

**U FDR 2401**

**Class No. 18 HW: History and Background of JavaScript**

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**What is JavaScript?**

Ans. JavaScript is a high-level, multi-paradigm programming language primarily used for website development alongside HTML and CSS. While HTML and CSS provide the structure and style of a website, JavaScript enables the addition of interactive features and behaviours. This allows visitors to engage with the website in more exciting ways. Also note that the language is not limited to a specific type of operating system and supports event-driven, functional, and imperative programming styles such as object-oriented and prototype-based.

**What is JavaScript used for?**

Ans. You can use JavaScript to create:

- Web applications, servers and backend web infrastructure;
- Browser-based games;
- Animation and other special effects;
- Security features (such as passwords);
- Automatically refreshing news feeds;
- Mobile applications.

<https://softteco.com/blog/history-of-javascript>

## History of JavaScript

**1994:** The lead developer (Marc Andreessen) of Mosaic founded a company called Netscape. Release a more polished browser called Netscape Navigator. Web pages were static, and there was no dynamic or interactivity after a page loaded.

### Collaboration and Creation:

**1995:** Netscape Communications realized the browser needed a language to make it more dynamic. The company recruited **Brendan Eich** with the goal of embedding the *Scheme* programming language in Netscape Navigator.

### Birth Of JavaScript

Based on that, JavaScript was created by **Brendan Eich** in September 1995. He took inspiration from three languages—Java, Self, and Scheme—to create JavaScript. JavaScript derives its syntax from Java, its first-class functions from Scheme, and its prototype-based inheritance from Self.

The name JavaScript is a result of marketing strategies. At the beginning, Brendan Eich called it Mocha (a code name). Inside Netscape, they used the name LiveScript. Yet, when they had to choose a public name, “JavaScript” was the winner.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/history-javascript-its-evolution-suleman-elahi>

### Detailed Timeline of Evolution of JavaScript

Internet Explorer (IE4) was the first browser to support ECMA-262 Edition 1 (ES1).

The timeline of JavaScript from creation till current time is given in the below table in details:

| Year | ECMA | Browser                                       |
|------|------|---|
| 1995 |      | JavaScript was invented by Brendan Eich       |
| 1996 |      | Netscape 2 was released with JavaScript 1.0   |
| 1997 |      | JavaScript became an ECMA standard (ECMA-262) |
| 1997 | ES1  | ECMAScript 1 was released                     |
| 1997 | ES1  | IE 4 was the first browser to support ES1     |
| 1998 | ES2  | ECMAScript 2 was released                     |
| 1998 |      | Netscape 42 was released with JavaScript 1.3  |
| 1999 | ES2  | IE 5 was the first browser to support ES2     |
| 1999 | ES3  | ECMAScript 3 was released                     |
| 2000 | ES3  | IE 5.5 was the first browser to support ES3   |
| 2000 |      | Netscape 62 was released with JavaScript 1.5  |
| 2000 |      | Firefox 1 was released with JavaScript 1.5    |
| 2008 | ES4  | ECMAScript 4 was abandoned                    |
| 2009 | ES5  | ECMAScript 5 was released                     |
| 2011 | ES5  | IE 9 was the first browser to support ES5 *   |
| 2011 | ES5  | Firefox 4 was released with JavaScript 1.8.5  |
| 2012 | ES5  | Full support for ES5 in Safari 6              |
| 2012 | ES5  | Full support for ES5 in IE 10                 |

|      |     |   |
|------|-----|---|
| 2012 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in Chrome 23       |
| 2013 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in Firefox 21      |
| 2013 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in Opera 15        |
| 2014 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in all browsers    |
| 2015 | ES6 | ECMAScript 6 was released               |
| 2016 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Chrome 51       |
| 2016 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Opera 38        |
| 2016 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Safari 10       |
| 2017 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Firefox 54      |
| 2017 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Edge 15         |
| 2018 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in all browsers ** |

## Note

\* Internet Explorer 9 did not support ES5 "use strict".

\*\* Internet Explorer 11 does not support ES6.

[https://www.w3schools.com/js/js\\_history.asp#:~:text=JavaScript%20was%20invented%20by%20Brendan,Mozilla's%20latest%20version%20was%201.8.](https://www.w3schools.com/js/js_history.asp#:~:text=JavaScript%20was%20invented%20by%20Brendan,Mozilla's%20latest%20version%20was%201.8.)

## **Difference between Java and JavaScript**

Despite the similarity in their names, JavaScript and Java are two different programming languages.

Java is an object-oriented, class-based programming language that was developed by Sun Microsystems in the mid-1990s. It is compiled into bytecode that can run on any platform that has a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) installed. Java is often used for building large-scale enterprise applications, Android mobile apps, and server-side web applications.

On the other hand, JavaScript is a high-level, interpreted programming language. It is primarily used for client-side web development and can be inserted into HTML pages. JavaScript code is written in text and can be organized, saved, edited, and operated as text files. It supports event-driven, functional, and object-oriented programming paradigms. The language is also widely used for creating interactive web pages, web applications, and mobile applications.

JavaScript was created to be interpreted at runtime, making it more dynamic. Programs made from Java can run on either a virtual machine or a browser. JavaScript programs are mostly run in a browser. Another significant difference is that both languages require different libraries and plug-ins to function.

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