

Position Statement of the San Francisco Java User Group x East Bay JUG

MISSION

The world is changing fast.

Yesterday, Java and the JVM ecosystem were the go-to technologies. There was no question – if software was eating the world, it was running on the JVM. But today, that certainty is gone.

While startups once built their foundations on Java, today's unicorns – the next Netflix, Uber, Waymo, Airbnb, Nvidia, Tesla, Meta, Broadcom, ServiceNow, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, CrowdStrike – are increasingly turning to other tools and platforms. Java is no longer the default. And in the heart of global innovation – San Francisco and Silicon Valley – AI is now the dominant force, replacing the era of commoditized platform development.

We, the Bay Area Java User Group leaders, feel this shift deeply.

We see the rapid evolution all around us – in the countless meetups, conferences, and hackathons. The pace of change is relentless. We know it's time to act. We must adapt, pivot, and lead. If we don't, we risk being left behind.

The phrase “**Software is eating the world**” has long since evolved into “**AI is eating the world.**”

And Java? Right now, it's running behind the school bus that's already driving away.

The **Java Community Process (JCP)** was once a beacon of collaboration – a pillar that made Java great. But the pace of innovation has outgrown it. The problem isn't just the JCP itself – it's broader than that. Developers, creators, and thought leaders have moved on to tools that better match the speed and spirit of today's innovation.

The innovators of today are no longer the Java community.

They're working with tools and languages Java can't yet offer.

But we believe that can change. We can learn and incorporate. Being flexible, resilient open and polyglot. More than we ever used to be in the past.

If elected, we propose to **reimagine collaboration** – not just within the Java community, but with the broader tech world. We want to build a global feedback loop that brings the best ideas – regardless of where they come from – back into the Java ecosystem. Into our minds, into our tools, and into the platform we love.

Without bold changes to how we work and collaborate, **Java risks becoming irrelevant**. The JVM and OpenJDK may not survive another decade unless we act now.

“The prime time is over, but the show must go on.”

That’s not a phrase we’re willing to die on.

AI isn’t the end of the world – it’s just another chapter. A world after AI is already on the horizon, and we must ensure Java has a place in it.

We must **return to our roots** and reconnect with the next generation – the students, the dreamers, the builders of tomorrow. Java doesn’t need to be the fastest or flashiest. Its strength lies in something greater: **its community**.

And community is everything.

If we nurture and grow this community, the platform will thrive. That’s our mission here in the Bay Area – and we’ve already begun.

We’ve expanded our leadership team with fresh, passionate voices. In just four weeks, we doubled our organizational core. And now, we’re launching **DukeOne** – a new event for a new generation. This is not just a Bay Area event. Not just a U.S. event. DukeOne is global, scalable, and built to inspire a new wave of Java enthusiasts.

But we can’t do this alone.

To bring this vision to life, to scale it, and to transform the JCP, **we need your support**. Vote for us – and we’ll ensure Java not only survives but thrives.

Java needs you more than ever.

If we don’t give back, we risk losing everything we’ve built. Not just Java. Ourselves.

PERSPECTIVES

Our perspective on potential, contribution, and resource recovery

- **Group Positioning**
 - Amplify our community's visibility and growth to stand out in the AI-driven user group landscape – locally in San Francisco and globally among Java User Groups.
 - Deepen collaborations and form stronger partnerships with other JUGs to expand our collective impact.
 - Position our community as a key player in shaping Java's future – offering sponsors a front-row seat in influencing the direction of the Java ecosystem and helping reclaim its competitive edge over emerging platforms (e.g. AI + Python, JS, Rust, Golang).
- **Network Growth**
 - Collaborate and intensify relationships with other JUGs, individuals and companies by joint ventures in the meetings – during our shared serving period in the JCP Executive Committee.
 - Expand our network within Oracle – driven by a new generation of organizers who will increasingly take the lead in community engagement.
 - Serve as a reliable, strategic peer group and fallback partner for Oracle in its broader ecosystem.
- **Team Spirit**
 - Strengthen our JUG team cohesion by involving new organizers in core activities besides event management.
 - Nurture fresh starters by providing deep, hands-on insights into the JVM's internals – beyond just the software layer.
- **Member Leverage**
 - Empower our members to actively collaborate and contribute to the community's growth and initiatives.
 - Build bridges with Bay Area and beyond IT professors and provide students with easier, direct access to JVM learning – from both our community and JVM decision-makers. Convert new peers and future generations of developers into our loyal members.

Representatives

Benjamin Nothdurft

Benjamin Nothdurft is a Global Keynote Speaker with talks, presentations and workshops delivered in 19 countries, 7x Oracle ACE Pro and Groundbreaker, Organizer of San Francisco JUG since past 2.5 years, founder of more than 6 other user groups, highly dedicated conference organizer (amongst them 8x JavaLand (committee leader of the AI, Cloud, Architecture streams), 4x CloudLand, 5x microXchg Berlin, SoftwerkerKonf, Re-Elected President, Board Leader and Keynote Speaker at 5x BuFaK – "BundesFachschaftenKonferenz Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften" – Federal Student Council Conference for Business Administration, Economics and Social Sciences in Germany with frequent visits at the German Parliament and the National Dean Conferences for 2.5 years, Re-Elected Head of the Student Council for Business Administration, Elected Chairman at University-wide Student Parliament, Editorial Team Member of Java Aktuell magazine with 11,000 issues for 8 years, Experienced Manager of Consulting Teams, Leader of Business Units, Freelancer, University Lecturer in over 9 cities, Researcher, Founder, Enthusiast of Fine Arts, Stand-Up Comedy, Jazz & Classical Music.

Pieter Humphrey

Pieter Humphrey has been in the tech industry for 20+ years, working in development, developer relations, marketing, and solution engineering to help developers succeed with technology. Developers have been a consistent focus across his experiences at companies like BEA, Oracle, VMware, Pivotal, Elastic, DataStax and Maria DB. Currently Senior Product Manager for Enterprise Platforms at FiveTran.

Robert Lassila

Robert Lassila is a Full Stack Developer making his first leaps into the world of software engineering after moving to the Bay Area in July of 2025. Before joining the JUG a few weeks ago, he was working as a Representative at Coders Campus, learning and guiding other students. He has already contributed to over a dozen projects on GitHub, and currently works as an intern at a small IT consultancy using Java and Spring. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Jazz Studies from the University of Oregon.

Team

Chris Richardson Java Champion, CxO Advisor, Software Engineering Leader, Independent Architect, Distinguished Book, Author on Microservices Patterns, Team Topologies Advocate (TTA), Keynote Speaker, Original Creator of [CloudFoundry.org](https://cloudfoundry.org), Creator of microservices.io and eventuate.io

Roos Mohazzabi Vice President of Strategic Accounts at Moderne

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Matthew Perrett Senior Software Engineer at NetApp

Dung Ngo Software Engineer at Zoom

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