

Middleware Architectures 1

Lecture 4: Application Server Architecture

doc. Ing. Tomáš Vitvar, Ph.D.

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



Czech Technical University in Prague

Faculty of Information Technologies • Software and Web Engineering • <https://vitvar.com/lectures>



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Overview

- **Application Server Architecture**
- Serving Requests
- Objects Distribution

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, JSPs, 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*

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

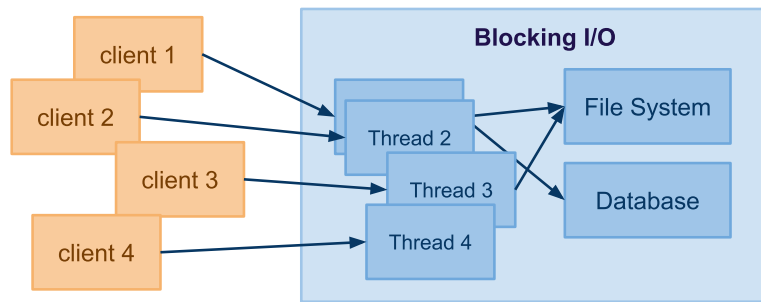
Servlet Technology

- 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

Overview

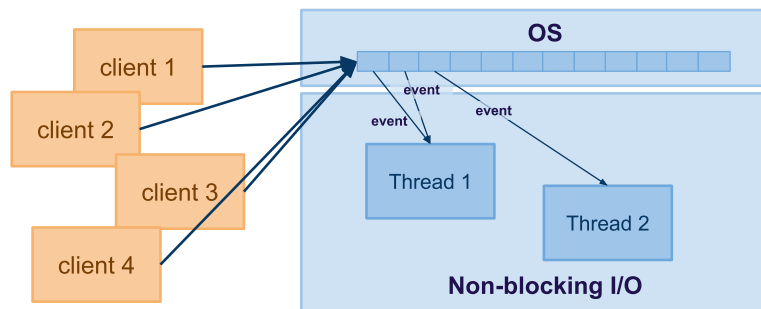
- Application Server Architecture
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Blocking (Synchronous) I/O



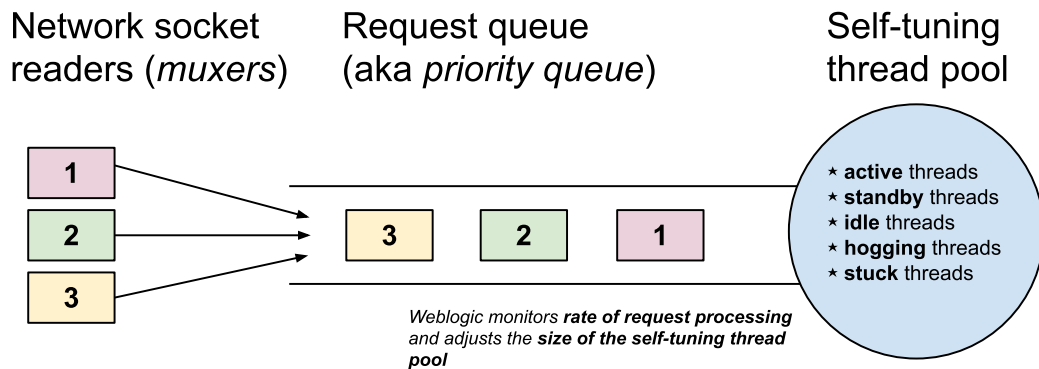
- Inbound connection
 - A server creates a thread for every inbound connection
 - For example, 1K connections = 1K threads, big overhead
 - A thread is reserved for the entire duration of the request processing
- Outbound connection
 - A thread is blocked when outbound connection is made
 - When outbound connection is slow, the scalability is poor

Non-Blocking (Asynchronous) I/O



- Inbound connections
 - The connection is maintained by the OS, not the server app
 - The Web app registers events, OS triggers events when they occur
 - The app may create working threads and controls their number
- Outbound connections
 - The app registers a callback that is called when the data is available
 - Event loop

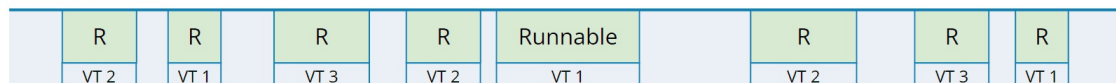
Components



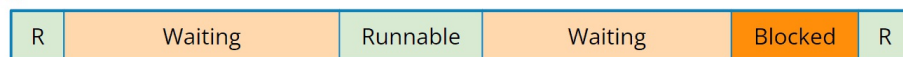
- **Muxer** – component that handles communication via network sockets.
- **Request queue** – queue of requests to be processed.
- **Self-tuning thread pool** – a pool of threads in various states.
- **Work manager** – a configuration of **maximum threads** and a **capacity** that can be used to handle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

Java Virtual Threads

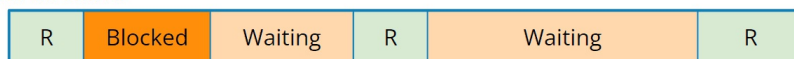
Carrier thread:



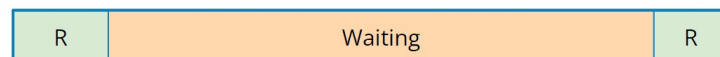
Virtual thread 1:



Virtual thread 2:



Virtual thread 3:



- Virtual threads mapped to a platform threads (carrier threads)
- Blocking operations do not block carrier threads

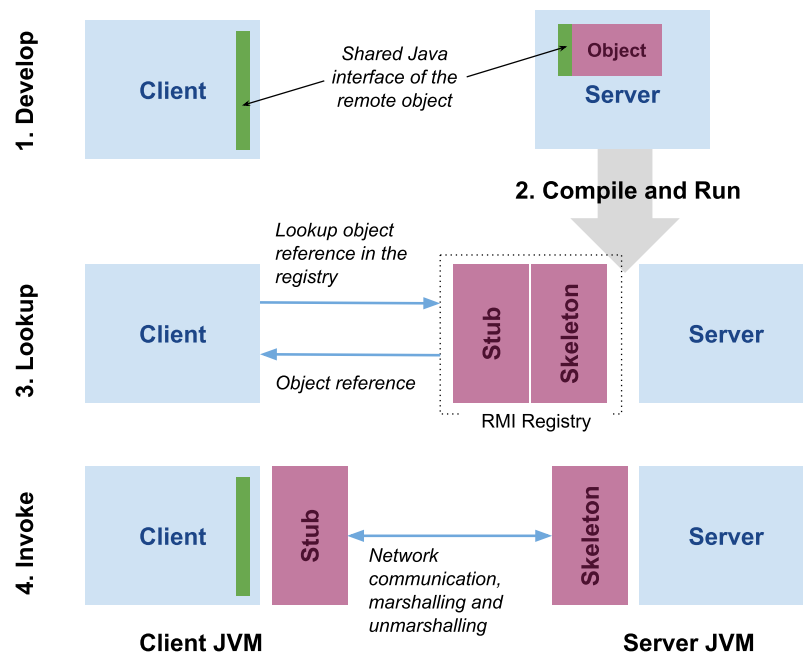
Overview

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Remote Method Invocation

- Communication among Java-based applications
 - *Methods of a Java class can be invoked by other Java class remotely*
 - *Uses Java Remote Method Protocol (JRMP)*
 - *Java-specific application protocol over TCP/IP*
 - *Basis for JEE technologies, such as JMS*
- Terminology
 - **Client** – *a program that invokes a remote method*
 - **Server** – *a program that exports a remote object*
 - **Stub** – *a representation of the client-side object for communication*
 - **Skeleton** – *a representation of the server-side object for communication*
 - **Registry** – *a component that holds a stub*
 - **Marshalling/Unmarshalling** – *a process of transforming memory representation of the object to a form suitable for network transmission and vice-versa*

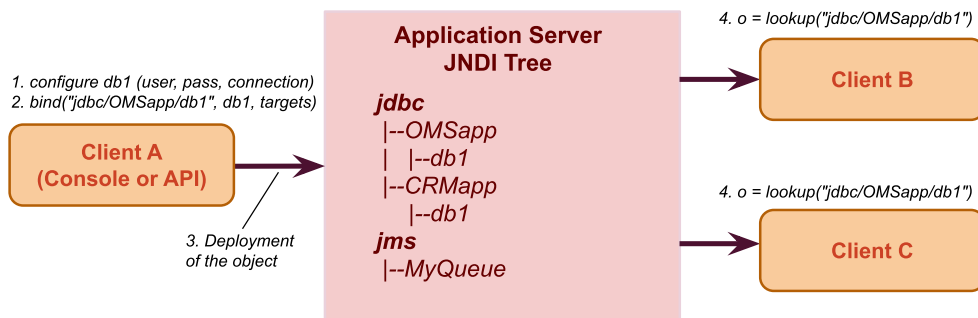
RMI Stubs and Skeletons



Java Naming and Directory Interface

- **Distribution of objects**
 - *Application Server is a central directory for various objects*
 - *Datasources, JMS queues, etc.*
 - *Clients store objects in the central directory*
 - *Administrator configures objects using a console or API*
 - *Clients retrieve objects from the central directory*
- **Benefits**
 - *replication of objects across clients*
 - *central configuration of objects' parameters*
 - *scalability – allowing/disabling connections as required*

JNDI Example



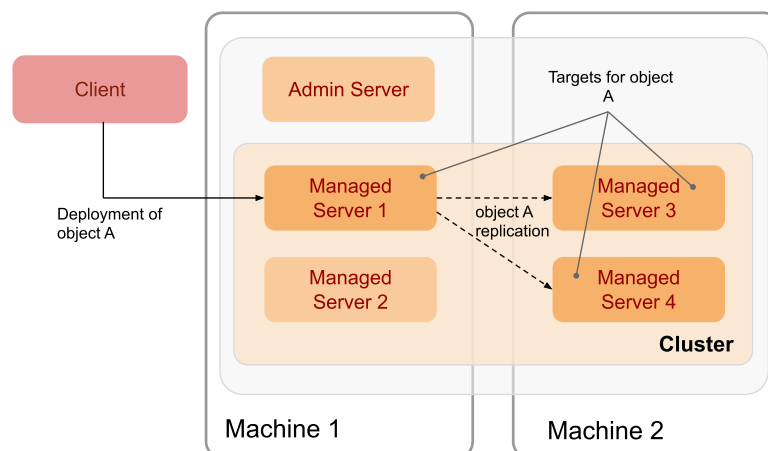
- Example Scenario

- Client A creates a datasource, configures it and registers it in the JNDI tree
→ Client A is a Admin server console app
- Client B and C lookup the object under specific JNDI name and retrieves the object from the tree
→ They get the object from the tree and use it to connect to the DB
→ They do not need to know any DB specific details
→ The object is pre-configured from the server

Deployment to Cluster

- Deployment of an object

- Client deploys to one managed server in the cluster
- Object gets replicated to its targets
→ Targets can be configured for the object, usually all servers but can be selected servers

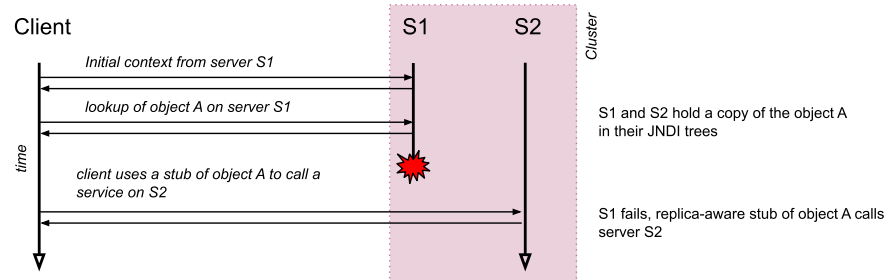


Object Failover

- Failover

- *Failover = ability to locate an object on another server that holds a copy of the object without impact on the performance and configuration*

Replica-aware stub of object A, failover in cluster



- *A client gets a stub of the object by calling **lookup** on the context*
- *A client uses the stub of the object to access the object on the server*
- *When a server fails, **replica-aware stub** calls the next server that holds the object copy*