Core Java

Agenda

- Java NIO
- Multi-threading

Java NIO

- Java NIO (New IO) is an alternative IO API for Java.
- Java NIO offers a different IO programming model than the traditional IO APIs.
- Since Java 7.
- Java NIO enables you to do non-blocking (not fully) IO.
- Java NIO consist of the following core components:
  - Channels e.g. FileChannel, ...
  - Buffers e.g. ByteBuffer, ...
  - Selectors
- Java NIO also provides "helper" classes Paths & Files.
  - exists()
  - ...

Paths and Files

- A Java Path instance represents a path in the file system. A path can point to either a file or a directory. A path can be absolute or relative.

```
Path path = Paths.get("c:\\data\\myfile.txt");
```

- Files class (Files) provides several static methods for manipulating files in the file system.

```
static InputStream newInputStream(Path, OpenOption...) throws IOException;
static OutputStream newOutputStream(Path, OpenOption...) throws IOException;
static DirectoryStream<Path> newDirectoryStream(Path) throws IOException;
static Path createFile(Path, attribute.FileAttribute<?>...) throws
IOException;
static Path createDirectory(Path, attribute.FileAttribute<?>...) throws
IOException;
static void delete(Path) throws IOException;
static boolean deleteIfExists(Path) throws IOException;
static Path copy(Path, Path, CopyOption...) throws IOException;
static Path move(Path, Path, CopyOption...) throws IOException;
static boolean isSameFile(Path, Path) throws IOException;
static boolean isHidden(Path) throws IOException;
static boolean isDirectory(Path, LinkOption...);
static boolean isRegularFile(Path, LinkOption...);
static long size(Path) throws IOException;
```

```
static boolean exists(Path, LinkOption...);
static boolean isReadable(Path);
static boolean isWritable(Path);
static boolean isExecutable(Path);
static List<String> readAllLines(Path) throws IOException;
static Stream<String> lines(Path) throws IOException;
```

Channels and Buffers

- All IO in NIO starts with a Channel. A Channel is similar to IO stream. From the Channel data can be read into a Buffer. Data can also be written from a Buffer into a Channel.

NIO Channels

- Java NIO Channels are similar to IO streams with a few differences:
  - You can both read and write to a Channels. Streams are typically one-way (read or write).
  - Channels can be read and written asynchronously (non-blocking).
  - Channels always read to, or write from, a Buffer.
- Channel Examples
  - FileChannel
  - DatagramChannel // UDP protocol
  - SocketChannel, ServerSocketChannel // TCP protocol

NIO Buffers

- A buffer is essentially a block of memory into which you can write data, which you can then later read again. This memory block is wrapped in a NIO Buffer object, which provides a set of methods that makes it easier to work with the memory block.
- Using a Buffer to read and write data typically follows this 4-step process:
  - Write data into the Buffer
  - Call buffer.flip()
  - Read data out of the Buffer
  - Call buffer.clear() or buffer.compact()
- Buffer Examples
  - ByteBuffer
  - CharBuffer
  - DoubleBuffer
  - FloatBuffer
  - IntBuffer
  - LongBuffer
  - ShortBuffer

Channel and Buffer Example

```
RandomAccessFile aFile = new RandomAccessFile("somefile.txt", "rw");
FileChannel inChannel = aFile.getChannel();
```

```
ByteBuffer buf = ByteBuffer.allocate(32);

int bytesRead = inChannel.read(buf); // write data into buffer (from channel)
while (bytesRead != -1) {
    System.out.println("Read " + bytesRead);
    buf.flip(); // switch buffer from write mode to read mode

    while(buf.hasRemaining()){
        System.out.print((char) buf.get()); // read data from the buffer
    }

    buf.clear(); // clear the buffer
    bytesRead = inChannel.read(buf);
}
aFile.close();
```

RandomAccessFile

- RandomAccessFile class from java.io package.
- Capable of reading and writing into a file (on a storage device).
- Internally maintains file read/write position/cursor.
- Homework: Read docs.

Java NIO vs Java IO

- IO: Stream-oriented
- NIO: Buffer-oriented
- IO: Blocking IO
- NIO: Non-blocking IO

Platform Independence

- Java is architecture neutral i.e. can work on various CPU architectures like x86, ARM, SPARC, PPC, etc (if JVM is available on those architectures).
- Java is NOT fully platform independent. It can work on various platforms like Windows, Linux, Mac, UNIX, etc (if JVM is available on those platforms).
- Few features of Java remains platform dependent.
    - Multi-threading (Scheduling, Priority)
    - File IO (Performance, File types, Paths)
    - AWT GUI (Look & Feel)
    - Networking (Socket connection)

Process vs Threads

Program

- Program is set of instructions given to the computer.
- Executable file is a program.
- Executable file contains text, data, rodata, symbol table, exe header.

Process

- Process is program in execution.
- Program (executable file) is loaded in RAM (from disk) for execution. Also OS keep information required for execution of the program in a struct called PCB (Process Control Block).
- Process contains text, data, rodata, stack, and heap section.

Thread

- Threads are used to do multiple tasks concurrently within a single process.
- Thread is a lightweight process.
- When a new thread is created, a new TCB is created along with a new stack. Remaining sections are shared with parent process.

Process vs Thread

- Process is a container that holds resources required for execution and thread is unit of execution/scheduling.
- Each process have one thread created by default -- called as main thread.

Process creation (Java)

- In Java, process can be created using Runtime object.
- Runtime object holds information of current runtime environment that includes number of processors, JVM memory usage, etc.
- Current runtime can be accessed using static getRuntime() method.

```
Runtime rt = Runtime.getRuntime();
```

- The process is created using exec() method, which returns the Process object. This object represents the OS process and its waitFor() method wait for the process termination (and returns exit status).

```
String[] args = { "/path/of/executable", "cmd-line arg1", ... };
Process p = rt.exec(args);
int exitStatus = p.waitFor();
```

Multi-threading (Java)

- Java applications are always multi-threaded.
- When any java application is executed, JVM creates (at least) two threads.
  - main thread -- executes the application main()
  - GC thread -- does garbage collection (release unreferenced objects)
- Programmer may create additional threads, if required.

Thread creation

- To create a thread
  - step 1: Implement a thread function (task to be done by the thread)
  - step 2: Create a thread (with above function)
- Method 1: extends Thread

```
class MyThread extends Thread {
    @Override
    public void run() {
        // task to be done by the thread
    }
}
```

```
MyThread th = new MyThread();
th.start();
```

- Method 2: implements Runnable

```
class MyRunnable implements Runnable {
    @Override
    public void run() {
        // task to be done by the thread
    }
}
```

```
MyRunnable runnable = new MyRunnable();
Thread th = new Thread(runnable);
th.start();
```

- Java doesn't support multiple inheritance. If your class is already inherited from a super class, you cannot extend it from Thread class. Prefer Runnable in this case; otherwise you may choose any method.

```
// In Java GUI application is inherited from Frame class.
// to create run() in the same class, you must use Runnable
class MyGuiApplication extends Frame implements Runnable {
    // ...
    public void run() {
        // ...
    }
    // ...
}
```

start() vs run()

- run():
  - Programmer implemented code to be executed by the thread.
- start():
  - Pre-defined method in Thread class.
  - When called, the thread object is submitted to the (JVM/OS) scheduler. Then scheduler select the thread for execution and thread executes its run() method.

Thread methods

- static Thread currentThread()
  - Returns a reference to the currently executing thread object.
- static void sleep(long millis)
  - Causes the currently executing thread to sleep (temporarily cease execution) for the specified number of milliseconds, subject to the precision and accuracy of system timers and schedulers.
- static void yield()
  - A hint to the scheduler that the current thread is willing to yield its current use of a processor.
- Thread.State getState()
  - Returns the state of this thread.
  - State can be NEW, RUNNABLE, BLOCKED, WAITING, TIMED_WAITING, TERMINATED
- void run()
  - If this thread was constructed using a separate Runnable run object, then that Runnable object's run method is called. If thread class extends from Thread class, this method should be overridden. The default implementation is empty.
- void start()
  - Causes this thread to begin execution; the Java Virtual Machine calls the run method of this thread.
- void join()
  - Waits for this thread to die/complete.
- boolean isAlive()
  - Tests if this thread is alive.
- void setDaemon(boolean daemon);
  - Marks this thread as either a daemon thread (true) or a user thread (false).

- boolean isDaemon()
    - Tests if this thread is a daemon thread.
- long getId()
    - Returns the identifier of this Thread.
- void setName(String name)
    - Changes the name of this thread to be equal to the argument name.
- String getName()
    - Returns this thread's name.
- void setPriority(int newPriority)
    - Changes the priority of this thread.
    - In Java thread priority can be 1 to 10.
    - May use predefined constants MIN_PRIORITY(1), NORM_PRIORITY(5), MAX_PRIORITY(10).
- int getPriority()
    - Returns this thread's priority.
- ThreadGroup getThreadGroup()
    - Returns the thread group to which this thread belongs.
- void interrupt()
    - Interrupts this thread -- will raise InterruptedException in the thread.
- boolean isInterrupted()
    - Tests whether this thread has been interrupted.

Daemon threads

- By default all threads are non-daemon threads (including main thread).
- We can make a thread as daemon by calling its setDaemon(true) method -- before starting the thread.
- Daemon threads are also called as background threads and they support/help the non-daemon threads.
- When all non-daemon threads are terminated, the Daemon threads get automatically terminated.

Thread life cycle

- Thread.State state = th.getState();
- NEW, RUNNABLE, BLOCKED, WAITING, TIMED_WAITING, TERMINATED
    - NEW: New thread object created (not yet started its execution).
    - RUNNABLE: Thread is running on CPU or ready for execution. Scheduler picks ready thread and dispatch it on CPU.

- BLOCKED: Thread is waiting for lock to be released. Thread blocks due to synchronized block/method.
- WAITING: Thread is waiting for the notification. Waiting thread release the acquired lock.
- TIMED_WAITING: Thread is waiting for the notification or timeout duration. Waiting thread release the acquired lock.
- TERMINATED: Thread terminates when run() method is completed, stopped explicitly using stop(), or an exception is raised while executing run().

Synchronization

- When multiple threads try to access same resource at the same time, it is called as Race condition.
- Example: Same bank account undergo deposit() and withdraw() operations simultaneously.
- It may yield in unexpected/undesired results.
- This problem can be solved by Synchronization.
- The synchronized keyword in Java provides thread-safe access.
- Java synchronization internally use the Monitor object associated with any object. It provides lock/unlock mechanism.
- "synchronized" can be used for block or method.
- It acquires lock on associated object at the start of block/method and release at the end. If lock is already acquired by other thread, the current thread is blocked (until lock is released by the locking thread).
- "synchronized" non-static method acquires lock on the current object i.e. "this". Example:

```
class Account {
    // ...
    public synchronized void deposit(double amount) {
        double newBalance = this.balance + amount;
        this.balance = newBalance;
    }
    public synchronized void withdraw(double amount) {
        double newBalance = this.balance - amount;
        this.balance = newBalance;
    }
}
```

- "synchronized" static method acquires lock on metadata object of the class i.e. MyClass.class. Example:

```
class MyClass {
    private static int field = 0;
    // called by incThread
    public synchronized static void incMethod() {
        field++;
    }
    // called by decThread
    public synchronized static void decMethod() {
        field--;
    }
}
```

- "synchronized" block acquires lock on the given object.

```
// assuming that no method in Account class is synchronized.

// thread1
synchronized(acc) {
    acc.deposit(1000.0);
}

// thread2
synchronized(acc) {
    acc.withdraw(1000.0);
}
```

- Alternatively lock can be acquired using RentrantLock since Java 5.0. Example code:

```
class Example {
    private final ReentrantLock rl = new ReentrantLock();
    public void method() {
        rl.lock();
        try {
            // ...
        }
        finally {
            rl.unlock();
        }
    }
}
```

- Synchronized collections
    - Synchronized collections (e.g. Vector, Hashtable, ...) use synchronized keyword (block/method) to handle race conditions.