Motivation



Façade

Motivation



Façade

Intent

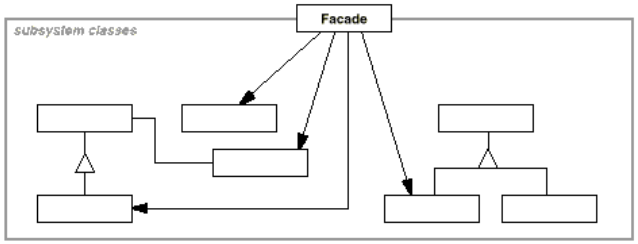
Provide **a unified interface** to a set of interfaces in a **subsystem**. Facade defines a **higher-level interface** that makes the subsystem **easier to use**.

Applicability

- you want to provide a simple interface to a complex subsystem.
- there are many dependencies between clients and the implementation classes of a subsystem.
- you want to layer your subsystems.

Façade

Structure



Facade (Compiler) knows which subsystem classes are responsible for a request. Delegates client requests to appropriate subsystem objects.

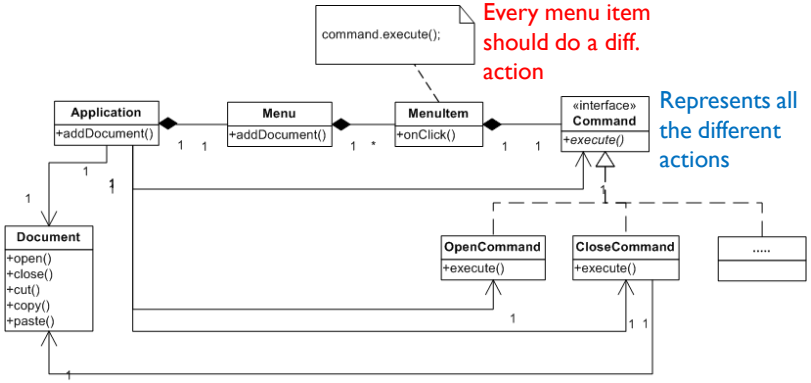
Subsystem classes (Scanner, Parser, ProgramNode, etc.)
implement subsystem functionality.
handle work assigned by the Facade object.
have no knowledge of the facade; that is, they keep no references to it.

Common behavioral patterns

Command

Command

Motivation



Command

Intent

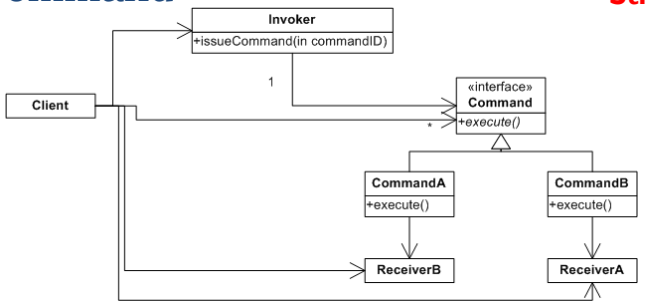
Encapsulate a action as an object, thereby letting you parameterize clients with different actions, queue or log actions, and support undoable/redoable actions.

Applicability

- Structure a system around high-level operations built on primitive operations.
- Parameterize objects by an action to perform.
- Specify, queue, and execute requests at different times.
- Log changes so that they can be reapplied in case of a system crash.

Command

Structure



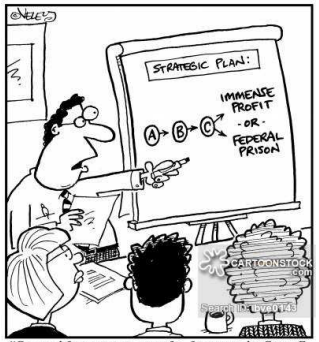
Command declares an interface for executing an action.

ConcreteCommand (PasteCommand, OpenCommand) defines a binding between a Receiver object and an action. implements Execute by invoking the corresponding operation(s) on Receiver.

Client (Application) creates a ConcreteCommand object and sets its receiver.

Invoker (MenuItem) asks the command to carry out the request.

Receiver (Document, Application) knows how to perform the operations associated with carrying out a request. Any class may serve as a Receiver.

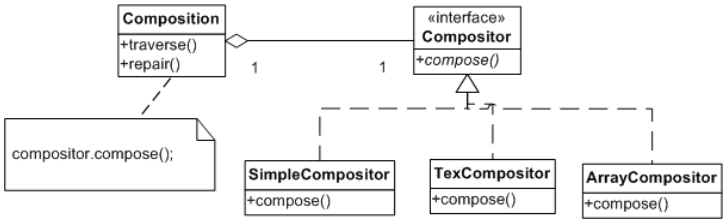


"Stay with me now, people, because in Step C, things get a bit delicate."

Strategy

Strategy

Motivation



Strategy

Intent

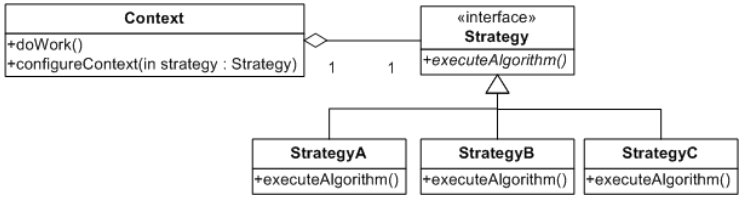
Define a **family of algorithms**, encapsulate each one, and make them interchangeable. Strategy **lets the algorithm** vary independently from clients that use it.

Applicability

- many related classes differ only in their behavior - strategies provide a way to **configure a class** with **one** of **many behaviors**
- a class defines **many behaviors**, and these appear as **multiple conditional statements** in its operations - instead of many conditionals, move related conditional branches into their own Strategy class

Strategy

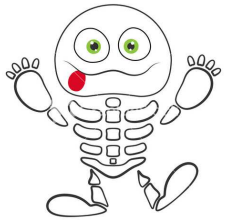
Structure



Strategy (Compositor) declares an interface common to all supported algorithms. Context uses this interface to call the algorithm defined by a ConcreteStrategy.

ConcreteStrategy (SimpleCompositor,TeXCompositor, ArrayCompositor) implements the algorithm using the Strategy interface.

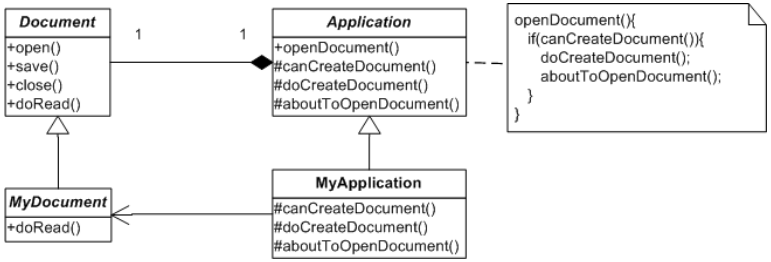
Context (Composition) is **configured** with a ConcreteStrategy object. Maintains a reference to a Strategy object. May define an interface that lets Strategy access its data.



Template Method

Template Method

Motivation



Template Method

Intent

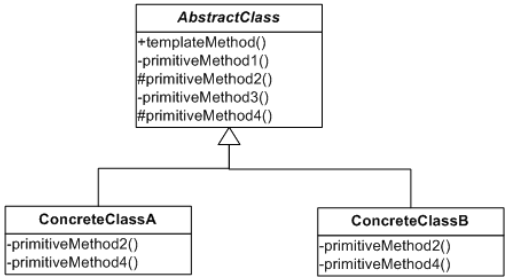
Define the **skeleton** of an **algorithm** in an operation, deferring some steps to subclasses. Template Method lets subclasses redefine certain steps of an algorithm without changing the algorithm's structure.

Applicability

- to implement the invariant parts of an algorithm once and leave it up to subclasses to implement the behavior that can vary
- when common behavior among subclasses should be factored to **avoid code duplication**.

Template Method

Structure



AbstractClass (Application) defines abstract **primitive operations that concrete subclasses** define to implement steps of an algorithm.

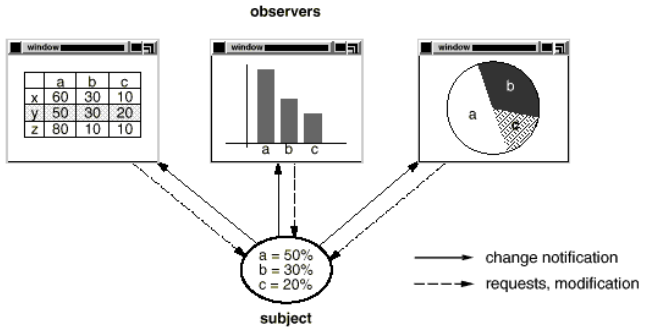
Implements a template method defining the skeleton of an algorithm. The template method calls primitive operations as well as operations defined in AbstractClass or those of other objects.

ConcreteClass (MyApplication) implements the primitive operations to carry out subclass-specific steps of the algorithm.

Observer

Observer

Motivation



Observer

Intent

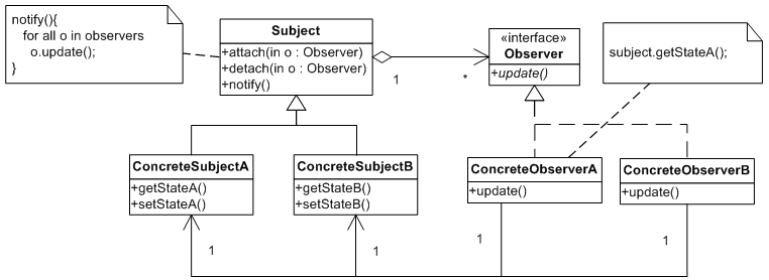
Define a one-to-many association between objects so that when one object changes state, all its dependents are notified and updated automatically.

Applicability

- When a change to one object requires changing others, and you don't know how many objects need to be changed
- When an object should be able to notify other objects without making assumptions about the classes of these objects.

Observer

Structure



Subject knows its observers. Any number of Observer objects may observe a Subject Provides an interface for attaching and detaching Observer objects.
Observer defines an updating interface for objects that should be notified of changes in a subject.
ConcreteSubject stores state of interest to ConcreteObserver objects. Sends a notification to its observers when its state changes.
ConcreteObserver maintains a reference to a ConcreteSubject object. Stores state that should stay consistent with the subject's. Implements the Observer updating interface to keep its state consistent with the subject's.

Software design quality

How do we assess the quality of a software design?

Software design quality

"...And that, in simple terms, is what's wrong with your software design."

Software design **reviews**, informal or formal techniques, to determine the quality of design artifacts.

Software **metrics** to quantify the assessment.

The CK metrics suite is a well known set of metrics for OO software.

Coupling

Coupling Between Object classes (CBO) [Chidamber & Kemerer]

CBO(A) = number of classes used by A (inheritance is typically not counted)

Coupling Factor (COF) [Abreu, Esteves, Goulao]

S = {c1, c2, ….cN}

COF(S) = Sum (isClient(ci, cj))/ (N*(N-1))

isClient : S*S → {0, 1}

isClient(ci, cj)) = 1 if ci uses cj else isClient(ci, cj)) = 0

```
class Controller {
    private boolean alarm;
    private Bell b;
    private Light l;

    public Controller(Bell ab, Light al){
     alarm = false;
     b = ab;
     l = al;
    }
    public void alarmSignal(){
     alarm = true;
    }
    public void cancelAlarm(){
     alarm = false;
     System.out.println("False alarm !!");
    }
    …….
}
```

```
class Controller {
    private boolean alarm;
    private Bell b;
    private Light l;
    …….
    public void confirmAlarm (){
     if (alarm == true) {
         if(b != null) b.ring();
         if(l!=null) l.open();
         alarm = false;
     } else
         System.out.println("False alarm !!");
    }
    public void stopAlarm(){
      if(b != null) b.stop();
      if(l!=null) l.close();
    }
}
```

CBO(Controller) = 2
COF(Controller, Bell, Light) = (2+0+0)/(3*2) = 0.33

Cohesion

Lack of Cohesion of Methods (LCOM)

LCOM [Chidamber & Kemerer]

Q set contains the pairs of class methods that use common attributes

P set contains the pairs of class methods that don't use common attributes

LCOM(x) = |P| – |Q| αv |P| > |Q|,

LCOM(x) = 0 αv |P| <= |Q|

```
public class Rectangle {
    private double x;
    private double y;
    private double width;
    private double height;

    public Rectangle(double ax, double ay,
                     double aWidth, double aHeight){
     x = ax;
     y = ay;
     width = aWidth;
     height = aHeight;
    }

    ……..
}
```

```
public class Rectangle {
    ……..

    public void draw(){
     System.out.println("Drawing Rectangle at : (" +
        x + "," + y +
        ") with width = " + width + " height = " + height);
     // drawing code ....
    }

    public double calculateArea(){
     return width * height;
    }
}
```

Q = 3, P = 0 => LCOM = 0

Cohesion

LCOM2(x) = 1 – Sum(ma_i)/(m*a) **[Henderson-Sellers, Constantine, Graham]**

m = number of methods

a = number of attributes

ma_i = number of methods that use a_i, i=1, …, a

maximum of ma_i is m

LCOM2 the smaller the better…..

LCOM2 = 1 ?

LCOM2 = 0 ?

```
public class Rectangle {
    private double x;
    private double y;
    private double width;
    private double height;

    public Rectangle(double ax, double ay,
                     double aWidth, double aHeight){
     x = ax;
     y = ay;
     width = aWidth;
     height = aHeight;
    }

    ……
}
```

```
public class Rectangle {
    ……..

    public void draw(){
     System.out.println("Drawing Rectangle at : (" +
        x + "," + y +
        ") with width = " + width + " height = " + height);
     // drawing code ....
    }

    public double calculateArea(){
     return width * height;
    }
}
```

m = 3, a = 4
ma_x = 2
ma_y = 2
ma_{width} = 3
ma_{height} = 3

LCOM2 = 1 – 10/12 = 1/6 = 0.166

Cohesion

LCOM3 = (m - Sum(ma_i)/a) / (m – 1) **[Henderson-Sellers, Constantine, Graham]**
the smaller the better…..
= 0 perfect
= 1 bad
> 1 dead attributes

LCOM3 = 0 ??
why dead attributes if LCOM3 > 1 ?

```
public class Rectangle {
    private double x;
    private double y;
    private double width;
    private double height;

    public Rectangle(double ax, double ay,
                     double aWidth, double aHeight){
     x = ax;
     y = ay;
     width = aWidth;
     height = aHeight;
    }

    ……
}
```

```
public class Rectangle {
    ……..

    public void draw(){
     System.out.println("Drawing Rectangle at : (" +
        x + "," + y +
        ") with width = " + width + " height = " + height);
     // drawing code ....
    }

    public double calculateArea(){
     return width * height;
    }
}
```

m = 3, a = 4
ma_x = 2
ma_y = 2
ma_{width} = 3
ma_{height} = 3

LCOM3 = (3-10/4)/(3-1) = 0.25

Class complexity

Weighted Methods per Class (WMC) [Chidamber & Kemerer]

WMC(A) = Sum(Ci), i=1,.. N methods

Ci = method i complexity

➔ Ci can be measured in various ways:
- Lines of Code (LOC)
- McCabe (number of conditions +1)
  - if, for, while → 1 condition
  - Switch ➔ transform to if conditions first because it depends on how switch is implemented…

```
class Controller {
    private boolean alarm;
    private Bell b;
    private Light l;

    public Controller(Bell ab, Light al){
     alarm = false;
     b = ab;
     l = al;
    }
    public void alarmSignal(){
     alarm = true;
    }
    public void cancelAlarm(){
     alarm = false;
     System.out.println("False alarm !!");
    }
    …….
}
```

```
class Controller {
    private boolean alarm;
    private Bell b;
    private Light l;
    …….
    public void confirmAlarm (){
     if (alarm == true) {
         if(b != null) b.ring();
         if(l!=null) l.open();
         alarm = false;
     } else
         System.out.println("False alarm !!");
    }
    public void stopAlarm(){
      if(b != null) b.stop();
      if(l!=null) l.close();
    }
}
```

McCabe version of WMC(Controller) = 10

Class complexity

Request For a Class (RFC) [Chidamber & Kemerer]

RFC(A) = M + R

M = number of class methods

R = number of methods called by the class methods (with each method counts once if called multiple times

➔ Usually we only count methods of the same project – we do not consider standard API calls and so on.

```
class Controller {
    private boolean alarm;
    private Bell b;
    private Light l;

    public Controller(Bell ab, Light al){
     alarm = false;
     b = ab;
     l = al;
    }
    public void alarmSignal(){
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    }
    public void cancelAlarm(){
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     System.out.println("False alarm !!");
    }
    ……..
}
```

```
class Controller {
    private boolean alarm;
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    ……..
    public void confirmAlarm (){
     if (alarm == true) {
         if(b != null) b.ring();
         if(l!=null) l.open();
         alarm = false;
     } else
         System.out.println("False alarm !!");
    }
    public void stopAlarm(){
      if(b != null) b.stop();
      if(l!=null) l.close();
    }
}
```

RFC(Controller) = 5 + 4

Reuse vs complexity

Depth of Inheritance Tree (DIT) **[Chidamber & Kemerer]**

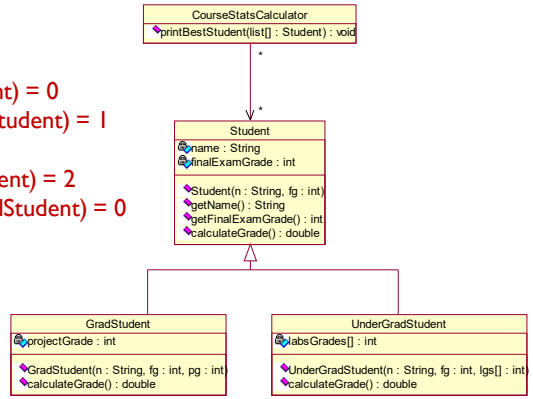
DIT(A) = depth of A in the tree

Number of Children (NOC) **[Chidamber & Kemerer]**

NOC(A) = number of subclasses A has

DIT(Student) = 0
DIT(GradStudent) = 1

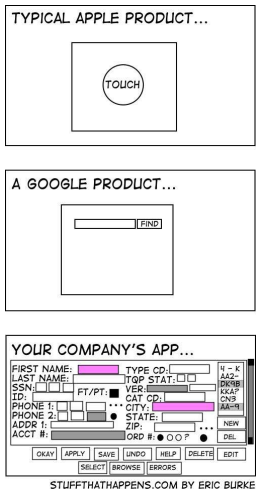
NOC(Student) = 2
NOC(GradStudent) = 0



User interface design

What are the fundamental UI design principles?

UI design principles



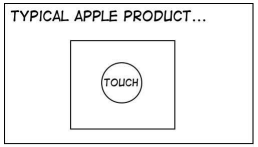
Learnability.
The software should be easy to learn so that the user can rapidly start working with the software.

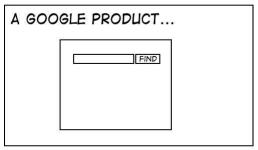
User familiarity.
The interface should use terms and concepts drawn from the experiences of the people who will use the software.

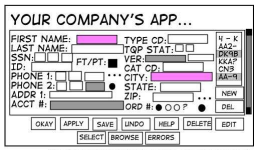
Consistency.
The interface should be consistent so that comparable operations are activated in the same way.

Minimal surprise.
The behavior of software should not surprise users.

UI modalities







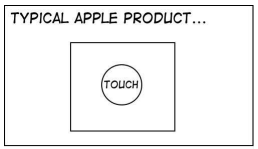
Recoverability.
The interface should provide mechanisms allowing users to recover from errors.

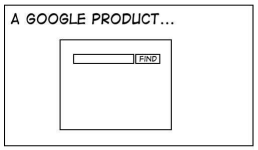
User guidance.
The interface should give meaningful feedback when errors occur and provide context-related help to users.

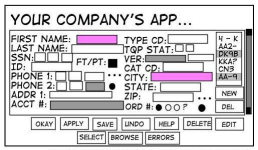
User diversity.
The interface should provide appropriate interaction mechanisms for diverse types of users and for users with different capabilities (blind, poor eyesight, deaf, colorblind, etc.).

How should the user interact with the software?

UI modalities







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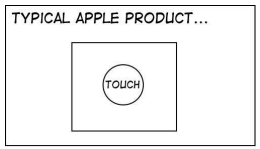
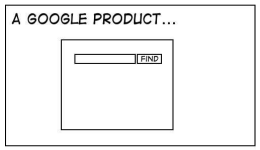
Question-answer.
The interaction is essentially restricted to a single question-answer exchange between the user and the software.

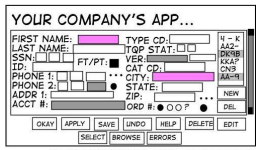
Direct manipulation.
Users interact with objects on the computer screen. Direct manipulation often includes a pointing device (such as a mouse, trackball, or a finger on touch screens) that manipulates an object and invokes actions that specify what is to be done with that object.

Menu selection.
The user selects a command from a menu list of commands.

UI modalities







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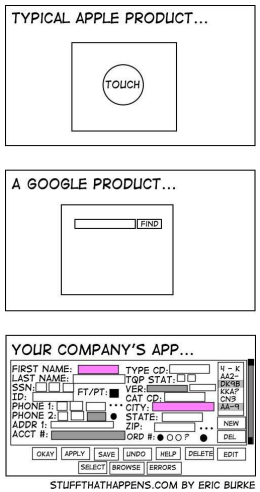
Form fill-in.
The user fills in the fields of a form. Sometimes fields include menus, in which case the form has action buttons for the user to initiate action.

Command language.
The user issues a command and provides related parameters to direct the software what to do.

Natural language.
The user issues a command in natural language. That is, the natural language is a front end to a command language and is parsed and translated into software commands.

How should information from the software be presented to the user?

UI information presentation



Limit the number of colors used.

Use color change to show the change of software status.

Use color-coding to support the user's task.

Use color-coding in a thoughtful and consistent way.

Use colors to facilitate access for people with color blindness or color deficiency (e.g., use the change of color saturation and color brightness, try to avoid green and red combinations).

Don't depend on color alone to convey important information to users with different capabilities.