

# Operations Contracts and Preliminaries on Design

## CSSE 374: Session 7

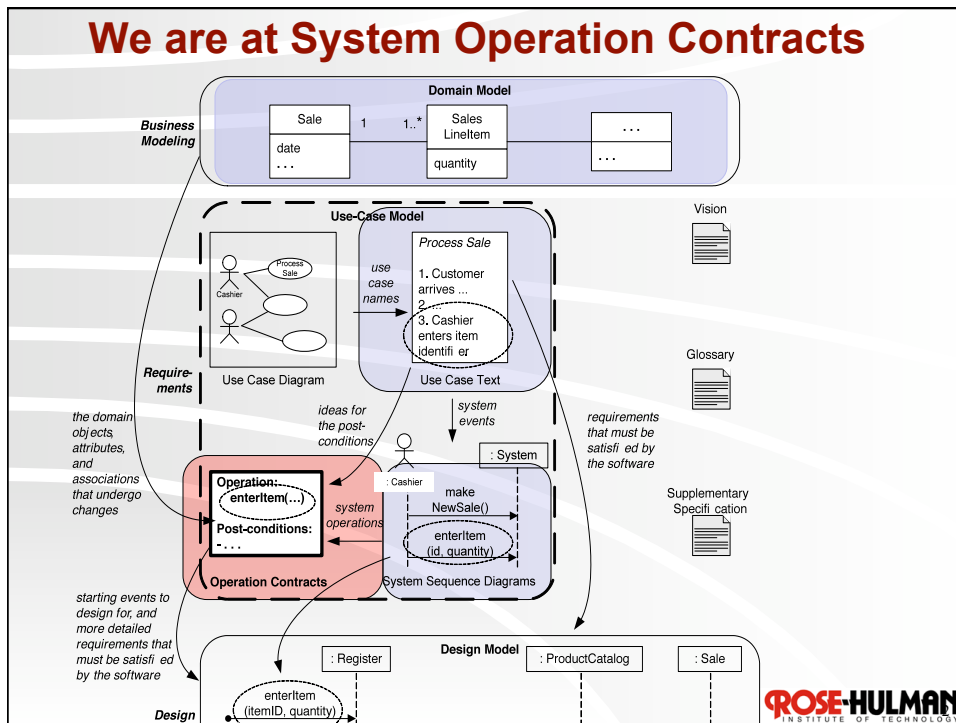
Shawn Bohner  
 Office: Moench Room F212  
 Phone: (812) 877-8685  
 Email: bohner@rose-hulman.edu



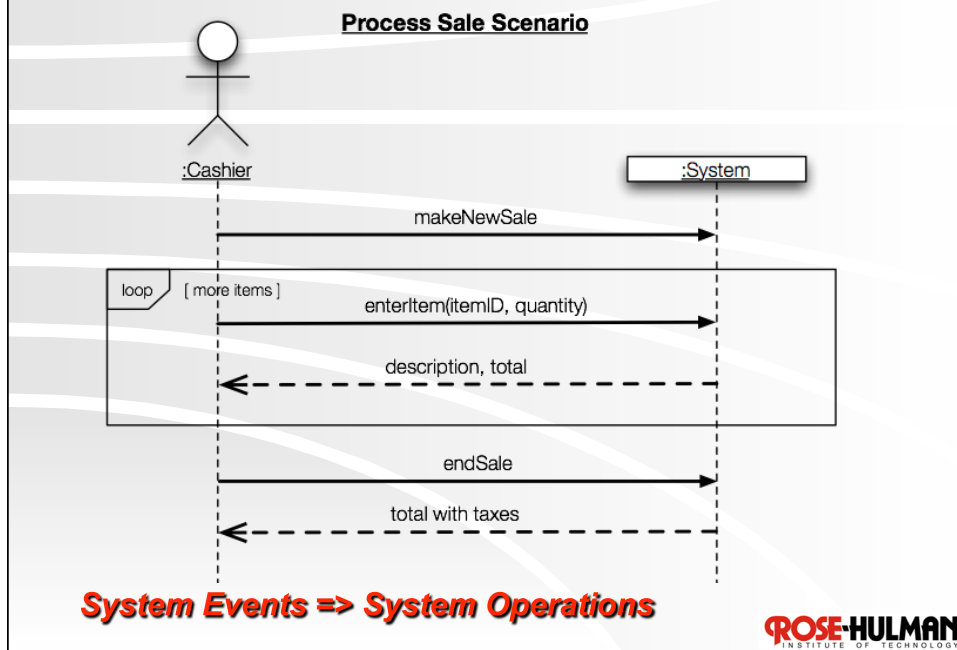
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## We are at System Operation Contracts



## Where are the Operations in the SSD?



## Operation Contracts (OC)

From SSDs, messages coming into the system

- ❖ Used to give more details for **system operations**
- ❖ Together, all the system operations from all the use cases give the public **system interface**

Conceptually, it's like the whole system is a single object and the system operations are its public methods

## Parts of the Operation Contract

**Operation:** Name Of operation, and parameters.

**Cross-References:** (optional) Use cases this can occur within.

**Preconditions:** Noteworthy assumptions about the state of the system or objects in the Domain Model before execution of the operation.

**Postconditions:** The state of objects in the Domain Model after completion of the operation.

Q1

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## Example OC:

(At most) one OC per System Operation

Any uses cases where this operation appears

Contract CO2: enterItem

Operation:	enterItem(itemID: ItemID, quantity: Integer)
Cross Refs:	Use Cases: Process Sale
Preconditions:	There is a sale underway
Post-conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ a <i>SalesLineItem</i> instance, <i>sli</i>, was created</li> <li>❖ <i>sli</i> was <b>associated</b> with the current <i>Sale</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>sli.quantity</i> became <i>quantity</i> (<b>attribute modification</b>)</li> <li>• <i>sli</i> was <b>associated</b> with a <i>ProductDescription</i> based on <i>itemID</i> match</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Noteworthy assumptions

Most important section

Q2

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## Pre & Post-Conditions in Your Minds Eye

- ❖ Envision the system and it's objects on an **Extreme Makeover set...**
- ❖ Before the operation, take a picture of the set
- ❖ The lights go out, and apply the system operation
- ❖ Lights on and take the after picture
- ❖ **Compare the before and after pictures**, and describe state changes as post-conditions

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## Pre- and Post-Conditions

- ❖ **Pre-Conditions** are what must be in place to invoke the operation
- ❖ **Post-conditions** are declarations about the Domain Model objects that are true when the operation has finished



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## Postconditions

❖ Describe changes in the state of objects in the Domain Model

❖ Typical sorts of changes:

- Created instances
- Deleted instances
- Form associations
- Break associations
- Change attributes

Not actions performed during the operation. Rather, **observations about what is true after the operation.**

Q3,4

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## Postconditions (continued)

❖ Express **post-conditions in the past tense** to emphasize they are declarations about a state change in the past

❖ Give names to instances

❖ Capture information from system operation by noting changes to domain objects

❖ Can be informal (somewhat)

- ❖ a *SalesLineItem* instance, *sli*, **was** created
- ❖ *sli* **was** associated with the current *Sale*
- ❖ *sli.quantity* **became** *quantity*
- ❖ *sli* **was** associated with a *ProductDescription* based on *itemID* match

Q5

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## Why Operation Contract Post-Conditions?

- ❖ Domain model  
=>objects attributes and associations
- ❖ The OC links a system operation to specific objects in the domain model
- ❖ Indicates which objects are affected by the operation
- ❖ Will help with assignment of responsibilities



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## Contracts Lead to Domain Model Updates

New Domain Model classes, attributes, and associations are often discovered while writing contracts



Elaborate Domain Model as you think through the operation contracts

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## Use Operation Contracts When Detail and Precision are Important

- ❖ When details would make use cases too verbose
- ❖ When we don't know the domain and want a deeper analysis (while deferring design)

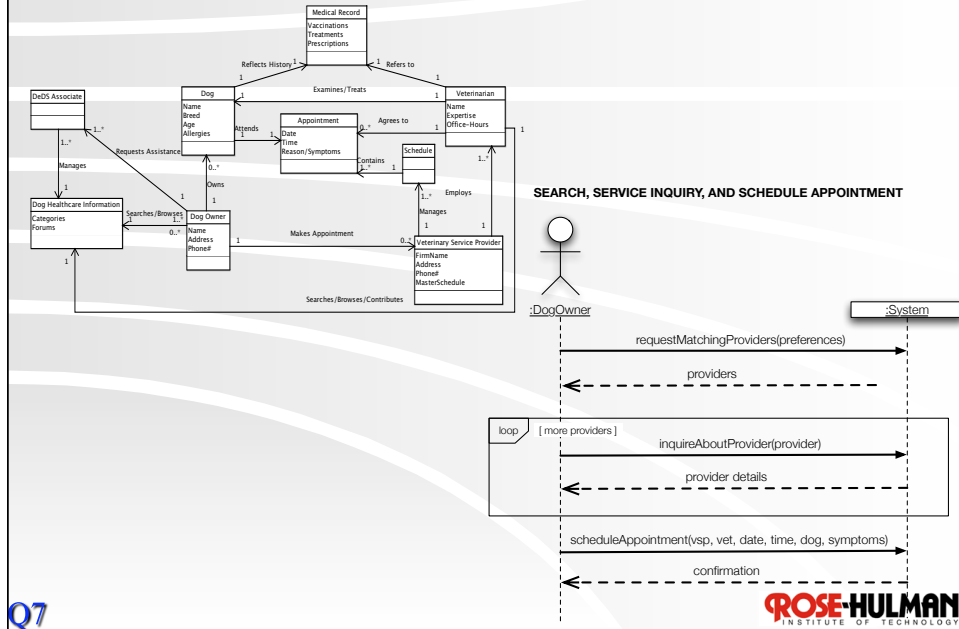
OCs help to validate the domain model

## Creating Operation Contracts

- ❖ Identify System Operations from SSDs
- ❖ Make contracts for System Operations that are:
  - Complex and perhaps subtle in their own results
  - Not clear in the use case
- ❖ Again, in describing post-conditions use:
  - Instance creation and deletion
  - Attribute modification
  - Associations formed and broken

Most frequent mistake in creating contracts:  
Forgetting to include forming of associations

## Let's do an Example...



## Exercise: Complete this OC

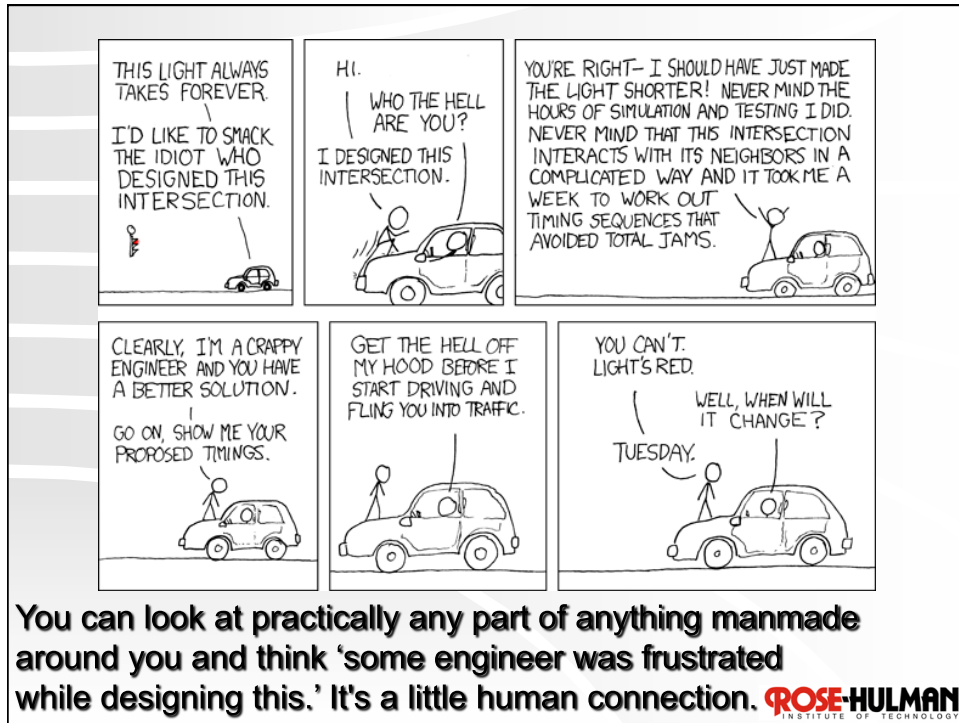
**Operation:** scheduleAppointment(vsp, vet, date, time, dog, symptoms)

**Cross references:** Use Cases: SEARCH, SERVICE INQUIRY, AND SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT

**Preconditions:** dog owner, dog, veterinarian, and VSP all are registered with the system

**Postconditions:**





## From Requirements to Design

## Leaving Analysis Behind?

- ❖ Not really
- ❖ We'll **learn** more about the problem while designing (and implementing) a solution
  - Refine the requirements when that happens
  - Choose **high risk** activities for early iterations to **provoke changes** to the requirements
- ❖ “Just enough” analysis is often useful

Unknown/unusual activities are high risk

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## Logical Architecture

A very short introduction



[www.lostateminor.com](http://www.lostateminor.com)

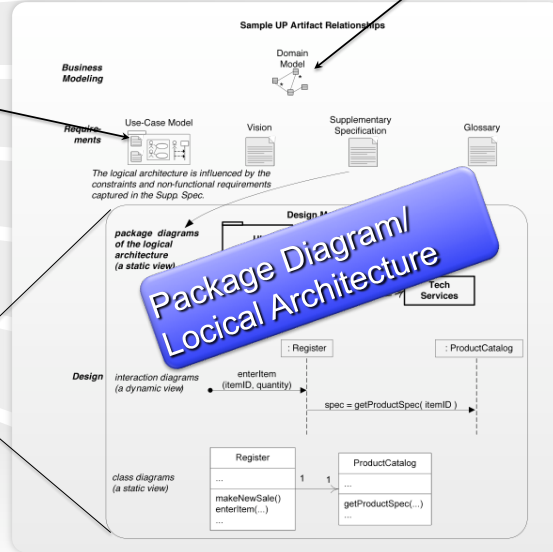
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## Where Are We?

Use Case Model  
including System  
Sequence Diagrams  
and Operation  
Contracts

Design Model

Domain Model



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## Logical Architecture

- ❖ Large-scale organization of the software classes into:
  - Packages (a.k.a., namespaces)
  - Subsystems
  - Layers
- ❖ Logical, since implementation/deployment decisions are deferred

*Why is an architecture necessary?*

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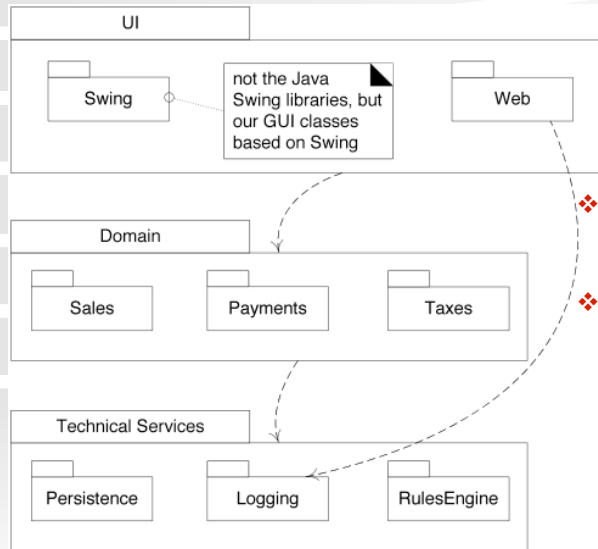
## Layered Architectures

- ❖ **Very common** for object-oriented systems
- ❖ **Coarse-grained grouping** of components based on **shared responsibility** for major aspects of system
- ❖ Typically **higher layers call lower ones**, but not vice-versa

## Three Typical Architectural Layers

1. **User Interface**  
Heavily influenced by domain model
2. **Application Domain Layer**
3. **Technical Services:**
  - Persistence
  - Logging
  - Rules EngineReusable across systems

## Strict vs. Relaxed Layered Architectures



- ❖ **Strict:** only calls next layer down
- ❖ **Relaxed:** can call any layer below

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## Homework and Milestone Reminders

- ❖ Read Chapters 12, 13, and 14 on Early Design
- ❖ Milestone 2 – Junior Project Domain Model
  - Due by 11:59pm on Friday, December 11th, 2009
- ❖ Homework 3 – Dog-eDoctor SSDs and Operations Contracts
  - Due by 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 15th, 2009
- ❖ Milestone 3 – Junior Project SSDs, OCs, and Logical Architecture – Coming!
  - Due by 11:59pm on Friday, January 8th, 2009

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