Java was initially released (some would say “escaped”), on January 23, 1996. It’s over 25 years old! In

the first 25 years, Java as a language evolved, and the Java API grew enormously. The best estimate we

have is that over 17 gazillion lines of Java code have been written in the last 25 years. As you spend time

programming in Java, you will most certainly come across Java code that’s quite old, and some that’s

much newer. Java is famous for its backward compatibility, so old code can run quite happily on new

JVMs.

In this book we’ll generally start off by using older coding styles (remember, you’re likely to encounter

such code in the “real world”), and then we’ll introduce newer-style code.

In a similar fashion, we will sometimes show you older classes in the Java API, and then show you

newer alternatives.

When Java was first released, it was slow. But soon after, the

HotSpot VM was created, as were other performance enhanc-

ers. While it’s true that Java isn’t the fastest language out there,

it’s considered to be a very fast language—almost as fast as

languages like C and Rust, and much faster than most other

languages out there.

Java has a magic super-power—the JVM. The Java Virtual

Machine can optimize your code while it’s running, so it’s possible

to create very fast applications without having to write special-

ized high-performance code.

But—full disclosure—compared to C and Rust, Java uses a lot

of memory