Multithreading in Java

**Multithreading in**[**Java**](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-tutorial) 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.

* Java Thread class
* Java provides **Thread class** to achieve thread programming. Thread class provides [constructors](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-constructor) and methods to create and perform operations on a thread. Thread class extends [Object class](https://www.javatpoint.com/object-class) and implements Runnable interface.
* Java Thread Methods

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S.N.** | **Modifier and Type** | **Method** | **Description** |
| 1) | void | [start()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-start-method) | It is used to start the execution of the thread. |
| 2) | void | [run()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-run-method) | It is used to do an action for a thread. |
| 3) | static void | [sleep()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-sleep-method) | It sleeps a thread for the specified amount of time. |
| 4) | static Thread | [currentThread()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-currentthread-method) | It returns a reference to the currently executing thread object. |
| 5) | void | [join()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-join-method) | It waits for a thread to die. |
| 6) | int | [getPriority()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getpriority-method) | It returns the priority of the thread. |
| 7) | void | [setPriority()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-setpriority-method) | It changes the priority of the thread. |
| 8) | String | [getName()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getname-method) | It returns the name of the thread. |
| 9) | void | [setName()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-setname-method) | It changes the name of the thread. |
| 10) | long | [getId()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getid-method) | It returns the id of the thread. |
| 11) | boolean | [isAlive()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-isalive-method) | It tests if the thread is alive. |
| 12) | static void | [yield()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-yield-method) | It causes the currently executing thread object to pause and allow other threads to execute temporarily. |
| 13) | void | [suspend()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-suspend-method) | It is used to suspend the thread. |
| 14) | void | [resume()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-resume-method) | It is used to resume the suspended thread. |
| 15) | void | [stop()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-stop-method) | It is used to stop the thread. |
| 16) | void | [destroy()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-destroy-method) | It is used to destroy the thread group and all of its subgroups. |
| 17) | boolean | [isDaemon()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-isdaemon-method) | It tests if the thread is a daemon thread. |
| 18) | void | [setDaemon()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-setdaemon-method) | It marks the thread as daemon or user thread. |
| 19) | void | [interrupt()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-interrupt-method) | It interrupts the thread. |
| 20) | boolean | [isinterrupted()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-isinterrupted-method) | It tests whether the thread has been interrupted. |
| 21) | static boolean | [interrupted()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-interrupted-method) | It tests whether the current thread has been interrupted. |
| 22) | static int | [activeCount()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-activecount-method) | It returns the number of active threads in the current thread's thread group. |
| 23) | void | [checkAccess()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-checkaccess-method) | It determines if the currently running thread has permission to modify the thread. |
| 24) | static boolean | [holdLock()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-holdlock-method) | It returns true if and only if the current thread holds the monitor lock on the specified object. |
| 25) | static void | [dumpStack()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-dumpstack-method) | It is used to print a stack trace of the current thread to the standard error stream. |
| 26) | StackTraceElement[] | [getStackTrace()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getstacktrace-method) | It returns an array of stack trace elements representing the stack dump of the thread. |
| 27) | static int | [enumerate()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-enumerate-method) | It is used to copy every active thread's thread group and its subgroup into the specified array. |
| 28) | Thread.State | [getState()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getstate-method) | It is used to return the state of the thread. |
| 29) | ThreadGroup | [getThreadGroup()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getthreadgroup-method) | It is used to return the thread group to which this thread belongs |
| 30) | String | [toString()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-tostring-method) | It is used to return a string representation of this thread, including the thread's name, priority, and thread group. |
| 31) | void | [notify()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-notify-method) | It is used to give the notification for only one thread which is waiting for a particular object. |
| 32) | void | [notifyAll()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-notifyall-method) | It is used to give the notification to all waiting threads of a particular object. |
| 33) | void | [setContextClassLoader()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-setcontextclassloader-method) | It sets the context ClassLoader for the Thread. |
| 34) | ClassLoader | [getContextClassLoader()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getcontextclassloader-method) | It returns the context ClassLoader for the thread. |
| 35) | static Thread.UncaughtExceptionHandler | [getDefaultUncaughtExceptionHandler()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-getdefaultuncaughtexceptionhandler-method) | It returns the default handler invoked when a thread abruptly terminates due to an uncaught exception. |
| 36) | static void | [setDefaultUncaughtExceptionHandler()](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-thread-setdefaultuncaughtexceptionhandler-method) | It sets the default handler invoked when a thread abruptly terminates due to an uncaught exception. |
| **Life cycle of a Thread (Thread States)**  1. [Life cycle of a thread](https://www.javatpoint.com/life-cycle-of-a-thread)    1. [New](https://www.javatpoint.com/life-cycle-of-a-thread#threadstatenew)    2. [Runnable](https://www.javatpoint.com/life-cycle-of-a-thread#threadstaterunnable)    3. [Running](https://www.javatpoint.com/life-cycle-of-a-thread#threadstaterunning)    4. [Non-Runnable (Blocked)](https://www.javatpoint.com/life-cycle-of-a-thread#threadstateblocked)    5. [Terminated](https://www.javatpoint.com/life-cycle-of-a-thread#threadstateterminated)   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   Java thread life cycle **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.

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:

|  |
| --- |
| 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:

|  |
| --- |
| 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(). |

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

Starting a thread:

|  |
| --- |
| **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. |

1) Java Thread Example by extending Thread class

**class** Multi **extends** Thread{

**public** **void** run(){

System.out.println("thread is running...");

}

**public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){

Multi t1=**new** Multi();

t1.start();

 }

}

Output:thread is running...

2) Java Thread Example by implementing Runnable interface

**class** Multi3 **implements** Runnable{

**public** **void** run(){

System.out.println("thread is running...");

}

**public** **static** **void** main(String args[]){

Multi3 m1=**new** Multi3();

Thread t1 =**new** Thread(m1);

t1.start();

 }

}

Output:thread is running...

|  |
| --- |
| If you are not extending the Thread class,your class object would not be treated as a thread object.So you need to explicitely create Thread class object.We are passing the object of your class that implements Runnable so that your class run() method may execute. |

# **Daemon Thread in Java**

**Daemon thread in java** is a service provider thread that provides services to the user thread. Its life depend on the mercy of user threads i.e. when all the user threads dies, JVM terminates this thread automatically.

There are many java daemon threads running automatically e.g. gc, finalizer etc.

## Points to remember for Daemon Thread in Java

* It provides services to user threads for background supporting tasks. It has no role in life than to serve user threads.
* Its life depends on user threads.
* It is a low priority thread.

### **Why JVM terminates the daemon thread if there is no user thread?**

The sole purpose of the daemon thread is that it provides services to user thread for background supporting task. If there is no user thread, why should JVM keep running this thread. That is why JVM terminates the daemon thread if there is no user thread.

### **Methods for Java Daemon thread by Thread class**

The java.lang.Thread class provides two methods for java daemon thread.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Method** | **Description** |
| 1) | public void setDaemon(boolean status) | is used to mark the current thread as daemon thread or user thread. |
| 2) | public boolean isDaemon() | is used to check that current is daemon. |

### **Simple example of Daemon thread in java**

*File: MyThread.java*

**public** **class** TestDaemonThread1 **extends** Thread{

**public** **void** run(){

**if**(Thread.currentThread().isDaemon()){//checking for daemon thread

   System.out.println("daemon thread work");

  }

**else**{

  System.out.println("user thread work");

 }

 }

**public** **static** **void** main(String[] args){

  TestDaemonThread1 t1=**new** TestDaemonThread1();//creating thread

  TestDaemonThread1 t2=**new** TestDaemonThread1();

  TestDaemonThread1 t3=**new** TestDaemonThread1();

  t1.setDaemon(**true**);//now t1 is daemon thread

  t1.start();//starting threads

  t2.start();

  t3.start();

 }

}