Java JDK Releases Dates and Release Differences

Date	Version	Codename	New Features Introduced In that Release
1996-01-23	1.0	Oak?	Java released to public
1997-02-18	1.1	Sparkler	No longer supported. Added a totally new event model, using Listeners, anonymous classes and inner classes. This is the level Microsoft has trapped many of its customers at. Netscape proprietary RSA code signing. Microsoft proprietary CAB (Cabinet file) code signing.
1997-09-12	1.1.4	Sparkler	
1997-12-03	1.1.5	Pumpkin	
1998-04-24	1.1.6	Abigail	
1998-09-28	1.1.7	Brutus	
1999-04-08	1.1.8	Chelsea	
1998-12-04	1.2	Playground	No longer supported. Added ArrayList and other Collections, added Swing (though the initial release is missing many methods). Added DSA (Digital Signature Algorithm) code signing. Added BufferedImage
1999-03-30	1.2.1	(none)	
1999-07-08	1.2.2	Cricket	
2000-05-08	1.3	Kestrel	No longer supported. java.util.Timer, java.lang. StrictMath, Runtime. addShutdownHook, java.awt. Robot, java.awt.print. PageAttributes, java.media.sound (MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) and sampled). Hotspot introduced. RMI (Remote Method Invocation) now has the option of using CORBA (Common Object Request Broker Architecture) 's IIOP protocol. Added RSA code signing, which quickly effectively obsoleted DSA certificates.
2001-05-17	1.3.1	Ladybird	
2002-02-13	1.4	Merlin	No longer supported. added regexes, assertions and nio.
2002-09-16	1.4.1	Hopper (Grasshopper)	
2003-06-26	1.4.2	Mantis	
2004-09-29	1.5	Tiger	added StringBuilder, java.util.concurrent, generics, enums, annotations, autoboxing, covariant return types, for:each, static import and variable-length argument lists. MacOS for the PowerPC is stuck at version 1.5. more.
2006-12-12	1.6	Mustang	System tray, subpixel antialiasing, Document-modal, Application-modal, Toolkit-modal, Applet splash screens, JTable sorting, true double buffering, digitally signed XML (eXtensible Markup Language) files, JWS (Java Web Start) support for *.ico and *.png, JavaCompiler (ability to invoke javac cleanly), JDBC (Java Data Base Connectivity) 4.0, smart card API, Console. readPassword, improved drag & drop. Apple OS X 10.5 supports JDK 1.6.0_13. pluggable annotations, more.
2011-07-28	1.7	Dolphin	String case lablels. binary literals. Underscores in numeric literals. Multiple Exception catch.
Future Versions			
2013?	8.0	also Dolphin?	closures aka λ lambda expressions
2015?	9.0	?	better support for multi-gigabyte heaps, better native code integration, and a self-tuning JVM