Scenario:

Imagine you have a servlet like this:

public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet {

protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)

throws ServletException, IOException {

int count = 0;

count++;

response.getWriter().write("Count: " + count);



- The doGet() method (which is called by the service() method) is NOT synchronized by default.
- This means multiple threads can execute the doGet() method at the same time without waiting for each other.
- **✓** Why Does Each Thread Execute Its Own service() Method?

Key Point:

Even though the **service() method is not synchronized**, every incoming request (thread) gets its **own stack space**.

- 👉 This means that if **Thread A** and **Thread B** call the doGet() method at the **same time**, both will have:
 - Their own local variables
 - Their own execution stack
 - Their own instance of the count variable.

What Does This Mean in Simple Terms?

- Thread A will have its own local variable count.
- Thread B will have its own local variable count.
- Both threads can execute the method at the same time, without blocking each other.
- **This is why local variables are always thread-safe** in the service() method.

✓ What Happens If the service() Method Was Synchronized?

Now, imagine if you did this:

protected synchronized void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)

throws ServletException, IOException {

int count = 0;

count++;

response.getWriter().write("Count: " + count);

- Now, only ONE thread at a time can execute the doGet() method.
- If **Thread A** is inside doGet(), **Thread B** has to **wait** until Thread A is done.
- This will drastically reduce performance and slow down your application.
- If you had made the method synchronized, then other threads would have to wait.
- But since the method is **not synchronized**, all threads can execute it **at the same time** with their own local variables.

✓ Why Is the Local Variable Thread-Safe Then?

The key reason is:

Local variables in Java are stored in the thread's stack memory, which is not shared with any other thread.



- Thread A gets its own count variable.
- Thread B gets its own count variable.
- They never share local variables.
- **✓** What About Instance Variables?

However, if you had declared an **instance variable** like this:

public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet {

private int counter = 0;

protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)

throws ServletException, IOException {

counter++;

response.getWriter().write("Counter: " + counter);



- Now counter is shared across all threads (requests).
- If **Thread A** and **Thread B** both access doGet() simultaneously:
 - Thread A increases counter from 0 to 1.
 - o Thread B increases counter from **1 to 2**.
 - But both might get mixed results (Race Condition).
- X This is **NOT thread-safe.**
- What Is SingleThreadedModel Then?

Your professor also said:

"To add synchronization, you can make the class implement SingleThreadedModel interface..."



If you modify your servlet like this:

public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet implements SingleThreadedModel {

private int counter = 0;

protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response)

throws ServletException, IOException {

counter++;

response.getWriter().write("Counter: " + counter);

}

}

- Now, the container (Tomcat) will ensure that:
 - Only one thread can access the doGet() method at a time.
 - Other threads have to wait.
 - This ensures thread safety but kills performance.
- Why Is This a Bad Idea?

Disadvantages of SingleThreadedModel:

- 2. S It defeats the whole purpose of Java Servlets, which are meant for high concurrency.
- 3. No It has been deprecated in Servlet 2.4 (so we don't use it anymore).

✓ To Summarize Everything:

Scenario	Local Variable Thread-Safe?	Instance Variable Thread-Safe?	Explanation
No Synchronization (default)	✓ Yes	× No	Local variables are stored in thread stack , so they're always thread-safe. But instance variables are shared, causing race conditions.
Synchronized Method	✓ Yes	✓ Yes	Only one thread can access the method at a time, ensuring thread-safety but reducing performance.
SingleThreadedModel	✓ Yes	∨ Yes	Container creates a new instance per request, ensuring thread-safety but reducing performance.

- If you use synchronized, threads will have to wait.
- But since the method is not synchronized, multiple threads can execute simultaneously.
- However, **instance variables** are not thread-safe unless synchronized.

✓ Golden Rule (Easy to Remember):

Variable Type	Thread-Safe Without Synchronization?	Why?
✓ Local Variable (inside doGet())	✓ Yes	Each thread has its own copy (stack memory).
➤ Instance Variable (outside doGet())	× No	Shared across all threads (heap memory).
Static Variable (class-level)	× No	Shared across all instances.

☑ So Final Answer: Why Is the service() Method Thread-Safe for Local Variables?

- Because every thread has its own stack in memory.
- The local variables (int count) are stored **inside the stack**, which is **not shared** with any other thread.
- Therefore, local variables are automatically thread-safe.
- But instance variables (private int counter;) are not thread-safe without synchronization.

How Tomcat handles requests (using thread pools, worker threads, etc.) and why synchronization slows things down??

Step 1: What Is Tomcat Exactly Doing?

Tomcat is a Web Container (Servlet Container)

- Tomcat is like a restaurant manager that handles incoming requests (customers) and assigns a worker (thread) to serve each request.
- Every time you type a URL like:

http://localhost:8080/MyApp/MyServlet

**** Tomcat receives your request and assigns a thread** to execute the service() method of your servlet.

Step 2: Tomcat's Worker Thread Model

What happens when Tomcat receives a request?

- 👉 Imagine this scenario:
 - You open the browser and hit the servlet URL (MyServlet).
 - Your friend also hits the same URL from their laptop.
- Mhat Tomcat Does Internally (Step-by-Step):

Event What Happens Internally in Tomcat

Request #1 from You

Tomcat creates a new thread (let's call it Thread-1). This thread will call the service() method of your servlet.

Event What Happens Internally in Tomcat

Request #2 from Your Tomcat creates another thread (let's call it Thread-2) and again calls the

Friend service() method of the same servlet instance.

Request #3 fromTomcat creates **Thread-3** and does the same thing.

✓ IMPORTANT:

Someone Else

- Tomcat does NOT create a new servlet object for each request.
- Instead, it uses the same servlet object but creates a new thread for each request.
- This is known as the Multithreading Model in Servlets.

Step 3: What Is Actually Happening in Memory?

Memory Diagram (Internally)

Request # Thread in Tomcat Local Variable Instance Variable (shared)

Request #1 (You) Thread-1 count = 10 (local) counter = 1 (shared)

Request #2 (Your Friend) Thread-2 count = 10 (local) counter = 2 (shared)

Request #3 (Someone Else) Thread-3 count = 10 (local) counter = 3 (shared)

Explanation:

- The local variable (count) is different for each thread (because it's stored in the thread's stack memory).
- The instance variable (counter) is shared across all threads (because it's stored in heap memory).
- Step 4: Why Does Tomcat Avoid Synchronization?
- Suppose Tomcat allowed only one thread at a time like this:

protected synchronized void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response) { int count = 0; count++; response.getWriter().write("Count: " + count); This means: **Thread-1** starts executing the method. Thread-2 has to WAIT until Thread-1 is done. Thread-3 also has to WAIT. PROBLEM: This Will Kill Your Application! If 100 people hit your servlet, Tomcat will make 99 people wait! • Your website will hang like a dead app. • This is why Tomcat does not synchronize the service() method. Step 5: Why Is Local Variable Thread-Safe Then? ← Now the magic part ♠! Why Is This Code Automatically Thread-Safe? protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response) { int count = 0; count++; response.getWriter().write("Count: " + count); **Explanation:**

When Thread-1 executes, it creates its own local variable (count = 0) in stack memory.

- When Thread-2 executes, it also creates its own local variable (count = 0).
- Since local variables belong to the thread itself, they are 100% thread-safe.

✓ Technical Reason:

- Local variables are stored in Thread Stack Memory (which is isolated for each thread).
- Instance variables are stored in Heap Memory (which is shared across all threads).
- This is why local variables are always thread-safe.
- Step 6: What About Instance Variables?

Now the big question...

f If you did this:

public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet {

private int counter = 0;

protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response) {

counter++;

response.getWriter().write("Counter: " + counter);

}

•

What happens now?

Result (BIG PROBLEM 🕍):

Thread Value of counter

Thread-1 counter = 1

Thread-2 counter = 2

Thread-3 counter = 3

Thread Value of counter

Thread-4 counter = 4

- **f** Multiple threads are modifying the **same instance variable (counter)**, which leads to:
 - Race Conditions (unexpected output).
 - Data Corruption.
 - Incorrect Results.
- **✓** Step 7: What Is The Role Of SingleThreadedModel?

"To make the service() method thread-safe, you can implement SingleThreadedModel."

If you do this:

public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet implements SingleThreadedModel {

private int counter = 0;

}

- Tomcat will now:
 - Create a new servlet instance for every request.
 - This means: Thread-1 → New Servlet, Thread-2 → New Servlet.
 - No shared instance variables = No thread-safety issues.

Why Is This A Bad Idea?

- Tomcat will consume a lot of memory.
- It will kill performance if **thousands of requests** come in.
- That's why SingleThreadedModel is deprecated.
- Step 8: How Does Tomcat Actually Handle Threads Internally?

**** The Example 2** When Tomcat starts, it creates a **Thread Pool** with a fixed number of worker threads.

Example:

Worker Thread Name Status

Thread-1 Handling Request 1

Thread-2 Handling Request 2

Thread-3 Handling Request 3

What Happens When All Threads Are Busy?

- Tomcat queues the incoming requests.
- When a thread is free, it picks the next request from the queue.
- This is why Tomcat is super fast.

Step 9: Final Answer In One Line

Variable Type Stored In Thread-Safe? Why?

Local Variable
Thread Stack Always Each thread has its own copy.

X Instance Variable Heap Memory X No Shared by all threads.

Synchronized Method Heap Memory <a>Yes One thread at a time (bad performance).

Quick Fun Fact

- Tomcat can handle up to 10,000 requests per second using multithreading.
- But if you synchronize the service() method, your application will be dead slow.
- This is why Tomcat avoids synchronization and uses local variables for thread safety.

So What Should You Do In Real Life?

Scenario Solution

Local Variable (inside doGet()) Always thread-safe, no problem.

Instance Variable (outside doGet()) X Use synchronized OR avoid using instance variables.

Global Data (database access)

Use synchronized or connection pooling.