Services

A **service** is a component that runs in the background to perform long-running operations without needing to interact with the user and it works even if application is destroyed. A service can essentially take two states −

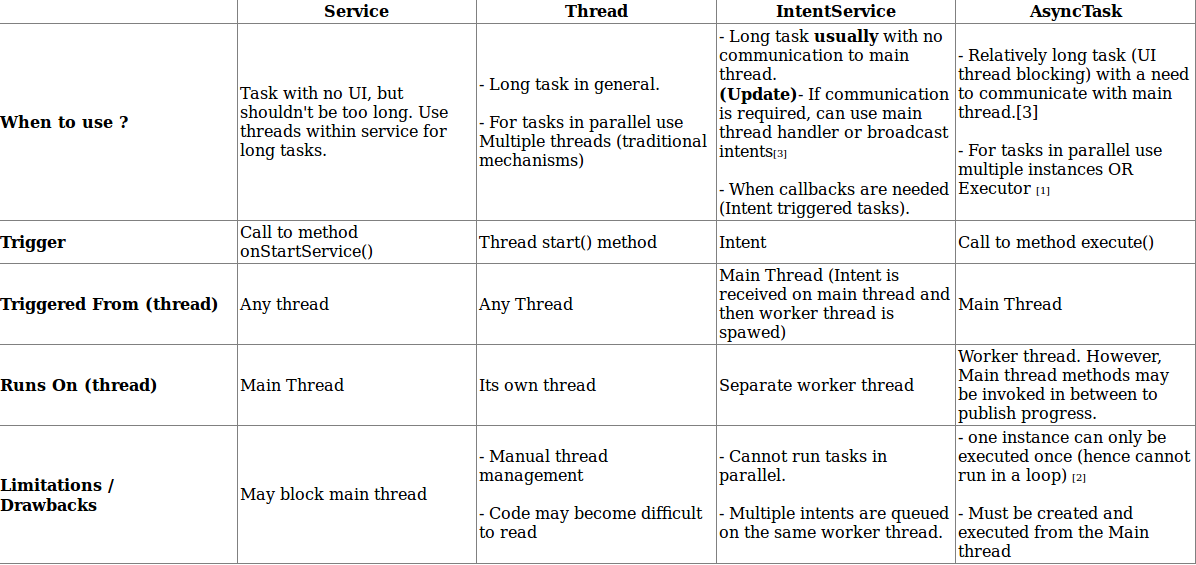
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **State** | **Description** |
| Started | A service is **started** when an application component, such as an activity, starts it by calling *startService()*. Once started, a service can run in the background indefinitely, even if the component that started it is destroyed. |
| Bound | A service is **bound** when an application component binds to it by calling *bindService()*. A bound service offers a client-server interface that allows components to interact with the service, send requests, get results, and even do so across processes with interprocess communication (IPC). |

The following diagram on the left shows the life cycle when the service is created with startService() and the diagram on the right shows the life cycle when the service is created with bindService():



**Service** a Service is an application component representing either an application's desire to perform a longer-running operation while not interacting with the user or to supply functionality for other applications to use.

**IntentService** is a base class for ***Services that handle asynchronous requests*** (expressed as Intents) on demand. Clients send requests through startService(Intent)calls; the service is started as needed, handles each Intent in turn using a worker thread, and stops itself when it runs out of work.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Callback** | **Description** |
| onStartCommand() | The system calls this method when another component, such as an activity, requests that the service be started, by calling *startService()*. If you implement this method, it is your responsibility to stop the service when its work is done, by calling *stopSelf()* or *stopService()* methods. |
| onBind() | The system calls this method when another component wants to bind with the service by calling *bindService()*. If you implement this method, you must provide an interface that clients use to communicate with the service, by returning an *IBinder* object. You must always implement this method, but if you don't want to allow binding, then you should return *null*. |
| onUnbind() | The system calls this method when all clients have disconnected from a particular interface published by the service. |
| onRebind() | The system calls this method when new clients have connected to the service, after it had previously been notified that all had disconnected in its *onUnbind(Intent)*. |
| onCreate() | The system calls this method when the service is first created using *onStartCommand()* or *onBind()*. This call is required to perform one-time set-up. |
| onDestroy() | The system calls this method when the service is no longer used and is being destroyed. Your service should implement this to clean up any resources such as threads, registered listeners, receivers, etc. |