Principles of Software Construction: Objects, Design, and Concurrency

Basic GUI concepts, HTML

Christian Kästner Vincent Hellendoorn





HW3 Reflections



Today

- GUI Design
 - Concepts, strategies
 - Practical application in HTML, CSS, JS
- Dynamic Web Pages
 - Client/Server communication
 - Backend architecture



How To Make This Happen?

17-214 Fall 2021

Course calendar Schedule Syllabus Piazza

· Have experience testing and analyzing your software

· Understand principles of concurrency and distributed systems

See a more detailed list of learning goals describing what we want students to know or be able to do by the end of the semester. We evaluate whether learning goals have been achieved through assignments and exams.

Coordinates

Tu/Th 11:50 - 1:10 p.m. in DH 2315

Christian Kaestner, kaestner@cs.cmu.edu, TCS 345, office hours Friday 11:30-1pm (see calendar)

Vincent Hellendoorn, TCS 320, office hours Tuesdays 9am-11am (see calendar)

Our TAs also provide an additional 18h of office hours each week, usually in TCS 310, see details in the calendar.

The instructors have an open door policy: If the instructors' office doors are open and no-one else is meeting with us, we are happy to answer any course-related questions. Also, feel free to email us for appointments.

Course Calendar

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¥ 17-214 Fall 2021 Untitled-1 ● 1 17-214 Fall 2021 2 Principles of Software Construction 3 Objects, Design, and Concurrency 4 Overview 5 Software engineers today are less likely to design data structures and algorithms from scratch and more likely to build systems from library and framework components. In this course, students engage with concepts related to the construction of software systems at scale, building on their understanding of the basic building blocks of data structures, algorithms, program structures, and computer structures. The course covers technical topics in four areas: (1) concepts of design for complex systems, (2) object oriented programming, (3) static and dynamic analysis for programs, and (4) concurrent and distributed software. Student assignments involve engagement with complex software such as distributed massively multi-player game systems and frameworks for graphical user interaction Update for Fall 2021: We are planning several changes to the course for the fall 2021 semester. A key change is that we will teach the course with multiple programming languages. We will cover multiple languages in the lecture, but will expect students to focus on one language in assignments. When signing up, please chose a section for Java or JavaScript/TypeScript. 9 After completing this course, students will: 10 11 Be comfortable with object-oriented concepts and with programming in the Java or JavaScript language 12 Have experience designing medium-scale systems with patterns 13 Have experience testing and analyzing your software 14 Understand principles of concurrency and distributed systems 15 See a more detailed list of learning goals describing what we want students to know or be able to do by the end of the semester. We evaluate whether learning goals have been achieved through assignments and exams. 16 17 Coordinates 18 Tu/Th 11:50 - 1:10 p.m. in DH 2315 19 20 Christian Kaestner, kaestner@cs.cmu.edu, TCS 345, office hours Friday 11:30-1pm (see calendar) 21 22 Vincent Hellendoorn, TCS 320, office hours Tuesdays 9am-11am (see calendar) 23 24 Our TAs also provide an additional 18h of office hours each week, usually in TCS 310, see details in the calendar. 25 26 The instructors have an open door policy: If the instructors' office doors are open and no-one else is meeting with us, we are happy to answer any course-related questions. Also, feel free to email us for appointments. 27 28 Course Calendar 29 30 Schedule We are planning significant changes to the course this semester. The schedule below is a rough draft of our plans, but likely to change. 31 32 33 TUE, AUG 31 34 Intro 35 WED, SEP 1 36 rec 1 Introduction to Git 37 THU, SEP 2 38 00 basics, Dynamic dispatch, Encapsulation 39 TUE, SEP 7 40 IDEs, Build system, Continuous Integration, Libraries 41 Required: Effective Java, Items 15 and 16 42 WED, SEP 8 43 rec 2 IDEs, Build systems, Libraries, CI 44 THU, SEP 9 45 Specifications and unit testing, exceptions

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GUI Design: what do we want?

- Nested Elements
- Style Vocabulary
- Interactivity





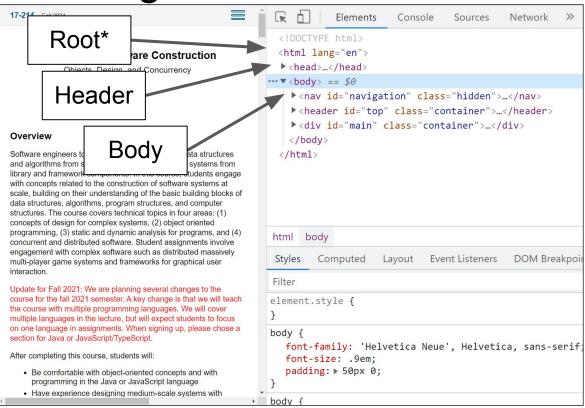
GUI Design: what do we want?

- Nested Elements
 - HTML
- Style Vocabulary
 - CSS
- Interactivity
 - JavaScript





Predefined elements



Technically, 'document' is the root with HTML its only child



Nested elements

- Sizing
- Attributes
- Text

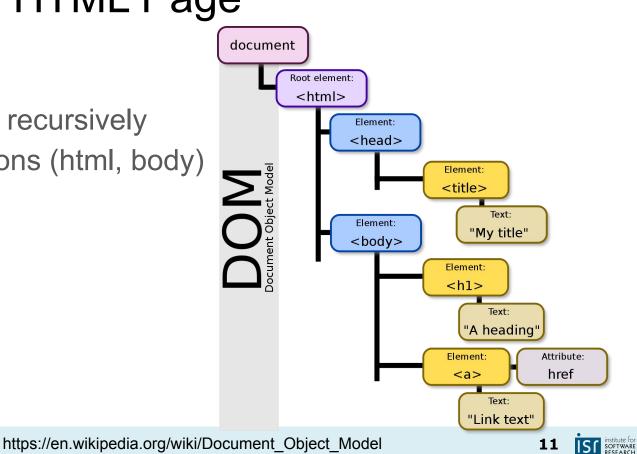
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Many GUIs are trees

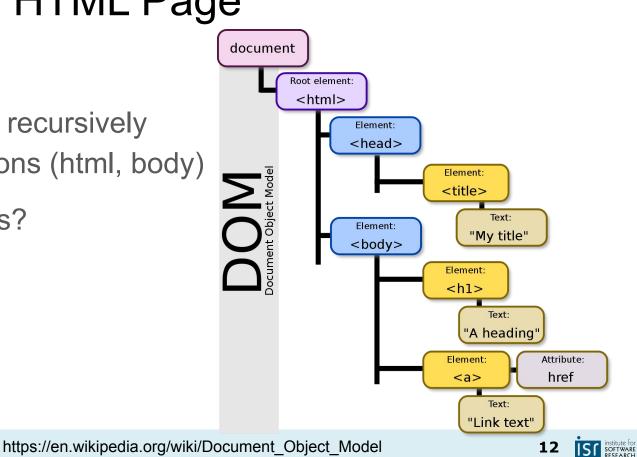
- Nested elements, recursively
- Some fixed positions (html, body)



Many GUIs are trees

- Nested elements, recursively
- Some fixed positions (html, body)

How to implement this?



The composite pattern

- Problem: Collection of objects has behavior similar to the individual objects
- Solution: Have collection of objects and individual objects implement the same interface
- Consequences:
 - Client code can treat collection as if it were an individual object
 - Easier to add new object types
 - Design might become too general, interface insufficiently useful

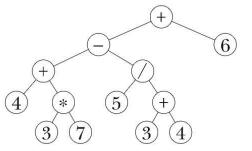


Another composite pattern example

```
public interface Expression {
    double eval(); // Returns value
}
```

}

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public class BinaryOperationExpression implements Expression {
 public BinaryOperationExpression(BinaryOperator operator,
 Expression operand1, Expression operand2);

public class NumberExpression implements Expression {
 public NumberExpression(double number);



Composite

- Elements can contain elements
 - With restrictions
 - Need to deal with style, interaction
- In JS: HTMLElement
 - With child-classes e.g. HTMLDivElement, HTMLBodyElement
 - Navigation:
 - getElement*: locate by tag name, id, class, etc.
 - next/prev(Element)Sibling
 - childNodes, parent





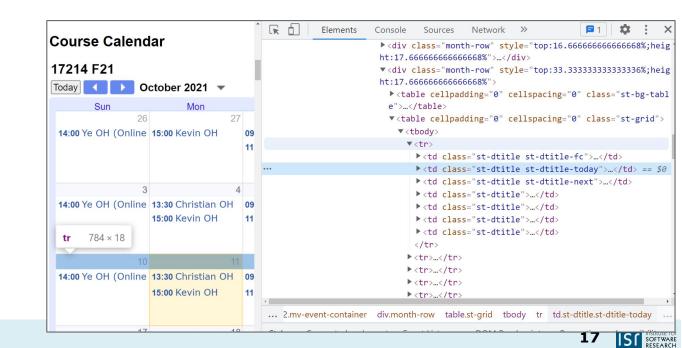
A few Tags

- <html>
 - The root of the visible page
- <head>
 - Stores metadata, imports
- - A paragraph
- <button>
 - Attributes include `name`, `type`, `value`
- <div>
 - Generic section -- very useful
- - The obvious
- Many more; dig into a real page!



Style

Not only leaf-nodes have an appearance





Style

Tags come with inherent & customizable style

- Inherent:
 - o <div> is a `block` (full-width, with margin)
 - o is in-line
 - o <h1> is large
- Customizable: add and override styles
 - Change font-styles, margins, widths
 - Modify groups of elements



- Cascading Style Sheets
 - Reuse: styling rules for tags, classes, types
 - Reuse: not just at the leafs!

```
<span style="font-weight:bold">Hello again!</span>
```

```
VS.
<style type="text/css">
    span {
      font-family: arial
    }
</style>
```



- Cascading Style Sheets
 - Reuse: styling rules for tags, classes, types
 - Reuse: not just at the leafs!
- What if there are conflicts?

```
<div style="font-weight:normal">
    <span style="font-weight:bold">Hello again!</span>
</div>
```

Lowest element wins*



- Cascading Style Sheets
 - Reuse: styling rules for tags, classes, types
 - Reuse: not just at the leafs!
- What if there are <u>no</u> conflicts?

```
<div style="font-family:arial">
    <span style="font-weight:bold">Hello again!</span>
</div>
```

• How would you implement this?



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What is happening here?

| Hi there! Hello again! | Image: |
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| | html body div span |
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| | <pre>div > span { font-family: 'Times New Roman', Times, serif; }</pre> |
| | <pre>span { font-family: arial; }</pre> |
| | <pre>span { font-family: arial; }</pre> |
| | Inherited from div |
| | <pre>style attribute {</pre> |

Decorator

What is happening here?

- To compute the style of an element:
 - Apply its tag-default style
 - Wrap in added style rules (tag-specific or general)
 - Text: font-family, weight, etc.
 - Inherit parents' style
 - Conflicts lead to overrides
- Makes themes really powerful

Technically, HTML is streamed top-to-bottom; CSS works bottom-up

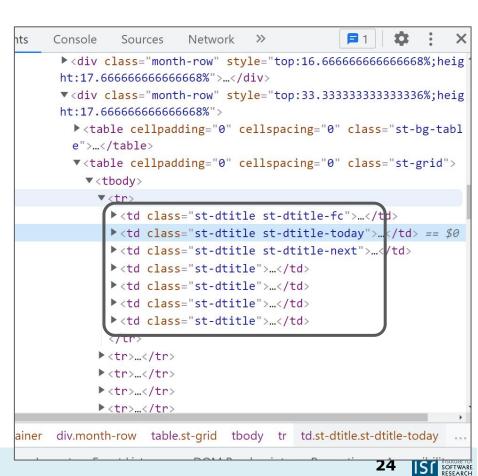


CSS: classes

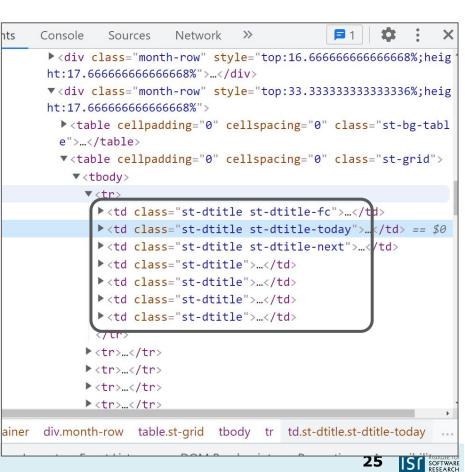
Let's not repeat custom style

- Use any nr. of class label(s)
- Class styles get added
- Facilitates reuse

How would you implement this?



Strategy or Observer?



Strategy or Observer?

Either could apply

- Both involve callback
- Strategy:
 - Typically single Ο
 - Often involves a return \bigcirc
- Observer:
 - Arbitrarily many Ο
 - Involves external updates Ο

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Interactivity

A GUI is more than a document

• How do we make it "work"?

| Hi there! | <pre> Elements Console Sources Network >></pre> |
|--------------------------|---|
| Hello again! Click me | <pre>*** *** Hello again! == \$0</pre> |
| | html body div span Styles Computed Layout Event Listeners DOM Breakpoints Properties Accessibility Filter :hov .cls + • • |

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Actions: JavaScript

- Key: event listeners (what's that pattern?)
- (frontend) JS is highly event-driven
 - Respond to window `onLoad` event, content loads (e.g., ads)
 - Respond to clicks, moves



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Observer Pattern

- Manages publishers and subscribers
 - Here, button publishes its 'click' events
 - `buttonClicked` subscribes to 1+ updates
- Flexibility and Reuse
 - Multiple observers per element
 - Shared observers across elements



Step Back

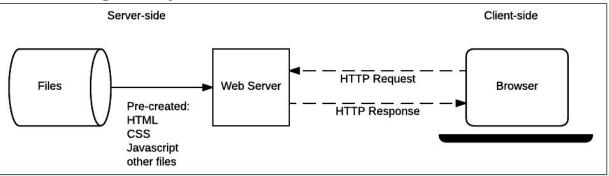
- What is our website now?
 - Layout, style, interaction
 - What is missing?





Static Web Pages

- Delivered as-is, final
 - Consistent, often fast
 - Cheap, only storage needed
- "Static" a tad murky with JavaScript
 - We can still have buttons, interaction
 - But it won't "go" anywhere -- the server is mum





Static Web Pages

- Delivered as-is, final
 - Consistent, often fast
 - Cheap, only storage needed
- Maintain with static website generators
 - Or you'll be doing a lot of copying
 - Coupled with themes => rapid development, deployment
 - Quite popular, e.g. hosting on GH Pages



Static Web Pages

- But ...
 - No persistence (at least, not obviously)
 - No customizability (e.g., accounts)
 - No communication (payment, chat, etc)
 - Realistically, no intensive jobs



Dynamic Web Pages

- Client/Server
 - Someone needs to answer the website's calls
 - Doesn't need to be us!
 - Host a <u>webserver</u>
 - Serves pages, handles calls
 - For static pages too!
- We'll show you more tomorrow (Wednesday)



Web Servers

- Communicate via HyperText Transfer Protocol
 - URL (the address)
 - Method:
 - GET: retrieve data. Parameters in URL `...?key=value&key2=value2` and message body
 - POST: store/create data. Parameters in request body
 - Several more, rarely used
 - Responses:
 - Status Code. We all know 404. 2XX family is OK.
 - And possible data. E.g., entire HTML page.



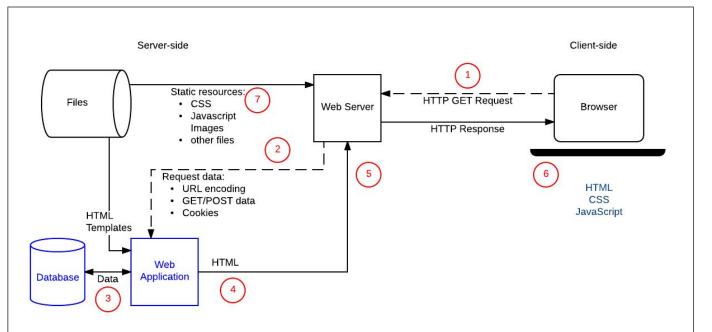
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 - Responses:
 - Status Code. We all know 404. 2XX family is OK.
 - And possible data. E.g., entire HTML page.
 - POST makes no sense for static sites!
 - As do GETs with parameters



Web Servers

Dynamic sites can do more work



https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Server-side/First_steps/Client-Server_overview#anatomy_of_a_dynamic_request

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AJAX

- Originally: "Asynchronous JavaScript and XML"
 - Updates parts of a page dynamically
 - Sends XMLHttpRequests with a callback
 - On return, check the code; handle success and failure.
 - Asynchronous, naturally decouples backend from UI



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 - Updates parts of a page dynamically
 - Sends XMLHttpRequests with a callback
 - On return, check the code; handle success and failure.
 - Asynchronous, naturally decouples backend from UI
- Slowly being phased out
 - Replace with `fetch`, which uses... Promises
 - More next week



How to Web App?

- Let's avoid generating HTML from scratch on every call
 - Map requests to handler code
 - Fetch data, process
 - Generate and return HTML
- Historically: PHP
 - Modifies HTML pages server-side on request; strong ties to SQL

<?php

```
// The global $_POST variable allows you to access the data sent with the POST method by name
// To access the data sent with the GET method, you can use $_GET
$say = htmlspecialchars($_POST['say']);
$to = htmlspecialchars($_POST['to']);
echo $say, ' ', $to;
```

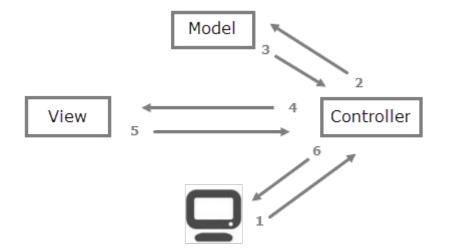
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How to Web App?

- Let's avoid generating HTML from scratch on every call
 - Map requests to handler code
 - Fetch data, process
 - Generate and return HTML
- Or use a framework
 - Python: Flask, Django
 - NodeJS: Express
 - Spring for Java
 - Many others, differences in weight, features



Model-View-Controller (MVC)



https://overiq.com/django-1-10/mvc-pattern-and-django/





MVC is ubiquitous

Separates:

- Model: data organization
 - Interface to the database
- View: data representation (typically HTML)
 - Often called *templates* in web-dev; "view" is a bit overloaded Ο
- Controller: intermediary between client and model/view Ο
 - Typically asks model for data, view for HTML



Core implementation vs. GUI

- Core implementation: application logic
 - Computing some result, updating data

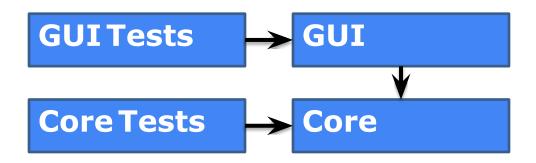
• GUI

- Graphical representation of data
- Source of user interactions
- Design guideline: avoid coupling the GUI with core application
 - Multiple UIs with single core implementation
 - Test core without UI



Separating application core and GUI

- Reduce coupling: do not allow core to depend on UI
- Create and test the core without a GUI
 - Use the Observer pattern to communicate information from the core (Model) to the GUI (View)







Summary

- GUIs are full of design patterns
 - Helpful for reuse, delegation in complex environments
- Covered the basics of HTML, CSS, JS, servers
 - Needed for dynamic web pages
 - Decouple the GUI; architect your backend
 - A lot more to learn (security, performance, privacy), but this will do
- You will build this
 - At a small scale



