JavaScript, originally known as LiveScript, was created in 1995 by Brendan Eich. At the time of its creation, Brendan worked for a company called Netscape Communications. Eich created the scripting language specifically for use by Netscape Navigator, the company’s website browser. It was later renamed to JavaScript to fit in with the growing popularity of Java, a programming language developed by Sun Microsystems, Netscape's partner at the time.

Despite their similar names, JavaScript and Java are completely unrelated languages with different purposes. JavaScript was designed as a scripting language for making your website more interactive and dynamic, while Java was created as a general-purpose programming language for various applications.

Since its creation, JavaScript has gone through multiple significant changes with different version releases, making it one of the most common languages for web development. In 1998, ECMAScript 2 (ES2) was released, aligning JavaScript with the ECMAScript specification and introducing features such as the do-while loop, switch statement, and try/catch/finally exception handling. The next release, ECMAScript 3 (ES3), also in 1999, gained widespread support and brought upgrades like regular expressions, improved string handling, new control structures like the for-in loop, and native support for JSON.

However, ECMAScript 4 (ES4) faced disagreements within the JavaScript community and was ultimately abandoned, leading to its non-official release. Nevertheless, ECMAScript 5 (ES5) came out in 2009, introducing vital features like strict mode for enhanced language security, native JSON support, and new array manipulation methods such as map(), filter(), and reduce().

An important milestone came with ECMAScript 6 (ES6), which was released in 2015. ES6 brought a variety of new features and syntax enhancements, including arrow functions, template literals, classes, modules, destructuring assignments, and the spread operator. These additions greatly improved the readability, expressiveness, and developer productivity of JavaScript.

The language we are using right now is ECMAScript 2021 (ES12). The impact of JavaScript goes well beyond web browsers. It is frequently used in server-side development with frameworks like Node.js and has found use in the creation of mobile apps with NativeScript and React Native. Additionally, desktop application development uses JavaScript and tools like Electron.

At the moment, the future of JavaScript is looking promising. JavaScript is now the most popular programming language in the world, and as of 2018 it had the most code repositories of any language. This is due to multiple factors, including: its extensive adoption, robust ecosystem of libraries and frameworks, and continuous evolution through regular updates. JavaScript remains a vital language for developers and its future continues to look bright.