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Factory Pattern

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Definition



Implementation



Example



Summary



Definition

A factory method states that you should just define an interface or an abstract class for creating an object, but let a subclass decide which class to instantiate.

Basically a virtual constructor



Advantages
and usage



Advantage

Code interaces solely with the interface or the abstract class.

Usage

use when:

a class doesn't know what sub-classes will be required

if you want the subclass to specify the objects being created



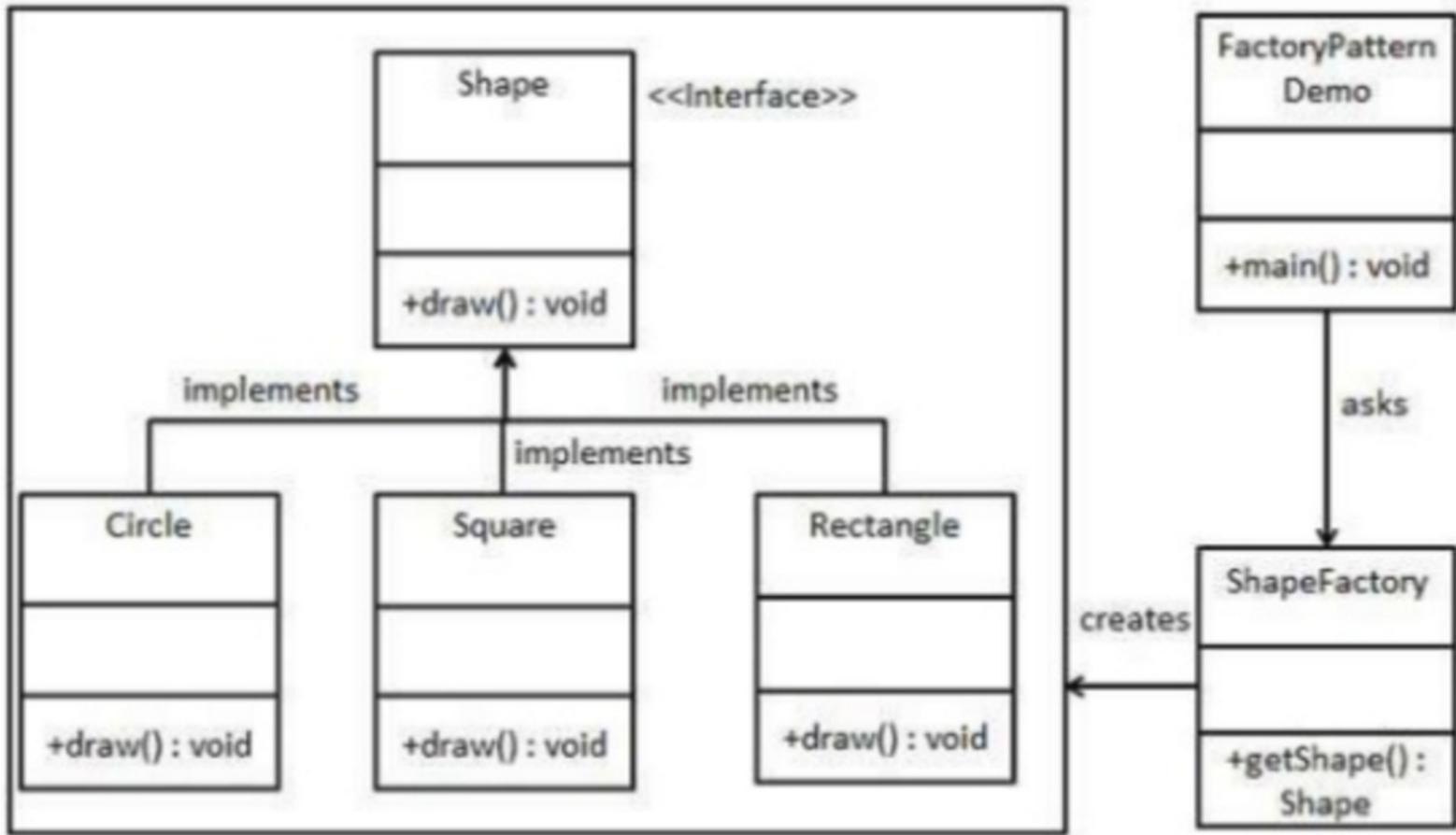
Example



Let's say we wanted to
make a bunch of shapes
objects...



UML



Implementation



Step 1: Create Interface

Step 2: Create Concrete Classes

Step 3: Create Factory

Step 4: Test



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4



Step 1: Create Interface

```
1  
2 public interface Shape{  
3     void draw();  
4     void howManySides();  
5 }
```



Step 2: Concrete Classes

```
1 public class Rectangle implements Shape{
2     @Override
3     public void draw(){
4         System.out.println("Drawing a Reactangle");
5     }
6     @Override
7     public void howManySides(){
8         System.out.println("A Rectangle has four sides\nMaybe it's also a square?");
9     }
10 }
```

```
1 public class Square implements Shape{
2     @Override
3     public void draw(){
4         System.out.println("Drawing a Square");
5     }
6     @Override
7     public void howManySides(){
8         System.out.println("A Square has four sides\nA square is also a rectangle");
9     }
10 }
```

```
1 public class Circle implements Shape{
2     @Override
3     public void draw(){
4         System.out.println("Drawing a Circle");
5     }
6     @Override
7     public void howManySides(){
8         System.out.println("A Circle has 0 sides... or maybe infinity sides?\nIt's definitely not a square");
9     }
10 }
```

Step 3: The Factory

The factory is what returns the specific object you're looking for

```
1 public class ShapeFactory{
2     public Shape getShape(String shapeType){
3         if (shapeType == null) {
4             return null;
5         }
6         switch(shapeType.toLowerCase()){
7             case "circle":
8                 return new Circle();
9             case "rectangle":
10                return new Rectangle();
11             case "square":
12                return new Square();
13         }
14         return null;
15     }
16 }
17 }
```

Step 4: Test

```
1 public class FactoryPatternApp{
2     public static void main(String[] args) {
3         ShapeFactory shapeFactory = new ShapeFactory();
4
5         Shape shape1 = shapeFactory.getShape("Circle");
6         shape1.draw();
7         shape1.howManySides();
8
9         Shape shape2 = shapeFactory.getShape("Rectangle");
10        shape2.draw();
11        shape2.howManySides();
12
13        Shape shape3 = shapeFactory.getShape("Square");
14        shape3.draw();
15        shape3.howManySides();
16
17    }
18 }
19 }
```



```
collinol@collin-HP:~/00Arch/Presentation$ java FactoryPatternApp
Drawing a Circle
A Circle has 0 sides... or maybe infinity sides?
It's definitely not a square
Drawing a Rectangle
A Rectangle has four sides
Maybe it's also a square?
Drawing a Square
A Square has four sides
A square is also a rectangle
```

We only need one "Shape" type and we can let the factory build specific shapes for us.

Eliminates the need to rewrite a lot of the same code for multiple shapes.

Summary

Objective of factory method: create objects that derive from a particular base class

Use when you find yourself rewriting a lot of the same code for related classes or subclasses.

Other examples: Animals, different models of the same brand, etc..

