

Java Multithreading for Senior Engineering Interviews / ... / Executor Framework

Executor Framework

This lesson discusses thread management using executors.

Creating and running individual threads for small applications is acceptable however if you are writing an enterprise-grade application with several dozen threads then you'll likely need to offload thread management in your application to library classes which free a developer from worrying about thread house-keeping.

Task

A task is a logical unit of work. Usually, a task should be independent of other tasks so that it can be completed by a single thread. A task can be represented by an object of a class implementing the Runnable interface. We can consider HTTP requests being fielded by a web-server as tasks that need to be processed. A database server handling client queries can similarly be thought of as independent tasks.

Executor Framework

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- Task Execution

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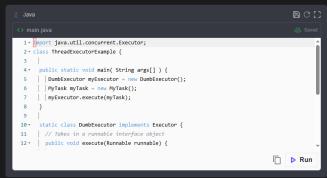
- Task Submission
- Task Execution

The framework allows us to specify different policies for task execution. Java offers three interfaces, which classes can implement to manage thread lifecycle. These are:

- Executor Interface
- ExecutorService
- <u>ScheduledExecutorService</u>

The Executor interface forms the basis for the asynchronous task execution framework in Java

You don't need to create your own executor class as Java's java.util.concurrent package offers several types of executors that are suitable for different scenarios. However, as an example, we create a dumb executor which implements the Executor Interface.



A Dumb Thread Executor

The Executor requires implementing classes to define a method execute(Runnable runnable) which takes in an object of interface Runnable. Fortunately, we don't need to define complex executors as Java already provides several that we'll explore in following chapters.

