

Origin and Evolution of Go

This lesson provides a brief introduction to the Go programming language by discussing its history and how it outshines other languages.

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING



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- History
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Introduction

Also known as **Golang**, Go is a programming language designed by *Robert Griesemer, Rob Pike, and Ken Thompson*. It is an open-source programming language that makes it easy to build simple, reliable, and efficient software solutions. Go is a statically typed and compiled programming language. *Statically typed* means that variable types are explicitly declared and thus are determined at compile time. Whereas, by *compiled language* we mean a language that translates source code to machine code before execution.

Note: Throughout this course, we will use the word **Go** and **Golang** interchangeably.

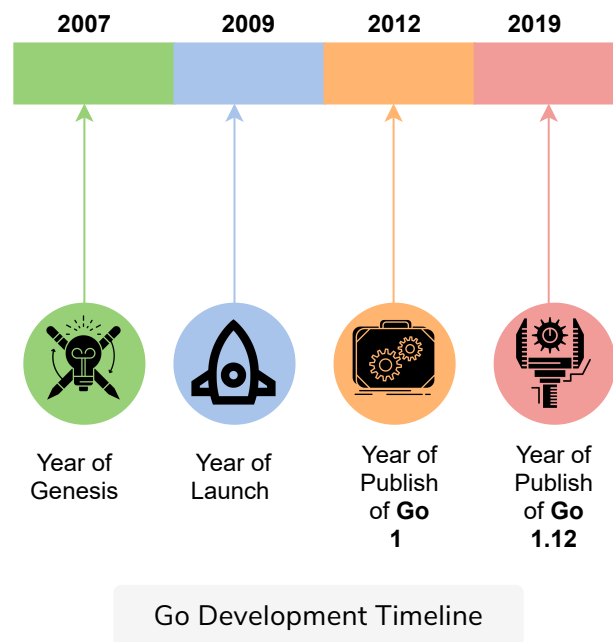
History

Go's year of genesis was 2007 at Google, and it was publicly launched in 2009 with a fully open-source BSD-style license released for the Linux and Mac OS

platforms. The first Windows-port was announced on November 22 of the

same year. **Go 1.0** (the first production-ready version) was released in March 2012. Since 2012, Go has grown from version **1.1** to **1.12** (March 2019), and work for **Go 2.0** is underway!

The below figure shows the Go development timeline starting from its genesis to the year 2019.



Programming language hall of fame

Go initiated a lot of stir after its public release in January 2010. In 2009 and again in 2016, Go was pronounced **language of the year** by [Tiobe](#), which is well-known for its popularity ranking of programming languages. In this ranking, it secured the 10th place in November 2018, with a popularity of nearly 2.5 %. The **Programming Language of the Year** award is given to the programming language rated the highest in that year. Hall of fame is given below:

Year	Winner
2018	🏆 Python
2017	🏆 C
2016	🏆 Go
2015	🏆 Java
2014	🏆 JavaScript
2013	🏆 Transact-SQL
2012	🏆 Objective-C
2011	🏆 Objective-C
2010	🏆 Python
2009	🏆 Go
2008	🏆 C
2007	🏆 Python
2006	🏆 Ruby
2005	🏆 Java
2004	🏆 PHP
2003	🏆 C++

Image from <https://www.tiobe.com/tiobe-index/>

That's all for the introduction. Now let's see why Go was developed.