Microsoft Election Position Paper

Microsoft strives to empower every developer and every organization to achieve more, on any platform and with any programming language, through the investment in developer tooling, cloud services, end-user software and hardware. Microsoft is committed to continuing its investments and participation in standards bodies and open-source foundations.

Microsoft deploys over 2.5 million internal JVMs across its businesses and runs Java on behalf of our customers on Azure. For example, the Microsoft Build of OpenJDK powers LinkedIn services and Mojang's Minecraft Java Edition for millions of gamers worldwide. Microsoft has a dedicated Java Engineering Group to contribute directly to OpenJDK. Java also powers critical infrastructure behind Microsoft Azure services, and Bing search.

Microsoft has been investing significantly in Open-Source tools, and services for Java developers. Over the past few years, Visual Studio Code, with over 2 million active Java developers using it, has become the 3rd most used IDE / Code Editor for Java development. Extensions developed by Microsoft and other vendors and independent developers leverage a variety of projects from well-known OSS foundations. Java language support for Visual Studio Code relies on the Eclipse JDT project, which Microsoft actively collaborates with Red Hat.

Our Java investments also expand through specific big data projects (Apache Lucene, Hadoop, Apache Spark, Apache Zookeeper, Apache Kafka, et al.) that are critical to Microsoft's core businesses, including Bing's search index and Azure Big Data services.

Azure customers and Microsoft have cross-platform requirements, and Microsoft wants to continue promoting Java's WORA promise. Azure now offers its own distribution of Linux, and along Windows and ports of many of its software for Mac OS included, Microsoft helps secure a future of cross-platform development. Windows remains the most used operating system by Java developers. Microsoft continues to invest and improve Windows to ensure that the developer experience remains productive, fast, secure, and delightful.

As a cloud vendor, Microsoft sees Java as a fundamental technology in the cloud space. We believe in giving back to the Java ecosystem by supporting the JCP's efforts to continually evolve Java technologies and grow its ecosystem.

Microsoft has a large organization of technologists with deep runtime, compilers, and languages expertise including .NET, C++., Python, Go, Rust, and Typescript. This deep expertise allows us to assess the technical merits of JSRs (Java Specification Requests) and help ensure that it is fit for the Java ecosystem. Since we seek to represent a broad cross-section of our internal and external customers, our voting decisions are based not on the opinions of one person or entity, but a cross section of Java users and developers.