

What is stream?

A stream is a sequence of data generated by the input source and consumed by the output destination.

There are two types of I/O streams in Java.

- 1. Byte Streams
- 2. Character Streams

1) Byte Streams

- ✓ Byte streams read and write data byte by byte i.e. 8 bits maximum at a time.
- ✓ These streams are most suitable to process the binary files like image files, audio files, video files, executable files etc.
- ✓ All byte stream classes in Java are of type InputStream and OutputStream.
- ✓ InputStream classes are used to read data from a source and OutputStream classes are used to write data to a destination.

2) Character Streams

- ✓ Character streams read and write data character by character.
- ✓ Character streams are mainly used to process text files.
- ✓ All character stream classes in Java are of type Reader and Writer.
- ✓ Reader classes are used to read source files and Writer classes are used to write destination files.

