

Middleware and Web Services

Lecture 3: Introduction to Application Server

doc. Ing. Tomáš Vitvar, Ph.D.

tomas@vitvar.com • @TomasVitvar • <http://vitvar.com>



Czech Technical University in Prague

Faculty of Information Technologies • Software and Web Engineering • <http://vitvar.com/courses/mdw>



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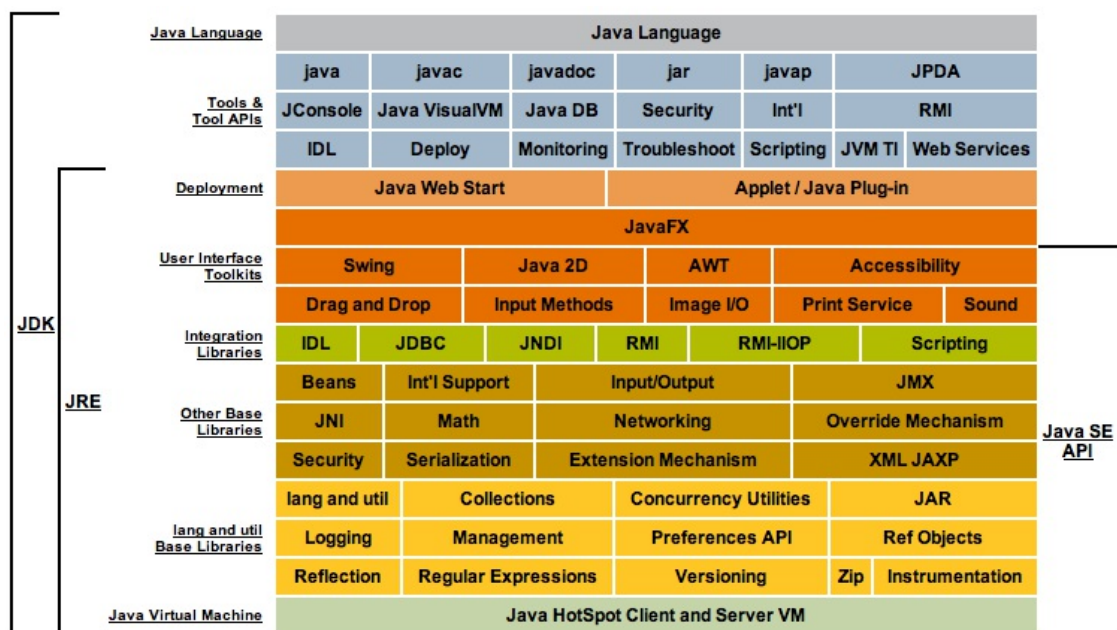
Overview

- **Architecture**
- I/O Communication
- Servlet Technology

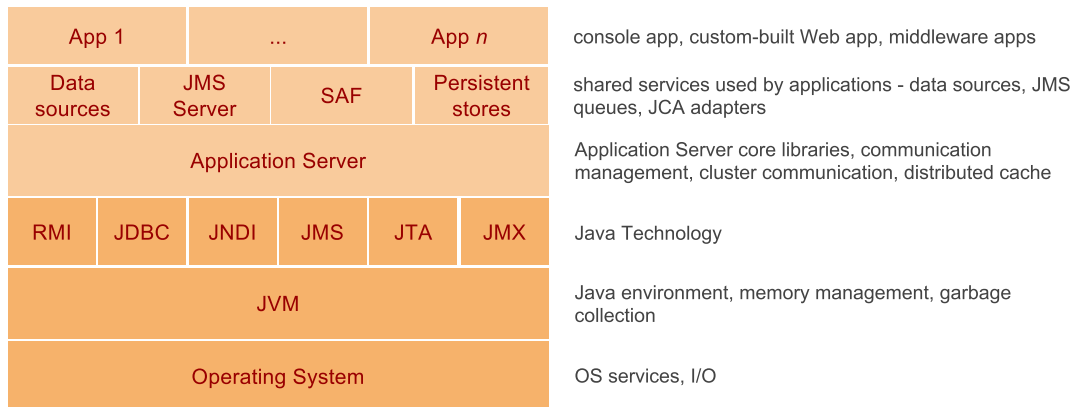
Application Server Overview

- An environment that runs an application logic
 - A client communicates with the server using an application protocol
- Application Server
 - A modular environment
 - provides technology to realize enterprise systems
 - JEE containers – Java technology for AS components
 - Supports a variety of objects such as Servlets, JPSs, JMS
 - Provides services such as naming and directory, performance, failover
 - Provides Web server capabilities
 - Can be a single server or multiple servers
- Web Tier – HTTP Server
 - Web Server supports HTTP only
 - HTTP request/response, security, proxy, caching

Standard Java Technology Stack



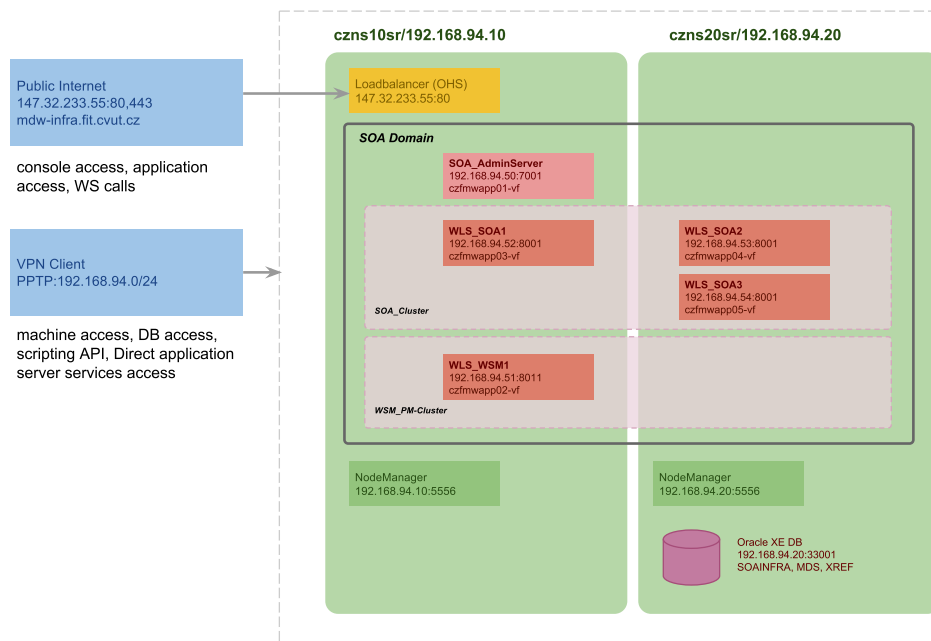
Application Server Layers



• Features

- *AS instance appears as a single process in the OS*
 - you can use standard OS commands to investigate its operation
 - AS listens on a single or multiple IPs (VIPs) and a tcp port
- *AS is a Java process*
 - you can use Java tools to investigate its operation
 - Garbage collector stats, thread dumps, memory allocations, etc.

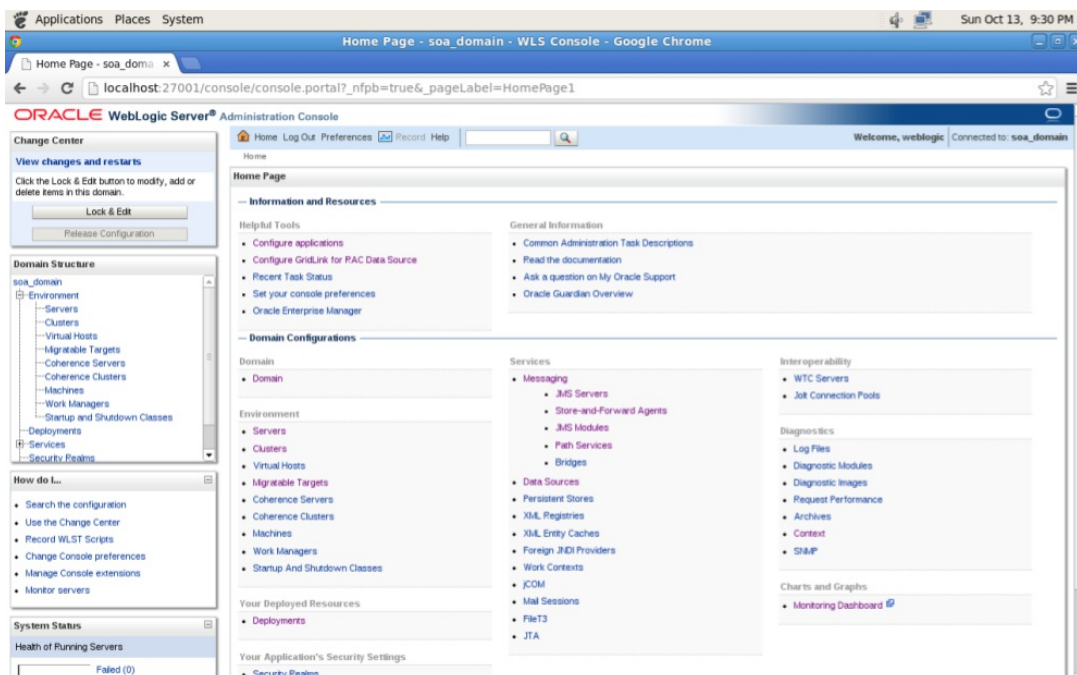
Example Weblogic Infrastructure



Terminology

- Domain
 - A group of servers with specific configuration of applications and objects
- Administration Server
 - An instance of application server that manages the domain
- Managed Server
 - An instance of application server running instances of applications and objects
- Cluster
 - A group of managed servers; they contain the same copy of applications and objects
- Machine
 - A physical machine and OS running one or more servers (Admin or Managed)
- Node Manager
 - A process that provides an access to admin and managed servers on the machine
- Load Balancer
 - A network element that distributes client requests to managed servers based on a specific algorithm

Console Example – Weblogic Server



Application Server from the OS View

- Process ID, command line arguments

```
5 $ ps ax | grep WLS_SOA
6 1820 ?        Sl      289:15 /opt/oracle/jrockit/bin/java -jrockit
7 -Xms768m -Xmx1536m -Dweblogic.Name=WLS_SOA1 -Djava.security.policy=
8 /opt/oracle/11g/fmw/wlserver_10.3/server/lib/weblogic.policy
9 -Dweblogic.ProductionModeEnabled=true
10 ...
```

- Open files by the process

```
5 $ ll -l /proc/1820/fd
6 lr-x----- 1 oracle oinstall 64 Oct 12 16:53 0 -> /dev/null
7 l-wx----- 1 oracle oinstall 64 Oct 12 16:53 1 -> /opt/oracle/11g/domains/soa_domain/se
8 lr-x----- 1 oracle oinstall 64 Oct 12 16:53 10 -> /opt/oracle/11g/fmw/oracle_common/mo
9 lr-x----- 1 oracle oinstall 64 Oct 12 16:53 100 -> /opt/oracle/11g/fmw/modules/com.bea
10 ...
```

- Open sockets by the process

```
5 $ netstat -anp | grep 1820
6 tcp  0 0 192.168.94.52:8001      0.0.0.0:*          LISTEN      1820/java
7 tcp  0 0 192.168.94.10:8088      0.0.0.0:*          LISTEN      1820/java
8 tcp  0 0 192.168.94.10:39763     192.168.94.20:33001 ESTABLISHED 1820/java
9 tcp  0 0 192.168.94.52:8001      192.168.94.20:59589 ESTABLISHED 1820/java
10 tcp  0 0 192.168.94.10:33498     192.168.94.20:33001 ESTABLISHED 1820/java
11 tcp  0 0 192.168.94.10:33504     192.168.94.20:33001 ESTABLISHED 1820/java
12 ...
```

Application Server from the JVM View

- Thread dumps

- All threads that the application server uses, a snapshot on all the threads
- Prints stack trace of currently run threads

```
5 | $ jrockit 1820 print_threads
```

- Command line arguments

- Prints all command line arguments of the JVM process
- Memory settings, log file locations, etc.

```
5 | $ jrockit 1820 command_line
```

- Java flight recordings

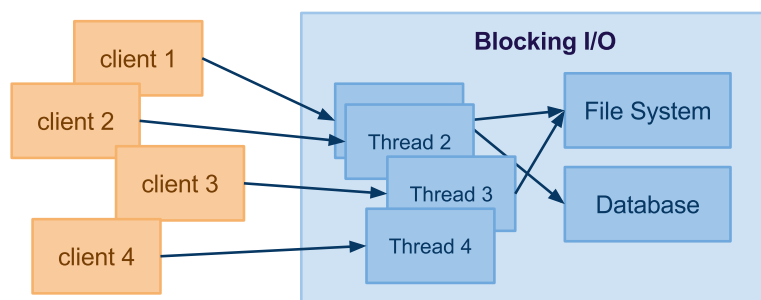
- Recordings of the JVM process in time (usually 5 minutes)
- Shows memory usages, garbage collections phases, threads statuses, etc.

Overview

- Architecture
- **I/O Communication**
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Blocking I/O Model

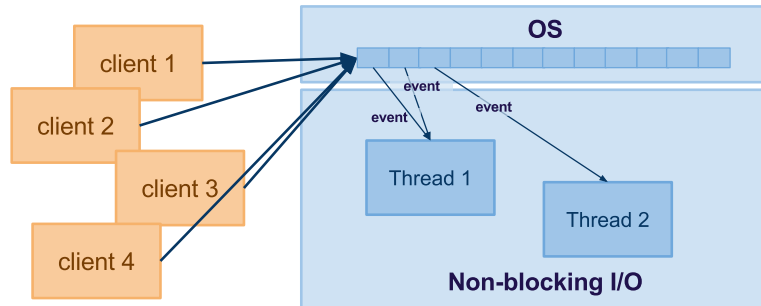
- The server creates a thread for every connection
 - *For example, 1K connections = 1K threads, big overhead*



- Characteristics
 - *the thread is reserved for the connection*
 - *When processing of the request requires other interactions with DB/FS or network communication is slow*
 - *scales very bad as the thread's execution is "blocked"*

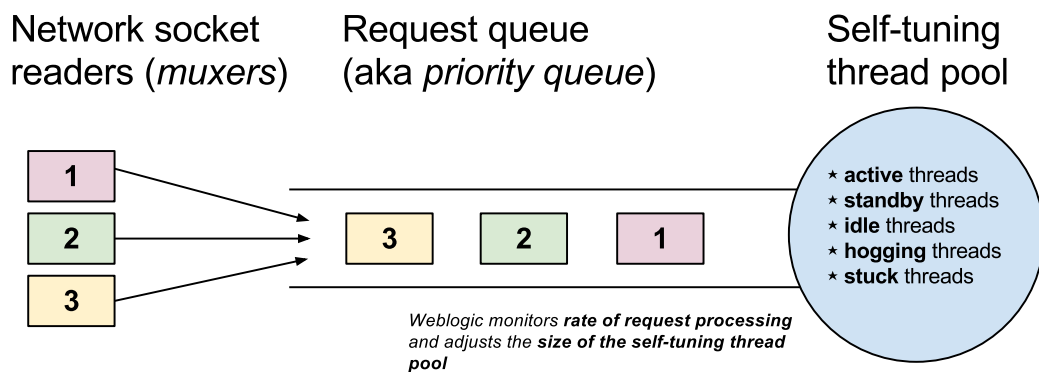
Non-Blocking I/O Model

- Connections maintained by the OS, not the Web app
 - *The Web app registers events, OS triggers events when occur*



- Characteristics
 - *Event examples: new connection, read, write, closed*
 - *The app may create working threads, but controls the number!*
 - *much less number of working threads as opposed to blocking I/O*

Handling Requests in Weblogic



- **Muxer** – component that handles communication via network sockets.
- **Request queue** – queue of requests to be processed.
- **Self-tuning thread pool** – a pool of threads in various states.
- **Work manager** – a configuration of **maximum threads** and a **capacity** that can be used to handle requests for a specific application/service.

Overview

- Architecture
- I/O Communication
- **Servlet Technology**

Overview

- Technology to extend application server functionalities
 - *A Java class that can respond to any type of requests*
 - *A servlet defines an interface for a specific protocol*
 - *Your application implements the servlet's interface*
- Commonly used to respond to HTTP requests
 - *A basis for an application running on an application server*
 - *HTTP Servlet Java classes*
 - **HttpServlet** – *provides HTTP protocol interface*
 - **HttpServletRequest** – *represents HTTP request*
 - **HttpServletResponse** – *represents HTTP response*

Directory Structure

- Your application
 - collection of documents and libraries your application requires
 - packaged in **war** or **ear** archive
 - JAR that includes not only java classes but also additional resources such as **.xml**, **.html**, **.js**, **.css**, **.jpg** files.
- Content of **war** package

```
# web archive root
war
|
| # directories and documents accessible through the app root /
| # such as img, css, js, ...
|-- (public-directory | public-document)*
| # directories and documents internal to your application
|-- WEB-INF
|   |-- (private-directory | private-document)*
|   |   # compiled java classes of your application
|   |-- classes
|   |   # all java libraries your application requires
|   |-- lib
|   |   # configuration of your application
|   |-- web.xml
|   |-- # other platform-specific configurations
|       # such as app-engine-web.xml for GAE
```

Configuration in web.xml

- **web.xml** defines configuration for
 - list of servlets, mapping of servlets to URL paths, welcome files, filters, EJB references, authentication mechanism, etc.
 - basic configuration example:

```
1  <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
2  <web-app
3      xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
4      xmlns="http://java.sun.com/xml/ns/javaee">
5
6      <servlet>
7          <servlet-name>main</servlet-name>
8          <servlet-class>com.vitvar.mdw.main</servlet-class>
9      </servlet>
10
11     <servlet-mapping>
12         <servlet-name>main</servlet-name>
13         <url-pattern>/</url-pattern>
14     </servlet-mapping>
15
16     <welcome-file-list>
17         <welcome-file>index.jsp</welcome-file>
18     </welcome-file-list>
19 </web-app>
```

Handling HTTP Requests

- HTTP Servlets

- *Servlet is a class that extends capabilities of application servers via a request-response programming model*
- *HTTP servlets are classes that extend **HTTPServlet** abstract class*
- *Example:*

```
1 package com.vitvar.mdw;
2
3 import javax.servlet.http.HttpServlet;
4 import javax.servlet.http.HttpServletRequest;
5 import javax.servlet.http.HttpServletResponse;
6
7 public class Main extends HttpServlet {
8     public doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response) {
9         // GET method implementation here
10    }
11
12    public doPost(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response) {
13        // POST method implementation here
14    }
15
16    // other methods such as doPost, doDelete, doOptions
17 }
```

Support for Sessions

- **HttpSession** interface

- *Allows to store session data in the memory*
- *Java API for **HTTP State Management***
 - *Hides details from developers*

```
1 // method doGet in a servlet
2 public doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse response) {
3     // access the session object through the request
4     HttpSession session = request.getSession();
5
6     // unique identification of the session, the value used for the cookie
7     String id = session.getId();
8
9     // get the value of the attribute
10    Object value = session.getAttribute("data");
11
12    // set the value of the attribute
13    session.setAttribute("data", new String("some data"));
14
15    // this will set a max-age of the session cookie
16    session.setMaxInactiveInterval(3600);
17 }
```