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Review

What is the primary advantage of using a CSV format?

You can find trends using visual data.

It requires a small amount of space.

It is portable between different spreadsheet programs.

It is simple to use.

Correct

Continue

2:46 / 2:47

CSV Data: Comma Separated Values

Have a question? Discuss this lecture in the week forums.

>

Interactive Transcript

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English

0:03

Hello, and welcome to this introduction to using Java to help find trends, patterns, and make a conclusion about information found in data. You see here, two screenshots of spreadsheet programs that have been used to analyze data over many, many years. On the left, is a screenshot of a Google doc spreadsheet that you can use today. This program analyzes data and runs in the cloud. It is accessible via a browser or mobile app on all kinds of devices all over the world. On the right is a screen shot of the first spreadsheet program that launched in 1979 and ran only on Apple 2 computers. In general, spreadsheet programs work on data formatted in rows and columns. Tabular data you'll be able to write Java code to analyze such data as well. Spread sheets revolutionized so many industries and launched new ones by taking seconds to model what if scenarios that are previously taken days to perform. The link here is to a pod cast describing the development of visi calc and the industries that have been transformed by these programs. Today, data that can be analyzed by software programs is often made publicly available through government and non-profit websites. Typically, data is produced in CSV files, files in which the different data values in each row are separated by commas, thus the name comma separated values. You're going to learn how to write Java programs to analyze data stored in CSV format. Using spreadsheet software is a great way of finding patterns, information, trends, and visualizing data. But sometimes a spreadsheet program isn't enough to solve every problem easily. There are many different spreadsheet programs, so a common format is useful. The CSV format makes it possible for data to be portable between different types of software to analyze data. Furthermore, you can write your own Java programs to analyze data using the CSV format.

2:03

Common formats often have standards. For example the Internet Protocol or IP standard determines the format for the packets that transport information across the internet. The IETF or the Internet Engineering Task Force that made the IP standard also created a standard for CSV files.

2:22

Other groups have made different but related standards performance used in different software programs. In this lesson you will learn how to use an open source software library the Apache CSVParser. As you learn more about Java programing. This software library will allow you to solve problems that would be really difficult to solve using just a spreadsheet. [Let's get started with this.](#)

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