

HttpServer Game Scores

The code implements a HTTP-based mini game back-end in Java which registers game scores for different users and levels, with the capability to return high score lists per level.

Compiling the application

Prerequisites:

- JDK 8
- Maven 3.0+

Running the application

Start the server

```
java -jar target/httpserver-scores.jar
```

Stop the server

```
`Ctrl+c`.
```

Configuration

Configuration file location:

```
src\main\resources\configuration.properties
```

To customize the behaviour of the application the following parameters can be passed as arguments:

Parameter	Type	Default	Description
BASE_URI	String	localhost	Server host name
SERVER_PORT	Integer	8081	Server port
EXPIRATION_TIME	Integer	600000	Expired timeout in milli sec
EXPIRATION_TIME_PERIOD_CHECK	Integer	10000	Expired timeout cleanup task check period in ms
EXPIRATION_TIME_PERIOD_DELAY	Integer	0	Expired timeout cleanup task check delay in ms
HIGH_SCORES_LIMITATION	Integer	15	Limitation of high scores list
HIGH_SCORES_THRESHOLD_IMITATION	Integer	1000	Space limitation for each level for server space performance improvement

Technical approach

The architecture of the application was made as simple as possible.

- Handler is in charge of receiving the request and forwarding it to the appropriate controller.
- Controller gathers the information that it requires for processing from the request and forwards it to the service.
- Manager applies the logic to the received request.

Data Structures

Session

As the requirement specification doesn't declare that one user should only have one single session in the memory. Design as creating new session key every time login request even same user.

- Use `ConcurrentHashMap<String, UserSession>` to store the data, the key is session key.
- Creating session, generate key by UUID, then put into `ConcurrentHashMap`.
- Get session will get $O(1)$ average runtime to retrieve user session.
- When server started, jvm will start a clean up task for space performance and logout, that task will execute per 10 seconds.
- Clean up expired and duplicated session for single user, eventually consistent.

Score

Initially, I tried to work with post score as the following code to hold everything in memory:

```
levelScores.computeIfAbsent(levelId, n -> new ConcurrentSkipListSet<>()).add(userScore);
```

The code is easy, but scalability is important here, it could not reasonably be thought to hold all the information required. Therefore, I changed my design as these:

- Use `ConcurrentHashMap<LevelId, NavigableSet<UserScore>>` to maintain all the score we need.
- Use `ConcurrentSkipListSet` to maintain top limit (15) user score by different users.
- Use `ConcurrentHashMap<Integer, ConcurrentHashMap<Integer, UserScore>>` for de-duplicate same user in the score map.
- Use `compareAndSet` method of `AtomicInteger` to update high score if needed.
- As we only need top 15 high score, use another `THRESHOLD_NUM` for scalability, not need hold all scores.
- Get high score list by traverse `ConcurrentSkipListSet`, also de-duplicate same user just in case, guarantee eventually consistent.

Concurrency

- Managers for both session and score data storage is using double check singleton pattern.
- Use lock free code logic rather than `Synchronized` method for low latency performance

Endpoints

Login

Input and output

	Value	Description
Path	<code>/<userid>/login</code>	Requests the creation of a new session key every time the endpoint is called.
Method	<code>GET</code>	
Response	<code><sessionkey></code>	Unique string that represent the session.

Example:

```
GET http://localhost:8081/2/login -> UICSNDK
```

Response Error Codes

Http code always be 200.

RESPONSE ERROR CODES	Description
408	INVALID PARAMETER
410	INVALID URL

Score

Input and output

	Value	Description
Path	<code>/<levelid>/score?sessionkey=<sessionkey></code>	Method can be called several times per user and level. Requests with invalid session keys are ignored.
Method	POST	
Request Body	<code><score></code>	Integer number that represents the users score for the level.
Response		Empty response.

Example:

```
POST http://localhost:8081/10/score?sessionkey=UICSNDK" 100
```

Response Error Codes

Http code always be 200.

RESPONSE ERROR CODES	Description
408	INVALID PARAMETER
409	INVALID SESSION KEY
410	INVALID URL

Get high score list

Input and output

	Value	Description
Path	<code>/<levelid>/highscorelist</code>	Retrieves the high score list for a level. The list size is determined by the Application configuration.
Method	GET	
Response	CSV of <code><userid>=<score></code>	Comma separated list with user id and scores.

Example:

```
GET http://localhost:8081/2/highscorelist -> 3=100
```

Response Error Codes

RESPONSE ERROR CODES	Description
408	INVALID PARAMETER
410	INVALID URL

Improvements

- Interceptor can be added for logging, performance monitoring
- Dependency Injection instead of creating objects and in terms of loose coupling
- More Unit tests for better coverage and thread safety.