



Lambda Expressions in Java 8: Part 1 - Basics

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Topics in This Section

Intro

- Motivation
- Quick summary of big idea

New option: lambdas

- Interpretation
- Most basic form
- Type inferencing
- Expression for body
- Omitting parens
- Comparing lambda approaches to alternatives
- Using effectively final variables
- @FunctionalInterface
- Method references
- The java.util.function package

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Motivation and Overview



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Many Languages Let You Pass Functions Around

- Dynamically (and usually weakly) typed
 - JavaScript, Lisp, Scheme, etc.
- Strongly typed
 - Ruby, Scala, Clojure, ML, etc.
- Functional approach proven concise, useful, and parallelizable
 - JavaScript sorting
 - var testStrings = ["one", "two", "three", "four"];
 - testStrings.sort(function(s1, s2) { return(s1.length - s2.length);});

Why Lambdas in Java Now?

- Concise syntax
 - More succinct and clear than anonymous inner classes
- Deficiencies with anonymous inner classes
 - Bulky, confusion re "this" and naming in general, no nonfinal vars, hard to optimize
- Convenient for new streams library
 - shapes.forEach(s -> s.setColor(Color.RED));
- Similar constructs used in other languages
 - Callbacks, closures, map/reduce idiom
- Step toward true functional programming
 - Real functions and mutable local vars perhaps in future

Main Advantage of Lambdas: Concise and Expressive

Old

```
- button.addActionListener(
    new ActionListener() {
        @Override
        public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent e) {
            doSomethingWith(e);
        }
    });
```

New

– button.addActionListener(e -> doSomethingWith(e));

Vigorous writing is concise... This requires not that the writer make all sentences short, or avoid all details and treat subjects only in outline, but that every word should tell. -- Strunk and White, The Elements of Style

g

Corollary Advantages: Support New Way of Thinking

Encourage functional programming

 When functional programming approach is used, many classes of problems are easier to solve and result in code that is clearer to read and simpler to maintain

Support streams

- Streams are wrappers around data sources (arrays, collections, etc.) that use lambdas, support map/reduce, use lazy evaluation, and can be made parallel automatically by compiler.
 - Cannot be made parallel automatically for(Employee e: employees) { e.giveRaise(1.15); }
 - Will automatically be run in parallel employees.parallel().forEach(e -> e.giveRaise(1.15));



Lambdas: Most Basic Form



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Main Points

- You write what looks like a function
 - Arrays.sort(testStrings, (s1, s2) -> s1.length() s2.length());
 - taskList.execute(() -> downloadSomeFile());
 - someButton.addActionListener(event -> handleButtonClick());
 - double d = MathUtils.integrate(x -> x*x, 0, 100, 1000);
- You get an instance of a class that implements the interface that was expected in that place
 - The expected type must be an interface that has exactly one (abstract) method
 - Called "Functional Interface" or "Single Abstract Method (SAM) Interface"
 - The designation of a single ABSTRACT method is not redundant, because in Java 8 interfaces can have concrete methods, called "default methods". Java 8 interfaces can also have static methods. Both default methods and static methods are covered in later section.

Where Can Lambdas Be Used?

- Find <u>any</u> variable or parameter that expects an interface that has one method
 - (Technically one abstract method, but in Java 7 there was no distinction between a one-method interface and a one-abstract-method interface. These one-method interfaces are called "functional interfaces" or "SAM interfaces".)
 - public interface Blah { String foo(String s); }
- Code that <u>uses</u> interface is the same
 - public void someMethod(Blah b) { ... b.foo(...)...}
 - Code that uses the interface must still know the real method name of the interface
- Code that <u>calls</u> interface can supply lambda
 - String result = someMethod(s -> s.toUpperCase() + "!")

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Previews

- As arguments to methods
 - Arrays.sort(testStrings,

```
(s1, s2) \rightarrow s1.length() - s2.length());
```

- taskList.execute(() -> downloadSomeFile());
- button.addActionListener(event -> handleButtonClick());
- double d = MathUtils.integrate($\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{x}$, 0, 100, 1000);

Previews (Continued)

- As variables (makes real type more obvious)
 - AutoCloseable c = () -> cleanupForTryWithResources();
 - Thread.UncaughtExceptionHandler handler = (thread, exception) -> doSomethingAboutException();
 - Formattable f =
 (formatter,flags,width,precision) -> makeFormattedString();
 - ContentHandlerFactory fact =
 mimeType -> createContentHandlerForMimeType();
 - CookiePolicy policy = (uri, cookie) -> decideIfCookieShouldBeAccepted();
 - Flushable toilet = () -> writeBufferedOutputToStream();
 - TextListener t = event -> respondToChangeInTextValue();

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Simplest Form: Syntax Summary

Replace this

```
new SomeInterface() {
    @Override
    public SomeType someMethod(args) { body }
}
```

With this

```
(args) -> { body }
```

Simplest Form: Example

Old style

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings, new Comparator<String>() {
     @Override
     public int compare(String s1, String s2) {
        return(s1.length() - s2.length());
     }
}
```

New style

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings,

(String s1, String s2) -> { return(s1.length() - s2.length());
);
```

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Sorting Strings by Length

Old version

```
String[] testStrings =
    {"one", "two", "three", "four"};
...
Arrays.sort(testStrings, new Comparator<String>() {
    @Override
    public int compare(String s1, String s2) {
        return(s1.length() - s2.length());
    }
});
...
In both cases, resultant array is {"one", "two", "four", "three"}
```

New version

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Sorting Strings by Last Char

Old version

New version

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings,
   (String s1, String s2) -> {
    return(s1.charAt(s1.length() - 1) -
        s2.charAt(s2.length() - 1)); });
```

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Type Inferencing



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Main Points

- Types in argument list can usually be omitted
 - Since Java usually already knows the expected parameter types for the *single* method of the functional interface (SAM interface)
- Basic lambda

```
(Type1 var1, Type2 var2 ...) -> { method body }
```

Lambda with type inferencing

```
(var1, var2 ...) -> { method body }
```

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Syntax Summary

Replace this

```
new SomeInterface() {
    @Override
    public SomeType someMethod(T1 v1, T2 v2) {
        body
    }
}
```

With this

```
(v1, v2) \rightarrow \{ body \}
```

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Example

Old style

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings, new Comparator<String>() {
     @Override
     public int compare(String s1, String s2) {
        return(s1.length() - s2.length());
     }
}
```

New style

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings,

(s1, s2) -> { return(s1.length() - s2.length()); });
```

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Sorting Strings by Length

Old version

```
String[] testStrings =
    {"one", "two", "three", "four"};
...
Arrays.sort(testStrings, new Comparator<String>() {
    @Override
    public int compare(String s1, String s2) {
        return(s1.length() - s2.length());
    }
});
...
In both cases, resultant array is {"one", "two", "four", "three"}
```

New version

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings,
  (s1, s2) -> { return(s1.length() - s2.length()); });
```

Sorting Strings by Last Char

Old version

New version

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Expression for Body: Implied Return Values



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Main Points

- For body, use expression instead of block
 - Value of expression will be the return value, with no explicit "return" needed
 - If method has a void return type, then automatically no return value
 - Since lambdas are usually used only when method body is short, this approach (using expression instead of block) is very common
- Previous version

```
(var1, var2 ...) -> { return(something); }
```

Lambda with expression for body

```
(var1, var2 ...) -> something
```

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Syntax Summary

Replace this

```
new SomeInterface() {
    @Override
    public SomeType someMethod(T1 v1, T2 v2) {
        return(someValue);
    }
}
```

With this

```
(v1, v2) -> someValue
```

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Example

Old style

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings, new Comparator<String>() {
    @Override
    public int compare(String s1, String s2) {
        return(s1.length() - s2.length());
    }
```

New style

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings, (s1, s2) -> s1.length() - s2.length());
```

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Sorting Strings by Length

Old version

```
String[] testStrings =
    {"one", "two", "three", "four"};
...
Arrays.sort(testStrings, new Comparator<String>() {
    @Override
    public int compare(String s1, String s2) {
        return(s1.length() - s2.length());
    }
});
...
In both cases, resultant array is {"one", "two", "four", "three"}
```

New version

Sorting Strings by Last Char

Old version

New version

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Omitting Parens



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Main Points

- If method takes single arg, parens optional
 - No type should be used: you must let Java infer the type
 - · But omitting types is normal practice anyhow
- Previous version

```
(varName) -> someResult()
```

Lambda with parentheses omitted

```
varName -> someResult()
```

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Syntax Summary

Replace this

```
new SomeInterface() {
    @Override
    public SomeType someMethod(T1 var) {
       return(someValue);
    }
}
```

With this

```
var -> someValue
```

Example (Listeners for Buttons)

Old style

```
button1.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
    @Override
    public void actionPerformed (ActionEvent event) {
        setBackground(Color.BLUE);
    }
});
New style
button1.addActionListener(event -> setBackground(Color.BLUE));
```

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Buttons: Old Version

```
button1.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
    @Override
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
        setBackground(Color.BLUE);
    }
});
button2.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
    @Override
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
        setBackground(Color.GREEN);
    }
});
button3.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
    @Override
    public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
        setBackground(Color.RED);
    }
});
```

Buttons: New Version

button1.addActionListener(event -> setBackground (Color.BLUE)); button2.addActionListener(event -> setBackground (Color.GREEN)); button3.addActionListener(event -> setBackground (Color.RED));

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Summary: Making Lambdas More Succinct



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Shortening Lambda Syntax

Omit parameter types

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings,
       (String s1, String s2) \rightarrow { return(s1.length() - s2.length()); });
replaced by
    Arrays.sort(testStrings,
                 (s1, s2) -> { return(s1.length() - s2.length()); });
```

Use expressions instead of blocks

```
Arrays.sort(testStrings,
                (s1, s2) -> { return(s1.length() - s2.length()); });
replaced by
    Arrays.sort(testStrings, (s1, s2) -> s1.length() - s2.length());
```

Drop parens if single argument

```
button1.addActionListener((event) -> popUpSomeWindow());
replaced by
   button1.addActionListener(event -> popUpSomeWindow());
```

Java 7 vs. Java 8

Java 7

```
taskList.execute(new Runnable() {
   @Override
   public void run() {
     processSomeImage(imageName);
 });
 button.addActionListener(new ActionListener() {
   @Override
   public void actionPerformed(ActionEvent event) {
     doSomething(event);
 });
Java 8
```

```
taskList.execute(() -> processSomeImage(imageName));
button.addActionListener(event -> doSomething(event));
```

Java vs. JavaScript

Java

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Effectively Final Local Variables



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Main Points

- Lambdas can refer to local variables that are not declared final (but are never modified)
 - This is known as "effectively final" variables where it would have been legal to declare them final
 - You can still refer to mutable instance variables
 - "this" in a lambda refers to main class, not inner class that was created for the lambda. There is no OuterClass.this. Also, no new level of scoping. More on scoping later.
- With explicit declaration

```
final String s = "...";
doSomething(someArg -> use(s));
```

Effectively final

```
String s = "...";
doSomething(someArg -> use(s));
```

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Example: Button Listeners

Instance variable: same rules as with anonymous inner classes in older Java versions

Local variable: need not be explicitly declared final, but must be "effectively final".

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The @FunctionalInterface Annotation



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Review: @Override

What is benefit of @Override?

```
public class MyServlet extends HttpServlet
  @Override
  public void doget(...) ... { ... }
}
```

- Correct code will work with or without @Override, but @Override useful
 - Catches errors at compile time
 - · Real method is doGet, not doget
 - Expresses design intent
 - Tells fellow developers this is a method that came from parent class, so HttpServlet API will describe it

New: @FunctionalInterface

Catches errors at compile time

 If developer later adds a second (abstract) method, interface will not compile

Expresses design intent

Tells fellow developers that this is interface that you expect lambdas to be used for

But, not technically required

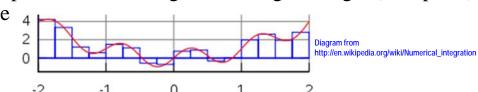
 You can use lambdas anywhere 1-method interfaces (aka functional interfaces, SAM interfaces) are expected, whether or not that interface used @FunctionalInterface

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Example: Numerical Integration

Goals

Simple numerical integration using rectangle (mid-point)
 rule



- Want to use lambdas for function to be integrated.
 Convenient and succinct.
 - Define functional (SAM) interface with a "double eval(double x)" method to specify function to be integrated
- Want compile-time checking that interface is in right form (exactly one abstract method), and want to alert other developers that lambdas can be used
 - Use @FunctionalInterface

Interface

@FunctionalInterface public interface Integrable { double eval(double x); }

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Numerical Integration Method

Method for Testing

Also define a simple method for printing out the expected answer based on strings based in. Full code can be downloaded from http://www.coreservlets.com/java-8-tutorial/

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Testing Results

```
MathUtilities.integrationTest(x -> x*x, 10, 100);
MathUtilities.integrationTest(x -> Math.pow(x,3), 50, 500);
MathUtilities.integrationTest(x -> Math.sin(x), 0, Math.PI);
MathUtilities.integrationTest(x -> Math.exp(x), 2, 20);
```

Output

```
Estimating integral of x^2 from 10.000 to 100.000.

Exact answer = 100^3/3 - 10^3/3.

-= 333,000.000000000.

For numSlices = 10 result = 332,392.50000000

For numSlices = 100 result = 332,993.92500000

For numSlices = 1,000 result = 332,999.9392500

For numSlices = 100,000 result = 332,999.9999393

For numSlices = 100,000 result = 332,999.99999393

For numSlices = 1,000,000 result = 332,999.99999994

... // Similar for other three integrals
```

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General Lambda Principle

- Interfaces in Java 8 are same as in Java 7
 - Integrable was the same as it would be in Java 7, except that you can (should) optionally use @FunctionalInterface
 - To catch errors (multiple methods) at compile time
 - To express design intent (developers should use lambdas)
- Code that <u>uses</u> interfaces is the same in Java 8 as in Java 7
 - I.e., the definition integrate is exactly the same as you would have written it in Java 7. The author of integrate must know that the real method name is eval.
- Code that <u>calls</u> methods that expect 1-method interfaces can now use lambdas
 - MathUtilities.integrate(x -> Math.sin(x), 0, Math.PI, ...);

nstead of new Integrable() { public void eval(double x) { return(Math.sin(x)); }

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Method References



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Main Points

- Can use ClassName::staticMethodName or variable::instanceMethodName for lambdas
 - E.g., Math::cos or myVar::myMethod
 - Another way of saying this is that if the function you want to describe already has a name, you don't have to write a lambda for it, but can instead just use the method name.
 - The function must match signature of method in functional (SAM) interface to which it is assigned
 - You can also use Class:instanceMethod and Class::new. These are more complicated; details online at coreservlets.com.
- The type is found only from the context
 - The type of a method reference depends on what it is assigned to. This is always true with lambdas, but more obvious here.
 - E.g., there is no predefined type for Math::cos.

Example: Numerical Integration

In previous example, replace these

MathUtilities.integrationTest($x \rightarrow Math.sin(x)$, 0, Math.PI); MathUtilities.integrationTest($x \rightarrow Math.exp(x)$, 2, 20);

With these

MathUtilities.integrationTest(Math::sin, 0, Math.PI); MathUtilities.integrationTest(Math::exp, 2, 20);

> People often ask "what is the type of a method reference"? The answer is "this is not known until you try to assign it to a variable, in which case its type is whatever interface that variable expected". So, for example, Math::sin could be different types in different contexts, but all the types would be single-method interfaces whose method could accept a single double as an argument and return a double.

What is the Type of a Lambda?

- Interfaces (like Java 7)
 - public interface Foo { double method1(double d); }
 - public interface Bar { double method2(double d); }
 - public interface Baz { double method3(double d); }
- Methods that use the interfaces (like Java 7)
 - public void blah1(Foo f) { ... f.method1(...)... }
 - public void blah2(Bar b) { ... b.method2(...)... }
 - public void blah3(Baz b) { ... b.method3(...)... }
- Calling the methods (use λs or method refs)
 - blah1(Math::cos)orblah1(d -> Math.cos(d))
 - blah2(Math::sin) or blah2(d -> Math.sin(d))
 - blah3(Math::log) or blah3(d -> Math.log(d))

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The java.util.function Package



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Main Points

- Interfaces like Integrable widely used
 - So, Java 8 should build in many common cases
- Can be used in wide variety of contexts
 - So need more general name than "Integrable"
- java.util.function defines many simple functional (SAM) interfaces
 - Named according to arguments and return values
 - E.g., replace my Integrable with builtin DoubleUnaryOperator
 - You need to look in API for the method names
 - Although lambdas don't refer to method names, your code that uses the lambdas will need to call the methods

Typed and Generic Interfaces

- Types given
 - Samples (many others!)
 - IntPredicate (int in, boolean out)
 - LongUnaryOperator (long in, long out)
 - DoubleBinaryOperator(two doubles in, double out)
 - Example
 - DoubleBinaryOperator f = (d1, d2) -> Math.cos(d1 + d2);
- Genericized
 - There are also generic interfaces (Function<T,R>,
 Predicate<T>) with widespread applicability
 - And concrete methods like "compose" and "negate"
 - These are covered in later tutorial section
 - Very important, but more complex than typed interfaces

Example: Numerical Integration

In previous example, replace this

- Then, omit definition of Integrable entirely
 - Because DoubleUnaryOperator is a functional (SAM) interface containing a method with same signature as the method of the Integrable interface

General Case

- If you are tempted to create an interface purely to be used as a target for a lambda
 - Look through java.util.function and see if one of the functional (SAM) interfaces there can be used instead
 - DoubleUnaryOperator, IntUnaryOperator, LongUnaryOperator
 - double/int/long in, same type out
 - DoubleBinaryOperator, IntBinaryOperator, LongBinaryOperator
 - Two doubles/ints/longs in, same type out
 - DoublePredicate, IntPredicate, LongPredicate
 - double/int/long in, boolean out
 - DoubleConsumer, IntConsumer, LongConsumer
 - double/int/long in, void return type
 - Genericized interfaces: Function, Predicate, Consumer, etc.
 - Covered in later tutorial section



Final Example



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Concurrent Image Download

Idea

 Use standard Java threading to download a series of images of internet cafes and display them in a horizontally scrolling window

Java 8 twists

- Because ExecutorService.execute expects a Runnable, and because Runnable is a functional (SAM) interface, use lambdas to specify the body of the code that runs in background
- Have code access local variables (which are effectively final but not explicitly declared final)

Main Code

```
ExecutorService taskList =
   Executors.newFixedThreadPool(poolSize);
for(int i=1; i<=numImages; i++) {
   JLabel label = new JLabel();
   URL location = new URL(String.format(imagePattern, i));
   taskList.execute(() -> {
        ImageIcon icon = new ImageIcon(location);
        label.setIcon(icon);
   });
   imagePanel.add(label);
}
```

Full code can be downloaded from http://www.coreservlets.com/java-8-tutorial/

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Results





Wrap-Up



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Summary

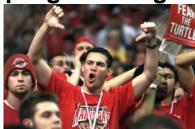
Yay: we have lambdas

- Concise and succinct
- Retrofits in existing APIs
- Familiar to developers that know functional programming
- Fits well with new streams API
- Also have method refs and prebuilt functional interfaces



- Type is class that implements interface, not a "real" function
 - Must create or find interface first, must know method name
- Cannot use mutable local variables





Samples Revisited

As arguments to methods

- taskList.execute(() -> downloadSomeFile());
- button.addActionListener(event -> handleButtonClick());
- double d = MathUtils.integrate(x -> x*x, 0, 100, 1000);

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Samples Revisited

- As variables (makes real type more obvious)
 - AutoCloseable c = () -> cleanupForTryWithResources();
 - Thread.UncaughtExceptionHandler handler = (thread, exception) -> doSomethingAboutException();
 - Formattable f =
 (formatter,flags,width,precision) -> makeFormattedString();
 - ContentHandlerFactory fact =
 mimeType -> createContentHandlerForMimeType();
 - CookiePolicy policy =
 (uri, cookie) -> decideIfCookieShouldBeAccepted();
 - Flushable toilet = () -> writeBufferedOutputToStream();
 - TextListener t = event -> respondToChangeInTextValue();

Summary

Most basic form

(String s1, String s2) -> { return(s1.length() - s2.length()); }

Type inferencing

(s1, s2) -> { return(s1.length() - s2.length()); }

Expressions for body

(s1, s2) -> s1.length() - s2.length()

Omitting parens

event -> doSomethingWith(event)

- More
 - Method references (Math::cos)
 - Mark your interfaces with @FunctionalInterface
 - Can use "effectively final" local vars
 - Many builtin functional (SAM) interfaces in java.util.function

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Questions?

More info:

http://courses.coreservlets.com/Course-Materials/java.html - General Java programming tutorial

http://www.coreservlets.com/java-8-tutorial/ – Java 8 tutorial

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