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Java is a high-level, class-based, object-oriented programming language that is designed to have as few implementation dependencies as possible. It is a general-purpose programming language intended to let programmers write once, run anywhere (WORA),[17] meaning that compiled Java code can run on all platforms that support Java without the need to recompile.[18] Java applications are typically compiled to bytecode that can run on any Java virtual machine (JVM) regardless of the underlying computer architecture. The syntax of Java is similar to C and C++, but has fewer low-level facilities than either of them. The Java runtime provides dynamic capabilities (such as reflection and runtime code modification) that are typically not available in traditional compiled languages. As of 2019, Java was one of the most popular programming languages in use according to GitHub,[19][20] particularly for client–server web applications, with a reported 9 million developers.[21]

Java was originally developed by James Gosling at Sun Microsystems. It was released in May 1995 as a core component of Sun Microsystems' Java platform. The original and reference implementation Java compilers, virtual machines, and class libraries were originally released by Sun under proprietary licenses. As of May 2007, in compliance with the specifications of the Java Community Process, Sun had relicensed most of its Java technologies under the GPL-2.0-only license. Oracle offers its own HotSpot Java Virtual Machine, however the official reference implementation is the OpenJDK JVM which is free open-source software and used by most developers and is the default JVM for almost all Linux distributions.

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**Jakarta EE**, formerly **Java Platform, Enterprise Edition** (**Java EE**) and **Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition** (**J2EE**), is a set of specifications, extending [Java SE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_SE)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakarta_EE#cite_note-1) with specifications for enterprise features such as [distributed computing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distributed_computing) and [web services](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_service).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakarta_EE#cite_note-2) Jakarta EE applications are run on [reference runtimes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_implementation), that can be [microservices](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microservices) or [application servers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_server), which handle transactions, security, scalability, [concurrency](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concurrency_(computer_science)) and management of the components it is deploying.

Jakarta EE is defined by its [specification](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Program_specification). The specification defines [APIs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Application_programming_interface) (application programming interface) and their interactions. As with other [Java Community Process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Community_Process) specifications, providers must meet certain conformance requirements in order to declare their products as *Jakarta EE compliant*.

Examples of contexts in which Jakarta EE referencing runtimes are used are: [e-commerce](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-commerce), accounting, banking information systems.