

APPLYING AOP TO INCREASE SOLUTION DEVELOPMENT VELOCITY



Sean P. McDonough Senior Solution Architect and Consultant Akumina, Inc.

A BIT ABOUT ME ...

Started professional career as a polymer chemist for Procter & Gamble

• Transitioned within P&G to Information Systems

Developing software professionally since mid '90s Focus has been primarily on SharePoint since 2004 Became a Microsoft MVP in 2016 (Office Apps & Services)

Nowadays, I work for Akumina, Inc.

• Senior Solution Architect and Consultant

Still have Bitstream Foundry going

- Good way to organize my professional activities
- Educational and non-profit technical services

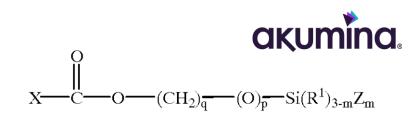


Most Valuable

Professional







WANT THE CODE?



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GitHub: https://github.com/spmcdonough/AOPinSolutionDev

PROBLEMS SOLVED WITH AOP



What sort of "problems are we actually talking about?"

Let's illustrate with an









You're an architect/developer for a large organization, and you've been tasked with building a new enterprise-class, full-trust SharePoint solution, provider-hosted application, or some other .NET application.

There are a wide-array of functional and non-functional requirements you need to address with your design.



This box represents your application

- You need to fill it with the functionality your users need
- And the best part ...





This box represents your application

- You need to fill it with the functionality your users need
- And the best part ...
- Greenfield development!



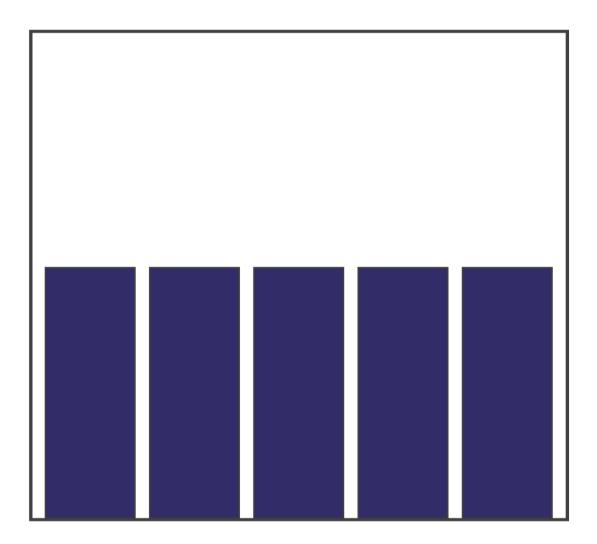




First: functional requirements

- The "business end" of what the application does.
- Ideally driven by stated user requirements <u>and</u> a functional specification



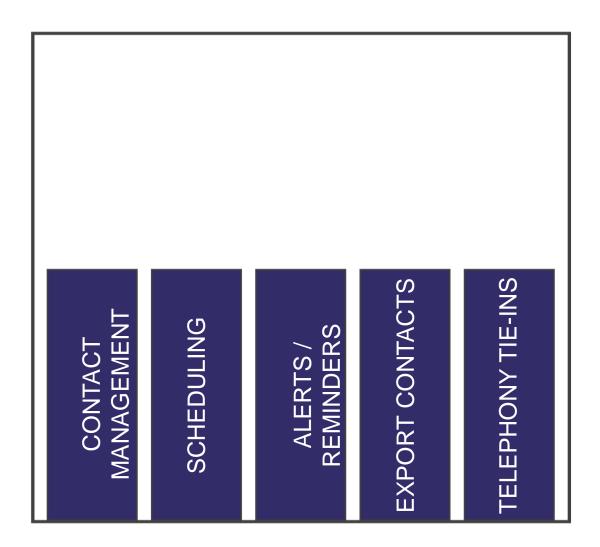




First: functional requirements

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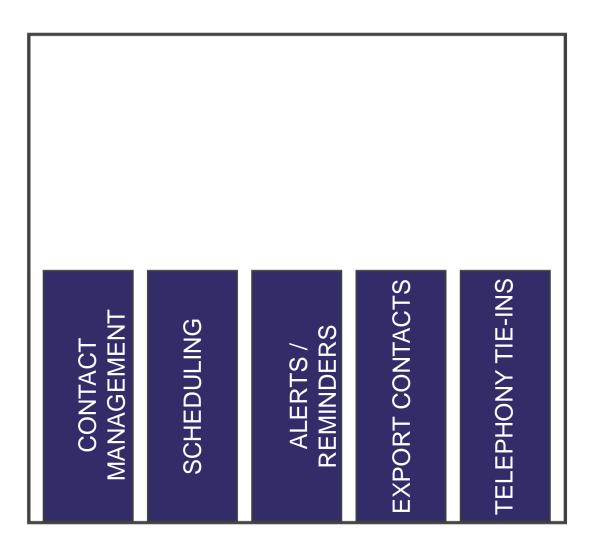
EXAMPLE 1





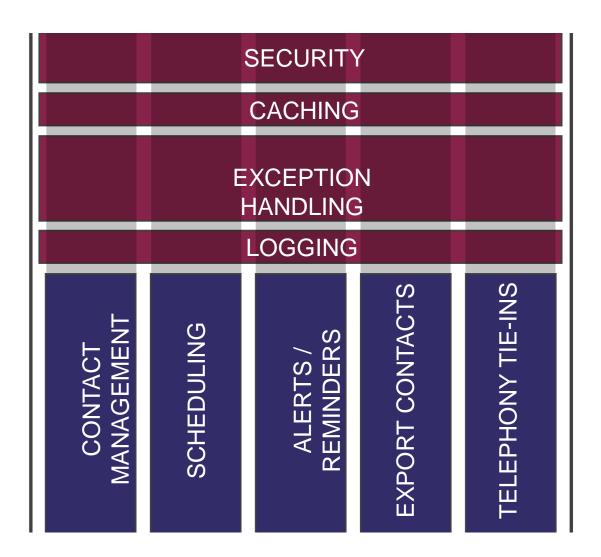
 If we could stop here, we'd be happy and could finish the project feeling like rock stars.







- In reality, we have a lot more code to write.
- It's not really fun code.
- It's generally not glorious.
- It's typically not at all interesting.
- But it's got to be done for enterprise applications.





- Cross-cutting concerns like
 - Security
 - Exception handling
 - Logging
 - Caching
 - Performance counters
 - Thread management
- Dealing with these typically entails a lot of cutting and pasting
- Highly repetitive in nature

		SECURITY	,	
		CACHING		
		XCEPTION HANDLING		
		LOGGING		
CONTACT MANAGEMENT	SCHEDULING	ALERTS / REMINDERS	EXPORT CONTACTS	TELEPHONY TIE-INS



- This tends to result in some less-than-desirable effects
 - The repetitive nature of the code tends to lead to copy-and-paste re-use.
 - As humans, we tend to fatigue as we do all of this copying and pasting.
 - Repetition and fatigue inevitably lead to unexpected and unintentional deviations/errors.





EXAMPLE 2

I WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN I WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN DO IT AGAIN I WILL NOT DO IT DEFAIN I WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN I WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN I WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN I WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN I WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN WILL NOT DO IT AGAIN I WILL



Going from this:

```
private void OperationNol()
{
```

LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message:"It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion,\r\n");



Going from this:

```
private void OperationNol()
{
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion,\r\n");
}
```

... to this:

```
private void OperationNo1()
{
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "Entering OperationNo1()\r\n");
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion,\r\n");
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "Exiting OperationNo1()\r\n");
}
```



Going from this:

```
private void OperationNo1()
{
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "It is by caffeine alone I set my
}
```



... to this:

```
private void OperationNo1()
{
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "Entering OperationNo1()\r\n");
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion,\r\n");
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "Exiting OperationNo1()\r\n");
}
```

... is a substantial code change (i.e., we tripled our lines of code)

AND IT ONLY GETS WORSE WITH EACH CONCERN

Adding in some exception handling ...

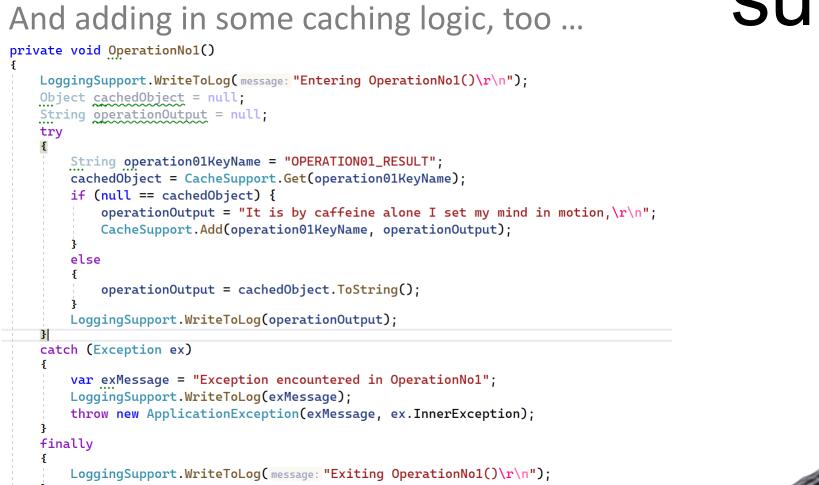
```
private void OperationNol()
{
  LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "Entering OperationNol()\r\n");
  try
  {
   LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion,\r\n");
  }
  catch (Exception ex)
  {
    var exMessage = "Exception encountered in OperationNol";
    LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(exMessage);
    throw new ApplicationException(exMessage, ex.InnerException);
  }
  finally
  {
   LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "Exiting OperationNol()\r\n");
  }
}
```

even less cool



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AND IT ONLY GETS WORSE WITH EACH CONCERN



surely you're kidding

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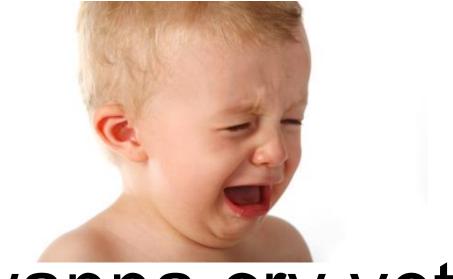


AND IT ONLY GETS WORSE WITH EACH CONCERN



private void OperationNo1()

LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion, \r\n");



wanna cry yet?

And ended-up with this:

private void OperationNo1()

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operationOutput = cachedObject.ToString();

LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(operationOutput);

catch (Exception ex)

```
var exMessage = "Exception encountered in OperationNol";
LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(exMessage);
throw new ApplicationException(exMessage, ex.InnerException);
```

finally

```
LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "Exiting OperationNo1()\r\n");
```

AND THE WORST PART?



- That was only a single method in one class.
- Typically, were talking about countless methods and properties and dozens of classes that need this treatment.
- It easily gets out of hand in a hurry.



THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY

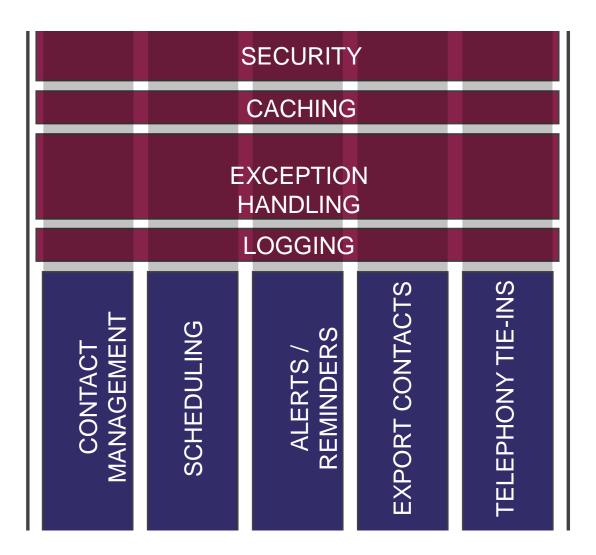




THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY



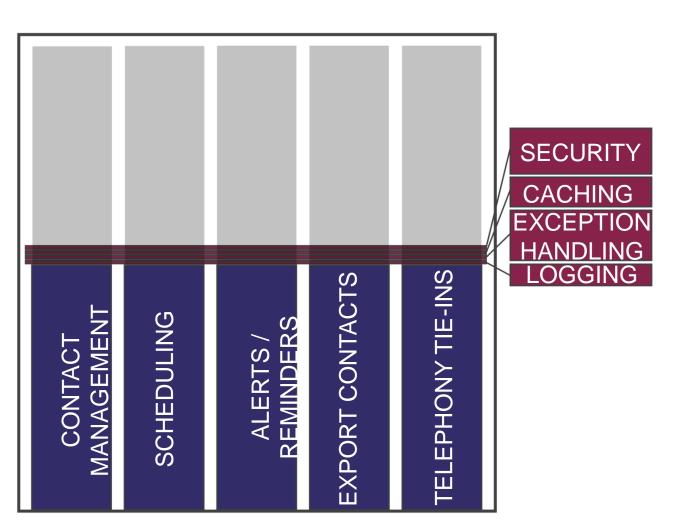
• Instead of having to repeatedly code all of those cross-cutting concerns ...



THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY



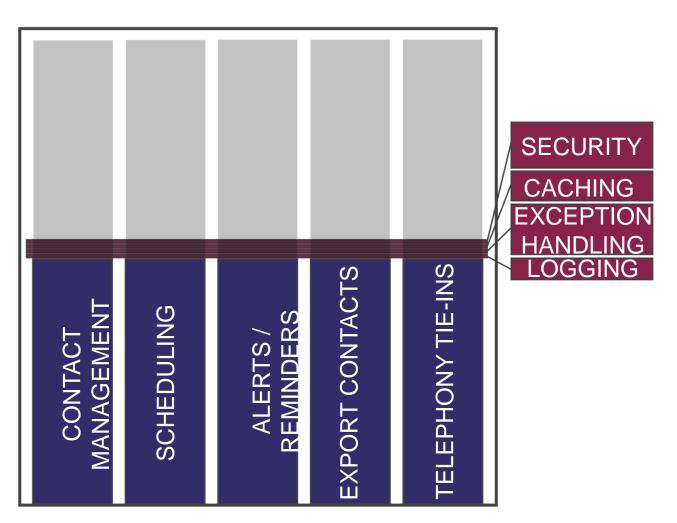
- ... there should be a way to code them once and reapply them in pattern or template form.
- You may have tried to tackle this need with specific classes, but that usually drives up complexity and line counts in its own way.
- Guess what?



THAT'S WHAT AOP IS ALL ABOUT



- Cross-cutting concerns are encapsulated in special classes called aspects.
- Business logic remains clear of redundant plumbing code.
- This reduces clutter and overall line counts.
- Simplifies maintenance significantly.







EXAMPLE 3





"AOP seems pretty neat, but if it is so useful, how come I haven't seen it 'in the wild' by (or before) now?"





- Aspects come in many forms
- If you weren't explicitly looking, you may have seen them and didn't recognize them.





- Aspects come in many forms
- If you weren't explicitly looking, you may have seen them and didn't recognize them.
- Have you heard of or used <u>HTTP</u> <u>Modules</u> during development?

ASP.NET HTTP modules and HTTP handlers

04/03/2020 • 4 minutes to read • 🎱 🐼

This article introduces the ASP.NET Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) modules and HTTP handlers.

Original product version: ASP.NET Original KB number: 307985

Summary

HTTP modules and HTTP handlers are an integral part of the ASP.NET architecture. While a request is being processed, each request is processed by multiple HTTP modules (for example, the authentication module and the session module) and is then processed by a single HTTP handler. After the handler has processed the request, the request flows back through the HTTP modules.

HTTP modules overview

Modules are called before and after the handler executes. Modules enable developers to intercept, participate in, or modify each individual request. Modules implement the IHttpModule interface, which is located in the System.web namespace.

Available events that HTTP modules can synchronize with

An HttpApplication class provides a number of events with which modules can synchronize. The following events are available for modules to synchronize with on each request. These events are listed in sequential order:

- BeginRequest : Request has been started. If you need to do something at the beginning of a request (for example, display advertisement banners at the top of each page), synchronize this event.
- AuthenticateRequest: If you want to plug in your own custom authentication scheme (for example, look up a user against a
 database to validate the password), build a module that synchronizes this event and authenticates the user how you want to.
- AuthorizeRequest: This event is used internally to implement authorization mechanisms (for example, to store your access control lists (ACLs) in a database rather than in the file system). Although you can override this event, there are not many good reasons to do so.
- ResolveRequestCache: This event determines if a page can be served from the Output cache. If you want to write your own caching module (for example, build a file-based cache rather than a memory cache), synchronize this event to determine whether to serve the page from the cache.
- AcquireRequestState: Session state is retrieved from the state store. If you want to build your own state management module, synchronize this event to grab the session state from your state store.



- Aspects come in many forms
- If you weren't explicitly looking, you may have seen them and didn't recognize them.
- Have you heard of or used HTTP Modules during development?
- How about <u>ASP.NET MVC Custom</u> <u>Action Filters</u>?
- Both of the above adhere to AOP concepts and patterns.

ASP.NET MVC 4 Custom Action Filters

By Web Camps Team

Download Web Camps Training Kit

ASP.NET MVC provides Action Filters for executing filtering logic either before or after an action method is called. Action Filters are custom attributes that provide declarative means to add pre-action and post-action behavior to the controller's action methods.

In this Hands-on Lab you will create a custom action filter attribute into MvcMusicStore solution to catch controller's requests and log the activity of a site into a database table. You will be able to add your logging filter by injection to any controller or action. Finally, you will see the log view that shows the list of visitors.

This Hands-on Lab assumes you have basic knowledge of ASP.NET MVC. If you have not used ASP.NET MVC before, we recommend you to go over ASP.NET MVC 4 Fundamentals Hands-on Lab.

() Note

All sample code and snippets are included in the Web Camps Training Kit, available from at Microsoft-Web/WebCampTrainingKit Releases 🖾 . The project specific to this lab is available at ASP.NET MVC 4 Custom Action Filters 🖾 .

Objectives

In this Hands-On Lab, you will learn how to:

- Create a custom action filter attribute to extend filtering capabilities
- Apply a custom filter attribute by injection to a specific level
- Register a custom action filters globally

Prerequisites

You must have the following items to complete this lab:

Microsoft Visual Studio Express 2012 for Web 2th or superior (read Appendix A for instructions on how to install it).

Setup

Installing Code Snippets

AOP TOOLS AND PRODUCTS



- My AOP tool of choice: <u>PostSharp</u>
- Built my SharpCrafters / PostSharp Technologies (Gael Fraiteur, CEO)
- Comes in both commercial (i.e. paid) and community (i.e. free) editions
- Everything I have demonstrated and will show will use capabilities that are part of the <u>FREE</u> (community) version of PostSharp.



Our initial product, the legendary PostSharp based on MSIL rewriting, was a great success. We maintain it by fixing bugs and updating it to new .NET versions. However, we have stopped adding new features and platforms to it. We suggest using Metalama for new projects.

GO TO POSTSHARP.IL

IMPLEMENTING AND USING AN ASPECT akumina.

- Must follow these basic rules (specific to PostSharp)
 - Must be adorned with [PSerializable] attribute
 - PostSharp will yell at you if you don't do this
- Must inherit from / implement a PostSharp base class
 - Our LoggingAspect implemented OnMethodBoundaryAspect
 - Others are available depending on your version of PostSharp
- Your "business logic" must be decorated with an aspect-specific attribute determined by the name of the aspect class you want to use
 - Our **Example 03** class was adorned with the **[LoggingAspect]** attribute
 - For more granular application, method adornment can be used with attributes
 - To implement an aspect across a project, apply attribute at the assembly level

WHAT ABOUT OTHER WAYS TO DO AOP? akumina.

- You don't need PostSharp to do AOP with .NET.
- Check out the <u>Castle Project and its</u> <u>Dynamic Proxy</u> for an alternative (<u>inversion of control</u>) approach.
- I favor PostSharp for several reasons:
 - Provides cleanest separation of code
 - Professionally maintained
 - Low cost of entry / "it just works"
 - Employs compile-time weaving

Castle Project

Build your .NET projects on a rock solid Foundation

/ Dynamic Proxy

Castle DynamicProxy is a library for generating lightweight .NET proxies on the fly at runtime. Proxy objects allow calls to members of an object to be intercepted without modifying the code of the class. Both classes and interfaces can be proxied, however only virtual members can be intercepted.

DynamicProxy differs from the proxy implementation built into the CLR which requires the proxied class to extend MarshalByRefobject. Extending MashalByRefobject to proxy an object can be too intrusive because it does not allow the class to extend another class and it does not allow transparent proxying of classes.

You can use DynamicProxy to generate lightweight proxies on the fly for one or more interfaces or even concrete classes (but only virtual methods will be intercepted).

Why use proxies?

Proxy objects can assist in building a flexible application architecture because it allows functionality to be transparently added to code without modifying it. For example, a class could be proxied to add logging or security checking without making the code aware this functionality has been added.

For example, NHibernate, an object/relational mapper uses DynamicProxy to provide lazy loading of data without the domain model classes being aware of this functionality.

For more, check out the documentation

COMPILE TIME *WHAT*?



- Compile-time weaving.
- No, we're not talking about basket weaving and associated container "technologies."
- This is probably a good time to introduce some domain-specific terminology that you'll likely hear if you spend any time with AOP.



AOP DOMAIN CONCEPTS AND TERMS



• Let's start with a snippet of the LoggingAspect we've seen

2	region Namespace Imports
	ing System;
5 us	ing AOPinSolutionDev.Plumbing;
6 us	ing PostSharp.Aspects;
7	
8 9 #e 0 1	ndregion Namespace Imports
_	mespace AOPinSolutionDev.Aspects
3 {	mespace for insolucioneer. Aspects
4	
5	
6 🗄	/// <summary></summary>
7	<pre>/// This method boundary aspect (created with PostSharp) is responsible /// for herdling legging activities for each of the methods with which</pre>
8	<pre>/// for handling logging activities for each of the methods with which /// it is associated</pre>
9	/// it is associated.
0	///
1	[Serializable]
	1 reference
2 🗄	<pre>internal class LoggingToTextboxAspect : OnMethodBoundaryAspect {</pre>
4	
5	
6 🗄	<pre>#region Overrides: OnMethodBoundaryAspect</pre>
7	
8	/// <summary></summary>
0	/// The OnEntry method fires on the join point that occurs just before
1	/// a method is entered and its first lines of code are executed.
2	///
	0 references
3 🖃	public override void OnEntry(MethodExecutionArgs args)
4	{
5	CreateLogEntry(args, action: "Entering Method");
6	3
7	
8	
	/// <summary></summary>

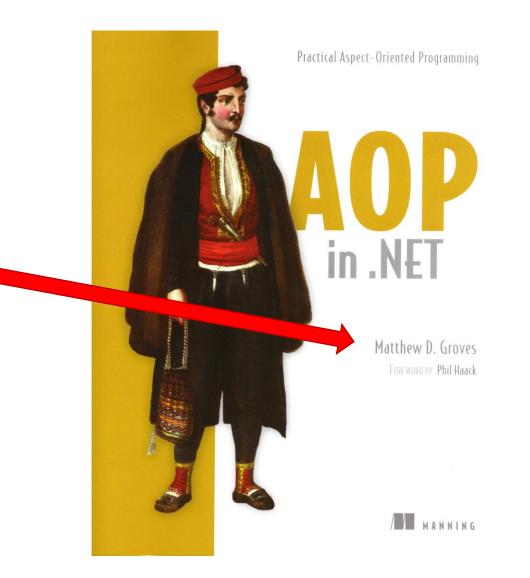
- Let's start with a snippet of the LoggingAspect we've seen
- The aspect class and code itself are known as *advice*

1 ⊟#region Namespace Imports	
3 4 □using System;	
5 using AOPinSolutionDev.Plumbing;	
6 using PostSharp.Aspects;	
7	
8	
9 [#endregion Namespace Imports 10	
1	
12 🖃 namespace AOPinSolutionDev.Aspects	
L6 - /// <summary></summary>	
17 /// This method boundary aspect (created with PostSharp) is responsible	
18 /// for handling logging activities for each of the methods with which	
L9 /// it is associated.	
20 ///	
21 [Serializable]	
1 reference	
22 i internal class LoggingToTextboxAspect : OnMethodBoundaryAspect	
24	
25	
26 🖻 #region Overrides: OnMethodBoundaryAspect	
27 28 2	
29 ⊡ /// <summary></summary>	
30 /// The OnEntry method fires on the join point that occurs just befor	-
31 /// a method is entered and its first lines of code are executed.	
32 ///	
0 references	/
33 in public override void OnEntry(MethodExecutionArgs args)	
<pre>34 { 35 CreateLogEntry(args, action: "Entering Method");</pre>	
36 }	
37	
38 29 ⊡ /// <summary></summary>	
29 ⊡ /// <summary> 40 /// The OnExit method fires on the join point that occurs just after</summary>	
to the second sites on the join point that occurs just after	



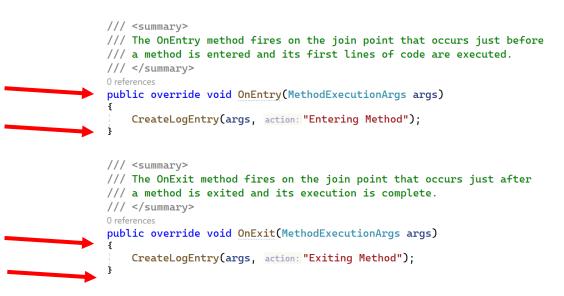
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- Let's start with a snippet of the LoggingAspect we've seen
- The aspect class and code itself are known as *advice*
- Matt Groves (who wrote "AOP in .NET") defines join points as places that can be defined between logical steps of the execution of your program"



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- Let's start with a snippet of the LoggingAspect we've seen
- The aspect class and code itself goes by the term *advice*
- Matt Groves (who wrote "AOP in .NET") defines *join points* as places that can be defined between logical steps of the execution of your program"
- The areas with red arrows would be *join points* for our aspect.



#endregion Overrides: OnMethodBoundaryAspect



• A set of join points is known as a *pointcut*. Pointcuts are points where execution transitions into and out of your advice (aspect).



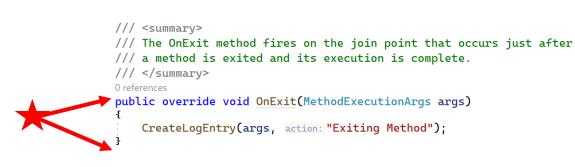
- /// The OnEntry method fires on the join point that occurs just before
- /// a method is entered and its first lines of code are executed.

/// </summary>

0 references

public override void OnEntry(MethodExecutionArgs args)

CreateLogEntry(args, action: "Entering Method");



#endregion Overrides: OnMethodBoundaryAspect

- A set of join points is known as a *pointcut*. Pointcuts are points where execution transitions into and out of your advice (aspect).
- Pointcuts are integrated with your business logic through a process called *weaving*.



- A set of join points is known as a *pointcut*. Pointcuts are points where execution transitions into and out of your advice (aspect).
- Pointcuts are integrated with your business logic through a process called *weaving*.
- Fact: I can't talk about this section without imagining baskets and crochet. Sad, but true.



- Weaving currently takes place by two different process depending on the technology you're using.
- *Run-time weaving* happens with IoC containers and systems like Castle Dynamic Proxy.
- No special tools required to use
- Relies on run-time reflection
- For (GoF) <u>software pattern</u> fans, think "decorator" and "proxy" patterns as associated with AOP.



- On the other hand, compile-time weaving uses .NET intermediate language (IL) integration steps following compilation to more tightly and seamlessly integrate with business logic.
- PostSharp uses compile-time weaving.
- Allows for some optimization.
- Requires tooling; historically harder to test ...



COMING SOON HERE NOW!



- PostSharp Metalama was recently released and is available.
- It can replace the MSIL-based PostSharp we use today.
- It's a bottom-up rewrite of PostSharp based on the <u>Roslyn</u> <u>framework</u>
- Metalama emits .NET code during compilation that is not opaque and is very debugger friendly

		Metalama	Roslyn	Fody	PostSharp
	Technology	Roslyn	Roslyn	MSIL	MSIL
>	Transforming the compilation using low-level APIs	Yes		Yes	Yes
>	Adding behaviors to source code simply using aspects.	Yes			Yes
>	Introduce new members or interfaces and reference them in source code.	Yes	Difficult		
>	Analyze source code and report warnings and errors.	Yes	Difficult	Requires rebuild.	Requires rebuild.
>	Debug and export transformed code.	Yes			

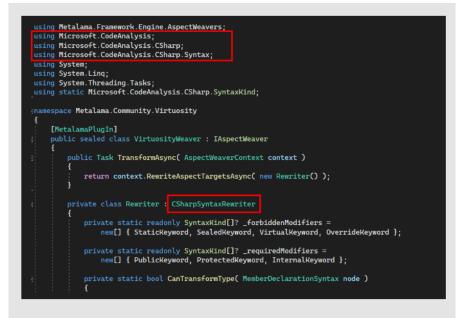


GO METALAMA?



Should I use PostSharp IL or Metalama?

- I'm still using PostSharp IL for a while longer because it's the more mature product.
- Going forward, I will probably switch to Metalama at some point. The benefits are there.
- The choice is yours, but Metalama is where SharpCrafters are focused.



Extensible with Roslyn: Overcome the limitations of Metalama and write transformations directly with Roslyn.

ASPECT TYPES

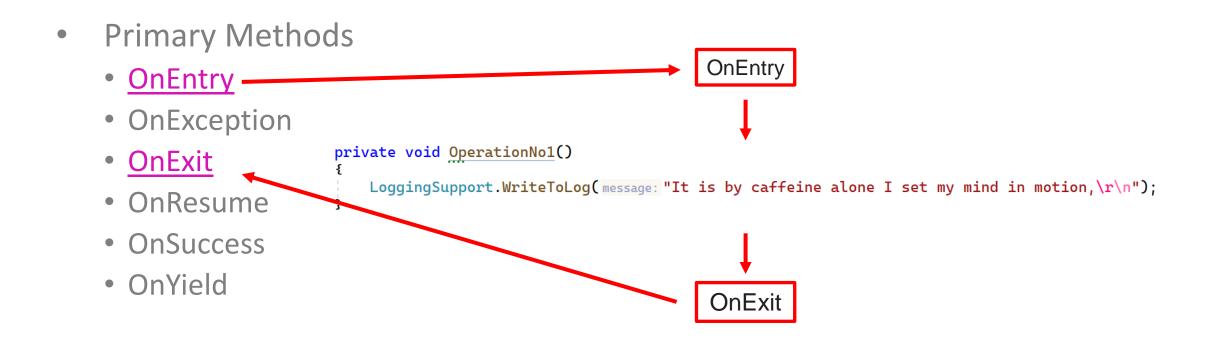
- We've seen one type the
 OnMethodBoundaryAspect
 in action so far.
- There are many other aspect types, but the one we've seen is joined by one other in the <u>free</u> <u>version of PostSharp</u>: the <u>MethodInterceptionAspect</u>
- You can implement nearly any type of aspect with these two types alone.





ONMETHODBOUNDARYASPECT





ONMETHODBOUNDARYASPECT



- Parameter type passed:
 - MethodExecutionArgs
- Properties
 - Arguments
 - DeclarationIdentifier
 - Exception
 - FlowBehavior
 - Instance
 - Method
 - MethodExecutionTag
 - ReturnValue
 - YieldValue



private void OperationNo1()

LoggingSupport.WriteToLog(message: "It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion,\r\n");



ONMETHODBOUNDARYASPECT



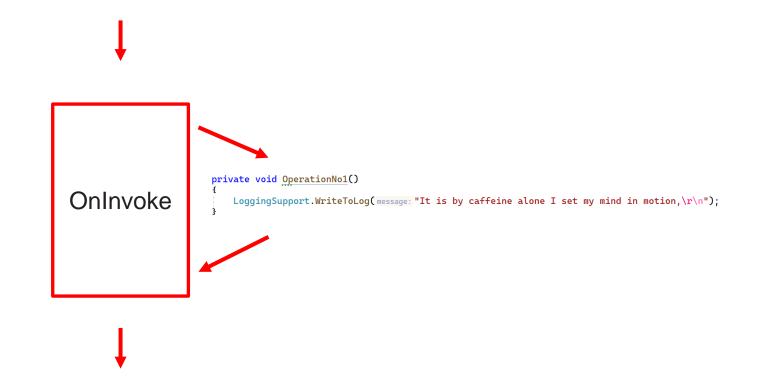
• Notes

- Statically scoped aspect
 - One instance of aspect used to service all calls for aspect
 - Storing data across method calls isn't inherently safe
 - If thread-safety is needed, use the <u>MethodExecutionTag</u> or implement the <u>IInstanceScopedAspect</u> interface in your aspect.
- IL Optimization
 - Since arguments are <u>boxed/unboxed</u> when sent to the aspect, PostSharp avoids processing unused parameters that aren't actually used.
- Common uses
 - Repetitive tasks
 - Logging, tracing, performance profiling, exception handling

METHODINTERCEPTIONASPECT



- Primary Method
 - OnInvoke



METHODINTERCEPTIONASPECT



- Parameter type passed:
 - MethodInterceptionArgs
- Properties
 - Arguments
 - AsyncBinding
 - Binding
 - DeclarationIdentifier
 - Instance
 - IsAsync
 - Method
 - ReturnValue



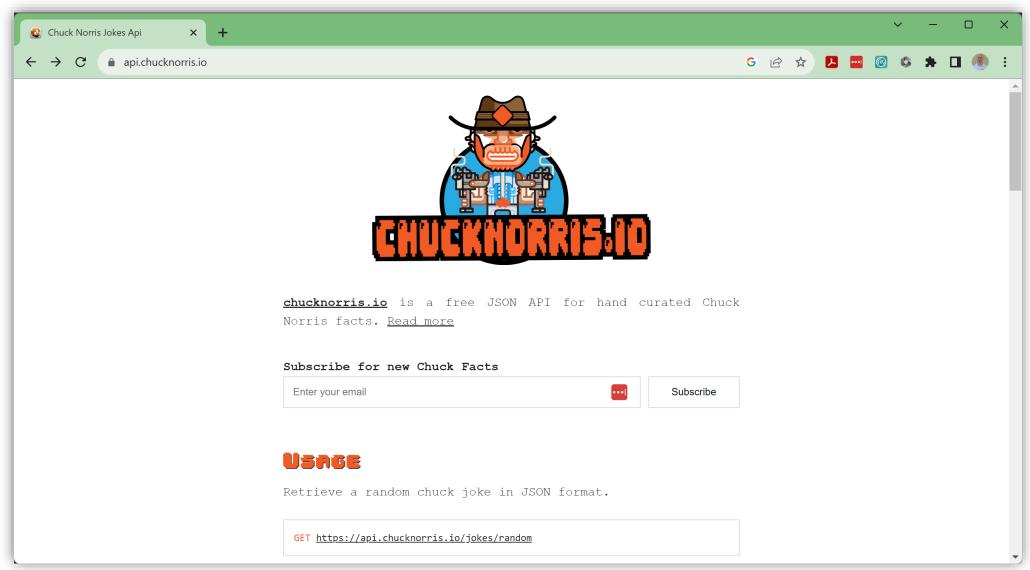
METHODINTERCEPTIONASPECT



- Notes
 - Running your method code is actually optional
 - Slightly reduced clarity (small downside) with everything happening in one method
 - IL optimization cannot occur
 - Shared state benefits (since atomic call happens with OnInvoke)
- Common uses
 - Wrapper nature good for certain code needs
 - Caching, retry support, multi-threading assistance, lazy loading

OUR REMAINING DEMOS WILL USE ...







EXAMPLES 4+



Final Questions ?





WRAP-UP AND CONTACT INFO



How was the session?

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