

Java Timeline

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While we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Java's initial commercial appearance, we present here a timeline that stretches back a few years beyond the feted moment to show how the early pieces of technology that would become the language and

the platform were already taking form.
What's evident there as in the releases that followed during the next two decades is that Sun, and now Oracle, were heavily invested in moving the platform forward. This commitment has remained true—across three editions: Java EE, SE, and the ME variants — and is now on one of the fastest regular paces in its history: a major release every two years for all three editions.
As the yearly tabs on this page show, the investment has not been limited to improving the technology, but also broadening the community and actively soliciting its participation, especially in the Java Community Process (JCP). The JCP, a rare effort at community participation in developing language features, is held to be crucial to the continued growth of and success of Java and the JVM.
On to the next 20 years!
Explore this timeline to see how Java evolved and grew to become a part of our lives
SCROLL DOWN
TO BEGIN

2014

Java SE 8 Launches

The most significant top-to-bottom changes to the Java language appear in 2014, including the addition of functional programming features, such as lambdas; new ways of doing parallel processing using streams; and improved integration with JavaScript, among many key features.

Product News



Java SE 8 Launches Close



NetBeans 8.0 released Close
JAVA 8 Launch Video Close



Press release Close
Duke's Choice Award





JAVA IS AS JAVA DOES Close



Make the Future Java



Maker faire & Maker Con Close

2013

Java EE 7 Ships

Java EE 7 features a scalable infrastructure that facilitates building HTML5 applications by reducing response times through low-latency, bi-directional communication with WebSockets; simplifying data parsing and exchange using industry-standard JSON processing and supporting many more concurrent users through asynchronous RESTful Web Services with JAX-RS 2.0. It bundles updates to Java Message Service (JMS) 2.0 are that improve usability through annotations and Contexts and Dependency Injection (CDI) Beans support.

Product News



Java EE 7 Ships Close

Java EE 7 Launch Video Close



Infographic Close



Press Release Close
Duke's Choice Award



Duke's Choice Award 2013 Winners Close
JavaOne
JavaOne 2013 Technical Keynote Close



JavaOne 2013 Community Keynote Close



Make the Future Music Video Close



2012

Make the Future Java

Hadoop wins the Duke's Choice Award, signaling the advent of the Big Data revolution on the Java platform. Java makes its debut at the Maker Faire. The Maker Movement is profoundly changing manufacturing, design, education and creative culture.

Product News



Java SE 7 Ships Close
Duke's Choice Award



Duke's Choice Award 2012 Winners Close
JavaOne
JavaOne 2012 Technical Keynote Close



Welcome to JavaOne Music Video Close



Make the Future Java



Maker Faire Video Close

2011

Moving Java Forward

NetBeans 7.2 ships, including full support for JavaFX 2.2 and continued support for third-party languages: JavaScript, Groovy, C/C++, and PHP built into the standard IDE package.

Product News

Java 7 2011 Launch Video Close



Moving JAVA Forward Video Close



Java SE 7 Press Release Close
Duke's Choice Award



Duke's Choice Award 2011 Winners Close
JavaOne
JavaOne 2011 Technical Keynote Close



Java Life Music video Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

2010

Progress for the Java Platform

The Java Specification Requests (JSRs) for the next two releases of the Java Platform — JSR-336 and JSR-337 — are formally approved by an overwhelming majority in the Java Community Process (JCP) Executive Committee vote. Next, the Java standard will progress through the JCP while the open source reference implementation will be delivered through the OpenJDK project. The plan, which includes community feedback and is endorsed by the JCP Executive Committee, calls for standardization of these technologies in Java SE 7 within 2011.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
Duke's Choice Award Winners



Duke's Choice Awards 2010 Winners Close
From the Archives
JavaOne 2010:
The Howard Street Skate Ramp Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

2009

Looking Ahead to a New Chapter

With the announced acquisition of Sun by Oracle, the opening session of the JavaOne developer conference features Sun Chairman Scott McNealy and Oracle CEO Larry Ellison onstage together. "Oracle's middleware is based 100% on Java," Ellison says. "Java was a very attractive platform for us because it is open and allowed us to extend the platform," Ellison adds that Sun and James Gosling, Sun vice president and the founder of Java, have done a fantastic job inventing, expanding, and opening up Java and giving it to the world. Looking ahead, he says, "we see increased investments in Java coming from the Sun—Oracle combination and an expansion of the overall community, and we're very excited about that."

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
Duke's Choice Award Winners



Duke's Choice Award 2009 Winners Close
From the Archives
Oracle OpenWorld Live 2009 : James Gosling Close



James Gosling's keynote at Oracle OpenWorld 2009 [Close](#)



Historical Events



[Technology Industry News](#) [Close](#)

2008

Taking Interactivity to the Next Level with Blu-ray

Rock and roll legend Neil Young takes the stage at the JavaOne developer conference to announce that his long-awaited musical archives will be released on Blu-ray Disc, powered by Java technology. The 10-disc first volume of Young's archives includes songs, videos, film clips, rare audio interviews, archival photos, press coverage, lyric manuscripts, biographies, tour dates, and more. With Java technology—powered navigation, users can browse visual memorabilia while listening to songs or interviews and download more content directly to the Blu-ray Discs as it becomes available.

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[James Gosling's Toy Show, Chapter 1](#) [Close](#)



[James Gosling's Toy Show, Chapter 2](#) [Close](#)



[James Gosling's Toy Show, Chapter 3](#) [Close](#)



[James Gosling's Toy Show, Chapter 4](#) [Close](#)



[James Gosling's Toy Show, Chapter 5](#) [Close](#)



Historical Events



[Technology Industry News](#) [Close](#)

2007

Making Rich Internet Applications Easier to Build

At the JavaOne developer conference, Sun announces JavaFX, a new family of Java technology-based products designed to make it easier to build rich Web sites and Java applications across a broad range of devices. "This is a major step towards helping consumers access the best content on the Internet from every device and a significant opportunity for Sun and its partners to deliver a whole new line of products," says Rich Green, Sun Software executive vice president.

[Product News](#)



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[Duke's Choice Award Winners](#)



Duke's Choice Award 2007 Winners Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close
2006

Java Is Open Sourced

Sun Microsystems releases Java to open source development in a move to drive further adoption of the technology. It is available under the GNU General Public License, the same contract that governs use and development of the Linux operating system. Sun is offering for free all three versions of Java under the GPL: Java Platform, Standard Edition (Java SE), used in building desktop applications; Java Platform, Enterprise Edition (Java EE), used in building server-side applications; and Java Platform, Micro Edition (Java ME), used for handheld devices.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
Duke's Choice Awards



Duke's Choice Award 2006 Winners Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close
2005

From Web Animation to a
Worldwide Force

Java celebrates its tenth anniversary with huge celebrations at JavaOne developer conference and at Sun headquarters. Sun estimates Java now drives more than \$100 billion of business annually. It counts more than 4.5 million Java developers, 2.5 billion Java-enabled devices, and 1 billion Java technology-enabled smart cards. Analyst firm Ovum estimates that 708 million Java-enabled handsets were circulating by June 2005.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close
2004

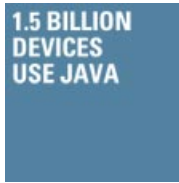
Looking to an Open Future

At the JavaOne developer conference, the big debate is whether Java should be open sourced. Currently, Sun requires that projects officially based on Java be certified as compatible with the Java specification; amendments to Java must go through Java Community Process (JCP) procedures. Open source advocates seek a freer path for Java. During a panel discussion at JavaOne, representatives from IBM and the Apache Software Foundation endorse an open source model for Java, while Java creator and Sun Fellow James Gosling, along with Sun Vice President and Fellow Rob Gingell and Red Monk Analyst James Governor oppose the move. Gosling warns that allowing multiple, open source implementations of Java technologies could yield the incompatibilities that happened with Unix and is happening again with Linux distributions, pointing out that "They're really close and they're almost interoperable but they're just different enough to be a pain in the butt."

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

2003

Remote Computing: From Desktops to the Moon

Sun Chairman and CEO Scott McNealy demonstrates the advantages of a Java Card during his keynote at Comdex trade show, showing the IT crowd how a Sun Ray system using Java Card technology enables a user to access a computing session securely from a remote server. Already, thousands of Department of Defense officials use Java Cards to authenticate, and Belgium is building a national ID system around this technology. The SunRay systems can save companies a lot of money and significantly reduce complexity—just as they have done at Sun, where Sun Ray terminals are available in employee cafeterias and spare offices so that employees (including McNealy) can access their desktop instantly.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close

JavaOne 2003

JavaOne 2003

Photo Gallery Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

2002

Taking Java Real-Time

During a keynote at the JavaOne developer conference, a sumo battle between two Java technology—powered robots highlights the power of real-time Java. With one robot controlled by embedded devices integrated with wireless Java phones in an end-to-end Web services architecture and the other controlled by James Gosling, vice president and Sun fellow, the battles end in a draw. But the demo illustrates that Java can be applied end to end from the database, through an application server, Web services, wireless connectivity, and down to Java 2 Platform, Micro Edition (J2ME) real-time Java and interfacing to the real world while accommodating diverse clients.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close

JavaOne 2002

JavaOne 2002

Photo Gallery Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

2001

A Powerful Community Shapes the Future

Fewer than half of the 136 Java Specification Requests under review by the Java Community Process (JCP) were submitted by Sun: a sign of how strong and engaged the Java community has become. As Sun's customers, partners, and the industry at large call for Web services support in the Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE), Sun joins with fellow JCP members to define a new version of J2EE that integrates native support for important Web services technologies. And at the JavaOne developer conference, Sony Computer Entertainment announces that it will integrate the Java platform into the PlayStation 2 entertainment system, extending the system's ability to download new applications and services dynamically and securely from the internet.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
JavaOne 2001
JavaOne 2001
Photo Gallery Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close
2000

Technology That Changes Our Daily Lives

In the five years since it was announced, Java technology has progressed from a tool to animate Websites to the end-to-end Java 2 platform that spans from smartcards and small consumer devices to enterprise datacenter servers. The breadth of the products leveraging Java technology is vast and includes ATM machines, two-way pagers, mobile phones, personal organizers, games and game machines, cameras, industrial controllers, point-of-sale terminals, desktops, servers, and more. And at the JavaOne developer conference, Apple co-founder and Chief Executive Steve Jobs joins Sun Chairman and CEO Scott McNealy on stage to announce that Apple would bundle Java 2 Standard Edition with every version of its new Mac OS X operating system.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
JavaOne 2000
JavaOne 2000
Photo Gallery Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close
1999

Focusing on Market Opportunities

Sun announces a redefined architecture for the Java platform that makes it simpler for software developers, service providers, and device manufacturers to target specific markets. With the introduction of Java 2 Platform, Standard Edition (J2SE) for desktop and workstation devices; Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) for heavy-duty server systems; and Java 2 Platform, Micro Edition (J2ME) for consumer devices, it's now easier to capitalize on the Java platform for a growing range of opportunities.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close
JavaOne 1999
JavaOne 1999
Photo Gallery Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1998

Futuristic Innovations of a Global Community

The 15,000 attendees at this year's JavaOne developer conference sport a Java Ring, a mobile security device and data carrier disguised as a personal fashion accessory. Special readers at the conference's coffee stations automatically deliver each attendee a cup of coffee customized to their preferences, which are stored in the ring's embedded microprocessor. The ring is capable of supporting multiple Java applets that can be loaded dynamically to accomplish a range of tasks—like logging onto a PC, getting cash from an ATM, starting a car, or exchanging contact data with a business acquaintance—and provides a personal demonstration of the potential for Java technology.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close

JavaOne 1998

JavaOne 1998

Photo Gallery Close



Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1997

Possibilities Become Reality

With approximately 400,000 developers working in Java, it is now the #2 programming language in the world. More than 10,000 developers flock to the second annual JavaOne developer conference, where Sun announces improved security and compatibility for Java and a range of licensees who plan to take Java beyond the desktop in futuristic devices such as smartcards.

Product News



Product Announcements and Releases Close

Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1996

A Language Without Boundaries

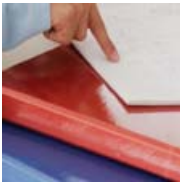
At the first-ever JavaOne developer conference, more than 6,000 attendees gather to learn more about Java technology and hear a slate of speakers that include Tim Berners-Lee, director, World Wide Web Consortium; James Gosling, vice president and Sun fellow; Dr. Alan Baratz, president of JavaSoft; Dr. Eric Schmidt, Sun chief technology officer and corporate executive officer; and Scott McNealy, Sun chairman of the board, president, and CEO. With a broad range of Java-related product announcements from Sun and other companies and an exhibit hall filled with more than 160 businesses displaying Java products and services, it appears that a whole new industry is growing around a language launched just a year earlier.

Product News



First Releases of Java Close

From the Archives



JavaOne 1996 Keynote Excerpt Close

Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1995

The World Takes Notice

With approximately 16 million internet users worldwide, the internet era has begun and Java emerges into the limelight. The object-oriented programming tool merges information and programming to make surfing the Web a more dynamic experience.

Product News



Java Makes its Debut Close
From the Archives



The First Public Demo of Java Close



Releasing Java to the World Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1994

The First Glimpse of Future Potential

Sun engineers Patrick Naughton and Jonathan Payne used the Oak programming language to write WebRunner (later renamed HotJava), the first browser that supports moving objects and dynamic executable content.

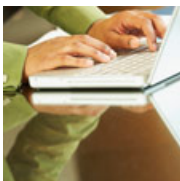
Product News



The First Glimpse Close
From the Archives



Excerpt from Java Technology: An Early History Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1993

Refocusing Efforts to Meet Current Demand

Sun's Green Project becomes FirstPerson, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sun Microsystems that focuses on building technology for highly interactive devices. The group is later rolled back into Sun and the engineers change their focus from set-top boxes to online services, CD-ROMs, and desktop platforms.

Product News



The First Pitch Close
From the Archives



Excerpt from Java Technology: An Early History Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1992

An Innovation Before Its Time

Sun's Green Team creates an interactive, handheld home-entertainment device that provides the first glimpse of the potential for its new, processor-independent programming language. The cable companies aren't interested in the technology.
Product News



The First Java Instance Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close

1991

Exploring Green Fields in Consumer Electronics

At the end of 1990, Sun Microsystems leads the world in the workstation computer market, which is continuing to grow at a healthy clip. Recognizing the potential for applying Sun's innovation and expertise in other areas, the company gathers some of its top engineering minds to examine the up-and-coming consumer electronics market—and inadvertently begins what would become a revolution in computer programming.
Product News



Java's Humble Beginnings Close
From the Archives



Excerpt from Java: The Inside Story Close
Historical Events



Technology Industry News Close