

# Multithreading 1: Atomic/ Volatile 2. ThreadLocal

Not complete

## Topic 1:

### Atomic Vs Volatile:

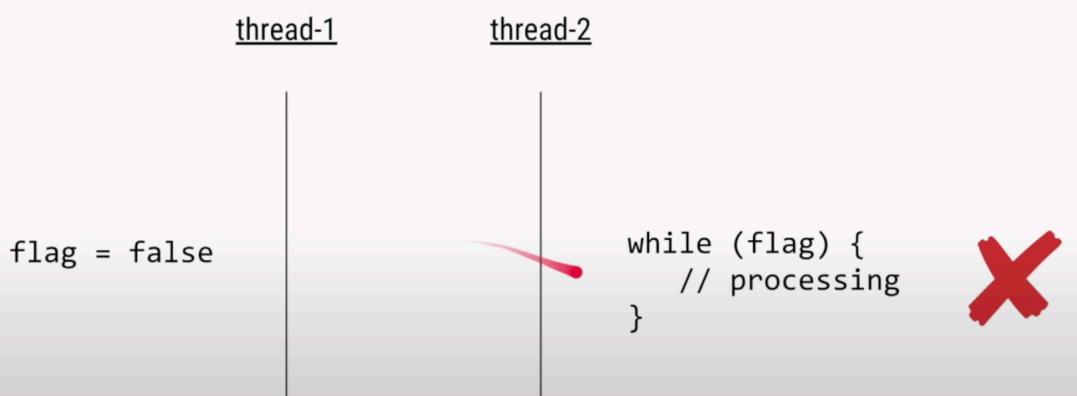
**Volatile:** It is used to solve Visibility problem across multiple thread.

**The Java volatile keyword is used to mark a Java variable as "being stored in main memory". More precisely that means, that every read of a volatile variable will be read from the computer's main memory, and not from the CPU cache, and that every write to a volatile variable will be written to main memory, and not just to the CPU cache.**

### Visibility problem

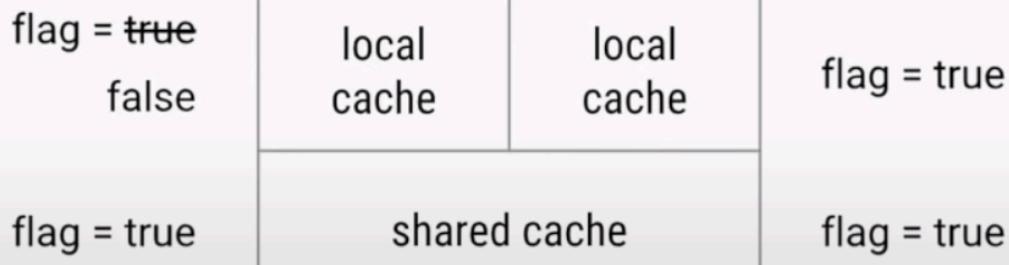
W

```
boolean flag = true
```



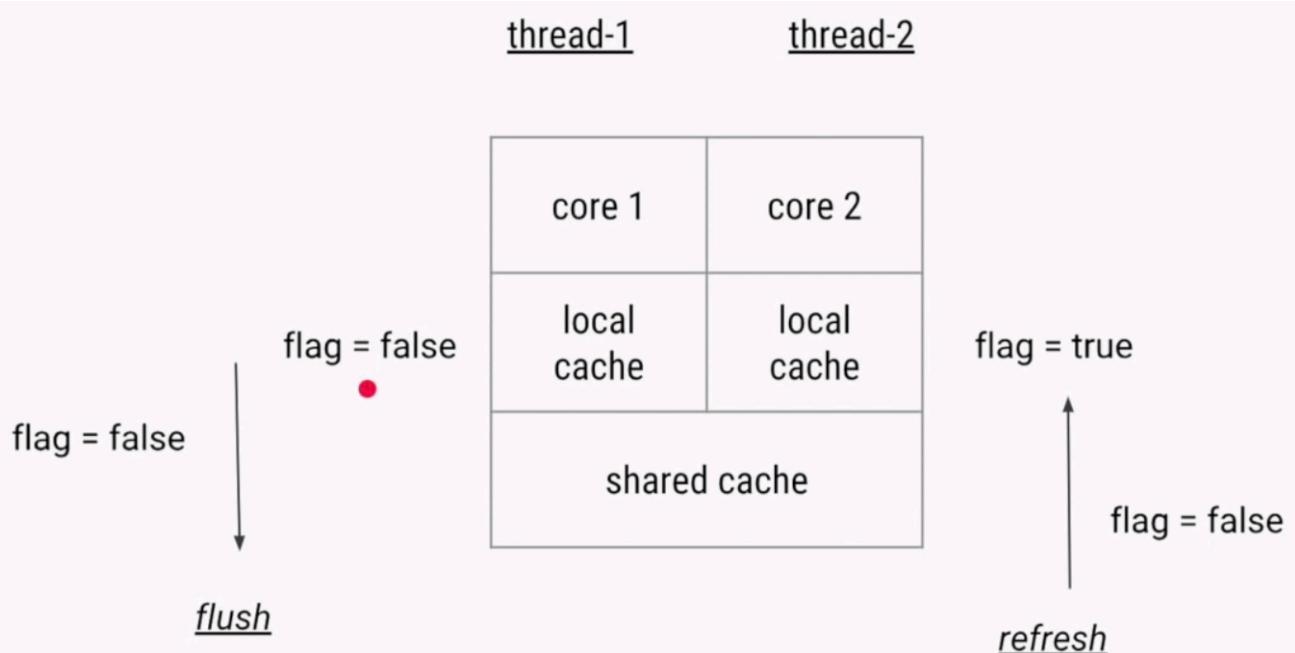
### thread-1      thread-2





### After using volatile keyword:

Any update will reflect in other thread as it flushes the changes in shared cache pool.



### SYNCHRONIZATION PROBLEM:

#### Synchronization problem

```
volatile int value = 1;
```

<u>thread-1</u>	<u>thread-2</u>
-----------------	-----------------



There are 2 op : read and write

## Synchronization problem

```
volatile int value = 1;
```

*Even with volatile*

#	Thread-1	Thread-2
1	Read value (=1)	
2		Read value (=1)
3	Add 1 and write (=2)	
4		Add 1 and write (=2)



volatile won't work here bcoz even after step 2 value is 1 in both cases.

To solve this we need to have **atomic operation** or **synchronized block**.

**Sol 1:**

## Synchronization solutions - #1

```
volatile int value = 1;
```

thread-1

thread-2

```
synchronized (obj) {
```

```
synchronized (obj) {
```



```
    value++;  
}
```

```
    value++;  
}
```



only one thread can update synchronized block at a time.

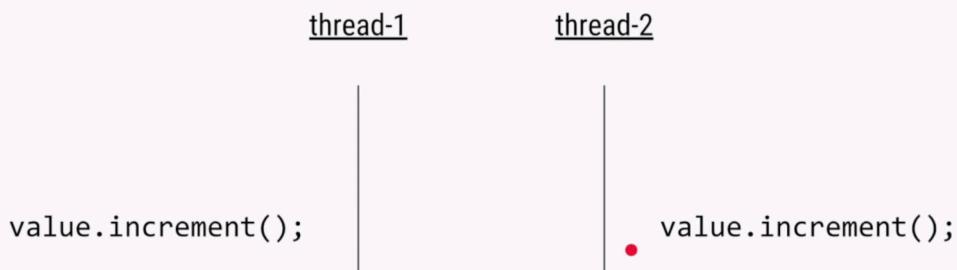
### Sol2:

Using Atomic variable:

**The primary use of AtomicInteger is when we are in multi-threaded context and we need to perform atomic operations on an int value without using [synchronized](#) keyword.**

### Synchronization solutions - #1

```
AtomicInteger value = new AtomicInteger(1);
```



### Many methods for various compound operations

- `incrementAndGet`
- `decrementAndGet`

- addAndGet (int delta)
- compareAndSet (int expectedValue, int newValue)

**So If we have a visibility problem then need to go with Volatile and If we have a compound operation and we want to do that atomically then we should go with AtomicInteger.**

## Typical Use Cases

Type	Use Case
volatile	Flags
AtomicInteger AtomicLong	Counters
AtomicReference	Caches (building new cache in background and replacing atomically)  Used by some internal classes  Non-blocking algorithms

Reference : <http://tutorials.jenkov.com/java-concurrency/volatile.html>. BEST

<https://howtodoinjava.com/java/multi-threading/atomicinteger-example/> howtodoinjava

## Topic 2:

### ThreadLocal:

**It provides per thread object**

**Most common use of thread local is when you have some object that is not thread-safe, but you want to avoid synchronizing access to that object using synchronized keyword/block. Instead, give each thread its own instance of the object to work with.**

**A good alternative to synchronization or threadlocal is to make the variable a local variable. Local variables are always thread safe. The only thing which may prevent you to do this is your application design constraints.**

Note : In wabapp server, it may be keep a thread pool, so a ThreadLocal var should be removed before response to the client, since current thread may be reused by next request. Also, if you do not clean up when you're done, any references it holds to classes loaded as part of a deployed webapp will remain in the permanent heap and will never get garbage collected.

```
private ThreadLocal threadLocal = new ThreadLocal();
```

This only needs to be done once per thread. Multiple threads can now get and set values inside this ThreadLocal, and each thread will only see the value it set itself.

USeCase1:

```
public class UserService {

    public static void main(String[] args) throws InterruptedException

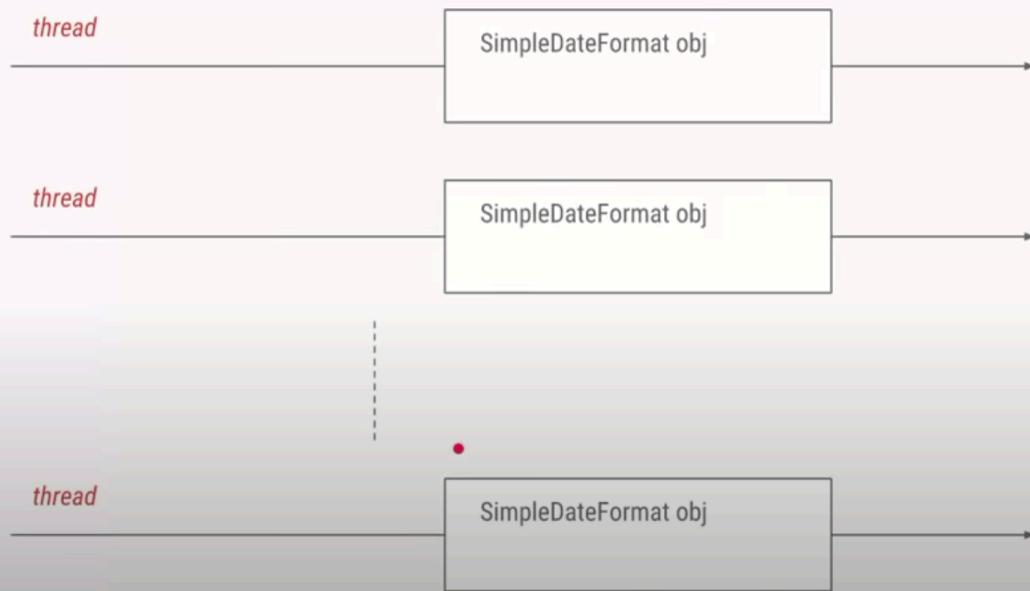
        for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
            int id = i;
            new Thread(() -> {
                String birthDate = new UserService2().birthDate(id);
                System.out.println(birthDate);
            }).start();
        }

        Thread.sleep(1000);
    }

    public String birthDate(int userId) {
        Date birthDate = birthDateFromDB(userId);
        SimpleDateFormat df = new SimpleDateFormat("yyyy-MM-dd");
        return df.format(birthDate);
    }
}
```

```
    }  
  
    // ....  
}
```

## Per task object created

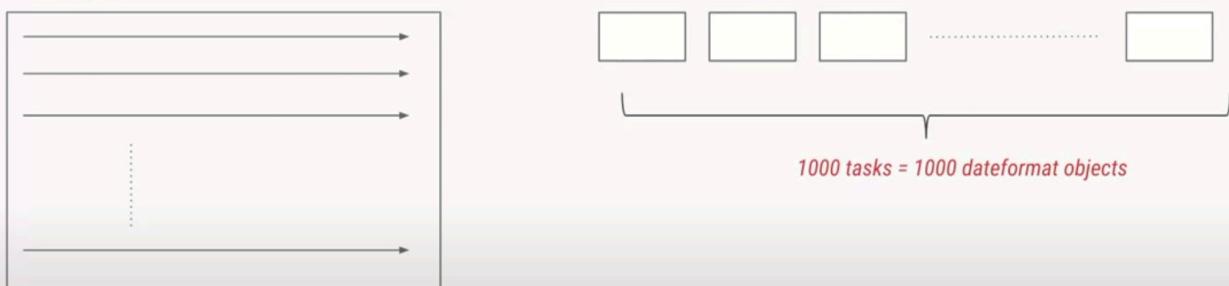


To solve this and prevent creating so many thread we use executor service:

```
private static ExecutorService threadPool = Executors.newFixedThreadPool(10);  
  
public static void main(String[] args) throws InterruptedException {  
  
    for (int i = 0; i < 1000; i++) {  
        int id = i;  
        threadPool.submit(() -> {  
            String birthDate = new UserService2().birthDate(id);  
            System.out.println(birthDate);  
        });  
    }  
  
    Thread.sleep(1000);  
}
```

1000 objects created

*Thread pool*



To prevent from creating too many DateFormat objects, we could create a global variable like:

```
private static ExecutorService threadPool = Executors.newFixedThreadPool(10);
private static SimpleDateFormat df = new SimpleDateFormat("yyyy-MM-dd");

public static void main(String[] args) throws InterruptedException {

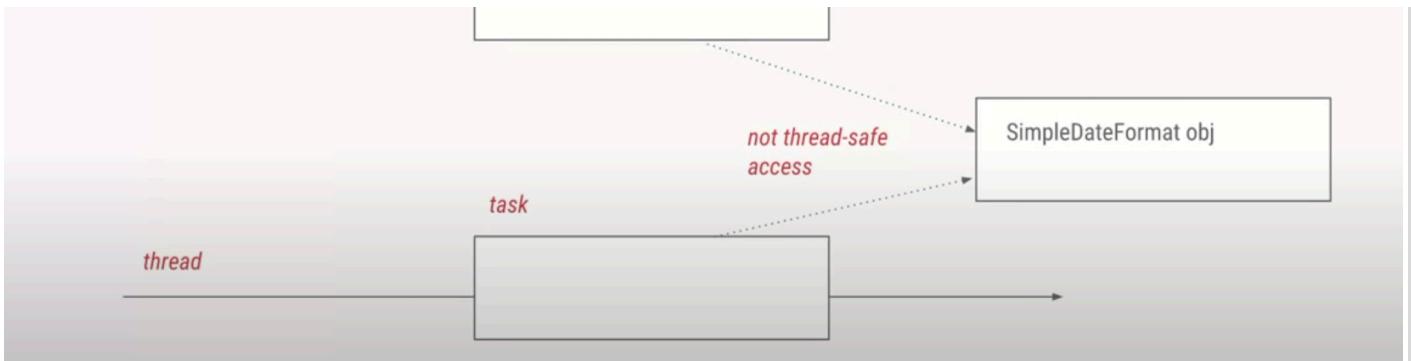
    for (int i = 0; i < 1000; i++) {
        int id = i;
        threadPool.submit(() -> {
            String birthDate = new UserService2().birthDate(id);
            System.out.println(birthDate);
        });
    }

    Thread.sleep(1000);
}

public String birthDate(int userId) {
    Date birthDate = birthDateFromDB(userId);
    return df.format(birthDate);
}
```

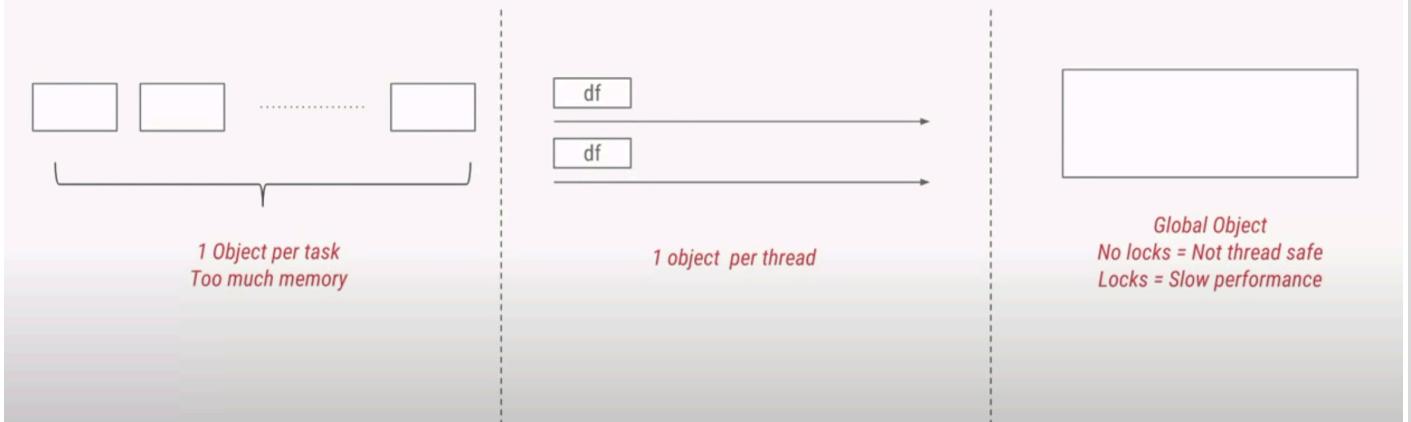
SimpleDateFormat is not Thread-safe!





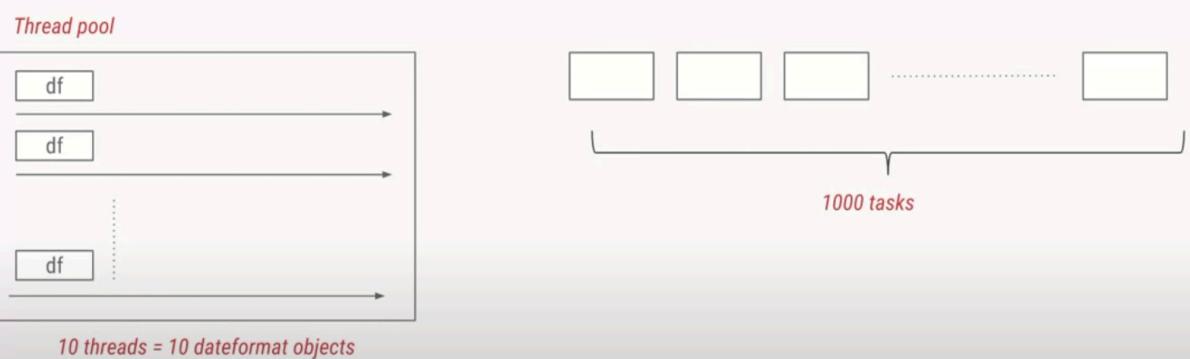
to solve this we could have object for a thread only.

## ThreadLocal



So it will have per thread instance and also it will provide thread safety

## Thread safe and efficient



Thread-safe = Each thread only calls its own copy

```

class ThreadSafeFormatter {

    public static ThreadLocal<SimpleDateFormat> dateFormatter = new ThreadLocal<SimpleDateFormat>(){

        @Override
        protected SimpleDateFormat initialValue() {
            return new SimpleDateFormat("yyyy-MM-dd");
        }

        @Override
        public SimpleDateFormat get() {
            return super.get();
        }
    };
}

public class UserService {

    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // ....
    }

    public String birthDate(int userId) {
        Date birthDate = birthDateFromDB(userId);
        final SimpleDateFormat df = ThreadSafeFormatter.dateFormatter.get();
        return df.format(birthDate);
    }
}

```

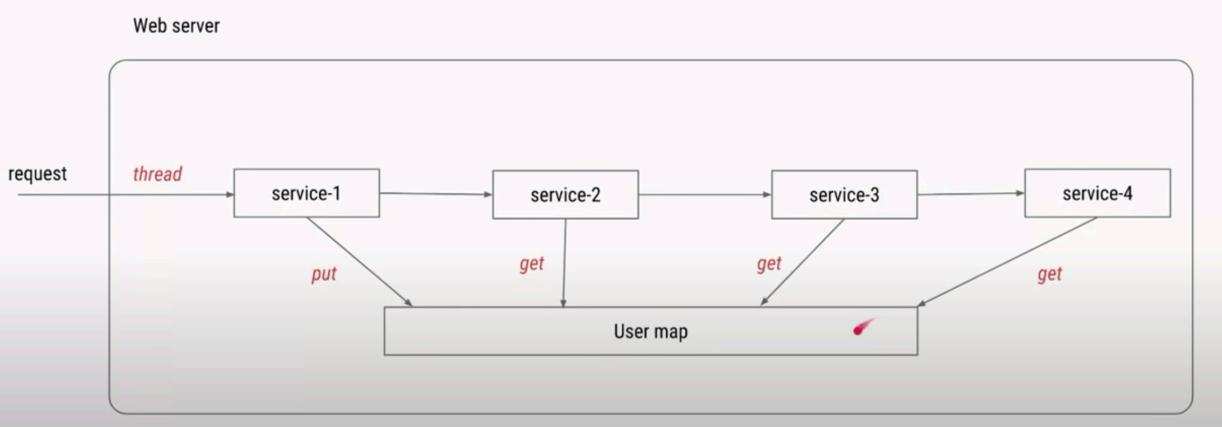
*Called once for each thread*

*1st call = initialValue()*  
*Subsequent calls will return same initialized value*

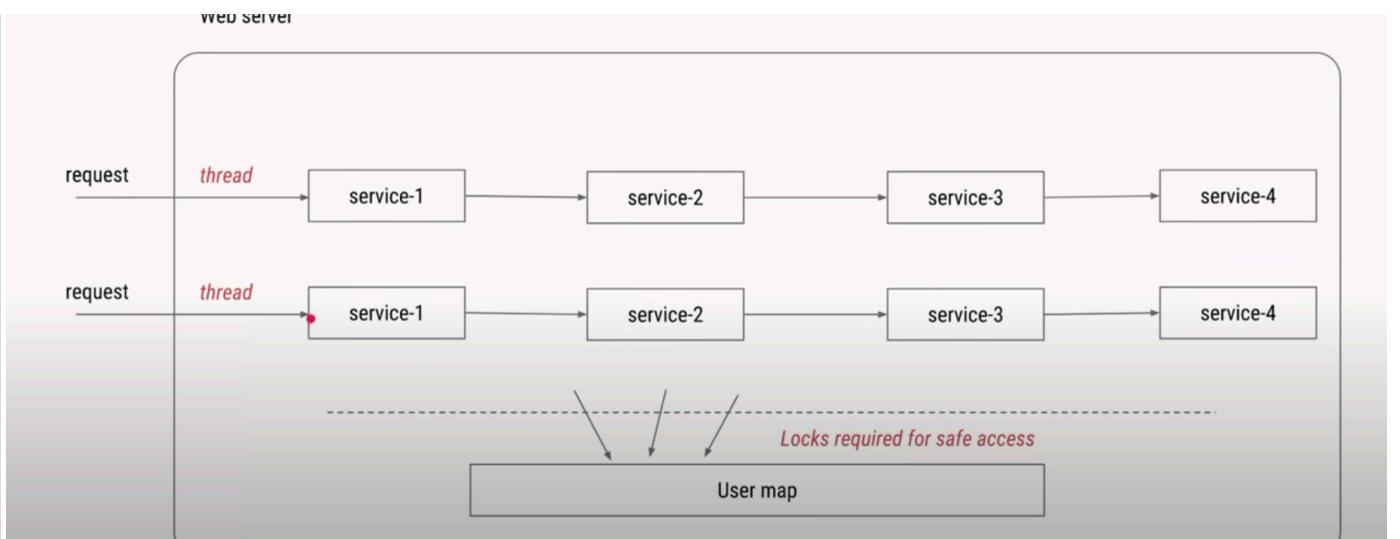
*Each thread will get its own copy*

usecase 2:

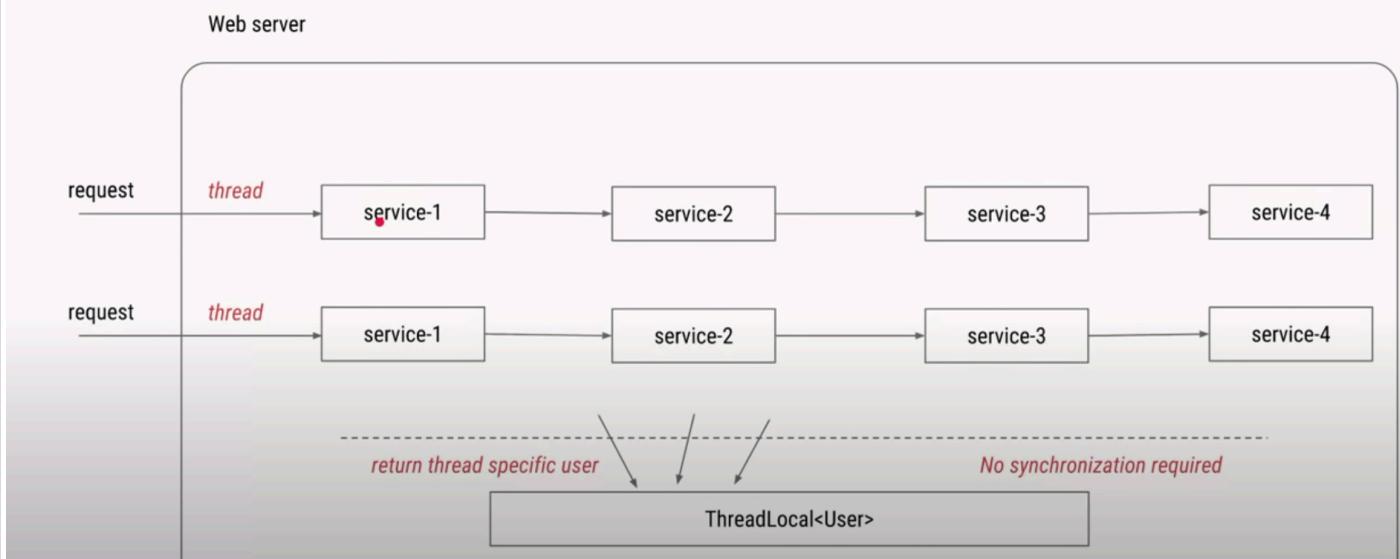
## Single Global User map



Synchronization needed



## Synchronization not required with ThreadLocal



```

public class UserContextHolder {
    public static ThreadLocal<User> holder = new ThreadLocal();
}

class Service1 {
    public void process() {
        User user = getUser();
        UserContextHolder.holder.set(user);
    }
}

class Service2 {
    public void process() {
        User user = UserContextHolder.holder.get();
        // process user
    }
}

```

*Set it for this thread*

*Get user for this thread*

This code snippet shows the implementation of UserContextHolder and its usage in Service1 and Service2. An annotation 'Set it for this thread' points to the line where UserContextHolder.holder.set(user); is called in Service1. Another annotation 'Get user for this thread' points to the line where UserContextHolder.holder.get(); is called in Service2.

```
        // process user  
    }  
}
```

Important to cleanup once job is over

```
● ● ●  
  
public class UserContextHolder {  
    public static ThreadLocal<User> holder = new ThreadLocal();  
}  
  
class Service1 {  
    // put user  
}  
  
class Service2 {  
    // get user  
}  
  
class Service3 {  
    // get user  
}  
  
class Service4 {  
    public void process() {  
        // get user  
        // cleanup  
        UserContextHolder.holder.remove();  
    }  
}
```

*Last service, user no longer required*

If we are using spring framework then try to use below context to avoid and handle threadlocal by ourself.

Spring framework uses lot of Context holders

- LocaleContextHolder
- TransactionContextHolder
- RequestContextHolder
- SecurityContextHolder
- DateTimeContextHolder

```
public abstract class RequestContextHolder  
extends java.lang.Object
```

Holder class to expose the web request in the form of a thread-bound RequestAttributes object

```
public class SecurityContextHolder  
extends java.lang.Object
```

Associates a given SecurityContext with the current execution thread.

If we are using spring framework then try to use below context to avoid and handle threadlocal by ourself.