

JVM Architecture Report

Title: JVM Architecture & Execution Process

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1. Introduction

This report explains the internal architecture of the Java Virtual Machine (JVM), the role of major components, and how Java achieves platform independence through the “Write Once, Run Anywhere” principle.

2. What is JVM?

The JVM (Java Virtual Machine) is a software engine responsible for executing Java bytecode.

It provides:

Memory management

Security

Platform independence

Execution environment for Java programs

3. JVM Architecture Overview

JVM consists of the following core components:

A. Class Loader Subsystem

Responsible for loading Java classes into memory.

Main parts:

Loading – Reads .class files

Linking

Verification

Preparation

Resolution

Initialization – Executes static blocks & static variables

B. Runtime Data Areas

These are the memory areas inside the JVM:

1. Method Area

Stores class-level data

Method info, static variables, constructors

2. Heap Area

Stores object instances

Shared among all threads

3. Stack Area

Each thread has its own stack.

Contains:

Local variables

Method calls

Stack frames

4. PC Register

Program Counter (holds the next instruction address)

5. Native Method Stack

Used for native (non-Java) code like C/C++

C. Execution Engine

1. Interpreter

Reads bytecode instruction by instruction

Slower but immediate

2. JIT Compiler (Just-In-Time)

Compiles frequently-used bytecode into machine code

Greatly improves performance

Interpreter + JIT together = Efficient execution

3. Garbage Collector

Removes unused objects from Heap

Prevents memory leaks

4. Bytecode Execution Process (Step-by-Step)

.java → Compiled into .class (bytecode)

Class Loader loads class into JVM

Bytecode is stored in Method Area

Execution Engine interprets or compiles bytecode

Objects created in Heap

Stack stores method-level data

GC cleans unused objects

5. Write Once, Run Anywhere (WORA)

This is possible because:

Java compiler generates bytecode, not machine code

JVM for each OS can run the same bytecode

So one .class file runs on Windows, Linux, macOS without modification

Diagram:

Java Code → Bytecode → JVM (Windows)

→ JVM (Linux)

→ JVM (Mac)

6. Conclusion

JVM is the core part of Java's execution model.

Its modular design (Class Loader, Runtime Areas, Execution Engine, GC) ensures portability, performance, and safety across all operating systems.