

Middleware and Web Services

Lecture 3: Introduction to Application Server

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Overview

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

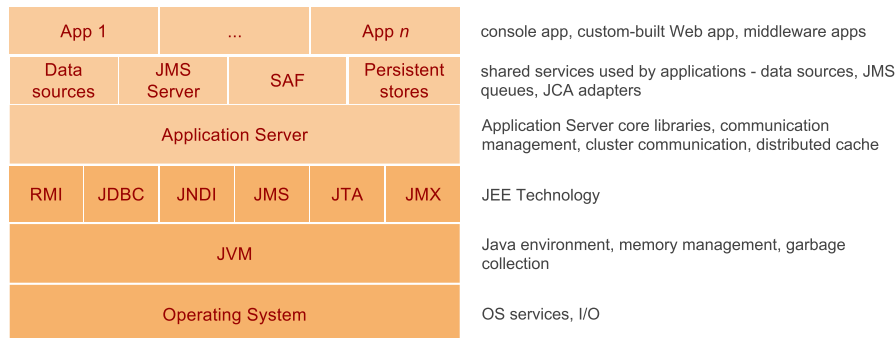
Application Server Overview

- 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*
- Communication models
 - *Blocking I/O (also called synchronous I/O)*
 - *Non-blocking I/O (also called asynchronous I/O)*

Java Enterprise Edition – JEE

- Java Enterprise Edition (JEE)
 - *Collection of technologies for server-side programming*
 - *Programming of application components*
 - *Main technologies*
 - *Servlet technology and Java Server Pages (JSP)*
 - *Remote Method Invocation (RMI)*
 - *Java Database Connectivity Services (JDBC)*
 - *Java Messaging System (JMS)*
- Basis for many application servers such as
 - *Oracle WebLogic*
 - *Google AppEngine (Java)*
 - *JBoss*
 - *GlassFish*
 - *IBM WebSphere*

Application Server Layers



- Features

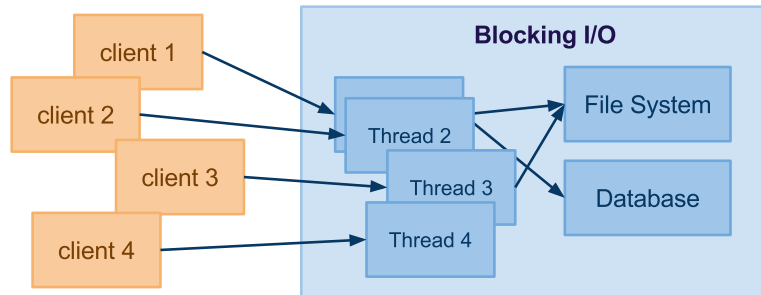
- *AS appears as a single process in the OS*
 - *you can use standard OS commands to investigate its operation*
 - *AS listens on a single or multiple IPs (VIPs) and a tcp port*
- *AS is a Java process*
 - *you can use Java tools to investigate its operation*
 - *Garbage collector stats, thread dumps,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

Overview

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

Blocking I/O Model

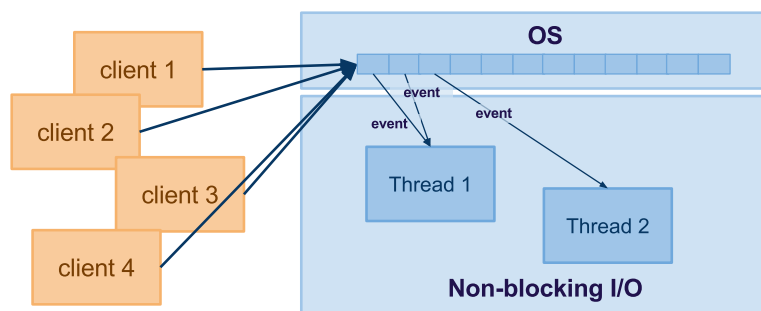
- The server creates a thread for every connection
 - For example, 1K connections = 1K threads, big overhead



- 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

Overview

- Architecture
- 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 }
```