Azul Systems: JCP EC Qualification & Position Statement

Azul is a community elected member of the JCP EC, and the only independent company on the EC dedicated solely to building and supporting Java Runtimes and JDKs. Azul's runtimes are available in 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, free Zulu builds of OpenJDK are available for JDK 7, 8, 11, 13, and 15, and support all major flavors of Linux, as well as Windows and Mac OS. Azul's Zing JDKs 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.

Since first being elected to the JCP Executive Committee in 2011, Azul has been an active advocate for community interests within the EC and was recognized as "JCP Member of the Year." Azul has successfully taken strong positions on protecting community rights and access to technology, including the OpenJDK Community TCK. Azul has championed the roles and influence Java developers should have on the process and has taken the position that the Java community process should be influenced by the developers that use the technology standards produced, and not 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 for each of the past seven Java SE releases.

Azul is an enthusiastic OpenJDK community member, 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 included in the Java specification (JEP 285), and we are encouraged to see other community members following on that path. Azul introduced the concept of Mid-Term Support (MTS) for OpenJDK, has led the OpenJDK 13u updates release efforts, and is committed to a similar mid-term maintenance timeline for OpenJDK 15u. We are excited to see the resulting interest generated in the community for production use of these intermediate releases. Azul is a crucial contributor to OpenJDK update projects that keep the various OpenJDK releases up to date, especially when it comes to security patches. As an early member of the OpenJDK Vulnerability Group, Azul has been responsible for a significant portion of the security updates that end up in the various community maintained OpenJDK updates projects, including 7u, 8u, 11u, and 13u. In recent years, Azul has mentored and collaborated with several of the newer OpenJDK distributions and the teams building them to strengthen community contribution and collaboration around 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 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 represents Azul on the Java SE expert groups for Java SE 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16. 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. In these strange times, Simon continues to present, online, at conferences and Java User Groups (JUGs) around the world.