**Version history**[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Java_(software_platform)&action=edit&section=9)]

*Main article:*[*Java version history*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_version_history)

The Java language has undergone several changes since the release of JDK ([Java Development Kit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Development_Kit)) 1.0 on (January 23, 1996), as well as numerous additions of classes and packages to the standard [library](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_(computer_science)). Since J2SE 1.4 the [Java Community Process](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Community_Process) (JCP) has governed the evolution of the Java Language. The JCP uses *Java Specification Requests*(JSRs) to propose and specify additions and changes to the Java platform. The *Java Language Specification* (JLS) specifies the language; changes to the JLS are managed under JSR 901.[[18]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-18)

Sun released *JDK 1.1* on February 19, 1997. Major additions included an extensive retooling of the [AWT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abstract_Window_Toolkit) event model, [inner classes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inner_class) added to the language, [JavaBeans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JavaBean) and [JDBC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Database_Connectivity).

*J2SE 1.2* (December 8, 1998) — Codename *Playground*. This and subsequent releases through J2SE 5.0 were rebranded *Java 2* and the version name "J2SE" ([Java 2 Platform, Standard Edition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Platform,_Standard_Edition)) replaced JDK to distinguish the base platform from J2EE ([Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Platform,_Enterprise_Edition)) and J2ME ([Java 2 Platform, Micro Edition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Platform,_Micro_Edition)). Major additions included[reflection](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reflection_(computer_science)), a [collections](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Container_(data_structure)) framework, [Java IDL](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Interface_Definition_Language) (an [interface description language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interface_description_language) implementation for [CORBA](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CORBA) interoperability), and the integration of the [Swing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_(Java)) graphical API into the core classes. A [Java Plug-in](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Plug-in) was released, and Sun's JVM was equipped with a [JIT compiler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just-in-time_compilation) for the first time.

*J2SE 1.3* (May 8, 2000) — Codename *Kestrel*. Notable changes included the bundling of the [HotSpot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HotSpot) JVM (the HotSpot JVM was first released in April, 1999 for the J2SE 1.2 JVM),[JavaSound](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=JavaSound&action=edit&redlink=1), [Java Naming and Directory Interface](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Naming_and_Directory_Interface) (JNDI) and [Java Platform Debugger Architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Platform_Debugger_Architecture) (JPDA).

*J2SE 1.4* (February 6, 2002) — Codename *Merlin*. This became the first release of the Java platform developed under the Java Community Process as JSR 59.[[19]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-19) Major changes included [regular expressions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regular_expressions) modeled after [Perl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perl), [exception chaining](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exception_chaining), an integrated [XML](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML) parser and [XSLT](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XSLT) processor ([JAXP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_API_for_XML_Processing)), and [Java Web Start](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Web_Start).

*J2SE 5.0* (September 30, 2004) — Codename *Tiger*. Originally numbered 1.5, which is still used as the internal version number.[[20]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-20) Developed under JSR 176, Tiger added several significant new language features including the [for-each loop](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/For-each_loop), [generics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generic_programming), [autoboxing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autoboxing) and [var-args](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variadic_function).[[21]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-21)

*Java SE 6* (December 11, 2006) — Codename *Mustang*. Bundled with a database manager and facilitates the use of scripting languages with the JVM (such as [JavaScript](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JavaScript) using[Mozilla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mozilla)'s [Rhino](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhino_(JavaScript_engine)) engine). As of this version, Sun replaced the name "J2SE" with *Java SE* and dropped the ".0" from the version number.[[22]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-22) Other major changes include support for pluggable [annotations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_annotation) ([JSR 269](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=JSR_269&action=edit&redlink=1)), many [GUI](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GUI) improvements, including native UI enhancements to support the look and feel of [Windows Vista](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windows_Vista), and improvements to the [Java Platform Debugger Architecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Platform_Debugger_Architecture) (JPDA) & JVM Tool Interface for better monitoring and troubleshooting.

*Java SE 7* (July 28, 2011) — Codename *Dolphin*. This version developed under [JSR 336](http://www.jcp.org/en/jsr/detail?id=336). It added many small language changes including strings in switch, try-with-resources and[type inference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Type_inference) for generic instance creation. The JVM was extended with support for dynamic languages, while the class library was extended among others with a join/fork framework,[[23]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-23) an improved new file I/O library and support for new network protocols such as [SCTP](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SCTP). Java 7 Update 67 was released in July 2014, with expiration date October 14, 2014.[[24]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-24)

The current version, *Java SE 8* (March 18, 2014), no longer officially supports the Windows XP platform;[[25]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-25)[[26]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-26). An unofficial manual installation method has been described for Windows XP SP3. It refers to JDK8, the developing platform for Java that also includes a fully functioning [Java Runtime Environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Runtime_Environment). [[27]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_(software_platform)#cite_note-27)

In addition to language changes, significant changes have been made to the Java class library over the years, which has grown from a few hundred classes in JDK 1.0 to over three thousand in J2SE 5.0. Entire new APIs, such as [Swing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_(Java)) and [Java 2D](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_2D), have evolved, and many of the original JDK 1.0 classes and methods have been [deprecated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deprecation).