



## The Java Tutorial: A Short Course on the Basics, 4th Edition

*By Sharon Biocca Zakhour, Scott Hommel, Jacob Royal, Isaac Rabinovitch, Tom Risser, Mark Hoeber*

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A hands-on guide to the Java programming language, *The Java™ Tutorial, Fourth Edition* is perfect for any developer looking for a proven path to proficiency with Java SE. This popular tutorial "from the Source" has been completely revised and updated to cover Version 6 of the Java Platform, Standard Edition.

Written by members of the Java Software team at Sun Microsystems, this book uses a tested, interactive approach and features real-world problems that help you learn the Java platform by example.

New to this edition are chapters on generics, collections, Java Web Start, the platform environment, and regular expressions. Key sections, including the Threads, I/O, Object-Oriented Programming Concepts, and Language Basics chapters have been completely rewritten to reflect reader feedback and to cover new features added to the Java SE 6 platform. A new appendix contains information on how to prepare for the Java Programming Language Certification exam.

As with the previous editions, you will find clear explanations of the fundamentals of objects, classes, and data structures, as well as detailed coverage of exceptions, I/O, and threads. All of the popular features that made this book a classic have been retained, including convenient summaries at the end of each section and Questions and Exercises segments to help you practice what you learn.

The accompanying CD-ROM is filled with valuable resources including the latest Java SE software (the JRE, JDK, Java API spec, and the guide documentation), the code samples from this book, and solutions to the questions and exercises.

The Java™ Series is supported, endorsed, and authored by the creators of the Java technology at Sun Microsystems, Inc. It is the official place to go for

complete, expert, and definitive information on Java technology. The books in this series provide the inside information you need to build effective, robust, and portable applications and applets. The Series is an indispensable resource for anyone targeting the Java™ platform.

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## **Editorial Review**

From the Back Cover

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### About the Author

**Sharon Zakhour**, the Java Tutorial team lead, has worked at Sun Microsystems as a senior technical writer for seven years. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in computer science and has worked as a programmer, developer support engineer, and technical writer for more than twenty years.

**Scott Hommel** is a technical writer on staff at Sun Microsystems, where he documents the Java Platform, Standard Edition. Since 1999, he has contributed to every major release of the JDK, mostly in the form of API spec clarifications and core release documentation.

**Jacob Royal** has an M.S. in IT and an M.B.A. in information systems. He has written administrator's guides, API references and programmer's guides, and has identified new tools and developed code and writing standards for various companies, including Lucent Technologies and Autodesk.

**Isaac Rabinovitch** is a freelance technical writer. He has written user manuals, programmer's guides, administrator's manuals, API references, release notes, and support documentation at Sun Microsystems, Borland, SGI, and many other companies.

**Thomas Risser** was educated in physics at Harvard (B.A.) and the University of California at Berkeley (Ph.D.). He has been a technical writer in the computer industry for fifteen years.

**Mark Hoeber** is a former senior technical writer at Sun Microsystems. He has worked as a technical writer for twelve years, focusing on documentation for software developers and system administrators.

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Since the release of the original Java Development Kit in May of 1995, the engineering team at Sun Microsystems has been hard at work improving and enhancing the Java platform. The publication of this edition coincides with the release of Version 6 of the Java Platform Standard Edition (Java SE) and reflects the API of that release.

This edition introduces new features added to the Java platform since the publication of the third edition (under release 1.3), such as a chapter on Generics and information on annotations. There are new chapters on Java Web Start, The Platform Environment, and Regular Expressions. Most chapters, such as Concurrency (formerly Threads), I/O, Object-Oriented Programming Concepts, and Language Basics, have been completely rewritten. Collections has been brought out of the appendix and into its own chapter. A new appendix contains information on how to prepare for the Java Programming Language Certification exam.

All of the material has been thoroughly reviewed by members of engineering to ensure that the information is accurate and up to date.

Like the previous editions, this book is based on the online tutorial hosted at Sun Microsystems' Web site:

<http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/>

The information in this book is often referred to as "the core tutorial" or "the basics" that are required by most beginning to intermediate programmers. Once you have mastered the material in this book, you can explore the rest of the Java platform on the Web site.

As always, our goal is to create an easy-to-read practical programmer's guide with lots of examples to help people learn to program.

## **Who Should Read This Book?**

This book is geared towards both novice and experienced programmers.

- New programmers can benefit most from reading the book from beginning to end, including the step by step instructions for compiling and running your first program in Getting Started (page 1).
- Programmers experienced with procedural languages such as C++ may wish to start with the material on object-oriented concepts and features of the Java programming language.
- Experienced programmers may want to jump feet first into more advanced topics, such as generics, concurrency, or Java Web Start.

This book contains information to address the learning needs of programmers with various levels of experience.

## **How to Use This Book**

This book is designed so you can read it straight through or skip around from topic to topic. The information is presented in a logical order, and forward references are avoided wherever possible.

The examples in this tutorial are compiled against the 6.0 release. You need to download this release in order to compile and run most examples.

The accompanying CD contains the content of this book (including examples, and solutions and answers to the questions and exercises), as well as the online-only Java SE tutorials, an early 6.0 release of the Java SE Development Kit (JDK), and the corresponding API specification and guide documentation.

You will see footnotes like the following:

`docs/api/java/lang/Class.html`

and

`tutorial/deployment/applet/examples/TalkServer.java`

The highest level of the CD contains `docs` and `tutorial` directories, so those footnotes can be located on the CD as specified. To locate the latest pages online, prepend `http://java.sun.com/javase/6/` to the `docs` footnotes and `http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/` to the `tutorial` footnotes:

`http://java.sun.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/lang/Class.html`

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The chapters in this book can be found on the CD at the following locations:

Chapter 1. Getting Started: `tutorial/getStarted`

Chapter 2. Object-Oriented Programming Concepts: `tutorial/java/concepts`

Chapter 3. Language Basics: `tutorial/java/nutsandbolts`

Chapter 4. Classes and Objects: `tutorial/java/java00`

Chapter 5. Interfaces and Inheritance: `tutorial/java/landI`

Chapter 6. Generics: `tutorial/java/generics`

Chapter 7. Packages: `tutorial/java/package`

Chapter 8. Numbers and Strings: `tutorial/java/data`

Chapter 9. Exceptions: `tutorial/essential/exceptions`

Chapter 10. Basic I/O: `tutorial/essential/io`

Chapter 11. Collections: `tutorial/collections`

Chapter 12. Concurrency: `tutorial/essential/concurrency`

Chapter 13. Regular Expressions: `tutorial/essential/regex`

Chapter 14. The Platform Environment: `tutorial/essential/environment`

Chapter 15. Swing: `tutorial/ui`

Chapter 16. Packaging Programs in JAR Files: `tutorial/deployment/jar`

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**Helen Woodson:**

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