

Re: Why is java considered a language for "web" or "internet" programming?

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- *From:* "Seamus" <[zawadzki@xxxxxxxx](mailto:zawadzki@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 18 Oct 2006 06:05:03 -0700
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Eric Sosman wrote:

BillJosephson wrote:

Howdy....

I've been learning a bit of java, because I've been led to believe it is the language to use if you want to make web sites. So far, it just seems like C or C++, more or less.

What is it about java that makes it good for people making web sites?

Two immediate reasons: portability and safety.

"Write once, run anywhere" somewhat overstates the reality of Java's portability, but a wide variety of machines can execute Java bytecodes with reasonably consistent results. When you put a Java program on your Web site, you don't need to worry (much) about whether your visitors use Windows, Linux, MacOS, AIX, ... No matter what they use, your program (mostly) "just runs."

As for safety -- Hey, Bill, you don't know me, but my Web site sure looks cool, and how's about I just run this chunk of code on your machine? It, um, it improves your interaction, yeah, that's it, your interactive experience. Trust me. Because the JVM on your machine can analyze the incoming bytecode before executing it, it can prevent that code from doing "dangerous" things without detection. Sure, flaws have been found in Java's security, but it remains far safer than downloading and executing native machine code from an untrusted site.

Those, at least, are the principal advertised benefits. They are realized incompletely (nothing is perfect), and there are some drawbacks to offset them (nothing is perfect), but that's the idea.

Re: Why is java considered a language for "web" or "internet" programming?

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Eric Sosman  
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In addition the fortuitous timing of Java's introduction coincided with the explosive growth of the Internet.

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