

# Design Patterns

Martin Kellogg

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Q2: **TRUE** or **FALSE**: the article on microservices quotes the following “Law”: “any organization that designs a system (defined broadly) will produce a design whose structure is a copy of the organization's communication structure”

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# Design Patterns

Today's agenda:

- **Strategies for good design**
- Examples of design patterns
  - Structural patterns
  - Creational patterns
  - Behavioural patterns

# Design

# “Architecture” vs “Design”

Development process



Requirements

Architecture

Design

Source Code



Level of Abstraction

**Definition:** *software design* is the structure or organization of a particular component of your system



# Design

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**Key goal:** design for **change** and **reuse**

- In class, many programs are written once, to a fixed specification, and then **thrown away**
- In industry, many programs are written once and then **modified** as requirements, customers, and developers change
- Many fundamental tenets of object-oriented design facilitate **subsequent change**
  - You may have seen these before, but now you are in a position to really appreciate the motivation!

Design: desiderata

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- Class implementations and their contracts can be tested separately (**unit testing**)

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Judicious delegation enables **code reuse**:

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- Comparators can be reused with arbitrary client code that needs to compare integers
- Reduce “cut and paste” code and defects

# Design for change: motivation

- Amazon.com processes millions of orders each year, selling in 75 countries, all 50 states, and thousands of cities worldwide.
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learn about some of the  
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like Amazon.com use to  
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This is called the **Liskov Substitution Principle**: “any subclass object should be safe to use in place of a superclass object at run time”

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- Then we should design our software so that **testing** is effective:
  - Design to admit testing
  - Design to admit fault injection
  - Design to admit coverage
  - Recognize “free test” opportunities

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  - “Package logical components of your application independently - literally as separate gems, eggs, RPMs, or whatever - and maintain them as internal open-source projects ... This approach combats the tightly-coupled spaghetti so often lurking in big codebases by giving everything the Right Place in which to exist.”

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  - This is one of the motivations behind **unit testing**
- Solution: design with **more entry points** for self-contained functionality (cf. AVL tree, priority queue, etc.)

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  - “If I create a world with blocks X, Y and Z and then we launch bird A at angle B, does C occur within five timesteps?”

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- Problem for both: Hardware, OS and Networking errors can occur **infrequently**, but you still want to test them
  - Must design for it! But how...?

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- Don't have your code call `fopen()` or `cout` or whatever directly
- Instead, add a very thin **level of indirection** where you call `my_fopen` which then calls `fopen`
- Later add “if `coin_flip()` then fail else ...” to that indirection layer to **inject faults** while testing
  - let the compiler optimize it away for your production code



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  - Design and write the code so that high code coverage **correlates** with high requirements coverage!

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- For example, consider a quality requirement: “finish X within Y time”
  - Add in “get the time”, “do X”, “get the time”, “subtract”, “if  $t_2 - t_1 < Y$  then ...”

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Today's agenda:

- Strategies for good design
- **Examples of design patterns**
  - Structural patterns
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- all patterns have *tradeoffs*. In OO languages, design patterns often trade *verbosity or efficiency* for *extensibility*
- we'll consider **structural**, **creational** and **behavioral** design patterns

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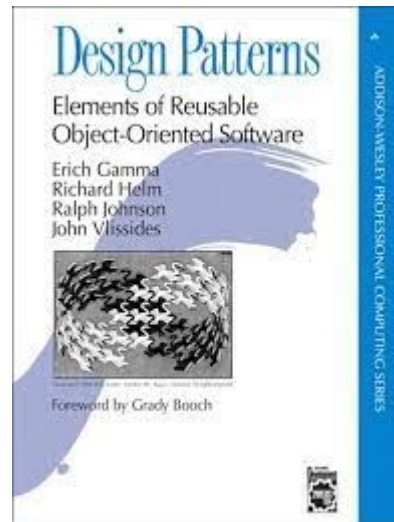
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- *The Design of Everyday Things* (Norman, 1988) argues that design is the **communication** between object and user
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Same ideas apply to software:

- design GUIs that people **intuitively** know how to use
- design code that other developers **intuitively** know how to read

# Design patterns: “gang of four”

- The book popularizing software design patterns is often called the “**Gang of Four**” book after its four authors
- I don’t care if you remember this, but it’ll be handy to know about (e.g., for interviews)



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- Consider your **requirements and their changes**
  - Use patterns that fit your current or anticipated needs.
- Consider **multiple designs**
  - Diagram your designs before writing code.



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  - Hide implementation details
  - Provide cleaner or more specialized interfaces



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- Examples:
  - Implementing a Stack interface using a LinkedList interface
  - Early implementations of fstream in C++
    - ... were simply adapters around the C FILE macro

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# Design patterns: other structural patterns

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  - e.g., selecting and moving objects in PowerPoint
- The **proxy design pattern** provides a surrogate or placeholder for another object to control access to it
  - e.g., `std::vector` exposes `std::vector::reference` as a method of accessing individual bits. In particular, objects of this class are returned by `operator[]` by value.

([https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/container/vector\\_bool](https://en.cppreference.com/w/cpp/container/vector_bool))

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  - Overcome language limitations (e.g., no default arguments)
  - Hide polymorphic types
  - Specify different combinations of optional arguments

# Design patterns: creational patterns

- **Creational design patterns** avoid complexity by controlling object creation so that objects are created in a consistent situation. They make a system **are created**.

Different creational patterns allow you to overcome these limitations of simple constructors
- A plain constructor **may not allow** you to:
  - Control how and when an object is used
  - Overcome language limitations (e.g., no default arguments)
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# Creational patterns: named constructor

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```
class Llama {  
public:  
    static Llama* create_llama(string name) {  
        return new Llama(name);  
    }  
private: // Making ctor private  
    Llama(string name_in): name(name_in) {}  
    string name;  
};
```

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```

Why might you do this?

- might want to change to Llama subclass later
- want to validate arguments from clients, but make construction fast internally
- etc.

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  - this is a specific variant of the named constructor pattern

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Payment * payment_factory(string name, string type) {  
    if (type == "credit_card")  
        return new CreditCardPayment(name);  
    else if (type == "bitcoin")  
        return new BitcoinPayment(name);  
    ... }
```

```
Payment * webapp_session_payment =  
    payment_factory(customer_name, "credit_card");
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# Creational patterns: factories

- The *factory method pattern* (or design pattern that uses factories without having the return type) Note how the implementation details are hidden from the client, and they can only treat the result as a **generic** payment

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# Creational patterns: factories

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```
class PaymentFactory {
public:
    static Payment* make_credit_payment(string name){
        return new CreditCardPayment(name);
    }
    static Payment* make_bc_payment(string name){
        return new BitcoinPayment(name);
    }
};

Payment * webapp_session_payment =
PaymentFactory::make_credit_payment(customer_name);
```

# Creational patterns: example

- Suppose we're implementing a computer game with a **polymorphic Enemy class hierarchy**, and we want to spawn **different versions** of enemies based on the difficulty level.

- e.g., normal difficulty = regular Goomba



- hard difficulty = spiked Goomba



# Creational patterns: example: anti-patterns

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Enemy* goomba = nullptr;  
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Why is this bad?

- code duplication
- consider how you'd add a new difficulty level...

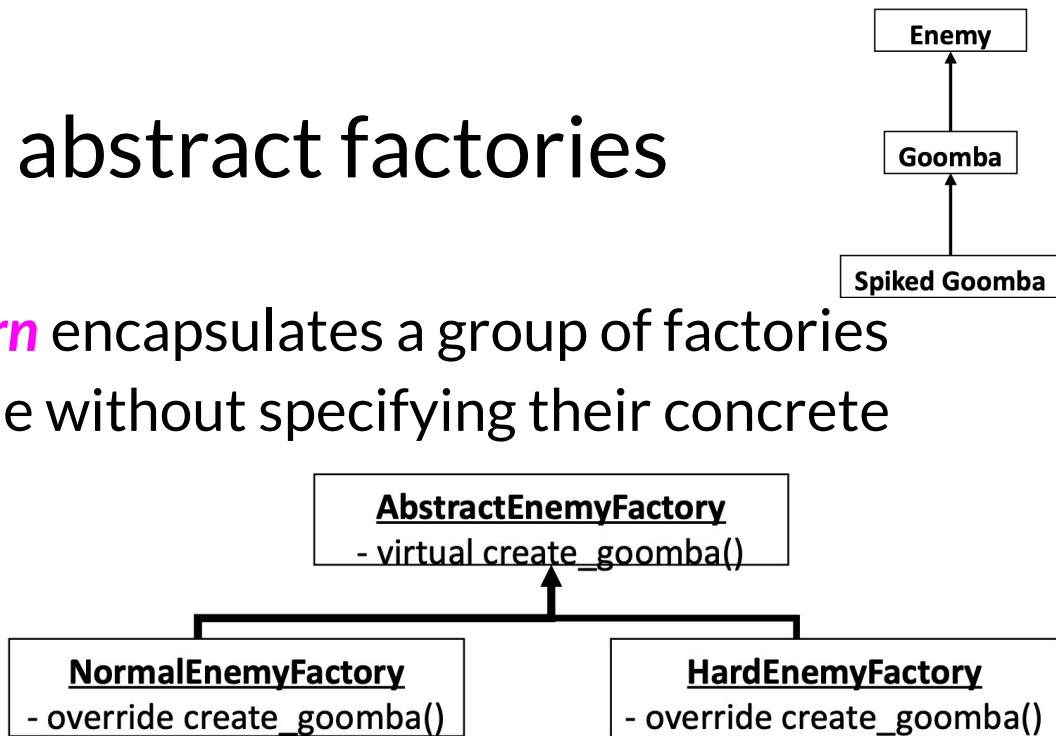


# Creational patterns: abstract factories

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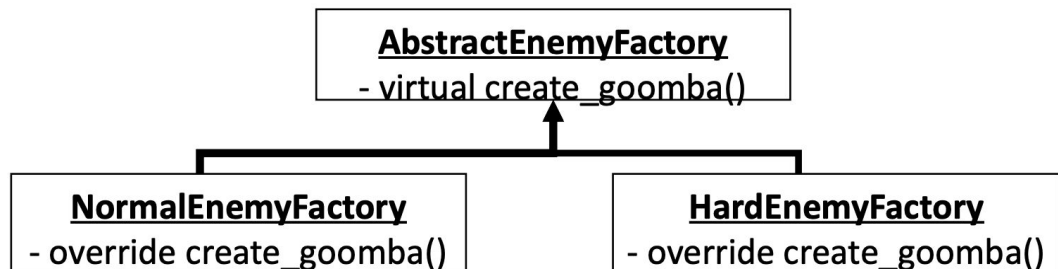
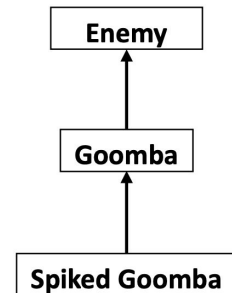
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```
// Only have to do this once!  
AbstractEnemyFactory* factory = nullptr;  
if (difficulty == "normal")  
    factory = new NormalEnemyFactory();  
else if (difficulty == "hard")  
    factory = new HardEnemyFactory();  
Enemy* goomba = factory->create_goomba();
```

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# Scenario: global application state

- Suppose we have some application **state that needs to be globally accessible**. However, we need to control how that data is accessed and updated.
- The anti-pattern (**bad**) solution is to have an **unprotected global variable** (e.g., a public static field).
  - fails to control access or updates!
- A “less bad” solution is to put all of the state in one class and have a **global instance** of that class.



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    - This is not an argument for using global variables to avoid passing a few parameters.
  - Or if you need to access state stored outside your program (e.g., database, web API)
  - Then global variables **may** be acceptable

# Singleton design pattern

- The *singleton pattern* restricts the instantiation of a class to **exactly one** logical instance. It ensures that a class has only one logical instance at runtime and provides a global point of access to it.

## Singleton

public:

- static ***get\_instance()*** *// named ctor*

private:

- static ***instance*** *// the one instance*

- Singleton() *// ctor*

# Singleton design pattern: example

```
class Singleton {  
    // public way to get "the one logical instance"  
    public static Singleton get_instance() {  
        if (Singleton.instance == null) Singleton.instance = new Singleton();  
        return Singleton.instance;  
    }  
    private static Singleton instance = null;  
    private Singleton() { // only runs once  
        billing_database = 0;  
        System.out.println("Singleton DB created");  
    }  
    // Our global state  
    private int billing_database;  
    public int get_billing_count() { return billing_database; }  
    public void increment_billing_count() { billing_database += 1; }  
}
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lazy initialization  
of single object





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```

this constructor  
can't be called any  
other way



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```

all clients share  
this global state



# Singleton design pattern: example

What is the output of this code?

```
class Main {  
    public static void main(String[] args) {  
        int bills = Singleton.get_instance().get_billing_count();  
        System.out.println(bills);  
  
        Singleton.get_instance().increment_billing_count();  
        bills = Singleton.get_instance().get_billing_count();  
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    }  
}
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## Singleton

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- static **get\_instance()** *// named ctor*
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## Output:

```
Singleton DB created  
0  
1
```

# Singleton design pattern: get\_instance()

- Could we avoid typing `Single.get_instance()` so many times by doing this at all of the points in our program that use the singleton?

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Single s = Singleton.get_instance();  
System.out.println(s.get_billing_count());  
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... // later  
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- Is this a good idea or not?

This is a **bad idea**. There is **no guarantee** that get\_instance() will return the same pointer (same object) every time it is called. (It may return different **concrete copies** of the **same logical item**.)

# Singleton design pattern: another example

- Suppose we are implementing a computer version of the card game Euchre. In addition to a few abstract datatypes, we have a Game class that stores the state needed for a game of Euchre. When started, our application prototype plays one game of Euchre and then exits.
- Design question: **should we make Game a singleton?**



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  - Singleton is **not** a license to make everything global.

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    - e.g., same underlying algorithm, different interfaces or same interface, different underlying algorithms
  - Examples: strategy pattern, template method pattern, iterator pattern, observer pattern, etc.

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  - e.g., Java's List interface doesn't care whether it's backed by an array or a linked list
- Similar patterns exist for other kinds of data structures
  - e.g., *visitor pattern* for tree-like structures

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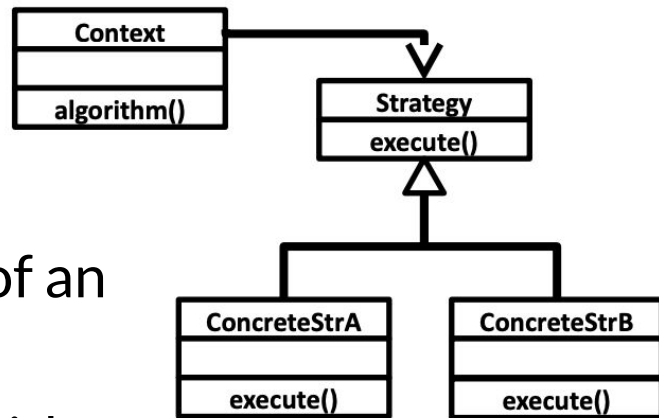
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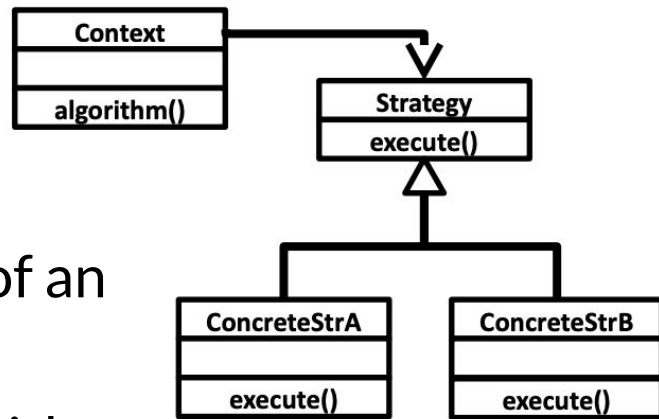
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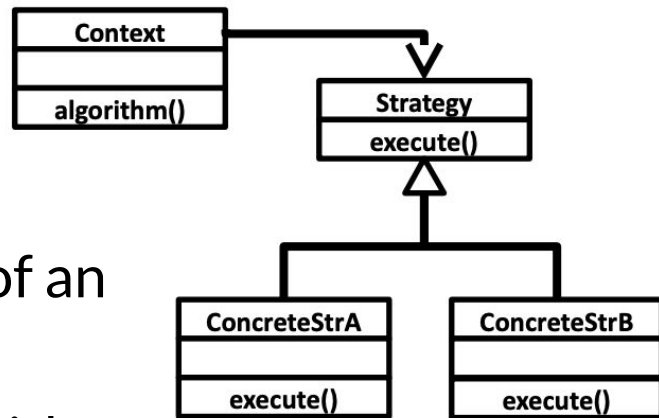
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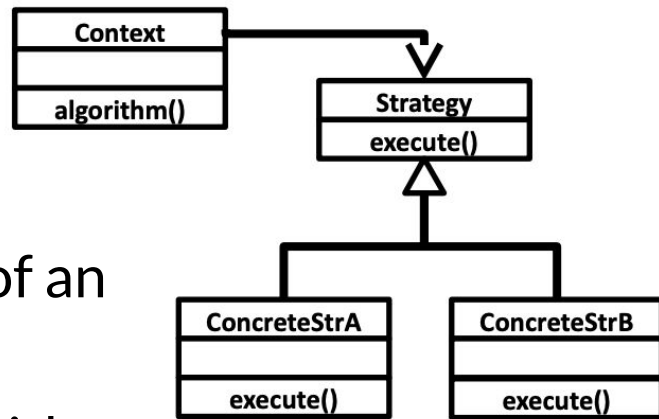
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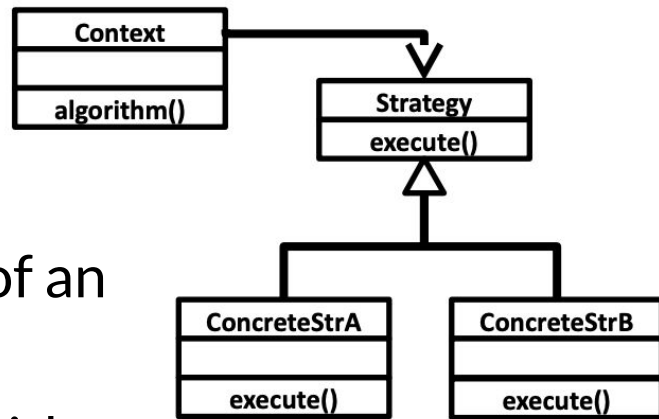
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  - Easily extensible for new algorithm implementations
  - Separates algorithm from client context
  - Introduces extra interfaces and classes: code can be harder to understand; adds overhead if the strategies are simple



# Template Method Design Pattern

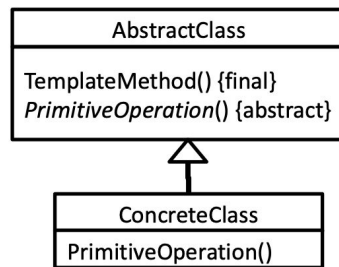
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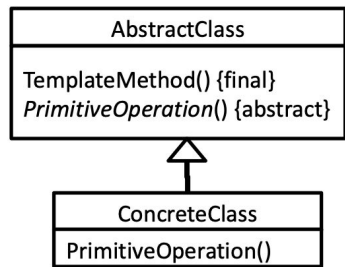
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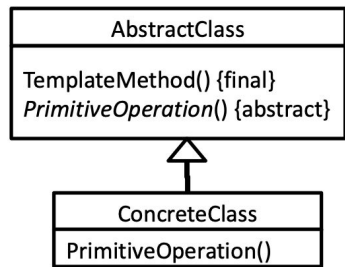


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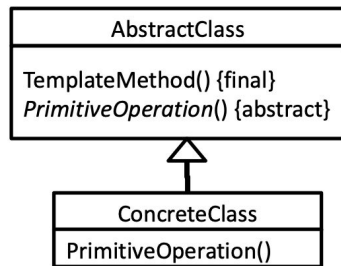
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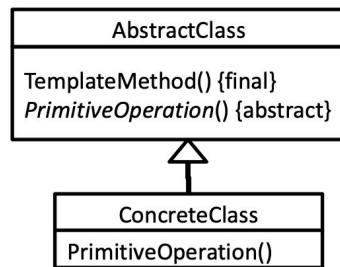
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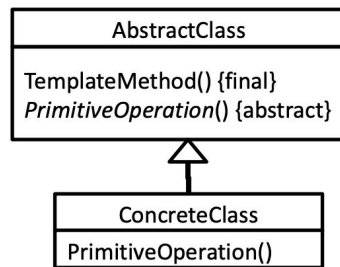
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  - Customization is restricted to the primitive operations
  - Inverted (“Hollywood-style”) control for customization: “don’t call us, we’ll call you” (cf. comparison function in sorting)
  - Invariant parts of the algorithm are not changed by subclasses

# Template vs. Strategy Design Pattern

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- Both support variation in a larger context
- **Template method** uses inheritance + an overridable method
- **Strategy** uses an interface and polymorphism (via composition)
  - Strategy objects are reusable across multiple classes
  - Multiple strategy objects are possible per class

# Scenario: binge-watching

- Suppose we're implementing a video streaming website in which users can “binge-watch” (or “lock on”) to one channel. The user will then see that channel's videos in sequence. When the last such video is watched, the user should stop binge-watching that channel.

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class User {  
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        if (c == binge_channel) {  
            binge_channel = null;  
        }  
    }  
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}
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```

```
class Channel {  
    // Called when the last video is shown  
    public void on_last_video_shown() {  
        // Global accessor for the user  
        get_user().release_binge_watch(this);  
    }  
}
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- What are some problems with this approach?

# Scenario: binge-watching: anti-patterns

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- The design does not support multiple users
- What if we later want to update a user's “recommendation queue” when they finish binge-watching a channel?
- Whenever requirements change and we want to do something else when a video finishes (e.g., update advertising) we **must update the Channel class** and couple it to the new feature

# Scenario: binge-watching: anti-patterns

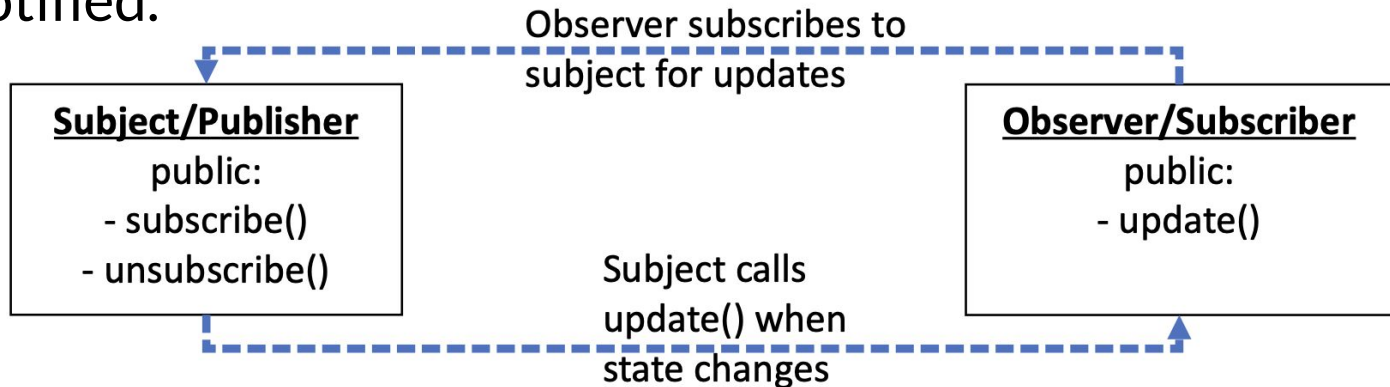
- With this design, User and Channel are **tightly coupled**
  - Changing one likely requires a change to the other
- The design does not allow for future changes
- What if we later want to add a "recommendation queue" when they finish binge-watching a channel?
- Whenever requirements change and we want to do something else when a video finishes (e.g., update advertising) we **must update the Channel class** and couple it to the new feature

# Observer Pattern

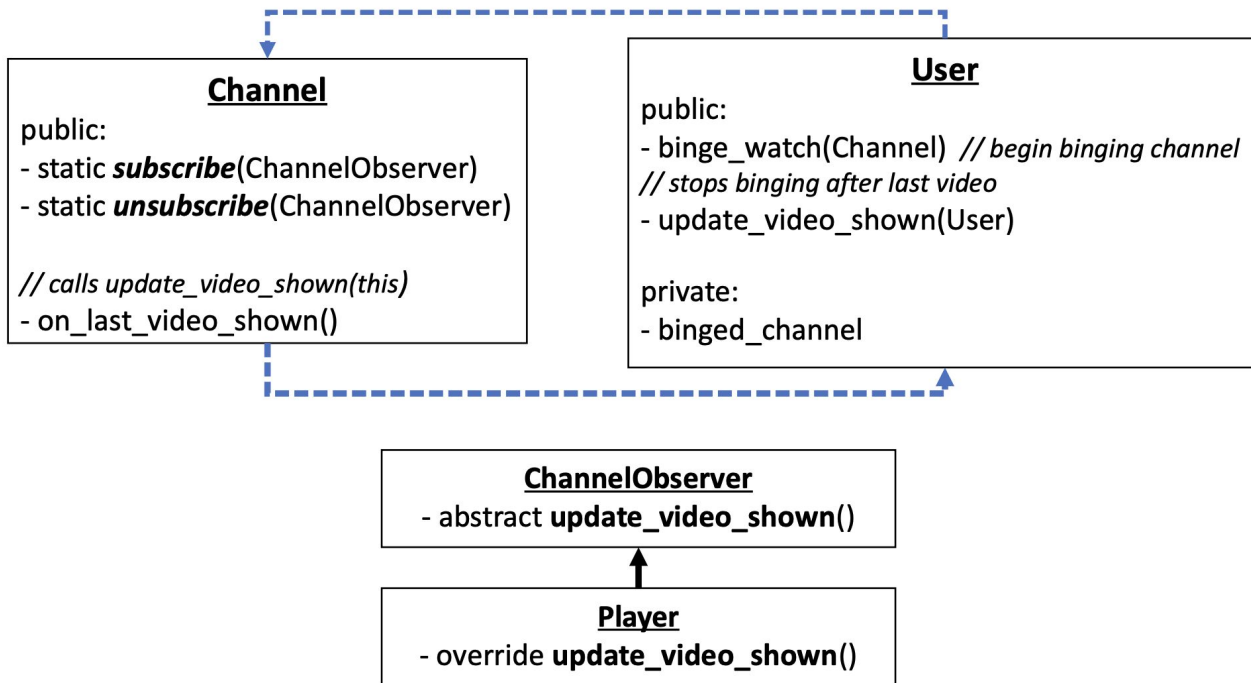
- The *observer pattern* (also called “*publish-subscribe*”) allows dependent objects to be notified automatically when the state of a subject changes. It defines a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object changes state, all of its dependents are notified.

# Observer Pattern

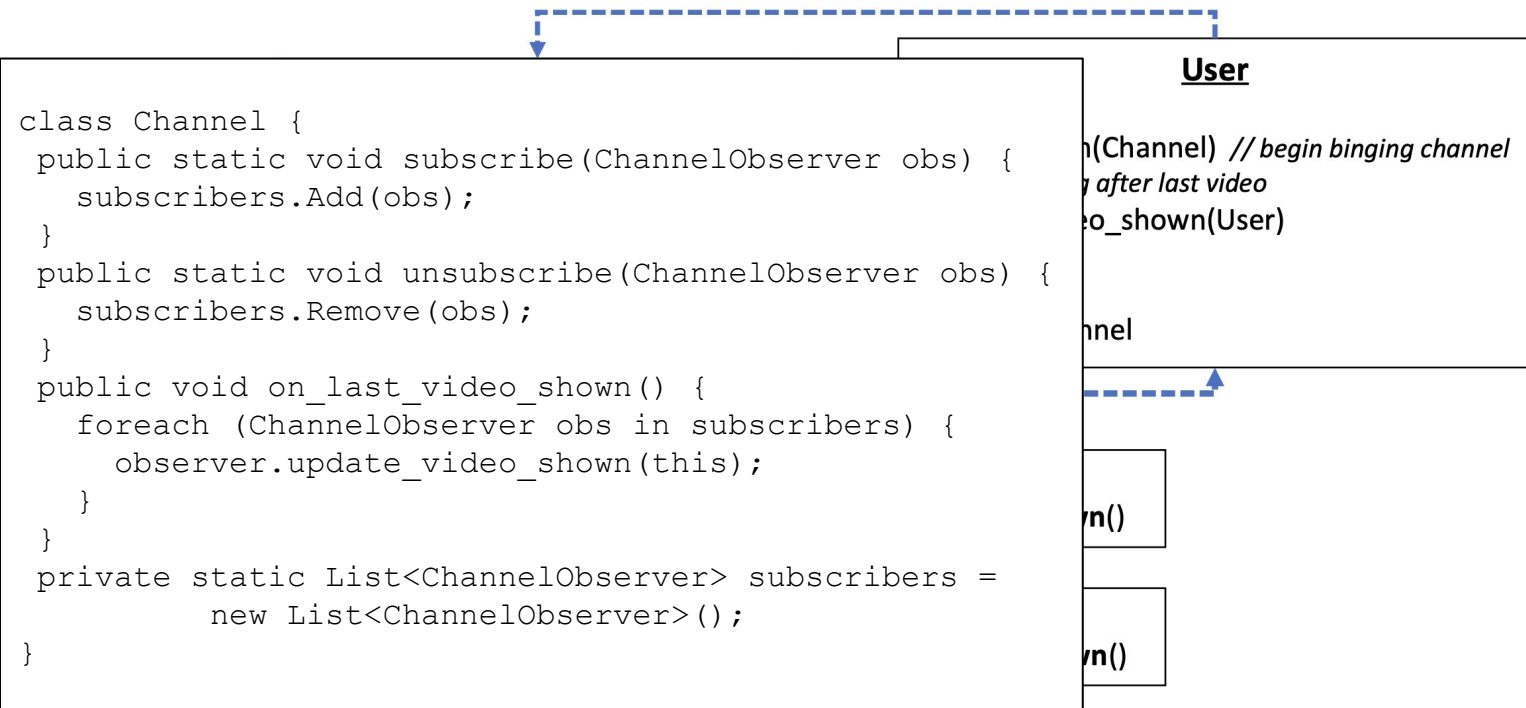
- The **observer pattern** (also called “**publish-subscribe**”) allows dependent objects to be notified automatically when the state of a subject changes. It defines a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object changes state, all of its dependents are notified.



# Observer Pattern: bing-watch scenario



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# Observer Pattern: bing-watch scenario

```
interface ChannelObserver {  
    void update_video_shown(Channel channel);  
}
```

```
on(Channel) // begin binging channel  
after last video  
eo_shown(User)
```

```
channel
```

```
on()
```

```
on()
```

```
class Channel {  
    public static void subscribe(ChannelObserver obs) {  
        subscribers.Add(obs);  
    }  
    public static void unsubscribe(ChannelObserver obs) {  
        subscribers.Remove(obs);  
    }  
    public void on_last_video_shown() {  
        foreach (ChannelObserver obs in subscribers) {  
            observer.update_video_shown(this);  
        }  
    }  
    private static List<ChannelObserver> subscribers =  
        new List<ChannelObserver>();  
}
```



# Observer Pattern: bing-watch scenario



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interface ChannelObserver {  
    void update_video_shown(Channel channel);  
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```
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```
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```

```
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    }  
    public void on_last_video_shown() {  
        foreach (ChannelObserver obs in subscribers) {  
            observer.update_video_shown(this);  
        }  
    }  
    private static List<ChannelObserver> subscribers =  
        new List<ChannelObserver>();  
}
```

```
class User: ChannelObserver {  
    public void update_video_shown(Channel c) {  
        if (c == binged_channel)  
            binged_channel = null;  
    }  
    public void binge_watch(Channel c) {  
        binged_channel = c;  
    }  
    private Channel binged_channel;  
}
```

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- Having multiple “update\_” functions, one for each type of state change, keeps messages **granular**
  - Observers that do not care about a particular type of update can ignore it (via an empty implementation of the update function)
- Generally it is better to pass the newly-updated data as a parameter to the update function (**push**) as opposed to making observers fetch it each time (**pull**)

# Design patterns: takeaways

- Thinking about design before you start coding is usually worthwhile for large projects
  - Design around the most expensive parts of the software engineering process (usually maintenance!)
- Design patterns are re-usable solutions to common problems
- Be familiar with them enough to recognize when they're being used
  - and to know when to use them yourself
  - you can look up details of a pattern if you remember its name!
- Be mindful of and avoid common anti-patterns