Throughout my career I’ve met and interviewed many expert Java developers who’ve learned from Paul and Harvey, through one or more of their college textbooks, professional books, videos and corporate training. Many Java User Groups have joined together around the Deitels’ publications, which are used internationally in university courses and professional training programs. You are joining an elite group.

**How do I become an expert Java developer?**

This is one of the most common questions I receive at talks for university students and at events with Java professionals. Students want to become expert developers—and this is a great time to be one.

The market is wide open, full of opportunities and fascinating projects, especially for those who take the time to learn, practice and master software development. The world needs good, focused expert developers.

So, how do you do it? First, let’s be clear: Software development is hard. But do not be discouraged. Mastering it opens the door to great opportunities. Accept that it’s hard, embrace the complexity, enjoy the ride. There are no limits to how much you can expand your skills.

Software development is an amazing skill. It can take you anywhere. You can work in any field. From nonprofits making the world a better place, to bleeding-edge biological technologies. From the frenetic daily run of the financial world to the deep mysteries of religion. From sports to music to acting. Everything has software. The success or failure of initiatives everywhere will depend on developers’ knowledge and skills.

The push for you to get the relevant skills is what makes *Java How to Program, 11/e* so compelling. Written for students and new developers, it’s easy to follow. It’s written by authors who are educators and developers, with input over the years from some of the world’s leading academics and professional Java experts—Java Champions, open-source Java developers, even creators of Java itself. Their collective knowledge and experience will guide you. Even seasoned Java professionals will learn and grow their expertise with the wisdom in these pages.

**How can this book help you become an expert?**

Java was released in 1995—Paul and Harvey had the first edition of *Java How to Program* ready for Fall 1996 classes. Since that groundbreaking book, they’ve produced ten more editions, keeping current with the latest developments and idioms in the Java software-engineering community. You hold in your hands the map that will enable you to rapidly develop your Java skills.

The Deitels have broken down the humongous Java world into well-defined, specific goals. Put in your full attention, and consciously “beat” each chapter. You’ll soon find
yourself moving nicely along your road to excellence. And with both Java 8 and Java 9 in
the same book, you’ll have up-to-date skills on the latest Java technologies.

Most importantly, this book is not just meant for you to read—it’s meant for you to
practice. Be it in the classroom or at home after work, experiment with the abundant
sample code and practice with the book’s extraordinarily rich and diverse collection of
exercises. Take the time to do all that is in here and you’ll be well on your way to achieving
a level of expertise that will challenge professional developers out there. After working with
Java for more than 20 years, I can tell you that this is not an exaggeration.

For example, one of my favorite chapters is Lambdas and Streams. The chapter covers
the topic in detail and the exercises shine—many real-world challenges that developers will
encounter every day and that will help you sharpen your skills. After solving these exer-
cises, novices and experienced developers alike will deeply understand these important
Java features. And if you have a question, don’t be shy—the Deitels publish their email
address in every book they write to encourage interaction.

That’s also why I love the chapter about JShell—the new Java 9 tool that enables
interactive Java. JShell allows you to explore, discover and experiment with new concepts,
language features and APIs, make mistakes—accidentally and intentionally—and correct
them, and rapidly prototype new code. It may prove to be the most important tool for
leveraging your learning and productivity. Paul and Harvey give a full treatment of JShell
that both students and experienced developers will be able to put to use immediately.

I’m impressed with the care that the Deitels always take care to accommodate readers
at all levels. They ease you into difficult concepts and deal with the challenges that profes-
sionals will encounter in industry projects.

There’s lots of information about Java 9, the important new Java release. You can
jump right in and learn the latest Java features. If you’re still working with Java 8, you can
close into Java 9 at your own pace—be sure to begin with the extraordinary JShell coverage.

Another example is the amazing coverage of JavaFX—Java’s latest GUI, graphics and
multimedia capabilities. JavaFX is the recommended toolkit for new projects. But if you’ll
be working on legacy projects that use the older Swing API, those chapters are still avail-
able to you.

Make sure to dig in on Paul and Harvey’s treatment of concurrency. They explain the
basic concepts so clearly that the intermediate and advanced examples and discussions will
be easy to master. You will be ready to maximize your applications’ performance in an
increasingly multi-core world.

I encourage you to participate in the worldwide Java community. There are many
helpful folks out there who stand ready to help you. Ask questions, get answers and answer
your peers’ questions. Along with this book, the Internet and the academic and profes-
sional communities will help speed you on your way to becoming an expert Java developer.
I wish you success!

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