Core Java 8 and Development Tools

Lesson 21: Lambda Expressions

Lesson Objectives

- After completing this lesson, participants will be able to
 - Understand the concept of Lambda expressions
 - Work with lambda expressions
 - Use method references and functional interfaces





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This lesson covers new feature in Java 8, lambda expressions. It also covers concepts of functional interfaces and method references.

Lesson outline:

- 21.1: Introduction
- 21.2: Writing Lambda Expressions
- 21.3: Functional Interfaces
- 21.4: Types of Functional Interfaces
- 21.5: Method reference
- 21.6: Best practices

21.1: Introduction to Functional Interface Functional Interface

- Functional Interface is an interface having exactly one abstract method
- Such interfaces are marked with optional @FunctionalInterface annotation

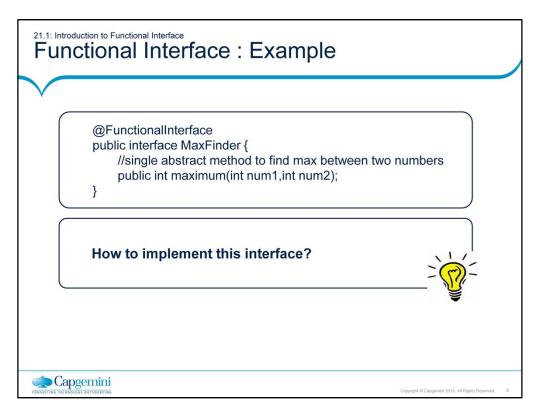
```
@FunctionalInterface
interface xyz {
    //single abstract method
}
```



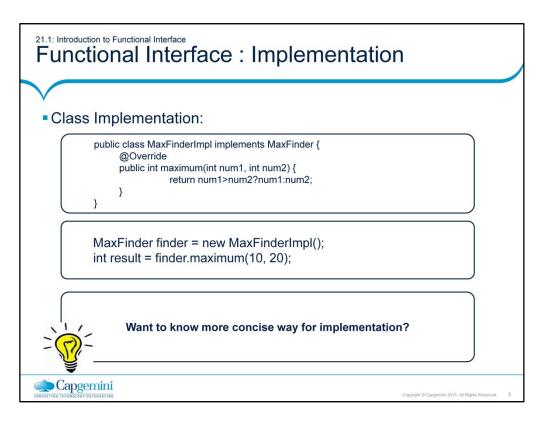
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Before we get into the discussion of Lambda expressions, lets first have a look at functional interfaces. When an interface is declared with only one abstract method, then it is referred as Functional Interface. The method in functional interface is called as functional method. Along with the functional method, you can also add default and static method to functional interface. Optionally such interfaces can be annotated with @FunctionalInterface annotation. This annotation is not a requirement for the compiler to recognize an interface as a functional interface, but merely an aid to capture design intent and enlist the help of the compiler in identifying accidental violations of design intent.

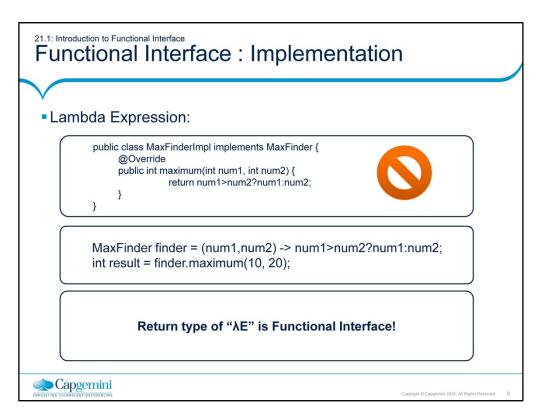
Note: An empty interface is called as "Marker Interface".



As shown in the slide example, a functional interface is annotated with @FunctionalInterface so as it instructs compiler to rectify any rules violation.



The slides shows one way to implement the functional interfaces. Is it worthy to create separate class for single method implementation?



The slides shows how to implement the functional interfaces using lambda expression. This way is more concise as we are implementing functional interface without creating additional class.

Lets discover the lambda expression in detail.

21.2: Writing Lambda Expressions Lambda Expression

- Lambda expression represents an instance of functional interface
- A lambda expression is an anonymous block of code that encapsulates an expression or a block of statements and returns a result
- Syntax of Lambda expression:

(argument list) -> { implementation }

 The arrow operator -> is used to separate list of parameters and body of lambda expression



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What is Lambda expression?

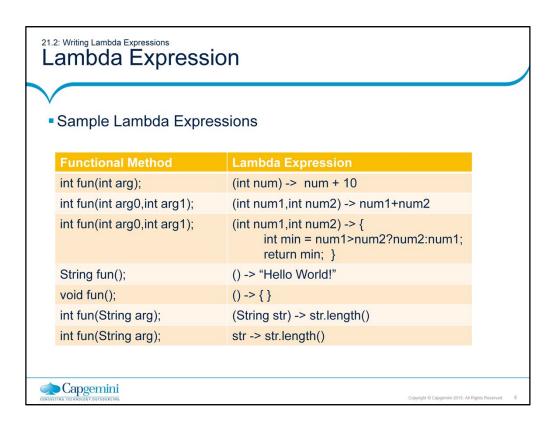
Lambda expression allows for creation and use of single method anonymous classes instead of creating separate concrete class for functional interface implementation.

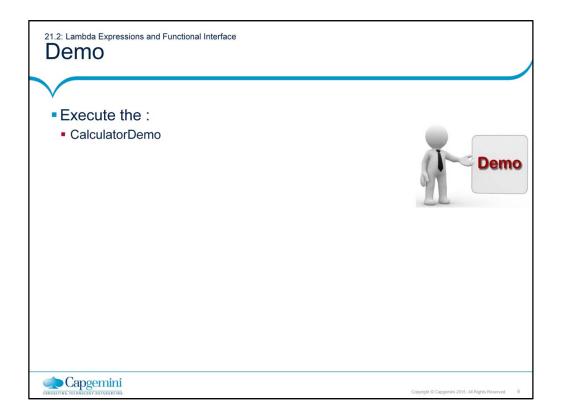
A lambda expression is an anonymous block of code that encapsulates an expression or a series of statements and returns a result. They can accept zero or more parameters, any of which can be passed with or without type specification since the type can be automatically derived from the context.

The parameter list for a lambda expression can include zero or more arguments. If there are no arguments, then an empty set of parentheses can be used. No parenthesis is required for single argument.

Why Lambda Expressions?

Lambda expressions are an important addition to Java that greatly improves overall maintainability, readability, and developer productivity. They can be applied in many different contexts, ranging from simple anonymous functions to sorting and filtering Collections. Moreover, lambda expressions can be assigned to variables and then passed into other objects.





21.3: Builtin Functional Interfaces

Built-in Functional Interfaces

- Java SE 8 provides a rich set of 43 functional interfaces
- All these interfaces are included under package java.util.function
- This set of interfaces can be utilized to implement lambda expressions
- All functional interfaces are categorized into four types:
 - Supplier
 - Consumer
 - Predicate
 - Function



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Built-in Functional Interfaces

As we have learnt so far, functional interfaces can be implemented by writing lambda expressions. Does it means, we have to write functional interface every time if we want to work with Lambda expressions?

Certainly no. As Java 8 comes with dozens of built-in functional interfaces, all are written and kept in java.util.function package. These interfaces can be useful when implementing lambda expressions.

All of these functional interfaces are written in generics format and hence can be applied in many different contexts. Use of such interfaces can greatly reduce the amount of code.

Functional Interfaces are categories into four types:

Supplier Consumer Predicate Function

Lets discover the each type in detail!

21.3: Builtin Functional Interfaces Supplier

- A Supplier<T> represents a function that takes no argument and returns a result of type T.
- This is an interface that doesn't takes any object but provides a new one

```
@FunctionalInterface
public interface Supplier<T> {
    T get();
}
```

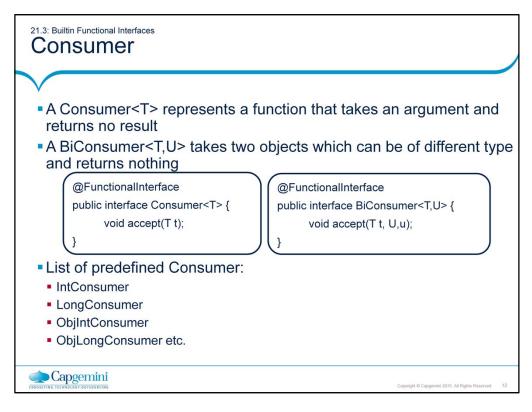
- List of predefined Suppliers:
 - BooleanSupplier
 - IntSupplier
 - LongSupplier
 - DoubleSupplier etc.



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Supplier<T>

As the name suggest, Supplier<T> interface contains only one method get() which accepts no arguments but supplies a new object of type T. There are few predefined suppliers which returns object of specified type. For example, BooleanSupplier supplies Boolean valued results.



Consumer<T>/BiConsumer<T,U>

Consumers are of two types, a Consumer<T> accepts a single object and returns nothing, while the another BiConsumer<T> accepts two objects of any type and returns nothing. It contains a single method called accept() as shown in the slide.

21.3: Builtin Functional Interfaces Predicate A Predicate<T> represents a function that takes an argument and returns true or false result A BiPredicate<T,U> takes two objects which can be of different type and returns result as either true or false @FunctionalInterface public interface Predicate<T> { boolean test(T t); }

- List of predefined Predicates:
 - IntPredicate
 - LongPredicate
 - DoublePredicate etc.



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Predicate<T>/BiPredicate<T,U>

In mathematics, a predicate is a boolean-valued function that takes an argument and returns true or false. The function represents a condition that returns true or false for the specified argument. The other type BiPredicate is a predicate of two arguments which returns a Boolean value.

21.3: Builtin Functional Interfaces Function A Function<T> represents a function that takes an argument and returns another object A BiFunction<T,U> takes two objects which can be of different type and returns one object @FunctionalInterface @FunctionalInterface public interface Function<T,R> { public interface BiFunction<T,U,R> { R apply(T t); R apply(T t, U,u); List of predefined Functions: DoubleFunction<R> IntFunction<R> IntToDoubleFunction

Function<T,R>/BiFunction<T,U,R>

DoubleToIntFunctionDoubleToLongFunction etc.

Function<T> represents a function that takes an argument of type T and returns a result of type R. BiFunction<T,U> represents a function that takes two arguments of types T and U, and returns a result of type R.

UnaryOperator<T,T>

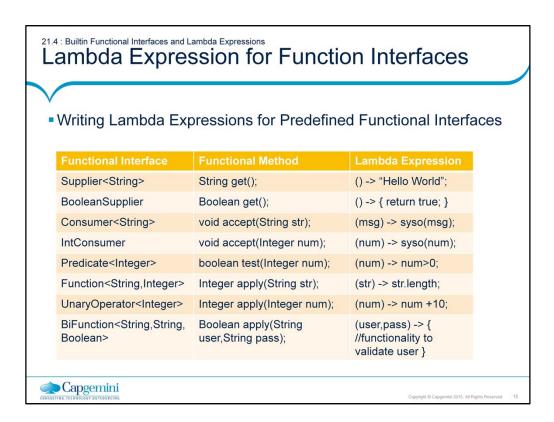
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Inherits the Function<T,T>, where it accepts and return a result of type T.

BinaryOperator<T>

Inherits from BiFunction<T,T,T>. Represents a function that takes two arguments of the same type and returns a result of the same.

Having discussed the different types of functional interfaces, let see now how to use them to write lambda expressions.



Consumer<String> consumer = (String str)-> System.out.println(str);
consumer.accept("Hello LE!");
Supplier<String> supplier = () -> "Hello from Supplier!";
consumer.accept(supplier.get());
//even number test
Predicate<Integer> predicate = num -> num%2==0;
System.out.println(predicate.test(24));
System.out.println(predicate.test(21));
//max test
BiFunction<Integer, Integer> maxFunction = (x,y)->x>y?x:y;
System.out.println(maxFunction.apply(25, 14));



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Using Built-in Functional Interfaces

The first example show a consumer of type string which accepts a string and return nothing but print the accepted string value.

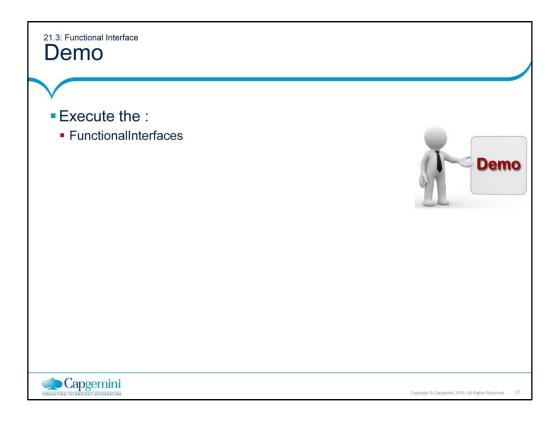
The supplier is of type String which supplies an object of String to a consumer which prints it.

The predicate is used to accept integer objects and returns true or false based on even test on given number.

The last example shows, a BiFunction which accepts two integer objects and return an integer which is maximum. The same expression can also be written as:

BinaryOperator<Integer> maxFunction = $(x,y) \rightarrow x>y?x:y;$

The functional interfaces described so far are utilized throughout the JDK, and they can also be utilized in developer applications.



21.5: Method Reference Method References

- Method reference is a shorthand way to write lambda expressions
- It is a new way to refer a method by its name instead of calling it directly
- Consider the below lambda expression, which call println method of System.out object:

Consumer < String > consumer = (String str)-> System.out.println(str);

- Such lambda expressions are candidate for method references as it just calling a method for some functionality
- The same expression can be written as with method reference:

Consumer<String> consumer = System.out :: println;



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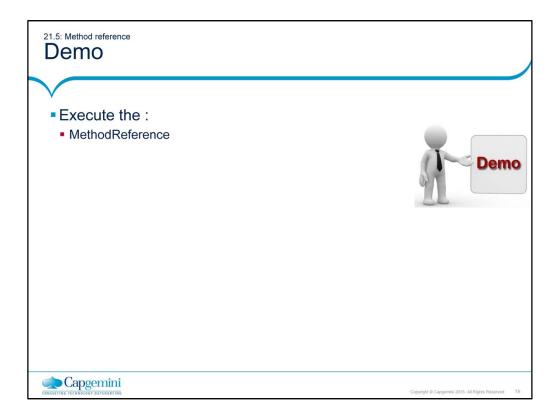
Method Reference

If a lambda expression is written only to invoke a single method by name, then such expression can be shorthanded by using method reference. The syntax of method reference is:

<class or instance name> :: <method name>

The double colon operator specifies the method reference. The method which is referred must reflect pre-defined or custom functional interface.

The slide example shows method println() which accept object to print and returns nothing, suits perfectly with predefined functional interface called Consumer<T> and matches with abstract method void accept(T) signature. Hence lambda expression can be short handed by refereeing it with method reference.



Summary In this lesson, you have learnt: Writing Lambda Expressions Functional Interfaces Method reference Summary

Review Question

- Question 1 : Which of the following Lambda expressions are valid to perform addition of two numbers?
 - Option 1 : (x, y) -> x +y;
- Option 2 : (Integer x,Integer y) > {return x+y;}
- Option 3 : (Integer x, Integer y) -> (x + y);
- Option 4: All of above
- Question 2 : _____ is a predicate of two arguments.
- Question 3: A method reference is shorthand to create a lambda expression using an existing method.
 - True/False



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