Java Release Changes
From Features to Time Based, prepared for Public JCP EC Meeting

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Content Bound Release Model Minor Release and CPUs

- Minor Release
- Critical Patch Update
Content Bound Release – In Reality

- JDK 6: 2006-12
- JDK 7: 2011-07
- JDK 8: 2014-03
- JDK 9: 2017-09
Content Bound Release – Introducing Time Bound Six-Month releases with LTS

JDK 6

JDK 7

JDK 8

BCL

My Oracle Support

OpenJDK

Java SE OTN License

JEPs per release

- JDK 8 (LTS): 56 features
- JDK 9: 91 features
- JDK 10: 12 features
- JDK 11 LTS: 17 features
- JDK 12: 8 features
- JDK 13: 5 features
- JDK 14: 16 features
- JDK 15: 14 features
- JDK 16: 17 features
- JDK 17 LTS: 14 features

6-month release cadence
JEPs per release

- **JDK 8 (LTS)**: 56 features, released in Mar 2014, 4 Years
- **JDK 9-11**: 91 features, released in Sep 2018, 3 Years
- **JDK 10**: 12 features
- **JDK 11 LTS**: 17 features
- **JDK 12**: 17 features
- **JDK 13**: 5 features
- **JDK 14**: 16 features
- **JDK 15**: 14 features
- **JDK 16**: 17 features
- **JDK 17 LTS**: 14 features

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What did the six-month release cadence give us

- 9 On-time Feature Releases
- No delayed features
- Higher quality releases
- More engagement from Java Developers and System Administrators on non-final (incubator and preview) features
- Lower latency for most features, smaller features no longer need to wait for larger features
- Faster adoption by tools and libraries
OpenJDK releases are LTS or non-LTS
• LTS is a vendor-specific attribute. Each vendor chooses which releases are LTS and which are not
• Most vendors adopt the same releases that Oracle does but not all and that is not a "requirement"

Non-LTS releases are planned differently
• It took a few releases for our own developers to get used to the idea that LTS or non-LTS should not NOT be a factor when deciding when to target a feature
• There was talk about "not including previews in LTS" and "lets preview this now so it can be added to the next LTS"
  • We had to remind ourselves of point 1
  • Both LTS releases (so far) have had previews/incubators
  • Its up to the vendor to decide how/when to support previews/incubators (and standard features for that matter)
Experimental and Technology Preview Features

The Java SE products include experimental and technology preview features being considered for future versions of the product. Experimental and technology preview features are labeled as such in the product documentation. They are not meant to be used in production and are not supported by Oracle. Oracle welcomes feedback on experimental and technology preview features but users should be aware that experimental and technology preview features might never be included in a production version, or might change significantly before being considered production-ready.