

Automated Dependency Injection with Guice

Martin Monperrus

Creative Commons Attribution License

Copying and modifying are authorized as long as proper credit is given to the author.

version of Dec 28, 2012



Creating Graphs of Objects

At runtime, OO programs create object graphs in many ways.

```
class Server {
    Protocol _protocol;
    Authorizer _auth;
    Logger _logger;

    // field initialization
    ErrorHandler _eh = new ErrorHandler();

    // constructor initialization
    public Server(Protocol p) {... }

    // setter initialization
    public setAuthorizer(Authorizer a) { this._auth = a;}

    // method initialization
    public run() {
        _logger = new Logger();
        ... }
}
```

Software architecture

For improving reusability, it is important to keep the class open.

// Rule #1: No dependency to concrete types

```
class Server {
```

```
    IProtocol _protocol;
```

```
    IAuthorizer _auth;
```

```
    ILogger _logger;
```

// Rule #2: No hard coded types

```
    ErrorHandler _eh = new ErrorHandler();
```

```
    public Server(IProtocol p) {... }
```

```
    public setAuthorizer(IAuthorizer a) { this._auth = a;}
```

```
// method initialization
```

```
public run() {
```

```
    _logger = new Logger();
```

```
    ... }
```

```
}
```

The Dependency Injection Design Pattern (Fowler)

```
public class DefaultCarImpl implements ICar {
    private IEngine engine;

    // constructor injection pattern
    public DefaultCarImpl(final IEngine engineImpl) {
        engine = engineImpl;
    }

    // setter injection pattern
    public setEngine(IEngine engine) {this.engine = engine}
}
```

- Facilitates reuse and testing
- Concrete types are "injected" using constructors or methods
- Most used is Fowler's Constructor Injection

Problem #1: **Long chains of constructors**

Problem #2: error-prone

Google Guice

- is a framework for dependency injection developed at Google
- Component is called *Module*
- *<http://code.google.com/p/google-guice/>*

Manually injected dependency versus Automatically injected dependency

First Guice Example

- A Webserver is composed of one scheduler and one handler
 - Scheduler: Sequence, MultiThread
 - Handler: Constant, File, Dispatcher

```
Module webserver = new AbstractModule() {
    @Override
    protected void configure() {
        bind(IRequestHandler.class).to>HelloWorldRequestHandler.class);
        bind(IScheduler.class).to(MultiThreadScheduler.class);
    }
};

Guice.createInjector(webserver).getInstance(RequestReceiver.class).run();
```

No constructors and Automated bindings.

Behind the scene

```
public class RequestReceiver implements Runnable {
    @Inject
    private IScheduler s;
    @Inject
    private IRequestHandler rh;
}
```

```
public class RequestAnalyzer implements IRequestHandler {
    @Inject (optional = true)
    private ILogger l;
}
```

- One single annotation
- If optional, bindings are not required
- All fields can be made private with no constructor

Constructor injection

```
public interface ILogHeader {  
    public String getLogHeader();  
}
```

```
public class DynConfigurableLogger implements ILogger {  
    private ILogHeader _header;  
    @Inject  
    public DynConfigurableLogger(ILogHeader o) {  
        _header = o;  
    }  
    public void log (String msg) {  
        System.err.println(_header.getLogHeader()+msg);  
    }  
}
```

```
bind(ILogHeader.class).to(DateLogHeader.class);  
bind(ILogger.class).to(DynConfigurableLogger.class);
```

Pattern and Guice can co-exist.

Linked Bindings

Linked bindings map a type to its implementation.

```
public class BillingModule extends AbstractModule {
    @Override
    protected void configure() {
        bind(TransactionLog.class).to(DatabaseTransactionLog.class);
    }
}
```

You can even link the concrete DatabaseTransactionLog class to a subclass:

```
bind(DatabaseTransactionLog.class).to(MySqlDatabaseTransactionLog.class);
```

Linked bindings can also be chained:

```
public class BillingModule extends AbstractModule {
    @Override
    protected void configure() {
        // TransactionLog instances will be MySqlTransactionLog
        bind(TransactionLog.class).to(DatabaseTransactionLog.class);
        bind(DatabaseTransactionLog.class).to(MySqlTransactionLog.class);
    }
}
```

Tagged bindings

Problem: No all objects are similar, esp. in the presence of decorated objects.

```
/** Extracts the requested URI from HTTP */
public class RequestAnalyzer implements IRequestHandler {
    // this should be a FileAnalyzer
    @Inject
    private IRequestHandler rh;
}

public class RequestReceiver implements Runnable {
    // this should be a RequestAnalyzer
    @Inject
    private IRequestHandler rh;
}
```

Tagged bindings (annotatedWith)

```
public class RequestAnalyzer implements IRequestHandler {
    @Inject @Named("RequestAnalyzerBinding")
    private IRequestHandler rh;
}
```

```
Module webserver = new AbstractModule() {
    @Override
    protected void configure() {
        bind(IRequestHandler.class).to(RequestAnalyzer.class);
        bind(IRequestHandler.class)
            .annotatedWith(Names.named("RequestAnalyzerBinding"))
            .to(FileRequestHandler.class);
        bind(IScheduler.class).to(MultiThreadScheduler.class);
    }
}
```

Bindings can be specialized

Tagged bindings (annotatedWith)

```
public class RequestAnalyzer implements IRequestHandler {  
    @Inject @RequestAnalyzerBinding  
    private IRequestHandler rh;  
}
```

```
@Retention(RetentionPolicy.RUNTIME) @BindingAnnotation  
public @interface RequestAnalyzerBinding { }
```

```
Module webserver = new AbstractModule() {  
    @Override  
    protected void configure() {  
        bind(IRequestHandler.class).to(RequestAnalyzer.class);  
        bind(IRequestHandler.class)  
            .annotatedWith(RequestAnalyzerBinding.class)  
            .to(FileRequestHandler.class);  
        bind(IScheduler.class).to(MultiThreadScheduler.class);  
    }  
}
```

Bindings can be specialized

Initializing constant fields (bindConstant, toInstance)

```
public class ConfigurableLogger implements ILogger {
    @Inject @Named("ConfigurableLoggerHeader")
    private String header;

    public void log (String msg) {
        System.err.println(header+msg);
    }
}
```

```
Module webserver = new AbstractModule() {
    @Override
    protected void configure() {
        bind(ILogger.class).to(ConfigurableLogger.class);
        bind(String.class)
            .annotatedWith(Names.named("ConfigurableLoggerHeader"))
            .toInstance(">>> ");
        // equivalent to
        bindConstant()
            .annotatedWith(Names.named("ConfigurableLoggerHeader")).to(">>> ");
    }
}
```

Fields can be initialized. Useful for CONSTANTS.

(Mind the private)

Guice Component Composition Operators

- In class Modules:
 - `combine (Module... modules) -> Module`: Returns a new module that combines the bindings of $m_1 \dots m_n$. Crashes with `CreationException` if concurrent bindings.
 - `override (Module... modules) -> ModuleBuilder`: Returns a builder that creates a module that overlays override modules over the given modules. "with" must be called on the returned object.

```
Module functionalTestModule  
= Modules.override(new ProductionModule()).with(new TestModule());
```

Main Concepts

A **module** binds abstract types to concrete types.

```
class ServerModule extends AbstractModule {  
    @Override  
    protected void configure() {  
        bind(IRequestHandler.class).to(RequestAnalyzer.class);  
    }  
}
```

An **injector** is a module transformed into a factory for:

- creating new instances
- enriching existing instances

```
Injector injector = Guice.createInjector(new ServerModule());  
IrequestHandler obj = injector.getInstance(IRequestHandler.class);  
  
//set all injectable fields  
injector.injectMembers(new RequestAnalyzer());
```

Main Concepts

A field can be **injectable** using an annotation `@Inject`. The injection may be optional.

```
@Inject (optional = true)
private ILogger l;
```

The scope of an injection can be restricted using an annotation **@Named**.

```
@Inject @Named("RequestAnalyzerBinding")
private IRequestHandler rh;
```

```
bind(IRequestHandler.class)
    .annotatedWith(Names.named("RequestAnalyzerBinding"))
    .to(FileRequestHandler.class);
```


Intermediate Concepts

Default implementation classes can be specified using the annotation `@ImplementedBy` (no more `bind().to()`)

```
@ImplementedBy(BasicLogger.class)
public interface ILogger {
    void log (String msg);
}
```

Note: the default implementation may be overridden by `bind().to()`

Intermediate Concepts

A Singleton can be specified using the annotation @Singleton

```
@Singleton  
public class DatabaseConnection  
implements Connection {  
    ....  
}
```

Note: this simply discards all uses of the Singleton implementation pattern.

Advanced Concepts

A tailored object can be created with a **provider** method using the @Provides annotation

```
Module webserver = new AbstractModule() {
    @Override
    protected void configure() {
        bind(IRequestHandler.class).to>HelloWorldRequestHandler.class);
    }

    @Provides
    IScheduler newIScheduler() {
        return new MultiThreadScheduler() {
            @Override
            public Thread configure(Thread thread) {
                thread.setUncaughtExceptionHandler(new UncaughtExceptionHandler() {
                    @Override
                    public void uncaughtException(Thread t, Throwable e) {
                        Log.debug(e.getLocalizedMessage());
                    }
                });
            }
            return super.configure(thread);
        }
    };
};
```

Note: @Provides necessarily appears in Module class.

Guice definition of software component

- In Guice, a software component definition is a class implementing Module (or extending AbstractModule).
- A component instance is graph of objects that are bound using **automated** dependency injection.