

Lecture 12. The void Return Type in Java

Return Types

The type of data that a method returns/gives

- A method can return/give a value.
- Consider this mathematical function: $f(x) = x + 1$
 - x is a **parameter** to this function.
 - $x + 1$ is the **return value** of this function.
 - This function returns a number (**return type**).
- The same thing applies for methods/functions in programming.

Examples:

- `getUserName()` ;
 - Get the name of the user and **return the value**.
 - The return type is a text (**String**).
- `getUserAge()` ;
 - Get the age of the user and **return the value**.
 - The return type is a number (**int, double, ...**).

The void return types

- `main()` has a **void** return type.
 - void means nothing.
 - `main()` does not return a value.

Example:

- `printUserName()` ;
 - We just want to print the name of the user.
 - We do not want to get any value from this method.
 - The return type is **void**.
- Note that every method has a very specific role.
 - `getUserName()` ;
 - `printUserName()` ;

