Actors

11-28-2011
Opening Discussion

- Do you have any questions about the quiz?
- Last assignment due 12/13.
- Grading?
- IcP solutions.
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 }`. 
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 actors thread.
Let's make some actors that utilize receive.
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.
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.
Questions?

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