Subject: Re: What is JAVA? was: (Re: Compiling IDL ... ever likey?) Posted by piclinch on Wed, 24 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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James Tappin (sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk) wrote:

- : We seem to have been hearing a lot about JAVA recently in the IDL compilation
- : thread. What is it?????? Apart from a "SHow JAVA window" menu item in Netscape
- : 2 this is the only place I've ever heard it mentioned.

Java (capitalisation not necessary, BTW) is a programming language, but it's also the most hyped computing technology of the moment...

It's an object oriented language with some roots in C++, but its principal raison d'hype is it can be used to write programs which can be run over the Internet independant of platform. So, you aim your Java capable Web browser (e.g., Netscape 2, HotJava) at a suitable site, and click on a Java application, and the Java binary (an intermediate level compiled code automatically checked for secure operation) is loaded onto your machine and run there by your browser rather than the server that sent you the code.

For more info, check out http://java.sun.com and read all about it. It was developed by Sun, and has now been licensed by pretty well all of the big vendors, even Microsoft, who licensed it a week after they announced rival technology Blackbird and found little groundswell behind it (maybe since it's technologically backward vapourware, but that hasn't stopped them before...).

Like most Big New Things, it isn't as great as the hype suggests (i.e., solving all the world's problems by next Tuesday), but like some Big New Things, it should probably serve a useful purpose in the world of networked computers.

It won't be replacing IDL/Wave though, any more than C++ has, as it's a general purpose programming language. However, IDL x.0 of the future could itself be written in Java (rather than C and/or Fortran) and exist in more modular form with functionality downloaded over a network as required.

Pete.

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Subject: Re: What is JAVA? was: (Re: Compiling IDL ... ever likey?)

Posted by afsypng on Mon, 29 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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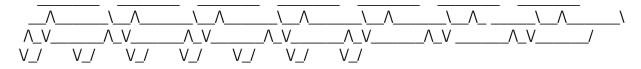
>>> > "James" == James Tappin <sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk> writes: In article <4e4ugq\$1mk@sun4.bham.ac.uk> James Tappin <sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk> writes:

James> We seem to have been hearing a lot about JAVA recently in James> the IDL compilation thread. What is it?????? Apart from a James> "SHow JAVA window" menu item in Netscape 2 this is the only James> place I've ever heard it mentioned.

Check

http://sunsite.unc.edu/javafaq/javafaq.html

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