



1955 - Present

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# James Gosling

**Founder and lead designer behind the Java programming language**

James Gosling is a Canadian computer scientist. Graduating from his local University of Calgary with a BSc degree in 1977, he went to Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, where he worked on Unix tools and was awarded a PhD in 1983. While at Carnegie Mellon he wrote an emulator in order to port a Pascal program from a PERQ workstation to a DEC VAX machine.

A year later he joined SUN Microsystems, a company commercially pioneering Unix based workstations. While at SUN, starting in 1991, Gosling led the development of a new language designed to program a diverse range of digital devices. This language became Java, currently one of the most popular programming languages in the world. Gosling's early PERQ emulator was the inspiration for the Java Virtual Machine (JVM), which allows developers to write programs - bytecode - for a common abstract machine that can run on all sorts of different operating systems and machines. Thus, Java is a platform-independent language, thanks to the JVM not being platform-dependent.

**Full name:** James Arthur Gosling  
**Born:** 19 May 1955  
**Hometown:** Alberta, Canada  
**Occupation:** Computer scientist, software developer  
**Best known for:** Founding and leading the design behind the Java programming language and contributing to Window systems

