To configure the number of thread groups, use the `thread_pool_size` system variable. The default number of groups is 16. For guidelines on setting this variable, see Section 5.6.3.4, “Thread Pool Tuning”.

The maximum number of threads per group is 4096 (or 4095 on some systems where one thread is used internally).

The thread pool separates connections and threads, so there is no fixed relationship between connections and the threads that execute statements received from those connections. This differs from the default thread-handling model that associates one thread with one connection such that a given thread executes all statements from its connection.

By default, the thread pool tries to ensure a maximum of one thread executing in each group at any time, but sometimes permits more threads to execute temporarily for best performance:

- Each thread group has a listener thread that listens for incoming statements from the connections assigned to the group. When a statement arrives, the thread group either begins executing it immediately or queues it for later execution:
  - Immediate execution occurs if the statement is the only one received and no statements are queued or currently executing.
  - Queuing occurs if the statement cannot begin executing immediately.
- If immediate execution occurs, the listener thread performs it. (This means that temporarily no thread in the group is listening.) If the statement finishes quickly, the executing thread returns to listening for statements. Otherwise, the thread pool considers the statement stalled and starts another thread as a listener thread (creating it if necessary). To ensure that no thread group becomes blocked by stalled statements, the thread pool has a background thread that regularly monitors thread group states.

  By using the listening thread to execute a statement that can begin immediately, there is no need to create an additional thread if the statement finishes quickly. This ensures the most efficient execution possible in the case of a low number of concurrent threads.

  When the thread pool plugin starts, it creates one thread per group (the listener thread), plus the background thread. Additional threads are created as necessary to execute statements.
- The value of the `thread_pool_stall_limit` system variable determines the meaning of “finishes quickly” in the previous item. The default time before threads are considered stalled is 60ms but can be set to a maximum of 6s. This parameter is configurable to enable you to strike a balance appropriate for the server work load. Short wait values permit threads to start more quickly. Short values are also better for avoiding deadlock situations. Long wait values are useful for workloads that include long-running statements, to avoid starting too many new statements while the current ones execute.
- If `thread_pool_max_active_query_threads` is 0, the default algorithm applies as just described for determining the maximum number of active threads per group. The default algorithm takes stalled threads into account and may temporarily permit more active threads. If `thread_pool_max_active_query_threads` is greater than 0, it places a limit on the number of active threads per group.
- The thread pool focuses on limiting the number of concurrent short-running statements. Before an executing statement reaches the stall time, it prevents other statements from beginning to execute. If the statement executes past the stall time, it is permitted to continue but no longer prevents other statements from starting. In this way, the thread pool tries to ensure that in each thread group there is never more than one short-running statement, although there might be multiple long-running statements. It is undesirable to let long-running statements prevent other statements from executing because there is no limit on the amount of waiting that might be necessary. For example, on a replication source server, a thread that is sending binary log events to a replica effectively runs forever.