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ConcurrentHashMap in java - with Segments formation in detail with diagram

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In this Collection framework tutorial we will learn what is java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap in Collection framework in java.

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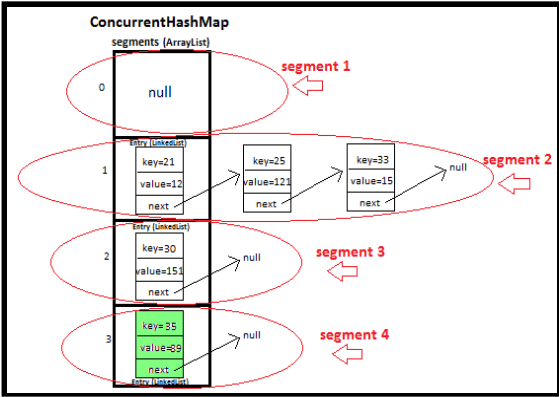
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1)

java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap in java

java.util.concurrent.**ConcurrentHashMap** is implementation of the java.util.[Map](#) interface in java. java.util.concurrent.**ConcurrentHashMap** enables us to store data in key-value pair form. Insertion order of key-value pairs is not maintained. [ConcurrentHashMap](#) is synchronized in java.

2) What is hierarchy of ConcurrentHashMap in java?

- java.lang.Object
- java.util.AbstractMap
- java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap

For more detailed hierarchy information read : [Map hierarchy in java](#)



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3) Creating *java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap* (using constructor)

Constructs a new ConcurrentHashMap, Its **initial capacity** is **16**. And **load factor** is **0.75** (We'll discuss it later in post)

```
Map<Integer,String> concurrentHashMap=new ConcurrentHashMap<Integer,String>();
```

Defining **ConcurrentHashMap<Integer,String>** means key can of Integer type and value can be String type only, using any other type will cause compilation error.

4) What is **concurrency level** in java? What is default concurrency level of *java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap*?

Concurrency level tells how many threads can access ConcurrentHashMap concurrently, default **concurrency level** of ConcurrentHashMap is **16**.

```
new ConcurrentHashMap()
```

Creates a new ConcurrentHashMap with concurrency level of 16.

5) How **ConcurrentHashMap** works? Can 2 threads on same ConcurrentHashMap object access it concurrently in java?

ConcurrentHashMap is divided into different **segments** based on concurrency level. So different threads can access different **segments** concurrently in java.



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Can threads read the segment of *ConcurrentHashMap* locked by some other thread in java?

Yes. When thread locks one segment for updation it does not block it for retrieval (done by get method) hence some other thread can read the segment (by get method), but it will be able to read the data before locking.

For operations such as putAll concurrent retrievals may reflect removal of only some entries.

For operations such as clear concurrent retrievals may reflect removal of only some entries.

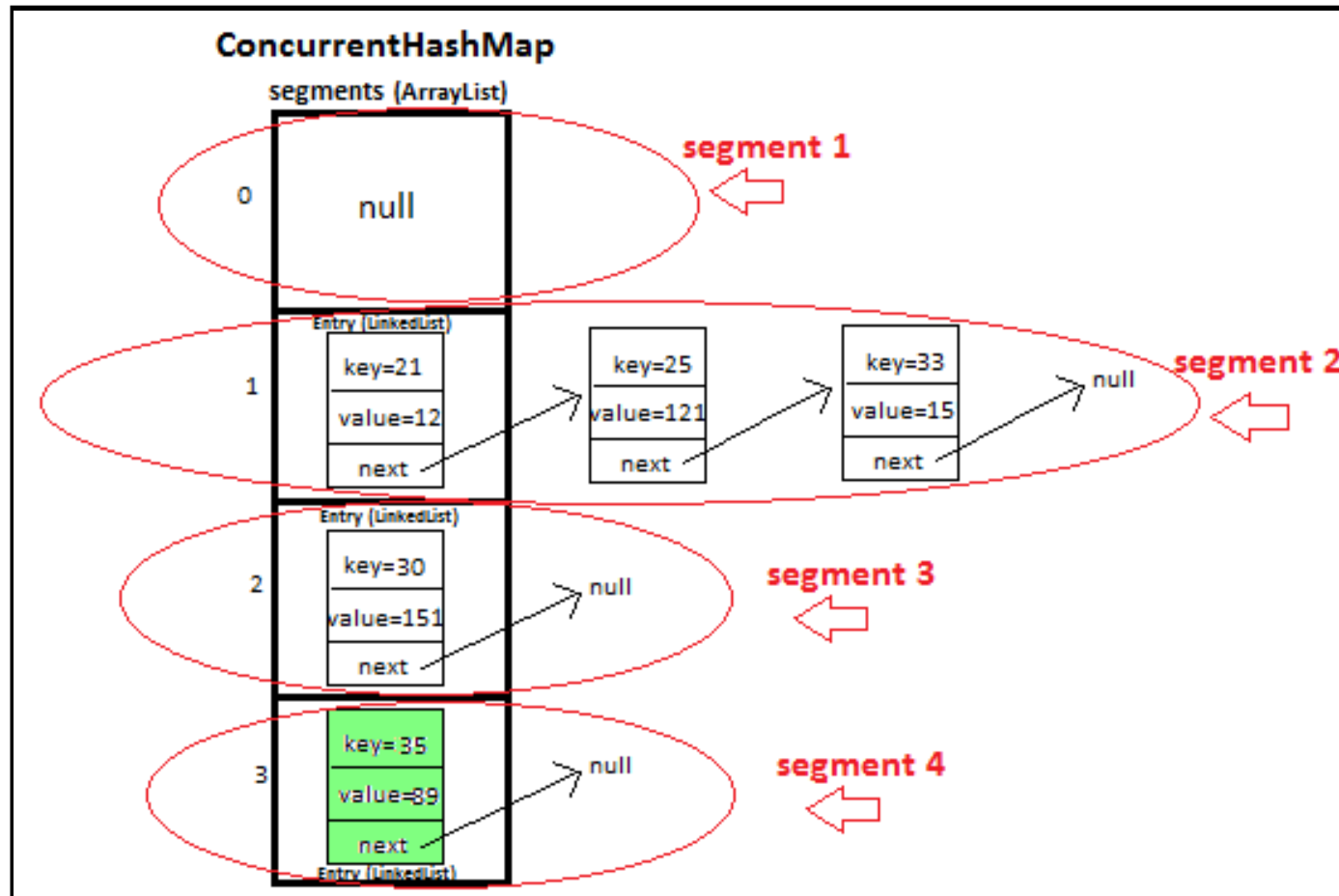
6) Segments in ConcurrentHashMap with diagram in java >

we have ConcurrentHashMap with **4 segments** -

(Diagram shows how **segments** are formed in ConcurrentHashMap)

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Now let's form few questions to clear your doubts (based on above diagram) in java >

ConcurrentHashMap Question 1 : What will happen `map.put(25,12)` is called and some other thread concurrently calls `map.get(25)`?

Answer : When `map.put(25,12)` is called **segment 2** will be locked, **key=25** also lies in **segment 2**, *When thread locks one segment for updation it does not block it for retrieval hence some other thread can read the same segment, but it will be able to read the data*



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before locking (hence `map.get(25)` will return **121**)

ConcurrentHashMap Question 2 : What will happen `map.put(25,12)` is called and some other thread concurrently calls `map.get(33)`?

Answer : When `map.put(25,12)` is called **segment 2** will be locked,

key=33 also lies in **segment 2**, *When thread locks one segment for updation it does not block it for retrieval hence some other thread can read the same segment, but it will be able to read the data before locking* (hence `map.get(33)` will return **15**)

ConcurrentHashMap Question 3 : What will happen `map.put(25,12)` is called and some other thread concurrently calls `map.put(33,24)`?

Answer : When `map.put(25,12)` is called **segment 2** will be locked,

key=33 also lies in **segment 2**, *When thread locks one segment for updation it does not allow any other thread to perform updations in same segment until lock is not released on segment.*

hence `map.put(33,24)` will have to wait for `map.put(25,12)` operation to release lock on segment.

ConcurrentHashMap Question 4 : What will happen `map.put(25,12)` is called and some other thread concurrently calls `map.put(30,29)`?

Answer : When `map.put(25,12)` is called **segment 2** will be locked,

but **key=30** lies in **segment 3**.

Both the keys lie in different segments, hence both operations can be performed concurrently.

ConcurrentHashMap Question 5 : What will happen updations (put/remove) are in process in certain segments and new key-pair have to be put/remove in same segment ?

Answer : When updations are in process *thread locks the segment and it does not allow any other thread to perform updations (put/remove) in same segment until lock is not released on segment.*

Let's summarize above section >

What operations lock ConcurrentHashMap segment & what operations are allowed when ConcurrentHashMap segment is locked in java >

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- *thread locks one segment for updation (put/remove) & it does not block it for retrieval (get) hence some other thread can read the same segment, but it will be able to read the data before locking*
- *It's important to know get operations does not lock any segment.*

7) ConcurrentHashMap **putIfAbsent** method in java

Definition of **putIfAbsent** method in java >

```
public V putIfAbsent(K key, V value)
```

What do **putIfAbsent** method do>

If map does not contain specified **key**, put specified **key-value** pair in map and return null in java.

If map already contains specified **key**, return value corresponding to specified **key**.

putIfAbsent method is equivalent to writing following code in java >

```
synchronized (map){  
    if (!map.containsKey(key))  
        return map.put(key, value);  
    else  
        return map.get(key);  
}
```

Program 1 to use `java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap`'s **putIfAbsent** method in java >

```
import java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap;  
import java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentMap;
```

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```

/* Copyright (c), AnkitMittal JavaMadeSoEasy.com */
public class ConcurrentHashMapTest {
    public static void main(String args[]) {

        ConcurrentMap<Integer, String> concurrentHashMap =
            new ConcurrentHashMap<Integer, String>();
        concurrentHashMap.put(1, "javaMadeSoEasy");
        System.out.println("concurrentHashMap : "+concurrentHashMap);

        System.out.println("\n putIfAbsent method >> "+
            concurrentHashMap.putIfAbsent(1, "ankit"));
        System.out.println("concurrentHashMap : "+concurrentHashMap);

        System.out.println("\n putIfAbsent method >> "+
            concurrentHashMap.putIfAbsent(2, "audi"));
        System.out.println("concurrentHashMap : "+concurrentHashMap);

    }
}

/*OUTPUT

concurrentHashMap : {1=javaMadeSoEasy}

putIfAbsent method >> javaMadeSoEasy
concurrentHashMap : {1=javaMadeSoEasy}

putIfAbsent method >> null
concurrentHashMap : {2=audi, 1=javaMadeSoEasy}

*/

```

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concurrentHashMap.putIfAbsent(1, "ankit") > returned [javaMadeSoEasy](#) because map was already having that key in java.

`concurrentHashMap.putIfAbsent(2, "audi")` > putted specified key-value pair in map and returned `null` because map wasn't having that key in java.

Program 2 to create method that provides functionality similar to `putIfAbsent` method of `ConcurrentHashMap` and to be used with `java.util.HashMap` in java >

```
import java.util.HashMap;
import java.util.Map;

/** Copyright (c), AnkitMittal JavaMadeSoEasy.com */
public class HashMapTest {

    static Map<Integer, String> map = new HashMap<Integer, String>();

    public static void main(String args[]) {

        map.put(1, "javaMadeSoEasy");
        System.out.println("hashMap : "+map);

        System.out.println("\n functionalityOfPutIfAbsent method >> "+
            functionalityOfPutIfAbsent(1, "ankit"));
        System.out.println("hashMap : "+map);

        System.out.println("\n functionalityOfPutIfAbsent method >> "+
            functionalityOfPutIfAbsent(2, "audi"));
        System.out.println("hashMap : "+map);

    }

    /**
     * Method is created to be used with HashMap, And
     * method provides functionality similar to putIfAbsent
     * method of ConcurrentHashMap.
     */
}
```

```

    public static synchronized String functionalityOfPutIfAbsent(Integer key,String value){
        if (!map.containsKey(key))
            return map.put(key, value);
        else
            return map.get(key);
    }
}

/*OUTPUT

hashMap : {1=javaMadeSoEasy}

functionalityOfPutIfAbsent method >> javaMadeSoEasy
hashMap : {1=javaMadeSoEasy}

functionalityOfPutIfAbsent method >> null
hashMap : {1=javaMadeSoEasy, 2=audi}

*/

```

Please note **functionalityOfPutIfAbsent** method is **synchronized**, because this method provides same functionality as that of **ConcurrentHashMap**'s **putIfAbsent** method and all methods in **ConcurrentHashMap** are **synchronized**.

functionalityOfPutIfAbsent(1, "ankit") > returned *javaMadeSoEasy* because map was already having that key in java.

functionalityOfPutIfAbsent(2, "audi") > putted specified key-value pair in map and returned *null* because map wasn't having that key in java.

8) put element in
java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap
put(K key, V value)

Method allows you put specified *key-value pair* in ConcurrentHashMap. If the map already contains a mapping for the *key*, the old *value* is replaced.

```
concurrentHashMap.put(11, "audi");
```

9) *get elements from ConcurrentHashMap in java*

get(Object key)

Method returns value corresponding to *key*.

Method returns null if map does not contain *key*.

```
concurrentHashMap.get(2);
```

Method returns element on 2nd index.

10) *Remove element from ConcurrentHashMap in java*

remove(Object key)

Method removes *key*-value pair from ConcurrentHashMap.

```
concurrentHashMap.remove(11);
```

11) *contains element in ConcurrentHashMap*

contains(Object object)

Method returns true if HAshmap contains specified on specified index.

```
concurrentHashMap.get(2);
```

Method returns element on 2nd index.

12) Size of *java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap* in java *size()*

Method returns size of **ConcurrentHashMap**.

```
System.out.println(concurrentHashMap.size());
```

will print size of concurrentHashMap.

13) Iterate over *java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap* in java

Before iterating we will put 3 key-value pairs in concurrentHashMap.

```
concurrentHashMap.put(11, "audi");  
concurrentHashMap.put(21, "bmw");  
concurrentHashMap.put(31, "ferrari");
```

13.1) Iterate over keys in java -

concurrentHashMap.keySet().iterator() method returns iterator to iterate over keys in ConcurrentHashMap.

```
Iterator<Integer> keyIterator=concurrentHashMap.keySet().iterator();  
while(keyIterator.hasNext()){  
    System.out.println(keyIterator.next());  
}
```



```
/*OUTPUT  
21  
11  
31  
*/
```

Iteration using enhanced for loop in java.

concurrentHashMap.keySet() returns set of keys.

```
Set<Integer> keySet=concurrentHashMap.keySet();  
for(Integer key :keySet){  
    System.out.println(key);  
}
```

iterator returned by ConcurrentHashMap over key is

fail-safe. Means any structural modification made to ConcurrentHashMap like adding or removing elements during iteration will not throw any Exception.

```
Iterator<String> iterator=concurrentHashMap.iterator();  
while(iterator.hasNext()){  
    System.out.println(iterator.next());  
    concurrentHashMap.put(4, "d");  
}
```

key-value has been added (map didn't contained this key previously) during iteration and no exception is thrown.

13.2) Iterate over values in java -

concurrentHashMap.values().iterator() method returns iterator to iterate over keys in ConcurrentHashMap.

```
Iterator<String> valueIterator=concurrentHashMap.values().iterator();
while(valueIterator.hasNext()){
    System.out.println(valueIterator.next());
}

/*OUTPUT
bmw
audi
ferrari
*/
```

Iteration using enhanced for loop.

concurrentHashMap.values() returns collection of values.

```
Collection<String> collection=concurrentHashMap.values();
for(String value :collection){
    System.out.println(value);
}
```

iterator returned by ConcurrentHashMap over values

is fail-safe. Means any structural modification made to ConcurrentHashMap like adding or removing elements during iteration will not throw any Exception.

```
Iterator<String> iterator=concurrentHashMap.iterator();
while(iterator.hasNext()){
    System.out.println(iterator.next());
    concurrentHashMap.put(5, "d");
}
```

key-value has been added (map didn't contained this key previously) during iteration and no exception is thrown.

13.3) Iterate over Entry in java-

`concurrentHashMap.entrySet().iterator()` method returns iterator to iterate over keys in ConcurrentHashMap in java.

```
Iterator<Entry<Integer, String>> entryIterator=concurrentHashMap.entrySet().iterator();
while(entryIterator.hasNext()){
    System.out.println(entryIterator.next());
}

/*OUTPUT
21=bmw
11=audi
31=ferrari
*/
```

Iteration using enhanced for loop.

`concurrentHashMap.entrySet()` returns collection of values.

```
Set<Entry<Integer, String>> entrySet=concurrentHashMap.entrySet();
for(Entry<Integer, String> entry:entrySet){
    System.out.println(entry);
}
```

iterator returned by ConcurrentHashMap over entry is fail-safe. Means any structural modification made to ConcurrentHashMap like adding or removing elements during iteration will not throw any Exception.

14) *Some other important methods of java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap*

isEmpty() method returns true if this map contains any key-value pair in java.

clear() method removes all key-value pair from map in java.

15) *Complexity of methods in ConcurrentHashMap in java*

Operation/ method	Worst case	Best case
<i>put(K key, V value)</i>	O(n)	O(1)
<i>get(Object key)</i>	O(n)	O(1)

16) *10 features of java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap*

- 1. **ConcurrentHashMap** enables us to store data in key-value pair form in java.
- 2. **ConcurrentHashMap** is implementation of the java.util.**map** interface in java.
- 3. **Duplicate key**- ConcurrentHashMap does not allows to store duplicate keys. If the map already contains a mapping for the key, the old value is replaced in java.

4. Null elements - ConcurrentHashMap does **not allow to store null key or null value**. Any attempt to store null key or value in ConcurrentHashMap throws runtimeException (**NullPointerException**).

5. Insertion order - ConcurrentHashMap does not maintains insertion order in java.

Example in java-

Let's say we add 3 elements in concurrentHashMap

```
concurrentHashMap.put(1,"ind");  
concurrentHashMap.put(2,"aus");  
concurrentHashMap.put(3,"sa");
```

On displaying insertion order will not be maintained i.e.

3,sa

2,aus

1,ind

6. synchronized - ConcurrentHashMap is synchronized in java.

7. Performance - ConcurrentHashMap is synchronized, hence its operations are slower as compared to some unSynchronized implementation of map interface in java.

8. Provides locking in segments - *ConcurrentHashMap* is divided into different **segments** based on concurrency level. So different threads can access different **segments** concurrently in java.

9. iterator are *fail-safe* -

1. *concurrentHashMap.keySet().iterator()*

2. *concurrentHashMap.values().iterator()*

3. *concurrentHashMap.entrySet().iterator()*

all three iterators are **fail-safe in java**.

10. **putIfAbsent method is present in ConcurrentHashMap** - If map does not contain specified **key**, put specified **key-value** pair in map and return null in java.
If map already contains specified **key**, return value corresponding to specified **key**.

17) When to use *java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap*

1. ConcurrentHashMap can be used when we want to store data in key-value pair form in java.
2. ConcurrentHashMap can be used when we don't care about insertion order in java.
3. ConcurrentHashMap can be used when we are working in multithreading environment in java.
4. Hashtable is **obsolete in java 5 i.e. JDK 1.5**, hence it is better to use ConcurrentHashMap than using Hashtable in java.

18) Comparison of performance between *HashMap and ConcurrentHashMap*

We will **synchronize HashMap** and then compare its performance with **ConcurrentHashMap**.

We can synchronize HashMap by using Collections's class synchronizedList method in java.

```
Map synchronizedMap = Collections.synchronizedMap(hashMap);
```

Now, no 2 threads can access same instance of map concurrently.

Hence synchronized HashMap's performance is slower as compared to ConcurrentHashMap.

But why we didn't compared HashMap (unSynchronized) with ConcurrentHashMap?

Because performance of unSynchronized collection is always better than some synchronized collection. As, default (unSynchronized) hashMap didn't cause any locking.

19) Comparison of performance between Hashtable and ConcurrentHashMap in java

Hashtable is **obsolete in java 5 i.e. JDK 1.5**, it is better to use ConcurrentHashMap than using Hashtable, because of concurrency level ConcurrentHashMap's performance is better than Hashtable in java.

20) What is Load Factor in java?

Default load factor is 0.75

That means when set will be 75% filled, it's capacity will be doubled in java.

Example in java >

Initially when number of elements is 0, default capacity =16, Load Factor =0.75, ConcurrentHashMap is 0% full in java.

<i>number of elements</i>	<i>capacity of ConcurrentHash Map</i>	<i>Load factor</i>	<i>ConcurrentHashMap filled in %age</i>
0	16	0.75	0%
4	16	0.75	25%
8	16	0.75	50%
11	16	0.75	68.7%

When next element will be added (i.e. 12th element), concurrentHashMap will be 75% filled and capacity will be doubled i.e. from 16 to 32.

12	32	0.75	37.5%
----	----	------	-------

So in this Collection framework tutorial we learned what is java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap in Collection framework in java.

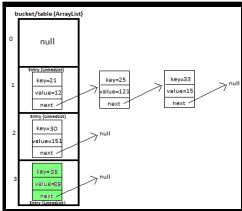
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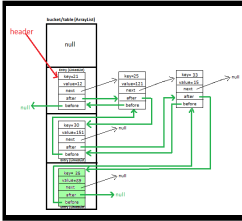
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Name

Dhirendra Kumar

a year ago

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Saurabh Banerjee • 2 years ago

Dear Ankit , in the following code

```
synchronized (map){  
if (!map.containsKey(key))  
return map.put(key, value);  
else  
return map.get(key);  
}
```

you are using mutable object, map as lock , Suppose after execution of the following statement << "return map.put(key, value); >> the current thread goes to sleep, another thread can also enter in the section synchronized (map) , ideally it should've .

This is because the lock is on mutable object, i.e if the content of the object changes in that case T1 and T2 are locking on two different objects , that's the reason we use synchronized with immutable object .

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Anonymous • 2 years ago

Can you explain how concurrent hashnap restrict multiple threads rehashing it, when it needs to grow in size?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Sergii Poddyachiy • 2 years ago

Thank you so much! This is the only one clear explanation over whole internet.

But i have few questions:

1) Did I understood right that concurrency level is importat for simultaneously updating threads count. And doesn't matter for simultaneously reading threads.

For example cache: If there is only one refreshing thread that modifies ConcurrentHashMap and 10000 users that ONLY READ data from it it in the same time. For this case concurrency level 1 is enough?

2)Could you please explain rehashing in ConcurrentHashMap? What if one segment will be overloaded and others no? Will rehashing be done for single segment or for whole ConcurrentHashMap ?

Thanks a lot one more time in advance.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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Ankit Mittal — Hi @sudhir,Thanks for comment,When, new ArrayList<integer>() is executed, Size of ArrayList is 0.Internally, ...

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