Multithreading in Java

**Multithreading in java** is a process of executing multiple threads simultaneously.

A thread is a lightweight sub-process, the smallest unit of processing. Multiprocessing and multithreading, both are used to achieve multitasking.

However, we use multithreading than multiprocessing because threads use a shared memory area. They don't allocate separate memory area so saves memory, and context-switching between the threads takes less time than process.

Java Multithreading is mostly used in games, animation, etc.

### **Advantages of Java Multithreading**

1) It **doesn't block the user** because threads are independent and you can perform multiple operations at the same time.

2) You **can perform many operations together, so it saves time**.

3) Threads are **independent**, so it doesn't affect other threads if an exception occurs in a single thread.

## **Multitasking**

Multitasking is a process of executing multiple tasks simultaneously. We use multitasking to utilize the CPU. Multitasking can be achieved in two ways:

* Process-based Multitasking (Multiprocessing)
* Thread-based Multitasking (Multithreading)

### **Process-based Multitasking (Multiprocessing)**

* Each process has an address in memory. In other words, each process allocates a separate memory area.
* A process is heavyweight.
* Cost of communication between the process is high.
* Switching from one process to another requires some time for saving and loading registers, memory maps, updating lists, etc.

### **2) Thread-based Multitasking (Multithreading)**

* Threads share the same address space.
* A thread is lightweight.
* Cost of communication between the thread is low.

#### **Note: At least one process is required for each thread.**

## **What is Thread in java**

A thread is a lightweight subprocess, the smallest unit of processing. It is a separate path of execution.

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#### **Note: At a time one thread is executed only.**

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# Multithreading in Java

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As shown in the above figure, a thread is executed inside the process. There is context-switching between the threads. There can be multiple processes inside the OS, and one process can have multiple threads.

#### **Note: At a time one thread is executed only.**

## **Java Thread class**

Java provides **Thread class** to achieve thread programming. Thread class provides constructors and methods to create and perform operations on a thread. Thread class extends Object class and implements Runnable interface.

# Life cycle of a Thread (Thread States)

A thread can be in one of the five states. According to sun, there is only 4 states in **thread life cycle in java** new, runnable, non-runnable and terminated. There is no running state.

But for better understanding the threads, we are explaining it in the 5 states.

The life cycle of the thread in java is controlled by JVM. The java thread states are as follows:

1. New
2. Runnable
3. Running
4. Non-Runnable (Blocked)
5. Terminated

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| **1) New** The thread is in new state if you create an instance of Thread class but before the invocation of start() method. |

### **2) Runnable**

The thread is in runnable state after invocation of start() method, but the thread scheduler has not selected it to be the running thread.

### **3) Running**

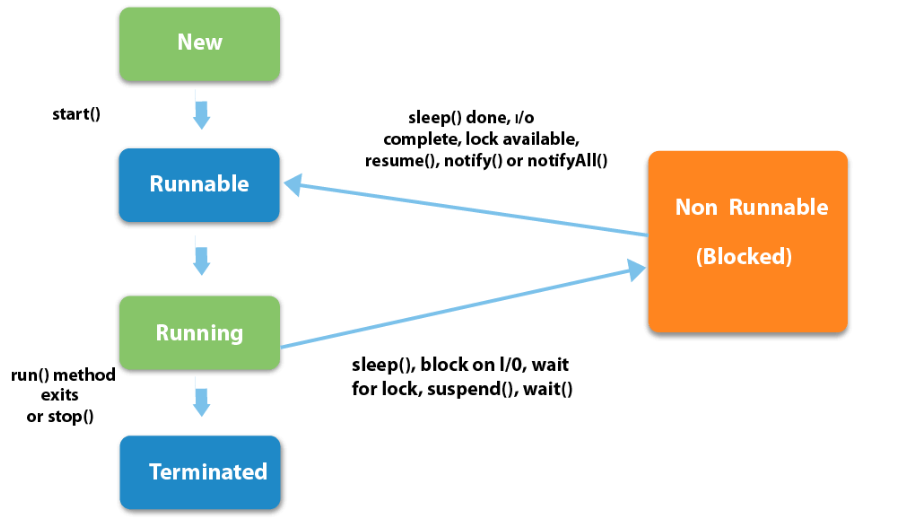
The thread is in running state if the thread scheduler has selected it.

### **4) Non-Runnable (Blocked)**

This is the state when the thread is still alive, but is currently not eligible to run.

### **5) Terminated**

A thread is in terminated or dead state when its run() method exits.



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| How to create thread There are two ways to create a thread:   1. By extending Thread class 2. By implementing Runnable interface.  **Thread class:**  |  | | --- | | Thread class provide constructors and methods to create and perform operations on a  thread.Thread class extends Object class and implements Runnable interface. |  **Commonly used Constructors of Thread class:**  |  | | --- | | * Thread() * Thread(String name) * Thread(Runnable r) * Thread(Runnable r,String name) | |

### **Commonly used methods of Thread class:**

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| 1. **public void run():**is used to perform action for a thread. 2. **public void start():**starts the execution of the thread.JVM calls the run() method on the thread. 3. **public void sleep(long miliseconds):**Causes the currently executing thread to sleep (temporarily cease execution) for the specified number of milliseconds. 4. **public void join():**waits for a thread to die. 5. **public void join(long miliseconds):**waits for a thread to die for the specified miliseconds. 6. **public int getPriority():**returns the priority of the thread. 7. **public int setPriority(int priority):**changes the priority of the thread. 8. **public String getName():**returns the name of the thread. 9. **public void setName(String name):**changes the name of the thread. 10. **public Thread currentThread():**returns the reference of currently executing thread. 11. **public int getId():**returns the id of the thread. 12. **public Thread.State getState():**returns the state of the thread. 13. **public boolean isAlive():**tests if the thread is alive. 14. **public void yield():**causes the currently executing thread object to temporarily pause and allow other threads to execute. 15. **public void suspend():**is used to suspend the thread(depricated). 16. **public void resume():**is used to resume the suspended thread(depricated). 17. **public void stop():**is used to stop the thread(depricated). 18. **public boolean isDaemon():**tests if the thread is a daemon thread. 19. **public void setDaemon(boolean b):**marks the thread as daemon or user thread. 20. **public void interrupt():**interrupts the thread. 21. **public boolean isInterrupted():**tests if the thread has been interrupted. 22. **public static boolean interrupted():**tests if the current thread has been interrupted. |

### **Runnable interface:**

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| The Runnable interface should be implemented by any class whose instances are  intended to be executed by a thread. Runnable interface have only one method named run(). |

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| 1. **public void run():**is used to perform action for a thread. |

### **Starting a thread:**

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| **start() method** of Thread class is used to start a newly created thread. It performs following tasks:   * A new thread starts(with new callstack). * The thread moves from New state to the Runnable state. * When the thread gets a chance to execute, its target run() method will run. |

### **Some Important points to Remember**

1. When we extend Thread class, we cannot override **setName()** and **getName()** functions, because they are declared final in Thread class.
2. While using **sleep()**, always handle the exception it throws.

*static* void **sleep**(long *milliseconds*) throws **InterruptedException**