

Multithreading

16 April 2025 23:13

Process

A process is an independent program in execution. It has its own memory space system resources and at least one thread (main thread).

Example: Running two Java applications means two separate processes. (e.g., game and a calculator)

Thread

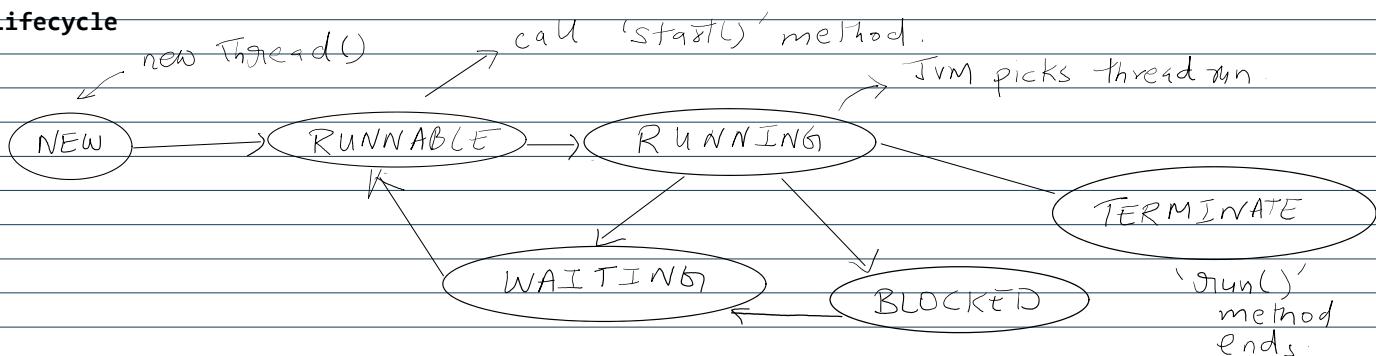
A thread is the smallest unit of execution within a process. Multiple threads can run concurrently in the same process, sharing memory and resources.

Example: In a web browser (a process) One thread may load the page another, may play a video.

Multiprocessing vs Multithreading

Feature	Multi-processing	Multithreading
Units of execution.	Multiple processes.	Multiple threads.
Memory usage.	More (Each process has separate memory)	Less (threads share memory)
Context switching	Expensive	Faster
Communication	Interprocess communication (IPC) Needed.	Direct sharing of variables.
Stability	More stable (crash isolated)	Less stable (one thread crash may affect others).

Thread Lifecycle



Creating Threads in Java

- ① By extending Thread class

```
public class MyClass extends Thread {  
    public void run() {  
        System.out.println("Thread is running...");  
    }  
}
```

- ② By implementing Runnable Interface

```
public class MyRunnable implements Runnable {  
    public void run() {  
    }  
}
```

```

public class MyRunnable implements Runnable {
    public void run() {
        System.out.println("Runnable Thread is running ...");
    }
}

```

Usage:

```

Thread t = new Thread(new MyRunnable());
t.start();

```

Common Methods

- `start()` => Starts thread execution.
- `run()` => Code to execute in thread.
- `sleep(ms)` => Pause thread for milliseconds.
- `join()` => Waits for the thread to die.
- `yield()` => Hint to thread scheduler to pause.
- `isAlive()` => Checks if thread is alive.
- `setPriority()` => Sets priority(1 to 10)
- `getPriority()` => Gets priority

Thread Synchronization: When multiple thread access shared data. (Example of bank account.)
 Bears a risk of data inconsistency. Synchronization ensures only one thread access or critical section at a time.

Synchronized method:

```

class BankAccount{
    private int balance = 1000;
    public synchronized void withdraw(int amount){
        if(balance >= amount){
            System.out.println(Thread.currentThread().getName() + " is withdrawing " + amount);
            Balance -= amount;
        } else{
            System.out.println("insufficient balance for " + Thread.currentThread().getName());
        }
    }
}

```

Synchronized blocks

```

public void withdraw(int amount){
    synchronized(this){
        // critical section
    }
}

```

Inter thread communication.

1. `wait()` => releases locks
2. `notify()` => wakes up a single waiting thread
3. `notifyAll()` => wakes up all waiting thread

Example:

```

synchronized(obj){
    while(!condition){
        Obj.wait();
    }
}

```

```
//do work  
Obj.notify();  
}  
}
```

Problems:

1. **Deadlock**
2. **Race conditions**
3. **Starvation: Thread never gets cpu time.**