

This presentation will act as an introduction to troubleshooting hangs when using WebSphere Application Server version 7.0

IBM
Unit objectives
After completing this unit, you should be able to:
Describe what a hang is
Detect a hang condition
Trigger and analyze Java core files for hangs
Use the WebSphere Application Server hang detection facility
Use the IBM Thread and Monitor Dump Analyzer for Java
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After completing his presentation you should be able to describe and detect a thread hang. Trigger a thread dump, and analyze it using IBM Thread and Monitor Dump Analyzer.



A hang can be defined as a process or thread which has become unresponsive while still apparently alive. Contrast this with a crash, when a process abnormally ends with an error message.

Deadlocks are often caused by one process or thread that is hung, which causes another thread to fail to respond to a request.

In Java, many deadlock conditions are a result of two threads waiting on each other, requiring a lock on the object that the other already has obtained.



This slide shows a common mistake that a development might make which can cause a thread hang or deadlock. In the top example, a simple logic error prevents the thread from doing further work due to an infinite loop condition. The middle example shows a thread being told to wait for outside notification that can or may not come. The last example on the slide demonstrates how a deadlock condition is formed.

]	IBM
WebSphere process hang detection steps	
<ul> <li>Once a hang is suspected, manually trigger a thread dump.</li> <li>Use wsadmin or OS facilities: see next slide.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Create a script or use script in ISA to collect must gather when the process that is suspected hangs.</li> </ul>	
• Distinguish the 100% CPU cases from idle CPU cases.	
<ul> <li>For a typical hang, collect three dumps a few minutes apart to see if anything is moving within the process (but slowly)</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Examine the thread dumps manually or with tools.</li> </ul>	
– Look for large number of threads that are blocked.	
<ul> <li>Look for threads that are waiting after sending a request to some other process, now awaiting a response.</li> </ul>	V
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The basic problem determination method for hangs is to obtain one or, if possible, a series of thread dumps.

If the process is still responsive to wsadmin commands, then the wsadmin command should be able to trigger the dump.

For a typical hang, collect three dumps at five minute intervals to determine if anything is moving within the process (albeit slowly).

Examine the thread dumps to look for deadlocks or to see if threads are awaiting responses from other processes.

In newer IBM Virtual Machine for Java Platforms, the JVM will automatically perform deadlock detection and tell you if a deadlock has been detected. Look for the string "deadlock" in the thread dump.



This slide demonstrates several ways one can manually trigger a thread dump using the kill command or wsadmin scripting session.



After you have a few thread dumps to look at, look for conditions where many threads executing the same method call as this can indicate that the displayed method is delaying the threads. A lack of active web container threads can indicate that the server is not receiving any traffic. Additionally, too many threads in wait or blocked state can indicate a problem.



The monitor information in the thread dump shows what synchronization locks are held by which threads. A "Deadlock detected" message in the dump provides a clear indication of a deadlock condition in the JVM. The monitor information also shows which threads are blocked by monitors. This information is useful for determining the cause of a deadlocked or hung JVM.



There are some fairly easy-to-spot symptoms that present themselves in a thread dump that can be used to identify the source of the hang or performance degradation. For example, if you see a single thread holding up several other threads, you have a good place to start looking for the root cause. In other cases, you can see a thread running the same code across all of the thread dumps you have to review. This might indicate that the running code is having a problem that is causing the hung thread.



IBM has several tools available to help you analyze thread dumps. The ThreadMonitor component within WebSphere Application Server will provide notifications in the logs when a possible hung thread is detected. For post mortem analysis, the IBM Thread and Monitor Dump Analyzer (TMDA) tool can be used. TMDA is a GUI-based tool that is used to analyze thread dumps from both IBM and Oracle Hotspot JVMs and provide possible recommendations on the cause.

	IBM
WebSphere hung thread detection	
<ul> <li>WebSphere contains a built-in hung thread detection function.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>ThreadMonitor architecture was created to monitor thread pools within WebS         <ul> <li>The ThreadMonitor monitors web container, ORB, and asynchronous bea</li> <li>Enabled by default</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	phere. An thread pools
<ul> <li>Unmanaged threads are not monitored.</li> <li>– Threads created by applications (illegal in Java EE)</li> <li>– Some internal threads</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Upon notification of a hung thread:         <ul> <li>Obtain a javacore and see what the thread is doing</li> <li>Can configure WebSphere to generate a javacore automatically wher is detected</li> <li>Investigate the nature of the thread</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	n a hung thread
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WebSphere Application Server contains a built-in hung thread detection function called the Thread Monitor. It monitors the web container, Object Request Broker, and Asynchronous Bean thread pools, and is enabled by default. Threads not created from WebSphere-managed thread pools are not monitored.

You can configure a hang detection policy to accommodate your applications and environment so that potential hangs can be reported, providing earlier detection of failing servers.



When the thread pool issues work to a thread, it sends a notification to the thread monitor, which notes the thread identifier and the time in a list.

At user-configurable intervals, the thread monitor looks at the active threads, and compares them to the list, to determine how long each thread has been active. If a thread has been active longer than the user-specified threshold, the thread is marked as "potentially hung", and notifications are sent.



The thread monitor doesn't try to deal with the hung threads, it just issues notifications, so that the administrator or developer can deal with the issues.

The message written to the SystemOut log, and has a message identifier of WSVR0605W, also shows the thread name, the approximate time that the thread has been active, and the total number of threads which can be hung.



It's possible that a thread can run for longer than the specified threshold for legitimate reasons.

When a thread that was previously marked as "potentially hung" completes its work and exits, a notification is sent. After a certain number of false alarms, the threshold is automatically increased by 50% to account for these long-running threads.

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Hung thread detection cor	figuratior	า	
<ul> <li>Custom properties for hung thread</li> </ul>	detection co	onfiguration	
- Navigate to : Servers > Applica	ation Servers	s > server_r	name.
<ul> <li>– Under Server Infrastructure, ci</li> <li>– Add these properties (or change)</li> </ul>	de if present)	tration > Cu ):	istom Properties.
	<b>y</b> - <b>i y</b>		
Property	Units	Default	Description
com.ibm.websphere.threadmonitor. interval	secs.	180	The interval at which the thread pools will be polled for hung threads
com.ibm.websphere.threadmonitor. threshold	secs.	600	The length of time that a thread can be active before being marked as "potentially bung"
com.ibm.websphere.threadmonitor.	N/A	100	The number of false alarms that can
false.alarm.threshold	.,,,	100	occur before automatically increasing the threshold by 50%
com.ibm.websphere.threadmonitor. dump.java	N/A	False	Set to true to cause a javacore to be created when a hung thread is detected and a WSVR0605W message is printed

The hang detection policy can be configured by creating custom properties for the application server from the AdminConsole. This slide shows the default settings of the custom properties unless specified otherwise.



The Thread and Monitor Dump Analyzer is an IBM Support tool available through the IBM Support Assistant workbench.

It is designed to simplify the act of analyzing thread dumps and is designed so that novice troubleshooters and experts alike can use the tool to analyze thread dumps.



You can search the local file system for one or more thread dump files. Each file is loaded into the tool and analyzed. The tool will provide a warning if any deadlocked threads are found within the dumps.

Additionally, the tool will display summary information from the thread dump file such as file name, cause of the dump, data, process identifier, Java version, Java heap information, and much more.

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Thread detai	I: thread stat	tus anal	vsis		
TBM Thread and Monitor	Dump Analyzer for Jau				
File Analysis View Hel	n	a			-
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AIO	JXCC8 java/lang/	A F F	Thread Status Analysis		
Approxim 🔗 Waitin	0x13be8 java/lang/				
Connect S 😥 Runna	0x106bc sun/nio/ch				<b>_</b>
Deferrable 😒 Wattin	0x10588 java/lang/		Status	Number of Threads : 00	Percentage
Deferrable Value	0x105a4 java/lang/		Deadlock	2	3 (%)
Deferrable * Wattin	Oxbcc java/lang/				
Deferred A 😣 Wattin	0x105b4 java/lang/		Runnable	11	17 (%)
Finalizer th 🔅 Wattin	0x10650 NO JAVA			50	76 (%)
Framewor 👒 Waitin	Oxf10 java/lang/		waiting on condition	00	70 (20)
HAManage 📝 Wattin	Oxdcc java/lang/		Walking on monitor	0	0(%)
JIT Compil 😒 Wattin	0x10630 NO JAVA				
Java muex Drugos	0x1000C java/larig/		USuspended	0	0(%)
T=1:P=29 Runna	0x145ec java/net/Pl		<b>A</b>	0	0.000
LocalNotifi 🔿 Waitin	0x105f8 java/lang/		Object.wait()	<u> Р</u>	0 (20)
MessageA 🔅 Wartin	0x10670 java/lang/		Blocked	5	8(%)
Mtl_Tx_Ev 😒 Waitin	Oxda4 java/lang/				
Non-Defer 😵 Wartin	0x1069c java/lang/		d <sup>®</sup> Parked	0	0(%)
Non-deferr 🖈 Wartin	Uxd2c java/lang/				1
Open Open Javacore or Th	read Dump				
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The Analysis menu allows you to display thread and monitor details for a single thread dump. If you open multiple thread dumps, you can display a comparative thread or monitor analysis.

The thread detail analysis displays thread status analysis, thread method analysis, thread aggregation analysis, memory segment analysis.

The thread status analysis shows the number of threads in each state: Deadlocked, Runnable, Blocked, and so forth. Threads are sorted by thread name. Thread Detail View provides the thread name, the state of a thread, the method name, the Java stack trace, and the native stack trace;

Method Name	Number of Threads : 66	Percentage
java/lang/Object.wait(Native Method)	42	64 (%)
java/lang/Thread.sleep(Native Method)	7	11 (%)
java/net/PlainSocketImpl.socketAccept(Native	Method) 3	5 (%)
sun/nio/ch/WindowsSelectorImpl\$SubSelector Method)	r.poll0(Native 2	3 (%)
com/ibm/issf/atjolin/badapp/BadAppServlet.sn dAppServlet.java:332)	eezyMethod(Ba	3 (%)
com/ibm/io/async/AsyncLibrary.aio_getioev2(	Native Method) 2	3 (%)
NO JAVA STACK	2	3 (%)
com/ibm/jvm/Dump.JavaDump(Native Metho	d) 1	2 (%)
com/ibm/issf/atjolin/badapp/BadAppServlet.sn dAppServlet.java:337)	eezyMethod(Ba	2 (%)
com/ibm/issf/atjolin/badapp/BadAppServlet.do AppServlet.java:320)	peyMethod(Bad 1	2 (%)
java/net/PlainDatagramSocketImpl.receive0(N	ative Method) 1	2 (%)
java/net/SocketInputStream.socketRead0(Nati	ve Method) 1	2 (%)
com/ibm/misc/SignalDispatcher.waitForSignal Method)	I(Native 1	2 (%)

The thread method analysis view provides a summary of what all of the threads in the JVM were doing at the time the dump was taken.

Thread Type	Number of Threads : 66	Percentage
Thread	11	17 (%)
Alarm	6	9 (%)
WebContainer	5	8(%)
Deferrable Alarm	4	6(%)
SoapConnectorThreadPool	3	5 (%)
ThreadManager.JobsProcessorThread.InternalThread	1	2 (%)
WLMMonitorSleeper	1	2 (%)
ServerSocket	1	2 (%)
HAManager.thread.pool	1	2(%)

The thread aggregation analysis view details the types of threads that were seen in the dump.

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Thread	l detail: m	emory segn	nent analy	sis		
Memory Type	# of Segments	Used Memory(bytes)	Used Memory(%)	Free Memory(bytes)	Free Memory(%)	Total Memory(bytes)
Internal	102	6,567,172	98.24	117,500	1.76	6,684,672
Object	1	65,131,520	100	0	0	65,131,520
Class	1,090	77,451,880	95.1	3,988,936	4.9	81,440,816
JIT Code Cache	7	0	0	3,670,016	100	3,670,016
JIT Data Cache	5	2,214,476	84.48	406,964	15.52	2,621,440
Overall	1,205	151,365,048	94.87	8,183,416	5.13	159,548,464
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This slide shows sample output for the memory segment analysis view. This view provide information regarding the amount of memory allocated and the number of memory segments used by the server from which this dump was taken.

				IBM
Multiple	e dump compa	rative analys	sis	
🐏 IBM Thread	and Monitor Dump Analyz	er for Java		Easily compare a
<u>File</u> <u>A</u> nalysis	<u>V</u> iew <u>H</u> elp			large number of
🗁 🗶 🐐	k 🗶 🔅 🕵 🌮 🗣	) 🖾 🔏 🖾 🗉	Image: Optimized state         Image: Optimized state	Javacores
🧬 Compare	Threads : javacore.200912	208.161750.1496.0002.	txt javacore.20091208.161901.1	496.0004.txt javacore.20091208.1
Thread 🔺 ja AIO Timer 🧧	avacore.2 javacore.2 ja Stavola Stavala S	vacore.2 4	Thread Comparison Analy	sis
Approxima	t javala 🕄 javala 🔄	imala		
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Connect S	Sunnul Sunnious	Suntil		
Default : 0	t iamia. Stiamia. S	Invala.	• First Dump : Tue Dec 08 16	:17:50 EST 2009
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Default : 2 🔳	👌 com/ib 🔛 Iaraila 🔄	Into Io	◆ Last Dump : Tue Dec 08 16	21:01 EST 2009
Default : 3 📑	🎙 java/la 🚺 com/ib 🞼	java/la		
Default : 4		com/lb	• Global Collections per Minut	e: 5.026178
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Framewor	tavala Et javala Et	pinalia		
GC Daem	a javalla in javalla iS	Eliteration and a second	<ul> <li>List of hang suspects</li> </ul>	
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The Thread and Monitor Dump Analyzer tool can provide comparative analysis between one or more thread dumps taken from the same server. This is useful for determining if threads are truly hung or are just moving very slowly. The tool provides color highlighting to easily identify threads states.



In the left pane, each thread name can be selected and the details of the thread are displayed in the right pane. Deadlocked threads appear in the thread listing with a state of Deadlock or Blocked.

They are also highlighted with a gray color and have a padlock icon on them for easy identification. By clicking on the thread in the left pane, one can see the thread waiting on this thread and the thread that is blocking the selected thread.



The Monitor Detail view provides a hierarchical tree of the threads. By clicking each thread in the hierarchy you can see information about the monitor locks held by the thread and any monitor locks the thread is waiting for.



Having completed this presentation, you should be able to define and identify a JVM hang, be able to capture a thread dump and use it to troubleshoot a hang condition, configure and use the WebSphere Application Server Hung Thread Detection function, and understand base use cases for the IBM Thread and Monitor Dump Analyzer tool.

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