



# ExecutorService and the Callable Interface

## General part

- Explain the benefits from using a Thread Pool
- Explains ways to handle "returned values" from Threads

## Practical part

The file; *urls.txt* on Fronter contains a small code-snippet that sets up an array with URLs pointing to the main page of all CA-2 Front-pages.

### Getting Started:

Create a Web-project as the starting point for this exercise. Initially you don't need any web-functionality so just add your code in a relevant package in the source folder. For part 3-5 you need the "web-functionality".

### Implement the following features, using the code-snippet in urls.txt

- 1) As you hopefully know, all CA-2 Front-pages should include the following IDs:

```
<div id="authors"> Peter Hansen, Ole Jensen, Ida Hansen </div>
<div id="class">A or B or COS</div>
<div id= "group"> Group number </div>
```

- Use an ExecutorService and the Callable interface to implement a solution that can connect to all URLs and scrape the author, class and group information from all the pages<sup>1</sup>.
  - The solution must take advantage of a multi-core System.
  - Initially just print the values to the console
- 2) Create a class Group that models the information provided via the three divs, and rewrite your code to build a List<Group> with information about all groups.
  - 3) Implement a REST-service: GET `api/group` which should return a JSON representation of all the Scraped information in your List.
  - 4) The REST call above is very costly (in terms of server resources). Since data are not likely to change very often, come up with a simple solution (2-3 lines of code) that will cache the result and reuse this cached value after the first call.
  - 5) If the service we implemented in step-3+4 were to be used for a real checks of which groups have an online CA-2 page, we cannot cache the value forever. Change the code above to refresh the cache after a given amount of time (say 1hour).

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<sup>1</sup> Jsoup will make this a very simple task: <http://jsoup.org/> (See example below)

```
Document doc = Jsoup.connect("http://catwo-2ndsemester.rhcloud.com/CA2/ ").get();
Elements authors = doc.select("#authors");
String authors = authors.text();
```

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

*You might feel that this was a silly exercise, invented by your teachers only for the sake of the exercise.*

Screen Scraping or Web Scraping ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_scraping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_scraping)) is actually very common thing to do for many real life scenarios.



***If you don't feel that this semester has provided you with enough challenges consider this scenario.***

*You would like to have live data for your "momondo-exercise" but how do you get it?*