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Examples where threads are useful: Windowing systems, Web browsers, Servers and Clients

How can you be in two place at once when you're not anywhere at all?

-Firesign Theater.

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Basic Thread Examples in Java

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- Example 3: Create a thread quagmire! threads/MaxThreads.java

In Java, each thread is an object!

Relevant Java Classes/Interfaces

- See documentation for basic classes: java.lang.Thread, java.lang.ThreadGroup and java.lang.Runnable interface.
- ► See the java.lang.Object class for synchronization methods.
- ► For automatic management of threads, see: Executor interface from java.util.concurrent package.

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- Example: threads/InterruptTest.java

A Thread's Life

A thread continues to execute until one of the following thing happens.

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The thread remains alive even after the application has finished! (so the Java interpreter has to keep on running...)

Daemon Threads

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- ► The setDaemon() method marks a thread as a daemon thread that should be killed and discarded when no other application threads remain.
- ► Code snippet:

```
class Devil extends Thread {
    Devil() {
        setDaemon( true);
        start();
    }
    public void run() {
        //perform evil tasks
        ...
    }
}
```

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- ► Example of a race condition: Account.java, TestAccount.java

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synchronized void update() { //... }

// Access to individual datum can also be synchronized.

// The object buffer can be used in several classes,
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synchronized(buffer) {
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- ▶ Java allows Rentrant Synchronization, that is, a thread can reacquire a lock it already owns. For example, a synchronized method can call another synchronized method.

Synchronization Example 1

- ► Example of a race condition: Account.java, TestAccount.java
- Thread safe version using synchronized keyword: SynchronizedAccount.java

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- ► The method notifyAll() wakes up all waiting threads instead of just one waiting thread.

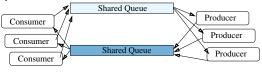
Example with wait()/notify()

```
class MyThing {
  synchronized void waiterMethod() {
    // do something
    // we need to wait for the notifier to do something
    // give up the lock, put calling thread to sleep
    wait():
    // continue where we left off
  synchronized void notifierMethod() {
   // do something
    // notifier the waiter that we've done it
   notify();
    //do more things
  synchronized void relatedMethod() {
    // do some related stuff
```

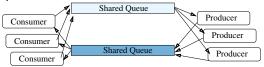
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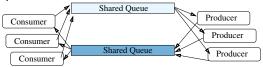
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- ► The Producer/Consumer or a Thread Pool pattern is a widely used one for multi-threaded applications as well as in servers and clients.

Synchronization Example 3: Ping Pong

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- ► Example: SynchronizedPingPong.java. This solves the problem using wait() and motify() methods.
- ► Are the threads really simulating ping pong? We need them to exchange an object over the network!

```
ThreadGroup myTaskGroup = new ThreadGroup("My Task Group");
Thread myTask = new Thread(myTaskGroup, taskPerformer);
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- ► Example: ThreadGroupExample.java

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- ► Thread Pool: A number of threads are created to perform a number of tasks, which are organized in a queue. Typically, there are many more tasks than threads.
- ▶ Java provides a thead pool via the Executor interface in the java.util.concurrent package.

```
public interface Executor {
    void execute (Runnable command);
}
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Example: ExecutorExample.java

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A collection created in this fashion is every bit as thread-safe as a normally synchronized collection, such as a Vector.

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For more details, see:

 $\label{lem:http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/collections/implementations/wrapper.html$

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- ► Rewrite the SharedQueue.java such that it is generic. Rerun the producer/consumer example with your generic queue.

References

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- ▶ Brian Goetz, Tim Peierls, Joshua Bloch and Joseph Bowbeer: Java Concurrency in Practice
- ► Lewis and Berg: Multithreaded Programming with Java Technology