

17.1 Introduction¹

¹ We were privileged to have Brian Goetz, Oracle's Java Language Architect and Specification Lead for Java SE 8's Project Lambda, and co-author of *Java Concurrency in Practice*, do a detailed review of Java How to Program, 10/e. He thoroughly scrutinized the version of this chapter that appeared in that edition and provided many additional suggestions that are reflected in this new edition, Java How to Program, 11/e. Any remaining faults in the book are our own.

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The way you think about Java programming is about to change profoundly. Prior to Java SE 8, Java supported three programming paradigms—*procedural programming*, *object-oriented programming* and *generic programming*. Java SE 8 added *lambdas* and *streams*²—key technologies of *functional programming*.

² The streams we discuss in this chapter are not the same as the input/output streams we discuss in [Chapter 15](#), Files, Input/Output Streams, NIO and XML Serialization, in which a program reads a stream of bytes from or writes a stream of bytes to a file. [Section 17.13](#) uses lambdas and streams to manipulate the contents of a file.

In this chapter, we'll use lambdas and streams to write certain kinds of programs faster, simpler, more concisely and with fewer bugs than with previous techniques. In [Chapter 23](#), Concurrency, you'll see that such programs can be easier to *parallelize* (i.e., perform multiple operations simultaneously) so that you can take advantage of multi-core architectures to enhance performance—a key goal of lambdas and streams.



Software Engineering

Observation 17.1

*You'll see in [Chapter 23](#), [Concurrency](#) that it's hard to create parallel tasks that operate correctly if those tasks modify a program's state (that is, its variables' values). So the techniques that you'll learn in this chapter focus on **immutability**—not modifying the data source being processed or any other program state.*

This chapter presents many examples of lambdas and streams ([Fig. 17.1](#)), beginning with several showing better ways to implement tasks you programmed in [Chapter 5](#). The first several examples are presented in a manner that allows them to be covered in the context of earlier chapters. For this reason, some terminology is discussed later in this chapter. [Figure 17.2](#) shows additional lambdas and streams coverage in later chapters.

Section	May be covered after
Sections 17.2–17.4 introduce basic lambda and streams capabilities that process ranges of integers and eliminate the need for counter-controlled repetition.	Chapter 5 , Control Statements: Part 2; Logical Operators
Section 17.6 introduces method references and uses them with lambdas and streams to process ranges of integers	Chapter 6 , Methods: A Deeper Look

Section 17.7 presents lambda and streams capabilities that process one-dimensional arrays.	Chapter 7, Arrays and ArrayLists
Sections 17.8–17.9 discuss key functional interfaces and additional lambda concepts, and tie these into the chapter’s earlier examples. Section 10.10 introduced Java SE 8’s enhanced interface features (default methods, static methods and the concept of functional interfaces) that support functional-programming techniques in Java.	Chapter 10, Object- Oriented Programming: Polymorphism and Interfaces
Section 17.16 shows how to use a lambda to implement a JavaFX event-listener functional interface.	Chapter 12, JavaFX Graphical User Interfaces: Part 1,
Section 17.11 shows how to use lambdas and streams to process collections of String objects.	Chapter 14, Strings, Characters and Regular Expressions
Section 17.13 shows how to use lambdas and streams to process lines of text from a file—the example in this section also uses some regular expression capabilities from Chapter 14.	Chapter 15, Files, Input/Output Streams, NIO and XML Serialization

Fig. 17.1

This chapter’s lambdas and streams discussions and examples.

Coverage	Chapter
Uses lambdas to implement Swing event-listener functional interfaces.	Chapter 35, Swing GUI Components: Part 2

Shows that functional programs are easier to parallelize so that they can take advantage of multi-core architectures to enhance performance. Demonstrates parallel stream processing. Shows that <code>Arrays</code> method <code>parallelSort</code> can improve performance on multi-core vs. single-core architectures when sorting large arrays.	Chapter 23, Concurrency
Uses lambdas to implement Swing event-listener functional interfaces.	Chapter 26, Swing GUI Components: Part 1
Uses streams to process database query results.	Chapter 29, Java Persistence API (JPA)

Fig. 17.2

Later lambdas and streams coverage.