Exam Preparation

Thread Programming and Non-blocking Java Servers

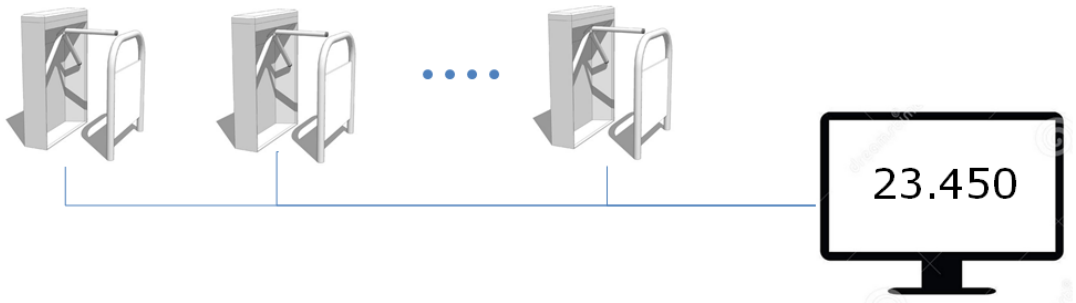
General part

Explain about Thread Programming including:

- When and why we will use Threads in our programs?
- Explain about the Race Condition Problem and ways to solve it in Java
- Explain how we can write reusable non-blocking Java Controls using Threads
- Explain about deadlocks, how to detect them and ways to solve the Deadlock Problem

Practical part

In this exercise we will simulate a large football stadium with many turnstiles that each updates a shared counter, for each spectator that passes a turnstile.



The turnstiles should use a Network Connection and TCP to update the shared counter.

Implement a Java Based server that can handle n-turnstile clients without any lost updates.

1. Design a TCP server and a simple protocol where each turnstile initially reports that it is a Turnstile (to distinguish from Monitor-Clients, see next step), its id (turnstile1-turnstile-n) and then reports an increment for each spectator that passes the turnstile
2. Identify potential Race Condition Problems and handle the problem(s).
3. For this exercise you don't have to implement the turnstile-clients. Use Telnet to simulate the turnstiles.
4. Extend the system, so A Monitor-Client can request the current total amount of spectators
5. Change the example to make it possible to see the count from each turnstile
6. *If you have time-1: Deploy your server to DigitalOcean and demonstrate using this remote server*
7. *If you have time-2: Write a simple client (Swing or Web-based) that can show the total amount of spectators*

Note: this part is NOT a part of the exercise, it's meant as FYI and such a section will not be included with the real question.

Hints:

Don't do the deployment part, unless/before you have completed the exercise " Getting Started with Digital Ocean.pdf"

For part-1 (the protocol) it could be as simple as you have to send "things" in this order:

TURNSTYLE (to signal that this client is a turnstile, this is sent only once)

T-1 (the id of this turnstyle, this is sent only once)

Count (the value to update the shared counter with, sent as many times a necessary)

Feel free to come up with an alternative protocol.

Remember: For the final exam the grades for passed lies between 02 - 12.

You are not ALL expected to be able to complete all steps for an Exam exercise. For this exercise, try to complete at least step 1-3.