

# Stream

<https://stackify.com/streams-guide-java-8/>

**Obtaining a Stream**



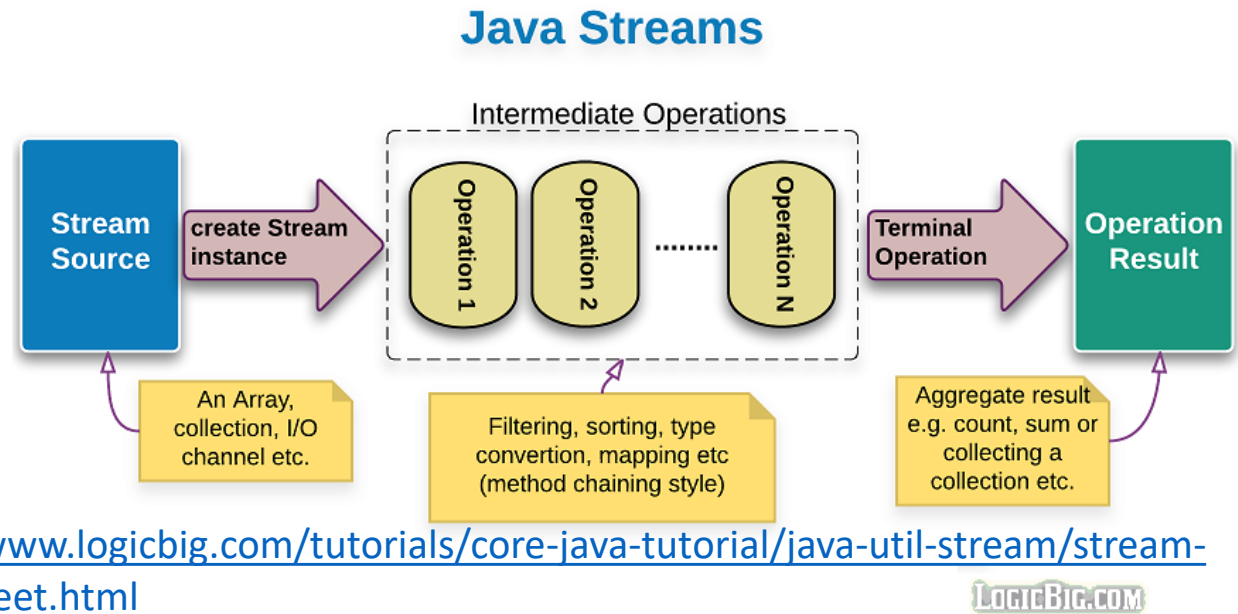
**Intermediate  
Operation**



**Terminal Operations**

# Outlines

- Overview
- Java Stream Creation
- Java Stream common operations
- Glance at Java Stream operations Cheat-sheet
- Java Stream useful operations (more)
- Recap (6 Difference Between Intermediate And Terminal Operations In Java)



# Overview

- The addition of the Stream was one of the major features added to Java 8. This in-depth tutorial is an introduction to the many functionalities supported by streams, with a focus on simple, practical examples.
  - Re-design the [interface](#)
  - Introduce [lambda expressions](#)
  - Retrofit the [Collection](#) framework.
  - Introduce the [Stream](#) API to efficiently handle filter-map-reduce operations in functional programming.
- To understand this material, you need to have a basic, working knowledge of Java 8 (lambda expressions, Optional, method references).
- A stream **does not store data** and, in that sense, is not a data structure. It also **never modifies** the underlying data source.
  - streams are [wrappers](#) around a data source, allowing us to operate with that data source and making bulk processing convenient and fast.

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# Java Stream Creation

```
private static Employee[] arrayOfEmps = {  
    new Employee(1, "Jeff Bezos", 100000.0),  
    new Employee(2, "Bill Gates", 200000.0),  
    new Employee(3, "Mark Zuckerberg", 300000.0)  
};  
static List<Employee> empList;  
Stream.Builder<Employee> empStreamBuilder;
```

```
static void q1_array_to_Stream() {  
    Stream.of(arrayOfEmps);  
}  
  
static void q2_list_to_Stream() {  
    empList = Arrays.asList(arrayOfEmps);  
    empList.stream();  
}
```

```
static void  
q3_create_Stream_from_individual_obj() {  
  
    empStreamBuilder = Stream.builder();  
  
    empStreamBuilder.accept(arrayOfEmps[0]);  
    empStreamBuilder.accept(arrayOfEmps[1]);  
    empStreamBuilder.accept(arrayOfEmps[2]);  
  
    Stream<Employee> empStream =  
        empStreamBuilder.build();  
}
```

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# Java Stream common operations (1)


- **map()** - produces a new stream after applying a **function** to each element of the original stream. The new stream could be of different type.
  - **peek()** – performs the specified operation on each element of the stream and returns a new stream which can be used further
    - <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/44370676/java-8-peek-vs-map>
- **filter()** – produces a new stream that contains elements of the original stream that pass a given test (specified by a **Predicate**).
- **Flatmap()** – A stream can hold complex data structures like *Stream<List<String>>*. In cases like this, *flatMap()* helps us to flatten the data structure to simplify further operations

# Java Stream common operations (2)

- **forEach** - loops over the stream elements, calling the supplied function on each element.
  - `forEach()` is a terminal operation
- **collect()** - The strategy for this operation is provided via the Collector interface implementation.
  - If we need to get an array out of the stream, we can simply use `toArray()`
    - The syntax `Employee[]::new` creates an empty array of *Employee* – which is then filled with elements from the stream.
- **findFirst()** returns an **Optional** for the first entry in the stream; the Optional can, of course, be empty.

# Java Stream common operations (3)

- short-circuiting (intermediate) operations `skip()`, `limit()`
- `count()`



จัด ตัวอย่าง ใหม่ / เพิ่ม

# Stream Operations (.forEach(), .map(), .collect())

forEach() loops over the stream elements, calling the supplied function on each element.

```
static public void
q4_whenIncrementSalaryForEachEmployee
_thenApplyNewSalary(double r) {
    //empList from Q2
    empList.stream().forEach(e ->
        e.salaryIncrement(r));
}
```

map() produces a new stream after applying a function to each element of the original stream

```
public static void q5_map_to_getName() {
    empList = Arrays.asList(arrayOfEmps);
    List<String> empNames = empList.stream()
        .map(Employee::getName)
        .collect(Collectors.toList());
    //System.out.println(empNames);
}
```

<https://stackify.com/streams-guide-java-8/>



# Stream Operations (.filter(), .findFirst())

filter() produces a new stream that contains elements of the original stream that pass a given test

```
public static void q6_filter_salary() {  
    Employee[] ans =  
        Arrays.asList(arrayOfEmps)  
            .stream()  
            .filter(e ->  
                e.getSalary() > 200000)  
            .toArray(Employee[]::new);  
    println(Arrays.toString(ans));  
}
```

<https://stackify.com/streams-guide-java-8/>

findFirst() returns an **Optional** for the first entry in the stream

```
public static void q7_findFirst() {  
    Optional<Employee> opt = empList  
        .stream()  
        .filter(e ->  
            e.getSalary() > 400_000)  
        .findFirst();  
    opt.ifPresent(System.out::println); // none  
  
    empList.stream()  
        .filter(e -> e.getSalary() > 100_000)  
        .findFirst()  
        .ifPresent(System.out::println);  
}
```

# Stream Operations (.flatMap())

```
public static void q8_flatMap() {  
    List<String> teamA  
        = Arrays.asList("yindee");  
    List<String> teamB  
        = Arrays.asList("preeda", "pramote");  
    List<String> teamC  
        = Arrays.asList("sukha");  
  
    List<List<String>> allTeams = new ArrayList<>();  
    allTeams.add(teamA);  
    allTeams.add(teamB);  
    allTeams.add(teamC);  
  
    List<String> allPlayers  
        = allTeams.stream()  
            .flatMap(team -> team.stream())  
            .collect(Collectors.toList());  
    //System.out.println(allPlayers);  
}
```

flatMap() helps us to flatten the data structure to simplify further operations:

```
List<List<Employee>> jeffBillMark  
    = Arrays.asList(  
        Arrays.asList(arrayOfEmps[0]),  
        Arrays.asList(arrayOfEmps[1]),  
        Arrays.asList(arrayOfEmps[2]) );  
// https://stackify.com/streams-guide-java-8/  
List<Double> ans = jeffBillMark  
    .stream()  
    .flatMap(Collection::stream)  
    .map(Employee::getSalary)  
    .collect(Collectors.toList());  
//System.out.println(ans);  
}
```

# Stream Operations (.peek(), .count())

peek() method exists mainly to support debugging, where you want to see the elements as they flow past a certain point in a pipeline.

**peek()** is an intermediate operation:

```
static void q9_peek() {  
    List<Employee> newSalary = empList.stream()  
        .peek(e -> e.salaryIncrement(10))  
        .peek(System.out::println)  
        .collect(Collectors.toList());  
  
    // System.out.println(newSalary);  
}
```

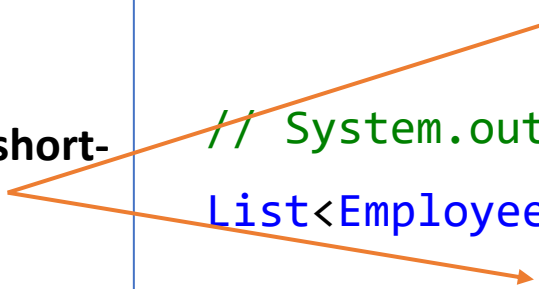
```
static void q10_count() {  
    Long empCount = empList.stream()  
        .filter(e -> e.getSalary() > 200000)  
        .count();  
    System.out.println(empCount); // 1  
}
```

<https://stackify.com/streams-guide-java-8/>

# Stream Operations (.skip(), .limit())

Some operations are deemed **short-circuiting operations**. Short-circuiting operations allow computations on infinite streams to complete in finite time

```
static void q11_limit_and_skip() {  
    List<Employee> theRest = empList.stream()  
        .skip(1)  
        .collect(Collectors.toList());  
    // System.out.println(theRest);  
    List<Employee> head2 = empList.stream()  
        .limit(2)  
        .collect(Collectors.toList());  
    // System.out.println(head2);  
    // for infinite data generator see Stream.iterate()  
    // or Stream.generate()  
}
```



# Glance at Java Stream operations **Cheat-sheet**

- Stream source

## Collection

stream()  
parallelStream()

## Stream

### IntStream

### LongStream

### DoubleStream

static generate()**[Unordered]**  
static of(..)  
static empty()  
static iterate(..)  
static concat(..)  
static builder()

### IntStream

### LongStream

static range(..)  
static rangeClosed(..)

## Arrays

static stream(..)

## BufferedReader

lines(..)

## Files

static lines(..)  
static list(..)  
static walk(..)  
static find(..)

## JarFile

stream()

## ZipFile

stream()

## Pattern

splitAsStream(..)

## SplittableRandom

ints()**[Unordered]**  
longs()**[Unordered]**  
doubles()**[Unordered]**

## Random

ints(..)  
longs(..)  
doubles(..)

## ThreadLocalRandom

ints()  
longs(..)  
doubles(..)

## BitSet

stream()

## CharSequence (String)

IntStream chars()  
IntStream codePoints()

## StreamSupport (low level)

static doubleStream(..)  
static intStream(..)  
static longStream(..)  
static stream(..)

# Glance at Java Stream operations **Cheat-sheet**

- Intermediate Operation

## BaseStream

```
sequential()  
parallel()  
unordered()  
onClose(..)
```

## Stream

```
filter(..)  
map(..)  
mapToInt(..)  
mapToLong(..)  
mapToDouble(..)  
flatMap(..)  
flatMapToInt(..)  
flatMapToLong(..)  
flatMapToDouble(..)  
distinct()[stateful]  
sorted(..)[stateful]  
peek(..)  
limit(..)[stateful,  
short-circuiting]  
skip(..)[stateful]
```

*IntStream, LongStream and DoubleStream have similar methods as Stream does but with different args.*

*Here are some extra methods:*

## IntStream

```
mapToObj(..)  
asLongStream()  
asDoubleStream()  
boxed()
```

## LongStream

```
mapToObj(..)  
asDoubleStream()  
boxed()
```

## DoubleStream

```
mapToObj(..)  
boxed()
```

# Glance at Java Stream operations **Cheat-sheet**

- Terminal Operation

## BaseStream

iterator()  
spliterator()

## Stream

forEach(..)  
forEachOrdered(..)  
toArray(..)  
reduce(..)  
collect(..)  
min(..)  
max(..)  
count()  
anyMatch(..)[short-circuiting]  
allMatch(..)[short-circuiting]  
noneMatch(..)[short-circuiting]  
findFirst()[short-circuiting]  
findAny()[short-circuiting,  
nondeterministic]

*IntStream, LongStream and DoubleStream have similar methods as Stream does but with different args.*

*Here are some extra methods:*

## IntStream

## LongStream

## DoubleStream

sum()  
average()  
summaryStatistics()

# Java Stream useful operations (more)

- Comparison Based Stream Operations
  - Use `Comparator`
  - `Sort()`
  - `min()` and `max()`
- Java Stream Specializations
  - `IntStream`, `LongStream`, and `DoubleStream`
  - `mapToInt()`, `mapToDouble()`, `mapToLong()`
- `distinct()`, `allMatch()`, `sum()`, `average()`, `range()`
- `partitioningBy()`
- `groupBy()`
- `Reduce()`
- `parallel()`



# Comparator, sort(),

```
static void q12_sortByName() {  
    List<Employee> byName;  
    byName = empList.stream()  
        .sorted(Comparator.comparing(Employee::getName))  
        .collect(Collectors.toList());  
    // System.out.println(byName);  
  
    byName = empList.stream()  
        .sorted((e1, e2) -> e1.getName().compareTo(e2.getName()))  
        .collect(Collectors.toList());  
    // System.out.println(byName);  
}
```

# Comparator, mapToDouble(), max()

```
static void q13_mapToDouble() {  
    Double maxSalary;  
    maxSalary  
        = empList.stream()  
            .mapToDouble(e -> e.getSalary())  
            .max(/* no-comparator-required */)  
            .getAsDouble();  
    // System.out.println(maxSalary);  
  
    Optional<Double> optSalary;  
    optSalary  
        = empList.stream()  
            .map(e -> e.getSalary())  
            .max(Double::compareTo);  
    maxSalary = optSalary.get();  
    // System.out.println(maxSalary);  
}
```

```
Optional<Employee> optEmp;  
optEmp = empList.stream()  
    .max(Comparator.comparing(  
        Employee::getSalary) );  
maxSalary = optEmp.get().getSalary();  
// System.out.println(maxSalary);  
  
optEmp = empList.stream()  
    .max( (e1, e2) ->  
        Double.compare(e1.getSalary(), e2.getSalary()));  
maxSalary = optEmp.get().getSalary();  
// System.out.println(maxSalary);  
  
// optEmp = empList.stream().max(  
// (e1, e2) ->  
// (int)(e1.getSalary() - e2.getSalary()));  
// maxSalary = optEmp.get().getSalary();  
// wrong logic 0.9 > 0.3 but (int)(0.9 - 0.3) is 0
```

# groupBy()

```
static void q14_groupBy() {  
    Character[] forRetrieval = { 'M', 'J', 'B' };  
  
    Map<Character, List<Employee>> mapOfFirstCharacter;  
    mapOfFirstCharacter = empList.stream()  
        .collect(  
            Collectors.groupingBy(e -> Character.valueOf(e.getName().charAt(0))));  
    for (Character ini : forRetrieval) {  
        String empName = mapOfFirstCharacter.get(ini).get(0).getName();  
        // System.out.println(empName);  
    }  
}
```

# reduce()

## *reduce*

The most common form of *reduce()* is:

```
T reduce(T identity, BinaryOperator<T> accumulator)
```

where *identity* is the starting value and *accumulator* is the binary operation we repeated apply.

```
static void q15_reduce() {
    LineItem[] arrItems = { new LineItem("Mocha", 10, 10.2),
        new LineItem("cappuccino", 5, 16.2), new LineItem("Latte", 20, 5.1),
        new LineItem("Espresso", 8, 11.39) };
    List<LineItem> orders = Arrays.asList(arrItems);

    double total = orders.stream().map(LineItem::quantityTimesPrice)
        .reduce(Double::sum).get();
    // System.out.println(total);
    double min = orders.stream().map(item -> item.quantityTimesPrice())
        .reduce(Double.MAX_VALUE, (v1, v2) -> v1 < v2 ? v1 : v2);
    // System.out.println(min);
    String concatName = orders.stream()
        .map(LineItem::getName)
        .reduce("", String::concat);
    // System.out.println(concatName);
    int productOfNums = List.of(2, 5, 7).stream().reduce(1, (e1, e2) -> e1 * e2);
    // System.out.println(productOfNums);
}
```

# Differences Between Intermediate And Terminal Operations In Java

## 1. Return type

- Intermediate operations return a stream itself while Terminal operations produce either a value or a side-effect.

Intermediate operations **return a stream** itself. Example is:

```
Stream<T> distinct()
```

Terminal operations produce either a value or a side-effect.

```
Optional<T> findAny()
```

## 2,3 Number of operations

- An **intermediate operation** returns a new stream , they can be **chained**.
- A stream pipeline must have one and only **one terminal operation**.

## 4,5 Intermediate operations are not executed until a terminal operation is performed.

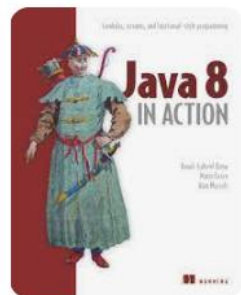
- **laziness also allows avoiding examining all the data when it is not necessary.**

## 6. Short-Circuiting Operation

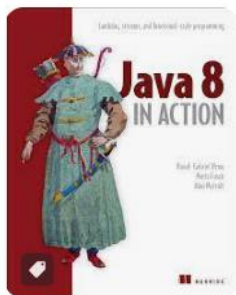
- one intermediate operation exhibits Short-Circuiting: `limit()`.
- There are five terminal operations, which can exhibit Short-Circuiting operation: `findFirst()`, `allMatch()`, `anyMatch()`, `findAny()`, `noneMatch()`.

<https://javahungry.blogspot.com/2022/07/intermediate-vs-terminal-operations.html>

# Recommended Reading



Manning Publications  
Java 8 in Action



Amazon.c... · In stock  
Java 8 in Action: La...



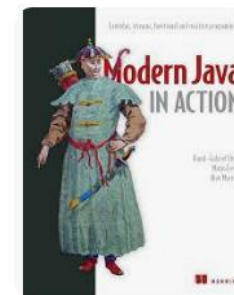
Amazon.com  
Java 8 in Action: Lambda...



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Java 8 in Action: La...



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Java 8 in Action: Lambdas, Streams...



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Raoul-Gabriel Urma ...



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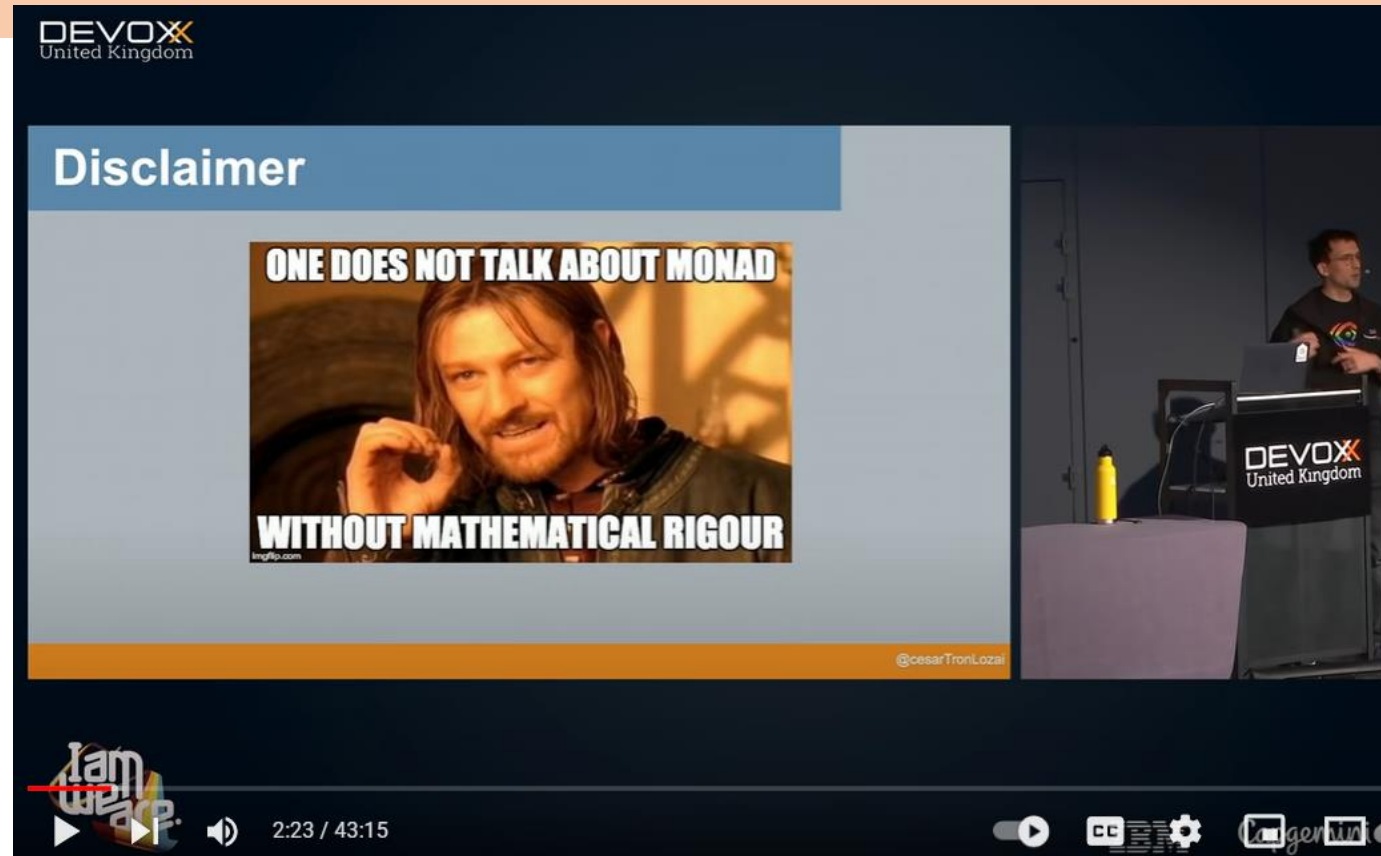


Audible  
Java 8 in Action by Raoul-Gabriel Urma ...



국내도서 - 교보문고  
자바 8 인 액션 | 라...

# Appendix : Functional Programming Style

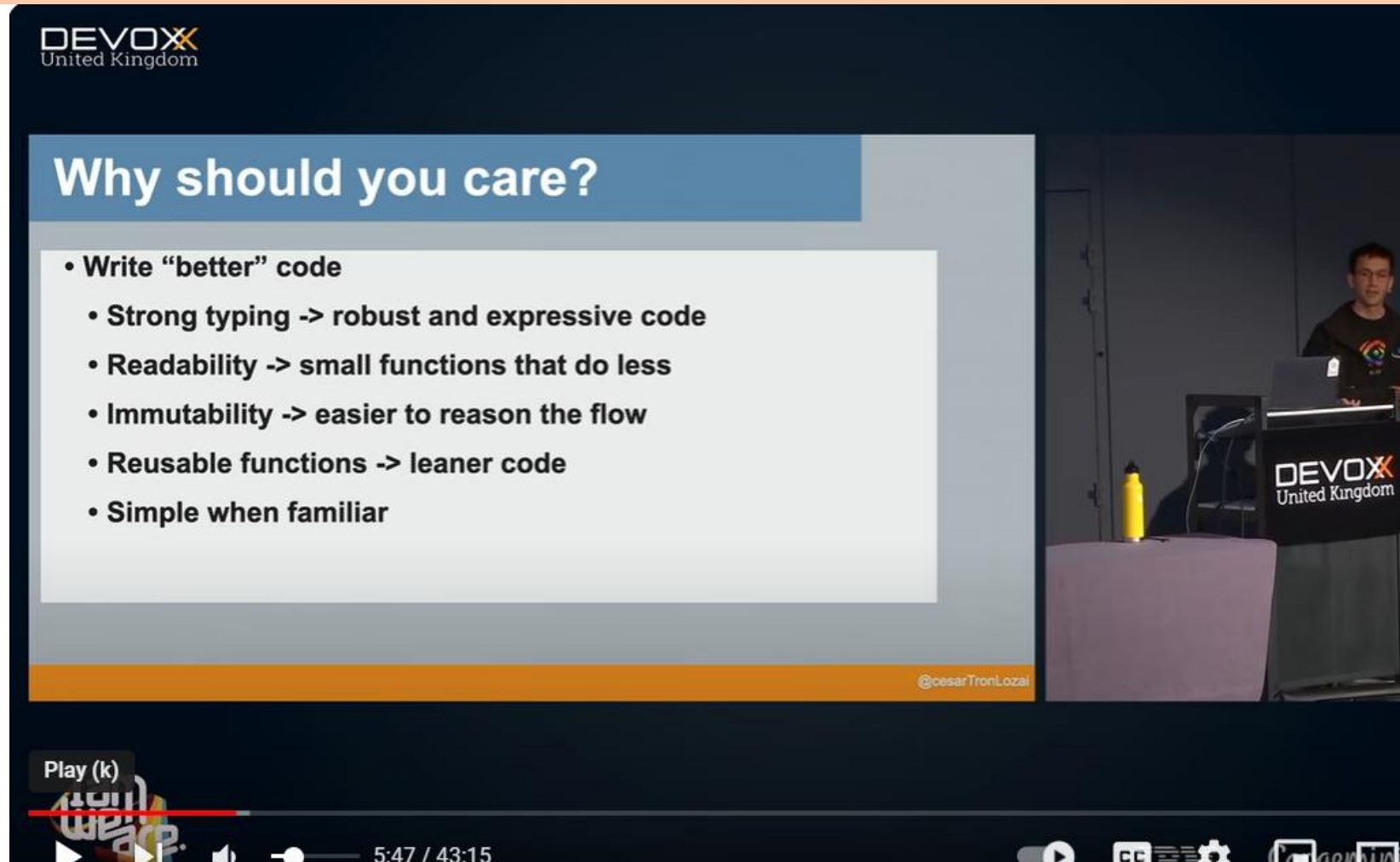


No Nonsense Monad & Functor - The foundation of Functional Programming by César Tron-Lozai

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6tWJD5q8uw&t=1s>



# Appendix : Functional Programming Style



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## Why should you care?

- Write “better” code
  - Strong typing -> robust and expressive code
  - Readability -> small functions that do less
  - Immutability -> easier to reason the flow
  - Reusable functions -> leaner code
  - Simple when familiar

@cesarTronLozal

Play (k)

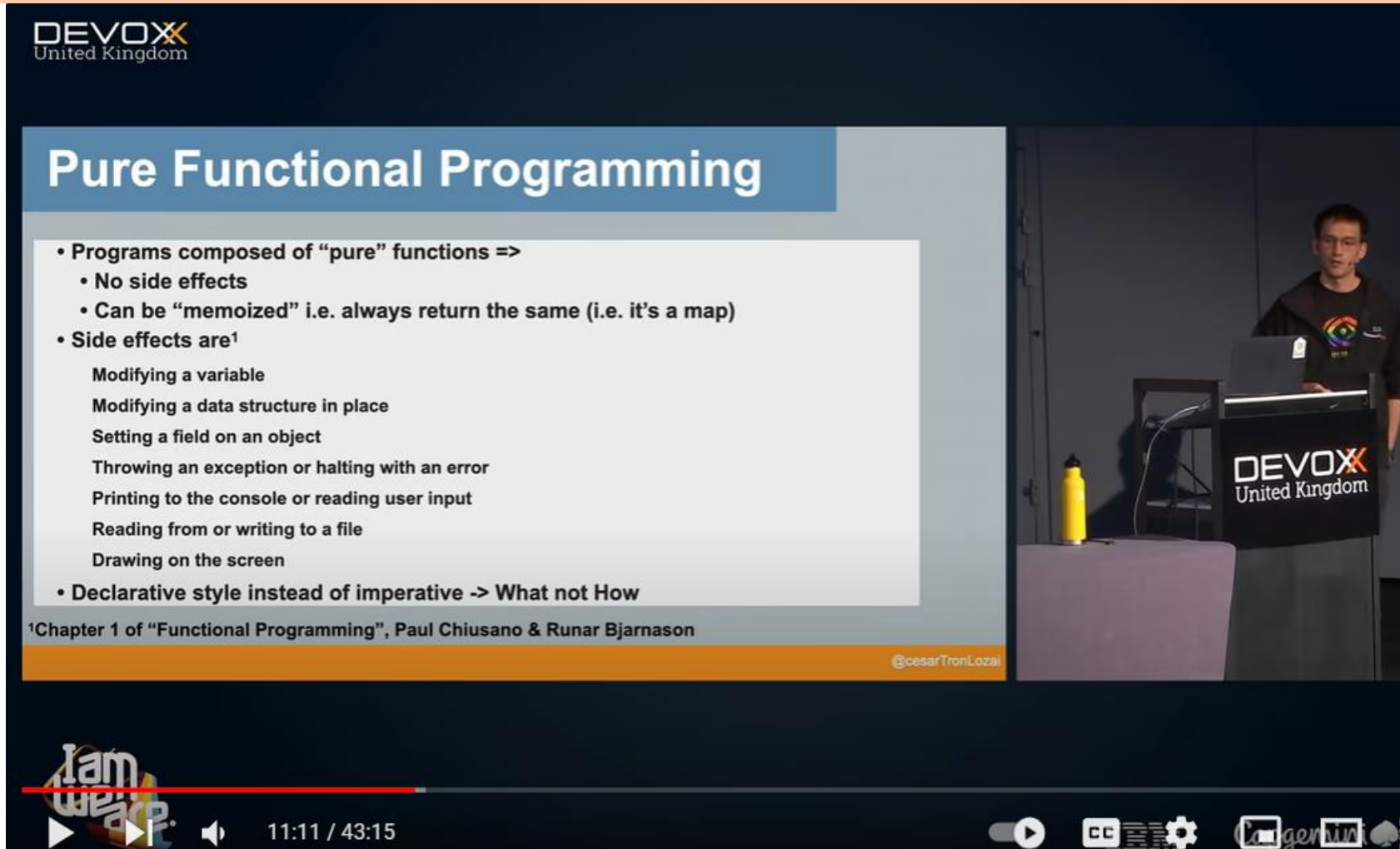
5:47 / 43:15

CC

gutenberg



# Appendix : Functional Programming Style



The video player displays a presentation slide titled "Pure Functional Programming" with the following content:

- Programs composed of “pure” functions =>
  - No side effects
  - Can be “memoized” i.e. always return the same (i.e. it's a map)
- Side effects are<sup>1</sup>
  - Modifying a variable
  - Modifying a data structure in place
  - Setting a field on an object
  - Throwing an exception or halting with an error
  - Printing to the console or reading user input
  - Reading from or writing to a file
  - Drawing on the screen
- Declarative style instead of imperative -> What not How

<sup>1</sup>Chapter 1 of “Functional Programming”, Paul Chiusano & Runar Bjarnason

The speaker, a man with glasses wearing a black t-shirt with a rainbow logo, stands at a podium with the "DEVOXX United Kingdom" logo. A yellow water bottle is on a table next to the podium. The video player interface at the bottom shows a progress bar at 11:11 / 43:15 and various control icons.

# Appendix : Functional Programming Style

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## Higher Order Function

```
//first-order function
public int timesTwo(int i){
    return i * 2;
}

//higher-order function
public Function<Integer, Integer> multiplyBy(int n){
    return x -> x * n;
}

//higher-order function
public Function<Integer, Integer> twice(Function<Integer, Integer> f){
    return i -> f.andThen(f).apply(i);
}
```

@cesarTronLozai

I am  
web  
app

9:19 / 43:15

CC BY SA

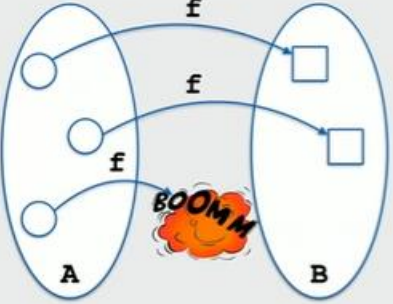
Log in

# Appendix : Functional Programming Style

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## Pure Functional Programming

- exceptions = partial function



BOOM

The partial function is a lie

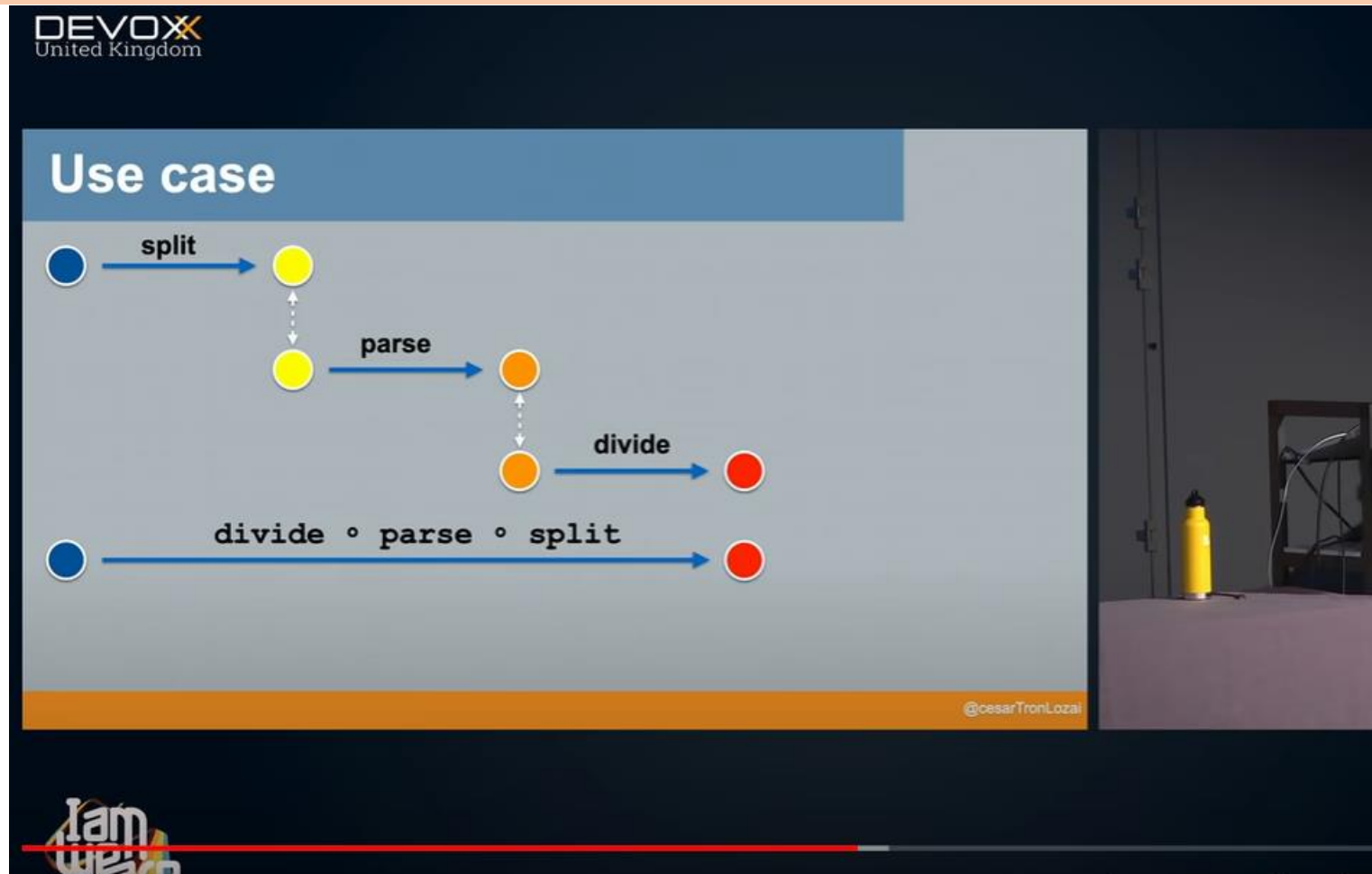
@cesarTronLozai

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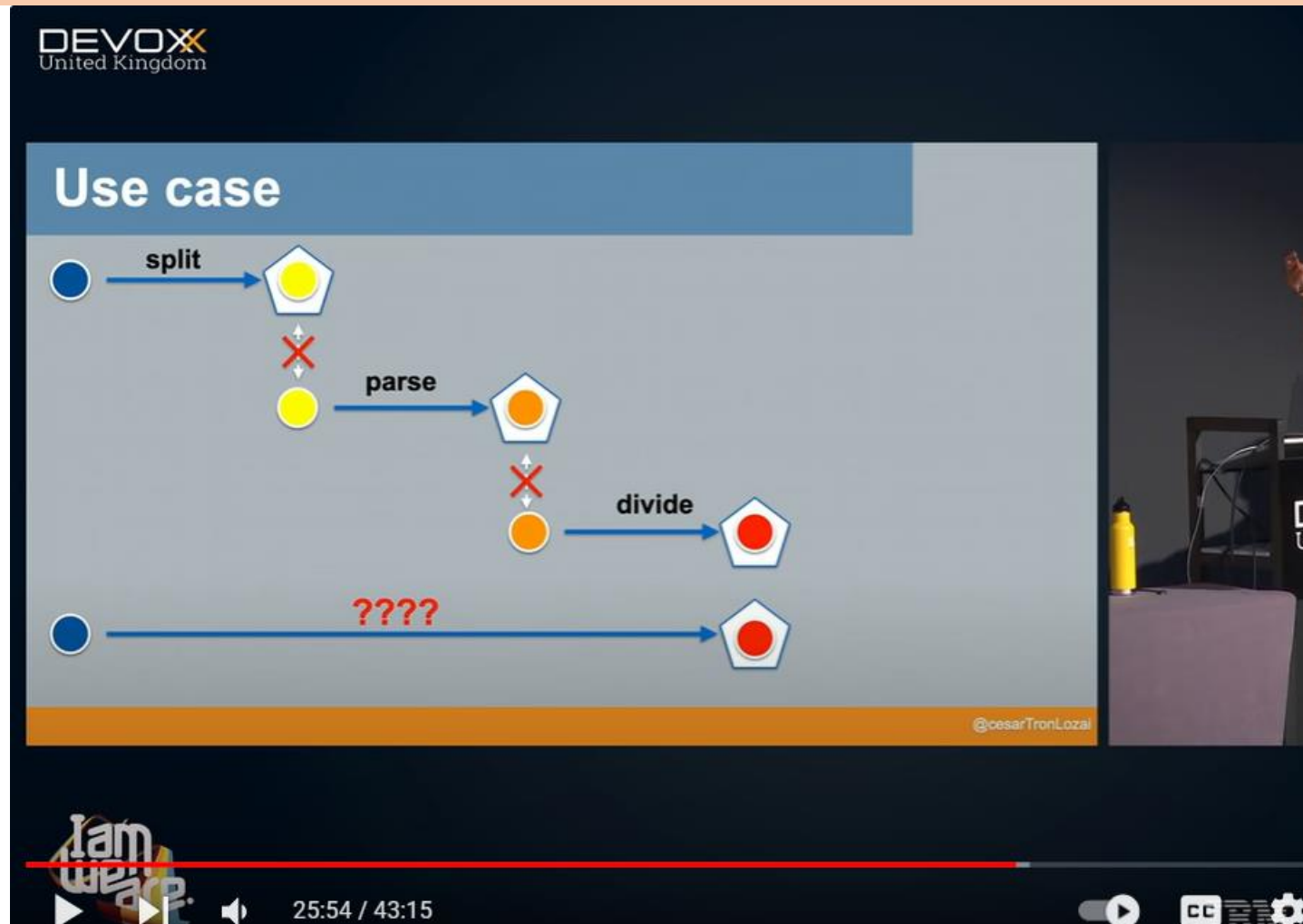
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# Appendix : Functional Programming Style



## Appendix : Functional Programming Style



# Appendix : Functional Programming Style

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## Monad

```
public Optional<Double> myProgram(String s){  
    final Optional<(String,String)> split = split(s);  
    if(split.isPresent()){  
        final Optional<(double, double)> parse = parse(split.get());  
        if(parse.isPresent()){  
            final Optional<Double> result = divide(parse.get());  
            if(result.isPresent()){  
                return result.get();  
            }  
        }  
    }  
    return Optional.empty();  
}
```

@cesarTronLoza

## Monad

```
public Optional<Double> myProgram(String s) {  
    return split(s)  
        .flatMap(split -> parse(split))  
        .flatMap(parse -> divide(parse));  
}
```

@cesar

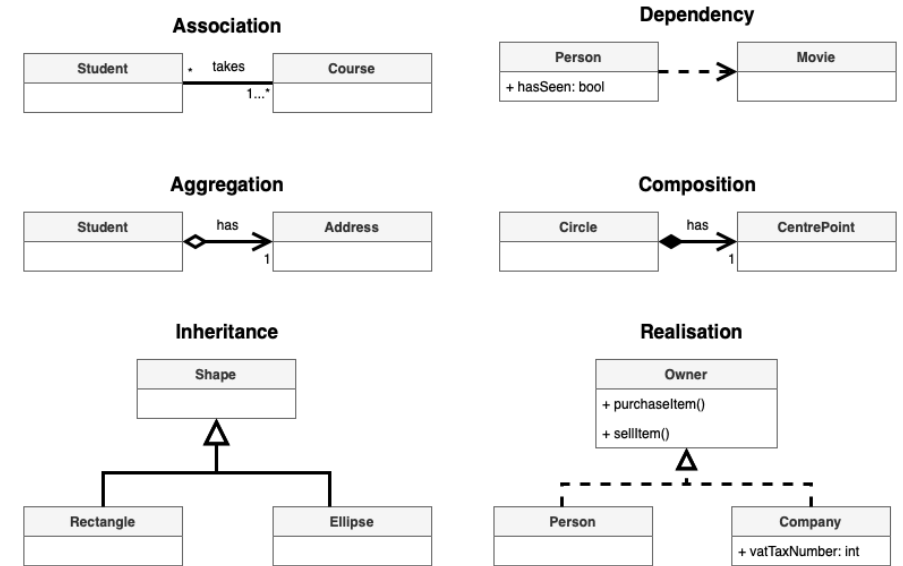
# Optional in Java

05506004

<https://javarevisited.blogspot.com/2017/04/10-examples-of-optional-in-java-8.html>

# Outline

- What Actually is Optional
- Create Optional Object
- Avoiding NullPointerException
- .map (and .filter())



<https://www.diagrams.net/blog/uml-class-diagrams>



# What Actually is Optional

## 1. What actually is Optional?

`Optional` is simply a Java class located in the `java.util` package and available within the Java Development Kit (JDK). That means we can use it in anywhere in our Java code, simply by creating an instance of that class.

But before we do that, it's helpful to understand that `Optional` is simply a container for an object.

And just like real-life containers, it can have one of 2 states:

1. contains an item (also known as *present*)
2. doesn't contain an item (also known as *empty*)

<https://tomgregory.com/java-optional/>

Take my glasses case, for example. It either contains my glasses or doesn't contain my glasses.

### Optional is just a container for something



My glasses case is a kind of container, just like `Optional`.

# Create Optional Object

```
Person p = new Person();  
Optional<Person> op = Optional.of(p);
```

```
Optional<Person> p = Optional.empty();
```

```
Optional<Person> op = Optional.ofNullable(p);
```

# Avoiding NullPointerException

```
Person p = new Person("Robin", new Address(block, city, state, country));
Address a = p.getAddress();

if(a != null){
    System.out.println(p);
}
```

Now, in Java 8 you can completely avoid this check by using the `isPresent()` method of the `Optional` class, which allows you to execute code if a value is present and the code will not execute if no value is there, as shown in the following example:

```
Optional<Address> op = p.getAddress();
op.isPresent(System.out::println);
```

```
if(!op.isPresent()){
    System.out.println(p);
}
```

This is **not recommended** because it is similar to classical check and not the right way to use `Optional` in Java SE 8. You can further read [Java 8 in Action](#) to learn more about how to use `Optional` in Java SE 8.

```

public class PersonRevisitedBlog {
    private String name;
    private Optional<City> fromCity;

    public PersonRevisitedBlog(String n,
                                Optional<City> city) {
        try {
            if (city.isPresent()) {
                fromCity = city;
            } else {
                fromCity = Optional.empty();
            }
        } catch (Exception e) {
            fromCity = Optional.empty();
            // fromCity = Optional.ofNullable(null);
        }
        // if (city != null)
        //     fromCity = city;
        // else
        //     fromCity = Optional.empty();
    }
}

```

```

public class City {
    public static final
        City EMPTY = new City("");
    private String cName;

    public City(String n) {
        cName = n;
    }

    public String getCityName() {
        return cName;
    }

    @Override
    public String toString() {
        return cName;
    }
}

```

```

    public Optional<City> getCity() {
        return fromCity;
    }
}

```

```
static void q1() {  
    City bkk = new City("Bangkok");  
    City city;
```

## Optional.of(new City())

```
    PersonRevisitedBlog yindee =  
        new PersonRevisitedBlog("Yindee", Optional.of(bkk));
```

```
    city = yindee.getCity().orElse(City.EMPTY);  
    println("From yindee : " + city.getCityName());
```

```
    Optional<City> optCity1 = yindee.getCity();  
    System.out.println(optCity1);  
    optCity1.ifPresent(System.out::println);
```

```
    println("-----");  
    PersonRevisitedBlog preeda =  
        new PersonRevisitedBlog("Preeda", Optional.empty());
```

```
    // Optional<City> optCity2 = preeda.getCity();  
    optCity1 = preeda.getCity();  
    if (optCity1.isPresent()) {  
        city = optCity1.get();  
        println("From preeda : " + city.getCityName());  
    }
```

```
        System.out.println("-----");  
        PersonRevisitedBlog pramote = new  
        PersonRevisitedBlog("Pramote", null);  
        // String cityName  
        = city == null? "" : city.getCityName();  
        city = pramote.getCity()  
            .orElse(City.EMPTY);  
        System.out.println("From pramote : "  
            + city.getCityName());  
    }
```

```
From yindee : Bangkok  
Optional[Bangkok]  
Bangkok  
-----  
-----  
From pramote :
```

# .map (and .filter())

## How to use map method with Optional in Java 8

The `map()` method of the `Optional` class is similar to the [map\(\)](#) function of `Stream` class, hence if you have used it before, you can use it in the same way with `Optional` as well. As you might know, `map()` is used to transform the object i.e. it can take a `String` and return an `Integer`. It applies a function to the value contained in the `Optional` object to transform it.

For example, let's say you want to first check if a person is not null and then want to extract the address, this is the way you would write code prior to Java 8

```
if(person != null){  
    Address home = person.getAddress();  
}
```

You can rewrite this check-and-extract pattern in Java 8 using `Optional`'s [map\(\)](#) method as shown in the following example:

```
Optional<Address> = person.map(person::getAddress);
```

Here we are using the [method reference](#) to extract the `Address` from the `Person` object, but you can also use a [lambda expression](#) in place of method reference if wish. If you want to learn more about when you can use a lambda expression and when method reference is appropriate, you should a good book on Java 8. You can find some recommended Java 8 books [here](#).

## How to use filter method with Optional in Java 8

Similar to the [Stream](#) class, Optional also provides a [filter\(\)](#) method to select or weed out unwanted values. For example, if you want to print all persons living in NewYork, you can write following code using the filter method of the Optional class:

```
Optional<Address> home = person.getAddress();
home.filter(address -> "NewYork".equals(address.getCity()))
    .ifPresent(() -> System.out.println("Live in NewYork"));
```

This code is safe because it will not throw any `NullPointerException`. This will print "Live in NewYork" if a person has address and city are equal to "NewYork". If the person doesn't have any address then nothing would be printed.

Just compare this to the old style of writing safe code prior to Java 8 e.g. in JDK 6 or 7:

```
Address home = person.getAddress();
if(home != null && "NewYork".equals(home.getCity())){
    System.out.println("NewYorkers");
}
```

The difference may not be significant in this case but as the chain of objects increases e.g. `person.getAddress().getCity().getStreet().getBlock()`, the first one will be more readable than the second one which will have to perform nested null checks to be safe. You can check out these [Java 8 books, courses, and tutorials](#) to learn more about how to write functional code using Optional in Java.

## How to use flatMap method of Optional in Java 8

The `flatMap()` method of Optional is another useful method that behaves similarly to the [Stream.flatMap\(\) method](#) and can be used to replace unsafe cascading of code to a safe version. You might have seen this kind of code a lot while dealing with hierarchical objects in Java, particularly while extracting values from objects created out of XML files.

```
String unit = person.getAddress().getCity().getStreet().getUnit();
```

This is very unsafe because any of the objects in the chain can be null and if you check null for every object then the code will get cluttered and you will lose readability. Thankfully, you can use the [flatMap\(\)](#) method of the Optional class to make it safe and still keep it readable as shown in the following example:

```
String unit= person.flatMap(Person::getAddress)
    .flatMap(Address::getCity)
    .flatMap(City::getStreet)
    .map(Street::getUnit)
    .orElse("UNKNOWN");
```

# Important Points

- 1) The Optional class is a **container** object which may or may not contain a non-null value. That's why it is named Optional.
- 2) If a **non-value** is available then Optional.isPresent() method will return true and **get()** method of Optional class will return that value.
- 3) The Optional class also provides methods to deal with the absence of value e.g. you can **call Optional.orElse()** to return a default value if a value is not present.
- 4) The java.util.Optional class is a value-based class and use of identity sensitive operations e.g. using the == operator, calling hashCode() and synchronization should be avoided on an Optional object.
- 5) You can also use the **orElseThrow()** method to throw an exception if a value is not present.



# Important Points

- 6) There are multiple ways to create Optional in Java 8. You can create Optional using the static factory method `Optional.of(non-null-value)` which takes a non-null value and wrap it with Optional. It will throw NPE if the value is null. Similarly, the `Optional.isEmpty()` method return an empty instance of Optional class in Java.
- 7) The biggest benefit of using Optional is that it improves the readability and conveys information which fields are optional.  
Earlier it wasn't possible to convey client which fields are optional and which are always available, but now, if a getter method returns Optional then the client knows that value may or may not be present.
- 8) Similar to `java.util.stream.Stream` class, Optional also provides `filter()`, `map()`, and `flatMap()` method to write safe code in Java 8 functional style. The method behaves similarly as they do in Stream class, so if you have used them before, you can use them in the same way with the Optional class as well.
- 9) You can use the **map()** method to transform the value contained in the Optional object and `flatMap()` for both transformations and flattening which would be required when you are doing the transformation in a chain as shown in our Optional + flatMap example above.
- 10) You can also use the **filter()** method to weed out any unwanted value from the Optional object and only action if Optional contains something which interests you.