

Java Licensing FAQ

Executive Summary

- Oracle announced in 2019 that Java would now require a paid subscription
- Additionally, as of January 2023, Oracle has announced a new “Per Employee” metric, requiring all employees to be licensed for Java
- In Oracle’s view, every desktop, server, and employee uses Java. This could translate into hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars annually for subscriptions
- Oracle has mandated certain releases and updates of Java as free, along with others as paid. To understand these differences, along with Support options and Java Subscription Term options, please refer to the Appendix of this FAQ

Questions

How do I locate devices that use Java?

It is easier to define where Java is not used or not needed than to determine where it is installed. This is still true for those organizations who have not segregated their Java environment. Virtually every server, desktop, and laptop has Java installed either through imaging or “clone-and-clip” deployment approaches. Moreover, user can often download Java updates or a new licensable release.

How much does an Oracle Java subscription cost?

Oracle had previously announced that the pricing will be \$2.50 per user (desktop or laptop) per month; or \$25.00 per licensable core per month. There are tiers based on the quantity of license subscriptions. However, this pricing will only be available until March 1, 2023. New subscriptions will be based upon the new “Per Employee” metric, unless there is a possible option for it to be properly negotiated.

Note: Please refer to the tables in the Appendix to learn about the specifics of Oracle’s new “Per Employee” metric and what releases of Java are free or paid, depending on the release number and the update number.

Who We Are

Miro Consulting specializes in license management, software audit advisory, negotiation tactics, support management, and cloud services for Oracle, IBM, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS) & Salesforce.

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How does Oracle define an employee?

Oracle defines an employee as:

“(i) all of Your full-time, part-time, temporary employees, and (ii) all of the full-time employees, part-time employees and temporary employees of Your agents, contractors, outsourcers, and consultants that support Your internal business operations.”

This means their definition is very inclusive. Even if your employee doesn't use Java or even a computer at all, they are still an employee in the eyes of Oracle.

Are there alternatives?

Yes, you can switch to Open Oracle JDK or to any of the others, but this might not be practical for your organization for numerous reasons.

What if I'm not an Oracle customer?

If you are using the Oracle Java – formerly, Sun Java – you still need to pay for a Java subscription, both to stay in legal compliance and to receive security updates.

Will Oracle “Grandfather” users who installed Java before this announcement?

No, Oracle has not announced any provisions for grandfathering historic users.

Are all the current releases of Java licensable?

No. The Oracle Java 8 after January 2019 is considered licensable. There are some exceptions. However, Oracle had previously announced that commercial and production use of Java 17 is free for now.

(Note: Only Java 7 and above are supported by Oracle. Java 7 has exited Extended Support effective July 2022. Java 8 is already in Extended Support through December 2030.)

Will Java automatically update itself from a free version to a paid version?

Yes. However, this can be avoided if you disable the automatic update feature.

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What information does Oracle Java send to Oracle about me when it “phones home” (collects data)?

Oracle states that they do not collect personally identifiable information. They describe it as “*anonymous technical data*” that they call “*telemetry.*” However, Oracle gets informed whenever someone within your organization downloads Java. Such things as “*Method/Venue*” which Oracle defines as indicating “... *if it is an auto-update transaction... [or] a manual download...*”. IP Address is mentioned as part of the data, which could be a security-related issue.

Why does Java “phone home”?

They indicate that the “... *purpose of the telemetry transmitted to Oracle during the Java installation and auto-update process is to find any technical problems or anomalies that occur...*” such as a missing file or compatibility with an updated browser.

When does Java “phone home”?

Oracle is notified upon any download of Java and periodically during subsequent automatic updates of Java if they are not disabled.

Can I install it manually without Java “phoning home”?

Yes, Oracle does provide a method to install Java without the initial data collection. Go to <https://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp> and follow the instructions about not being connected to the internet.

Can I turn off the “phone home” function for Java?

Yes, there is a detailed way on how to limit the notifications received by Oracle. Go to https://www.java.com/en/download/help/java_update.html for those instructions.

What should I do now?

Get expert advice on determining your exposure and options by contacting Miro Consulting.

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Appendix Item 1

Java 5 to Java 8 - Update Guide

(Note: for these releases, the update number determines whether it is free or paid)

Java Release	Last Free Release	First Paid Release
5	5u22	5u23
6	6u45	6u51
7	7u80	7u85
8	8u202	8u211

Appendix Item 2

Java 7 to Java 21 - Release Guide

(Note: for these releases, some are free and some are not, but it's important to also look at the table in Appendix Item 1)

Oracle Java Support Roadmap					
Release	LTS	Free*	GA Date	Premier Support Until	Extended Support Until
7	Yes	Update**	Jul 2011	Jul 2019	Jul 2022
8	Yes	Update**	Mar 2014	Mar 2022	Dec 2030
9	No	No	Sept 2017	Mar 2018	Not Available
10	No	No	Mar 2018	Sept 2018	Not Available
11	Yes	No	Sept 2018	Sept 2023	Jan 2032
12	No	No	Mar 2019	Sept 2019	Not Available
13	No	No	Sept 2019	Mar 2020	Not Available
14	No	No	Mar 2020	Sept 2020	Not Available
15	No	No	Sept 2020	Mar 2021	Not Available
16	No	No	Mar 2021	Sept 2021	Not Available
17	Yes	Until Sept 2024*	Sept 2021	Sept 2026	Sept 2029
18	No	Yes*	Mar 2022	Sept 2022	Not Available
19	No	Yes*	Sept 2022	Mar 2023	Not Available
20	No	Yes*	Mar 2023	Sept 2023	Not Available
21	Yes	Yes*	Sept 2023	Sept 2028	Sept 2031

Past Support Dates

Free* - Only free usage if commercial features are turned off. Contact Miro for details

Update:** For Java 7 and Java 8, usage is only free up to a certain Update number. If they are updated to newer releases, they require a subscription. Please refer to Appendix Table 1 for details

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Appendix Item 3

Overview of Java Support

Support Type	Mainstream Support	Extended Support
Long Term Support	5 years	3 years
Non-Long-Term Support	6 months	None

Appendix Item 4

Java Subscription Term Options

Timeframe	Term Discount	Quantity Discount	Additional Terms
5 Years	Discounted Pricing	Yes	No Back Usage Fees
3 Years	Tiered Pricing	No	As much as 50% off Back Usage fees
1 Year	Tiered Pricing	No	Full Back Usage Fees

Note: for further explanation on Term Discounts as it relates to your organization, please contact Miro for details

Appendix Item 5

Java "Per Employee" Metric Pricing Per Month

Number of Employees	Price Per Employee (U.S.)
1 - 999	\$15.00
1,000 - 2,999	\$12.00
3,000 - 9,999	\$10.50
10,000 - 19,999	\$8.25
20,000 - 29,999	\$6.75
30,000 - 39,999	\$5.70
40,000 - 49,999	\$5.25
50,000+	Contact for details

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