Subject: Re: Need advice about inheritance
Posted by Antonio Santiago on Fri, 10 Jun 2005 09:21:38 GMT
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Like Marc I think the best solution is to override the add method. As he says you can use the template pattern, that is, put the common code into an auxiliar method.

Anyway, I think it is more a concept problem. Supose the class PERSON and subclasses MAN and WOMAN. It is a bit strange to call:

man = some_person->set_address(xxx)

it must be

person = some_person->set_addres(xxx)

Perhaps this example isn't the best, but applied on your case (and in my own opinion) is a bit strange to add two datas and obtain a time_data. That is if you add two integers is a bit strange get a float as result (possible but strange). You can is something like a cast after an operation.

I don't know how you model the problem, I supose something like:

DATA <----- TIMEDATA

Note that a TIEMDATA object also is a DATA object, but a DATA object maybe isn't a TIMEDATA object. A method on TIMEDATA can return a reference to TIMEDATA object, that in fact is a DATA object, but is dangerous (i think so) to execute a method on DATA and return a TIMEDATA object.

Leaving theory on a side (but remember we must follow it), why not implement a "clone" method in both classes and:

```
FUNCTION Data::Add, some_data_or_timedata_object

 new_object = some_data_or_timedata_object->Clone()

 self->GetProperty, MONTH=m1, DAY=d1, YEAR=y1
 new_object->GetProperty, MONTH=m2, DAY=d2, YEAR=y2

 new_object->SetProperty, MONTH=m1+m2, DAY=d1+d2, YEAR=y1+y2

 RETURN, new_object
END
```

In this case, you can pass to Data::Add any DATA or TIMEDATA oboject and

you return the same type of object. The pproblem becomes with TIMEDATA class. Has it got an Add method? If yes, which type of object you can pass DATA or TIMEDATA. Depends of its types TIMEDATA::Add method must work different (getting the properties of TIMEDATA plus theb month, day and year).

If you can model your problem first (UML) and all is ok, the only (sometimes not :)) final task is to imlpement it.

I hope this crazy email will be useful for you, bye :)

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