Donate

Stay safe, friends. Learn to code from home. Use our free 2,000 hour curriculum.

7 DECEMBER 2017 / #PROGRAMMING

## Using Java's Arrays.sort() for any List of Objects



## **Ethan Arrowood**

Computer Science students at Wentworth Institute of Technology. Future software engineer at Microsoft. Lots of JavaScript/TypeScript open source with Fastify and Matterhorn



Sorting can be tricky, especially when your list is not of a primitive Java numeric type (Byte, Integer, Short, Long,

method might not be the best case. However, I've found it incredibly useful for simple coding challenges and university lab assignments.

To start, pick your list. For this example I'll be using a list of Edges from a simple Graph data structure:

```
// Very simple Edge classpublic class Edge {    public Vertex src;

// List of edgesEdge[] edges = graph.getEdges();
```

Next, define the implementation of the java.util.Comparator interface:

```
class SortByCost implements Comparator<Edge> {     public int comparator
```

In this example, we will be sorting the edges by their cost, or distance from the src (source) vertex to the dst (destination) vertex.

Finally use the standard java.util.Arrays.sort() method:

```
Arrays.sort(edges, new SortByCost())
```

Donate

And just like that, the list of Edges is now sorted in ascending (least to greatest) order.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out on **Twitter** 

You can also find me on GitHub or my personal website

- ~ Happy Coding
- Ethan Arrowood

If you read this far, tweet to the author to show them you care.

Tweet a thanks

Learn to code for free. freeCodeCamp's open source curriculum has helped more than 40,000 people get jobs as developers.

Get started

freeCodeCamp is a donor-supported tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (United States Federal Tax Identification Number: 82-0779546)

Our mission: to help people learn to code for free. We accomplish this by creating thousands of videos, articles, and interactive coding lessons - all freely available to the public. We also have thousands of freeCodeCamp study groups around the world.

Donations to freeCodeCamp go toward our education initiatives, and help pay for servers, services, and staff.

## Donate

Our Nonprofit	Trending Guides

About 2019 Web Developer Roadmap

Alumni Network Python Tutorial

Open Source CSS Flexbox Guide

Shop JavaScript Tutorial

Support Python Example

Sponsors HTML Tutorial

Academic Honesty Linux Command Line Guide

Code of Conduct JavaScript Example

Privacy Policy Git Tutorial

Terms of Service React Tutorial

Copyright Policy Java Tutorial

Linux Tutorial

**CSS Tutorial** 

jQuery Example

**SQL** Tutorial

**CSS Example** 

React Example

**Angular Tutorial** 

**Bootstrap Example** 

How to Set Up SSH Keys

WordPress Tutorial

PHP Example