

A History of Java

1991

A "Stealth Project" brainstorming session is held with Sun's Bill Joy, Andy Bechtolsheim, Wayne Rosing, Mike Sheridan, James Gosling and Patrick Naughton.

Sun forms the Green Project to explore opportunities in consumer electronics. Gosling, Naughton, Sheridan and other engineers move to an offsite office and break off most communication with Sun.

Gosling begins work on the Oak programming language (later renamed Java).



1992

Star7 PDA created, bringing with it Duke, Java's Mascot. Star7 includes the Oak programming language.

1993

Sun's Green Project becomes FirstPerson, and refocuses on set-top boxes for televisions.

1994

Sun engineers Naughton and Jonathan Payne use the Oak programming language to write WebRunner (later renamed HotJava), the first browser that supports moving objects and dynamic executable content.

1995

The name of the programming language is changed from Oak to Java due to trademark issues.



May 23: Marc Andreessen announces at Sun World that the Netscape browser will support Java. This is considered the official birthday of the language.

1996

Java 1.0 ships.

JavaOS is announced, targeted at network computers.

JavaOne conference is hosted for the first time.

1997

Java becomes the second-most-popular programming language in the world, with more than 400,000 developers worldwide.

JDK1.1 is released; it includes JavaBeans APIs and Java Database Connectivity.

Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) are announced.

1998

Swing 1.0, an extension to the lightweight UI framework, is released, and there are 500,000 downloads in the first six months.

EJB 1.0 is released.

JavaOne attendees all receive the iButton digital ring as a giveaway.

Java Community Process (JCP) established.

1999

NetBeans 3.0 is released.

Sun announces Java 2 platforms in standard, enterprise and micro editions.

Apache Tomcat arrives. Tomcat started off as a servlet reference implementation by James Duncan Davidson, a software architect at Sun Microsystems.

2000

Java APIs for XML is released.

J2ME CDC 1.0 spec is released.

At JavaOne, Sun CEO Scott McNealy announces that 100 million Java-enabled smart cards will ship this year and 250 million next year.



2001

J2EE 1.3 is released.

EJB 2.0 spec is released.

Eclipse Consortium is launched to further the development of an IDE IBM had already invested \$40 million into developing.

2003

Java.net community site launches.

Eclipse Foundation is created.



2004

J2SE 5.0 is released. Generics at last.

NetBeans 4.0 is released.

Apache Geronimo project is established.

Eclipse version 3.0 is released.

2005

Apache Harmony Project launches as an attempt to build an open-source Java implementation.

Sun launches Project Glassfish, a next-generation Java EE application server.



2006

Google Web Toolkit is released, rewriting the way developers write Java for the Web.

First release train of Eclipse ("Callisto") arrives in the summer. Major releases have arrived every year after.

Java SE 6 is released. Annotations at last.

2007

Sun opens up Duke, the Java mascot, under the free BSD license.

Java is released under the GPL 3, and the OpenJDK project kicks off.

2008

JavaFX 1.0 is released.

2009

Java EE 6 is released.

Sun Microsystems is on the ropes financially. Oracle and HP fight over its acquisition.

2010

Oracle completes its acquisition of Sun Microsystems in January.



2011

Java 7 is released.

NetBeans 7.0 is released.

JCP process changes are proposed. They are intended to make the process of JCP approval more transparent.

2014

Java SE 8 is released. Lambdas at last.

2015

Java turns 20.

