Lots of material taken from Fowler, *Refactoring: Improving the Design of Existing Code*

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### Evolving Software

- **Problem**
  - The requirements of real software often change in ways that cannot be handled by the current design
  - Moreover, trying to anticipate changes in the initial implementation can be difficult and costly

- **Solution**
  - Redesign as requirements change
  - **Refactor** code to accommodate new design
Example

• (p204) Replace Magic Number with Symbolic Constant
  
  ```java
  double potentialEnergy(double m, double h) {
    return m * 9.81 * h;
  }
  ```

• becomes...
  
  ```java
  static final double G = 9.81;
  double potentialEnergy(double m, double h) {
    return m * G * h;
  }
  ```

Some Motivations for This Refactoring

• Magic numbers have special values
  – But why they have those values is not obvious
  – So we’re like to give them a name

• Magic numbers may be used multiple times
  – Easy to make errors
    • May make a typo when putting in a number
    • May need to change a number later (more digits of G)
Conventional Wisdom: The Design is Fixed

- Software process looks like this:
  - Step 1: Design, design, design
  - Step 2: Build your system

- Once you’re on step 2, don’t change the design!
  - You might break something in the code
  - You need to update your design documents
  - You need to communicate your new design with everyone else

What if the Design is Broken?

- You’re kind of stuck
  - Design changes are very expensive
  - When you’re “cleaning up the code,” you’re not adding features

- Result: An inappropriate design
  - Makes code harder to change
  - Makes code harder to understand and maintain
  - Very expensive in the long run
Refactoring Philosophy

• It’s hard to get the design right the first time
  – So let’s not even pretend
  – Step 1: Make a *reasonable* design that should work, but...
  – Plan for changes
    • As implementers discover better designs
    • As your clients change the requirements (!)

• But how can we ensure changes are safe?

Refactoring Philosophy (cont’d)

• Make all changes small and methodical
  – Follow mechanical patterns (which could be automated in some cases) called *refactorings*, which are *semantics-preserving*

• Retest the system after each change
  – By rerunning all of your unit tests
  – If something breaks, you know what caused it
  – Notice: we need fully automated tests for this case
    • We’re going to be running them a lot
Two Hats

- Refactoring hat
  - You are updating the design of your code, but not changing what it does. You can thus rerun existing tests to make sure the change works.
- Bug-fixing/feature-adding hat
  - You are modifying the functionality of the code.
- May switch hats frequently
  - But know when you are using which hat, to be sure that you are reaching your end goal.

Principles of Refactoring

- In general, each refactoring aims to
  - Decompose large objects into smaller ones
  - Distribute responsibility
- Like design patterns
  - Adds composition and delegation (read: indirection)
  - In some sense, refactorings are ways of applying design patterns to existing code
Principles of Refactoring

- Refactoring improves design
  - Fights again “code decay” as people make changes
- Refactoring makes code easier to understand
  - Simplifies complicated code, eliminates duplication
- Refactoring helps you find bugs
  - In order to make refactorings, you need to clarify your understanding of the code. Makes bugs easier to spot.
- Refactoring helps you program faster
  - Good design = rapid development

When to Refactor

- The “Rule of Three”
  - Three strikes and you refactor
  - The third time you duplicate something, refactor
- Refactor when you add a feature
  - Make it easier for you to add the feature
- Refactor when you have a bug
  - Simplify the code as you’re looking for the bug
  - (Could be dangerous...)
- Refactor when you do code reviews
  - ...if you’d be embarrassed to show someone the code
When to Refactor: An Analogy

- Unfinished refactoring is like going into debt
- Debt is fine as long as you can meet the interest payments (extra maintenance costs)
- If there is too much debt, you will be overwhelmed
  - [Ward Cunningham]

Barriers to Refactoring

- May introduce errors
  - Mitigated by testing
  - Clean first, then add new functionality
- Cultural issues
  - Producing negative lines of code
  - “We pay you to add new features, not to improve the code!”
- If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it
Barriers to Refactoring (cont’d)

- Tight coupling with implementations
  - E.g., databases that rely on schema details
- Public interfaces
  - If others rely on your API, you can’t easily change it
  - I.e., you can’t refactor if you don’t have all the code
- Designs that are hard to refactor
  - It might be hard to see a path from the current design to the new design
  - You may be better off starting from scratch

What Code Needs to be Refactored?

- Bad code exhibits certain characteristics that can be addressed with refactoring
  - These are called “smells”
- Different smells suggest different refactorings
Feature Envy

• A method seems more interested in a class other than the one it is actually in
  – E.g., invoking lots of get methods

• Move Method
  – Move method from one class to another

• Extract Method
  – Pull out code in one method into a separate method

Move Method

• Should other methods also be moved?
• What about sub- and superclasses?
• What about access control (public, protected)?
Extract Method

void printDetails(double amt) {
    System.out.println("name" + name);
    System.out.println("amount" + amt);
}

void printOwning(double amt) {
    printBanner();
    System.out.println("name" + name);
    System.out.println("amount" + amt);
}

• Are you ever going to reuse this new method?
• Local variable scopes?
• Extra cost of method invocation?

Long Method

• A method is too long. Long methods are harder to understand than lots of short ones.

• Can decompose with Extract Method
• Replace Temp with Query
  – Remove code that assigns a method call to a temporary, and replace references to that temporary with the call
• Replace Method with Method Object
  – Use the command pattern to build a “closure"
Replace Temp with Query

- Does this aid other refactoring?
  - E.g., Extract Method

```java
double basePrice = num * price;
if (basePrice > 1000)
    return basePrice * 0.95;
else
    return basePrice * 0.98;
```

```java
double basePrice() {
    return num * price;
}
if (basePrice() > 1000)
    return basePrice() * 0.95;
else
    return basePrice() * 0.98;
```