

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 exercises, 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 professionals 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 ease 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 available 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 professional communities will help speed you on your way to becoming an expert Java developer. I wish you success!

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