Sexy async code without *await*?

A first look into Project Loom in Java

What is this talk about?

- Blocking vs. non-blocking APIs
- Thread per request vs. event loop
- Callbacks and Futures?
- What is async/await?
- What is the blue/red world problem?
- Project Loom = *async/await* in Java?

About

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Chapter 1

Threads and what is a blocking call?

Super Duper Bank

“super duper product“:

- Giro account
- Savings account

Boss B. “The Boss” Bossy

>

You

Super Duper Bank

HTTP/REST

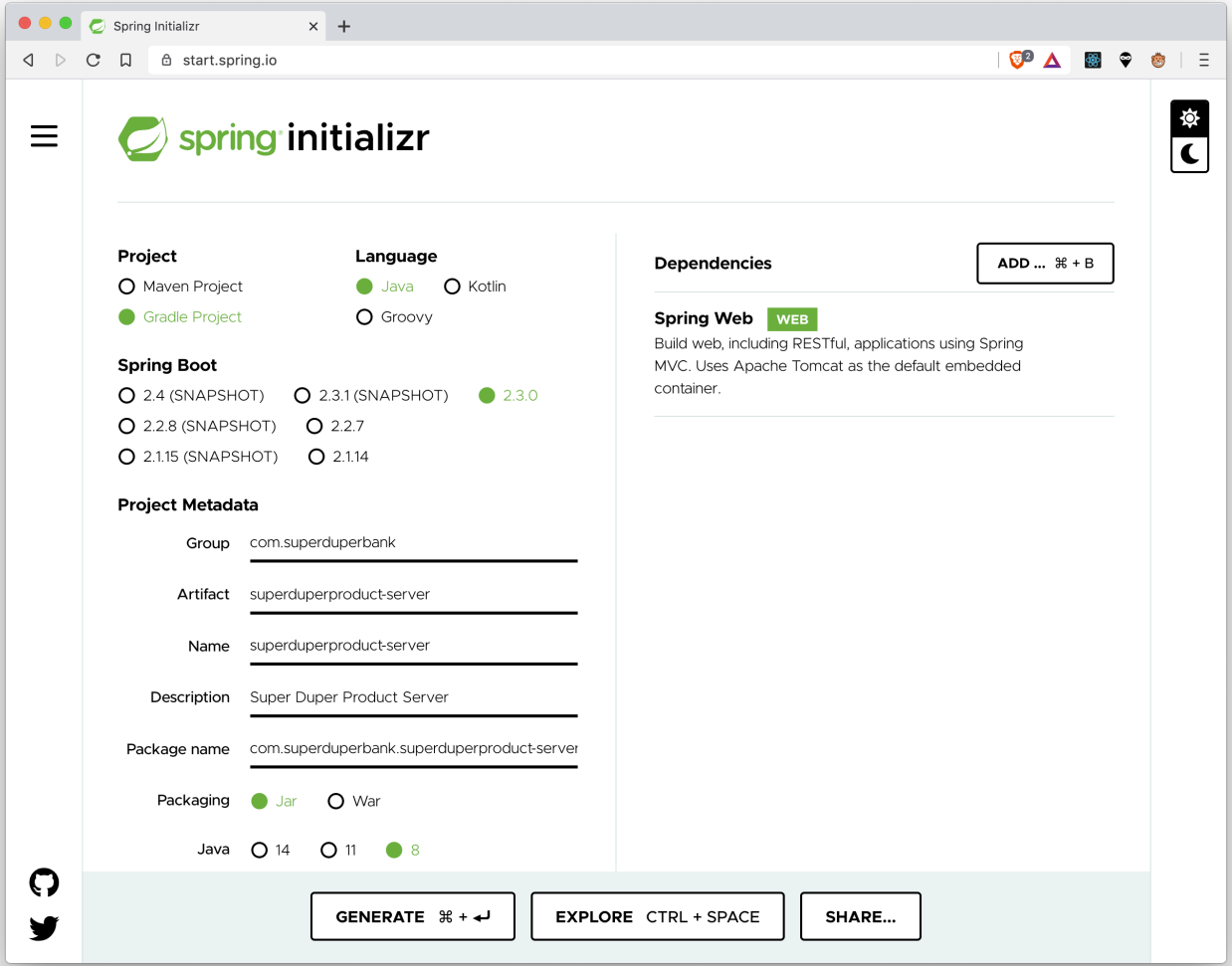
Super Duper Product Service

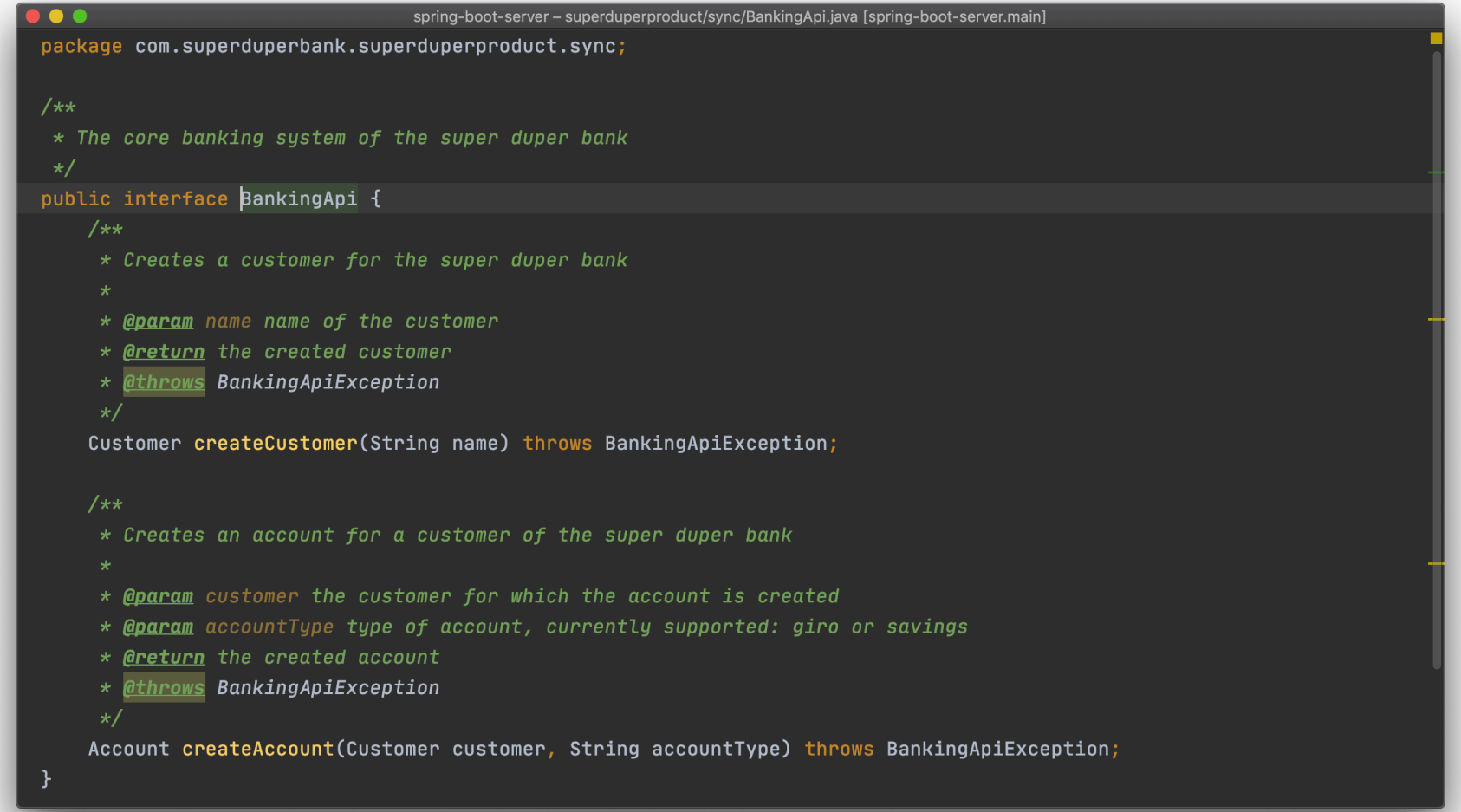
HTTP/REST

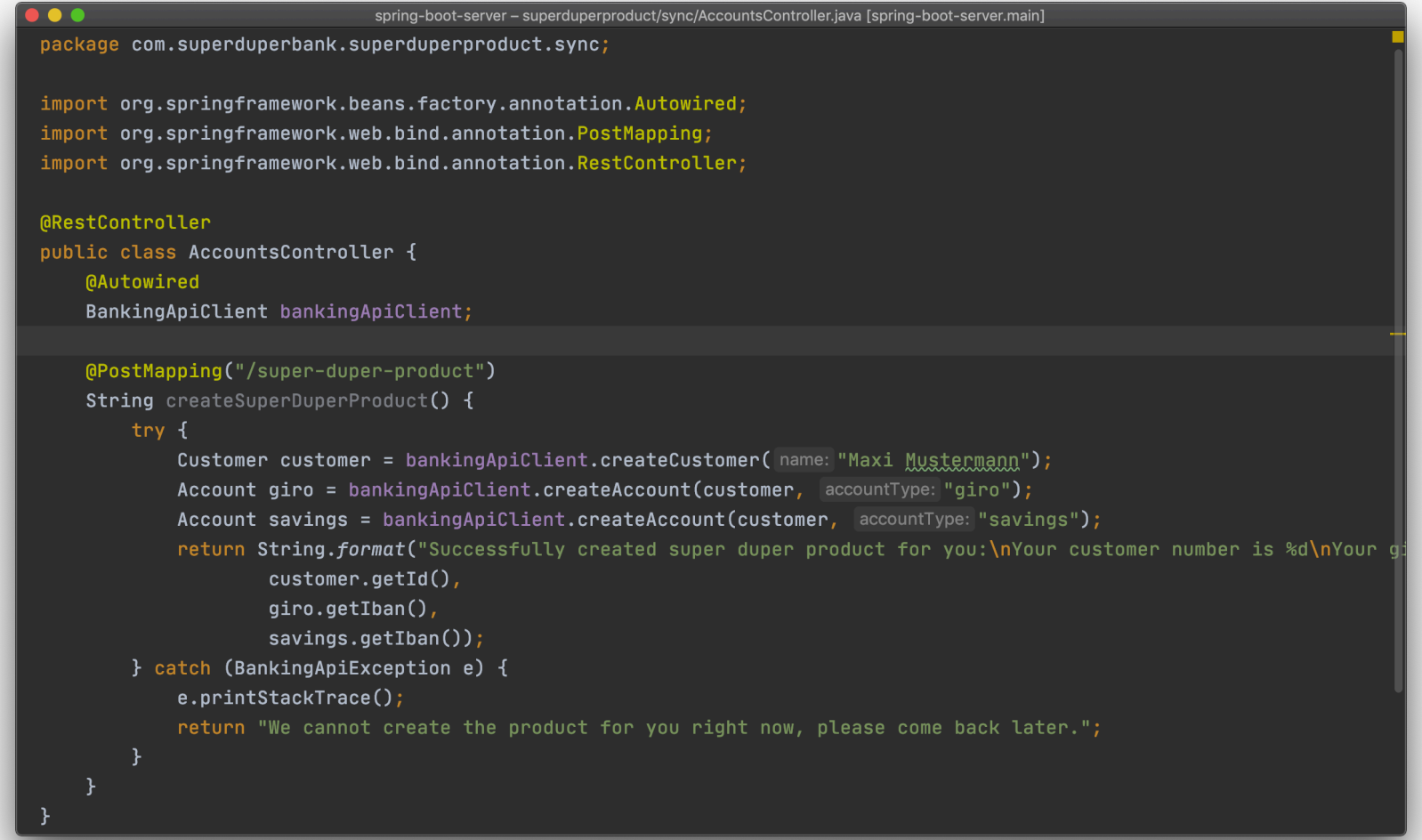
Super Duper Core Banking System

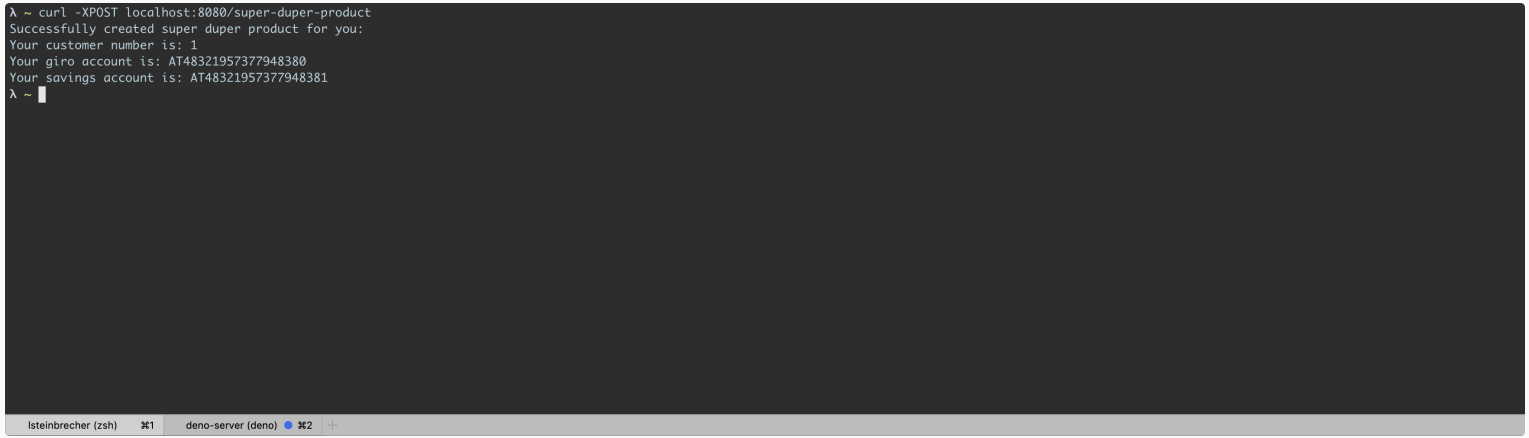
<fill in>

You


Spring Initializr
start.spring.io
spring initializr
Project
Maven Project
Gradle Project
Language
Java
Kotlin
Groovy
Spring Boot
2.4 (SNAPSHOT)
2.3.1 (SNAPSHOT)
2.3.0
2.2.8 (SNAPSHOT)
2.2.7
2.1.15 (SNAPSHOT)
2.1.14
Project Metadata
Group
com.superduperbank
Artifact
superduperproduct-server
Name
superduperproduct-server
Description
Super Duper Product Server
Package name
com.superduperbank.superduperproduct-server
Packaging
Jar
War
Java
14
11
8
Dependencies
ADD ... ⌘ + B
Spring Web
WEB
Build web, including RESTful, applications using Spring MVC. Uses Apache Tomcat as the default embedded container.
GENERATE ⌘ + ↵
EXPLORE CTRL + SPACE
SHARE...


spring-boot-server – superduperproduct/sync/BankingApi.java [spring-boot-server.main]
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.sync;
/**
* The core banking system of the super duper bank
*/
public interface BankingApi {
/**
* Creates a customer for the super duper bank
*
* @param name name of the customer
* @return the created customer
* @throws BankingApiException
*/
Customer createCustomer(String name) throws BankingApiException;
/**
* Creates an account for a customer of the super duper bank
*
* @param customer the customer for which the account is created
* @param accountType type of account, currently supported: giro or savings
* @return the created account
* @throws BankingApiException
*/
Account createAccount(Customer customer, String accountType) throws BankingApiException;
}


spring-boot-server – superduperproduct/sync/AccountsController.java [spring-boot-server.main]
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.sync;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.PostMapping;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.RestController;
@RestController
public class AccountsController {
@Autowired
BankingApiClient bankingApiClient;
@PostMapping("/super-duper-product")
String createSuperDuperProduct() {
try {
Customer customer = bankingApiClient.createCustomer(name: "Maxi Mustermann");
Account giro = bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, accountType: "giro");
Account savings = bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, accountType: "savings");
return String.format("Successfully created super duper product for you:\nYour customer number is %d\nYour g
customer.getId(),
giro.getIban(),
savings.getIban());
} catch (BankingApiException e) {
e.printStackTrace();
return "We cannot create the product for you right now, please come back later.";
}
}
}


λ ~ curl -XPOST localhost:8080/super-duper-product
Successfully created super duper product for you:
Your customer number is: 1
Your giro account is: AT48321957377948380
Your savings account is: AT48321957377948381
λ ~
lsteinbrecher (zsh) ⌘1
deno-server (deno) ⌘2

Super Duper Bank

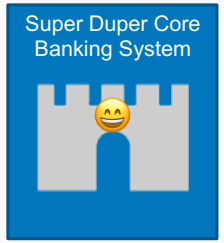
How many customers can we serve?

Boss B. “The Boss” Bossy

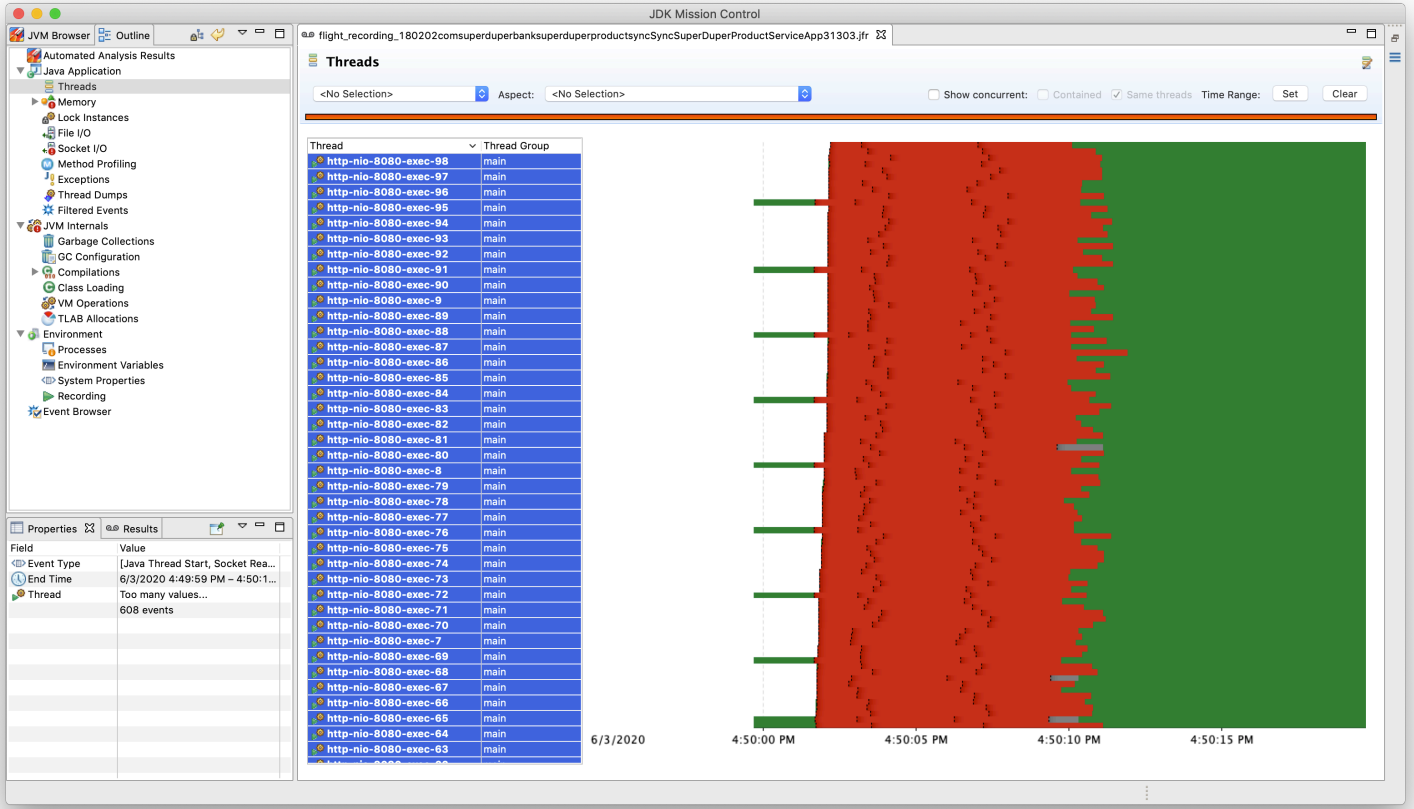
>

You

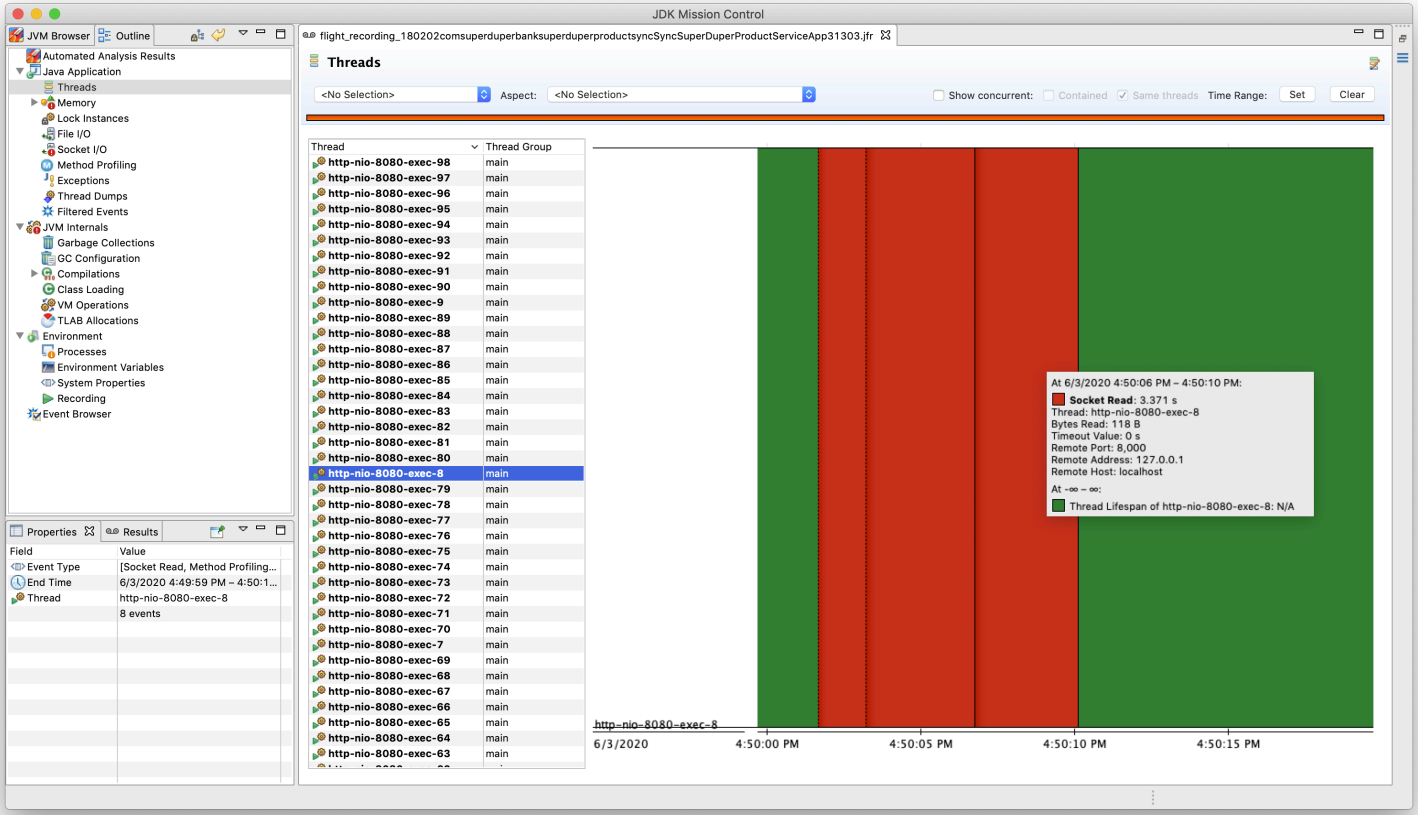
I won’t fall!



Simulation of 100 requests in Spring Web

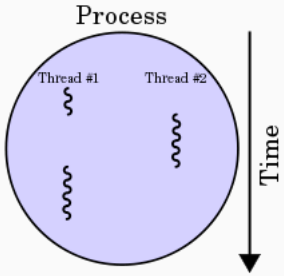


Simulation of 100 requests in Spring Web



The thread

- Mechanism to provide multitasking in one process
- OS[1] threads must support all use cases and programming languages → not very optimized
- Context-switching slow
- Relatively heavy (> 2kb metadata, > 1mb stack size)



→ OS Threads are a limited resource, ~up to a few 1000 threads on a normal computer

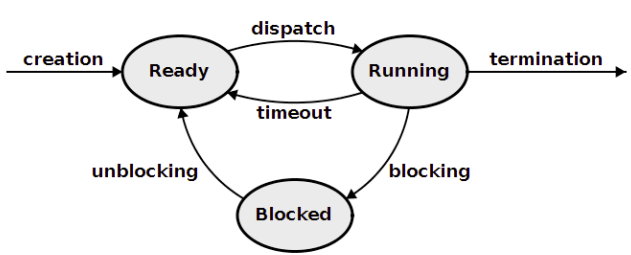
[1] OS: Operating System

Threads in Java

```java
public class HelloRunnable implements Runnable {
    public void run() {
        System.out.println("Hello from a thread!");
    }

    public static void main(String args[]) {
        Thread myThread = new Thread(new HelloRunnable());
        myThread.start();
    }
}
```

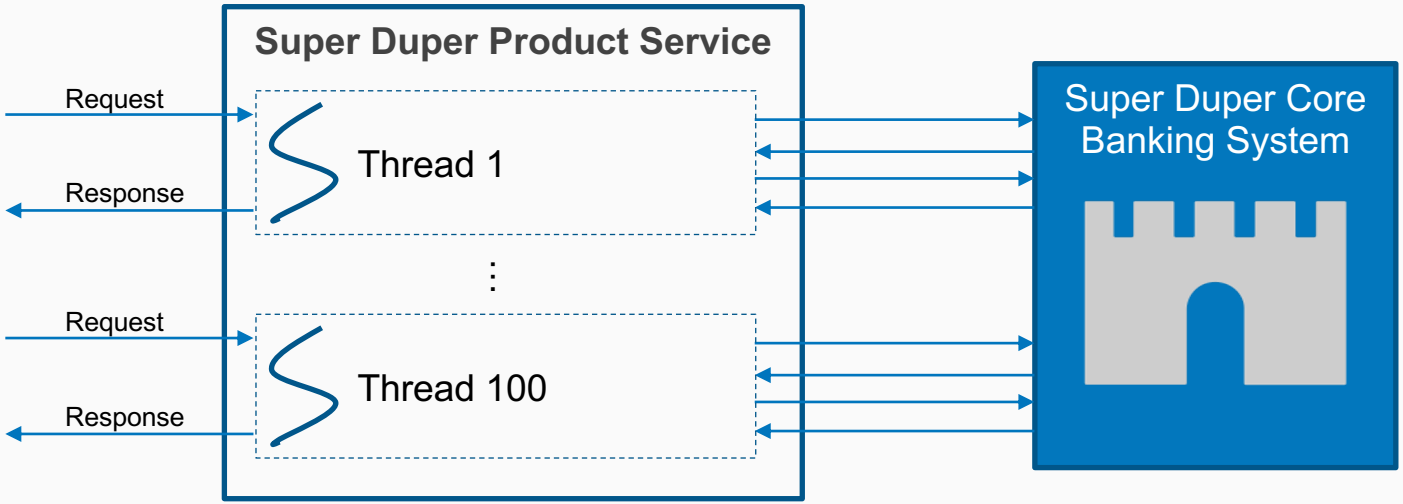
- java.lang.Thread wraps native OS threads
- To create a thread, create an instance of the Thread class and call the *start()* method
- *java.util.concurrent.Executors* for a higher level API (thread pools, etc.)




```java
ExecutorService executor = Executors.newCachedThreadPool(5);
executor.submit(new HelloRunnable());
```

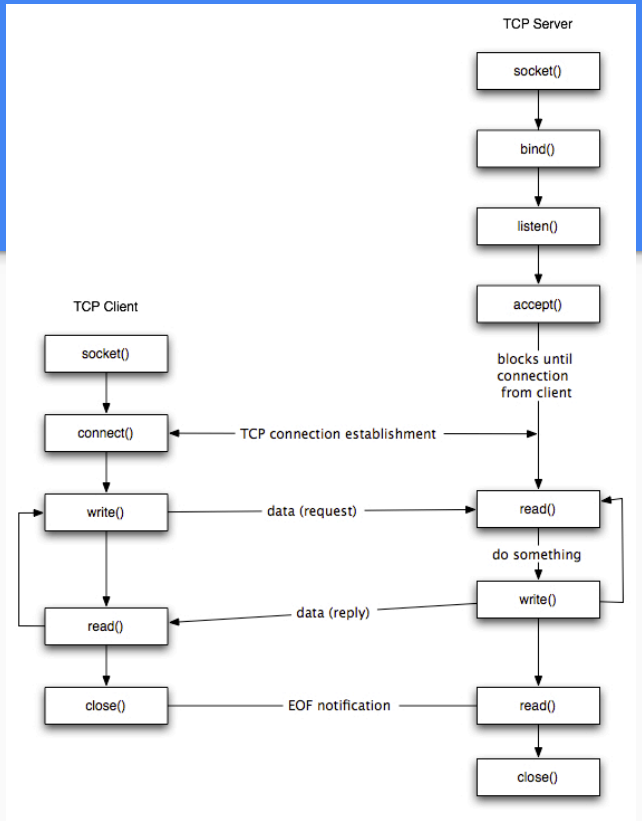
Source: https://www.d.umn.edu/~gshute/os/processes-and-threads.xhtml

Thread per request model



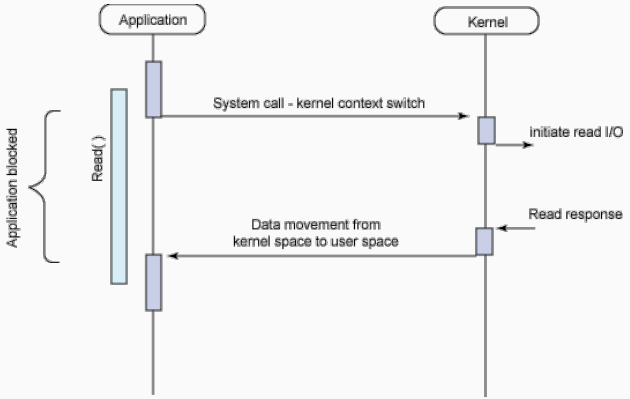
Networking 101

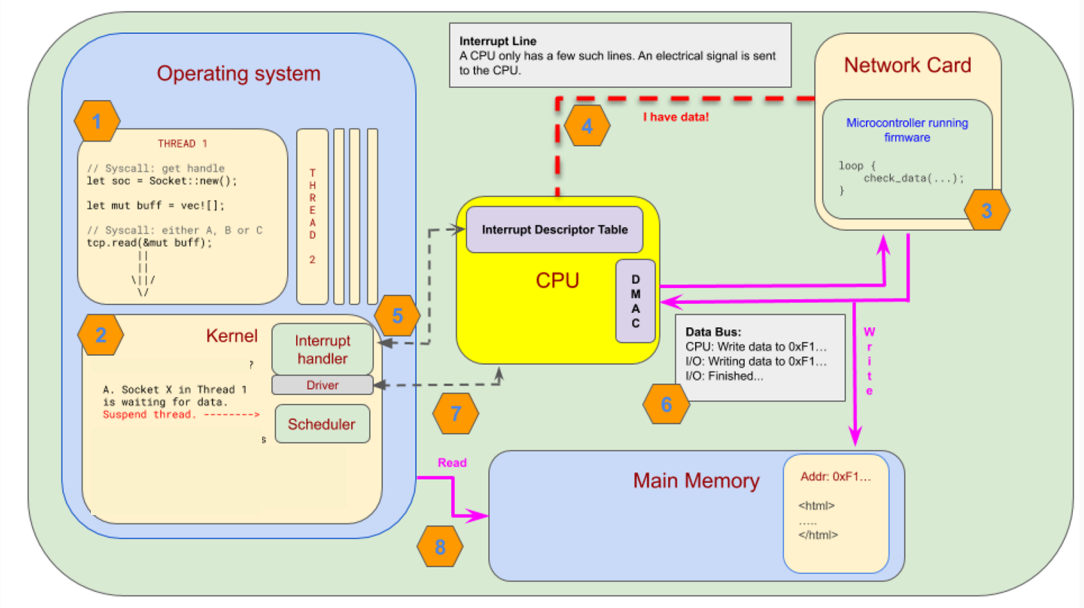
- OS responsible for coordinating access to external devices, e.g. network card
- OS provides primitives and functions (syscalls) to access those resources
- → Sockets as the primitive to access the network
- Every programming language uses this primitives under the hood



Source: https://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/~campbell/cs60/socketprogramming.html

What happens inside a blocking syscall?





Source:
https://cfsamson.github.io/book-exploring-async-basics/4_interrupts_firmware_io.html
https://medium.com/martinomburajr/rxjava2-schedulers-2-breaking-down-the-i-o-scheduler-7e83160df2ed

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HIGH 84, LOW 62-PAGE D6

The Washington Times

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1989 ★ WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Major operating systems have been faking synchronous I/O for years

linux, windows, os x all implicated in kernel scandal of the century

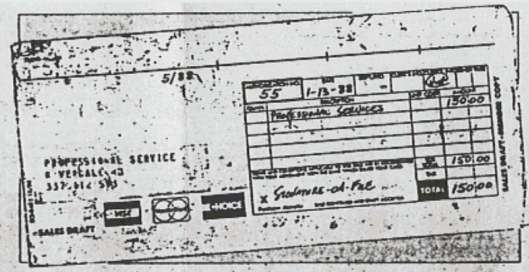
By Paul M. Rodriguez
and George Archibald

A homosexual prostitution ring is under investigation by federal and District authorities and includes among its clients key officials of the Reagan and Bush administrations, military officers, congressional aides and U.S. and foreign businessmen with close social ties to Washington's political elite, documents obtained by The Washington Times reveal.

One of the ring's high-profile clients was so well-connected, in fact, that he could arrange a middle-of-the-night tour of the White House for his friends on Sunday, July 3, of last year. Among the six persons on the extraordinary 1 a.m. tour were two male prostitutes.

Federal authorities, including the Secret Service, are investigating criminal aspects of the ring and have told male prostitutes and their homosexual clients that a grand jury will deliberate over the evidence throughout the summer, The Times learned.

Reporters for this newspaper examined hundreds of credit-card vouchers, drawn on both corporate and personal cards and made payable to the escort service operated by the homosexual ring. Many of the vouchers were run through a so-called "sub-merchant" account of the Chambers Funeral Home by a son of the owner, without the company's knowledge.



Among the client names contained in the vouchers — and identified by prostitutes and escort operators — are government officials, locally based U.S. military officers, businessmen, lawyers, bankers, congressional aides and other professionals.

Editors of The Times said the newspaper would print only the names of those found to be in sensitive government posts or positions of influence. "There is no intention of publishing names or facts about the operation merely for titillation," said Wesley Pruden, managing editor of The Times.

The office of U.S. Attorney Jay B. Stephens, former deputy White House counsel to President Reagan, is coordinating federal aspects of the inquiry but refused to discuss the investigation or grand jury action.

Several former White House colleagues of Mr. Stephens are listed among clients of the homosexual prostitution ring, according to the credit-card records, and those persons have confirmed that the charges were theirs.

Mr. Stephens' office, after first saying it would cooperate with The Times' inquiry, withdrew the offer late yesterday and also declined to say whether Mr. Stephens would recuse himself from the case because of possible conflict of interest.

At least one highly placed Bush administration official and a wealthy businessman who procured homosexual prostitutes from the escort services operated by the ring are cooperating with the investigation, several sources said.

Among clients who charged homosexual prostitute services on major credit cards over the past 18 months are Charles K. Dutcher, former associate director of presidential personnel in the Reagan administration, and Paul R. Balach, Labor Secretary Elizabeth Dole's political personnel liaison to the White House.

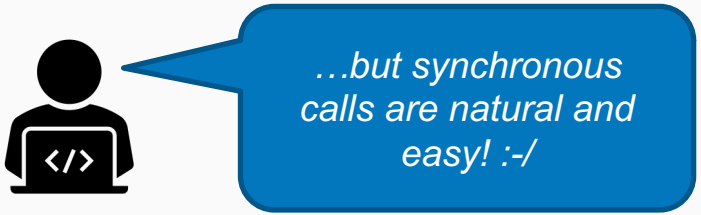
In the 1970s, Mr. Dutcher was a congressional aide to former Rep. Robert Bauman, Maryland Republican, who resigned from the House after he admitted having engaged in sexual liaisons with teen-age male

see PROBE, page A7

Source: https://twitter.com/piscisaureus/status/776709749584826369

Blocking syscalls – what's the problem?

- OS suspends thread until result of operation is available
- To do *n* blocking calls at the same time you need *n* threads
- The longer a call blocks the more threads you need to serve more requests → Network calls are slow



Example – Little's law

$$L = \lambda W.$$

Avg. # of customers in system = arrival rate * average time in system

For our case:
Avg. # threads needed = requests rate * response time of external system

e.g.:
100 requests/s, 10s response time from CBS
⇒ 1000 threads on avg. needed
⇒ 1000 threads * ~1MB = 1000 MB memory

Super Duper Bank

I think the bottleneck is the thread count, Sir.

Boss B. “The Boss” Bossy

>

You

Super Duper Bank

We cannot accept this! How can we fully utilize our machine?

Boss B. “The Boss” Bossy

>

You

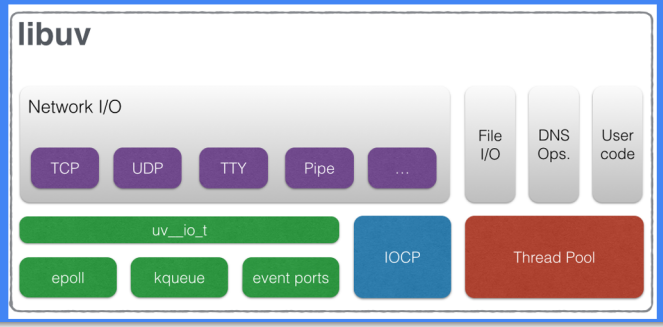
Chapter 2

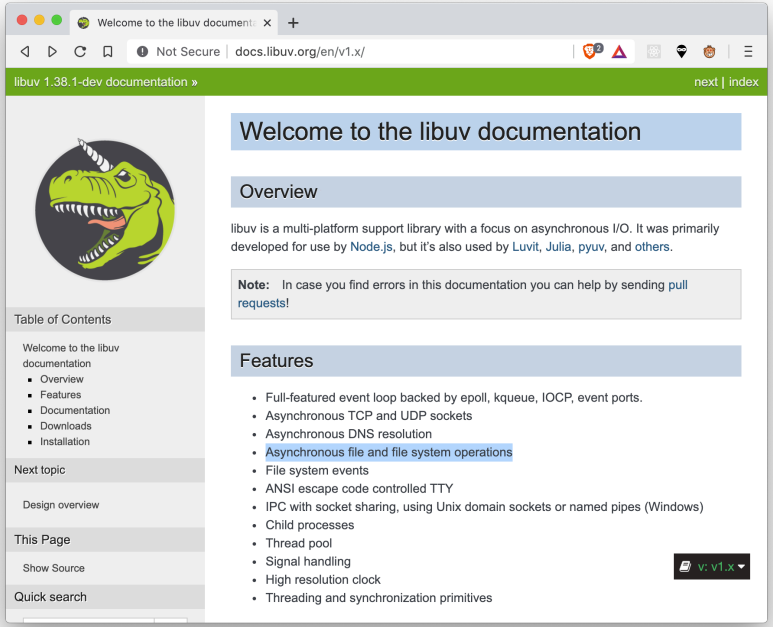
Let’s fully utilize our machine

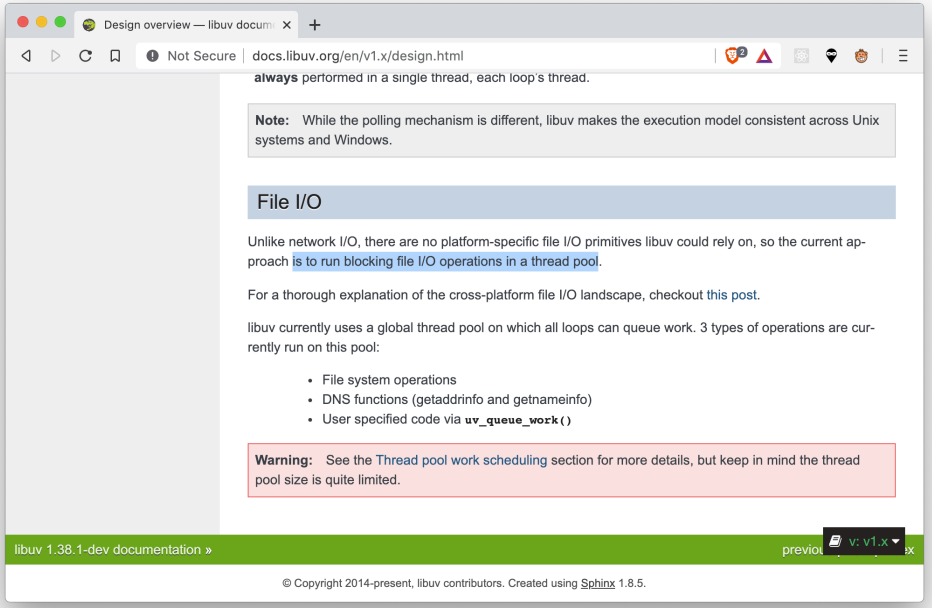
Non-blocking syscalls as a solution for the thread bottleneck problem

- Non-blocking syscalls do not suspend your thread → handle more than one primitive per thread
- Different styles for non-blocking IO
  - Polling, Multiplexed Block, …
- epoll (Linux), kqueue (Mac), IOCP (Windows) popular APIs for non-blocking networking – but all with different semantics
- libuv (Node.JS), mio (Tokio, Rust), Java NIO/Netty for Java: provide OS independent abstractions for non-blocking IO

Asynchronous != non-blocking







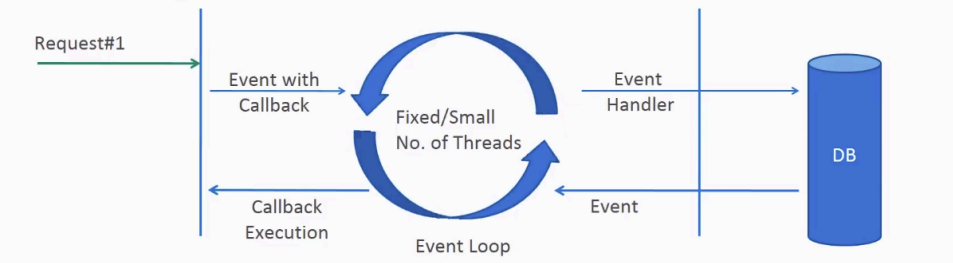
Event based execution model

- Relies on async base – “Don’t block the event loop”

```
def eventloop_main():
  forever:
    e = wait for next event
    if there is a callback associated with e in our list:
      call the callback
```

```
def read_from_socket_async(socket s, callback):
  tell OS we are interested in events from socket s
  save callback in our list
```

e.g. Node.JS, Eclipse Vert.x, Project Reactor/Spring WebFlux



Source: https://howtodoinjava.com/spring-webflux/spring-webflux-tutorial/

How do we handle the asynchronous operations?

Recap: Synchronous style:

The callback

- Idea: For every asynchronous operation, pass a function which is called when the operation is complete
- Functions as “first class object”, in Java: Function object
- Hollywood principle: ”Don’t call us, we’ll call you”
- Hard to compose → callback hell

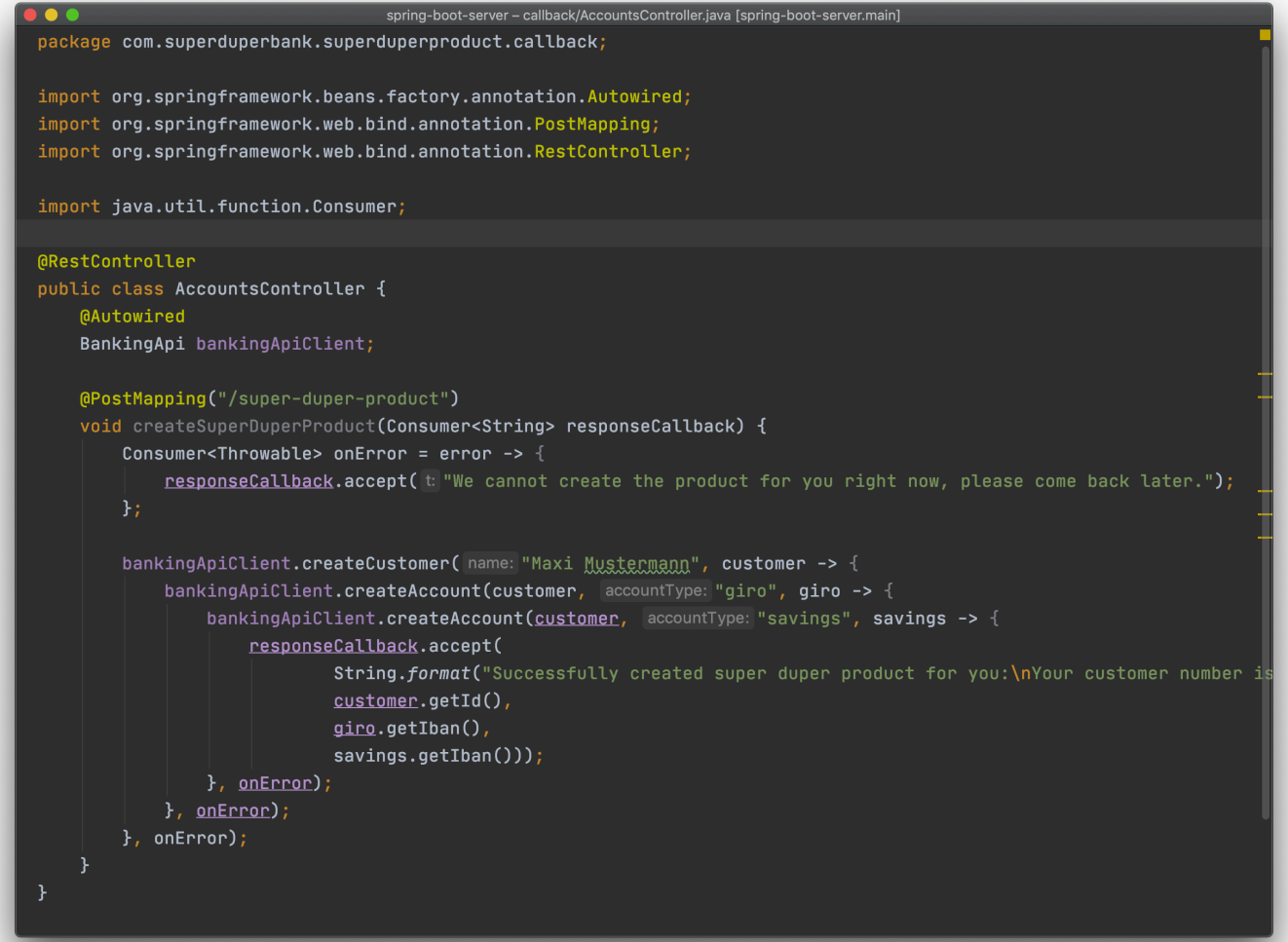
spring-boot-server – callback/BankingApi.java [spring-boot-server.main]

```java
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.callback;

import java.util.function.Consumer;

/**
 * The core banking system of the super duper bank
 */
public interface BankingApi {
    /**
     * Creates a customer for the super duper bank
     *
     * @param name name of the customer
     * @return the created customer
     */
    void createCustomer(String name, Consumer<Customer> onComplete, Consumer<Throwable> onError);

    /**
     * Creates an account for a customer of the super duper bank
     *
     * @param customer the customer for which the account is created
     * @param accountType type of account, currently supported: giro or savings
     * @return the created account
     */
    void createAccount(Customer customer, String accountType, Consumer<Account> onComplete, Consumer<Throwable> onError);
}
```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package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.callback;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.PostMapping;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.RestController;
import java.util.function.Consumer;
@RestController
public class AccountsController {
@Autowired
BankingApi bankingApiClient;
@PostMapping("/super-duper-product")
void createSuperDuperProduct(Consumer<String> responseCallback) {
Consumer<Throwable> onError = error -> {
responseCallback.accept(t: "We cannot create the product for you right now, please come back later.");
};
bankingApiClient.createCustomer(name: "Maxi Mustermann", customer -> {
bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, accountType: "giro", giro -> {
bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, accountType: "savings", savings -> {
responseCallback.accept(
String.format("Successfully created super duper product for you:\nYour customer number is
customer.getId(),
giro.getIban(),
savings.getIban()));
}, onError);
}, onError);
}, onError);
}
}

The Future[1] abstraction

- Explicit abstraction for an asynchronous operation
- Future represents the result of an asynchronous computation (which may not yet be completed) and can have three states: *Pending*, *Error*, *Done*
- Better composability than callbacks
- Semantic superset of Future: Reactive extensions

[1] called *Promise* in JavaScript

Super Duper Bank

Make my service more scalable!!!!!!! (until tomorrow)

B. Boss Bossy

>

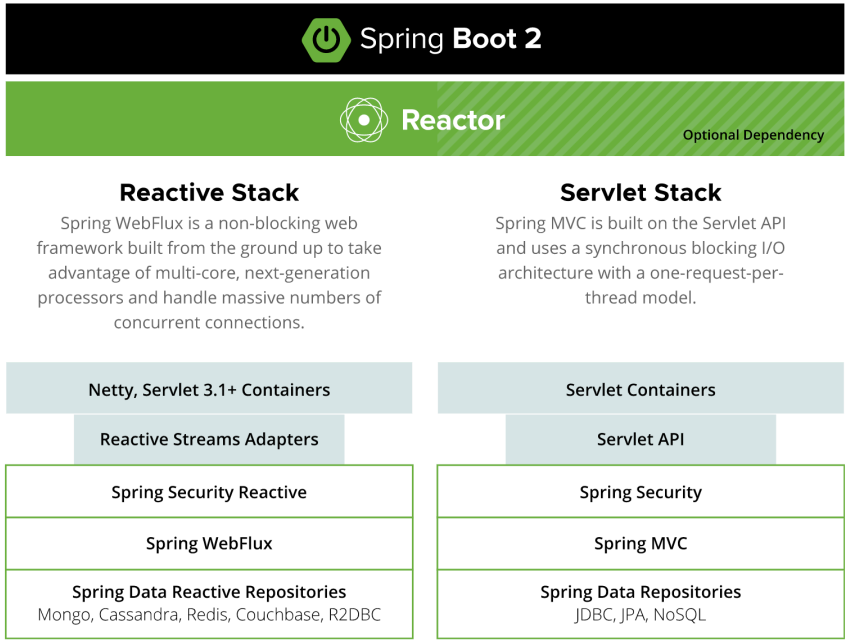
Let's use non-blocking I/O, Sir!

You

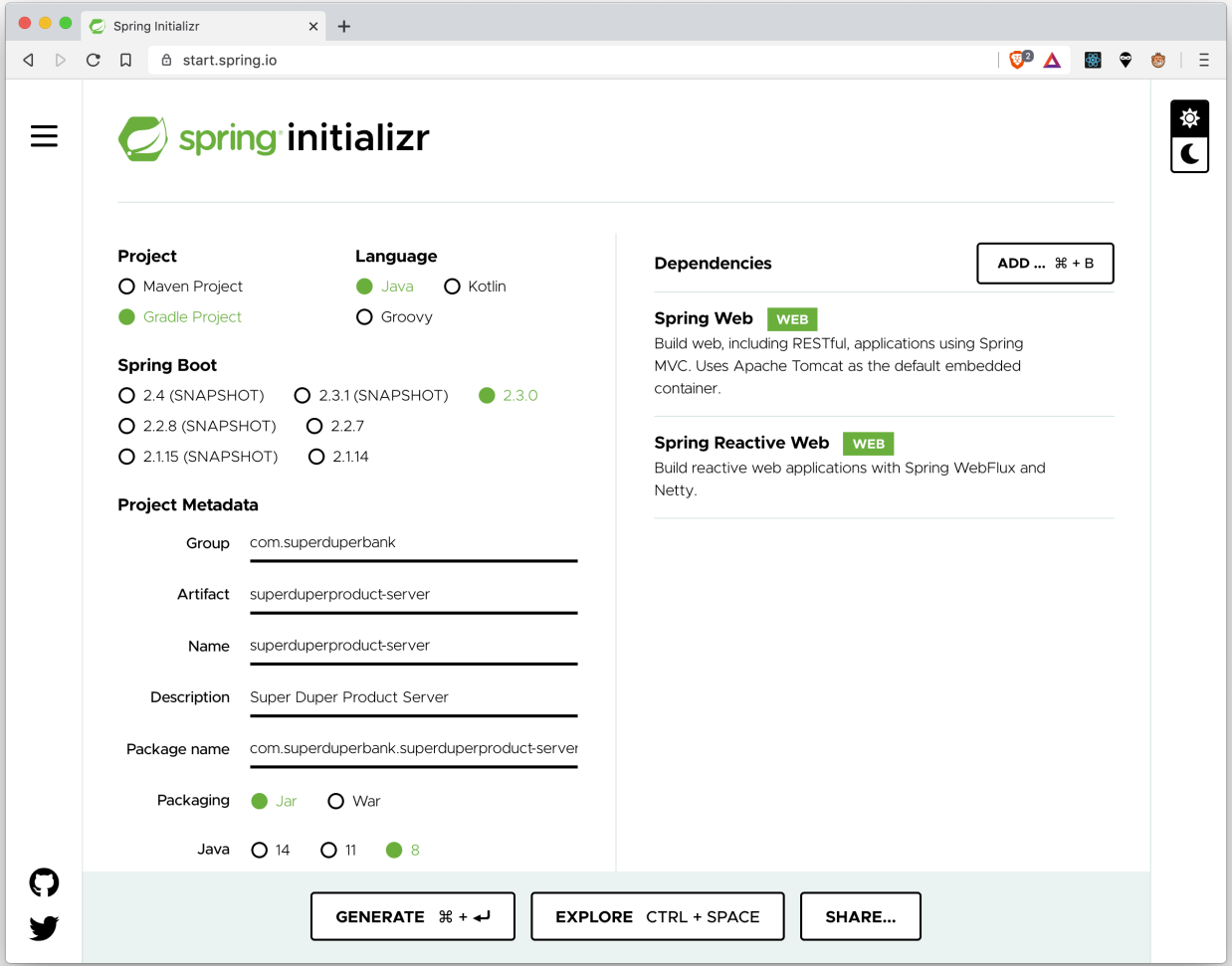
Super Duper Bank

Reactive Microservices With Spring Boot

The Spring portfolio provides two parallel stacks. One is based on a Servlet API with Spring MVC and Spring Data constructs. The other is a fully reactive stack that takes advantage of Spring WebFlux and Spring Data's reactive repositories. In both cases, Spring Security has you covered with native support for both stacks.



You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start.spring.io
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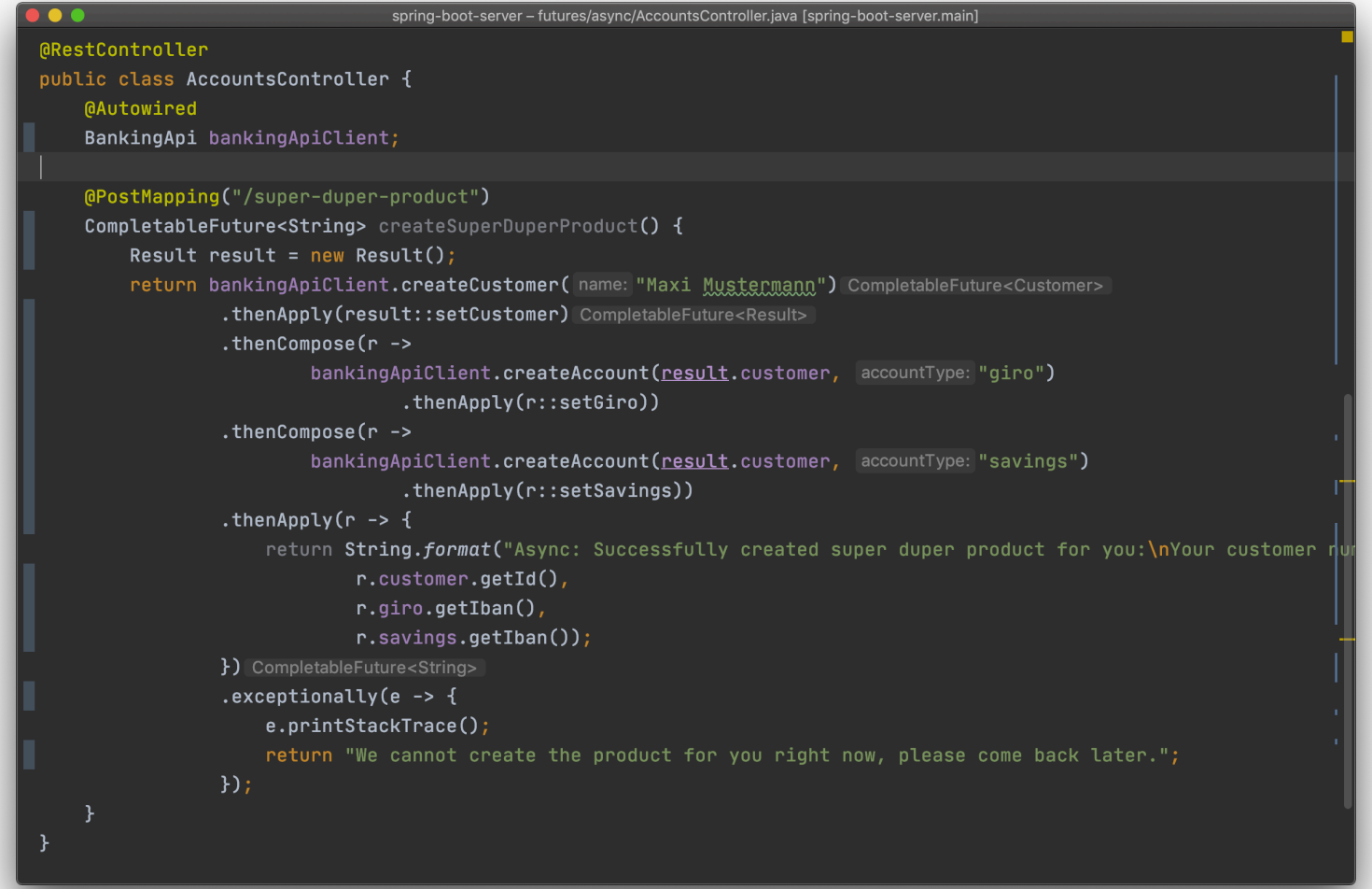
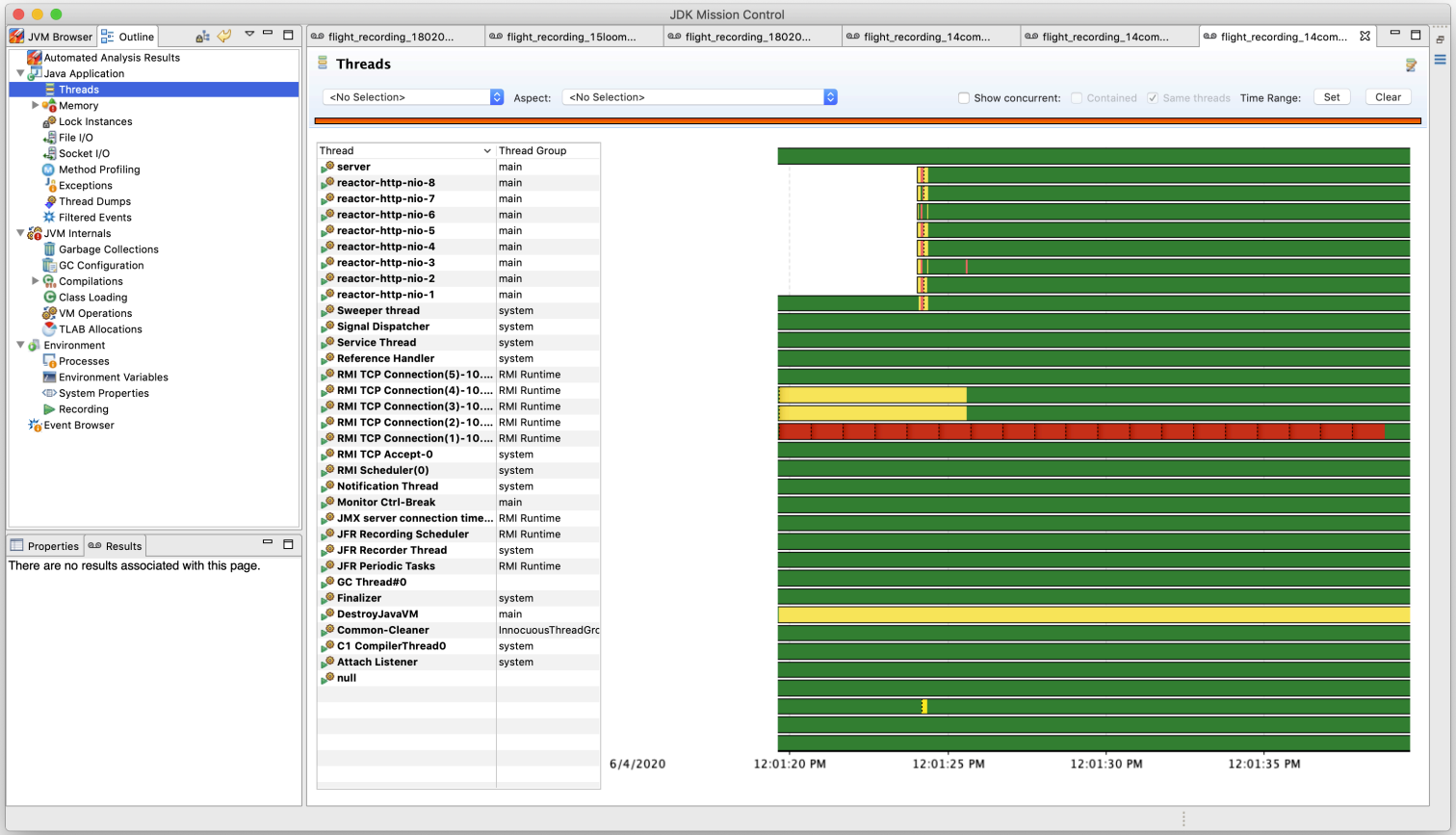
2.2.7
2.1.15 (SNAPSHOT)
2.1.14
Project Metadata
Group
com.superduperbank
Artifact
superduperproduct-server
Name
superduperproduct-server
Description
Super Duper Product Server
Package name
com.superduperbank.superduperproduct-server
Packaging
Jar
War
Java
14
11
8
Dependencies
ADD ... ⌘ + B
Spring Web
WEB
Build web, including RESTful, applications using Spring MVC. Uses Apache Tomcat as the default embedded container.
Spring Reactive Web
WEB
Build reactive web applications with Spring WebFlux and Netty.
GENERATE ⌘ + ↵
EXPLORE CTRL + SPACE
SHARE...

spring-boot-server – futures/async/BankingApi.java [spring-boot-server.main]

```java
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.futures.async;

import java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture;

/**
 * The core banking system of the super duper bank
 */
public interface BankingApi {
    /**
     * Creates a customer for the super duper bank
     *
     * @param name name of the customer
     * @return the created customer
     */
    CompletableFuture<Customer> createCustomer(String name);

    /**
     * Creates an account for a customer of the super duper bank
     *
     * @param customer the customer for which the account is created
     * @param accountType type of account, currently supported: giro or savings
     * @return the created account
     */
    CompletableFuture<Account> createAccount(Customer customer, String accountType);
}
```


spring-boot-server – futures/async/AccountsController.java [spring-boot-server.main]
@RestController
public class AccountsController {
@Autowired
BankingApi bankingApiClient;
@PostMapping("/super-duper-product")
CompletableFuture<String> createSuperDuperProduct() {
Result result = new Result();
return bankingApiClient.createCustomer(name: "Maxi Mustermann") CompletableFuture<Customer>
.thenApply(result::setCustomer) CompletableFuture<Result>
.thenCompose(r ->
bankingApiClient.createAccount(result.customer, accountType: "giro")
.thenApply(r::setGiro))
.thenCompose(r ->
bankingApiClient.createAccount(result.customer, accountType: "savings")
.thenApply(r::setSavings))
.thenApply(r -> {
return String.format("Async: Successfully created super duper product for you:\nYour customer ru
r.customer.getId(),
r.giro.getIban(),
r.savings.getIban());
}) CompletableFuture<String>
.exceptionally(e -> {
e.printStackTrace();
return "We cannot create the product for you right now, please come back later.";
});
}
}

Simulation of 100 requests in Spring WebFlux



Super Duper Bank

Not that easy…

You

async/await

- “Syntactic sugar” for writing asynchronous functions that look like synchronous code
- Under the hood async/await syntax is converted to *Future/Promise* chains
- Still implicitly (or explicitly) return an asynchronous result
- Recently arrived in C#, Rust, JavaScript, Python, …

How async/await could look like in Java (hypothetical)

```java
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.await.async;

import com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.sync.Account;
import com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.sync.BankingApiException;
import com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.sync.Customer;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.PostMapping;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.RestController;

import java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture;

@RestController
public class AccountsController {
    @Autowired
    BankingApi bankingApiClient;

    @PostMapping("/super-duper-product")
    async CompletableFuture<String> createSuperDuperProduct() {
        try {
            Customer customer = await bankingApiClient.createCustomer("Maxi Mustermann");
            Account giro = await bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, "giro");
            Account savings = await bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, "savings");
            return String.format("Successfully created super duper product for you:\nYour customer number is %d\nYour giro account is %s\nYour savings account is %s\n",
                    customer.getId(),
                    giro.getIban(),
                    savings.getIban());
        } catch (BankingApiException e) {
            e.printStackTrace();
            return "We cannot create the product for you right now, please come back later.";
        }
    }
}

```

About blue and red worlds

spring-boot-server – superduperproduct/sync/BankingApi.java [spring-boot-server.main]

```java
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.sync;

/**
 * The core banking system of the super duper bank
 */
public interface BankingApi {
    /**
     * Creates a customer for the super duper bank
     *
     * @param name name of the customer
     * @return the created customer
     * @throws BankingApiException
     */
    Customer createCustomer(String name) throws BankingApiException;

    /**
     * Creates an account for a customer of the super duper bank
     *
     * @param customer the customer for which the account is created
     * @param accountType type of account, currently supported: giro or savings
     * @return the created account
     * @throws BankingApiException
     */
    Account createAccount(Customer customer, String accountType) throws BankingApiException;
}
```

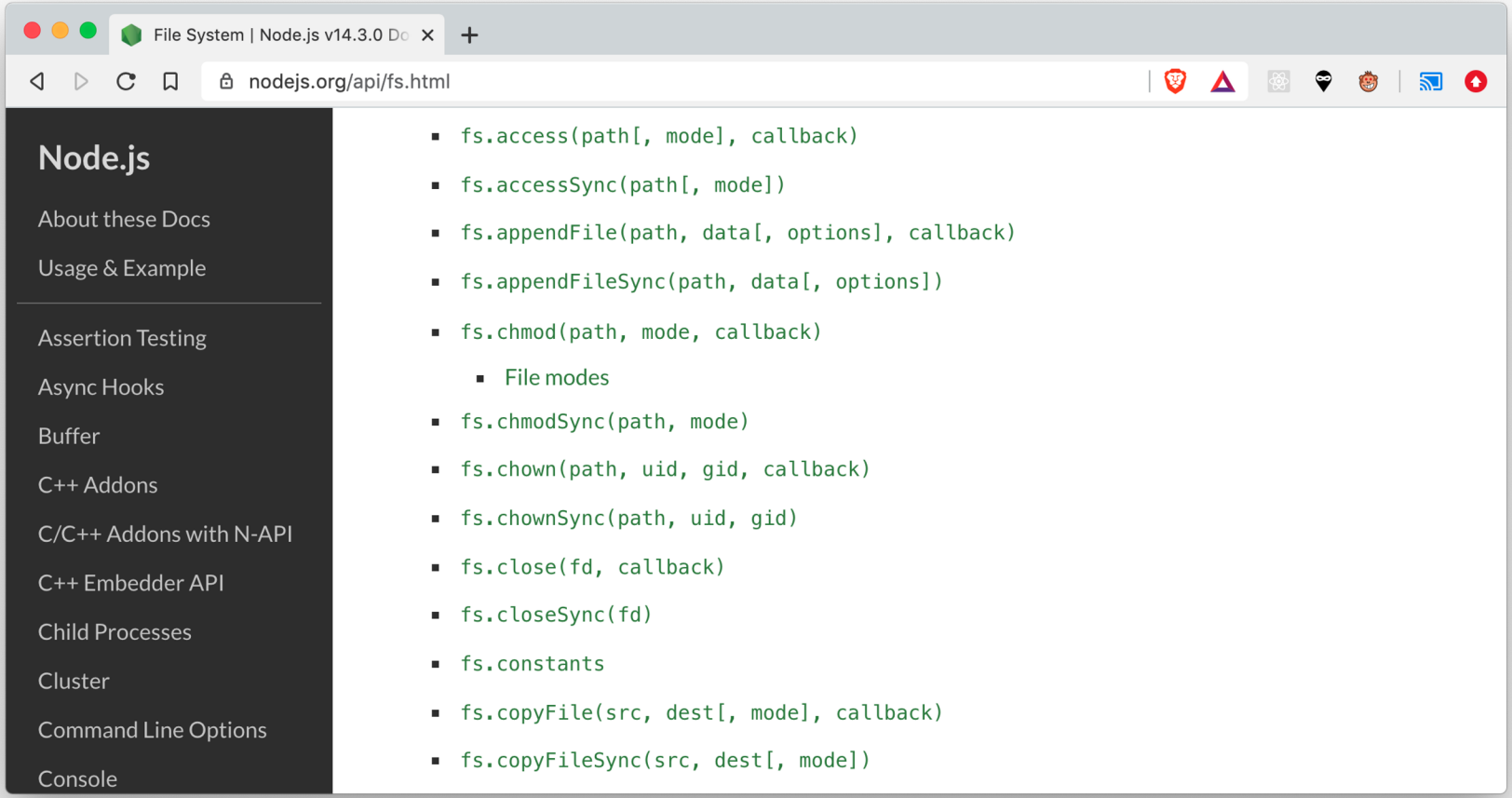
spring-boot-server – futures/async/BankingApi.java [spring-boot-server.main]

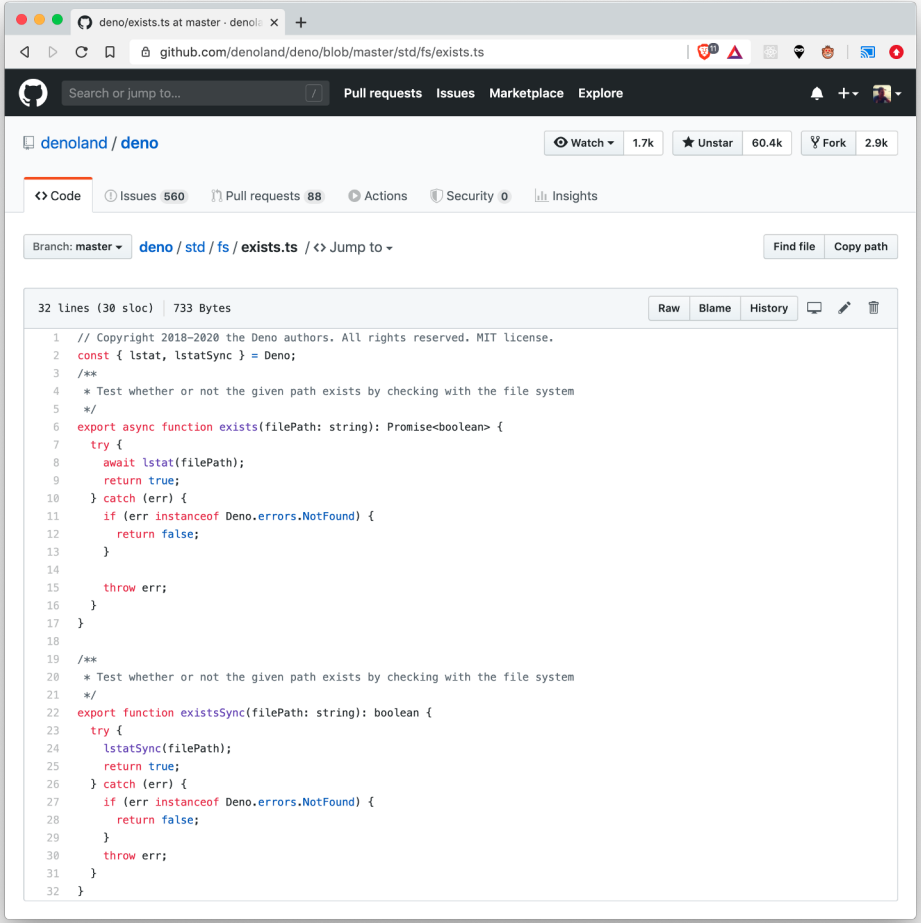
```java
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.futures.async;

import java.util.concurrent.CompletableFuture;

/**
 * The core banking system of the super duper bank
 */
public interface BankingApi {
    /**
     * Creates a customer for the super duper bank
     *
     * @param name name of the customer
     * @return the created customer
     */
    CompletableFuture<Customer> createCustomer(String name);

    /**
     * Creates an account for a customer of the super duper bank
     *
     * @param customer the customer for which the account is created
     * @param accountType type of account, currently supported: giro or savings
     * @return the created account
     */
    CompletableFuture<Account> createAccount(Customer customer, String accountType);
}
```

About blue and red worlds

- Going into asynchronous world break your old interfaces and you have to decide beforehand which world you want
- Hard to go from synchronous world to asynchronous world
- Often, we anyway just want a synchronous programming model but are forced to use asynchronous abstractions because of the underlying execution model
- *async/await* can make it look like synchronous, but we are still in the asynchronous world

Source: http://journal.stuffwithstuff.com/2015/02/01/what-color-is-your-function/

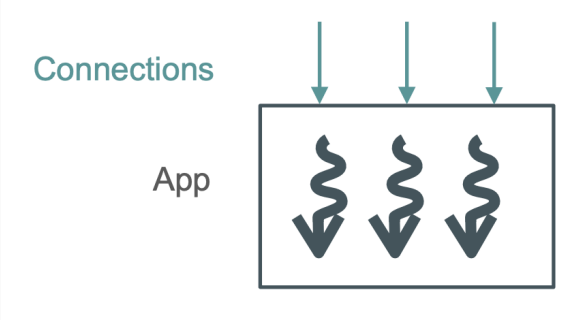

File System | Node.js v14.3.0 Do
nodejs.org/api/fs.html
Node.js
About these Docs
Usage & Example
Assertion Testing
Async Hooks
Buffer
C++ Addons
C/C++ Addons with N-API
C++ Embedder API
Child Processes
Cluster
Command Line Options
Console
fs.access(path[, mode], callback)
fs.accessSync(path[, mode])
fs.appendFile(path, data[, options], callback)
fs.appendFileSync(path, data[, options])
fs.chmod(path, mode, callback)
File modes
fs.chmodSync(path, mode)
fs.chown(path, uid, gid, callback)
fs.chownSync(path, uid, gid)
fs.close(fd, callback)
fs.closeSync(fd)
fs.constants
fs.copyFile(src, dest[, mode], callback)
fs.copyFileSync(src, dest[, mode])

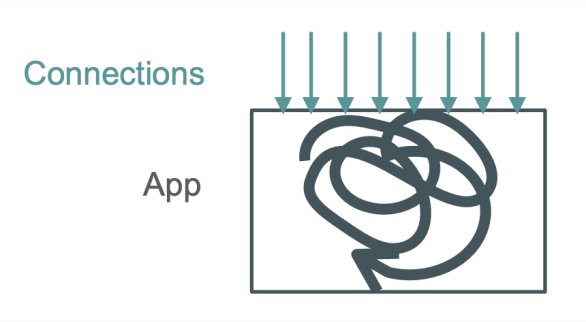

deno/exists.ts at master · denoland
github.com/denoland/deno/blob/master/std/fs/exists.ts
Search or jump to...
Pull requests
Issues
Marketplace
Explore
denoland / deno
Watch 1.7k
Unstar 60.4k
Fork 2.9k
Code
Issues 560
Pull requests 88
Actions
Security 0
Insights
Branch: master
deno / std / fs / exists.ts
Jump to
Find file
Copy path
32 lines (30 sloc) 733 Bytes
Raw
Blame
History
// Copyright 2018-2020 the Deno authors. All rights reserved. MIT license.
const { lstat, lstatSync } = Deno;
/**
* Test whether or not the given path exists by checking with the file system
*/
export async function exists(filePath: string): Promise<boolean> {
try {
await lstat(filePath);
return true;
} catch (err) {
if (err instanceof Deno.errors.NotFound) {
return false;
}
throw err;
}
}
/**
* Test whether or not the given path exists by checking with the file system
*/
export function existsSync(filePath: string): boolean {
try {
lstatSync(filePath);
return true;
} catch (err) {
if (err instanceof Deno.errors.NotFound) {
return false;
}
throw err;
}
}

Chapter 3

I want my blocking code back :-/

Choose between:





Synchronous style

- 😀 Simple
- 🙂 Language integration (Exceptions, control flow)
- 😏 Not very efficient (OS Thread per request -> limited resource)
- 😣 Advanced stuff is more complex (e.g. do two things in parallel)

Asynchronous style

- 😣 Hard to read (without *async/await*), complex, hard to debug
- 😣 Blue and red worlds, virality
- 😣 Rewrite your Application
- 😀 Efficient

Is my website up in go? – Synchronous

```go
package main

import (
	"fmt"
	"net/http"
)

func main() {
	// A slice of sample websites
	urls := []string{
		"https://www.easyjet.com/",
		"https://www.skyscanner.de/",
		"https://www.ryanair.com",
		"https://wizzair.com/",
		"https://www.swiss.com/",
	}
	for _, url := range urls {
		checkUrl(url)
	}
}

//checks and prints a message if a website is up or down
func checkUrl(url string) {
	_, err := http.Get(url)
	if err != nil {
		fmt.Println(url, "is down !!!")
		return
	}
	fmt.Println(url, "is up and running.")
}
```

go_async_part1.go hosted with ❤ by GitHub view raw

Is my website up in go? – Asynchronous

```go
package main

import (
	"fmt"
	"net/http"
)

func main() {
	// A slice of sample websites
	urls := []string{
		"https://www.easyjet.com/",
		"https://www.skyscanner.de/",
		"https://www.ryanair.com",
		"https://wizzair.com/",
		"https://www.swiss.com/",
	}
	for _, url := range urls {
		go checkUrl(url)
	}
}

//checks and prints a message if a website is up or down
func checkUrl(url string) {
	_, err := http.Get(url)
	if err != nil {
		fmt.Println(url, "is down !!!")
		return
	}
	fmt.Println(url, "is up and running.")
}
```

go_async_part2.go hosted with ❤ by GitHub view raw

Is my website up in go?

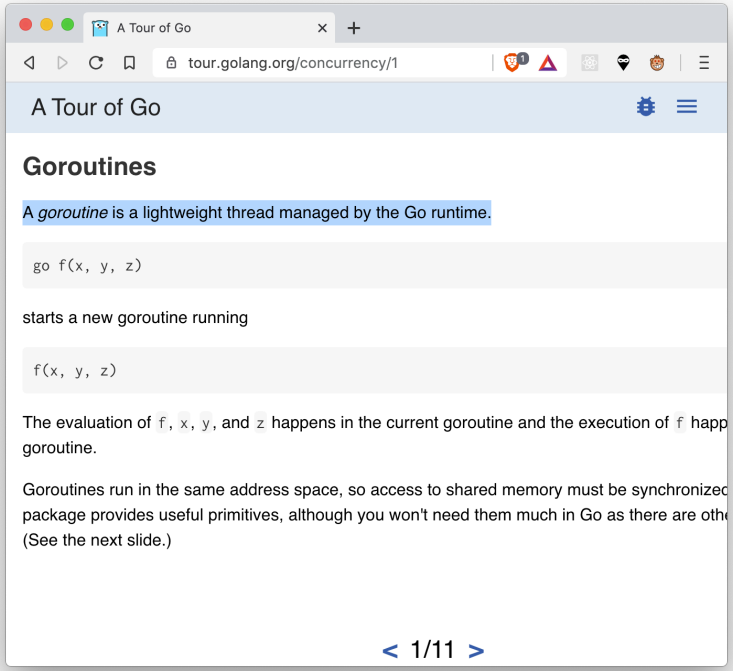
```go
package main

import (
	"fmt"
	"net/http"
)

func main() {
	// A slice of sample websites
	urls := []string{
		"https://www.easyjet.com/",
		"https://www.skyscanner.de/",
		"https://www.ryanair.com",
		"https://wizzair.com/",
		"https://www.swiss.com/",
	}
	for _, url := range urls {
		checkUrl(url)
	}
}

//checks and prints a message if a website is up or down
func checkUrl(url string) {
	_, err := http.Get(url)
	if err != nil {
		fmt.Println(url, "is down !!!")
		return
	}
	fmt.Println(url, "is up and running.")
}
```

go_async_part1.go hosted with ❤ by GitHub view raw

```go
package main

import (
	"fmt"
	"net/http"
)

func main() {
	// A slice of sample websites
	urls := []string{
		"https://www.easyjet.com/",
		"https://www.skyscanner.de/",
		"https://www.ryanair.com",
		"https://wizzair.com/",
		"https://www.swiss.com/",
	}
	for _, url := range urls {
		go checkUrl(url)
	}
}

//checks and prints a message if a website is up or down
func checkUrl(url string) {
	_, err := http.Get(url)
	if err != nil {
		fmt.Println(url, "is down !!!")
		return
	}
	fmt.Println(url, "is up and running.")
}
```

go_async_part2.go hosted with ❤ by GitHub view raw

Is my website up in go?

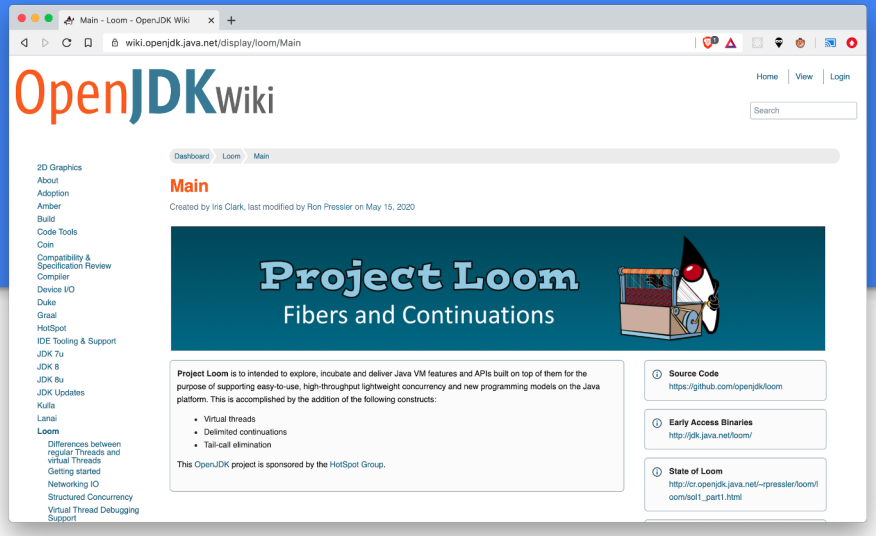


Virtual thread

aka lightweight thread 
aka fiber
aka green thread
aka user-mode thread

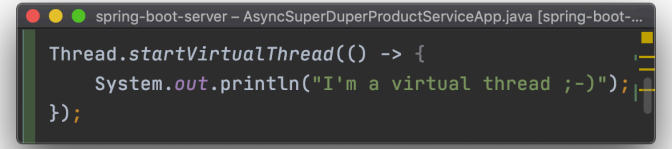
Project Loom

- Official OpenJDK Project to implement virtual threads on the Java platform (JVM)
- Currently in development
- Can be tried out by using a preview build JDK



What is a virtual thread in Java?

- Like OS threads but
  - Lightweight – have as many as you want
  - Fast – context switches are cheap
- Managed by the Java Runtime
- Use existing APIs (*Thread, Executors, …)*
- No timeslice-based preemption (by default)



virtual thread =

Representation of the state of a computation

+

Something which can control the execution of the computation

virtual thread =

Continuation

+

Scheduler

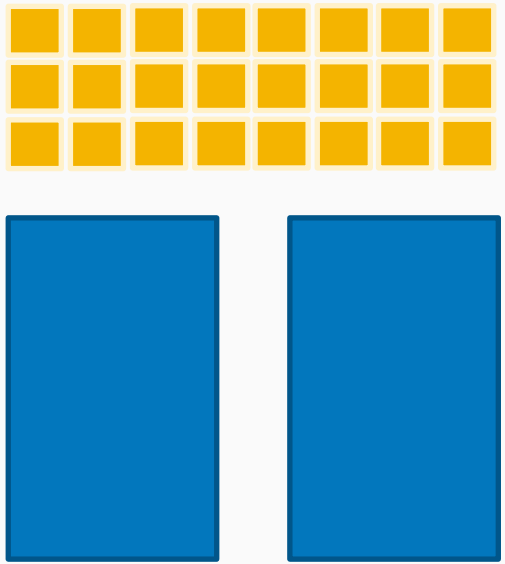
Continuation (*coroutine*)

- Piece of sequential code that can suspend itself and may be continued at a later point
- Low level API, not to be used directly

```
package java.lang;
public class Continuation implements Runnable {
    public Continuation(ContinuationScope scope, Runnable target);
    public final void run() ;
    public static void yield(ContinuationScope scope) ;
    public boolean isDone();
}
```

Scheduler

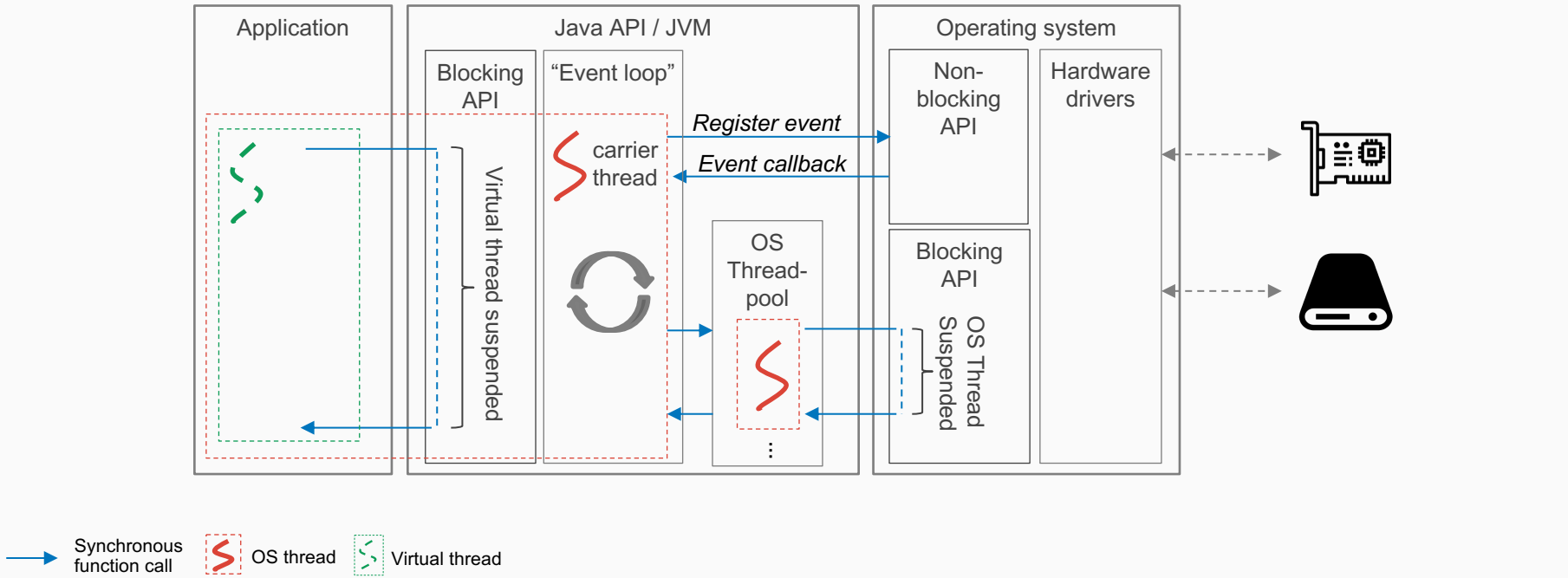
- Scheduler schedules the continuations onto real worker OS threads (carrier thread)
- By default *ForkJoinPool* Scheduler is used which distributes work among all CPU cores
- Possible to change scheduler (e.g. choose to have only one carrier thread -> Node.JS like)



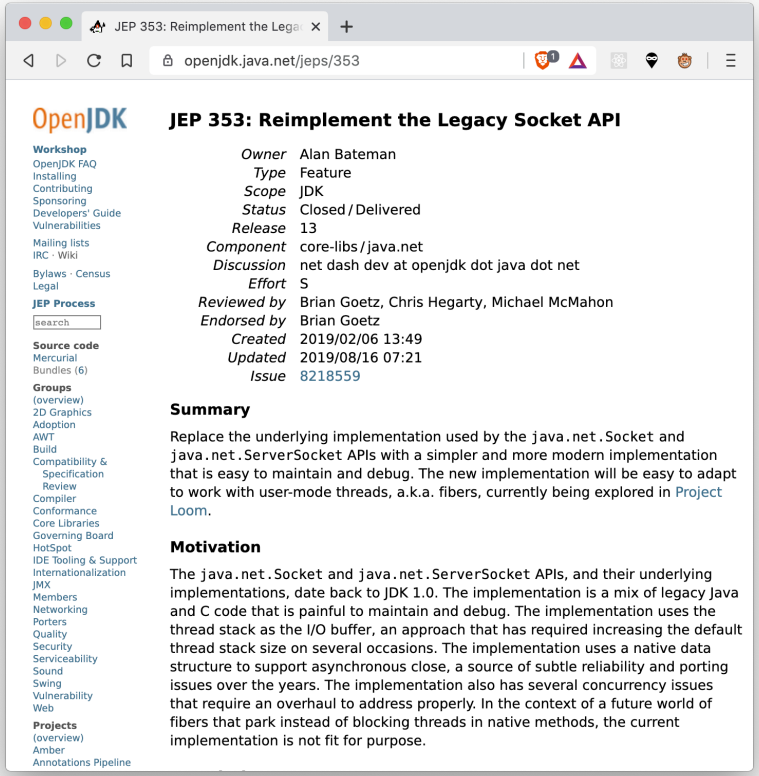
Why virtual threads instead of asynchronous abstractions?

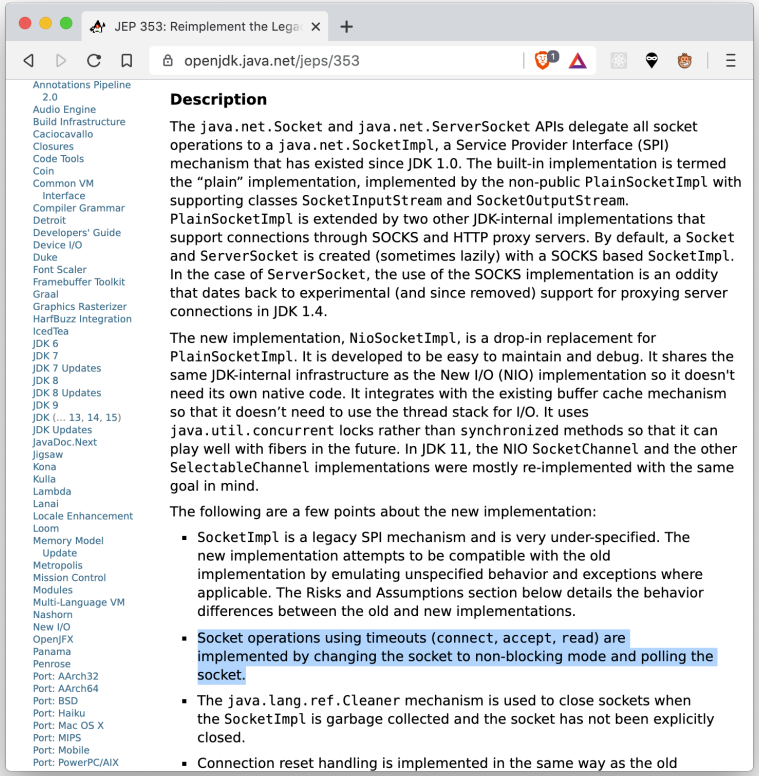
- Enables non-blocking code to be (virtual-thread)-synchronous
  - Normal language constructs for conditional logic, error handling, …
  - Easy debugging
- No need to break your interfaces, no forced blue world for non-blocking IO
  - Libraries that use the JDK primitives will also automatically play well with virtual threads (e.g. Spring Web, JDBC, …)
  - Works with legacy code without changes (in the best case)
- For advanced stuff, e.g. do two things in parallel
  - → use asynchronous abstractions (Future, Reactive) or structured concurrency on the consumer side

Virtual threads allow to translate asynchronous to synchronous APIs

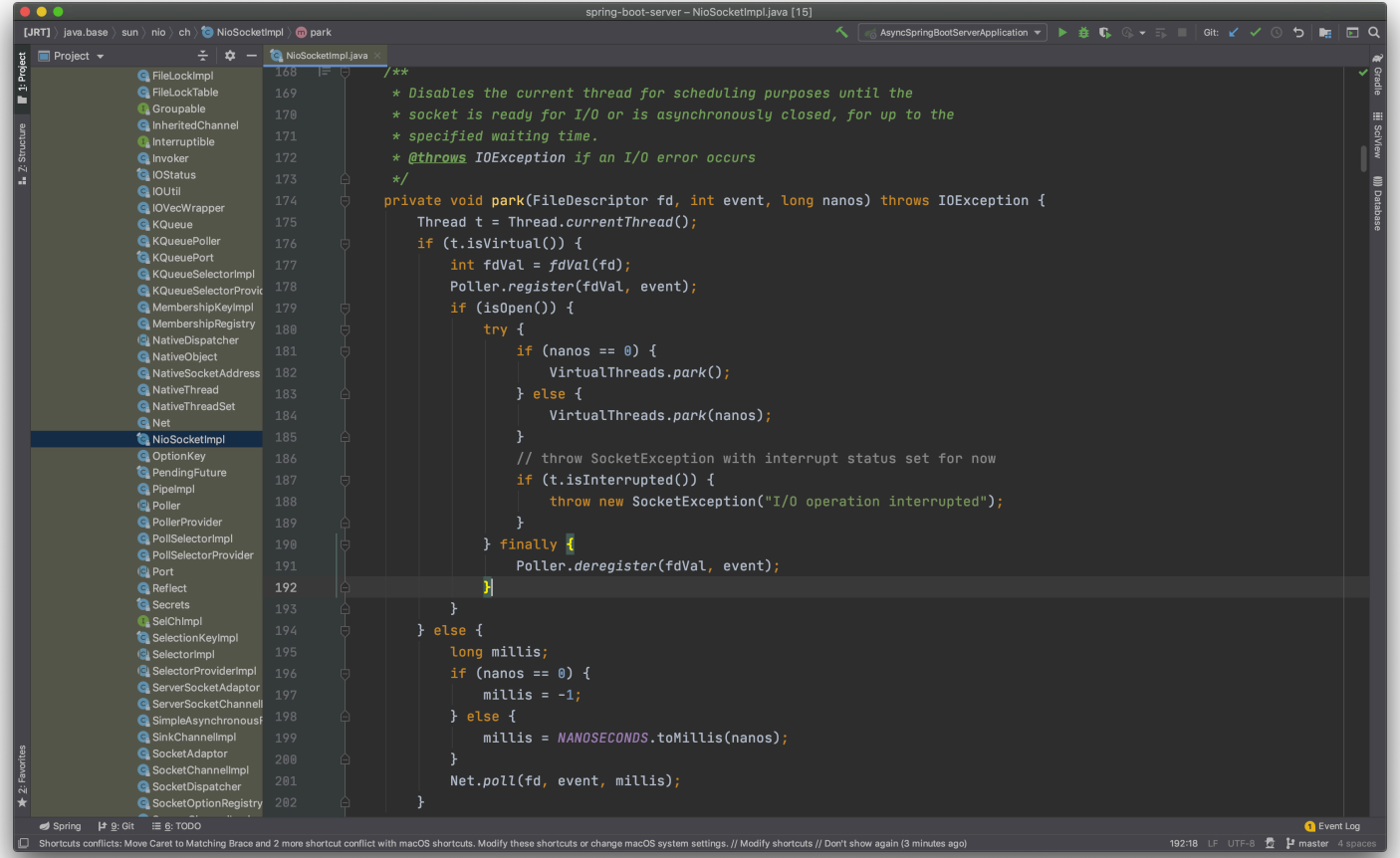


Example: New Socket API implementation ready for virtual threads





Example: New Socket API implementation ready for virtual threads



Limitations

Temporary

- Limited debugging support
  - Dealing with a large number of virtual threads, Setting local variables, Suspending or resuming a virtual thread, Stack traces for fibers will include scheduler related frames
- Not all Java APIs virtual thread ready as of now

Permanent

- Semantic differences to threads → not all legacy code will work without changes
- Native frames not supported

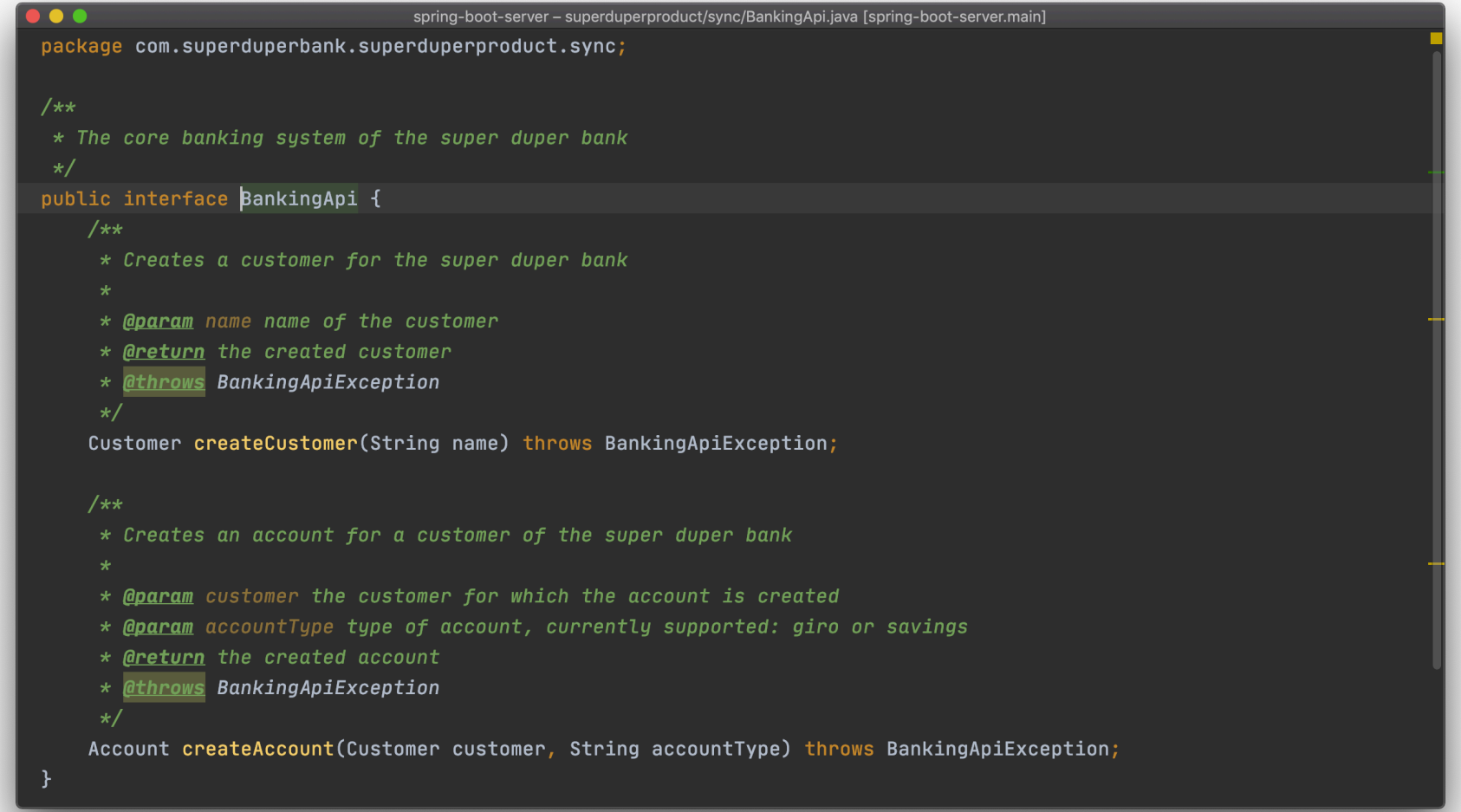
Super Duper Bank

How will the SDPS look like with virtual threads?

B. Boss Bossy

>

You


spring-boot-server – superduperproduct/sync/BankingApi.java [spring-boot-server.main]
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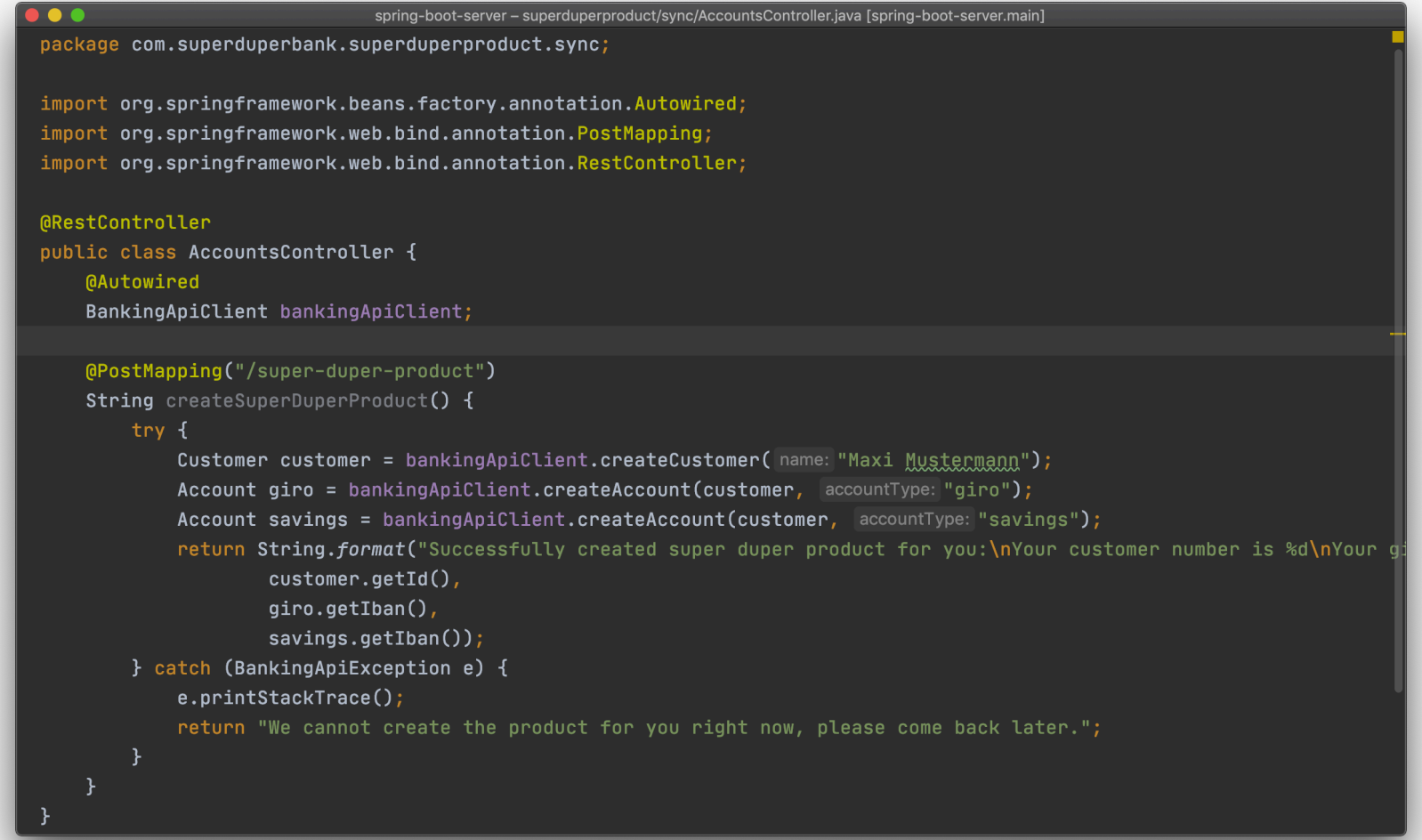
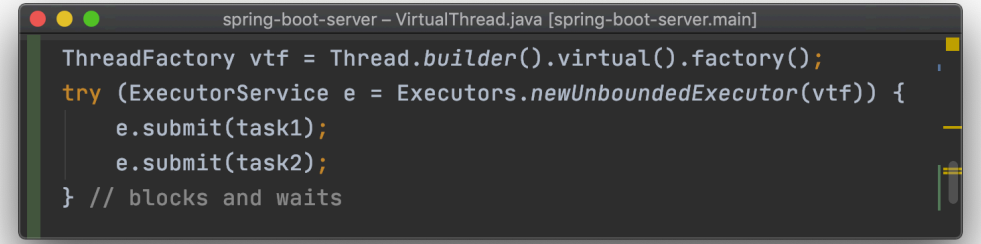
/**
* The core banking system of the super duper bank
*/
public interface BankingApi {
/**
* Creates a customer for the super duper bank
*
* @param name name of the customer
* @return the created customer
* @throws BankingApiException
*/
Customer createCustomer(String name) throws BankingApiException;
/**
* Creates an account for a customer of the super duper bank
*
* @param customer the customer for which the account is created
* @param accountType type of account, currently supported: giro or savings
* @return the created account
* @throws BankingApiException
*/
Account createAccount(Customer customer, String accountType) throws BankingApiException;
}


spring-boot-server – superduperproduct/sync/AccountsController.java [spring-boot-server.main]
package com.superduperbank.superduperproduct.sync;
import org.springframework.beans.factory.annotation.Autowired;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.PostMapping;
import org.springframework.web.bind.annotation.RestController;
@RestController
public class AccountsController {
@Autowired
BankingApiClient bankingApiClient;
@PostMapping("/super-duper-product")
String createSuperDuperProduct() {
try {
Customer customer = bankingApiClient.createCustomer(name: "Maxi Mustermann");
Account giro = bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, accountType: "giro");
Account savings = bankingApiClient.createAccount(customer, accountType: "savings");
return String.format("Successfully created super duper product for you:\nYour customer number is %d\nYour g
customer.getId(),
giro.getIban(),
savings.getIban());
} catch (BankingApiException e) {
e.printStackTrace();
return "We cannot create the product for you right now, please come back later.";
}
}
}

Sneak peek: Structured concurrency

- Threads normally “float around” in application
- Idea: Bind thread lifetimes to code blocks
- Currently implemented with try-with-resources syntax
- Final design still in discussion



Cool! How can I try it out?

https://wiki.openjdk.java.net/display/loom

- Download preview build https://jdk.java.net/loom/
- Configure new JDK in Intellij (or Eclipse 🙈)
- Spawn 100k Virtual Threads
- Wait for release in Java 1X

Key takeaways

- Blocking OS calls forces you to have one thread per ”program” (e.g. request)
- Non-Blocking I/O calls are complex
- Event-based libraries (libuv, Netty) wrap non-blocking OS calls and provide asynchronous abstractions
    - Callback: simple, not composable, Futures: composable but “unnatural” usage
    - Async/await: Syntax to make working with Futures more natural
- Project Loom implements lightweight virtual threads in the Java platform
    - No blue/red world problem, just write synchronous code as usual, use your favorite (synchronous-style) libraries and enjoy more efficiency (e.g. Spring Web, JDBC)
    - Virtual threads are cheap – have millions of them
    - Still uses non blocking IO under the hood – but wraps them in existing synchronous APIs

→ Final question: Is the virtual thread approach superior to the event-loop model?

I want to learn more!

In depth article about Project Loom and it's current state (May 2020)	https://cr.openjdk.java.net/~rpressler/loom/loom/sol1_part1.html
Blue/red world problem	http://journal.stuffwithstuff.com/2015/02/01/what-color-is-your-function/
Build an event loop in Rust	https://cfsamson.github.io/book-exploring-async-basics/1_concurrent_vs_parallel.html
Implement green threads in Rust in 200 lines	https://cfsamson.gitbook.io/green-threads-explained-in-200-lines-of-rust/

Thank you! Questions?

Lukas Steinbrecher

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