

Re: swap method in Java

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Stefan Ram wrote:

```
> When is it not applicable to swap the variable names in  
> the rest of the block? I.e.,  
>  
> class Swap4a  
> { final static int x=5, y=7;  
> public static void main( final String[] args )  
> { System.out.println( "x now is " + y + " y now is " + x ); }}
```

Generally speaking, when:

- a) the swaps occur in a loop or conditional, or
- b) the variables being swapped are not local (for example, they are fields of an object or elements of an array), unless you can prove that the data will only be accessed in controlled in a local environment.
- c) the variables are fields of an array (even under the local exception above), and you plan to access them in a loop. Or, on a related but less common note, the variables are fields and you plan to access them using reflection.

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