Day 5 – Session 2
Services in T24

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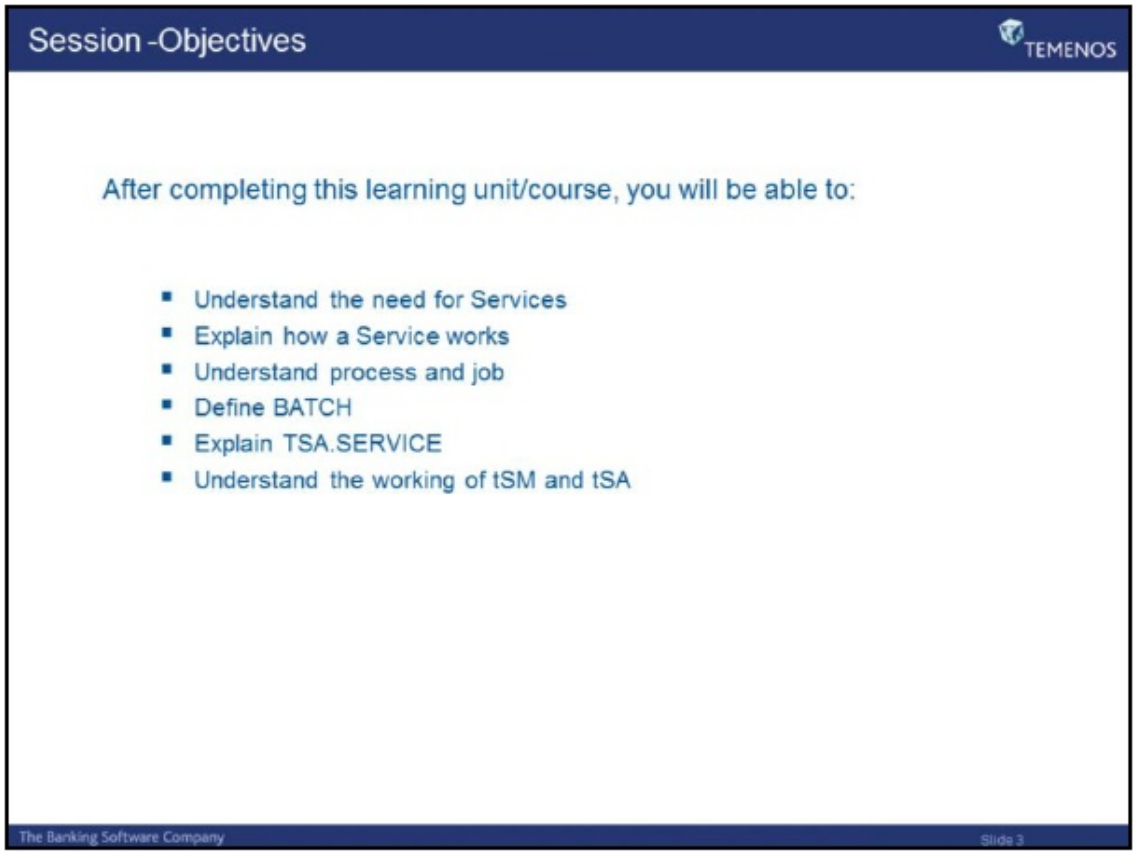
Session 2

T24 Services



Services – A Recap

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- Help in automation
- Services are programs that are run as background processes without user intervention
- Can be executed at a schedule and can be also be triggered by a manual activity.
- They spawn multiple processes simultaneously and are centrally monitored by T24
- Catalogued in TSA.SERVICE application

Services – An Example

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- ABC Industries needs to pay salary to its employees on the 31st of every month.
- All employees of ABC Industries have accounts with Bank B.
- Bank B maintains a file that is sent from ABC Industries and this file has the names and salary details of the employees.
- A service needs to triggered on 30th of every month by the Bank, to debit the company account and credit the employees account with the salaries.

Units of a service

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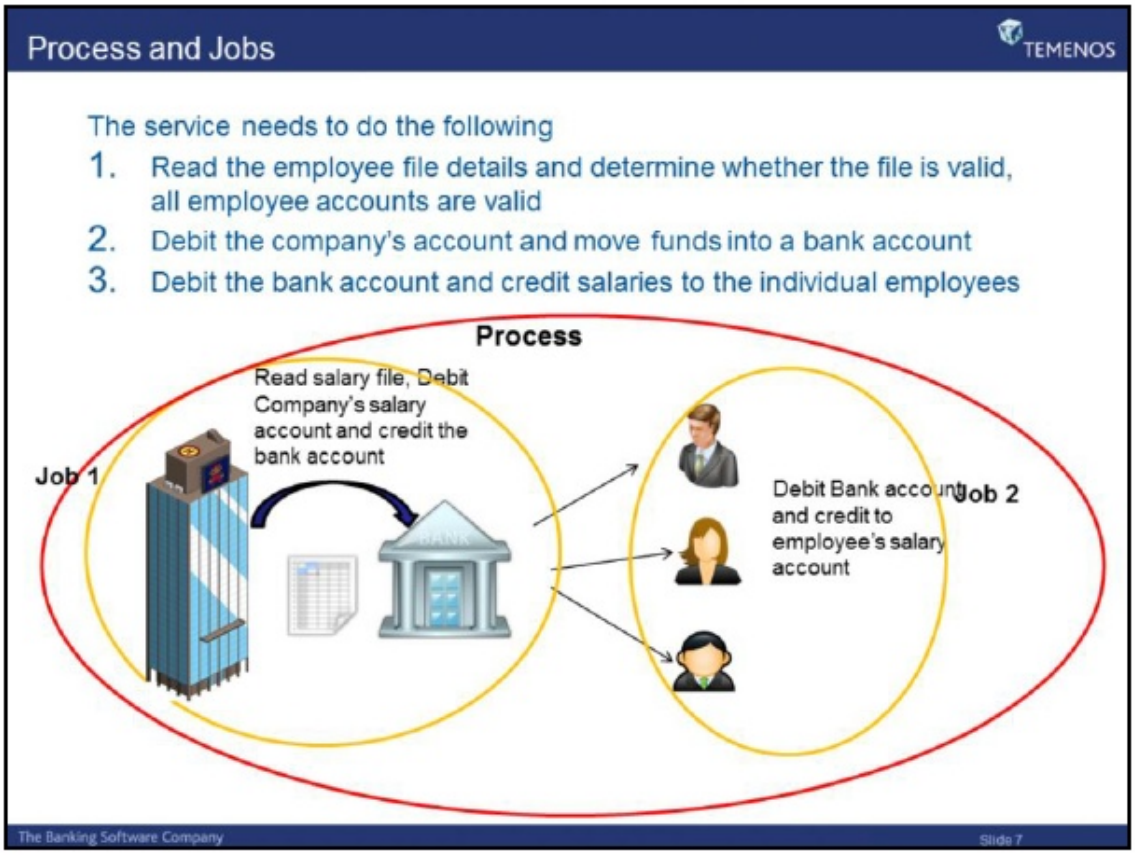
- Process
  - A set of jobs that perform a business function – for example the payment service
  - Service Processes in T24 are catalogued in the BATCH application and consist of a set of jobs.
- Job

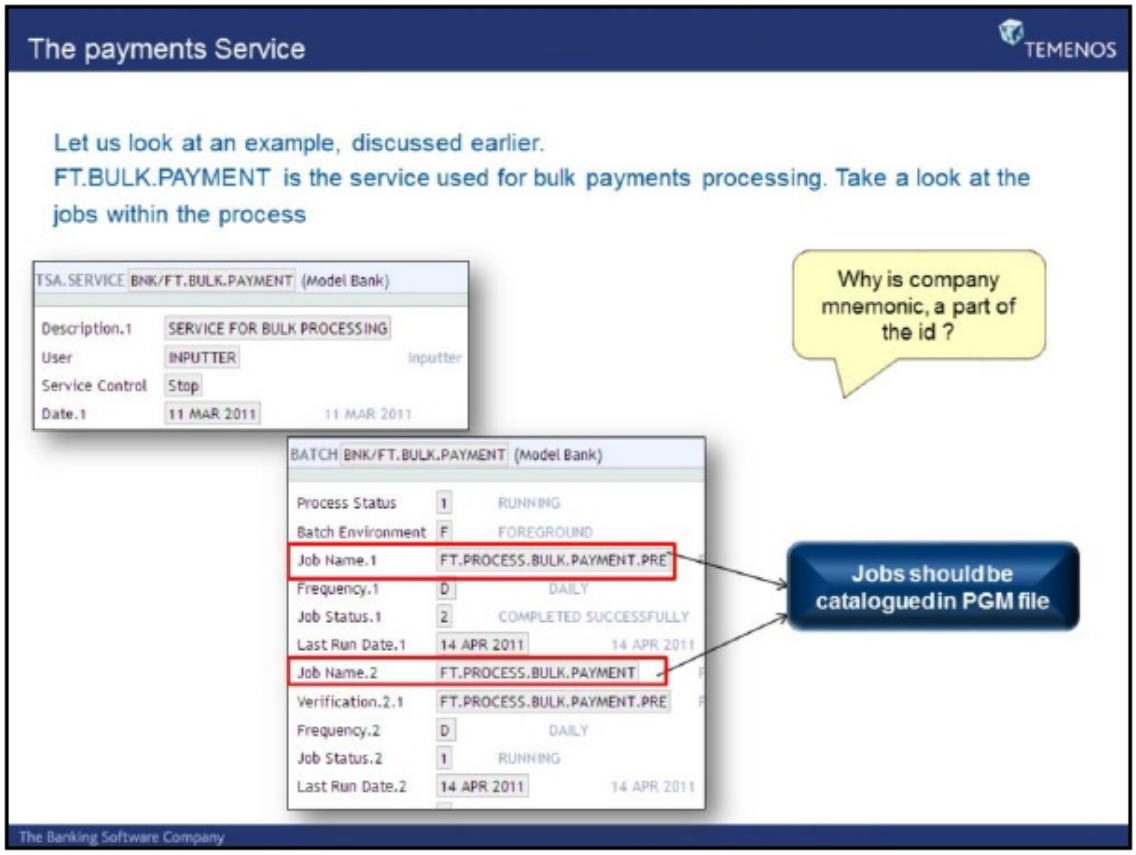
  The lowest unit of work



Each multi threaded routine in T24 must have a PGM.FILE entry with TYPE = B which stands for BATCH.

Each B type routine has an entry in the BATCH application, and a service is no different. A service could be made up of one multi threaded routine or multiple routines that must be run in an order. You will use the BATCH record to define this order using the JOB field. The BATCH record that you will create will NOT have a BATCH.STAGE defined as this record must NOT be picked up during COB.

Finally, you must create a record in the application TSA.SERVICE. The ID of the record must match the BATCH record Id. Why is this? – This is because when you start off a service, T24 looks for a record in the BATCH application and then finds out which routine it must execute in the background.



In this example, an existing service called BNK/SWIFT.OUT is used. The screen shots above show the identical TSA.SERVICE and BATCH record Ids.

From the BATCH record, you can find out the actual name of the multi threaded routine and check it's PGM.FILE entry

1. It is important to understand - Why the Bank Mnemonic is part of the BATCH record ID?

   This is because all processes are company specific. If we want the same process to be executed for each company defined in the COMPANY application then we have to have processes defined for every company separately.

For Example:

A company with mnemonic BNK might want a process to run during COB whereas another company with mnemonic EU1 might not want the same process to run during COB. The only way to do this in T24, is to create a process in the BATCH application with ID prefixed with the mnemonic BNK and not EU1.

BNK/<Batch Process ID Name>

If you want this batch process to be executed for both BNK and EU1, then you need to do the following. Create the following records in the BATCH application

BNK/<Batch Process ID Name>

EU1/<Batch Process ID Name>

BATCH

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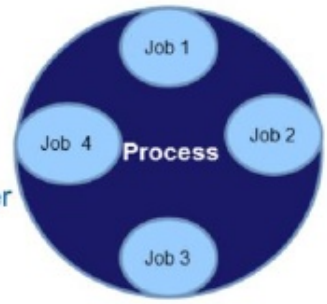
What?



- A Batch, in general, is a set of items grouped together
- It is an application where programs are grouped together based on logic
- Each record in batch is referred to as a "Process"
- Programs in a BATCH are referred to as "jobs", that perform a specific task
- Processes are catalogued in BATCH application

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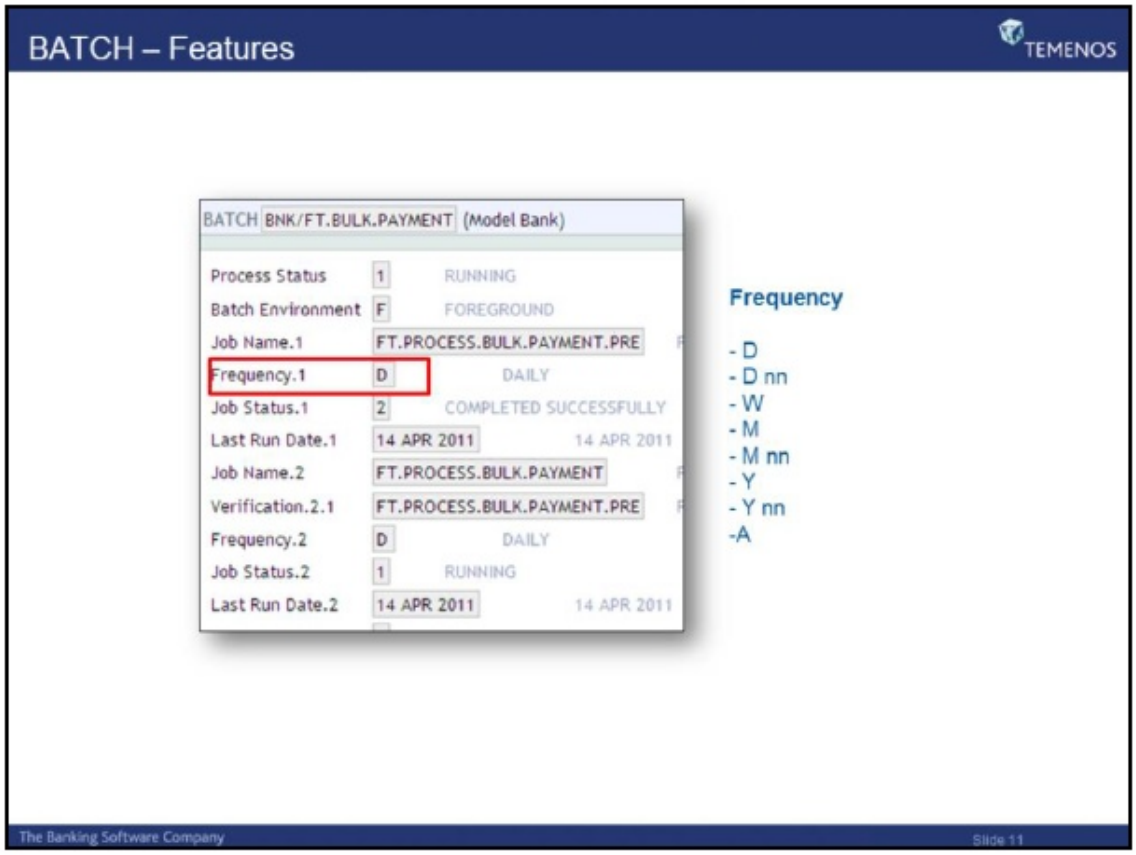


1. BATCH.ENVIRONMENT

Defines the environment to run the process in, i.e foreground or background

A foreground process will be run directly on the users terminal, whereas a background process will run as a phantom task. The background facility allows the user to run a number of processes concurrently.</p>

2. Job Name Contains the name of the routine to be executed. All routines defined here will have an entry in PGM.FILE with TYPE set to 'B'

3. Frequency specifies the frequency at which the batch job has to be executed. It can have values as follows.

D specifies that the job will be executed every working day.

D nn specifies that the job will be executed every nnth working day

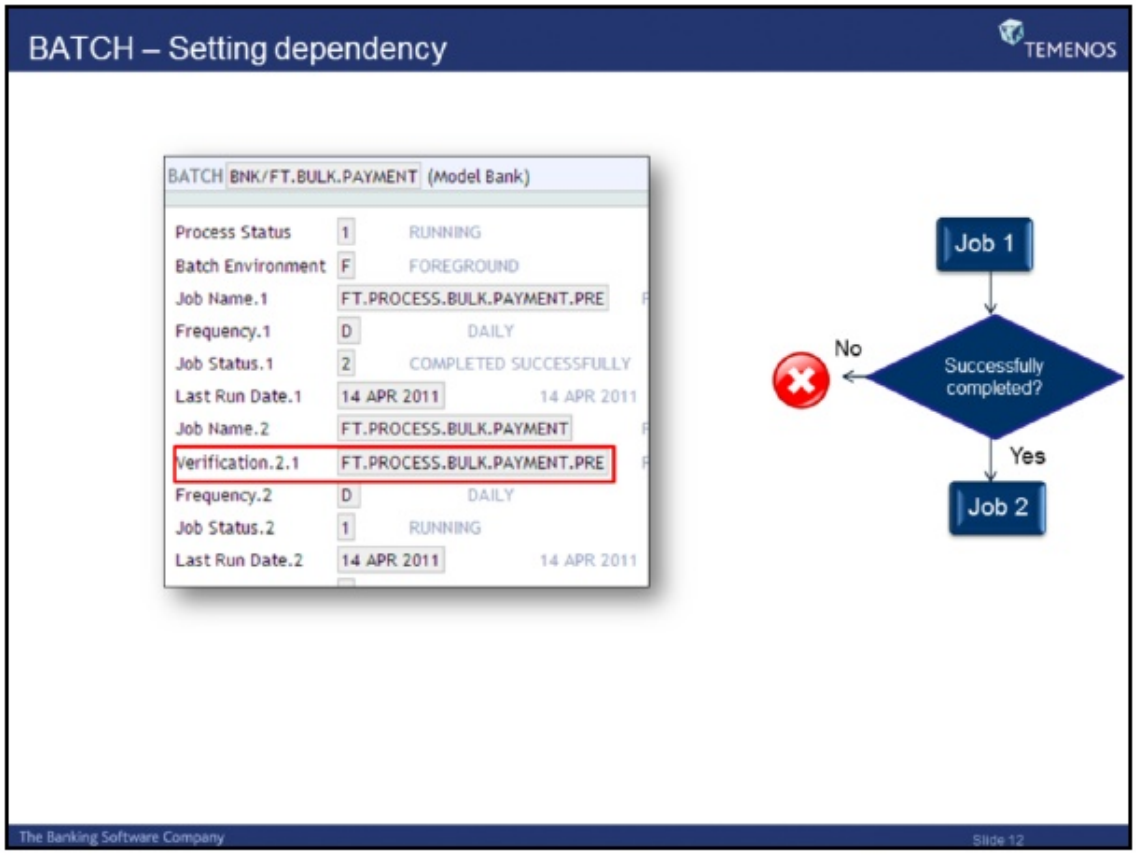
W specifies that the job will be executed on a weekly basis, that is every Friday

M specifies that the job will be executed on the last working day of every month
M nn specifies that the job will be executed every nn day of the month or previous working day of each month

Y specifies that the job will be executed last working day of the year

Y nn specifies that the job will be executed the last working day of the nn'th month

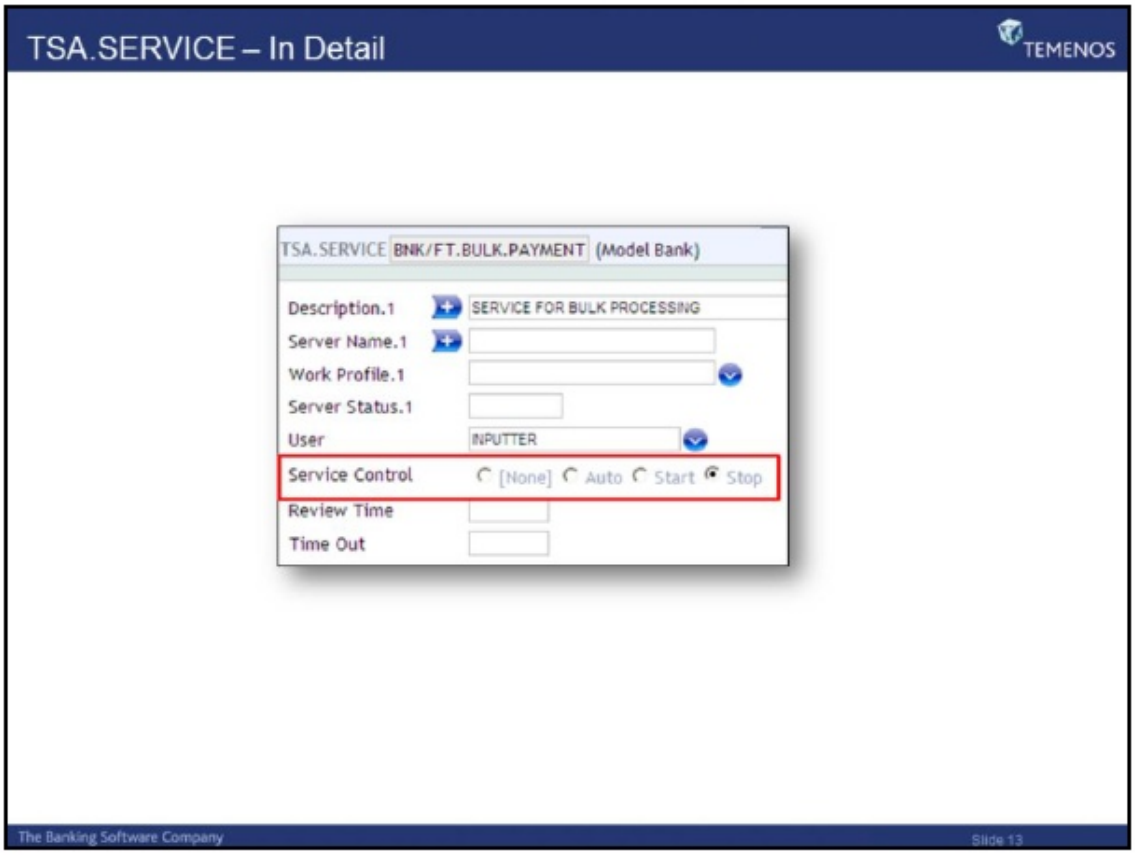
A specifies that the job will be executed on an adhoc basis. You should manually specify a date on which the job has to be executed.



1. In the field **Verification,** you can enter the name of the job (routine) which needs to have been executed successfully on that day before the current job is executed. For e.g. The job FT.PROCESS.BULK.PAYMENT will be executed only if the job FT.PROCESS.BULK.PAYMENT.PRE has been executed successfully.

   NOTE: Only jobs already defined in the current record can be entered in the field Verification. Jobs belonging to other Processes (Batch Records) cannot be entered in this field.

2. **Next Run Date** contains the date when the current job has to run next. Populated automatically on authorisation of the record (new jobs) or on successful execution of the job. NO date is populated for Daily jobs, as the jobs needs to be run daily. User input is required for adhoc jobs.
3. **Last Run Date** is a No Input Field and is populated on successful execution of the job during COB.



TSA.SERVICE is the application where all services are defined and controlled by the end user.

ID: The id of the service record must match a record in the BATCH application.

DESCRIPTION : This field holds the description of what the service is used for.

SERVER NAME : This field holds the IP address or the host name of the server where the current service needs to be executed. This will be used on in a multi application server architecture.

The whole idea behind a service is that you will have multiple copies of the process running so that the load can be shared. How many such copies do you want running? That is defined in the field WORK PROFILE. This field holds the ID of the record in TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE application which defines the number of copies that will actually execute.

USER : This field should hold a valid T24 user name, whose details are used to update the audit fields of records that get created or updated by the service.

SERVICE CONTROL : This field can hold three values – AUTO, START and STOP. STOP can be set in this field to stop the service when it is executing.

You will learn about the other fields in the next few slides.

Multi – threading in a Job

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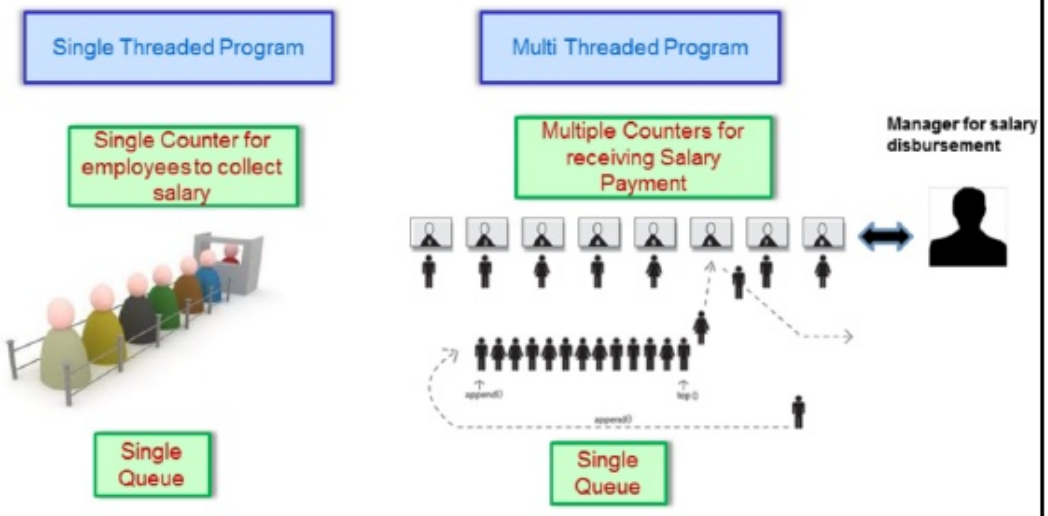
- A Service is executed as a multithreaded process . Let us understand this with an example.



Execution of a service - Illustration

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- Let us look at it in T24 Terms …

Single Threaded Program
PHANTOMS

One agent performing multiple credits (FT) to employees salary accounts

Single Queue

Multi Threaded Program
SERVICES

Multiple agents, each handling few employees

Manager for all the agents

Single Queue

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How is a multi–threaded service executed? – tSM & tSA

- There are two programs available to run multi threaded routine
  - tSM
  - tSA

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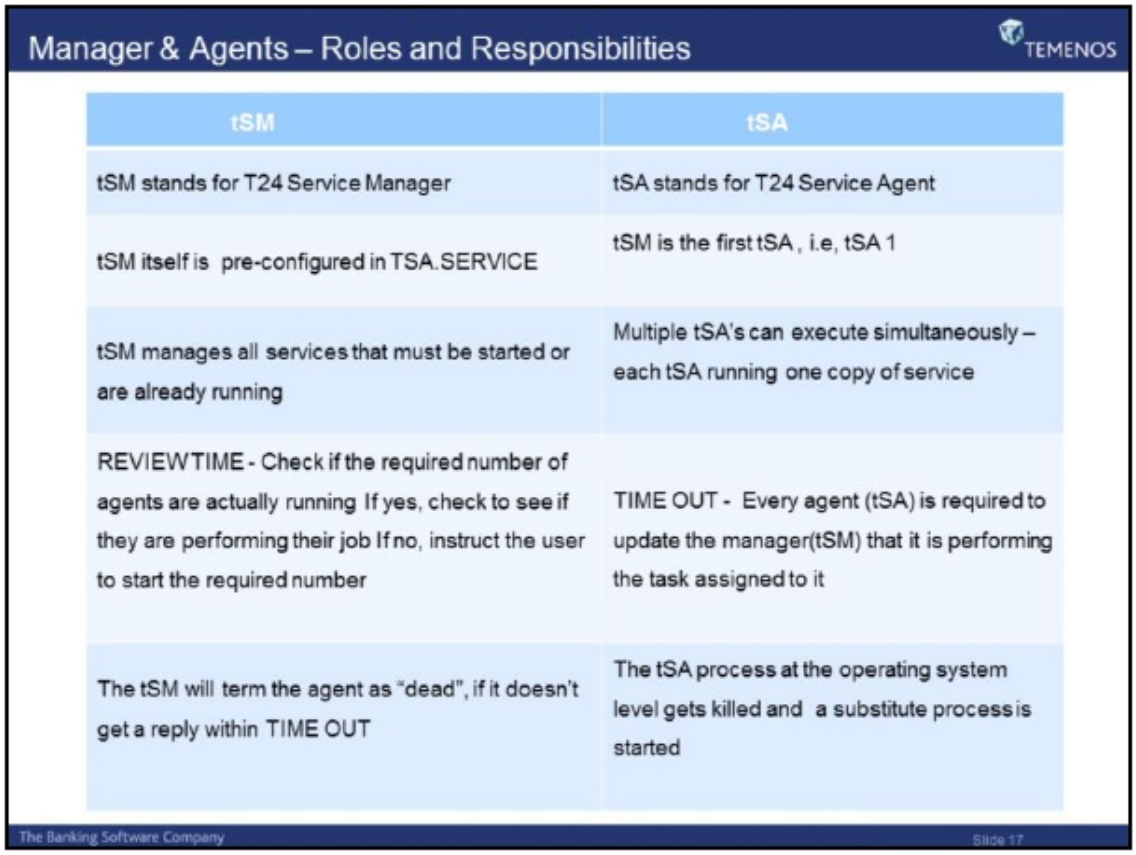


1. REVIEW TIME :

The job of the tSM is to

Read the TSA.SERVICE records with SERVICE.CONTROL field set to START

Read the relevant TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE records

Check if the required number of agents are actually running

If yes, check to see if they are performing their job

If no, instruct the user to start the required number of agents

TIME OUT :

Every agent (tSA) is required to update the manager(tSM) that it is performing the task assigned to it

The tSM is designed to wait for a stipulated amount

of time for each agent to report that it is alive and working

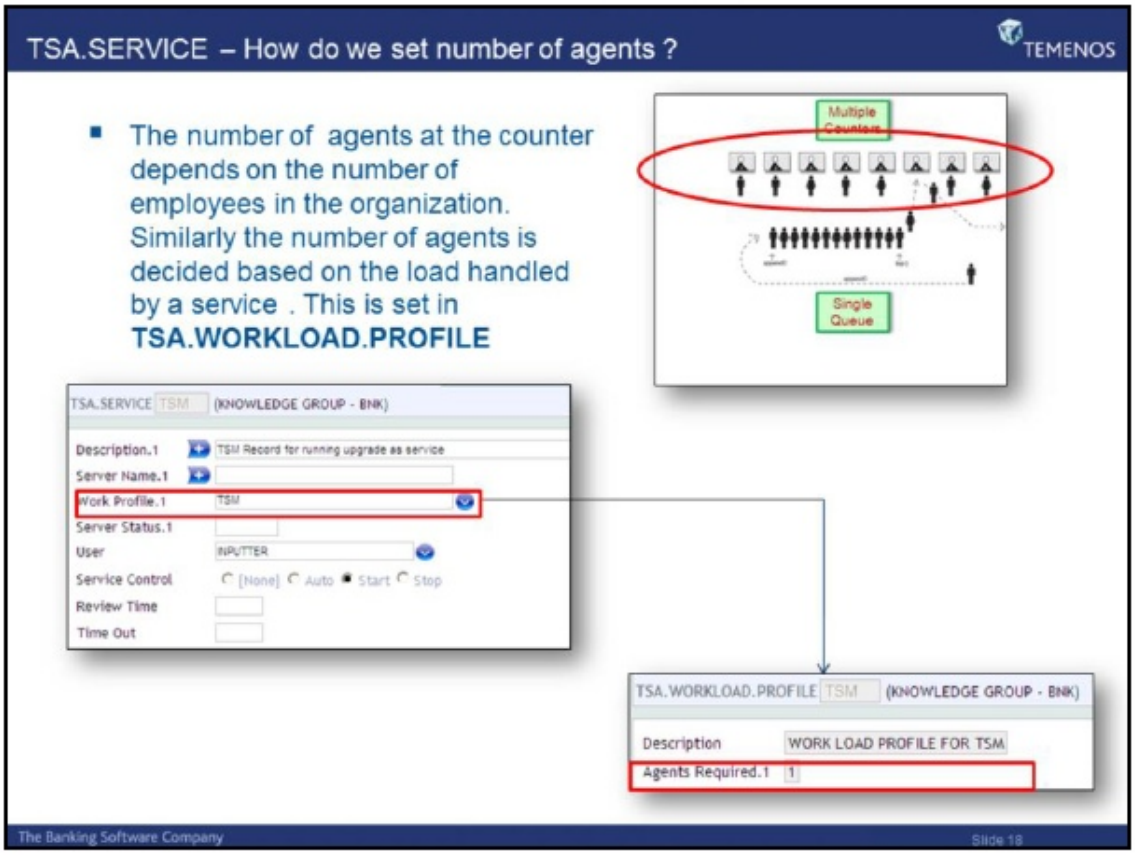
The tSM will term the agent as “dead”, if it doesn’t get a

reply within the stipulated time.

It will stop the tSA process at the operating system level (kill the process) and start a substitute process

The time given for every agent to report to the tSM that it is alive and working is set in

the field TIME.OUT (Specify the value in the COB record)



What you see here is the TSM record in TSA.SERVICE application.

Description field holds the text that describes the TSA.SERVICE record

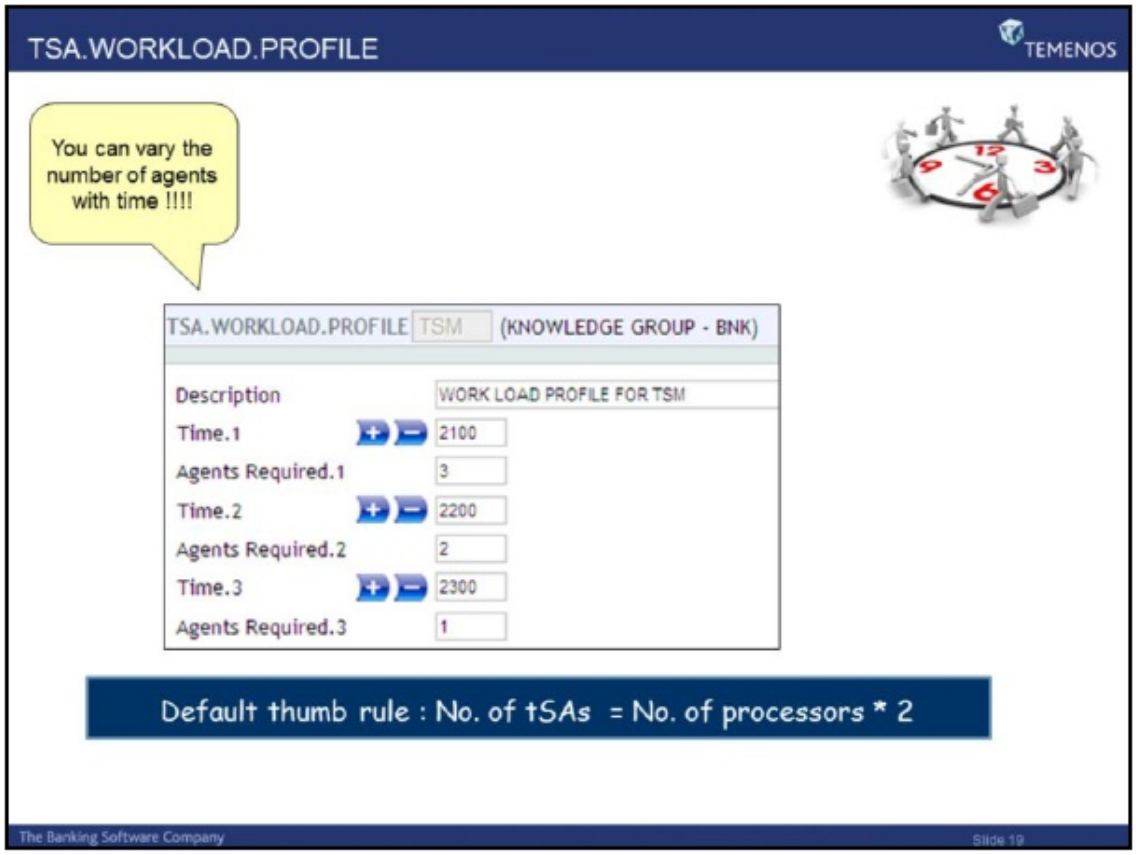
Server Name field holds the IP address or the host name of the server where this service TSM needs to be executed.

> There can be only one tSM per T24 application server. When MS (Multi Server) product is installed, this field can be multi valued to include the ip of all the servers involved in running COB

Work Profile field holds the ID of the TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE application which in turn contains the number of agents required to run this service. For the record TSM, the number of agents should always be 1. This field forms a multivalue set along with Description and Server Name fields

User field holds a valid T24 user name. It has no significance for this record TSM. Has significance for the record COB.

Service Control : It is the field that controls the starting and stopping of this service. If set to START, T24 will allow us to start TSM by issuing the command START.TSM. To stop the TSM, set this field to STOP.



This is the application used to specify the number of agents. The number of agents in TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE can be set based on time. Agents can be increased/decreased based on time (T24 application server time)

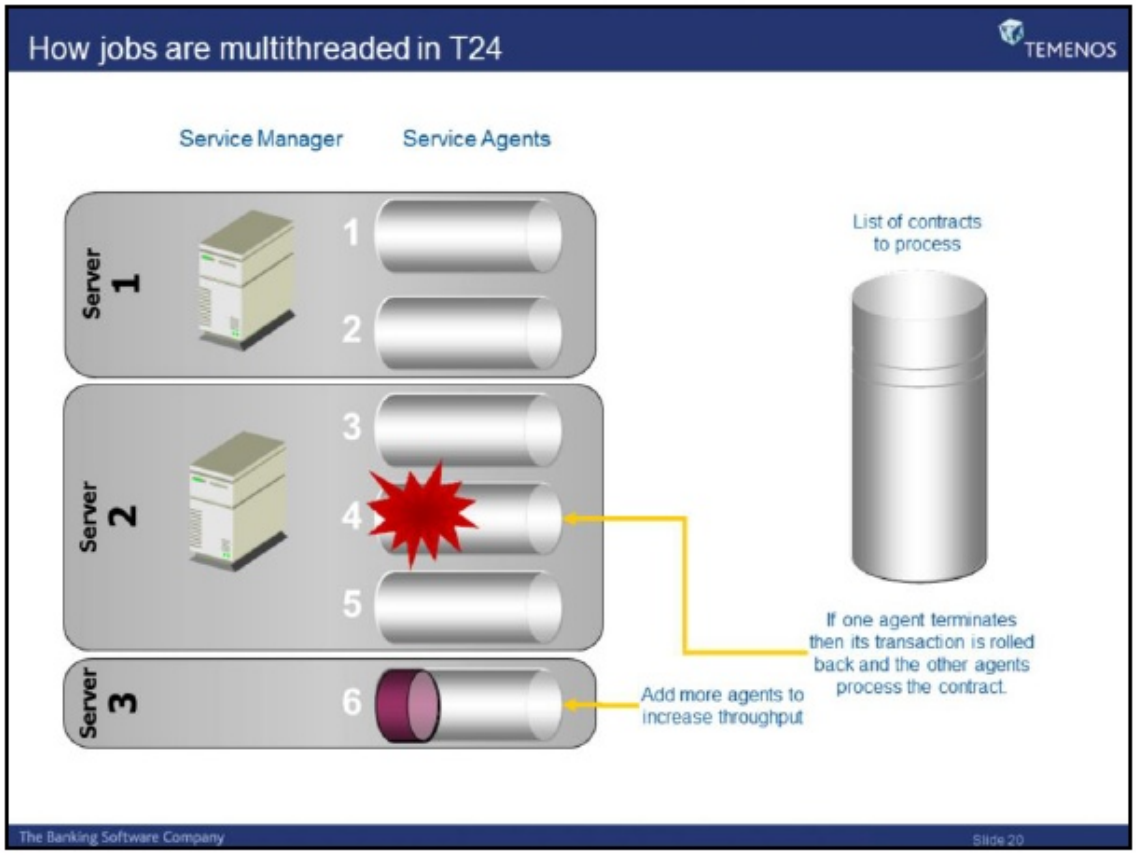
Assume a scenario where in you know that the server will be busy at 11PM as that is when transactions from an interface will be coming in. You may choose to reduce the number of agents running COB during that period so that the server be used for the interface as well. Define this in the TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE application.

TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE is the application which defines the number of tSAs required. The ID of a record in this application can be any alphanumeric text.

The number of agents in TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE can be set based on time if required.

TIME and AGENTS.REQUIRED : These fields are associated multi value set which holds the specific time and the number of agents required at that point in time.

The number of agents that can run on server is directly proportional to the number of processors available. Just because T24 supports multi threaded services doesn't mean you can start a 100 tSA's in the background. It will kill the server. The thumb rule to be followed is a maximum or 2 tSA's per processor available.



In T24 multithreaded routines are executed by service agents.

This illustration will help you to understand how multiple agents help perform a job and how failure of a single agent does not stop COB

Each server can have only 1 tSM. tSM, when started will launch the required number of agents for that server

Note that this tSM and the agents have been launched in Server 1. On Server 2, another tSM has been launched, which internally launches the required number of agents on that server

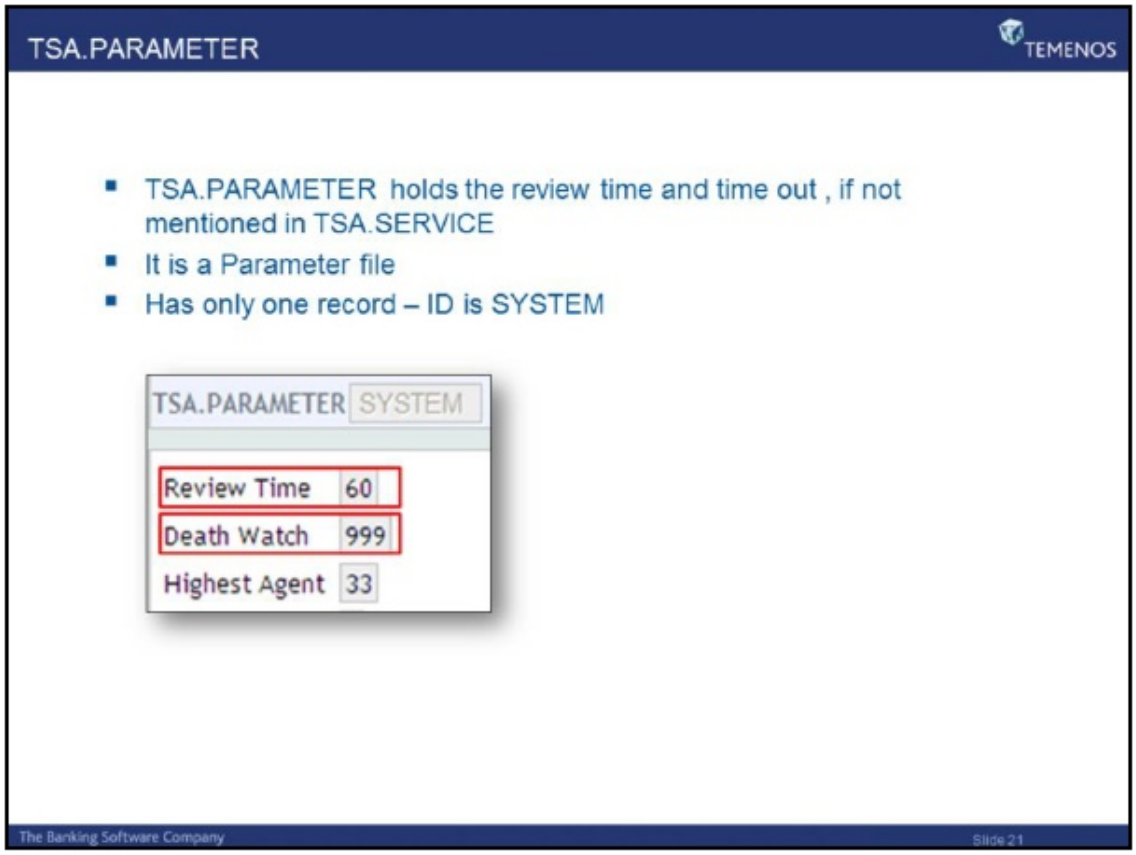
Let us assume that all agents are helping in executing a particular job. Assume that one of the tSAs on Server 1 is the one which has executed the .SELECT routine has hence has populated the contents of the LIST file

As you can see, all agents pick up IDs to be processed from the same LIST file thus enabling to achieve multithreading

If you wish, you could add in one more server(s), start agents on that server and this agent can also participate and process IDs from the LIST file

Even if one of the agents crash, since all other agents are active, they will continue to pick up data from the LIST file.

This process will continue until the LIST file becomes empty.



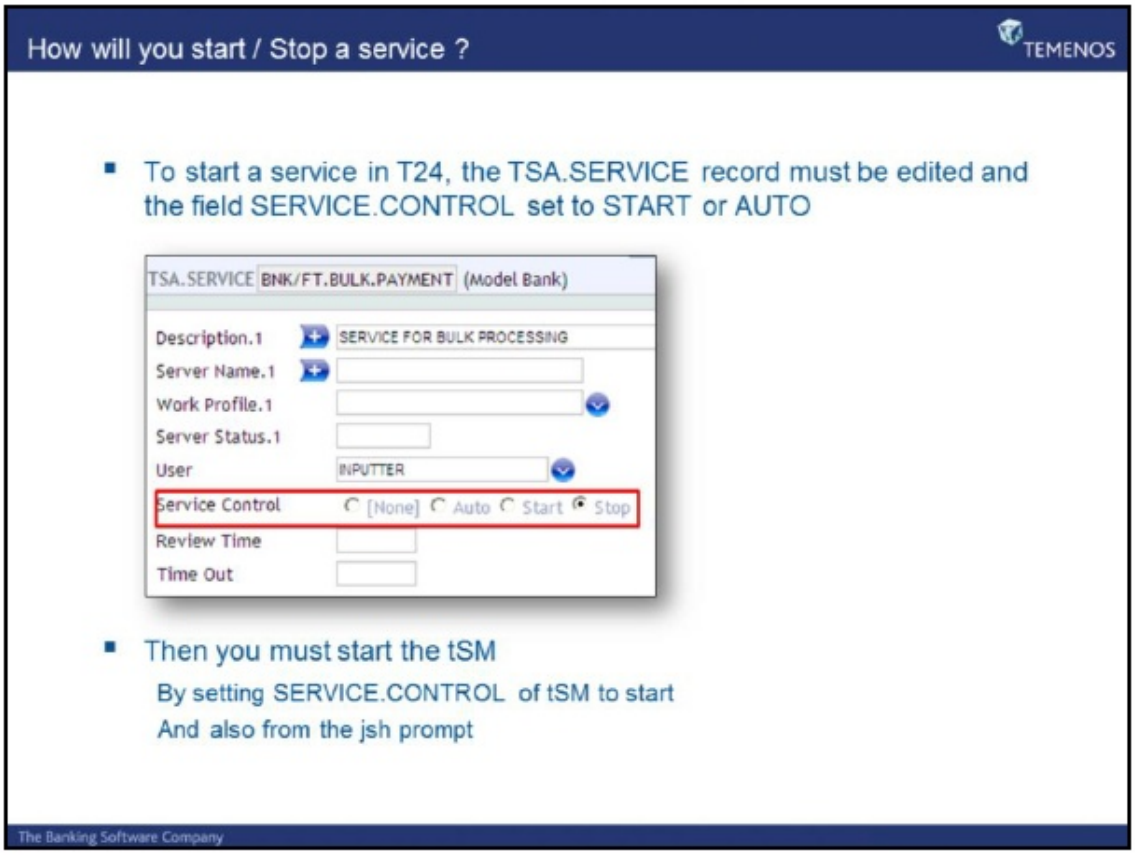
Parameter file

Has only one record – ID is SYSTEM

Review Time Is used if the REVIEW.TIME field in the TSA.SERVICE record in not specified. Default value is 60.

Death Watch Is used if the TIME.OUT field in the TSA.SERVICE record is not specified. Default value is 300.

Highest Agent No input field. Updated by T24 with the number of agents running on all T24 application servers put together



You must first turn the service on using the SERVICE.CONTROL field in TSA.SERVICE. This change must be authorised. You must remember that this action does not start off the service in the background. Its only a flag to say that the service will be picked up and executed.

You must then start the tSM program. This can be done only from the jBASE prompt. This will cause all service records with either START or AUTO to be picked up to be started.

Auto services

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What are Auto Services?

- A bank needs to keep communicating with its customers
- One of the ways to communicate is by sending Mailers
- Different departments in a bank will be compositing these mailers
- There will be a central service which will be disbursing the mails on behalf of the bank.

Is there a need to start and stop this service - NO

- It needs to be triggered once a mailer is created. So this service needs to poll on a mailer box(in a software system a file) and keep running continuously .Such a service is called a auto service.

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Auto Services - Example

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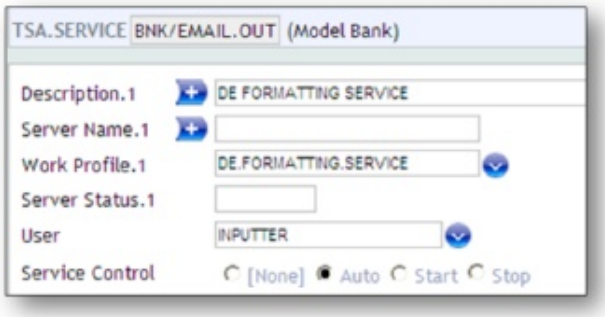
- Technically , an auto service gets triggered once the TSA.SERVICE of TSM is set to start. We need not explicitly set SERVICE.CONTROL of an auto service to "Start"



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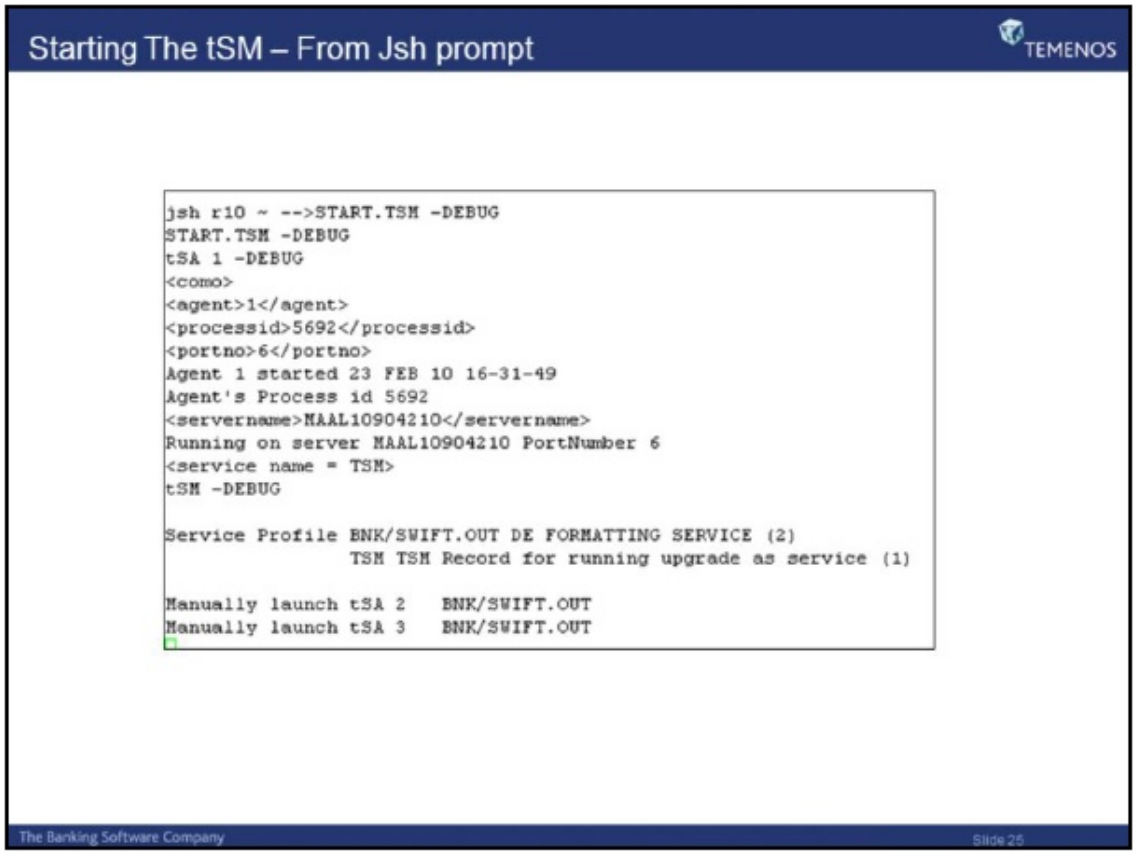
Slide 24

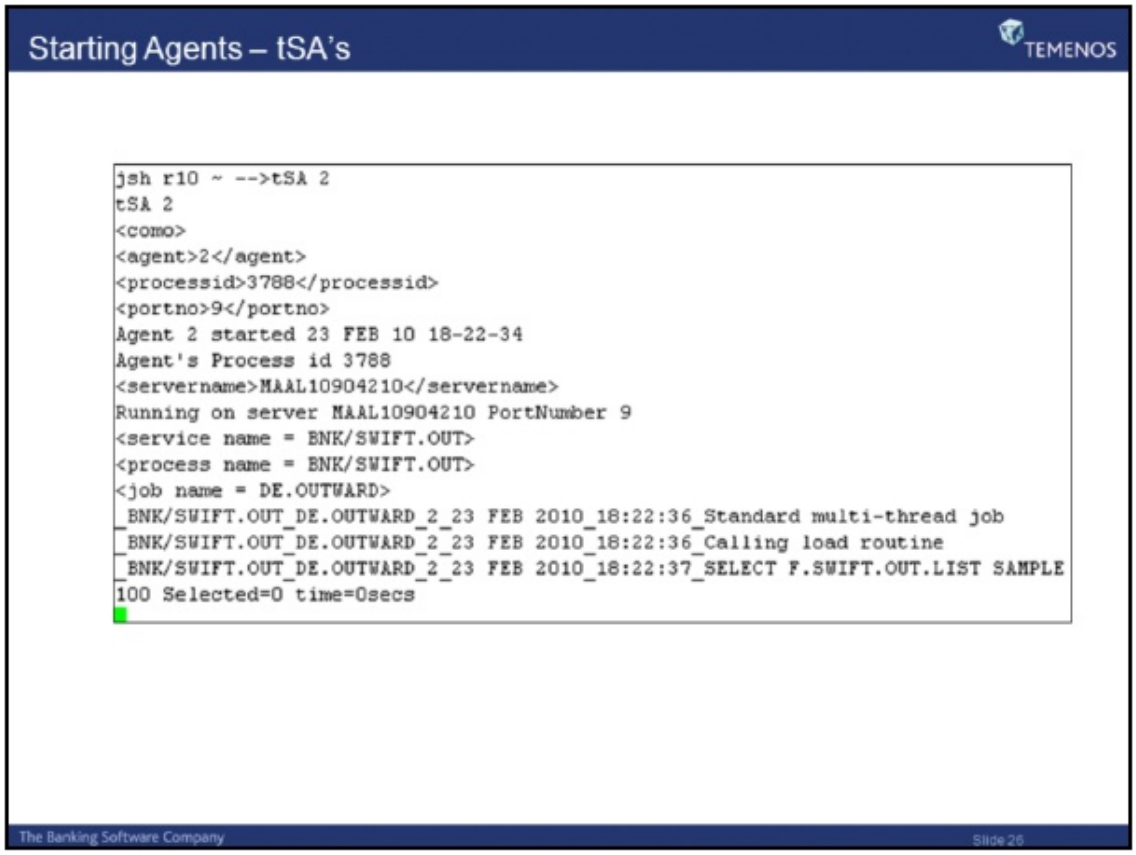


Start the tSM by using START.TSM at the jBASE shell prompt. You have two options when starting the tSM – to start it in DEBUG mode or to leave out the DEBUG option.

The DEBUG option allows you to manually start tSA's to execute your service. In the screen shot above, OFS.MESSAGE.SERVICE has one tSA assigned to it, but SWIFT.OUT has two. How is this possible?

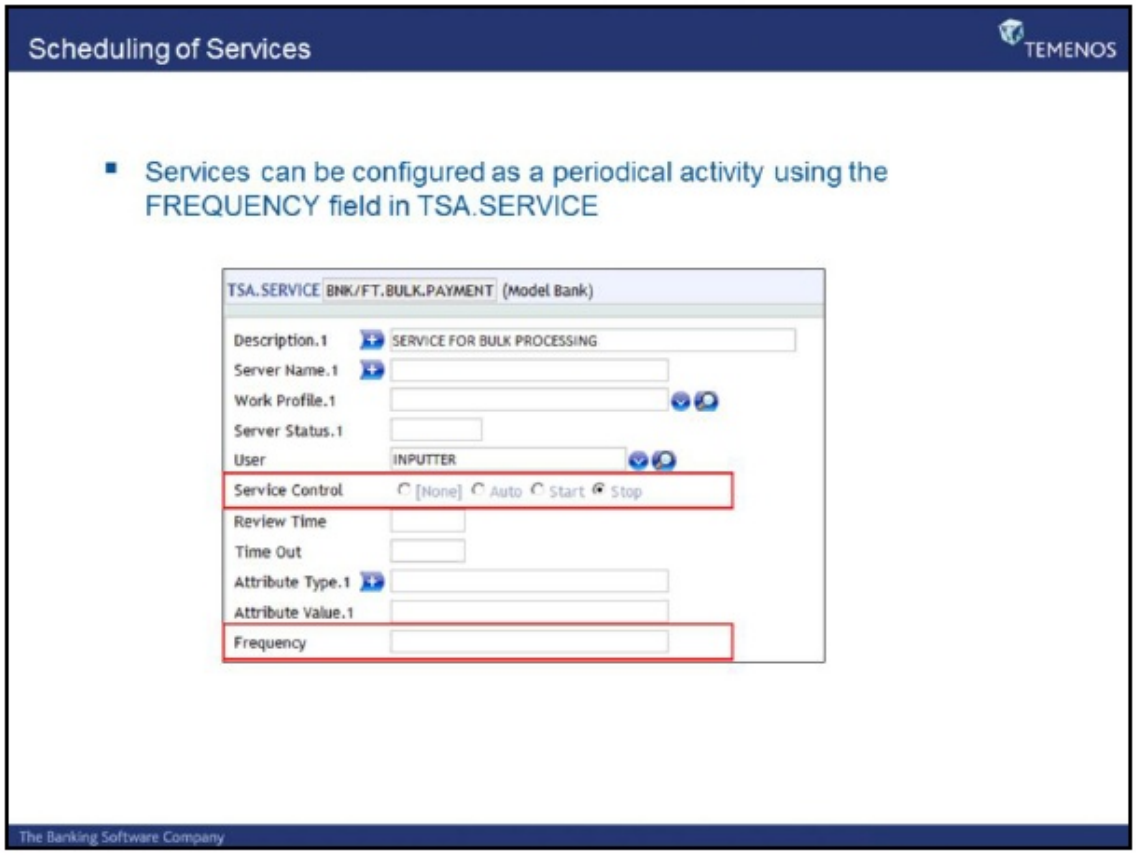
When defining a service in TSA.SERVICE, the field WORK.PROFILE links to an application TSA.WORKLOAD.PROFILE where you can define how many tSA's are required. Each tSA represents one copy of your multi threaded service being executed.

Now in the screen shot above, you must understand that the services have not been started as yet.



After the agents are assigned jobs, in DEBUG mode, type tSA <agent number> at the jBASE shell prompt to actually start the agents to the service. After the job is finished successfully, a message 'Agent Stopped' will be displayed and the cursor will go back to jBASE shell prompt.

When a service stops, the field SERVICE.CONTROL is set to STOP automatically.



Services can be configured as a periodic activity using the FREQUENCY field. This field holds a value in the format

Date Time Frequency- where,

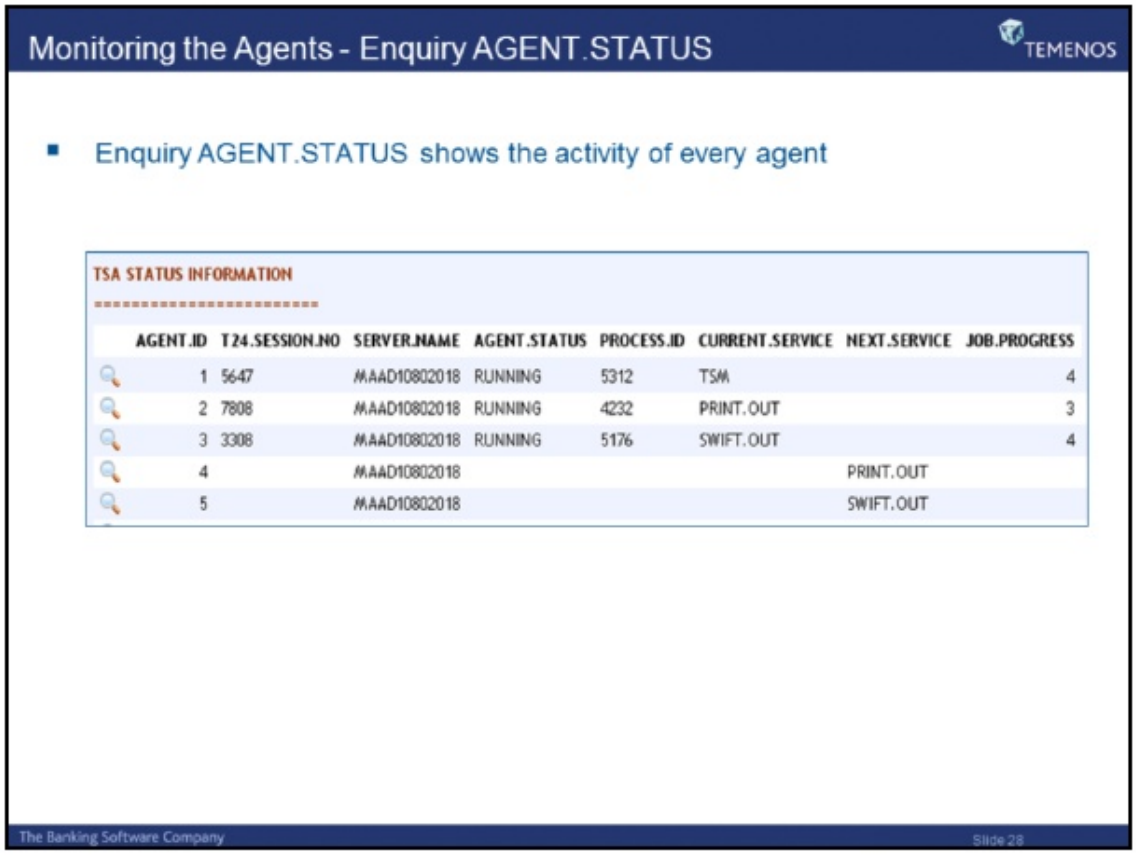
Date is the system date which is entered in T24 date format

Time is entered in the format HH:MM(T24 hour format)

Frequency is entered in the format 1D,2D etc.,

EXAMPLE : 20100215 14:00 1D

TSM would normally build the service profile only for the services which are set to START or AUTO. But when the frequency is specified for the service and SERVICE.CONTROL is set as 'STOP', the TSM would check whether the specified frequency has been reached taking into account the time as well as frequency and would start the service. When the service is stopped, the frequency would be cycled to the next date. This field is not allowed for an AUTO service. The service control cannot be changed if the frequency is present. This is mostly using for archiving.



You know tSM launches and controls the tSAs. How does an end user know what is happening with the tSAs? Use the enquiry AGENT.STATUS

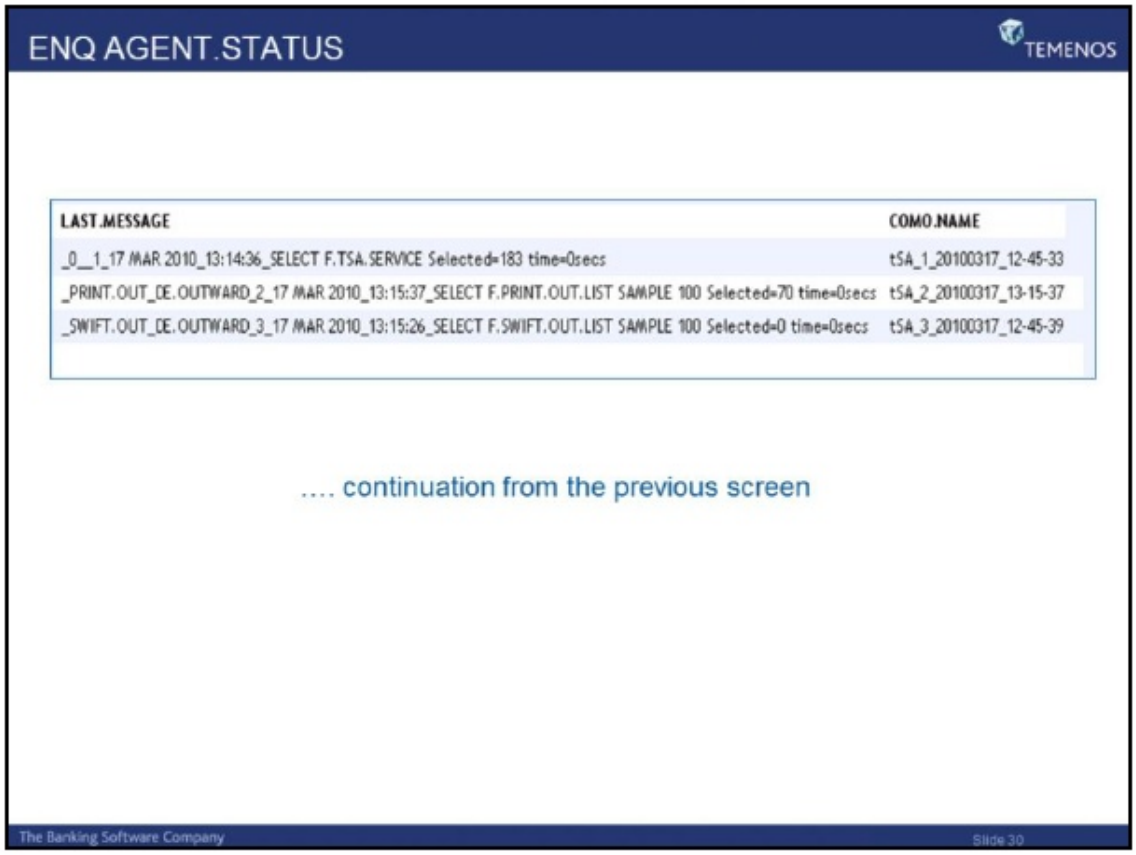
Agent ID is the allocated Agent Number for the service

T24.SESSION.NO is updated with a unique number that identifies every session in T24. A number between 1 -99999 is allocated when a session is started in a port to uniquely identify that particular session in T24(both for online and COB).

Note: This random number is generated using a routine called EB.ALLOCATE.SESSION.NUMBER and is stored in a common variable called C$T24.SESSION.NO. This helps in improving the monitoring capabilities of T24.

A live file called **T24.SESSION** gets updated with record key being the T24.SESSION.NO and contains information regarding the agent to which this session number was assigned. A record in this application gets deleted, when the corresponding process terminates(session expires).

Server Name is the name of the server where the agent is running. Note that details of tSAs and tSMs across application servers will be updated here



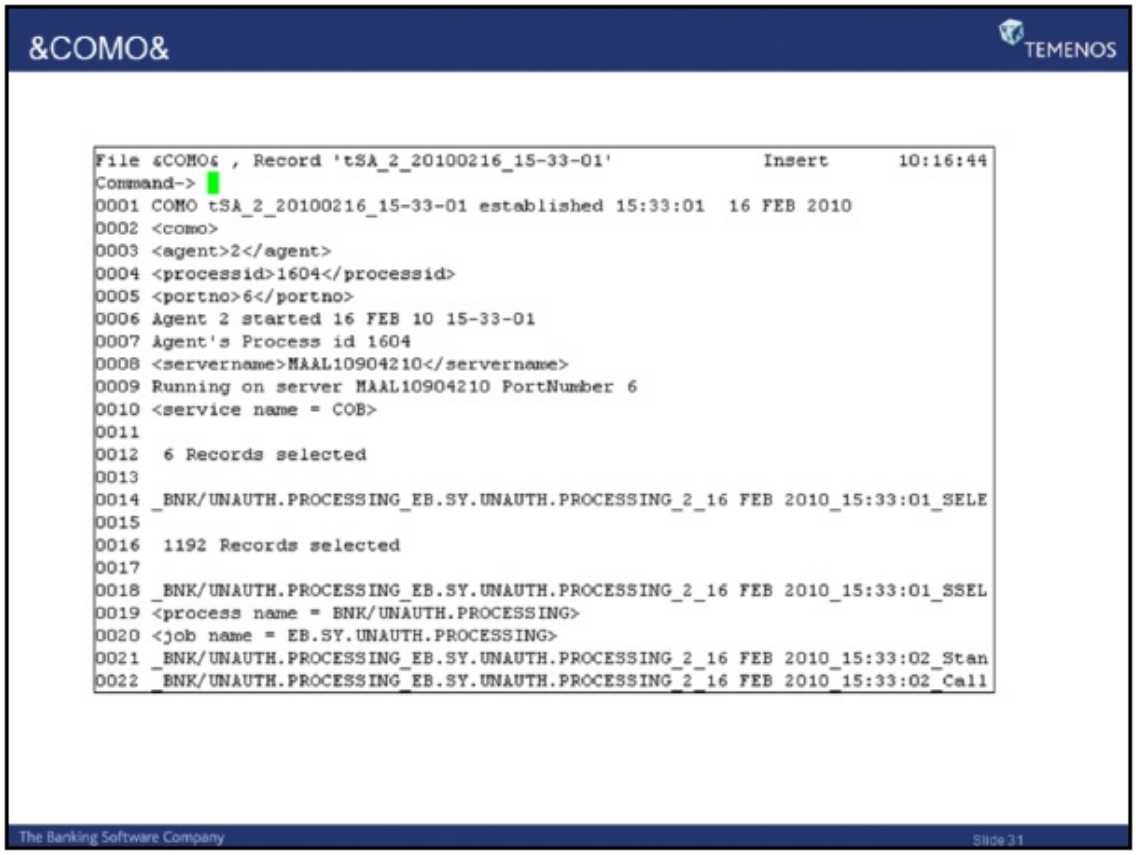
Last Message is the message displayed by the agents as they are performing the jobs. The agent running tSM will not display any message as it is just monitoring agents.

Como Name is the name of the log record ID that holds the log information of the agent. These log records are stored in a directory called &COMO&. The contents of these records cannot be viewed from browser. You will have to open these records at the jBASE prompt. The log file name is in the format 'tSA_<agent number>_<date>_<time>'

LAST.MESSAGE is the message displayed by the agents as they are performing the jobs.

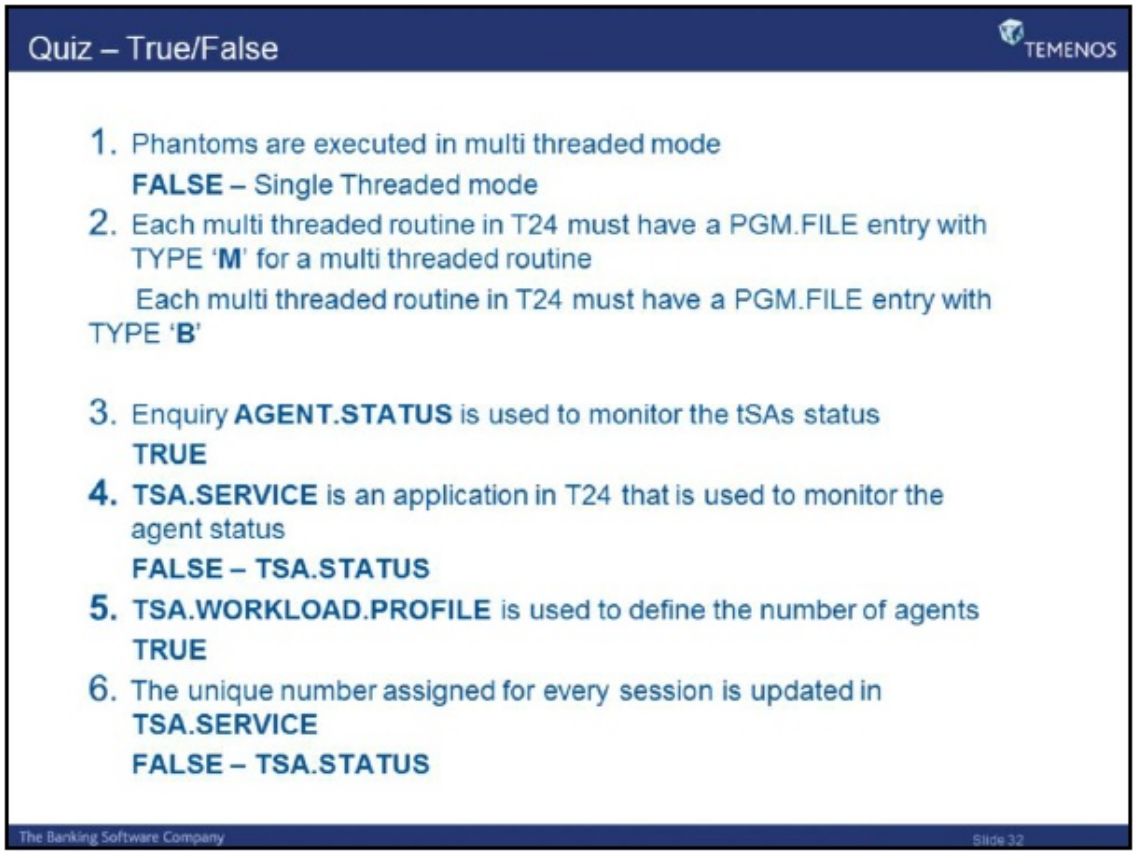
COMO.NAME holds the name of the log file that has the log information of the particular agent.

JOB.PROGRESS holds the status of the jobs being performed.



COMO.NAME in **AGENT.STATUS** holds the name of the log file. Log files are stored under a directory &COMO&. To view the log files use the command 'LIST &COMO&'. Use the command 'JED &COMO& <Log file name>' to view the contents of the log file.

If an agent is restarted, there will be two log files for that agent as the log file ID is based on date and time. Log files do not get cleared automatically from the &COMO&.



1. FALSE – Single Threaded mode
2. FALSE – Each multi threaded routine in T24 must have a PGM.FILE entry with TYPE 'B' for Batch
3. TRUE
4. FALSE – TSA.STATUS
5. TRUE
6. FALSE – TSA.STATUS

Summary

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You will now be able to:

- Understand the need for Services
- Explain how a Service works
- Understand process and a job
- Define BATCH
- Explain TSA.SERVICE
- Elaborate on working of tSM and tSA

Thank You

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