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♦ Monitoring/Profiling Java applications interview Q&A

Posted on [October 7, 2014](#) by [Arulkumaran Kumaraswamipillai](#) — [No Comments](#)

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Q1 How will you go about monitoring your Java application for potential performance or memory issues?

A1

1. Visual VM for monitoring Java memory, CPU, threads, etc

VisualVM is a visual tool integrating several command-line JDK tools and lightweight profiling capabilities. Designed for both production and development time use, it further

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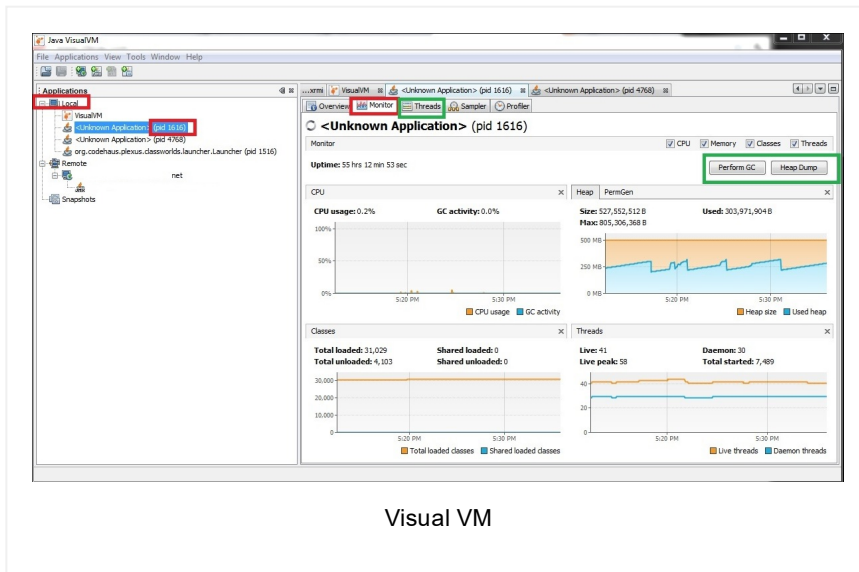
enhances the capability of monitoring and performance analysis for the Java SE platform. It is packaged as an exe file.

Step 1: You can start the visual vm by double clicking on %JAVA_HOME%/bin/jvisualvm.exe from Java 1.6 version onwards.

Step 2: Your local processes will be monitored under the local tab. The Visual vm can also used to open the heap dump files i.e *.hprof files to analyze the memory usages. You can find out the process ids of your local Java applications via

1. netstat -anp | grep 8088 or
2. In windows via the “Windows Task Manager” → Processes tab. You need to click on View → Select Columns and then “tick” PID (Process Identifier) check box.

Double click on the relevant PID in Visual VM console.



You can add remote processes by following the steps shown below.

1. Right click on “Remote” and then select “Add Remote Host...”.
2. Provide the host name like “myapp.com”.
3. It searches and adds the host.
4. Right click on the added host name and then select “Add

15 Security key :

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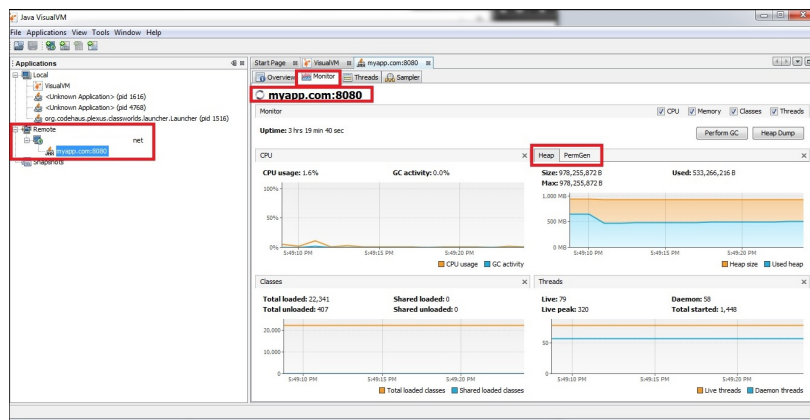
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JMX Connection” and in the “Connection” field type the hostname:JMX port number like myapp.com:8080.

5. Double click on this JMX connection to monitor CPU, memory, threads, Garbage collection, etc.



Visual VM

VisualVM's profiler works by “instrumenting” all of the methods of your code. This injects extra bytecode to your methods for recording when they're invoked, and how long they take to execute each time.

VisualVM's sampler takes a thread dump of all executing threads on regular basis, and uses the thread dumps to work out how much CPU time is consumed by each method.

2. Monitoring and gathering statistics with JMX based jconsole and Yammer metrics

When you are running long term applications like web applications, batch jobs, or stand-alone status update jobs, it is good to know some statistics about them, like number of requests served or request duration. You can also gather more generic information like the state of your internal collections, how many times some portion of code is being executed, or health checks like database availability, or any kind of connection to an external system.

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All this kind of instrumentation can be achieved by using native JMX and modular project like “Yammer Metrics”. Metrics provides a powerful way to measure the behavior of your critical components and reporting them to a variety of systems like, JConsole (i.e via JMX), System Console, Ganglia, Graphite, CSV, or making them available through a web services as JSON data.

Step 1: Run the TradeEngineMain application.

Step 2: From the DOS command prompt, type jconsole

C:\Users\myapp>jconsole

Step 3: The jconsole window pops up as shown below:



jconsole

Step 4: You can monitor the statistics via the MBeans tab as shown below.

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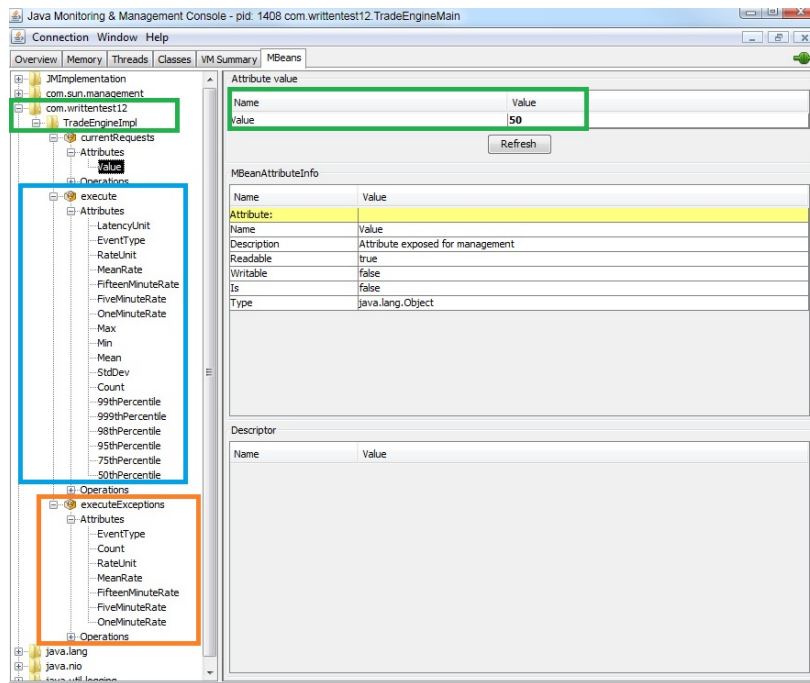
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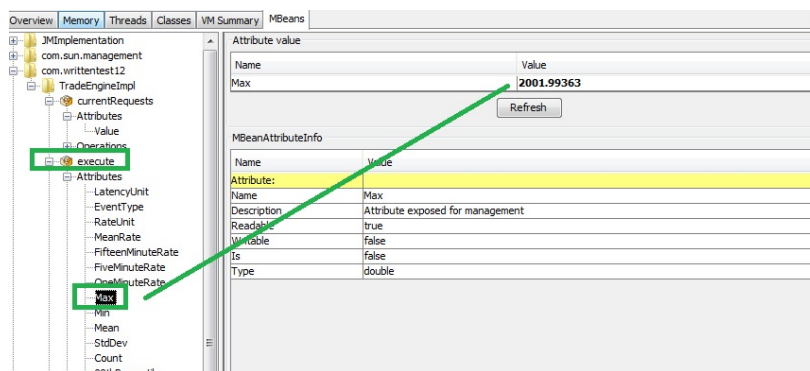
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jconsole

Drill down into each and observe the values.



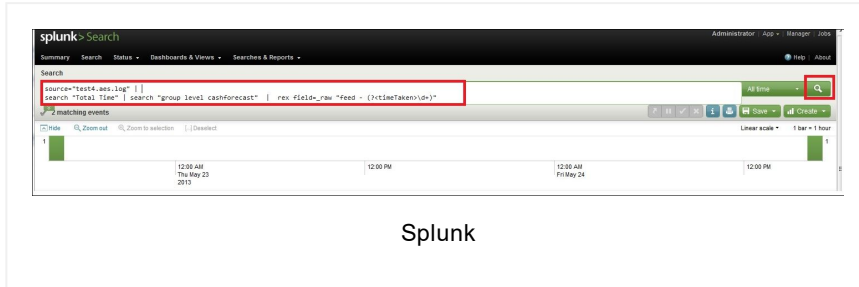
jconsole

With Yammer metrics, you can also output metrics to CSV, as JSON via RESTful web service, etc. It is quite a handy tool to monitor your applications.

3. Splunk to analyse Java logs and other machine data

Splunk is an enterprise-grade software tool for collecting and analyzing “machine data” like log files, feed files, and other

big data in terra bytes. You can upload logs from your websites and let Splunk index them, and produce reports with graphs to analyze the reports. This is very useful in capturing start and finish times from asynchronous processes to calculate elapsed times.



4. Monitoring your Java application infrastructures with tools like Nagios, Tivoli from IBM and SiteScope from HP.

which provides complete monitoring of Java applications and servers. Nagios Offers effective JMX monitoring. Nagios is an open source computer system monitoring, network monitoring and infrastructure monitoring software application. With Nagios you can send heart beat messages to say web services to ensure that they are available. When a service is not available, the “heart beat” message fails and raise an alert for the support staff to react.

Tivoli Management Framework (TMF) is a CORBA-based network management framework from IBM. BM Tivoli Monitoring helps you optimize IT infrastructure performance and availability. here is a high level overview of using Tivoli to monitor Java log files for presence of some text like errors and then raise support tickets at different levels like p1,p2,p3, and p4. The “P” is for production environment and 1-4 are level of importance. Any p1 and p2 level issues need to be attended immediately. The SCIM is used to identify the source of the ticket, and it stands for System, Component, Item, and Module.

Note: When it come to free tools for profiling and monitoring Java applications the usual choices are **JConsole** and **VisualVM**. **AppDynamics** now provides a third option to help you with web application performance monitoring.

There are other free tools to monitor performance like

- HeapAnalyzer is handy Java heap leak through its heuristic search engine and analysis of the Java heap dump in Java applications. It analyzes Java heap dumps by parsing the Java heap dump, creating directional graphs, transforming them into directional trees, and executing the heuristic search engine.
- PerfAnal is a GUI-based tool for analyzing the performance of applications on the Java 2 Platform. You can use PerfAnal to identify performance problems in your code and locate code that needs tuning.
- Eclipse Memory Analyzer is a fast and feature-rich Java heap analyzer that helps you find memory leaks and reduce memory consumption.
- GCViewer is a free open source tool to visualize data produced by the Java VM options `-verbose:gc` and `-Xloggc:`. It also calculates garbage collection related performance metrics like throughput, pauses, longest pause, etc.

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