Daemon Thread in Java

**Daemon thread in java** is a service provider thread that provides services to the user thread. Its life depend on the mercy of user threads i.e. when all the user threads dies, JVM terminates this thread automatically.

There are many java daemon threads running automatically e.g. gc, finalizer etc.

You can see all the detail by typing the jconsole in the command prompt. The jconsole tool provides information about the loaded classes, memory usage, running threads etc.

Points to remember for Daemon Thread in Java

* It provides services to user threads for background supporting tasks. It has no role in life than to serve user threads.
* Its life depends on user threads.
* It is a low priority thread.

Why JVM terminates the daemon thread if there is no user thread?

The sole purpose of the daemon thread is that it provides services to user thread for background supporting task. If there is no user thread, why should JVM keep running this thread. That is why JVM terminates the daemon thread if there is no user thread.

Methods for Java Daemon thread by Thread class

The java.lang.Thread class provides two methods for java daemon thread.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Method** | **Description** |
| 1) | public void setDaemon(boolean status) | is used to mark the current thread as daemon  thread or user thread. |
| 2) | public boolean isDaemon() | is used to check that current is daemon. |

Simple example of Daemon thread in java

*File: MyThread.java*

1. **public** **class** TestDaemonThread1 **extends** Thread{
2. **public** **void** run(){
3. **if**(Thread.currentThread().isDaemon()){//checking for daemon thread
4. System.out.println("daemon thread work");
5. }
6. **else**{
7. System.out.println("user thread work");
8. }
9. }
10. **public** **static** **void** main(String[] args){
11. TestDaemonThread1 t1=**new** TestDaemonThread1();//creating thread
12. TestDaemonThread1 t2=**new** TestDaemonThread1();
13. TestDaemonThread1 t3=**new** TestDaemonThread1();
15. t1.setDaemon(**true**);//now t1 is daemon thread
17. t1.start();//starting threads
18. t2.start();
19. t3.start();
20. }
21. }

[**Test it Now**](http://www.javatpoint.com/opr/test.jsp?filename=TestDaemonThread1)

Output

daemon thread work

user thread work

user thread work

Note: If you want to make a user thread as Daemon, it must not be started otherwise it will throw IllegalThreadStateException.

*File: MyThread.java*

1. **class** TestDaemonThread2 **extends** Thread{
2. **public** **void** run(){
3. System.out.println("Name: "+Thread.currentThread().getName());
4. System.out.println("Daemon: "+Thread.currentThread().isDaemon());
5. }
7. **public** **static** **void** main(String[] args){
8. TestDaemonThread2 t1=**new** TestDaemonThread2();
9. TestDaemonThread2 t2=**new** TestDaemonThread2();
10. t1.start();
11. t1.setDaemon(**true**);//will throw exception here
12. t2.start();
13. }
14. }

[**Test it Now**](http://www.javatpoint.com/opr/test.jsp?filename=TestDaemonThread2)

Output:exception in thread main: java.lang.IllegalThreadStateException