Managing the Java Thread Lifecycle: State Machine for Java Threads



Douglas C. Schmidt <u>d.schmidt@vanderbilt.edu</u> www.dre.vanderbilt.edu/~schmidt

> Institute for Software Integrated Systems Vanderbilt University Nashville, Tennessee, USA



Learning Objectives in this Part of the Lesson

• Be aware of the Java thread lifecycle

• Understand the various states in the Java thread lifecycle



The State Machine for Java Threads

• A Java thread can be in various states (one at a time) during its lifecycle

Enum Thread.State

java.lang.Object java.lang.Enum<Thread.State> java.lang.Thread.State

All Implemented Interfaces: Serializable, Comparable<Thread.State>

Enclosing class:

Thread

public static enum Thread.State
extends Enum<Thread.State>

A thread state. A thread can be in one of the following states:

• NEW

A thread that has not yet started is in this state.

• RUNNABLE

A thread executing in the Java virtual machine is in this state.

BLOCKED

A thread that is blocked waiting for a monitor lock is in this state.

• WAITING

A thread that is waiting indefinitely for another thread to perform a particular action is in this state.

• TIMED_WAITING

A thread that is waiting for another thread to perform an action for up to a specified waiting time is in this state.

• TERMINATED

A thread that has exited is in this state.

A thread can be in only one state at a given point in time. These states are virtual machine states which do not reflect any operating system thread states.

See docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/lang/Thread.State.html



See www.uml-diagrams.org/examples/java-6-thread-state-machine-diagram-example.html



Begin by creating a new thread object



Transition to the "New" state



Call start() to launch the thread



Transition to the "Runnable" state



The Java & Android Linux thread scheduler controls what happens next since there may be multiple threads waiting for their chance to run



When the scheduler selects a thread to execute it transition to the "Running" state



The Java execution environment (e.g., JVM, Dalvik, ART, etc.) then invokes the thread's run() hook method



A thread can call various methods that cause it to wait for a period of time, which suspends the thread



Transition to the "Timed Waiting" state



The wait time elapses or the operation completes



Transition to the "Runnable" state (i.e., it doesn't start to run immediately)



When the scheduler selects a thread to execute it transitions to the "Running" state



The Java execution environment then resumes executing the method the thread was running when it was suspended



A thread will block (which suspends the thread) when it attempts to obtain a "guarded resource" (e.g., a monitor's intrinsic lock) owned by another thread



Transition to the "Blocked" state



The blocked thread will become unblocked when the resource is released by its current owner thread & the blocked thread acquires the resource



Transition to the "Runnable" state (i.e., it doesn't start to run immediately)



Ironically, the thread state for blocking I/O is "Runnable," as discussed in <u>stackoverflow.com/questions/19981726/java-thread-blocked-status</u>



When the scheduler selects a thread to execute it transitions to the "Running" state



The Java execution environment then resumes executing the method the thread was running when it was suspended



A thread may call wait() on its monitor condition (the monitor lock must have already been acquired), which suspends the thread



Transition to the "Waiting" state



When another thread calls notify() or notifyAll() waiting thread will be released (though it may need to transition to the "Blocked" state to reacquire the lock)



Transition to the "Runnable" state (i.e., it doesn't start to run immediately)



Transition to the "Running" state



The Java execution environment then resumes executing the method the thread was running when it was suspended



The run() method can exit either normally (by "falling off the end" of run()) or via an unhandled exception



Transition to the "Terminated" state



The Java execution environment can then reclaim the thread's resources

End of Managing the Java Thread Lifecycle: State Machine for Java Threads