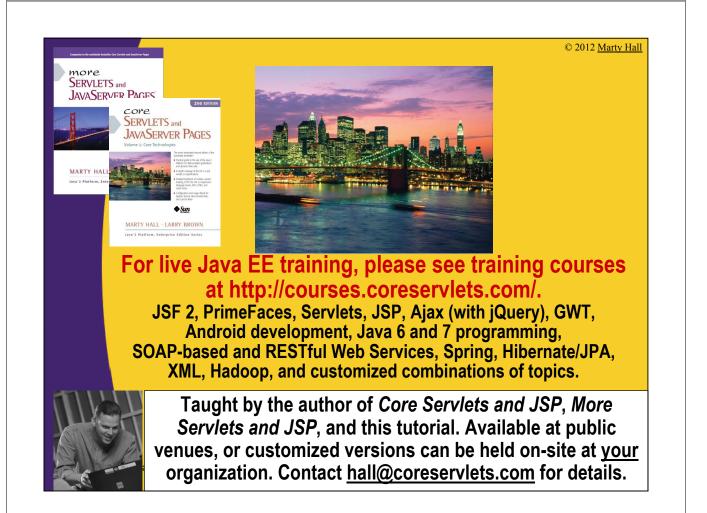


Multithreaded Programming in Java

Originals of Slides and Source Code for Examples: http://courses.coreservlets.com/Course-Materials/java.html

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Agenda

• Why threads?

Basic approach

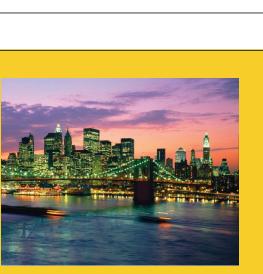
- Make a task list with Executors.newFixedThreadPool
- Add tasks to list with taskList.execute(someRunnable)

Three variations on the theme

- Separate classes that implement Runnable
- Main app implements Runnable
- Inner classes that implement Runnable

Related topics

- Race conditions and synchronization
- Helpful Thread-related methods
- Advanced topics in concurrency



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Overview

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Motivation for Concurrent Programming

Pros

- Advantages even on single-processor systems
 - Efficiency
 - Downloading network data files
 - Convenience
 - A clock icon
 - Multi-client applications
 - HTTP Server, SMTP Server
- Many computers have multiple processors
 - Find out via Runtime.getRuntime().availableProcessors()

Cons

- Significantly harder to debug and maintain than single-
- threaded apps

Steps for Concurrent Programming

First, make a task list

ExecutorService taskList =

Executors.newFixedThreadPool(poolSize);

- The poolSize is the maximum number of *simultaneous* threads. For many apps, it is higher than the number of tasks, so each task has a separate thread.
- There are other types of thread pools, but this is simplest

Second, add tasks to the list (three options)

- Make a separate class that implements Runnable.
 - Make instances of this class and start threading via taskList.execute(new MySeparateRunnableClass(...))
- Have your existing class implement Runnable.
 - Start threading via taskList.execute(this)
- Use an inner class.
 - taskList.execute(new MyInnerRunnableClass(...))

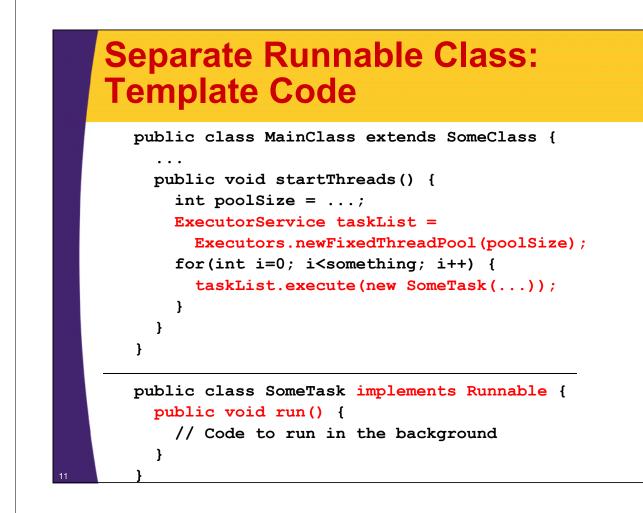


Approach One: Separate Classes that Implement Runnable

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Thread Mechanism One: Separate Runnable Class

- Make class that implements Runnable
 No import statements needed: Runnable is in java.lang
- Put actions to be performed in run method
 - public class MyRunnableClass implements Runnable {
 public void run() { ... }
- Create instance of your class
 - Or lots of instances if you want lots of threads
- Pass instance to ExecutorService.execute
 - taskList.execute(new MyRunnableClass(...));
 - The number of simultaneous threads won't exceed the maximum size of the pool.



Thread Mechanism One: Example (Continued)

```
import java.util.concurrent.*;
public class App1 extends SomeClass {
   public App1() {
       ExecutorService taskList =
           Executors.newFixedThreadPool(100);
       taskList.execute(new Counter(this, 6));
       taskList.execute(new Counter(this, 5));
                                                                                          The shutdown method means that the task list will no
                                                                                          Inger accept new tasks (via execute). Tasks already
in the queue will still run. It is not usually necessary
to call shutdown, but in this case, you want the
       taskList.execute(new Counter(this, 4));
                                                                                          program to exit after the tasks are completed. If you 
didn't call shutdown here, you would have to kill the 
process with Control-C (command line) or clicking the
       taskList.shutdown();
    }
                                                                                           red button (Eclipse), because a background thre
                                                                                          will still be running, waiting for new tasks to be added
to the queue.
   public void pause(double seconds) {
       try {
           Thread.sleep(Math.round(1000.0 * seconds));
        } catch (InterruptedException ie) { }
    }
```

Thread Mechanism One: Example

```
public class Counter implements Runnable {
    private final App1 mainApp;
    private final int loopLimit;

    public Counter(App1 mainApp, int loopLimit) {
        this.mainApp = mainApp;
        this.loopLimit = loopLimit;
    }

    public void run() {
        for(int i=0; i<loopLimit; i++) {
            String threadName = Thread.currentThread().getName();
            System.out.printf("%s: %s%n", threadName, i);
            mainApp.pause(Math.random());
        }
    }
}</pre>
```

Thread Mechanism One: Example (Continued)

```
public class App1Test {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
      new App1();
   }
}
```

Thread Mechanism One: Results

pool-1-thread-1: 0 pool-1-thread-2: 0 pool-1-thread-3: 0 pool-1-thread-3: 1 pool-1-thread-2: 2 pool-1-thread-1: 1 pool-1-thread-1: 1 pool-1-thread-3: 1 pool-1-thread-3: 2 pool-1-thread-1: 2 pool-1-thread-1: 3 pool-1-thread-1: 3 pool-1-thread-1: 4 pool-1-thread-1: 3 pool-1-thread-1: 5

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Pros and Cons of Separate-Class Approach

Advantages

- Loose coupling
 - · Can change pieces independently
 - Can reuse Runnable class in more than one application
- Passing arguments
 - If you want different threads to do different things, you pass args to constructor, which stores them in instance variables that run method uses
- Little danger of race conditions
 - You usually use this approach when there is no data shared among threads, so no need to synchronize.

Disadvantages

- Hard to access main app.
 - If you want to call methods in main app, you must
 - Pass reference to main app to constructor, which stores it
 - Make methods in main app be public



Approach Two: Main App Implements Runnable

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Review of Interfaces: Syntax

Shape interface

public interface Shape {
 public double getArea(); // No body, just specification
}

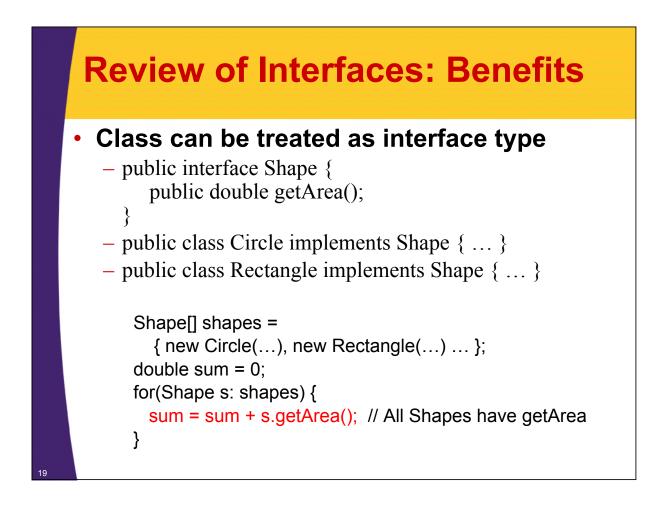
Circle class

public class Circle implements Shape {
 public double getArea() { some real code }
}

Note

- You can implement many interfaces

• public class MyClass implements Foo, Bar, Baz { ... }



Thread Mechanism Two: Main App Implements Runnable

Have main class implement Runnable

- Put actions in run method of existing class

public class MyClass extends Something implements Runnable {

```
public void run() { ... }
```

Pass the instance of main class to execute

- taskList.execute(this);

Main differences from previous approach

– Good

}

• run can easily call methods in main class, since it is *in* that class

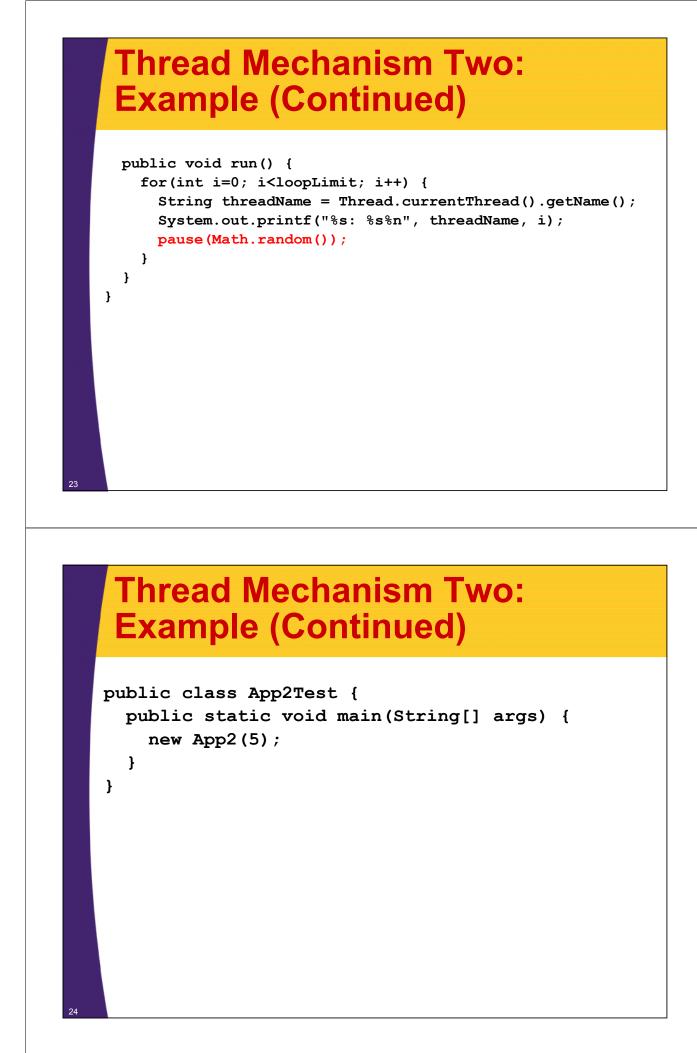
– Bad

- If run accesses any shared data (instance variables), you have to worry about conflicts (race conditions)
- Very hard to pass arguments, so each task starts off the same

Main App Implements Runnable: Template Code

Thread Mechanism Two: Example

```
public class App2 extends SomeClass implements Runnable {
  private final int loopLimit;
  public App2(int loopLimit) {
    this.loopLimit = loopLimit;
    ExecutorService taskList =
      Executors.newFixedThreadPool(100);
    taskList.execute(this);
    taskList.execute(this);
    taskList.execute(this);
    taskList.shutdown();
  }
  private void pause(double seconds) {
    try {
      Thread.sleep(Math.round(1000.0 * seconds));
    } catch (InterruptedException ie) { }
  }
                                                   Class continued on next slide
```



Thread Mechanism Two: Results

pool-1-thread-3: 0 pool-1-thread-1: 0 pool-1-thread-2: 0 pool-1-thread-2: 1 pool-1-thread-3: 1 pool-1-thread-3: 2 pool-1-thread-1: 1 pool-1-thread-2: 2 pool-1-thread-3: 3 pool-1-thread-2: 3 pool-1-thread-1: 2 pool-1-thread-3: 4 pool-1-thread-1: 3 pool-1-thread-2: 4 pool-1-thread-1: 4

Pros and Cons of Approach

Advantages

- Easy to access main app.
 - run is already inside main app. Can access any public or private methods or instance variables.

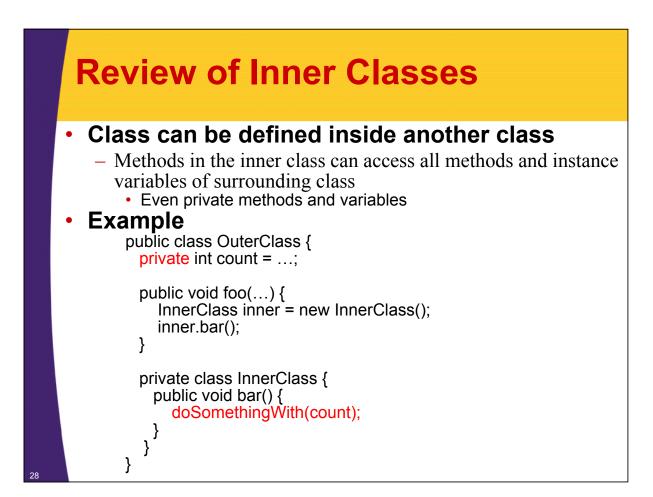
Disadvantages

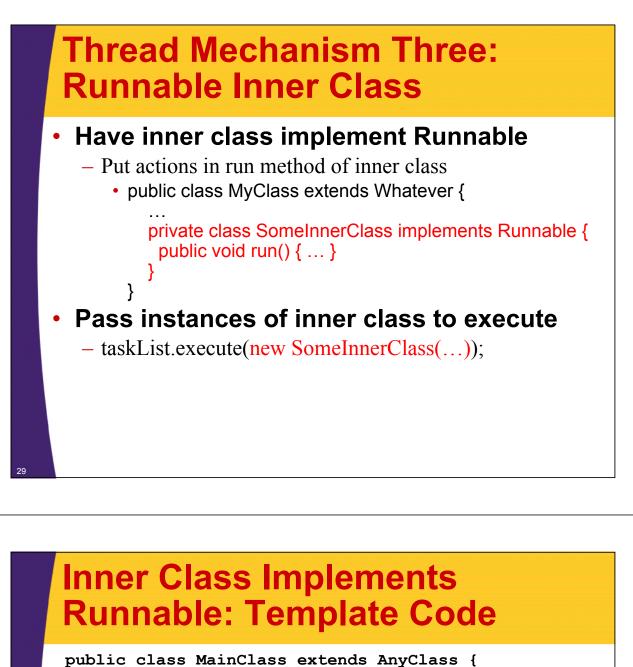
- Tight coupling
 - run method tied closely to this application
- Cannot pass arguments to run
 - So, you either start a single thread only (quite common), or all the threads do very similar tasks
- Danger of race conditions
 - You usually use this approach specifically because you want to access data in main application. So, if run modifies some shared data, you must synchronize.



Approach Three: Inner Class that Implements Runnable

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```
public class MainClass extends AnyClass {
    public void startThreads() {
        int poolSize = ...;
        ExecutorService taskList =
            Executors.newFixedThreadPool(poolSize);
        for(int i=0; i<someSize; i++) {
            taskList.execute(new RunnableClass(...));
        }
    }
    // code to run in background
    }
  }
}</pre>
```

Thread Mechanism Three: Example

```
public class App3 extends SomeClass {
  public App3() {
    ExecutorService taskList =
      Executors.newFixedThreadPool(100);
    taskList.execute(new Counter(6));
    taskList.execute(new Counter(5));
    taskList.execute(new Counter(4));
    taskList.shutdown();
  }
  private void pause(double seconds) {
    try {
      Thread.sleep(Math.round(1000.0 * seconds));
    } catch (InterruptedException ie) { }
}
```

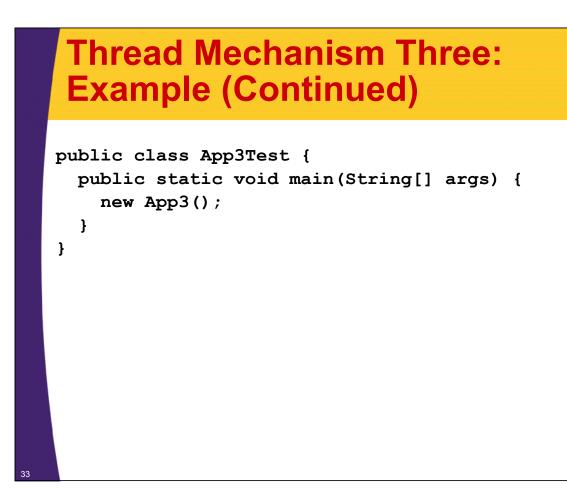
Class continued on next slide

Thread Mechanism Three: Example (Continued)

```
private class Counter implements Runnable { // Inner class
private final int loopLimit;

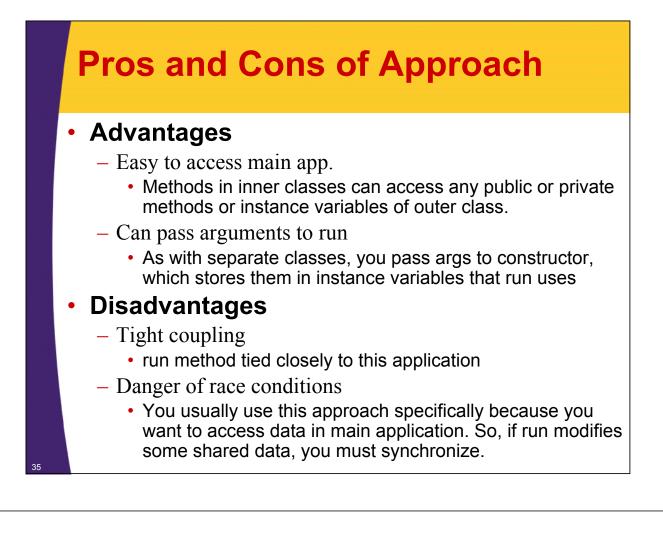
public Counter(int loopLimit) {
   this.loopLimit = loopLimit;
   }

   public void run() {
    for(int i=0; i<loopLimit; i++) {
      String threadName = Thread.currentThread().getName();
      System.out.printf("%s: %s%n", threadName, i);
      pause(Math.random());
   }
  }
}
</pre>
```



Thread Mechanism Three: Results

pool-1-thread-2: 0
pool-1-thread-1: 0
pool-1-thread-3: 1
pool-1-thread-3: 1
pool-1-thread-1: 1
pool-1-thread-1: 2
pool-1-thread-2: 1
pool-1-thread-3: 2
pool-1-thread-3: 3
pool-1-thread-1: 3
pool-1-thread-1: 4
pool-1-thread-1: 5
pool-1-thread-2: 2
pool-1-thread-2: 2
pool-1-thread-2: 3
pool-1-thread-2: 4





Summary of Approaches

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Pros and Cons

Separate class that implements Runnable

- Can pass args to run
- Cannot easily access data in main class (and only public)
- Usually no worry about race conditions

Main class implements Runnable

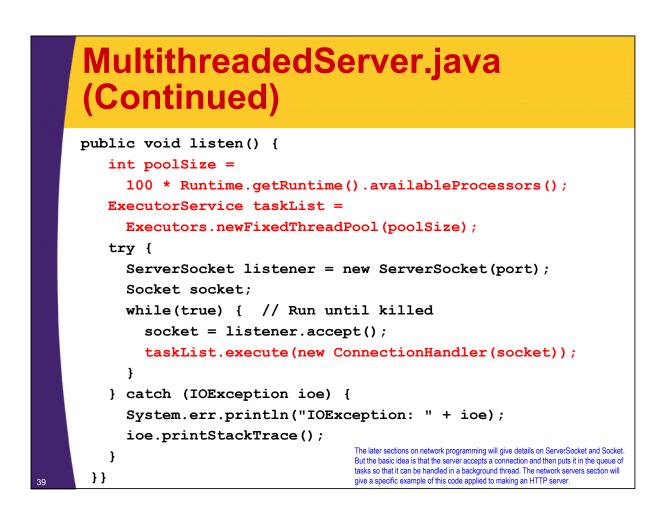
- Can easily access data in main class
- Cannot pass args to run
- Must worry about race conditions

Inner class implements Runnable

- Can easily access data in main class
- Can pass args to run
- Must worry about race conditions

Example: Template for a Multithreaded Network Server

```
import java.net.*;
import java.util.concurrent.*;
import java.io.*;
public class MultithreadedServer {
    private int port;
    public MultithreadedServer(int port) {
       this.port = port;
    }
    public int getPort() {
       return(port);
    }
```



ConnectionHandler.java

```
public class ConnectionHandler implements Runnable {
  private Socket socket;
  public ConnectionHandler(Socket socket) {
    this.socket = socket;
  }
  public void run() {
    try {
      handleConnection(socket);
    } catch(IOException ioe) {
      System.err.println("IOException: " + ioe);
      ioe.printStackTrace();
    }
  }
  public void handleConnection(Socket socket)
      throws IOException{
    // Do something with socket
  }
```



Race Conditions and Synchronization

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Race Conditions: Example

```
public class RaceConditionsApp implements Runnable {
    private final static int LOOP_LIMIT = 5;
    private final static int POOL_SIZE = 10;
    private int latestThreadNum = 0;

    public RaceConditionsApp() {
        ExecutorService taskList;
        taskList = Executors.newFixedThreadPool(POOL_SIZE);
        for (int i=0; i<POOL_SIZE; i++) {
            taskList.execute(this);
        }
    }
}</pre>
```

Race Conditions: Example (Continued)

```
public void run() {
   int currentThreadNum = latestThreadNum;
   System.out.println("Set currentThreadNum to "
                      + currentThreadNum);
   latestThreadNum = latestThreadNum + 1;
   for (int i=0; i<LOOP LIMIT; i++) {</pre>
     doSomethingWith (currentThreadNum);
   }
 }
 private void doSomethingWith(int threadNumber) {
   // Blah blah
 }
What's wrong with this code?
```

Race Conditions: Result

Expected Output •

Set currentThreadNum to 0 Set currentThreadNum to 1 Set currentThreadNum to 2 Set currentThreadNum to 3 Set currentThreadNum to 4 Set currentThreadNum to 5 Set currentThreadNum to 6 Set currentThreadNum to 7 Set currentThreadNum to 8

Set currentThreadNum to 9

Occasional Output

- Set currentThreadNum to 0 Set currentThreadNum to 1 Set currentThreadNum to 2 Set currentThreadNum to 3 Set currentThreadNum to 4 Set currentThreadNum to 5 Set currentThreadNum to 5 Set currentThreadNum to 7 Set currentThreadNum to 8
- Set currentThreadNum to 9

Race Conditions: Solution?

Do things in a single step

}

This "solution" does not fix the problem. In some ways, it makes it worse!

Arbitrating Contention for Shared Resources

```
    Synchronizing a section of code

   synchronized(someObject) {
     code
   ł
  Fixing the previous race condition
    public void run() {
       synchronized(this) {
         int currentThreadNum = latestThreadNum;
         System.out.println("Set currentThreadNum to "
                            + currentThreadNum);
         latestThreadNum = latestThreadNum + 1;
       Ł
       for (int i=0; i<LOOP LIMIT; i++) {</pre>
         doSomethingWith(currentThreadNum);
       }
     }
```

Arbitrating Contention for Shared Resources

 Synchronizing a section of code synchronized(someObject) {

code

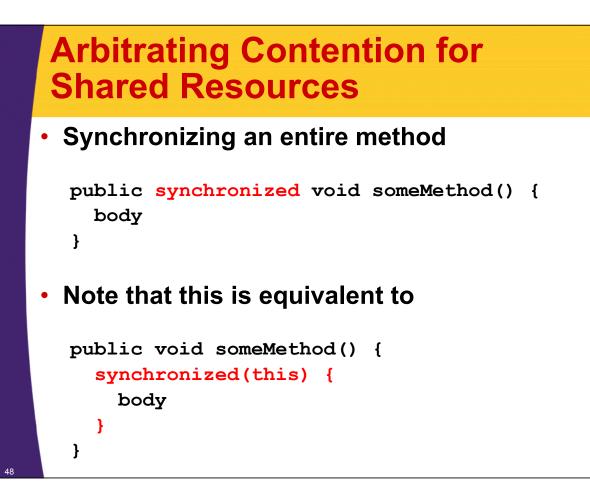
3

Normal interpretation

 Once a thread enters that section of code, no other thread can enter until the first thread exits.

Stronger interpretation

- Once a thread enters that section of code, no other thread can enter any section of code that is synchronized using the same "lock" object
 - If two pieces of code say "synchronized(blah)", the question is if the blah's are the same object *instance*.





Helpful Thread-Related Methods

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Methods in Thread Class

Thread.currentThread()

- Gives instance of Thread running current code

Thread.sleep(milliseconds)

- Puts calling code to sleep. Useful for non-busy waiting in all kinds of code, not just multithreaded code. You must catch InterruptedException, but you can ignore it:
 - try { Thread.sleep(someMilliseconds); } catch (InterruptedException ie) { }
- See also TimeUnit.SECONDS.sleep, TimeUnit.MINUTES.sleep, etc.
 - · Same idea except takes sleep time in different units.

someThread.getName(), someThread.getId()

- Useful for printing/debugging, to tell threads apart

50

Methods in ExecutorService Class

execute(Runnable)

- Adds Runnable to the queue of tasks

shutdown

Prevents any more tasks from being added with execute (or submit), but lets current tasks finish.

shutdownNow

 Attempts to halt current tasks. But author of tasks must have them respond to interrupts (ie, catch InterruptedException), or this is no different from shutdown.

awaitTermination

- Blocks until all tasks are complete. Must shutdown() first.

submit, invokeAny, invokeAll

- Variations that use Callable instead of Runnable. See next slide on Callable.

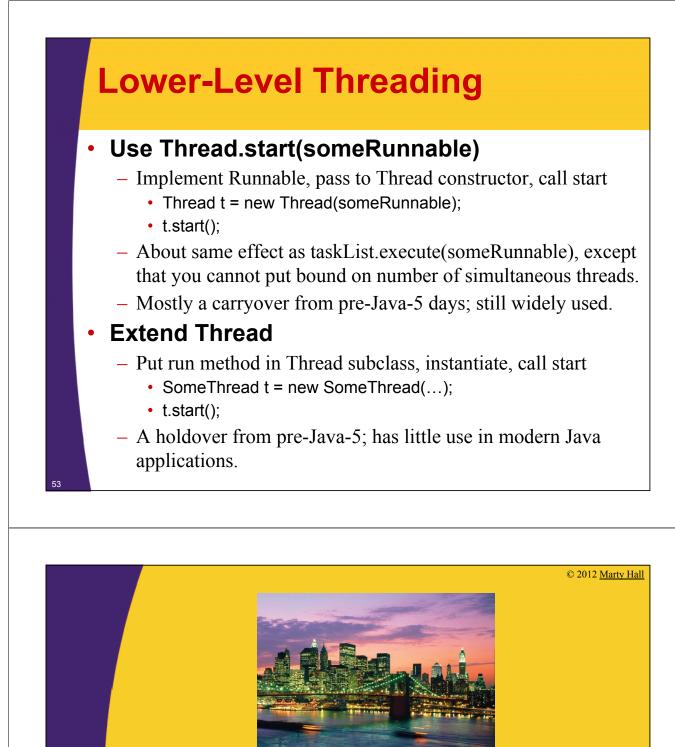
Callable

Runnable

- "run" method runs in background. No return values, but run can do side effects.
- Use "execute" to put in task queue

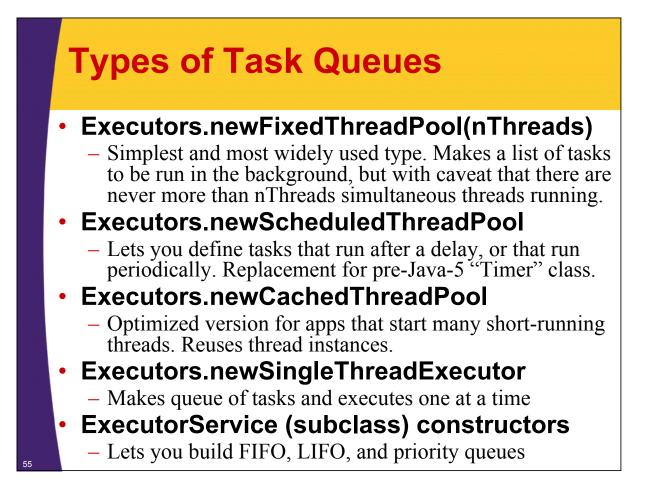
Callable

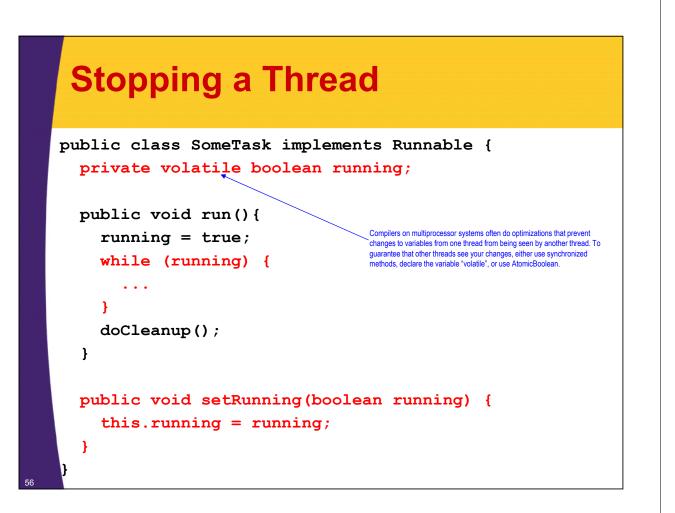
- "call" method runs in background. It returns a value that can be retrieved after termination with "get".
- Use "submit" to put in task queue.
- Use invokeAny and invokeAll to block until value or values are available
 - Example: you have a list of links from a Web page and want to check status (404 vs. good). Submit them to a task queue to run concurrently, then invokeAll will let you see return values when all links are done being checked.

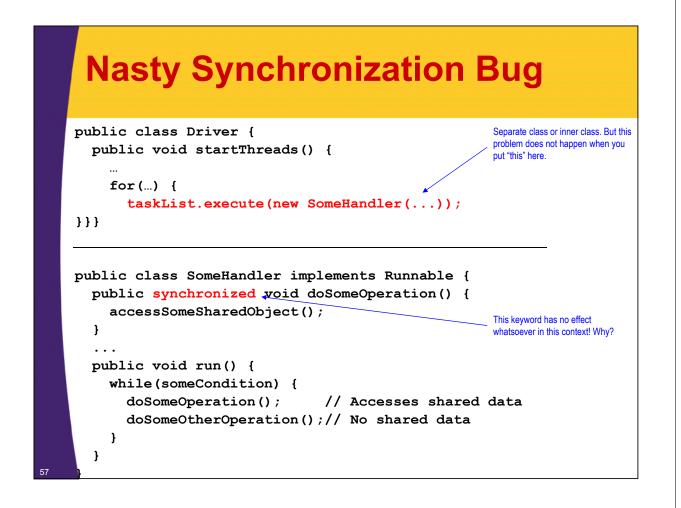


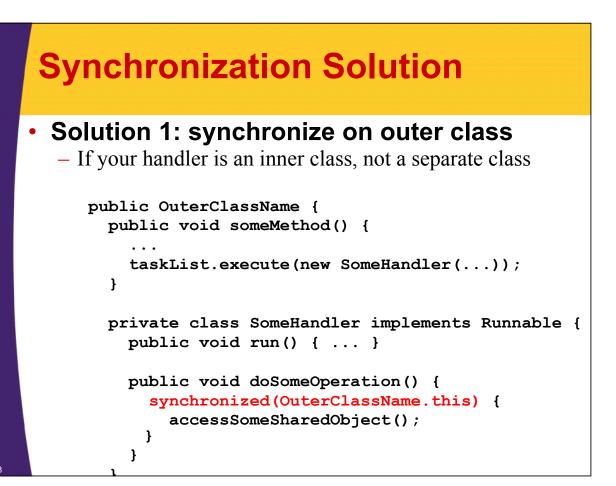
Advanced Topics

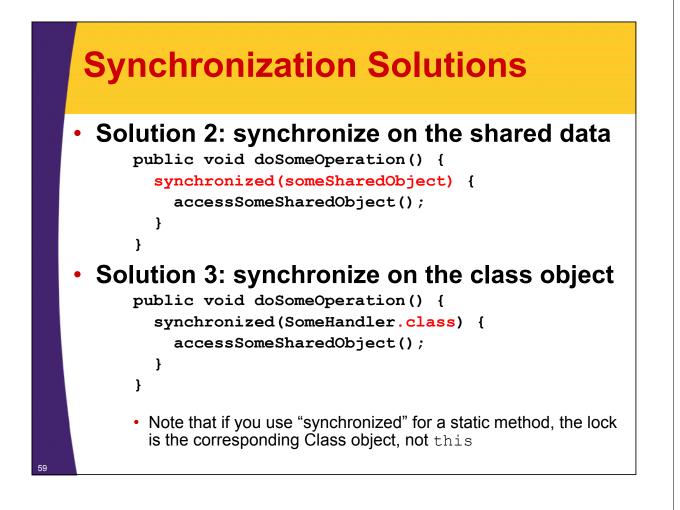
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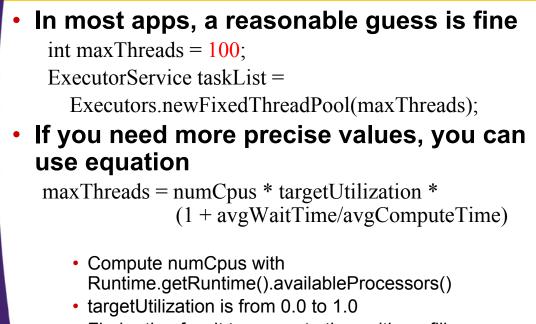
Synchronization Solution (Continued)

Solution 4: synchronize on arbitrary object

```
public class SomeHandler implements Runnable{
    private static Object lockObject
        = new Object();
    ...
    public void doSomeOperation() {
        synchronized(lockObject) {
            accessSomeSharedObject();
            }
        }
        ...
}

- Why doesn't this problem usually occur with thread
        mechanism two (with run method in main class)?
```

Determining Maximum Thread Pool Size



- Find ratio of wait to compute time with profiling
- Equation taken from Java Concurrency in Practice

Other Advanced Topics

wait/waitForAll

- Releases the lock for other threads and suspends itself (placed in a wait queue associated with the lock)
- Very important in some applications, but very, very hard to get right. Try to use the newer Executor services if possible.

notify/notifyAll

- Wakes up all threads waiting for the lock
- A notified thread doesn't begin immediate execution, but is placed in the runnable thread queue

Concurrency utilities in java.util.concurrency

- Advanced threading utilities including semaphores, collections designed for multithreaded applications, atomic operations, etc.

Debugging thread problems

- Use JConsole (bundled with Java 5; officially part of Java 6)
 - http://java.sun.com/developer/technicalArticles/J2SE/jconsole.html



Wrap-Up

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References

Books

- Java Concurrency in Practice (Goetz, et al)
- Chapter 10 ("Concurrency") of *Effective Java*, 2nd Ed (Josh Bloch)
 - Effective Java is the all-time best Java practices book
- Java Threads (Oak and Wong)

Online references

- Lesson: Concurrency (Oracle Java Tutorial)
 - http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/essential/concurrency/
- Jacob Jenkov's Concurrency Tutorial
 - http://tutorials.jenkov.com/java-concurrency/index.html
- Lars Vogel's Concurrency Tutorial
 - http://www.vogella.de/articles/JavaConcurrency/article.html

Summary

Basic approach

ExecutorService taskList =
 Executors.newFixedThreadPool(poolSize);

Three variations

- taskList.execute(new SeparateClass(...));

- taskList.execute(this);
- taskList.execute(new InnerClass(...));

Handling shared data

synchronized(referenceSharedByThreads) {
 getSharedData();
 modifySharedData();

}

doOtherStuff();



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Questions?

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