The Java™

Language Specification

*Third Edition*

**History**

The Java™ programming language is a general-purpose, concurrent, class-based, strongly typed, high-level, object-oriented language. It is related to C and C++ but is organized rather differently, with a number of aspects of C and C++ omitted and a few ideas from other languages included. It is intended to be a production language, not a research language.

James Gosling, Mike Sheridan, and Patrick Naughton initiated the Java language project in June 1991. Java was originally designed for interactive television, but it was too advanced for the digital cable television industry at the time. The language was initially called *Oak* after an oak tree that stood outside Gosling's office; it went by the name *Green* later, and was later renamed *Java*, from Java coffee, said to be consumed in large quantities by the language's creators. Below is the list of feature or final product releases of Java.

**Table 1** – Feature Releases of Java

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Code Name** | **Release Date** | **Remark** |
| Oak | NIL |  | Initiated at June, 1991 |
| JDK 1.0 | Oak | January 23, 1996 | **Oak** was **renamed** Java in 1994 after a trademark search revealed that Oak was used by Oak Technology. |
| JDK 1.1 | NIL | February 19, 1997 |  |
| J2SE 1.2 | Playground | December 8, 1998 | As of this version, the name "Java 2" and the version name "J2SE" (Java 2 Platform, Standard Edition) replaced JDK to distinguish the base platform from J2EE (Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition) and J2ME (Java 2 Platform, Micro Edition). |
| J2SE 1.3 | Kestrel | May 8, 2000 |  |
| J2SE 1.4 | Merlin | February 6, 2002 |  |
| J2SE 5.0 | Tiger | September 30, 2004 |  |
| Java SE 6 | Mustang | December 11, 2006 | As of this version, Sun replaced the name "J2SE" with "Java SE" and dropped the ".0" from the version number. Internal numbering for developers remains 1.6.0 |
| Java SE 7 | Dolphin | July 28, 2011 |  |

**Note:** Java remains a **de facto** (means "in practice but not necessarily established by law") standard, controlled through the Java Community Process (JCP).

**Introduction**

The Java programming language is strongly typed.