Core Concepts: Separation of Concerns

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Abstract

Examining the core concept of separation of concerns.

Separation of concerns is about creating modular systems in which each module specialises and provides well focussed, self-contained functionality. Systems that are divided into highly cohesive, weakly coupled modules with coherent abstractions will generally also have good separation of concerns.

Examples

HTML, CSS, and JavaScript

A commonly encountered set of technologies are HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. HTML describes the *structure* of a document (web page), CSS describes how the document should be *presented*, and JavaScript provides the document's *behaviour*. Each technology supports a specific concern[1].

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[1]At least that's the intention. In practice there is considerable overlap as JavaScript can manipulate both presentation and structure, albeit via the other two.