**Java**

**The Immediate IF (IIF),**

**or conditional operator ( \_?\_:\_ ).**

In the next example, the value of a variable *temp* often depends on whether a particular *boolean expression* (a > b) is or is not true and on nothing else. For instance one common operation is setting the value of a variable to the two different quantities, depending on the evaluation of (a>b). In Java you might write

if (a > b) {

temp = a+3;

}

else {

temp = b\*7;

}

Setting a single variable to one of two states based on a single condition is such a common use of if-else that a shortcut has been devised for it, the conditional operator, \_**?\_:\_**. Using the conditional operator (IIF) you can rewrite the above example in a single line like this:

temp = (a > b) **?** a+3 **:** b\*7;

(a > b) ? a+3 : b\*7; is an expression which returns one of two values, a+3 or b\*7. The condition, (a > b), is tested. If it is true the first value, a+3, is returned. If it is false, the second value, b\*7, is returned. Whichever value is returned is dependent on the conditional test, a > b. The condition can be any expression which returns a boolean value.