Java Platform, Standard Edition Java Language Updates, Release 11
E94884-03

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### 2 Local Variable Type Inference

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**ORACLE**
Preface

This guide describes updates to the language in Java SE 9.

Audience

This document is for Java developers.

Documentation Accessibility

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Related Documents

See JDK 12 Documentation.

Conventions

The following text conventions are used in this document:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Convention</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>boldface</strong></td>
<td>Boldface type indicates graphical user interface elements associated with an action, or terms defined in text or the glossary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>italic</em></td>
<td>Italic type indicates book titles, emphasis, or placeholder variables for which you supply particular values.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>monospace</td>
<td>Monospace type indicates commands within a paragraph, URLs, code in examples, text that appears on the screen, or text that you enter.</td>
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# Java Language Changes

This section summarizes the updated language features in Java SE 9 and subsequent releases.

## Java Language Changes for Java SE 11

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>JEP</th>
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| Local Variable Type Inference  | Introduced in Java SE 10. In this release, it has been enhanced with support for allowing var to be used when declaring the formal parameters of implicitly typed lambda expressions. Local-Variable Type Inference extends type inference to declarations of local variables with initializers. | JEP 286: Local-Variable Type Inference  
JEP 323: Local-Variable Syntax for Lambda Parameters |

## Java Language Changes for Java SE 10

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<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>JEP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Local Variable Type Inference</td>
<td>Introduced in this release. Local-Variable Type Inference extends type inference to declarations of local variables with initializers.</td>
<td>JEP 286: Local-Variable Type Inference</td>
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## Java Language Changes for Java SE 9

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>JEP</th>
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| Java Platform module system, see Project Jigsaw on OpenJDK. | Introduced in this release. The Java Platform module system introduces a new kind of Java programming component, the module, which is a named, self-describing collection of code and data. Its code is organized as a set of packages containing types, that is, Java classes and interfaces; its data includes resources and other kinds of static information. Modules can either export or encapsulate packages, and they express dependencies on other modules explicitly. | Java Platform Module System (JSR 376)  
JEP 261: Module System  
JEP 200: The Modular JDK  
JEP 220: Modular Run-Time Images  
JEP 260: Encapsulate Most Internal APIs |
More Concise try-with-resources Statements

If you already have a resource as a final or effectively final variable, you can use that variable in a try-with-resources statement without declaring a new variable. An "effectively final" variable is one whose value is never changed after it is initialized.

For example, you declared these two resources:

```java
// A final resource
final Resource resource1 = new Resource("resource1");
// An effectively final resource
Resource resource2 = new Resource("resource2");
```

In Java SE 7 or 8, you would declare new variables, like this:

```java
try (Resource r1 = resource1;
     Resource r2 = resource2) {
    ...
}
```

In Java SE 9, you don’t need to declare `r1` and `r2`:

```java
// New and improved try-with-resources statement in Java SE 9
try (resource1;
     resource2) {
    ...
}
```

There is a more complete description of the try-with-resources statement in The Java Tutorials (Java SE 8 and earlier).
@SafeVarargs Annotation Allowed on Private Instance Methods

The @SafeVarargs annotation is allowed on private instance methods. It can be applied only to methods that cannot be overridden. These include static methods, final instance methods, and, new in Java SE 9, private instance methods.

Diamond Syntax and Anonymous Inner Classes

You can use diamond syntax in conjunction with anonymous inner classes. Types that can be written in a Java program, such as int or String, are called denotable types. The compiler-internal types that cannot be written in a Java program are called non-denotable types.

Non-denotable types can occur as the result of the inference used by the diamond operator. Because the inferred type using diamond with an anonymous class constructor could be outside of the set of types supported by the signature attribute in class files, using the diamond with anonymous classes was not allowed in Java SE 7.

Underscore Character Not Legal Name

If you use the underscore character ("_") as an identifier, your source code can no longer be compiled.

Support for Private Interface Methods

Private interface methods are supported. This support allows nonabstract methods of an interface to share code between them.
Local Variable Type Inference

In JDK 10 and later, you can declare local variables with non-null initializers with the `var` identifier, which can help you write code that’s easier to read.

Consider the following example, which seems redundant and is hard to read:

```java
URL url = new URL("http://www.oracle.com/");
URLConnection conn = url.openConnection();
Reader reader = new BufferedReader(
    new InputStreamReader(conn.getInputStream()));
```

You can rewrite this example by declaring the local variables with the `var` identifier. The type of the variables are inferred from the context:

```java
var url = new URL("http://www.oracle.com/");
var conn = url.openConnection();
var reader = new BufferedReader(
    new InputStreamReader(conn.getInputStream()));
```

`var` is a reserved type name, not a keyword, which means that existing code that uses `var` as a variable, method, or package name is not affected. However, code that uses `var` as a class or interface name is affected and the class or interface needs to be renamed.

`var` can be used for the following types of variables:

- **Local variable declarations with initializers:**
  ```java
  var list = new ArrayList<String>();    // infers ArrayList<String>
  var stream = list.stream();            // infers Stream<String>
  var path = Paths.get(fileName);        // infers Path
  var bytes = Files.readAllBytes(path);  // infers bytes[]
  ```

- **Enhanced for-loop indexes:**
  ```java
  List<String> myList = Arrays.asList("a", "b", "c");
  for (var element : myList) {...}  // infers String
  ```

- **Index variables declared in traditional for loops:**
  ```java
  for (var counter = 0; counter < 10; counter++) {...}  // infers int
• try-with-resources variable:

```
try (var input =
     new FileInputStream("validation.txt")) {...} // infers FileInputStream
```

• Formal parameter declarations of implicitly typed lambda expressions: A lambda expression whose formal parameters have inferred types is implicitly typed:

```
BiFunction<Integer, Integer, Integer> = (a, b) -> a + b;
```

In JDK 11 and later, you can declare each formal parameter of an implicitly typed lambda expression with the var identifier:

```
(var a, var b) -> a + b;
```

As a result, the syntax of a formal parameter declaration in an implicitly typed lambda expression is consistent with the syntax of a local variable declaration; applying the var identifier to each formal parameter in an implicitly typed lambda expression has the same effect as not using var at all.

You cannot mix inferred formal parameters and var-declared formal parameters in implicitly typed lambda expressions nor can you mix var-declared formal parameters and manifest types in explicitly typed lambda expressions. The following examples are not permitted:

```
(var x, y) -> x.process(y)       // Cannot mix var and inferred
formal parameters
// in implicitly typed lambda

(var x, int y) -> x.process(y)  // Cannot mix var and manifest types
// in explicitly typed lambda
```

**Local Variable Type Inference Style Guidelines**

Local variable declarations can make code more readable by eliminating redundant information. However, it can also make code less readable by omitting useful information. Consequently, use this feature with judgment; no strict rule exists about when it should and shouldn't be used.

Local variable declarations don't exist in isolation; the surrounding code can affect or even overwhelm the effects of var declarations. *Style Guidelines for Local Variable Type Inference in Java* examines the impact that surrounding code has on var declarations, explains tradeoffs between explicit and implicit type declarations, and provides guidelines for the effective use of var declarations.