Synchronized vs Non-Synchronized in Java

Feature

Synchronized Method

Non-Synchronized Method

Definition

A method that is synchronized, meaning it can only be accessed by one thread at a time.

A method that is not synchronized, allowing multiple threads to access it simultaneously.

Keyword

Uses the 'synchronized' keyword.

Does not use the `synchronized` keyword.

Thread Safety

Provides thread safety by preventing concurrent access by multiple threads.

Does not provide thread safety; concurrent access can lead to race conditions.

Performance

Can be slower due to the overhead of acquiring and releasing locks.

Generally faster as there is no overhead of synchronization.

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Usage

Used when shared resources need to be accessed or modified by multiple threads.

Used when there is no shared resource, or thread safety is not a concern.

public synchronized void synchronizedMethod() { // method code }

public void nonSynchronizedMethod() {
 // method code

Block Synchronization

Allows synchronizing a block of code within a method using `synchronized` block.

No equivalent; the entire method is non-synchronized.

Locks

}

Acquires a lock on the object (or class, if the method is static) before executing.

Does not acquire any locks.

Deadlock Potential

Can lead to deadlock if not used

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carefully, especially when multiple locks are involved.

No risk of deadlock as no locks are used.

Reentrancy

Allows the same thread to re-enter the synchronized method/block if it already holds the lock.

Not applicable.

Scope of Synchronization

Applies to the entire method or specified block of code.

No synchronization, so no scope limitation.