Mutex Introduction Solutions

Mutex Introduction

- Explain what is meant by the term "mutex"
    - A mutex is a "mutual exclusion object"
    - It has two states, locked and unlocked
    - It can be used to control access to a critical section

Mutex Introduction

- How can mutexes be used with critical sections?
    - We can associate a mutex with a critical section
    - Each thread has to lock the mutex before it can enter the critical section
    - It unlocks it when it leaves the critical section
    - If the mutex is already locked when the thread is about to enter the critical section, the thread must wait until it can lock the mutex
    - If all threads respect this convention, only one thread can access the critical section at a time
    - This use of mutexes prevents data races