Design Patterns

David Talby

This Lecture

- Re-routing method calls
  - Chain of Responsibility
- Coding partial algorithms
  - Template Method
- The Singleton Pattern
- Patterns Summary

16. Chain of Responsibility

- Decouple the sender and receiver of a message, and give more than one receiver a chance to handle it
- For example, a context-sensitive help system returns help on the object currently in focus
- Or its parent if it has no help
- Recursively

The Requirements

- Allow calling for context-sensitive help from any graphical object
- If the object can't handle the request (it doesn't include help), it knows where to forward it
- The set of possible handlers is defined and changed dynamically

The Solution

- Define a *HelpHandler* base class:

```
class HelpHandler
{
   handleHelp() {
     if (successor != NULL)
       successor->handleHelp();
   }
   HelpHandler* successor = NULL;
}
```

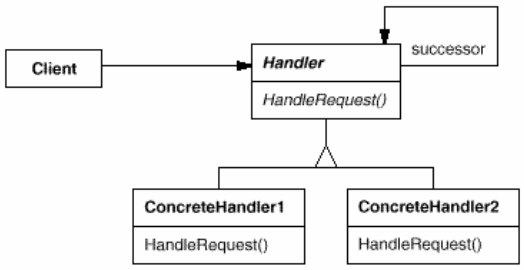
The Solution II

- Class *Graphic* inherits *HelpHandler*
- Graphic descendants that have help to show redefine *handleHelp*:

```
handleHelp() {
   ShowMessage("Buy upgrade");
}
```

- Either the root *Graphic* object or *HelpHandler* itself can redefine *handleHelp* to show a default

The UML



The Fine Print

- Receipt isn't guaranteed
- Usually parents initialize the successor of an item upon creation
  - To themselves or their successor
- The kind of request doesn't have to be hard-coded:

```
class Handler {
   handle(Request* request) {
     // rest as before
```

Known Uses

- Context-sensitive help
- Messages in a multi-protocol network service
- Handling user events in a user interface framework
- Updating contained objects/queries in a displayed document

19. Template Method

- Define the skeleton of an algorithm and let subclasses complete it
- For example, a generic binary tree class or sort algorithm cannot be fully implemented until a comparison operator is defined
- How do we implement everything except the missing part?

The Requirements

- Code once all parts of an algorithm that can be reused
- Let clients fill in the gaps

The Solution

- Code the skeleton in a class where only the missing parts are abstract:

```
class BinaryTree<G>
{
   void add(G* item) {
     if (compare(item, root))
        // usual logic
   }
   int compare(G* g1, G* g2) = 0;
}
```

The Solution II

- Useful for defining comparable objects in general:

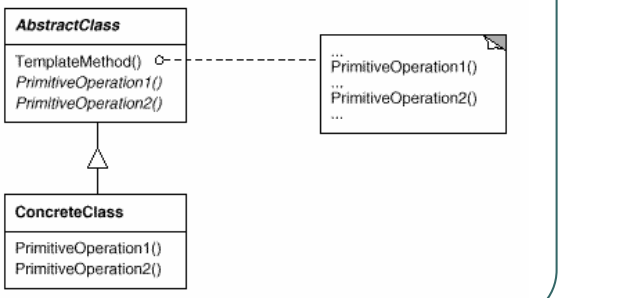
```
class Comparable
{
   operator <(Comparable x) = 0;
   operator >=(Comparable x) {
     return !(this < x);
   }
   operator >(Comparable x) {
     return !(this < x) &&
            !(this == x);
   }
}
```

The Solution III

- A very common pattern:

```
class HelpHandler
{
   handleHelp() {
     if (successor != NULL)
       successor->handleHelp();
   }
   HelpHandler* successor = NULL;
}
```

The UML



The Fine Print

- The template method is public, but the ones it calls should be protected
- The called methods can be declared with an empty implementation if this is a common default
- This template can be replaced by passing the missing function as a template parameter
- Java sometimes requires more coding due to single inheritance

Known Uses

- So fundamental that it can be found almost anywhere
- Factory Method is a kind of template method specialized for creation

20. Singleton

- Ensure that only one instance of a class exists, and provide a global access point to it
- For example, ensure that there's one *WindowManager*, *FileManager* or *PrintSpooler* object in the system
- Desirable to encapsulate the instance and responsibility for its creation in the class

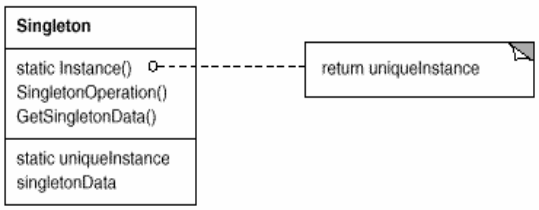
The Solution

- O-O languages support methods shared by all objects of a class
  - *static* in C++ and Java
  - *class methods* in SmallTalk, Delphi
- The singleton class has a reference to its single instance
- The instance has a getter method which initializes it on the first request
- The class's constructor is protected to prevent creating other instances

The Solution

```
class Spooler {
 public:
    static Spooler* instance() {
     if (_instance == NULL)
        _instance = new Spooler();
     return _instance;
    }
 protected:
    Spooler() { ... }
  private:
    static Spooler* _instance = 0;
}
```

The UML



The Fine Print

- Passing arguments for creation can be done with a *create(...)* method
- Making the constructor public makes it possible to create other instance except the "main" one
  - Not a recommended style
- *instance()* can manage concurrent access or manage a list of instances
- Access to singletons is often a bottleneck in concurrent systems

Known Uses

- Every system has singletons!
- *WindowManager*, *PrinterManager*, *FileManager*, *SecurityManager*, ...
- Class *Application* in a framework
- *Log* and error reporting classes
- With other design patterns

21. Bridge

- Separate an abstraction from its implementations
- For example, a program must run on several platforms
- An Entire Hierarchy of Interfaces must be supported on each platform
- Using Abstract Factory alone would result in a class per platform per interface – too many classes!

22. Interpreter

- Given a language, define a data structure for representing sentences along with an interpreter for it
- For example, a program must interpret code or form layout, or support search with regular expression and logical criteria
- *Not covered here*

23. Momento

- Without violating encapsulation, store an object's internal state so that it can be restored later
- For example, a program must store a simulation's data structures before a random or approximation action, and undo must be supported
- *Not covered here*

Patterns Summary

- O-O concepts are simple
  - Objects, Classes, Interfaces
  - Inheritance vs. Composition
- Open-Closed Principle
- Single Choice Principle
- Pattern of patterns

The Benefits of Patterns

- Finding the right classes
- Finding them faster
- Common design jargon
- Consistent format
- Coded infrastructures
- and above all:

  Pattern = Documented Experience