

A Brief History of JavaScript

In this lesson, we'll look into JavaScript's past and how it came into being.
Let's begin!

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING



- JavaScript back in the day
- Evolution of JavaScript
- Wide-ranging impact of JavaScript

JavaScript back in the day

Would you believe that JavaScript is over 20 years old?

So that means, it is almost as old as the World Wide Web itself! It was developed by [Brendan Eich](#), who worked for [Netscape](#) at the time.



LiveScript

While its first official name was **LiveScript** in the beta releases of [Netscape Navigator](#), the marketing machine of Netscape later altered its name to JavaScript.

This naming intentionally tried to

imply some relationship with the Java programming language that was new at that time, and obviously wanted to build on the Java hype.



Just to add some piquancy to the naming, ECMA internationally published the standardized version of the language named **ECMAScript**.

Evolution of JavaScript

Today, browsers mostly use the fifth edition of the **ECMAScript (ECMA-262)** specification, which was issued in June 2011, and many of them support **ECMAScript 2015** (formerly known as ES6), the *sixth major version of JavaScript*.

In the early days JavaScript also suffered from incompatibilities between the two popular browsers, Netscape Navigator and Internet Explorer, *in the past several years JavaScript has been reborn*.

Many websites, including Yahoo, Google, Microsoft, Flickr, Twitter, and many others started using it. Yahoo and Google created complex web applications built on the power of JavaScript, and today,

thousands of websites are fueled by the prodigious scripting language that is JavaScript.

Web pages are not the only opportunities to use JavaScript. You can find the language in many places.

Wide-ranging impact of JavaScript

- Leveraging JavaScript, you can write apps for the **iPhone and iPad**.

- **Adobe Flash** uses ActionScript, which is based on JavaScript.
- **Windows 8 and Windows 10** allow you to create Windows Store apps written totally in JavaScript.
- With **Node.js** you can create simple server apps with extreme performance.
- JavaScript is said to be the **de-facto assembly of the web**. Even if the language is old, there's no better time to learn it than today.

Most programming courses and books start with introducing a new language with a “Hello, world” app to demonstrate a few traits of the language.

In this course, you already saw so many code snippets that you would find nothing new in such a small program.

Instead, in the *next lesson*, let's peek into one of the **most important concepts of the language - objects**.

See you there! :)