



Evaluating Definitions

Effective Programming in Scala

Puzzle

It is also possible to define methods that take no parameters.

Then, what is the difference between those two definitions?

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val tenSquared = 10 * 10
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- ▶ The body of def definitions is evaluated **each time** we use their name (if we never use it, it is never evaluated),
- ▶ By contrast, val definitions are evaluated **once**, and their result is reused each time their name is used.

Case For Parameterless `def` Definitions

One reason for using `def` instead of `val` is to **delay** the evaluation of a computation to a point in the program where we effectively **need** it.

Summary

Definitions using `def` are re-evaluated each time they are used. We use them mainly for operations that take parameters.

Definitions using `val` are evaluated only once. We use them mainly for intermediate expressions.