

Azul Full Qualification & Position Statement

Azul has been a community-elected member of the JCP EC since 2011 (except for the 2020-21 period) and is an independent company 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 8, 11, 17, 21, and 25 and support all major flavours of Linux, as well as Windows and macOS. 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.

While serving on the JCP Executive Committee, Azul actively advocated for community interests within the EC and was recognised as the "JCP Member of the Year" at JavaOne in 2013. Azul took decisive and successful positions in protecting community rights and 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, rather than being 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 member of the OpenJDK community, 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, which was included in the Java specification (JEP 285). We are encouraged to see other community members following that path. Azul is a crucial contributor to OpenJDK update projects, which keep the various OpenJDK releases up to date, particularly 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 8u, 11u, and 17u. Azul has mentored and collaborated with many of the newer OpenJDK distributors in recent years, intending to strengthen community support and contribution around the Java platform.

More recently, Azul has contributed a new project to OpenJDK for Coordinated Restore at Checkpoint (CRaC). This provides a way to deliver extremely fast start-up of JVM-based applications from a predetermined point without losing any of the performance benefits of JIT compilation. Azul is making builds of OpenJDK that include this technology available for free and hopes to ultimately have it included as part of 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. Simon continues to present worldwide at conferences and Java User Groups (JUGs). Simon also authored the OpenJDK Migration for Dummies book.