Today
• Design Patterns

Wednesday
• Sample design presentation
• “What’s on the test on Friday?”

Chunking

• Advanced chess players are in part superior because they don’t see each piece individually
  – Instead, they chunk groups of them together
  – This reduces the search space they need to assess in deciding on a move
• This notion of chunking happens in almost every human endeavor
• Such chunking can lead to the use of idioms

High Level Languages

• High level programming languages can be viewed as providing idioms that have proven generally useful

  • Structures
    – Grouping together heterogeneous elements
  • Structured loops
    – Grouping together disciplined uses of comparisons and branches
  • Procedure call
    – Saving & restoring registers, jumps, …

Design patterns

• “A well-proven generic scheme’ for solving a recurring design problem”
• Idioms intended to be “simple and elegant solutions to specific problems in object-oriented software design”
• A key to design patterns is that they are drawn from examples in existing systems
  – Not proposed solutions to possible problems, but real solutions to real problems
Language independent

• They are language-independent
  – Although some language support is starting to exist in some cases
• Again, there is an analogy to high-level control structures
  – Knuth’s 1974 article (“Structured Programming with go to Statements”) shows that this is not a language issue alone

Low-level

• Patterns are a collection of “mini-architectures” that combine structure and behavior
• They are closely linked to the programming level

Example: flyweight pattern

• What happens when you try to represent lots of small elements as full-fledged objects?
• It’s often too expensive
• And it’s pretty common

An alternative approach

• Use sharing to support many fine-grained objects efficiently
  – Fixed domain of objects
  – Maybe other constraints
Flyweight structure

Participants

- **Flyweight** (glyph in text example)
  - Interface through which flyweights can receive and act on extrinsic state
- **ConcreteFlyweight** (character)
  - Implements flyweight interface, shareable, only intrinsic state (independent of context)
- **UnsharedConcreteFlyweight** (row, column)
- **FlyweightFactory**
  - Creates and manages flyweight objects

Sample code

```cpp
class Glyph {
public:
    virtual ~Glyph();
    virtual void Draw(...);
    virtual void SetFont(...);
    ...;
};

class Character : public Glyph {
    Character(char c);
    virtual void Draw(...);
    private:
        char _charcode;
};
```

A little more code

```cpp
Character* GlyphFactory::CreateCharacter(char c) {
    if (!_character[c]) {
        _character[c] = new Character();
    }
    return _character[c];
}
```

- The code itself is in the domain (glyphs, rows, etc.)
- But it's structured based on the pattern
- The client interacts with Glyph, Character

- Explicit code for each of the elements in the flyweight structure
Defining a pattern

- Name and classification
- Intent
- Also known as
- Motivation
- Applicability
- Structure
- Participants
- Collaborations

- Consequences
- Implementation
- Sample code
- Known uses
- Related patterns

Classification of patterns

- Creational
  - Abstract factory, builder, factory method, prototype, singleton
- Structural
  - Adapter, bridge, composite, decorator, façade, flyweight, proxy
- Behavioral
  - Chain of responsibility, command, interpreter, iterator, mediator, memento, observer, state, strategy, template method, visitor

- Original GoF patterns

An historical aside

- The Gang of Four loosely based their initial work on that of architect Christopher Alexander
  - Not a systems or software architect, but an architecture architect (with planning, too)
  - The Timeless Way trilogy
- Not surprisingly, a focus on idiomatic solutions to common design problems

A little more

- Alexander and his influence on CS
  - www.math.utsa.edu/sphere/salingar/Chris.text.html
- Too much can be (and is) made of the connection to Alexander
  - In particular, Alexander takes the "big" view of architecture and patterns
  - In software, it is important but still the "little" view
An enlightening experience

- I had an experience with two of the Gang of Four
- They sat down with Griswold and me to show how to use patterns to (re)design a software design we had published
  - The rate of communication between these two was unbelievable
  - Much of it was understandable to us without training (a good sign for a learning curve)

The real thing

- Design patterns are not a silver bullet
- But they are impressive, important and worthy of attention
  - Some of the patterns have and more will become part and parcel of designers’ vocabularies
  - This will improve communication and over time improve the designs we produce
  - The relatively disciplined structure of the pattern descriptions may be a plus

Final reminder

- Design patterns are highly unlikely to be on your mind now
- They are lower-level than the design you’re thinking about at this stage
- They are probably elements that each of you, even within a team, can choose to use (or not) on an individual basis
- The idea is easy, but there is a learning curve

Questions?