

Thread Pool

Brian Goetz is a celebrity engineer. He is the Java language architect, currently at Oracle (via Sun). His book 'Java Concurrency in practice' is the defacto guide to concurrency, world over.

In 2002, (well before the book was published) he had authored an article [Included here] on the topic of Thread Pools. At the time, Thread pooling was a relatively new concept and like he mentions, was one of the most frequently asked question on discussion forums.

Since then, thread pools have long been abstracted out as part of different libraries. Every serious language has a library for it now. These libraries let you (the developer) control the thread pool by way of different parameters they expose. In practice, after you hit a certain scale, you need to tweak those parameters for optimal performance.

In an interview, it is common to assume that you know what thread pools are and how they work, so that you can own end to end performance of your application. Hence the question:

Vague problem statement in an interview: Create a thread pool [and worker queues].

Please refer to the article linked above, understand what thread pools are, and implement them.