

Concordia University
comp5461 - Winter 2021
Operating Systems
Programming assignment 2

Deadline:	Friday March 12, 2021
Late Submission:	No late submission
Teams:	The assignment can be done individually or in teams of 2 (from the same lecture section). Submit only one assignment per team.
Purpose:	The purpose of this assignment is to apply in practice the synchronization features of the Java programming language.

- **Specification.**

In the first programming assignment, you have implemented the threads that allowed the operations of the client application and the server application to run concurrently. However, there were no critical section problem because only one server thread was updating the accounts and there was only one transaction on each account. In this programming assignment, the transaction file has been modified so that multiple transactions can be done on a single account. Therefore, if a thread blocks in a critical section while updating an account balance, then the result could be inconsistent if another thread also attempts another update operation on that account.

- **Problem.**

The Java code provided is similar to that of PA1 but there have been some changes to adapt it to the requirements of PA2 as shown below. For this assignment, the server will use two concurrent threads to update the accounts and thus we may have inconsistent results in case the critical section is not well protected. In addition, the synchronization of the network buffers (i.e. `inComingPacket`, `outGoingPacket`) is using busy-waiting so you need now to block a thread when a buffer is full or empty.

- **Changes in PA1.**


- Use of static methods in class `Network` in order to call the methods using the class Name (i.e. `Network`) instead of using the instance variable `objNetwork` in classes `Client` and `Server`. Thus, the argument context in the constructor of the class `Network` is no more required.
- Member variable `serverThreadId` in class `Server` identifies one of the two server threads. Member variables `serverThreadRunningStatus1` and `serverThreadRunningStatus2` indicate the current status of the two server threads. Also, the appropriate accessor and mutator methods have been added.

- Member variables of the Server class that have shared values with the two receiving threads are now static.
- A server thread is blocked in the deposit() method before updating the 10th, 20th, ..., 70th account balance in order to simulate an inconsistency situation.
- Transaction file now includes two transactions for accounts in index positions 9, 19, ... 69 (i.e. 10th, 20th, ...70th accounts). Also, there are no transactions for accounts in positions 10, 20, ..., 70.

- **Implementation.**

This problem will be implemented in two phases, phase (i) will synchronize the access to the critical section for updating the accounts and phase (ii) will coordinate the threads when accessing a full or an empty network buffer.

- Phase (i).
 - First, you must adapt the Java code provided to your solution of PA1. In case your PA1 code doesn't work properly, you will be provided help in the lab.
 - Implement a second server thread in the main() method by respecting the changes already made in the constructor of the Server class. Consequently you need to modify the run() method of the Server class to accommodate the two threads and also to display the running time of each thread. The server can disconnect only when both threads have terminated.
 - Now execute the program with DEBUG flags and notice the accounts with inconsistent results as shown in the file OS-pa2-output-unsynchronized.txt. The accounts 60520, 22310 and 91715 should be inconsistent but that may sometimes change depending on the sequence of execution. I have forced inconsistency by sleeping for 100 ms a thread accessing the critical section in the deposit() method of the Server class.
 - Next, using synchronized methods or synchronized statements, protect properly the critical section of the methods deposit(), withdraw() and query(). Execute the program again and there should be no inconsistent results. Explain your choice of using either synchronized methods or synchronized statements.
- Phase (ii).
 - The network buffers (i.e. inComingPacket, outGoingPacket) are synchronized using busy-waiting by constantly yielding the CPU until an empty buffer or a full buffer is available. This is good for the performance of the thread as it can respond quickly to the event but it is not good for the overall system performance as useful CPU cycles are wasted.

- Using the methods `acquire()` (similar to `wait()` or `P()`) and `release()` (similar to `signal()` or `V()`) of the class `Semaphore`, synchronize the operations of the network input buffers. The semaphores must be implemented in the methods `send()`, `receive()`, `transferIn()` and `transferOut()` of the class `Network`. Sample output for this phase is in the file `OS-pa2-output-semaphores.txt`.
- Execute the program and comment about the running times of the server threads compared to using busy-waiting in phase (i) 

- **Sample output test cases.**

- See attached text files.

- **Evaluation.**

You will be evaluated mostly on the implementation of the required methods and the use of the synchronization tools.

- Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Marks
Implementation of the server threads in the main method	5%
Implementation of the <code>run()</code> method in the class <code>Server</code>	10%
Implementation of the synchronized keyword	20%
Answer to a question during the demo	10%
Implementation of the semaphores	30%
In Phase(i), explain why you chose synchronized methods or synchronized statements to protect the critical section.	5%
Output test cases including running times	20%

- **Required documents.**

- Source codes in Java.
- Output test cases for phase (i) (unsynchronized and synchronized) and for phase (ii) (with semaphores).
- I have included `DEBUG` flags in the source code in order to help you trace the program but once your program works properly you should put the `DEBUG` flags in comments.

- **Submission.**

- Create one zip file, containing the necessary files (.java, .txt and test cases). If the assignment is done individually, your file should be called *pa2_studentID*, where *pa2* is the number of the assignment and *studentID* is your student ID number. If the work is done in a team of 2 people, the zip file should be called *pa2_studentID1_studentID2* where *studentID1* and *studentID2* are the student ID numbers of each student.
- Upload your zip file on moodle as *Programming Assignment 2* before midnight on the due date.

- **IMPORTANT (Please read very carefully):**

A demo will take place with the markers afterwards. Markers will inform you about the details of demo time and how to book a time slot for your demo. If working in a group, both members must be present during demo time. Different marks may be assigned to teammates based on this demo.

- If you fail to demo, a zero mark is assigned regardless of your submission.
- If you book a demo time, and do not show up, for whatever reason, you will be allowed to reschedule a second demo but a penalty of 50% will be applied.
- Failing to demo at the second appointment will result in zero marks and no more chances will be given under any conditions.

- **Disclaimer.**

- Note that this code has been tested on Windows using Eclipse. You may need to make changes if you would like to run on other OS. However, you are not permitted to change the implementation of the source code provided nor change the data types and sizes but you should only implement the features as required.