AI Java Labs: Building Intelligent Java Applications

From HTTP fundamentals to advanced RAG systems ightarrow





Contact Info

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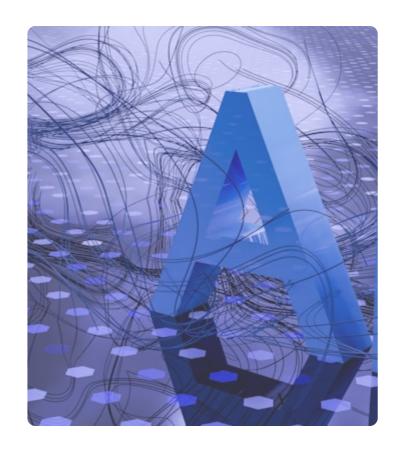
- ken.kousen@kousenit.com
- http://www.kousenit.com
- http://kousenit.org (blog)
- Social Media:
 - @kenkousen (Twitter)
 - @kousenit.com (Bluesky)
 - https://www.linkedin.com/in/kenkousen/ (LinkedIn)
- *Tales from the jar side* (free newsletter)
 - https://kenkousen.substack.com
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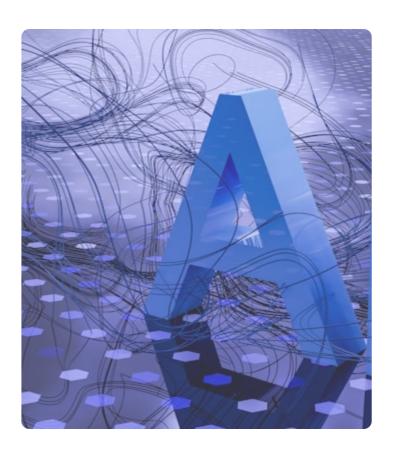
■ **HTTP Fundamentals**: Raw API integration patterns



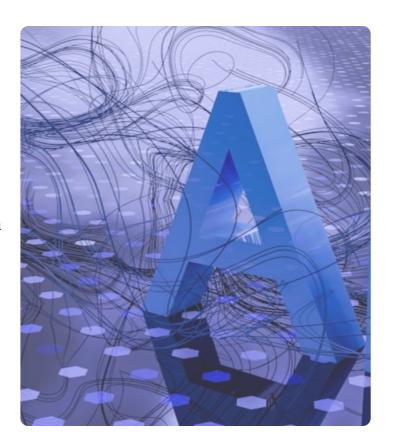
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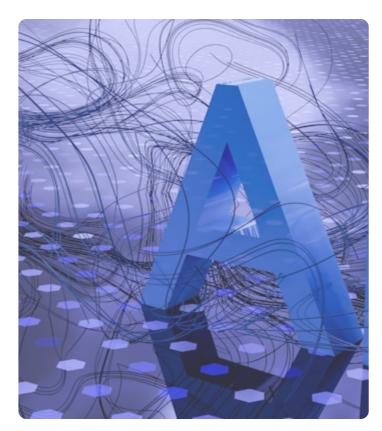
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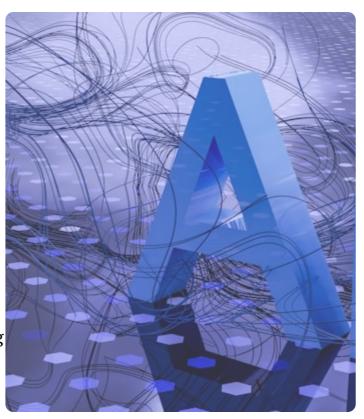
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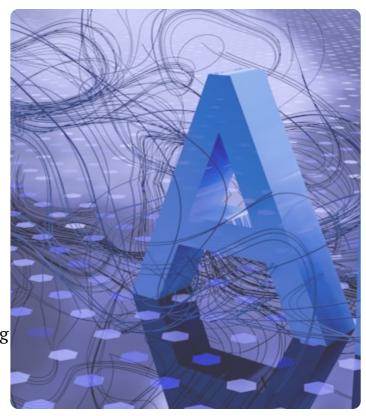
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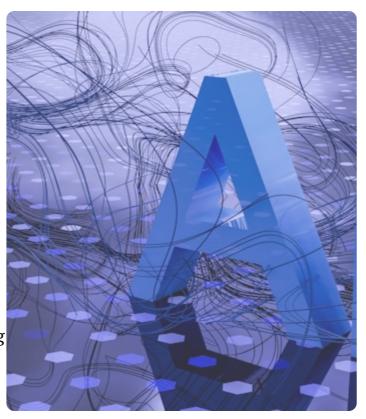
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- Modern Java: Records, sealed interfaces, pattern matching



```
AiJavaLabs/
       labs.md
                                  # 15 progressive lab exercises
       - src/
            main/java/com/kousenit/
                demos/
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16
           - test/java/
                               # Comprehensive test suite
17
       build.gradle.kts
                                  # Test categories for cost control
       - slides.md
18
                                  # This presentation
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Productivity: LangChain4j handles boilerplate

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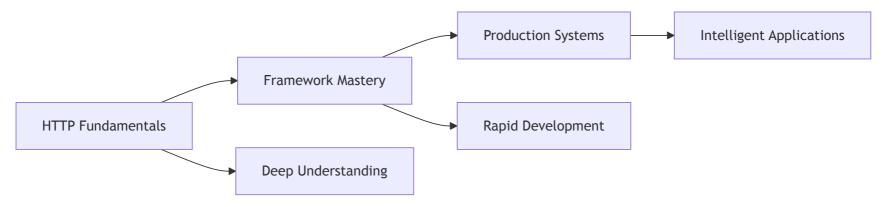
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Technical Requirements

```
# Required API keys
export OPENAI_API_KEY=your_key

# Optional: Local AI models
curl -fsSL https://ollama.com/install.sh | sh
ollama pull gemma3
ollama pull moondream # For vision

# Clone and start
git clone <repo-url>
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 Java 21+ (Records, sealed interfaces, pattern matching)

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Test Categories

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2 ./gradlew testCheap # ~$0.0
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Test Categories

@Tag("local") - Free Ollama tests

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Smart Strategy: Develop with free local models, deploy with optimal cloud models

Demo 1-2: HTTP Fundamentals

Understanding Raw API Integration

```
// Raw HTTP approach - Understanding the fundamentals
public class TextToSpeechService {
    private static final String OPENAI_API_KEY = System.getenv("OPENAI_API_KEY");
    private static final HttpClient client = HttpClient.newHttpClient();

public Path generateMp3(String model, String input, String voice) {
        // TODO: How do we construct the request?
}
```

```
1 // Step 3: Complete implementation with file handling
   public Path generateMp3(String model, String input, String voice) {
        String payload = """
                "model": "%s".
                "input": "%s".
               "voice": "%s"
           """.formatted(model, input.replaceAll("\\s+", " ").trim(), voice);
        HttpRequest request = HttpRequest.newBuilder()
            .uri(URI.create("https://api.openai.com/v1/audio/speech"))
            .header("Authorization", "Bearer %s".formatted(OPENAI API KEY))
            .header("Content-Type", "application/json")
14
            .header("Accept", "audio/mpeq")
           .POST(HttpRequest.BodyPublishers.ofString(payload))
            .build();
        try {
            HttpResponse<Path> response =
                client.send(request, HttpResponse.BodyHandlers.ofFile(getFilePath()));
           return response.body();
       } catch (IOException | InterruptedException e) {
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Demo 2: Model Discovery & JSON Parsing

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1 // Service implementation with Gson parsing
   public class OpenAiService {
        private static final HttpClient client = HttpClient.newHttpClient();
        private final Gson gson = new GsonBuilder()
                .setFieldNamingPolicy(FieldNamingPolicy.LOWER CASE WITH UNDERSCORES)
                .create();
        public ModelList listModels() throws IOException, InterruptedException {
            HttpRequest request = HttpRequest.newBuilder()
                .uri(URI.create("https://api.openai.com/v1/models"))
                .header("Authorization", "Bearer " + System.getenv("OPENAI API KEY"))
                .GET()
                .build();
14
            HttpResponse<String> response = client.send(request,
                   HttpResponse.BodyHandlers.ofString());
            return gson.fromJson(response.body(), ModelList.class);
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JSON Parsing: Gson vs Jackson

Gson Approach

Jackson Approach

```
// Using JsonNode with at() method
     ObjectMapper mapper = new ObjectMapper();
     JsonNode root = mapper.readTree(json);
     // Direct path with JSON Pointer!
     String text = root.at("/output/0/content/0/text")
                        .asText():
     // Or safe navigation with path()
10
     root.path("output")
11
         .path(0)
         .path("content")
12
13
         .path(0)
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```

JSON Parsing: Gson vs Jackson

Gson Approach

- Type-safe navigation
- Explicit type conversions
- Manual null checking needed

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JSON Parsing: Gson vs Jackson

Gson Approach

- Type-safe navigation
- Explicit type conversions
- Manual null checking needed

Jackson Approach

- JSON Pointer navigation (at())
- Safe chaining with path()
- No null pointer exceptions

RFC 6901 JSON Pointer Syntax

■ **Direct path access**: /output/0/content/0/text

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```
// Complex nested structure navigation - one line!
JsonNode root = mapper.readTree(response.body());

// Instead of multiple loops and null checks:
String text = root.at("/data/results/0/attributes/name").asText();

// With fallback:
String value = root.at("/missing/path").asText("default");
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When to Use Which?

- **Gson**: Already in project, simpler API, Google ecosystem
- **Jackson**: Spring Boot default, JSON Pointer support, more features
- Both: Can coexist use what fits your needs!

HTTP vs Framework Comparison

Raw HTTP Approach

```
// Manual request construction
     HttpRequest request = HttpRequest.newBuilder()
         .uri(URI.create(url))
         .header("Authorization", "Bearer " + key)
         .header("Content-Type", "application/json")
         .POST(HttpRequest.BodyPublishers.ofString(
             gson.toJson(payload)))
         .build();
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     // Manual response handling
10
     HttpResponse<String> response =
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         client.send(request, HttpResponse.BodyHandlers.c
     return gson.fromJson(response.body(), ResponseClass
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LangChain4j Framework

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         .header("Authorization", "Bearer " + key)
         .header("Content-Type", "application/json")
         .POST(HttpRequest.BodyPublishers.ofString(
             gson.toJson(payload)))
         .build();
 9
     // Manual response handling
10
     HttpResponse<String> response =
11
12
         client.send(request, HttpResponse.BodyHandlers.c
     return gson.fromJson(response.body(), ResponseClass
```

LangChain4j Framework

Both are valuable: Raw HTTP for understanding, frameworks for productivity

Demo 3-4: Local AI with Ollama

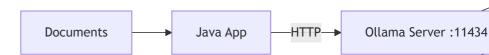
Privacy-First AI Integration

Why Ollama?



Why Ollama?

• Privacy: No data leaves your machine



Why Ollama?

Privacy: No data leaves your machine

Cost: Zero API costs after setup



Why Ollama?

Privacy: No data leaves your machine

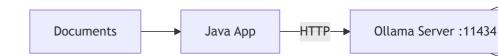
Cost: Zero API costs after setup

Control: Full model customization



Why Ollama?

- Privacy: No data leaves your machine
- Cost: Zero API costs after setup
- Control: Full model customization
- Speed: Local inference, no network delays



Why Ollama?

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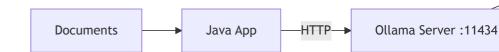
Cost: Zero API costs after setup

Control: Full model customization

Speed: Local inference, no network delays

Setup Commands:

```
ollama pull gemma3  # Text generation
lama pull moondream  # Vision analysis
lama serve  # Start server (automatic on install)
```



Demo 4: Modern Java with Sealed Interfaces

Demo 4: Modern Java with Sealed Interfaces

```
1 // Step 2: Use sealed interfaces for type safety (Java 17+)
   public sealed interface OllamaRequest
       permits OllamaTextRequest, OllamaVisionRequest {}
   public record OllamaTextRequest(
           String model, String prompt, boolean stream)
           implements OllamaRequest {}
   public record OllamaVisionRequest(
           String model, String prompt, boolean stream, List<String> images)
           implements OllamaRequest {
       // Compact constructor with Base64 encoding
14
       public OllamaVisionRequest {
           images = images.stream()
                    .map(this::encodeImage)
                    .collect(Collectors.toList());
```

Demo 4: Modern Java with Sealed Interfaces

```
1 // Step 3: Pattern matching with switch expressions (Java 21)
    public OllamaResponse generate(OllamaRequest request) {
        switch (request) {
            case OllamaTextRequest textRequest -> {
                logqer.log(INFO, "Text request: {0}", textRequest.prompt());
            case OllamaVisionRequest visionRequest -> {
                logger.log(INFO, "Vision request with {0} images",
                    visionRequest.images().size());
            // Exhaustive - no default needed with sealed types!
14
        // Same HTTP logic for both request types
        return sendRequest(request);
16 }
```

Demo 4: Modern Java with Sealed Interfaces

```
1 // Step 3: Pattern matching with switch expressions (Java 21)
    public OllamaResponse generate(OllamaRequest request) {
        switch (request) {
            case OllamaTextRequest textRequest -> {
                logqer.log(INFO, "Text request: {0}", textRequest.prompt());
            case OllamaVisionRequest visionRequest -> {
                logger.log(INFO, "Vision request with {0} images",
                    visionRequest.images().size());
            // Exhaustive - no default needed with sealed types!
14
        // Same HTTP logic for both request types
        return sendRequest(request);
16 }
```

Modern Java Benefits: Type safety, exhaustive pattern matching, compact constructors

Demo 5-6: Framework Integration

LangChain4j Power and Simplicity

```
// From 50+ lines of HTTP code to this:
import dev.langchain4j.model.chat.ChatModel;
import dev.langchain4j.model.openai.OpenAiChatModel;

public class QuickChatDemo {
    public static void main(String[] args) {
        // TODO: How do we create a chat model?
}
```

Live Demo: Run QuickChatDemo.java - from complex HTTP to simple method call!

Key Insight: Same ChatModel interface = vendor-agnostic code!

Cloud Providers

Local Models

Cloud Providers

Local Models

Specialized Services

■ **OpenAI** • GPT-4.1-nano, DALL-

E 3

Cloud Providers

Local Models

- **OpenAI** GPT-4.1-nano, DALL-E 3
- Google AI Gemini 2.0, PaLM

Cloud Providers

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- Anthropic Claude 3.5 Sonnet

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Local Models

Ollama • gemma3, llama3.1,
 mistral

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Specialized Services

■ **Vision** • moondream, LLaVA

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- Vision moondream, LLaVA
- **Audio** Whisper, TTS models

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Specialized Services

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- Code CodeLlama, StarCoder

LangChain4j Advantage: Switch providers with just configuration changes!

Demo 7: Streaming Responses

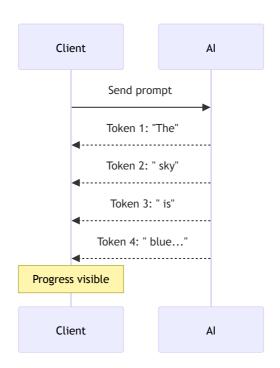
Real-Time AI Interactions

```
1 // Old way: Complex anonymous inner classes
   public void oldStreamingApproach() {
       model.chat("Tell me a story", new StreamingChatResponseHandler() {
           @Override
           public void onPartialResponse(String token) {
                System.out.print(token);
           @Override
           public void onError(Throwable error) {
                System.err.println("Error: " + error);
           @Override
14
           public void onCompleted() {
                System.out.println("\nDone!");
       });
```

```
1 // LangChain4j utilities: Clean lambda approach
    import static dev.langchain4j.model.LambdaStreamingResponseHandler.*;
    public class StreamingDemo {
        public static void main(String[] args) {
            var ollama = OllamaStreamingChatModel.builder()
                    .baseUrl("http://localhost:11434")
                    .modelName("gemma3")
                    .build();
            // One-liner for simple streaming
            ollama.chat("Tell me a haiku about Java",
                onPartialResponse(System.out::print));
14
15 }
```

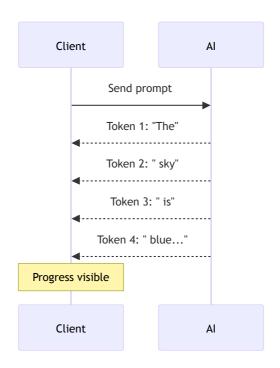
Live Demo: Run StreamingDemo.java to see tokens appear in real-time!

User Experience



User Experience

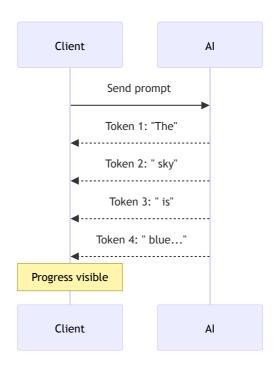
■ Immediate Feedback: See progress instantly



User Experience

■ Immediate Feedback: See progress instantly

Perceived Speed: Feels faster

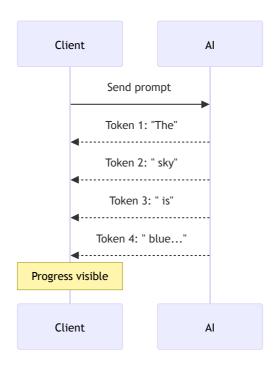


User Experience

■ Immediate Feedback: See progress instantly

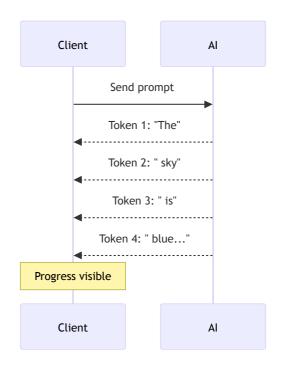
Perceived Speed: Feels faster

• **Interruptible**: Stop generation early



User Experience

- Immediate Feedback: See progress instantly
- Perceived Speed: Feels faster
- Interruptible: Stop generation early
- **Engaging:** Watch AI "think"

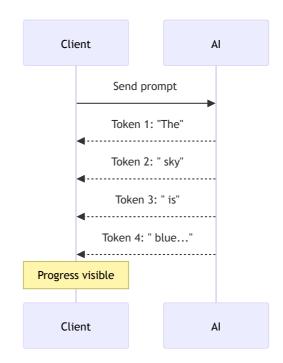


User Experience

- Immediate Feedback: See progress instantly
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Technical Benefits

• **Lower Latency**: First token quickly



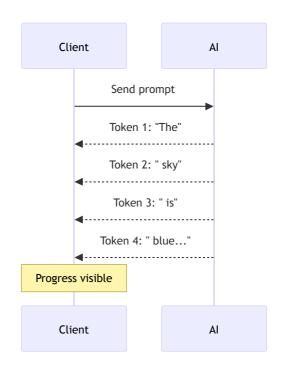
Streaming Architecture Benefits

User Experience

- Immediate Feedback: See progress instantly
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- **Interruptible**: Stop generation early
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Technical Benefits

- **Lower Latency**: First token quickly
- Better Resources: Process as arriving



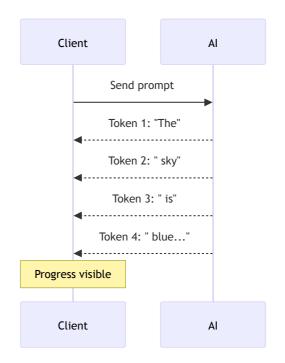
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- **Scalability**: Multiple streams



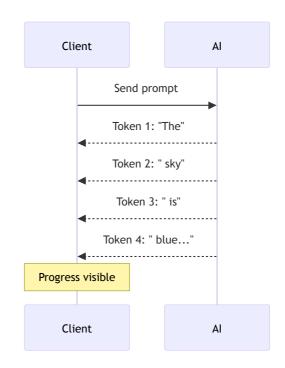
Streaming Architecture Benefits

User Experience

- Immediate Feedback: See progress instantly
- Perceived Speed: Feels faster
- Interruptible: Stop generation early
- Engaging: Watch AI "think"

Technical Benefits

- Lower Latency: First token quickly
- Better Resources: Process as arriving
- **Scalability**: Multiple streams
- Error Recovery: Graceful failures



Demo 8: Retrieval-Augmented Generation

Document-Powered AI

```
// Step 2: Create vector store and ingest documents
InMemoryEmbeddingStore<TextSegment> embeddingStore =
new InMemoryEmbeddingStore<>>();

// Magic happens here - documents become searchable vectors
EmbeddingStoreIngestor.ingest(documents, embeddingStore);

ContentRetriever retriever =
EmbeddingStoreContentRetriever.from(embeddingStore);
```

```
// Step 3: Create AI assistant with document access
public interface Assistant {
    String chat(String userMessage);
}

Assistant assistant = AiServices.builder(Assistant.class)
    .chatModel(chatModel)
    .chatMemory(MessageWindowChatMemory.withMaxMessages(10))
    .contentRetriever(retriever) // The magic ingredient!
    .build();
```

```
1 // Step 4: Complete EasyRAGDemo implementation
   public class EasyRAGDemo {
       public static void main(String[] args) {
            List<Document> documents = loadDocuments(toPath("documents/"), glob("*.txt"));
            ChatModel chatModel = OpenAiChatModel.builder()
                    .apiKey(System.getenv("OPENAI API KEY"))
                    .modelName("qpt-4.1-nano")
                    .build();
           Assistant assistant = AiServices.builder(Assistant.class)
                    .chatModel(chatModel)
                    .chatMemory(MessageWindowChatMemory.withMaxMessages(10))
                    .contentRetriever(createContentRetriever(documents))
14
                    .build();
           // AI can now answer questions about your documents!
           startConversationWith(assistant);
```

```
1 // Step 4: Complete EasyRAGDemo implementation
   public class EasyRAGDemo {
        public static void main(String[] args) {
            List<Document> documents = loadDocuments(toPath("documents/"), glob("*.txt"));
            ChatModel chatModel = OpenAiChatModel.builder()
                    .apiKey(System.getenv("OPENAI API KEY"))
                    .modelName("qpt-4.1-nano")
                    .build();
           Assistant assistant = AiServices.builder(Assistant.class)
                    .chatModel(chatModel)
                    .chatMemory(MessageWindowChatMemory.withMaxMessages(10))
                    .contentRetriever(createContentRetriever(documents))
14
                    .build();
           // AI can now answer questions about your documents!
           startConversationWith(assistant);
```

Live Demo: Run EasyRAGDemo.java - AI answers questions about YOUR documents!

Vector Embeddings

Vector Embeddings

Document Processing

Numerical Representation: Text → vectors
 (1536+ dimensions)

Vector Embeddings

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- Semantic Similarity: Similar meaning = closer vectors

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Document Processing

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- **Embedding:** Convert chunks to vectors

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- **Embedding:** Convert chunks to vectors
- Storage: Index in vector database

Vector Embeddings

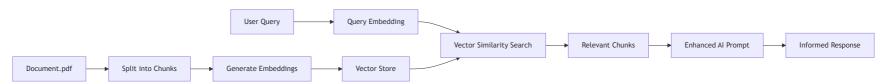
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- Storage: Index in vector database
- Retrieval: Find most relevant chunks for query

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Production Considerations Integration Patterns

Production Considerations

Integration Patterns

Vector Databases: Redis, Pinecone, Weaviate

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- Chunking Strategies: Token-based, semantic, overlapping

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- Real-Time Updates: Dynamic document ingestion
- Security: Access control, data privacy

Testing Strategy

Smart Cost Control and Quality Assurance

Test Categories for Cost Control

Test Tags

```
aTest
    aTag("local") // Free
    void testOllama() {
    // $0 cost
    aTest
    @Tag("cheap") // Low cost
    void testNano() {
     // ~$0.001
12
    aTest
    aTag("demo") // Fast
    void quickDemo() {
16
   // Optimized
```

Gradle Commands

```
1  # Free tests only
2  ./gradlew testLocal
3
4  # Low-cost tests
5  ./gradlew testCheap
6
7  # Demo tests
8  ./gradlew testDemo
9
10  # Exclude expensive
11  ./gradlew testNotExpensive
```

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```

Strategy: Develop with testLocal , validate with testCheap

Gradle Test Tasks

Cost-Controlled Testing

```
1  # Free tests only
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3
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5  ./gradlew testCheap
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7  # Exclude expensive tests
8  ./gradlew testNotExpensive
9
10  # Quick live demos
11  ./gradlew testDemo
```

Provider-Specific Testing

```
# OpenAI API tests only
./gradlew testOpenAI

# All tests (including expensive)
./gradlew test

# Custom test selection
./gradlew test --tests "*OpenAi*"
```

Gradle Test Tasks

Cost-Controlled Testing

```
1  # Free tests only
2  ./gradlew testLocal
3
4  # Low-cost tests
5  ./gradlew testCheap
6
7  # Exclude expensive tests
8  ./gradlew testNotExpensive
9
10  # Quick live demos
11  ./gradlew testDemo
```

Provider-Specific Testing

```
# OpenAI API tests only
//gradlew testOpenAI

# All tests (including expensive)
//gradlew test

# Custom test selection
//gradlew test --tests "*OpenAi*"
```

Smart Development: Use free local models for TDD, validate with cloud models before deployment

Testing Patterns for AI Applications

Unit Testing Approaches

```
aTest
     void shouldParseModelList() {
         String json = """
             {"data": [
                 {"id": "gpt-4", "created": 123}
             ]}
         ModelList result = qson.fromJson(json, ModelList
         assertThat(result.data()).hasSize(1);
 9
10
11
12
     aTest
     void shouldHandleApiError() {
         // Test error scenarios
14
         assertThrows(RuntimeException.class,
15
             () -> service.generateWithInvalidKey());
16
17
```

Integration Testing

```
aTest
     aTag("local")
     void shouldStreamTokens() {
         List<String> tokens = new ArrayList<>();
         ollamaService.generateStreaming("gemma3",
 6
             "Count to 5",
             token -> tokens.add(token)
         );
10
         assertThat(tokens).isNotEmpty();
11
         assertThat(String.join("", tokens))
12
13
             .containsPattern("1.*2.*3.*4.*5");
14
```

■ Content Assertions: Check for key concepts, not exact strings

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- Structural Validation: Verify JSON format, required fields

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- Content Assertions: Check for key concepts, not exact strings
- Structural Validation: Verify JSON format, required fields
- Error Handling: Test timeout, rate limits, invalid input
- Performance Bounds: Response time, token limits

```
gTest
gTag("cheap")
void shouldAnswerSkyColorQuestion() {
    String response = chatModel.chat("Why is the sky blue?");

// Flexible content assertion
assertThat(response.toLowerCase())
.containsAnyOf("scattering", "wavelength", "atmosphere", "light");

// Structural assertion
assertThat(response).hasSizeGreaterThan(10);
assertThat(response).doesNotContain("I don't know");
}
```

- Content Assertions: Check for key concepts, not exact strings
- Structural Validation: Verify JSON format, required fields
- **Error Handling:** Test timeout, rate limits, invalid input
- Performance Bounds: Response time, token limits
- Cost Monitoring: Track API usage in tests

Course Summary

From HTTP to Intelligent Applications

Foundation Built

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HTTP Fundamentals: Raw API integration patterns

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- Modern Java: Records, sealed interfaces, pattern matching

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Advanced Capabilities

■ Multi-Modal AI: Text, vision, audio integration

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Advanced Capabilities

- Multi-Modal AI: Text, vision, audio integration
- Streaming Responses: Real-time user experiences
- RAG Systems: Document-powered AI
- Production Patterns: Error handling, monitoring

Result: You can build intelligent Java applications with confidence! 🚀

Demo Classes Mastered

Core Demos

- QuickChatDemo Fast OpenAI integration
- TextToSpeechDemo Audio generation
- LocalOllamaDemo Privacy-first AI
- MultiModelDemo Provider comparison

Advanced Demos

- StreamingDemo Real-time responses
- ResponsesApiDemo Raw HTTP patterns
- ApiComparisonDemo Framework vs raw
- EasyRAGDemo Document Q&A

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All Ready for Live Demonstration: Each demo is optimized for training delivery

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- 7. Test Smart, Not Hard: Use local models for TDD, cloud models for validation

Hands-On Practice

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Advanced Topics

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Resources:

- LangChain4j Documentation
- Course Repository
- Ollama Models

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- Local Models: Privacy and cost benefits

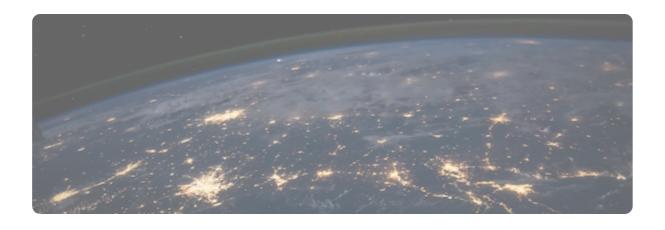
Thank You!

Questions?

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Ready to build intelligent Java applications!