



Oracle Java – the most common license compliance issues seen

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Do you know that there are differences between the Java products and components that are part of the different Java software licenses? And are you able to differentiate between the products and components which are free of charge and for which ones you are required to pay additional fees? And do you know which of your Oracle software licenses include the right to make use of which specific Java software programs and what usage conditions are related to these programs?

Contents

Introduction3

Java – historical overview4

Free of charge vs. commercial use5

Java commercial features are required to be licensed! But when?6

What other Oracle licenses do include the right to make use of Java?7

Conclusion9

Introduction

Many organizations use Java for different kinds of applications and development scenarios. They often are under the impression that Java software can be deployed “for free” at all times. The objective of this white paper is to provide you with an insight on what you should be taking into account when managing the deployment and usage of your Java software programs.

Java – historical overview

Java is one of the most popular programming languages, specifically designed to have as little implementation dependencies as possible. Java is intended to let application developers “write once, run anywhere”. This means that compiled Java code can run on all platforms that support Java without the need for recompilation.

Java was originally developed by Sun Microsystems and released under proprietary software licenses. In May 2007, Sun Microsystems relicensed most of its Java technology under the GNU General Public License, which guaranteed end-users the freedom to run, study, share (copy) and modify the software under a free software license. In January 2010, Oracle Corporation acquired Sun Microsystems and continued to make Java software programs available under the [Oracle Binary Code License Agreement](#).

In May 2011, Oracle introduced two new commercial Java software licenses:

- Java SE Advanced and
- Java SE Suite

In February 2014, Oracle introduced a third commercially available Java software license:

- Java SE Advanced Desktop.

Free of charge vs. commercial use

Currently Oracle differentiates between free of charge and commercial Java software.

Java SE6 and Java SE7

The older versions of Java (SE6 or SE7) are still provided to help developers to debug issues in older systems. Oracle however does not update these older versions with the latest security patches and Oracle does not recommended these versions for use in production.

Java SE8

Java Standard Edition 8 (Java SE8) includes the following features/components:

- Java Development Kit (JDK) including the JavaFX Software Development Kit (SDK)
- Java Runtime Environment (JRE) - (Server and regular packages)
- JavaFX Runtime
- JRockit JDK

How you make use of Java SE8 determines if you are required to pay fees for its usage. In case of “General Purpose Computing” you can make use of the software without paying any additional fees; in case of different usage, you are required to pay additional fees towards Oracle.

General Purpose Computing Usage:

The current version of Java Standard Edition (Java SE8) can be used free of charge and is available for redistribution for “general purpose computing”. A general-purpose computer is a computer that, given the appropriate application and required time, should be able to perform most common computing tasks.

Personal computers, including desktops, notebooks, smartphones and tablets, are all examples of general-purpose computers. The term “general purpose computing” is used to differentiate general-purpose computers from other types, in particular the specialized embedded computers used in intelligent systems.

Non-General Purpose Computing Usage:

The current version of Java Standard Edition (Java SE8) can be used, but requires additional fees, in case the use of the software in systems and solutions provides dedicated functionality (other than General Purpose Computing Usage) or it is designed for use in embedded or function-specific software applications.

(examples: software embedded/bundled in wireless mobile telephones, handheld devices, Blu-Ray Disc Devices, Telematics and Network switching equipment, printers and storage systems etc). Any usage of the Java SE8 software programs that does not fall under the “General Purpose Computing Usage”, is by definition “Non-General Purpose Computing Usage” and as such required to be licensed separately through Oracle Corporation.

Java commercial features are required to be licensed! But when?

As per the terms and conditions of the [Oracle Binary Code License Agreement](#), you are not entitled to make use of all the Java features free of charge:

LICENSE TO USE. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement including, but not limited to, the Java Technology Restrictions of the Supplemental License Terms, Oracle grants you a non-exclusive, non-transferable, limited license without license fees to reproduce and use internally the Software complete and unmodified for the sole purpose of running Programs. THE LICENSE SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION, DOES NOT EXTEND TO THE COMMERCIAL FEATURES. YOUR RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO THE COMMERCIAL FEATURES ARE AS SET FORTH IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL TERMS ALONG WITH ADDITIONAL LICENSES FOR DEVELOPERS AND PUBLISHERS.

Furthermore, Oracle regulates the use of these “Commercial Features” as follows:

COMMERCIAL FEATURES. You may not use the Commercial Features for running Programs, Java applets or applications in your internal business operations or for any commercial or production purpose, or for any purpose other than as set forth in Sections B, C, D and E of these Supplemental Terms. If you want to use the Commercial Features for any purpose other than as permitted in this Agreement, You must obtain a separate license from Oracle.

An overview of the commercial features currently available can be found [here](#).

Another important aspect is whether the customer is deploying these commercial features for test and development or for production or “commercial” purposes. As per the terms and conditions of the Oracle Binary Code License Agreement, if you make use of the commercial features for test and development, you don’t need to purchase a license in order to make use of them:

"SOFTWARE INTERNAL USE FOR DEVELOPMENT LICENSE GRANT.

Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement and restrictions and exceptions set forth in the README File incorporated herein by reference, including, but not limited to the Java Technology Restrictions of these Supplemental Terms, Oracle grants you a non-exclusive, non-transferable, limited license without fees to reproduce internally and use internally the Software complete and unmodified for the purpose of designing, developing, and testing your Programs."

Use of the Commercial Features for any commercial or production purpose requires a separate license from Oracle.

What other Oracle licenses do include the right to make use of Java?

Most end-users do not realize that, in case they obtain an Oracle license, they actually obtain the right to make use of a bundle or suite of products and/or components instead of one specific software program. Almost any Oracle license grants an end-user the right to deploy and make use of a number of different technical functionalities / features / components / products which are included in the obtained software license. These functionalities / features / components / products may or may not come with either “Full Use” or “Restricted Use” rights.

The below section provides an overview of the different Oracle licenses that do have the (Full Use or Restricted Use) rights granted to make use of one or more Java software programs:

- **WebLogic Server Standard Edition** includes the right to make use of Java Standard Edition. This means that if you purchased a Weblogic Server Standard Edition, you are entitled to make use of Java SE, including its components: The Java Development Kit (JDK), including the JavaFX Software Development Kit (SDK), Java Runtime Environment (JRE), (Server and regular packages), JavaFX Runtime and JRockit JDK
- **WebLogic Server Enterprise Edition** includes the right to make use of Java SE Advanced (restricted however for WebLogic Server. Java SE is included for client applications that access WebLogic Server). Java SE Advanced consists of Java SE and JRockit Mission Control, plus restricted use licenses of Weblogic Server Standard Edition and Coherence Standard Edition One.
- **WebLogic Suite** includes the right to make use of Java SE Suite (restricted for WebLogic Server, Oracle Containers for J2EE and Coherence. Java SE is included for client applications that access these server components). Java SE Suite consists of Java SE Advanced and JRockit Real Time. Additional to these components, Java SE Suite comes with the same restricted use licenses as Java SE Advanced and the same limitations (meaning restricted use licenses of Weblogic Server Standard Edition and Coherence Standard Edition One).
- **Internet Application Server Enterprise Edition** includes the right to make use of Java Standard Edition. This means that if you purchased an Internet Application Server Enterprise Edition license, you are entitled to make use of Java SE, including its components: The Java Development Kit (JDK), including the JavaFX Software Development Kit (SDK), Java Runtime Environment (JRE), (Server and regular packages), JavaFX Runtime and JRockit JDK.
- **GlassFish Server** includes the right to make use of Java Standard Edition. This means that if you purchased a GlassFish Server license, you are entitled to make use of Java SE, including its components: the Java Development Kit (JDK), including the JavaFX Software Development Kit (SDK), Java Runtime Environment (JRE), (Server and regular packages), JavaFX Runtime and JRockit JDK

- **Coherence Standard Edition One, Coherence Enterprise Edition and Coherence Grid Edition** licenses all do include the (Full Use) right to make use of Java Standard Edition.
- **WebCenter Universal Content Management** includes the right to make use of Java Standard Edition.
- **WebLogic Suite for Oracle Applications** includes the right to make use of Java SE Suite (restricted for WebLogic Server, Oracle Containers for J2EE and Coherence. Java SE is included for client applications that access these server components). Of course these Weblogic Suite licenses are restricted as well to be only used for Oracle Applications itself.
- **Cherence Enterprise Edition for Oracle Applications** includes the right to make use of Java Standard Edition.
- **All PeopleSoft licenses do include the (restricted use) right to make use of** Java Standard Edition, as it is part of the included PeopleTools component.
- **Historically, old BEA licenses** also included the right to make use of the core Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) features. Additionally, Oracle JRockit JVM came included with any BEA WebLogic Server installation.

Conclusion

It is clear that end-user organizations should be aware of which specific Java software programs are required to be licensed separately vs what Java software programs can be used free of charge and in what circumstances this applies.

Don't underestimate the importance of having access to proper license management knowledge. If you do not have the right knowledge, don't be surprised if, during the course of an Oracle audit, you will be found non-compliant. Audit phases (examples: software embedded/bundled in wireless mobile telephones, handheld devices, Blu-Ray Disc Devices, Telematics and Network switching equipment, printers and storage systems etc).

ORACLE JAVA – THE MOST COMMON LICENSE COMPLIANCE ISSUES SEEN

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"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among stars!"- Les Brown

Andra has been working in the Software Licensing industry for the last 8 years, analyzing and understanding licensing business practices & product development from multiple software vendors and helping clients to better manage their software entitlements. Andra leverages her experiences of working within Oracle's License Management Services team to educate, equip and enable end-users to understand their enterprise software license entitlements. Andra holds a bachelor degree in Project Management from the National School of Political and Administrative Studies of Bucharest.

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We share our knowledge, so you can focus on the facts!

Do you want to know more about different related license management topics, we have a selection of white papers available through www.b-lay.com.

If you are in need of extra expertise and a structured approach, feel free to contact B-lay. We will help you make software compliance an exciting opportunity to improve your business!

About B-lay

B-lay is a specialist in software license management and provides services around software compliance, software audits, software asset management tools and insight in software spend. Our services offer organizations worldwide insight into the risks associated with software licenses, help prevent license compliance issues and help create considerable cost savings by optimizing their licensing position. B-lay was founded in 2008 and has offices in the Netherlands, Romania and the US.

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