Building great Interfaces with OOABL

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- Independent IT consulting organization
- Focusing on **OpenEdge** and **related technology**
- Located in Cologne, Germany, subsidiaries in UK and Romania
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- Vendor of developer tools and consulting services
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Agenda

- Introduction
- Interface vs. Implementation
- Enums
- Value or Parameter Objects
- Fluent Interfaces
- Builders
- Strong Typed Dynamic Query Interfaces
- Factories
- Facades and Decorators
Introduction

- Object oriented (ABL) programming is more than just a bunch of new syntax elements
- It’s easy to continue producing procedural spaghetti code in classes
- Successful adoption of object oriented programming requires knowledge of a few key principles and patterns
# Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types</th>
<th>type defines the set of requests (e.g. method calls or properties) to which it can respond. In the ABL, typically classes, interfaces, enums</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong typing</td>
<td>compile-time enforcement of rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>stuff &quot;inside&quot; a type - methods, properties, events, variables, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access control</td>
<td>compile-time restriction on member visibility: public, protected, private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>type with executable code; implementation of a type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract class</td>
<td>non-instantiable (non-runnable) class that may have executable code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Static</td>
<td>members loaded once per session. think GLOBAL SHARED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interface</td>
<td>type with public members without implementations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enum</td>
<td>strongly-typed name int64-value pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>running classes, aka instance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common terms

Software Design Patterns: general reusable solution to a commonly occurring problem within a given context
- Parameter value
- Fluent Interfaces
- Factory method
- Singleton

SOLID principles
- Single responsibility
- Open-closed
- Liskov substitution
- Interface segregation
- Dependency inversion

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_design_pattern
Software goals

- **Flexibility**
  - Allow implementations to be swapped without changes to the calling/consuming code
  - Make testing (mocking) easier

- **Modularity & extensibility**
  - Allow independent (teams / companies) to develop frameworks and components or modules
  - Allow later / third-party extension of components without changing initial / core components
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Implementation

- The implementation of a class consists of any executable code
- Code in constructors, methods, properties GET and SET, destructors
- PRIVATE, PROTECTED an PUBLIC method declarations
- Coding standards primarily impact implementation of a class (e.g. size of methods)
- Developer should be able to alter implementation (optimization, bug fixing) of a class without impacting consuming code
- “Implementation details” should only concern developer of a class, not the developer of code consuming that class
Interface of a class

- Outside view on a class
- Set of all PUBLIC members (constructors, methods, properties, events, variables)
- Parameters of those members
- PRIVATE or PROTECTED Temp-Table and ProDataset's when used as parameters
- Interface of a class should not be changed (at least no breaking changes) as this might impact consuming code
- Only make those members public that need to be invoked by other classes or procedures – once it’s public colleagues will use it!
Interface types

- Classes with no implementation, no executable code
- Part of a programming contract (in the sense of contractual design)
- Only PUBLIC members allowed, compiler enforced
- Interfaces define a set of members a class needs to provide so that the class becomes compatible to the Interfaces type, compiler enforced
- Classes can implement multiple interfaces
- Interface types make different implementations exchangeable
- Constructors not part of Interface types
- Interfaces should be small, only few methods
Interface vs. Implementation

- Prefer Interface types for parameters and return value definitions
- Foundation for mocking (Unit Testing)
- Foundation for customization through configuration
- Interfaces define common type without requiring to inherit from a common base class
- Inheritance should be an implementation detail
- Interface may however be inherited by base class

```plaintext
CLASS Demo.CustomerBusinessEntity
  INHERITS Consultingwerk.OERA.BusinessEntity
  IMPLEMENTS Consultingwerk.OERA.IBusinessEntity:
```
Naming standards

- Pick one … and live with that – as it must be clear to the whole team

- **.NET**: Interface names starting with a capital I, followed by another capital letter: IBusinessEntity, default implementation (if exists): BusinessEntity

- **Java**: Interface names with no prefix, default implementation sometimes suffixed with “Impl”: BusinessEntity and BusinessEntityImpl
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Enums

An **enumerated type** (also called enumeration, enum[...]) is a data type consisting of a set of named values called elements, members, enumeral, or enumerators of the type. The enumerator names are usually identifiers that behave as constants in the language.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enumerated_type
Why use enums

// Consider this pseudo code – ignoring the need to release locks!

PROCEDURE SetOrderStatus (INPUT pOrderNum AS INTEGER, 
INPUT pStatus AS INTEGER):

    OpenEdge.Core.Assert:IsPositive(pStatus, 'Order status').
    
    FIND Order WHERE Order.OrderNum EQ pOrderNum EXCLUSIVE-LOCK. 
    ASSIGN Order.OrderStatus = pStatus. 
    // what happens when the integer isn't a valid status? How do we know ?
END PROCEDURE.

RUN SetOrderStatus (12345, 0).  // this throws an error via the Assert
RUN SetOrderStatus (12345, 1).  // what is this status?
RUN SetOrderStatus (12345, 2).
Defining enums

// enum type
ENUM Services.Orders.OrderStatusEnum: // implicitly FINAL so cannot be extended
  // enum member
  DEFINE ENUM
    Shipped = 1  // default start at 0
    Backordered // = 2. Values incremented in def order
    Ordered
    Open
    Cancelled = -1 // historical set of bad values
    UnderReview = -2
    Default = Ordered. // = 3
  // enum members are the only members allowed
  // enum members can only be used in enum types
END ENUM.
Using enums

// Consider this pseudo code – ignoring the need to release locks!

PROCEDURE SetOrderStatus (INPUT pOrderNum AS INTEGER,

    //ensures that we have a known, good status
    OpenEdge.Core.Assert:NotNull(pStatus, 'Order status').

    FIND Order WHERE Order.OrderNum EQ pOrderNum EXCLUSIVE-LOCK.

    ASSIGN Order.OrderStatus = pStatus:GetValue().
    //Alternative way of getting the value
    ASSIGN Order.OrderStatus = INTEGER(pStatus).

END PROCEDURE.

RUN SetOrderStatus (12345, OrderStatusEnum:None).  // COMPILE ERROR
RUN SetOrderStatus (12345, OrderStatusEnum:Backordered).
RUN SetOrderStatus (12345, OrderStatusEnum:Ordered).
Storing Enum Values in the Database

DEFINE VARIABLE cValue AS CHARACTER NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE iValue AS INTEGER NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE oEnum AS WeekdayEnum NO-UNDO.

/* Get Enum value as INTEGER or CHARACTER value */
ASSIGN cValue = STRING (WeekdayEnum:Thursday)
   iValue = INTEGER (WeekdayEnum:Thursday).

/* Specific Enum */
oEnum = WeekdayEnum:GetEnum(cValue).
oEnum = WeekdayEnum:GetEnum(4).

/* More generic */
oEnum = CAST (Progress.Lang.Enum:ToObject
   ("Demo.OoInterfaces.WeekdayEnum":U, cValue),
   Demo.OoInterfaces.WeekdayEnum).
Enums vs. System/Master Tables

- Enums provide a fixed set of values determined at compile time
- Enums cannot be extended by end users without altering source code and recompiling
- Enums may be accompanied by a System Table defining further details, such as opening times, # of days in a given year
- Weekday, Month are good examples for Enums
- Color usually doesn’t work well as an Enum (unless you’re Henry Ford)
- OrderStatus may or may not be a good Enum
  - Is there a fixed set of order statuses
  - Can (super-)users define order statuses and their workflow dynamically
Enums and Translation

- An Enum maps an INT64 value to a Character name
- Character name must follow rules of ABL identifiers
  - Cannot contain space or similar white spaces, comma, (semi)colon, etc.
  - Cannot start with a number
- Is not translatable (also not with Translation Manager)
- Character name of an Enum member usually not suited for interaction with users
- Enums require custom solution (application or framework) to provide human-friendly representation including translation
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Value objects

A value object is a small object that represents a simple entity whose equality is not based on identity: i.e. two value objects are equal when they have the same value, not necessarily being the same object.

Value objects should be immutable.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Value_object
Value objects

- Class with typically no or very little executable code
- Foundation structure of DDD (Domain Driven Design)
- The Primitive Types of an application
- Single record temp-table
  - With inheritance and Interface implementation supported
  - Temp-Tables not really an OO construct in the ABL
CLASS Demo.Customer:

DEFINE PUBLIC PROPERTY CustNum AS INTEGER NO-UNDO
GET.
PRIVATE SET.

DEFINE PUBLIC PROPERTY Name AS CHARACTER NO-UNDO
GET.
PRIVATE SET.

DEFINE PUBLIC PROPERTY City AS CHARACTER NO-UNDO
GET.
PRIVATE SET.

DEFINE PUBLIC PROPERTY PostalCode AS CHARACTER NO-UNDO
GET.
PRIVATE SET.
Customer constructor

CONSTRUCTOR PUBLIC Customer (pCustNum AS INTEGER,
   pName AS CHARACTER,
   pCity AS CHARACTER,
   pPostalCode AS CHARACTER):

   ASSIGN THIS-OBJECT:CustNum = pCustNum
   THIS-OBJECT:Name = pName
   THIS-OBJECT:City = pCity
   THIS-OBJECT:PostalCode = pPostalCode
.

END CONSTRUCTOR.
Simplify Logging and Debugging

- The ToString() method of Progress.Lang.Object is overriable

```plaintext
METHOD PUBLIC OVERRIDE CHARACTER ToString():

  RETURN SUBSTITUTE ("CustNum: &1, Name: &2, City: &3":U,
          THIS-OBJECT:CustNum,      
          THIS-OBJECT:Name,         
          THIS-OBJECT:City).

END METHOD.

oCustomer = NEW Customer (42, "Lift Line Sking", "Dublin", "12345").

MESSAGE oCustomer SKIP
  STRING (oCustomer) SKIP
  oCustomer:ToString ()
  VIEW-AS ALERT-BOX.
```
Equality checks

- The Equals() method of Progress.Lang.Object is overriable
- Equals() needs to be invoked, it’s not overriding the = or EQ operator

```csharp
METHOD PUBLIC OVERRIDE LOGICAL Equals (objectRef AS Object):

IF objectRef = THIS-OBJECT THEN RETURN TRUE .
IF NOT TYPE-OF (objectRef, Customer) THEN RETURN FALSE .

IF CAST (objectRef, Customer):CustNum = THIS-OBJECT:CustNum AND
CAST (objectRef, Customer):Name = THIS-OBJECT:Name AND
CAST (objectRef, Customer):City = THIS-OBJECT:City AND
CAST (objectRef, Customer):PostalCode = THIS-OBJECT:PostalCode THEN
RETURN TRUE .

RETURN FALSE .
END METHOD.
```
Equality checks

DEFINE VARIABLE oCustomer1 AS Customer NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE oCustomer2 AS Customer NO-UNDO.

oCustomer1 = NEW Customer (42, "Lift Line Sking", "Dublin", "12345").
oCustomer2 = NEW Customer (42, "Lift Line Sking", "Dublin", "12345").

MESSAGE "/ EQ" oCustomer1 = oCustomer2 SKIP "Equals()" oCustomer1:Equals (oCustomer2)
VIEW-AS ALERT-BOX.
Parameter Objects

- Parameter Objects are Value Objects
- Purpose is to serve as a (single) parameter to a method requiring a complex parameter
- Simplify adding additional parameters by just adding properties to the parameter object
- Parameter Objects can (and should) be used with procedural code
Simplified object creation using CLI Interface

- Command line interfaces trendy in web development

```bash
> scl-gen Parameter Customer CustNum:integer Name City PostalCode
```

DLC:  C:\Progress\OpenEdge117_64
Buildfile:  c:\Work_STREAM\SmartComponentLibrary\Develop\ABL\Consultingwerk\Studio\Scaffolding\scl-gen.xml

generate:

- `[scl-gen] Script Directory:  c:\Work_STREAM\SmartComponentLibrary\Develop\ABL\Consultingwerk\Studio\Scaffolding\`
- `[scl-gen] Current Directory:  C:\Work_STREAM\SmartComponentLibrary\Develop\ABL\demo`
- `[scl-gen] Template: Parameter`
- `[scl-gen] TemplateParameter: CustNum:integer Name City PostalCode`
- `[scl-gen] Name: Customer`
- `[scl-gen] PROPATH:  c:\Work_STREAM\SmartComponentLibrary\Develop\ABL`

- `[scl-gen] SmartComponent Library code generator.`
- `[scl-gen] Consultingwerk Internal Development / 117_64`
- `[scl-gen] (c)2008-2018 Consultingwerk Ltd. - All rights reserved.
- `[scl-gen] Writing to:  C:\Work_STREAM\SmartComponentLibrary\Develop\ABL\demo\Customer.cls`
Interfaces for Value Objects?

- Not always a requirement - but a good habit in my opinion
- It’s not a frequent requirement to swap the implementation
  - Typically no executable code, so the demand for mocking (Unit Tests) or customization is generally low
- However you might have a Supplier type and a Customer type
- Customer and Supplier both have Address fields
- Address can define a super-type for Customer and Supplier through
  - Inheritance
  - Implementing IAddress
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Fluent Interfaces

In software engineering, a fluent interface is a method for designing object oriented APIs based extensively on method chaining with the goal of making the readability of the source code close to that of ordinary written prose, essentially creating a domain-specific language within the interface.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fluent_interface
Fluent Interfaces

- Useful when typically a sequence of calls into an object is required
- Order of those calls typically not relevant
- Might be used to initialize (parameter) objects
- Typically more verbose than a number of parameters, makes understanding of code by other developers trivial
- But – usually confusing to developers that haven’t seen this before
Example

DEFINE VARIABLE oParameter AS FluentParameterSample NO-UNDO .

/* Constructor with parameters */
oParameter = NEW FluentParameterSample (11, 42, 1/1/2018, 12/31/2018).

/* Fluent Interface in a single line */
oParameter = (NEW FluentParameterSample()):CustomerNumber(11):ItemNumber(42):
StartDate (1/1/2018):EndDate (12/31/2018).

/* Block formatting of Fluent Interface */
oParameter = (NEW FluentParameterSample())
  :CustomerNumber (11)
  :ItemNumber (42)
  :StartDate (1/1/2018)
  :EndDate (12/31/2018).
Implementation of Example

- VOID methods simply return THIS-OBJECT instead
- Use methods as alternative PROPERTY SET

```java
METHOD PUBLIC FluentParameterSample ItemNumber (piItemNumber AS INTEGER):

  ASSIGN THIS-OBJECT:ItemNumber = piItemNumber.
  RETURN THIS-OBJECT.

END METHOD.
```
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Builders

The Builder is a design pattern designed to provide a flexible solution to various object creation problems in object-oriented programming. The intent of the Builder design pattern is to separate the construction of a complex object from its representation. It is one of the Gang of Four design patterns.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Builder_pattern
OpenEdge HTTP Client

- Extensive ABL implementation of the HTTP protocol
- GET/POST/PUT/PATCH/DELETE to HTTP servers, REST services, SOAP, …
- Object model similar to the Web Handlers (HTTP service implementation)
- OpenEdge 11.6 + (available but unsupported in 11.5)
- Many parameters ….
- Basic syntax on next slide
DEFINE VARIABLE oLibrary AS IHttpClientLibrary NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE oClient AS IHttpClient NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE oRequest AS IHttpRequest NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE oResponse AS HttpResponse NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE oRequestBuilder AS RequestBuilder NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE cUri AS CHARACTER NO-UNDO.

oLibrary = ClientLibraryBuilder:Build():Library.
oClient = ClientBuilder:Build():UsingLibrary(oLibrary):Client.


oRequestBuilder = RequestBuilder:Get(cURI):AcceptJson().
oRequest = oRequestBuilder:Request.
oResponse = oClient:Execute (oRequest).

Demo

- Using the HTTP Client to retrieve currency rates
A closer look

- `RequestBuilder` – static reference to the RequestBuilder class
- Each method returns an instance of the RequestBuilder
- `Request` property returns reference to the IHttpRequest instance that was built
- We don’t know, we don’t need to know the class implementing IHttpRequest – that’s if at all a concern of the RequestBuilder class

```plaintext
DEFINE VARIABLE oRequest AS IHttpRequest NO-UNDO.
DEFINE VARIABLE oRequestBuilder AS RequestBuilder NO-UNDO.

oRequestBuilder = RequestBuilder:Get(cURI):AcceptJson().
oRequest = oRequestBuilder:Request.
```
A simplification

- In many cases we don’t require the reference to the RequestBuilder

```definition
DEFINE VARIABLE oRequest AS IHttpRequest NO-UNDO .
```

```
oRequest = RequestBuilder:Get(cURI):AcceptJson():Request.
```
Fluent Builder Interface

- Builder may use Fluent Interfaces (previous section) to allow for method chaining

```plaintext
oRequest = RequestBuilder:Get(cURI)
    :AddHeader("some-name", "42")
    :SupportsProxy()
    :AcceptJson()
    :Request .
```
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Dynamic Queries

- Dynamic Queries are great - Dynamic Queries are bad
- Dynamic Queries are required for layered architectures
- Dynamic Queries are required for flexible filtering by users or consumers
- Dynamic Queries are hard to debug
- Typos in Dynamic Queries will bite you only during runtime – both for field names and syntax or argument data types
- Debugging in production not really the best method
Strong Typed Query Interface

- Generated for Business Entities
- Compliant with the CCS-BE Structured Query specification
- Support standard ABL query operators for fields based on Data-Type
- Support additional operators based on Data-Type like `InRange` or `InList`
- Query defined as list of object describing each individual criteria
- Simplifies Query manipulation, validation and optimization

- Our implementation uses Fluent Interface – but no Builder
- Using the builder seemed too much code generation
OrderQuery sample

DEFINE VARIABLE oQuery AS OrderQuery NO-UNDO .

oQuery = NEW OrderQuery () .

oQuery:CustNum:Eq(42)  
   :Carrier:Eq("UPS") .

MESSAGE oQuery:ToQueryString (TRUE)  
   VIEW-AS ALERT-BOX.

oQuery = NEW OrderQuery (42) . /* select by OrderNum */
OrderQuery sample

```plaintext
DEFINE VARIABLE cOrderStatus AS CHARACTER NO-UNDO EXTENT
   INITIAL ['Shipped', 'Ordered'].

oQuery = NEW OrderQuery () . /* select by OrderNum */

oQuery:CustNum:Eq(42):And (((NEW OrderQuery()):OrderStatus:Eq("Shipped")
   :Or:OrderStatus:Eq("Ordered"))
   :And:Carrier:Eq("UPS") .
```

```plaintext
oQuery = NEW OrderQuery () . /* select by OrderNum */

oQuery:CustNum:Eq(42)
   :OrderStatus:InList (cOrderStatus)
   :Carrier:Eq("UPS") .
```
Demo

- Strong Typed but Dynamic Queries
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Factories

- Factories have the sole responsibility of creating object instances.
- They can/should be the only place knowing requirements to create object instances.
- Separate the concern of creating an Object instance from using it.
- May be based on configuration.
- May support Unit Testing and Mocking.
Different Implementations

- Factory Service: CreateObject (Type) – Type is typically an Interface or Enum etc.
- Factory Methods
- Abstract Factories

- Avoid direct usage of NEW on unrelated type in your code
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Facades

The **facade pattern** (also spelled façade) is a software-design pattern commonly used with object-oriented programming. Analogous to a facade in architecture, a facade is an object that serves as a front-facing interface masking more complex underlying or structural code.

A facade can improve the readability and usability of a software library by masking interaction with more complex components behind a single API.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Facade_pattern
The OO Spaghetti Monster

- Customer
- Sales Rep
- Inventory
- Order / Order Line
- Invoice
- Item
- Employee
Start ordering your objects in packages / modules
Divide and conquer – Modules as sub-systems

- CRM-Module
  - Module-Facade
  - Customer

- Order Processing-Module
  - Module-Facade
  - Order / Order Line
  - Invoice

- Factory/Warehouse-Module
  - Module-Facade
  - Item
  - Inventory

- HR-Module
  - Module-Facade
  - Employee
  - Sales Rep
Open/Close Principle

- Design as open for enhancement – while closed for modifications
- Design to a contract (Interface) on the sub-system level, not just a single class
- Modules manage complexity and impact of change
- A change in functionality in one module does not require changes to other modules
- Simplifies testing. Allows mocking of a whole sub-system
Open/Close Principle

- Business Requirement: Confirming an order needs to commit inventory/stock allocation
- If Order Business Entity would directly call into the Inventory/Stock Business Entity this would create a direct dependency between the two Business Entities
  - Change in the implementation of the Inventory/Stock Business Entity might affect the Order Business Entity
- If the Order Business Entity however, would publish a message using a Message Publisher infrastructure, the Inventory/Stock Domain may – or may not at its own responsibility perform required action
Decorators

In object-oriented programming, the **decorator pattern** is a design pattern that allows behavior to be added to an individual object, dynamically, without affecting the behavior of other objects from the same class. The decorator pattern is often useful for adhering to the Single Responsibility Principle, as it allows functionality to be divided between classes with unique areas of concern.

Decorator Pattern

- Allows extension of an object instance through another object instance
- Requires objects to implement the same Interface
  - Decorated object implementing with standard functionality
  - Decorator implementing behavior by calling into methods of the decorated object plus X
- Decorator can replace or extend the original implementation
- Multiple decorators may be applied to one object
- Configuration/factory used to abstract the creation of decorator or base object
Decorator Example

CLASS Demo.OoInterfaces.Decorator.PriceCalculatorDiscountDecorator
IMPLEMENTS IPriceCalculator:

DEFINE PRIVATE VARIABLE oDecorated AS IPriceCalculator NO-UNDO .

CONSTRUCTOR PUBLIC PriceCalculatorDiscountDecorator (poDecorated AS IPriceCalculator):
  ASSIGN oDecorated = poDecorated .
END CONSTRUCTOR.

METHOD PUBLIC DECIMAL CalculateSalesPrice (poParameter AS IPriceCalculationParameter):
  DEFINE VARIABLE deResult AS DECIMAL NO-UNDO .

  deResult = oDecorated:CalculateSalesPrice (poParameter) .


  RETURN deResult * (1 - Customer.Discount / 100) .
END METHOD.
Decorator vs. Inheritance

- Inheritance is static – adding a decorator is more dynamic
- Decorator can be added to an existing object instance at runtime
- Decorator references decorated object, implements all methods, typically calling the method of the decorated object
- Decorator pattern may serve as method to achieve multiple inheritance
- Decorator is not the same instance/reference – whereas when using inheritance there’s only a single instance made from the base and child class
Decorator sample

Questions