

Actors

11-28-2011

Opening Discussion

- Do you have any questions about the quiz?
- Last assignment due 12/13.
- Grading?
- IcP solutions.

Short Version

- There is a helper method in the Actor object that takes a function for the body of the act method.
- You should import `scala.actors.Actor`, then you can call `actor { body }`.

Receive

- To make an actor deal with a message use `receive`. The argument is a partial function with cases you want that `receive` to deal with.
- Most likely this needs to happen multiple times so you put it in a loop.
- `Receive` is always handled in the actor's thread.

Code

- Let's make some actors that utilize receive.

React

- You only want so many threads, so applications with lots of actors need an alternate approach.
- The react method works like receive, but allows thread sharing and doesn't return.
- To make it happen multiple times embed in a call to loop.
- The actor framework balanced threads and actors share threads.

Code Again

- Let's come up with a fairly large actor program to write and implement it.

Playing with Actors

- Let's play a little with Actors given what we know so far.

Minute Essay

- Questions?
- Any thoughts on when you want your review session to be?