Java is a popular object-oriented programming language developed by Sun Microsystems (now owned by Oracle Corporation) in the mid-1990s. It is widely used in enterprise applications, mobile development, web development, and scientific applications.

Java is a platform-independent language, which means that it can be run on any platform that supports the Java Virtual Machine (JVM), including Windows, Linux, macOS, and mobile devices. This is possible because Java code is compiled into an intermediate language called bytecode, which can be executed by the JVM.

One of the key features of Java is its memory management system, which automatically manages memory allocation and deallocation, freeing the programmer from the need to manage memory manually. Java is also known for its security features, such as a sandbox environment that prevents untrusted code from accessing system resources.

Java has a vast standard library, which includes a wide range of classes and methods for common programming tasks, such as string manipulation, file I/O, networking, and multithreading. Additionally, Java has a large and active developer community, which has created a wealth of third-party libraries and frameworks that extend the functionality of the language.

Overall, Java is a powerful, versatile, and widely-used language that has become an essential part of modern software development.