

Position Paper from Ken Fogel, Java Champion – nominee for an Associate seat on the JCP EC 2022

One of Java's great strengths has and continues to be the involvement of the worldwide community of developers. As a teacher who evolved from teaching Pascal, C, and then C++ before I came to Java, I quickly recognized that the Java community was the most open of all the languages I have used. During my work in developing a curriculum for Java studies I always knew that if I had a question that documentation could not resolve then there were numerous community members available to provide me with assistance. Now retired from the classroom I continue to promote Java through videos and a book to be out next year.

As a member of the JCP EC I have been proud to be involved in the Java in Education initiative. I have felt, for many years, that Java is the language that every developer should begin with. I have been speaking, of late, on how Java is continuing to evolve to meet the needs of current developers. Far too often educators learn a language to teach but then do not keep their knowledge of the language up to date. On the JCP EC I hope to continue promoting Java in the classroom at all levels, not just college and university.

There is still much to do in other areas. Documentation is one such area. Search for a Java related question and you are presented with information that is likely out of date (or worse, all code samples are static methods). Unfortunately, search engines just favor articles with many clicks. I would like to see the establishment of a working group that can encourage our community to remove out of date articles and blogs. The JCP and OpenJDK group put a great amount of effort in maintaining the language. Documentation does not appear to receive the same attention. I hope, as a member of the JCP EC, that I can push this issue with an outcome of requiring user documentation written to best practices made available as every new feature in Java is introduced.

I hope that I have your support, and your vote, so that I can continue my work on the Executive Committee.