Java was first released in May of 1995 and it is still widely used today. Java still ranks in the top 5 programming languages sitting at number 4 according to geeksforgeeks (geeksforgeeks.org) Every year it seems as though programmers’ debate whether or not Java will remain highly used and every year it continues to shine. Many argue this is because of the legacy code bases that have been developed over the last 25 years.

Java 16 was released as the most recent version in March of 2021, and it came with a few upgrades including pattern matching for the operator isntanceof, JVM improvements and new tools and libraires. The next release of Java is scheduled for September of 2021 and that aligns with the every 6 month release that has taken place since 2018.

In a recent article titled, Java is immortal and feels good: 2020 results and 2021 trends, author Alex Yelenevych states, “Every year they predict a quick death to Java, but this doesn’t happen, and it won’t happen very soon.” (Yelenevych) The article mentions how the corporate world is so heavily based in Java that it has forced itself to adapt and to grow and provide new opportunities. The article also mentions that the next LTS release is Java 17 which is the next update for September 2021.

One of the great features of Java is its Spring framework that is allowing developers to explore in similar fashion as to Angular and React amongst others. The development of Spring seems to be a great advancement for Java, and it continues to evolve making the Java environment grow even further.

Java SE is not an open-source software however, there is a version called OpenJDK that is free and allows for many developers to stabilize and write code in Java. It is licensed under the GNU General Public License which allows for it to link to Java code libraries. Another great aspect is that Spring, the framework of Java is also open-source, and many believe this will help grow the Java environment further in the open-sourced community.

Overall, Java is not going anywhere anytime soon. The legacy code that needs to be maintained, the development taking place in the cooperate and tech world and the growth of the Spring Framework makes it a standout player in the development world. Java 17 and its LTS will be sure to solidify this and keep Java in the limelight for a long time.

Resources:

Article:

<https://jaxenter.com/java-2021-trends-173738.html>

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/top-10-programming-languages-that-will-rule-in-2021/>