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# Lab 4 - web api, multithreading, multiprocessing, os, review of json, gui
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# lab4process.py - Multiprocessing

import urllib.request, json
import os
import tkinter as tk
import tkinter.messagebox as tkmb
from collections import defaultdict
import time
import tkinter.filedialog
import multiprocessing as mp
from dotenv import load_dotenv

# You can ignore and comment out two lines of below code if you don't store your
# API in .env file.
# -----
load_dotenv() #
myAPIkey = os.getenv("API_KEY")#
# -----

# API key is a secret but you can hardcode your API key here to fetch data
# HEADERS = {"X-API-Key": "INSERT-YOUR-API-KEY-HERE"}
HEADERS = {"X-API-Key": f"{myAPIkey}"}

class MainWin(tk.Tk):
    """
    A main tk window for the application, allowing users to select states and fetch
    national park data.
    """
    def __init__(self):
        super().__init__()
        self.title("US NPS")
        self._stateSelection = []
        self._dataAPI = []

        with open("states_hash.json", 'r') as fh:
            self._states_dic = json.load(fh)

        tk.Label(self, text="National Park Finder", fg="green", font=('Times',
17)).grid(row=0, column=0, columnspan=3, pady=10, padx=10)

        self.L1 = tk.Label(self, text="Select up to 5 states",
fg="black", font=('Times', 15))
        self.L1.grid(row=1, column=0, columnspan=3, pady=10)

        # Listbox and Scrollbar
        self.listbox = tk.Listbox(self, width = 50, height=10,
selectmode="multiple")
        self.scrollbar = tk.Scrollbar(self, orient=tk.VERTICAL,
command=self.listbox.yview)
        self.listbox.configure(yscrollcommand=self.scrollbar.set)

        # populate the listbox with US's states
        for state in self._states_dic.values() :

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        self.listbox.insert(tk.END, state)

self.listbox.grid(row=2, column=0, ipadx=5, padx=20, pady=20, sticky="nsew")
self.scrollbar.grid(row=2, column=1, sticky="ns")

        # Select button
        self.B = tk.Button(self, text="Submit choice", font=('Times', 15), command=
self.onClicked)
        self.B.grid(row=3, column=0, columnspan=2, padx=20, pady=20)

        # status label
        self.L2 = tk.Label(self, text="", font=('Times', 15))
        self.L2.grid(row=4, column=0, columnspan=3, pady=10, padx=10)

def onClicked(self):
    """
    A callback function for submit button to check if the selection is valid,
    and proceed to fetch park data for the selected states.
    """
    # Clear the previous state selection
    self._stateSelection = []

    # Check the number of selected states
    if len(self.listbox.curselection()) == 0 or
len(self.listbox.curselection()) > 5:
        tkmb.showerror("Error", "Please select between 1 and 5 states.")
        self.listbox.selection_clear(0, tk.END)
        return
    else:
        for index in self.listbox.curselection():
            codeState, nameState = list(self._states_dic.items())[index]
            self._stateSelection.append((codeState, nameState))
        self.parksFinder()

def parksFinder(self):
    """
    A method which fetches park data for selected states using multiple
threads,
show the fetched data in the listbox and the fetching status in a label.
    """
    self.L1['text'] = "Select parks to save parks info to file"
    self.B['text'], self.B['command'] = "Save", self.saveFile
    self.listbox.delete(0, tk.END)

    args = []
    for choice in self._stateSelection:
        # an ex of choice = "AL": "Alabama"
        stateCode, stateName = choice

        # Configure API request
        endpoint = f'https://developer.nps.gov/api/v1/parks?
stateCode={stateCode}'

        args.append((endpoint, stateName))

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parkDict['description']

        tempAcList = []
        for act in parkDict['activities']:
            tempAcList.append(act['name'])
        tempDict['activities'] = ", ".join(tempAcList)
        tempDict['url'] = parkDict['url']
        break

        parkDictForFile[park] = tempDict
        listToSave.append(parkDictForFile)

        # saving file in selected directory
        filename = stateName + ".json"
        pathToSaveFile = directory + "/" + filename
        filesSave.append(filename)

        with open(pathToSaveFile, 'w') as fh:
            json.dump(listToSave, fh, indent=3)

        # create a confirm messagebox
        filesSaveStr = ", ".join(filesSave)

        confirmed = tkmb.askyesno("Confirmation", f"Save files:
{filesSaveStr}")
        if confirmed:
            self.closeWin()

        else:
            self.listbox.selection_clear(0, tk.END)

    def closeWin(self):
        """
        A method which will close the application window.
        """
        self.destroy()
        self.quit()

    def requestAPI(args):
        """
        A global function which fetches data from the given API endpoint and is
        accessed by multi-processes.
        """
        endpoint, stateName = args[0], args[1]

        # Make API request and get response
        req = urllib.request.Request(endpoint, headers=HEADERS)
        response = urllib.request.urlopen(req)

        # Parse JSON data from response
        data = json.loads(response.read().decode())

        return {stateName:data}

    def main():

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app = MainWin()
app.mainloop()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    main()
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Step 5: Analysis

Execution time order from slowest to fastest: Serial -> Multiprocessing -> Multithreading

The serial approach is slowest because it executes tasks in a sequential manner. Each task has to complete before the next one begins, which results in idle time if the task involves waiting for a network response.

Multithreading is faster than serial because it allows for concurrent execution. When one thread is blocked waiting for a network response, other threads can continue execution.

This makes the most of the time spent waiting for I/O and is why multithreading is usually the fastest approach for I/O-bound tasks, even considering Python's Global Interpreter Lock (GIL).

Multiprocessing is faster than serial but slower than multithreading in this context.

Multiprocessing involves multiple Python processes each with their own interpreter and memory space, which means there's a larger overhead compared to threading. Additionally, multiprocessing can outperform threading for CPU-bound tasks, but for I/O-bound tasks like in this lab (fetching data from APIs), the added overhead and lack of shared memory make it slower than multithreading.

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