

History and Evolution of JavaScript

1. Origin of JavaScript

In the early 1990s, the World Wide Web was emerging, and web pages were mostly static. Netscape Communications wanted to make web pages dynamic and interactive. To achieve this, Netscape decided to create a lightweight scripting language that could run in the browser.

2. Creation and Early Development

Creator: Brendan Eich

Year: 1995

Company: Netscape Communications

Purpose: To enable client-side scripting in web browsers.

Eich developed the first version in just 10 days, originally named Mocha, later renamed LiveScript.

3. Why the Name Changed to JavaScript

In 1995, Java by Sun Microsystems was popular. To leverage Java's success, Netscape renamed LiveScript to JavaScript as a marketing strategy, though the languages are unrelated.

4. Standardization of JavaScript

In 1996, Microsoft released a JavaScript clone called JScript. Netscape then submitted JavaScript to ECMA International for standardization.

Standard Name: ECMAScript (ECMA-262, 1997)

Maintained by: ECMA Technical Committee 39 (TC39)

5. Major Versions

- ES3 (1999): Regular expressions, better string handling
- ES5 (2009): Strict mode, JSON support
- ES6 (2015): let, const, arrow functions, classes, modules
- ES7-ES13 (2016-2022): Async/await, optional chaining, new data types

6. Who Uses JavaScript

JavaScript is widely used for:

- Web browsers (frontend scripting)
- Servers (Node.js)
- Mobile apps (React Native)
- Desktop apps (Electron)
- IoT devices
- Machine learning (TensorFlow.js)

7. Key Companies Using JavaScript

Google, Facebook, Netflix, LinkedIn, PayPal, Microsoft

8. Summary

Created by: Brendan Eich (1995, Netscape)

Originally called: Mocha -> LiveScript -> JavaScript

Standardized as: ECMAScript by ECMA International

Core usage: Web development, servers, and apps