

Azul Systems: Full Qualification & Position Statement

Azul was a community elected member of the JCP EC from 2011 to 2020 and was the only elected member on the EC dedicated solely to building and supporting Java Runtimes and JDKs. Azul's runtimes are available in both widely adopted free forms and with optional commercial support; they are used across enterprise, cloud, developer, and embedded environments.

The popular Azul Zulu builds of OpenJDK are the longest standing, freely available, and consistently updated builds offering comprehensive platform support. Regularly updated Zulu builds of OpenJDK are available for JDK 7, 8, 11, 13, 15 and 17, and support all major flavors of Linux, as well as Windows and Mac OS. In addition, Azul's Prime JVMs offer superior performance and efficiency for the same Java versions supported by Zulu, delivering predictable and dependable "glitch-free" execution, speed, and scalability, consistently reducing the overall cost of powering Java-based infrastructure.

During its time on the JCP Executive Committee, Azul was an active advocate for community interests within the EC and was recognized as "JCP Member of the Year." at JavaOne in 2013. Azul took decisive and successful positions on protecting community rights, access to technology, including the OpenJDK Community TCK. Azul also championed the roles and influence Java developers should have on the process. Azul has taken the position that the Java community process should be influenced by the developers who use the technology standards produced, not limited to the companies that define and form those standards. Beyond our work on the EC, Azul has been a member of the JSR Expert Group since Java SE 9.

Azul has been an enthusiastic OpenJDK community member, often leading the way in new forms of community contribution and participation. Azul was the first non-Oracle company to successfully author an OpenJDK JEP included in the Java specification (JEP 285). We are encouraged to see other community members following that path. Azul introduced the Mid-Term Support (MTS) concept for OpenJDK and has led the OpenJDK 13u and 15u update release efforts. We are excited to see the interest generated in the community for production use of these intermediate releases as a result. Azul is a crucial contributor to OpenJDK update projects that keep the various OpenJDK releases up to date, especially regarding security patches. As an early member of the OpenJDK Vulnerability Group, Azul has been responsible for a significant portion of the security updates delivered in the various community maintained OpenJDK updates projects, including 7u, 8u, 11u, 13u and 15u. In recent years, Azul has mentored and collaborated with many of the newer OpenJDK distributors, intending to strengthen community support and contribution around the Java platform.

Biographies of Azul's EC representatives

Gil Tene is CTO and co-founder at Azul Systems and has been active on the JCP EC since 2011 and was recognized as "JCP Member of the Year". Gil is an official "JavaOne Rockstar" and Java Champion, and a frequent speaker at developer conferences and JUGs. Gil has been building virtual machines for over 25 years. He founded Azul Systems with the goal of eliminating common Java responsiveness and deployment scalability barriers and pioneered several Java firsts, including Pauseless Garbage Collection, which has since made its way into modern collectors in the form of both C4 and ZGC. Outside of his day job, Gil has remained an active OSS developer and contributor for over 20 years. In past lives, he also designed and built operating systems, network switches, firewalls, and laser-based mosquito interception systems.

Simon Ritter is Deputy CTO at Azul Systems and has represented Azul on all the Java SE expert groups since Java SE 9. Simon started working with Java shortly after joining Sun Microsystems in 1996. He has been evangelizing the Java platform since 2000 and rose to manage the Oracle Java Technology Evangelism team prior to joining Azul in 2015. Simon is a recognized Java Champion and has twice been awarded "JavaOne Rockstar" status. He is an avid and in-demand speaker at developer events. He has presented at virtually every Java conference around the world on a wide variety of subjects including various areas of Java SE and Java EE, as well as embedded Java and JavaFX. In these strange times, Simon continues to present, online, at conferences and Java User Groups (JUGs) worldwide.