Introduction to Java

Java is a versatile, object-oriented programming language widely used for building a variety of applications, from enterprise software to mobile apps and games. It is known for its portability, security, and robust performance, making it a popular choice among developers worldwide.

by Laxman Deora

History and Evolution of Java

1

1991 - Oak

Java's origins trace back to the Oak programming language, developed by James Gosling and his team at Sun Microsystems.

2

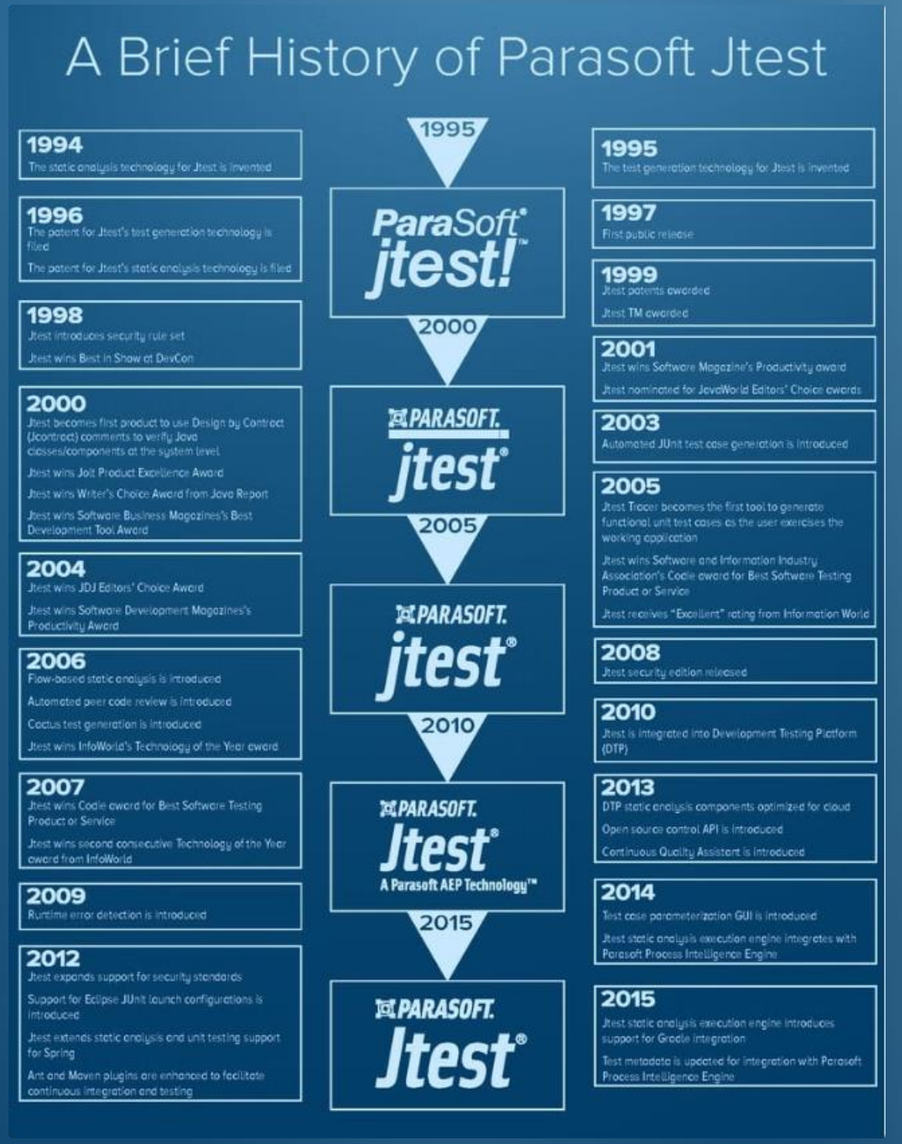
1995 - Java

Oak was renamed to Java and released publicly, becoming a popular choice for web applications and applets.

3

2006 - Java SE 6

The release of Java SE 6 brought significant improvements in performance, security, and developer productivity.



Java as an Object-Oriented Programming Language

Encapsulation

Java enforces data encapsulation, where data and the methods that operate on that data are bundled together within a class.

Inheritance

Java supports inheritance, allowing classes to inherit properties and methods from parent classes, promoting code reuse.

Polymorphism

Java enables polymorphism, where objects of different classes can be treated as objects of a common superclass.

Key Features of Java

1 Platform Independence

Java's "Write Once, Run Anywhere" (WORA) principle allows programs to run on various platforms without the need for recompilation.

2 Robust Exception Handling

Java's exception handling mechanism provides a structured way to handle and recover from runtime errors.

3 Automatic Memory Management

Java's Garbage Collector automatically reclaims memory occupied by objects that are no longer in use.

4 Rich API

Java's extensive and well-documented standard library provides a wide range of pre-built functionality for developers.

Java Virtual Machine (JVM)

Platform Independence

The JVM allows Java programs to run on different operating systems without the need for recompilation.

Automatic Memory Management

The JVM's Garbage Collector automatically frees up memory occupied by objects that are no longer in use.

Bytecode Execution

The JVM executes Java's compiled bytecode, providing a consistent runtime environment for Java applications.

Security

The JVM's sandbox model helps ensure the security and stability of Java programs by isolating them from the underlying system.

Java Data Types and Variables

Primitive Data Types

Java offers a range of primitive data types, including integers, floating-point numbers, characters, and booleans.

Reference Data Types

Java also supports reference data types, such as strings, arrays, and user-defined classes, which can store complex data structures.

Variables

Variables in Java are used to store data, and can be declared using a variety of modifiers to control their scope and accessibility.

Java Control Structures and Conditional Statements

1

If-Else

The if-else statement allows you to execute different code blocks based on a boolean condition.

2

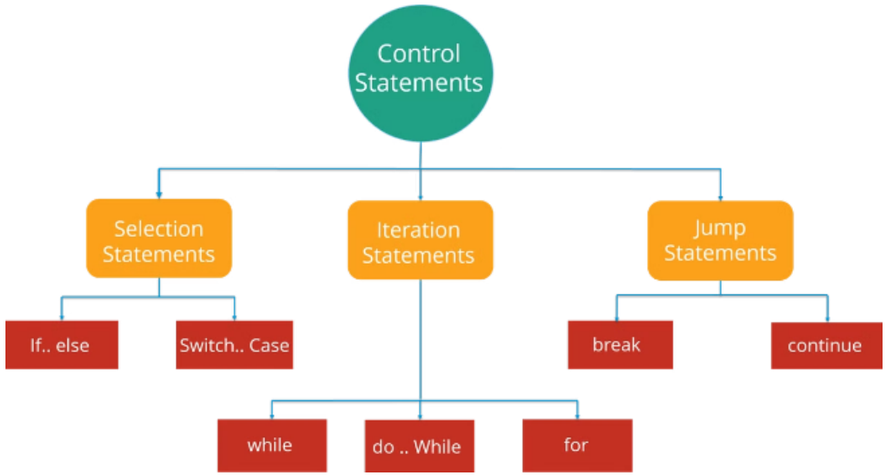
Switch

The switch statement provides a more concise way to handle multiple conditions and branch execution accordingly.

3

Loops

Java offers various loop constructs, such as for, while, and do-while, to repeatedly execute a block of code.



Java Methods and Functions

Methods

Methods are named blocks of code that perform specific tasks and can accept parameters and return values.

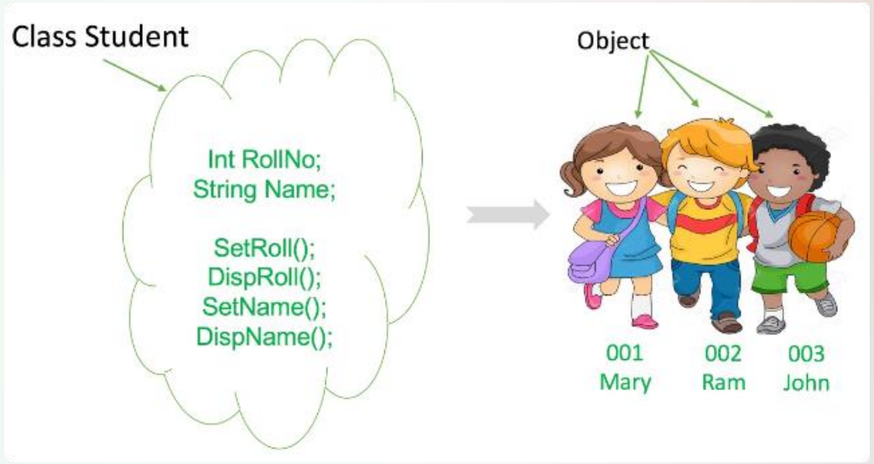
Functions

Functions are self-contained units of code that can be called with arguments and return a value.

Overloading

Java allows you to define multiple methods with the same name but different parameter lists, known as method overloading.

Java Classes and Objects



1

Class

A class is a blueprint or template that defines the properties and behaviors of an object.

2

Object

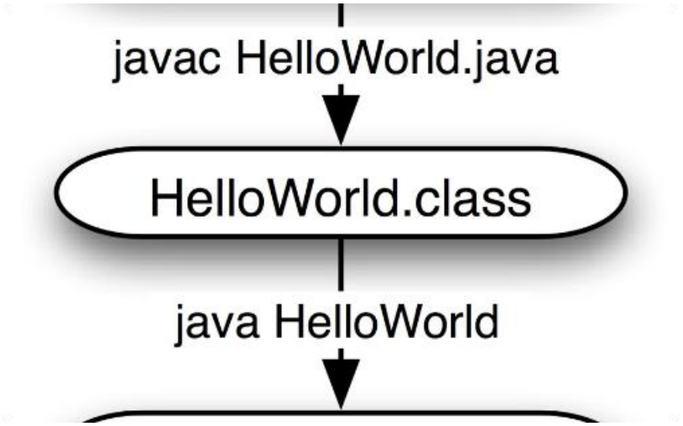
An object is an instance of a class, created using the new keyword, and can access the class's methods and properties.

3

Inheritance

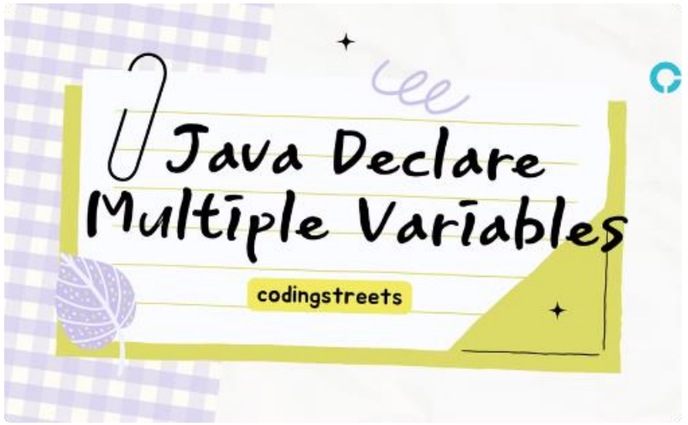
Classes can inherit properties and methods from a parent class, allowing for code reuse and polymorphism.

Simple Java Programming Examples



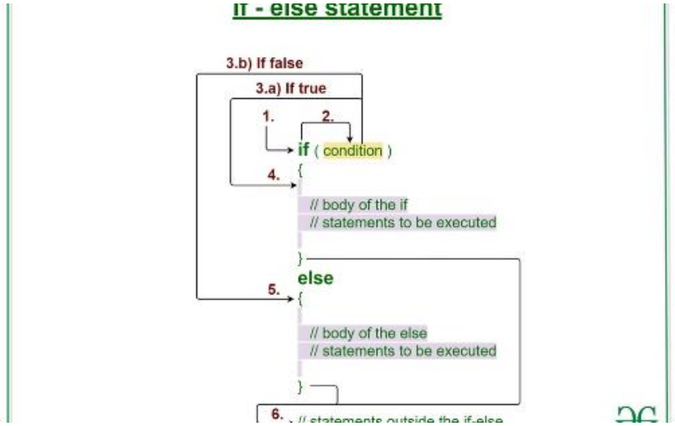
Hello World

A classic program that prints "Hello, World!" to the console, demonstrating the basic structure of a Java program.



Variable Declaration

An example of how to declare and initialize variables of different data types in Java.



Conditional Statements

An example of using the if-else statement to make decisions based on a condition in a Java program.