

Abstract and Concrete Use Cases Encyclopedia Article

Abstract and Concrete Use Cases

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Abstract and Concrete Use Cases

A concrete **use case** is a particular type of use case that is directly invoked by an actor and achieves a specific goal. It is self-contained and illustrates a complete flow of events. A concrete use case is a specific instance of using a common set of steps referred to as an abstract use case.

An abstract use case is a particular type of use case that is not directly invoked by an actor but is called by another use case. When two or more use cases have a sequence of the same steps, these steps are extracted and put into a common use case. This common, or abstract, use case is then available to be included in any other use case within the system. Abstract use cases eliminate **redundancy** and promote reuse, a goal of object-oriented systems **design**.

Because an abstract use case contains only a subset of the steps in a flow of events, it may not make sense as a standalone use case. An abstract use case is included as part of one or more concrete use cases in order to represent a complete flow of events.