Lecture 24: Design Patterns (part 2)

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Object-Oriented Analysis and Design
CSCI 6448 - Spring Semester, 2002

Last Lecture

- Design Patterns
  - Background and Core Concepts
  - Examples
    - Singleton, Factory Method, and Adapter

Quiz

- How would you change the implementation of a Singleton class to allow a finite number of instances (greater than 1)?

Goals of Lecture

- Cover Additional Design Patterns
  - Iterator
  - Flyweight
  - Decorator
  - Observer
  - State

Iterator

- Intent
  - Provide a way to access the elements of an aggregate object (e.g. a collection class) sequentially without exposing its underlying representation
- Also Known As
  - Cursor
- Motivation
  - A collection may have multiple ways of being "traversed"; Iterator lets you keep traversal operations out of the core collection interface

Iterator, continued

- Applicability
  - Use the Iterator pattern
    - to access an aggregate object's contents without exposing its internal representation
    - to support multiple traversals of aggregate objects
    - to provide a uniform interface for traversing different aggregate structures (that is, to support polymorphic iteration)
- Participants
  - Iterator
    - defines an interface for accessing and traversing elements
  - ConcreteIterator
    - implements Iterator interface and keeps track of current position within collection
  - Aggregate
    - defines an interface for creating an Iterator (factory method)
  - ConcreteAggregate
    - implements the factory method

Iterator, continued

- Structure
  - page 259 of Design Patterns
- Collaborations
  - A ConcreteIterator keeps track of the current object in the aggregate and can compute the next object in the traversal
- Consequences
  - The Iterator pattern supports multiple traversals for each collection (e.g. inorder, preorder, postorder for trees)
  - Iterators simplify Aggregate interface
  - More than one traversal can occur on a single collection at once; as long as the traversal is read-only

Iterator, continued

- Implementation
  - The Iterator interface in the Java Collection classes
    - java.util.Iterator (interface)
    - java.util.List (interface)
    - java.util.LinkedList (class)
    - java.util.ListIterator (interface)
      - implementing subclass is private within List class

Flyweight

- Intent
  - Use sharing to support large numbers of fine-grained objects efficiently
- Motivation
  - Imagine a text editor that creates one object per character in a document
  - For large documents, that is a lot of objects!
    - but for simple text documents, there are only 26 letters, 10 digits, and a handful of punctuation marks being referenced by all of the individual character objects

Flyweight, continued

- Applicability
  - Use flyweight when all of the following are true
    - An application uses a large number of objects
    - Storage costs are high because of the sheer quantity of objects
    - Most object state can be made extrinsic
    - Many groups of objects may be replaced by relatively few shared objects once extrinsic state is removed
    - The application does not depend on object identity. Since flyweight objects may be shared, identity tests will return true for conceptually distinct objects

Flyweight, continued

- Participants
  - Flyweight
    - declares an interface through which flyweights can receive and act on extrinsic state
  - ConcreteFlyweight
    - implements Flyweight interface and adds storage for intrinsic state
  - UnsharedConcreteFlyweight
    - not all flyweights need to be shared; unshared flyweights typically have children which are flyweights
  - FlyweightFactory
    - creates and manages flyweight objects
  - Client
    - maintains extrinsic state and stores references to flyweights

Flyweight, continued

- Collaborations
  - Data that a flyweight needs to process must be classified as intrinsic or extrinsic
    - Intrinsic is stored with client; Extrinsic is stored with client
  - Clients should not instantiate ConcreteFlyweights directly
- Consequences
  - Storage savings is a tradeoff between total reduction in number of objects verses the amount of intrinsic state per flyweight and whether or not extrinsic state is computed or stored
    - greatest savings occur when extrinsic state is computed

Flyweight, continued

- See code example (available from class website)
- Simple implementation of flyweight pattern
  – Focus is on factory and flyweight rather than on client
  – Demonstrates how to do simple sharing of characters

Decorator

- Intent
  – Attach additional responsibilities to an object dynamically. Decorators provide a flexible alternative to subclassing for extending functionality
- Also Known As
  – Wrapper
- Motivation
  – Sometimes we want to add responsibilities to individual objects, not to an entire class (like adding scrollbars to windows in GUI toolkits)

Decorator, continued

- Applicability
  – Use Decorator
    - to add responsibilities to individual objects dynamically
    - for responsibilities that can be withdrawn
    - when extension by subclassing is impractical
- Participants
  – Component
    - defines interface of objects to decorate
  – ConcreteComponent
    - defines an object to decorate
  – Decorator and ConcreteDecorator
    - Decorator maintains a reference to component and defines an interface that conforms to Component's interface; ConcreteDecorator adds responsibilities to the component

Decorator, continued

- Structure
  – Page 177 of Design Patterns
- Collaborations
  – Decorator forwards requests to its Component object. It may optionally perform additional operations before and after forwarding the request
- Consequences
  – More flexibility than static inheritance
  – Avoids feature-laden classes high up in the hierarchy
  – A decorator and its component are not identical
  – Lots of little objects

Observer

- Intent
  - Define a one-to-many dependency between objects so that when one object changes states, all its dependents are notified and updated automatically
- Also Known As
  - Dependants, Publish-Subscribe
- Motivation
  - Need a way to update dependant objects while avoiding tight coupling
    - User Interface Example

Observer, continued

- Applicability
  - Use Observer
    - when an abstraction has two aspects, one dependent on the other
    - when a change to one object requires changing others and you don't know in advance who needs to change
    - when an object should notify objects but should not make assumptions about which objects need to be notified
- Participants
  - Subject
    - provides interface to add and delete observers
  - Observer
    - defines an updating interface for dependants
  - ConcreteSubject
    - stores the state being observed
  - ConcreteObserver
    - stores state that must be consistent with observed state

Observer, continued

- Structure
  - page 294 of Design Patterns
- Collaborations
  - ConcreteSubject notifies observers whenever it changes its observed state
  - After receiving a notification, ConcreteObserver gets state from ConcreteSubject
    - see sequence diagram on page 295 of Design Patterns

Observer, continued

- Consequences
  - Abstract coupling between Subject and Observer
    - Subjects do not know the concrete subclasses of their observers
  - Support for broadcast communication
    - Subject does not know who is listening
  - Unexpected updates
    - Change in state may update an unintended object, one we didn't suspect was an observer, or should only be observing at well-defined times

State

- Intent
  - Allow an object to alter its behavior when its internal state changes
- Motivation
  - TCPConnection example
  - A TCPConnection class must respond to an open operation differently based on its current state: established, closed, listening, etc.

State, continued

- Applicability
  - Use State when
    - an object's behavior depends on its state
    - operations have large, multipart conditional statements that depend on the object's state
- Participants
  - Context
    - defines the interface of interest to clients
    - maintains an instance of a ConcreteState subclass
  - State
    - defines an interface for encapsulating the behavior associated with a particular state of the Context
  - ConcreteState
    - each subclass of State implements a different behavior that implements the correct behavior for a particular state

State, continued

- Structure
  - Page 306 of Design Patterns
- Collaborations
  - Context delegates state-specific requests to the current ConcreteState object
  - A context may pass itself as an argument to the State object handling the request
  - Context is the primary interface of clients
  - Either Context or ConcreteState subclasses can decide which state succeeds another and under what circumstances

State, continued

- Consequences
  - State localizes state-specific behavior and partitions behavior for different states
  - State makes state transitions explicit
  - State objects can be shared