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Early life

Career & contributions

He is known as the father of the Java programming language.^{[8][9]} He got the idea for the Java VM while writing a program to port software from a PERQ by translating Perq Q-Code to VAX assembler and emulating the hardware. He is generally credited with having invented the Java programming language in 1994.^{[10][11][12]} He created the original design of Java and implemented the language's original compiler and virtual machine.^[13] Gosling traces the origins of the approach to his early graduate student days, when he created a p-code virtual machine

James Gosling	
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Born	<div>James Gosling</div> <div>May 19, 1955</div> <div><u>Calgary, Alberta, Canada</u></div>
Nationality	<u>Canadian</u>
Alma mater	<u>University of Calgary</u> (BSc, 1977) <u>Carnegie Mellon University</u> (MA; PhD, 1983)
Known for	<u>Java (programming language)</u>
Title	Dr. Java
Children	2
Awards	<div>Officer of the <u>Order of Canada</u></div> <div>IEEE John von Neumann Medal The Economist Innovation Award</div> <div>NAE Foreign Member</div>
Scientific career	
Institutions	<u>Sun Microsystems</u> <u>Oracle Corporation</u> <u>Google</u> <u>Liquid Robotics</u> ^[1]

for the lab's DEC VAX computer, so that his professor could run programs written in UCSD Pascal. In the work leading to Java at Sun, he saw that architecture-neutral execution for widely distributed programs could be achieved by implementing a similar philosophy: always program for the same virtual machine.^[14] Another contribution of Gosling's was co-writing the "bundle" program, known as "shar", a utility thoroughly detailed in Brian Kernighan and Rob Pike's book *The Unix Programming Environment*.^[15]

	<u>Amazon Web Services</u>
<u>Thesis</u>	<i>Algebraic Constraints</i> (http://reports-archive.adm.cs.cmu.edu/anon/scan/CMU-CS-83-132.pdf) (1983)
<u>Doctoral advisor</u>	<u>Bob Sproull</u> and <u>Raj Reddy</u> ^[2]

He left Sun Microsystems on April 2, 2010, after it was acquired by the Oracle Corporation,^[8] citing reductions in pay, status, and decision-making ability, along with change of role and ethical challenges.^[16] He has since taken a very critical stance towards Oracle in interviews, noting that "during the integration meetings between Sun and Oracle, where we were being grilled about the patent situation between Sun and Google, we could see the Oracle lawyer's eyes sparkle."^[9] He clarified his position during the *Oracle v. Google* trial over Android: "While I have differences with Oracle, in this case they are in the right. Google totally slimed Sun. We were all really disturbed, even Jonathan [Schwartz]: he just decided to put on a happy face and tried to turn lemons into lemonade, which annoyed a lot of folks at Sun."^[17] However, he approved of the court's ruling that APIs should not be copyrightable.^[18]

In March 2011, Gosling joined Google.^[19] Six months later, he followed his colleague Bill Vass and joined a startup called Liquid Robotics.^[1] In late 2016, Liquid Robotics was acquired by Boeing.^[20] Following the acquisition, Gosling left Liquid Robotics to work at Amazon Web Services as Distinguished Engineer in May 2017.^[21]

He is an advisor at the Scala company Lightbend,^[22] Independent Director at Jelastic,^[23] and Strategic Advisor for Eucalyptus,^[24] and is a board member of DIRT Environmental Solutions.^[25]

He is known for his love of proving "the unknown" and has noted but later clarified to be untrue that his favorite irrational number is $\sqrt{2}$. He has a framed picture of the first 1,000 digits of $\sqrt{2}$ in his office.^[26]

Awards

For his achievement, the National Academy of Engineering in the United States elected him as a Foreign Associate member.^[27]

- 2002: awarded *The Economist* Innovation Award.^[28]
- 2002: awarded *The Flame Award* USENIX Lifetime Achievement Award.^[29]
- 2007: made an Officer of the Order of Canada.^[30] The Order is Canada's second highest civilian honor. Officers are the second highest grade within the Order.
- 2013: became a fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery.^[31]
- 2015: awarded IEEE John von Neumann Medal^[32]
- 2019: named a Computer History Museum Fellow for the conception, design, and implementation of the Java programming language.^[33]

Books

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- James Gosling, Bill Joy, Guy L. Steele Jr., Gilad Bracha, *The Java Language Specification, Third Edition*, Addison-Wesley Professional, 2005, ISBN [0-321-24678-0](#)
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- James Gosling, David S. H. Rosenthal, Michelle J. Arden, *The NeWS Book : An Introduction to the Network/Extensible Window System (Sun Technical Reference Library)*, Springer, 1989, ISBN [0-387-96915-2](#)

See also

- [History of Java](#)
- [Fallacies of distributed computing](#)
- [James Gosling's personal weblog](#) (<http://nighthacks.com/jag/blog/>)
- [Presentation](#) (<http://www.infoq.com/presentations/gosling-jvm-lang-summit-keynote>) by James Gosling about the origins of Java, from the JVM Languages Summit 2008
- [Slide show depicting Gosling's life](#) (<http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Application-Development/The-Life-and-Times-of-Java-and-James-Gosling-746438/>)
- [The Process of Innovation](#) (<http://www.stanford.edu/class/ee380/Abstracts/110309.html>) – James Gosling's talk at [Stanford University](#) (video archive (<http://ee380.stanford.edu/cgi-bin/videlogger.php?target=110309-ee380-300.asx>))
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