

Using Java's built-in Observer Pattern

So far we've rolled our own code for the Observer Pattern, but Java has built-in support in several of its APIs. The most general is the Observer interface and the Observable class in the java.util package. These are quite similar to our Subject and Observer interface, but give you a lot of functionality out of the box. You can also implement either a push or pull style of update to your observers, as you will see.

To get a high level feel for java.util.Observer and java.util.Observable, check out this reworked OO design for the WeatherStation:

With Java's built-in support, all you have to do is extend Observable and tell it when to notify the Observers. The API does the rest for you.

