

PHP DESIGN PATTERNS



Practical Cheat Sheet

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MVC

When: Separation of concerns in UI applications by splitting application in three main areas.

Usage: Web applications, GUI frameworks.

Key: Model <-> View <-> Controller

Model: Data & logic

View: UI representation

Controller: User input handling



SINGELTON

When: 1 and only 1 instance of a class.

Drawbacks: antipattern, breaks good practice, difficult to test, global state

Usage

- config
- database instance
- file instance
- Shared resources
- global state management

Reference code

Class Registry

```
{
    private static $instance = null;
    public static function instance(): self
    {
        self::$instance = is_null(self::$instance)
            ? new self() : self::$instance;
        return self::$instance;
    }
}
```



ADAPTER

When: Make different interfaces work together. Adapt one interface to already existing ecosystem.

Usage: Integrate legacy or external systems, refactor code.

```
interface Target {
    request();
}

class Adaptee {
    specificRequest();
}

class Adapter implements Target {
    /* adapt Adaptee to Target */
    request($adaptee){
        $adaptee->specificRequest();
    }
}
```

Drawbacks: Increased code complexity



DEPENDENCY INJECTION:

When: a class needs to use another class - Reduce tight coupling between classes

Usage: controllers, services etc. Improve modularity, enable testing

Key: Inject dependencies via constructor or setter

Reference code:

```
class User($db){
    private $database;
    /* constructor injection */
    public function __construct($database){
        // set the $database
        $this->database = $database;
    }
    /* setter injection */
    public function setService($service) {
        // set and maybe use the $service
    }
}
```

```
// usage
$db = new Database();
$service = new Service();
$user = new User($database);
$user->setService($service);
```



ACTIVE RECORD - OBJECT RELATION MAPPER

Problem: Simplify CRUD operations with a database.

Usage: Object-relational mapping, data access.

Key: Model (represents table)

```

class Model {
    public function find(); // Retrieve
    public function insert(); // Create
    public function update(); // Update
    public function delete(); // Delete
}

```

Drawbacks: Limited flexibility (one-to-one mapping with database tables). Can lead to "fat models" (models with too much logic). Difficult with exceptions to the main functionality.



FACADE

Problem: Simplify complex operations with a unified interface. (usually operations that include multiple objects or classes)

Usage: Hide implementation details, simplifies usage.

```

class Facade {
    private $subsystemA;
    private $subsystemB;
    public function operation() {
        /* do something with subsystems */
    }
}

```

Drawbacks: May hide necessary details in some cases, additional layer



DECORATOR

Problem: Add or change functionality to objects dynamically during runtime, in different combinations

Usage: Unpredictable combination of changes (products, services doing calculations)

Key: Decorator <-> Component

```

interface Component { operation(); }
class Decorator implements Component {
    private $component;
    public __construct($component)
    public function operation() {
        /* change or add behavior */
    }
}

```

Drawbacks: Code complexity, difficult testing, Potential performance overhead (multiple layers of decoration).



SIMPLE FACTORY

Problem: Decouple object creation from its usage. Hide complex object creation or configuration from the object consumer.

Usage: Flexible and dynamic object instantiation.

Key: Creator <-> Product

```

class Creator {
    createComplexProduct();
}
class Product {
    /* product that is complex to create */
    oneOfManyConfigMethods();
}

```

Drawbacks: Code complexity: (additional classes or interfaces). Requires subclassing to create new products



OBSERVER

Problem: communication between many objects (that could also be missing from the system).

Usage: Event handling, plugins, dynamic codebase.

Key: Subject <-> Observer

```

interface Subject {
    attach(); detach(); notify();
}
interface Observer { update(); }

```

Drawbacks: Memory leaks (if observers aren't detached), performance issues (with many observers)



STRATEGY

Problem: changing different algorithms at runtime.

Usage: different services

Key: Context <-> Strategy

```

class Strategy { execute(); }

class Context {
    private $strategy;
    public function setStrategy($strategy){
        $this->strategy = $strategy;
    }
    public function doSomething(){
        $this->strategy->execute();
    }
}

```

Drawbacks: Increased number of objects (one per strategy).