



Multithreading / Asynchronous Programming in .NET

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About me

Diego Correa



Software Developer, from Paraguay, center of Southamerica.
I arrived in Germany a year ago.

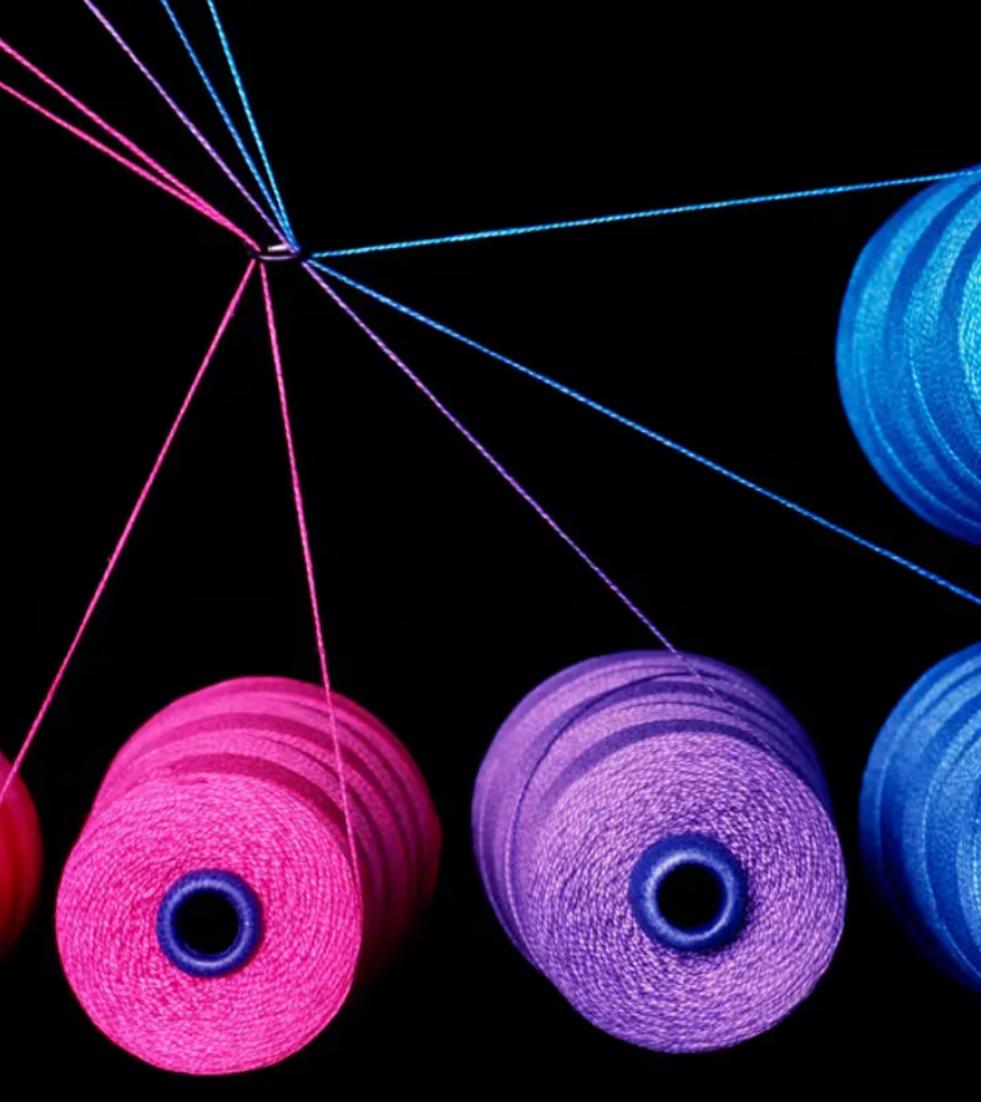
Emphasis on the following programming languages: .NET/C#,
Java, Javascript





Session content

- Benefits of Multithreading and Async
- Process, Program, Application
- States and a Lifetime of a Thread
- Synchronization of Threads
- Multithreading and Async Programming





Benefits

Responsiveness

- For example, in a web browser allow user interaction in one thread while a video is being loaded in another thread.

Resource Sharing

- The benefit of sharing code and data is that it allows an application to have several threads of activity within the same address space. **Keep in mind sync strategies!**

Economy

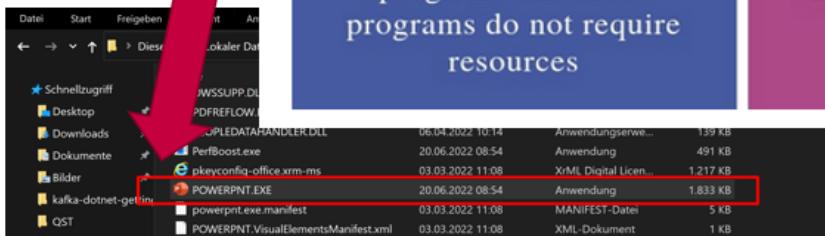
- The context switching of working with threads is cheaper than working with processes because they are lighter. In Solaris, for example, creating a process is **30 time slower** than creating threads and context switching is **5 times slower**.

Scalability

- Increase in case of multiprocessor architecture.



Program and Process



PROGRAM

A collection of instructions that perform a specific task when executed by a computer

Has a longer lifetime

Hard disk stores the programs and these programs do not require resources

PROCESS

A process is the instance of a computer program that is being executed

Has a shorter lifetime

Require resources such as memory, IO devices, and, CPU

Visit www.PEDIAA.com

Name	Status	CPU	Arbeitss...
App-V Host (3)	0,5%	1.261,4 MB	
Microsoft Outlook	0%	96,7 MB	
Microsoft PowerPoint	0,2%	214,3 MB	
Microsoft Teams (6)	0,6%	269,3 MB	

Program and Application

Program	Application
All programs are not applications	All applications are programs
Do not require applications to operate	Applications require programs to operate

Application: higher-level concept that encompasses one or more programs or processes working together to provide a specific functionality or service to users.

Tasks and Threads

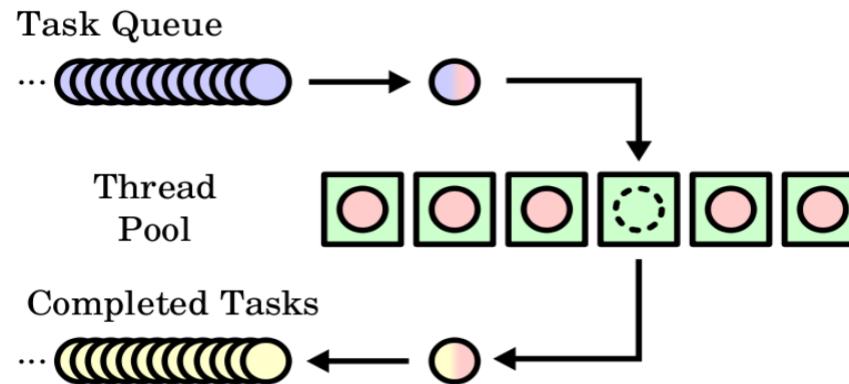
A **task** is a future or promise, a **thread** is a way to fulfilling that promise.

A **task** uses the threadpool, which saves resources as creating threads can be expensive.

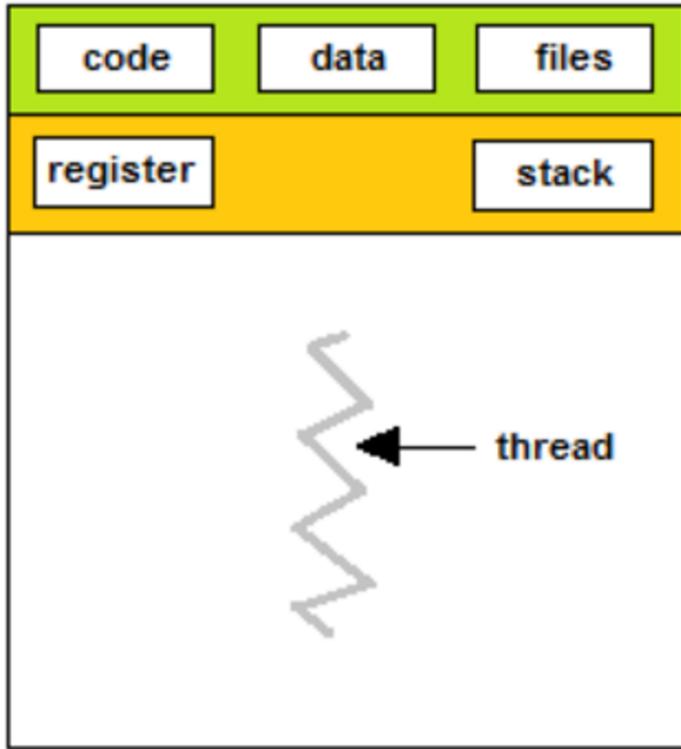
A **thread** is not a .NET construct, they are built into your operating system.

A **task** returns a result and a cancellation, a **thread** not.

Threadpool: pre-created thread structure in memory managed by CLR

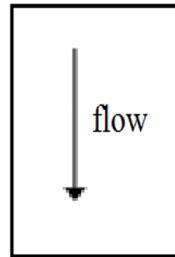


Sequential Execution of Process



single-threaded process

Are unique in that they don't share data and information; they're isolated execution entities. **In short, a process has its own stack, memory, and data**



Single Thread Program

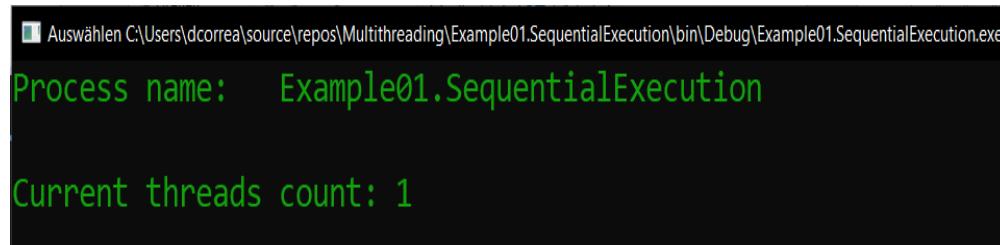
By default every program has single thread

One flow direction

Concept of Process

DEMO: SequentialExecution

```
static void Main(string[] args)
{
    var currentProcess = System.Diagnostics.Process.GetCurrentProcess();
    Console.WriteLine("Process name:\t" + currentProcess.ProcessName);
    Console.WriteLine("\nCurrent threads count: " + GetThreadsCount());
}
```

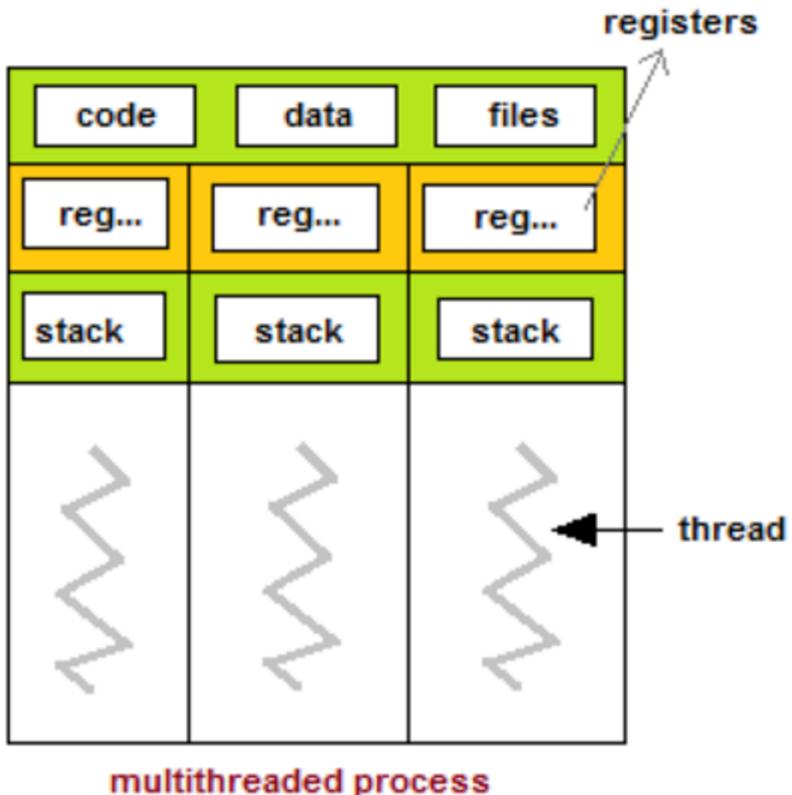


A screenshot of a terminal window displaying the output of a C# application named 'SequentialExecution'. The window title bar shows the path 'Auswählen C:\Users\dcorrea\source\repos\Multithreading\Example01.SequentialExecution\bin\Debug\Example01.SequentialExecution.exe'. The main content of the window shows two lines of text: 'Process name: Example01.SequentialExecution' and 'Current threads count: 1'. The text is colored green, indicating it is standard output from the application.

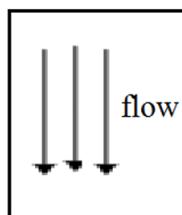
```
Process name: Example01.SequentialExecution

Current threads count: 1
```

Concept of Thread inside a Process



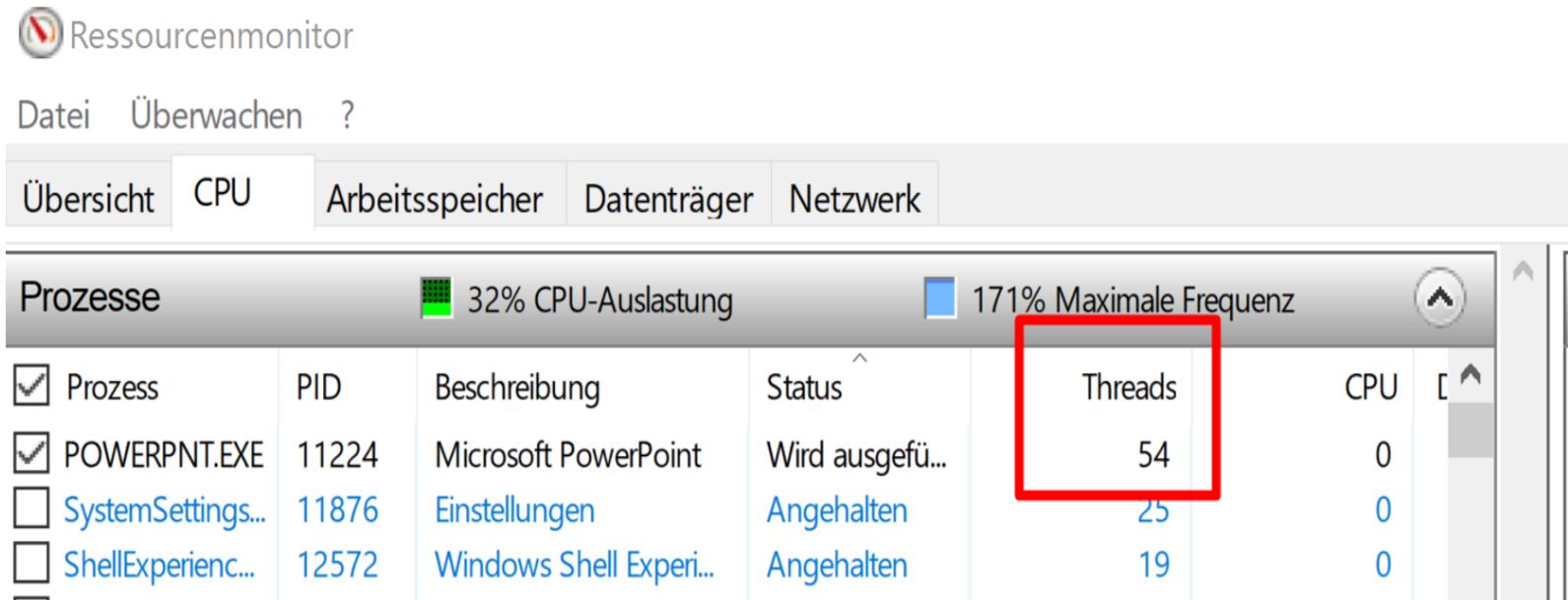
- Own program counter.
- Own stack.
- Own set of registers where the program counter mainly keeps track of which instruction to execute next, a set of register mainly hold its current working variables, and a stack mainly contains the history of execution.



Multiple Thread Program
More the one flow of a program, executing in specified fashion

Concept of Thread

A different name for threads is subprocess, because it is part of a whole process



The screenshot shows the Windows Resource Monitor interface. The title bar reads "Ressourcenmonitor". Below it is a menu bar with "Datei", "Überwachen", and "?". A navigation bar contains tabs for "Übersicht", "CPU", "Arbeitsspeicher", "Datenträger", and "Netzwerk". The "CPU" tab is selected. The main area displays a table titled "Prozesse" with the following data:

Prozess	PID	Beschreibung	Status	Threads	CPU	D
POWERPNT.EXE	11224	Microsoft PowerPoint	Wird ausgefü...	54	0	
SystemSettings...	11876	Einstellungen	Angehalten	25	0	
ShellExperienc...	12572	Windows Shell Experi...	Angehalten	19	0	

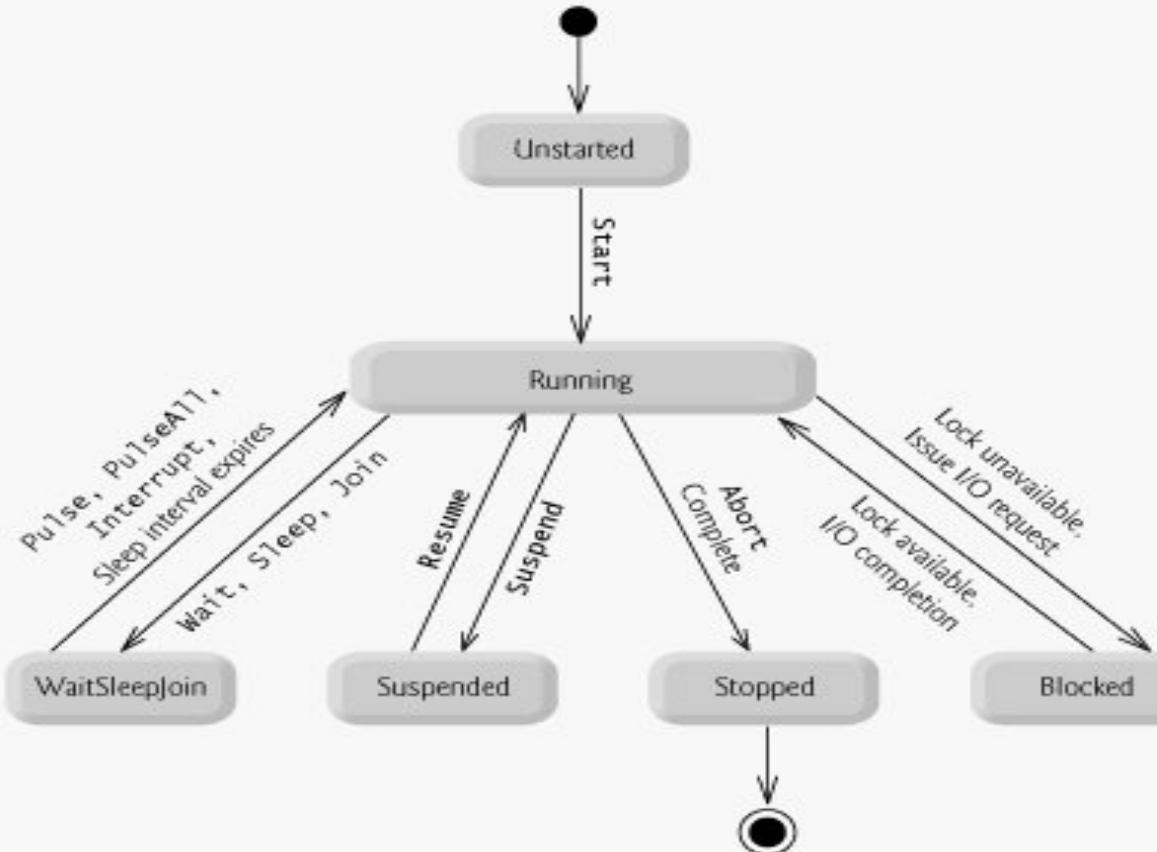
At the top of the table, there are two status indicators: "32% CPU-Auslastung" and "171% Maximale Frequenz". The "Threads" column for the "POWERPNT.EXE" process is highlighted with a red box.

Concept of Thread and Time-Slicing

DEMO: ConcurrentExecution



States and Lifetime of Thread

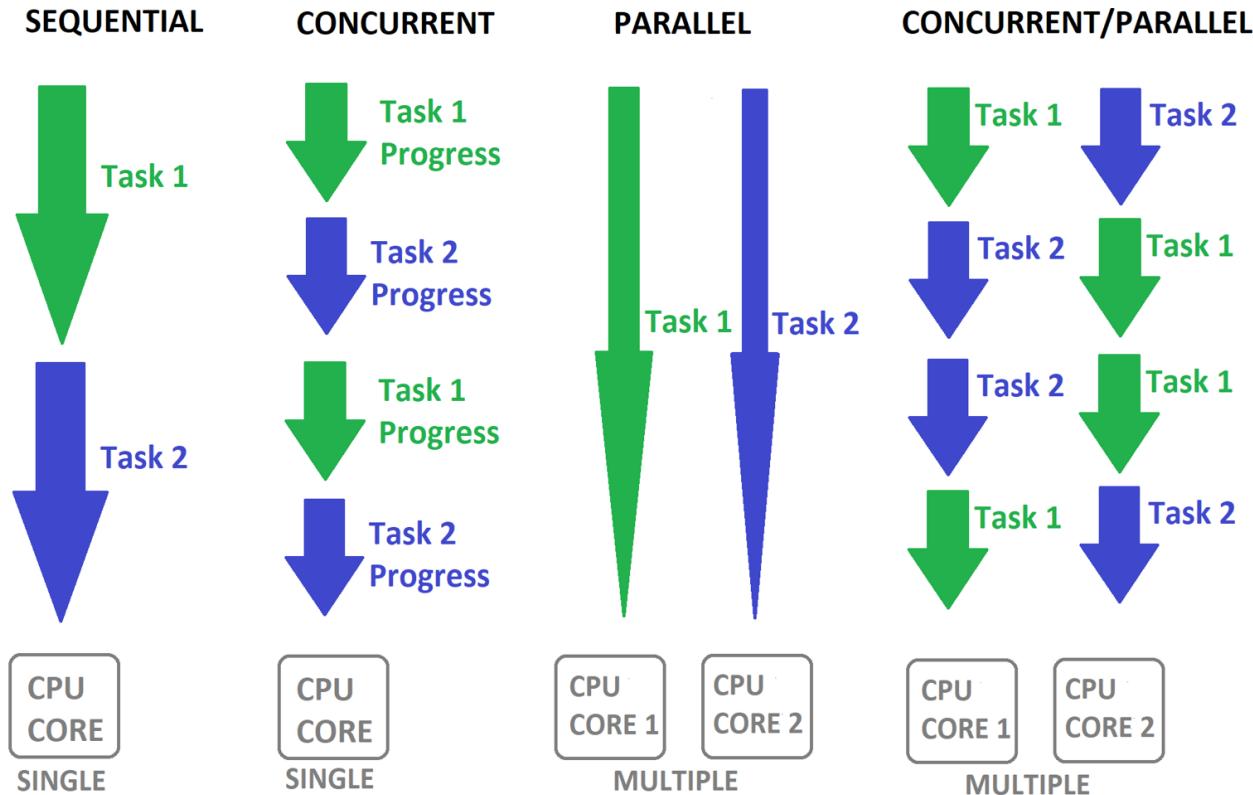




States and Lifetime of Thread

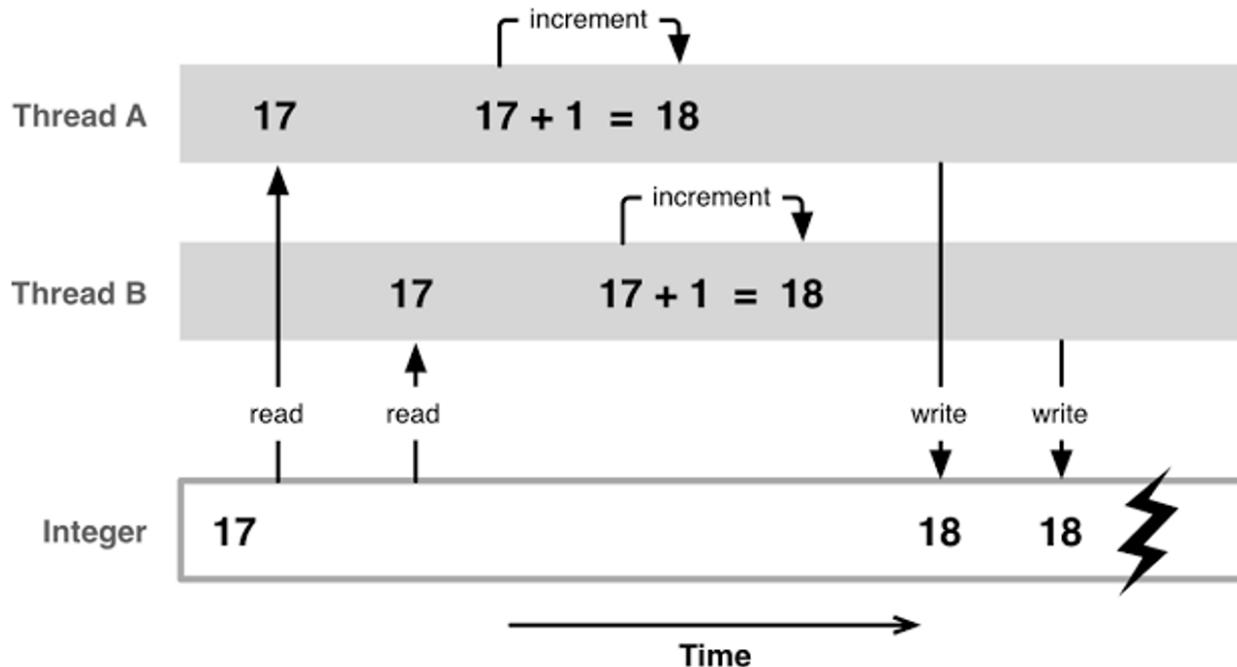
DEMO: ThreadStates

Types of Process/Thread Execution



Race Conditions

A race condition occurs when two or more threads can access **shared data** and they try to change it at the **same time**.



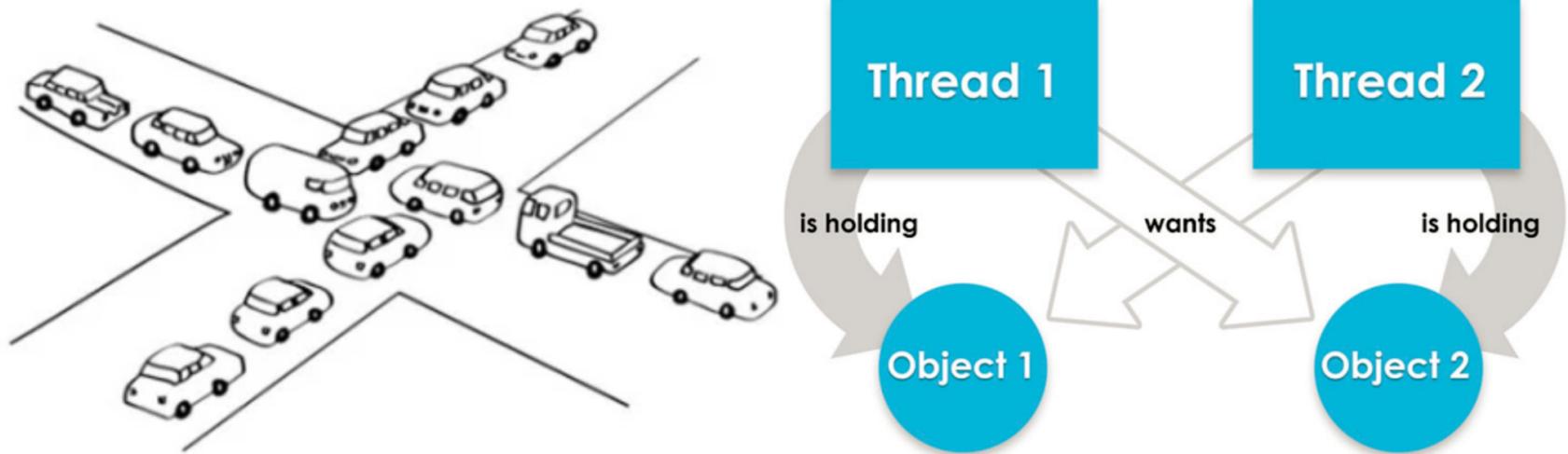
Race Conditions

DEMO: RaceCondition



Deadlock

Is a situation where two or more threads are **frozen** in their execution because they are waiting for each other to finish.





Synchronization of Threads

Mutual Exclusion: Prevents simultaneous access to a shared resource. Used in concurrent programming with a critical section, a piece of code in which processes or threads access a shared resource.

Sync Object	Purpose	Cross-process	Best Use Cases	Overhead
lock, Monitor	Ensures just one thread can access a resource (or section of code) at a time	-	Access a shared variable	20 ns
			With Monitor more control	
Mutex		Yes	Interprocess sync	1000 ns
Semaphore	Ensures not more than a specified number of concurrent threads can access a resource	Yes	Limited capacity, number of db connections	1000 ns
SemaphoreSlim (since v.4.0)				

Synchronization of Threads

DEMO: Synchronization



Background and Foreground Threads

Foreground Thread

- Keep running even after the application exits.
- Ability to prevent the application from terminating.
- The CLR will not shut down the application until all Foreground Threads have stopped.

Background Thread

- Will quit if our main application quits. In short, if our main application quits, the background thread will also quit.
- Are views by the CLR and if all Foreground Threads have terminated, any and all Background Threads are automatically stopped when the application quits.

Background and Foreground Threads

DEMO: BackgroundVsForegroundThreads

Multithreading and Asynchronous Programming

Multithreading

Maximize the multi-core processors.

In C#, the System.Threading namespace.

Not uses ThreadPool.

CPU-Bound operations.

Consumes more memory resources.

Explicit thread creation

```
public static void Main(string[] args)
{
    new Thread(SomethingToDo).Start();
    Console.WriteLine("Main method continues while
}
```

```
public static void SomethingToDo()
{
    Thread.Sleep(1000);
}
```

Asynchronous Programming

Non-blocking approach.

In C#, the System.Threading.Tasks namespace.

Uses ThreadPool.

CPU and IO-Bound operations.

Lighter, reuses threads.

Use of async/await

```
public static async Task Main(string[] args)
{
    await SomethingToDoAsync();
    Console.WriteLine("Main method continues while
}
```

```
public static async Task SomethingToDoAsync()
{
    await Task.Delay(1000);
}
```

Multithreading and Asynchronous Programming

DEMO: SyncMultithreadingVsAsyncProgramming



Conclusions

Why Task? Why not Thread?

Here are the reasons for using tasks instead of threads in multithreaded application:

- **Use of system resources more efficiently and extensively:** Tasks are queued to the ThreadPool behind the scenes, which has been updated with algorithms that determine and adjust the number of threads, as well as load balancing to improve performance.
- **More programmatic control than threads or work items:** TPL supports waiting, cancellation, continuations, robust exception handling, and so on.

For writing multi-threaded, asynchronous, and parallel programming in .NET, TPL is the preferred API.

Alternatives to Threads

- Coroutines, C# 8.0 and above with async and yield and also in NuGet Package/Unity Game Platform
- Consumer-Producer and Message Passing Pattern like System.Threading.Channels (since .NET Core 2.1) or Actor Model (Akka .NET)



Questions

?



End of Session

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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