

Sun picks GPL license for Java code | CNET News.com - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

http://news.com.com/Sun+picks+GPL+license+for+Java+code/2100-7344\_3-6134584.html?tag=nefd.top

Today on News | Business Tech | Cutting Edge | Access | Threats | Media 2.0 | Markets | Digital Life | Blogs | Extra | My News

# Sun picks GPL license for Java code

By [Martin LaMonica](#)  
 Staff Writer, CNET News.com  
 Published: November 12, 2006, 9:00 PM PST

[TalkBack](#) [E-mail](#) [Print](#) [del.icio.us](#) [Digg this](#)

**After years of requests and debates, Sun Microsystems is ready to release Java source code under a Linux-friendly license.**

On Monday, it plans to put the code for the programming software under the version 2 of the General Public License (GPLv2), which governs Linux and many other open-source products. The Sun-hosted [Java.net](#) Web site will provide access to Java Platform Micro Edition (Java ME) software for mobile phones and Java Platform Standard Edition (Java SE) software for desktop applications.

**HIGH IMPACT**  
THE STORIES YOU SHOULD NOT MISS

**What's new:**  
After years of requests and debates, Sun is set to release Java source code under a Linux-friendly license.

**Bottom line:**  
The move will promote Java and make it easier to bundle with Linux, Sun believes.

[More stories on this topic](#)

Sun already has open-sourced its server-side Java Platform Enterprise Edition software in a [project called GlassFish](#). But it is now making that same software available under the GPLv2, rather than the Sun-conceived Community Development and Distribution License (CDDL).

The move will promote Java and make it easier to bundle with Linux, said [Rich Green, Sun's executive vice president of software](#).

"This is a milestone for the whole industry," Green said. "Not only are

advertisement

**Kodak**

**The KODAK Gift Guide**

Digital cameras, printers, and other stuff they'll really love.

[FIND A GIFT](#)

THE BIG PICTURE
RELATED STORIES
WHAT'S HOT
LATEST HEADLINES

**Related news**

- [Top Linux programmers pan GPLv3](#)  
September 25, 2006
- [HP balks at patent provision in GPL update](#)  
August 2, 2006
- [New GPL draft takes second crack at DRM](#)  
July 27, 2006
- [Sun's open-source odyssey](#)  
Newsmaker, July 6, 2006  
[Get this story's "Big Picture" >](#)

**Related videos**





Done

start Firefox Start Center Untitled \* - SMART N... 12:10

What does it mean  
for you?

Look @ Java code?

Not news — could do  
that for 11 years

Modify source...

and redistribute

- Port to new platform
- Optimize for your uses, e.g. strip it down
- Add features, e.g. properties
- Fix stuff

# GPL

"viral" — additions  
also governed by GPL  
(if you publish it)

## Misconceptions

Are all Java programs GPL  
now? No — "classpath  
exemption"

app

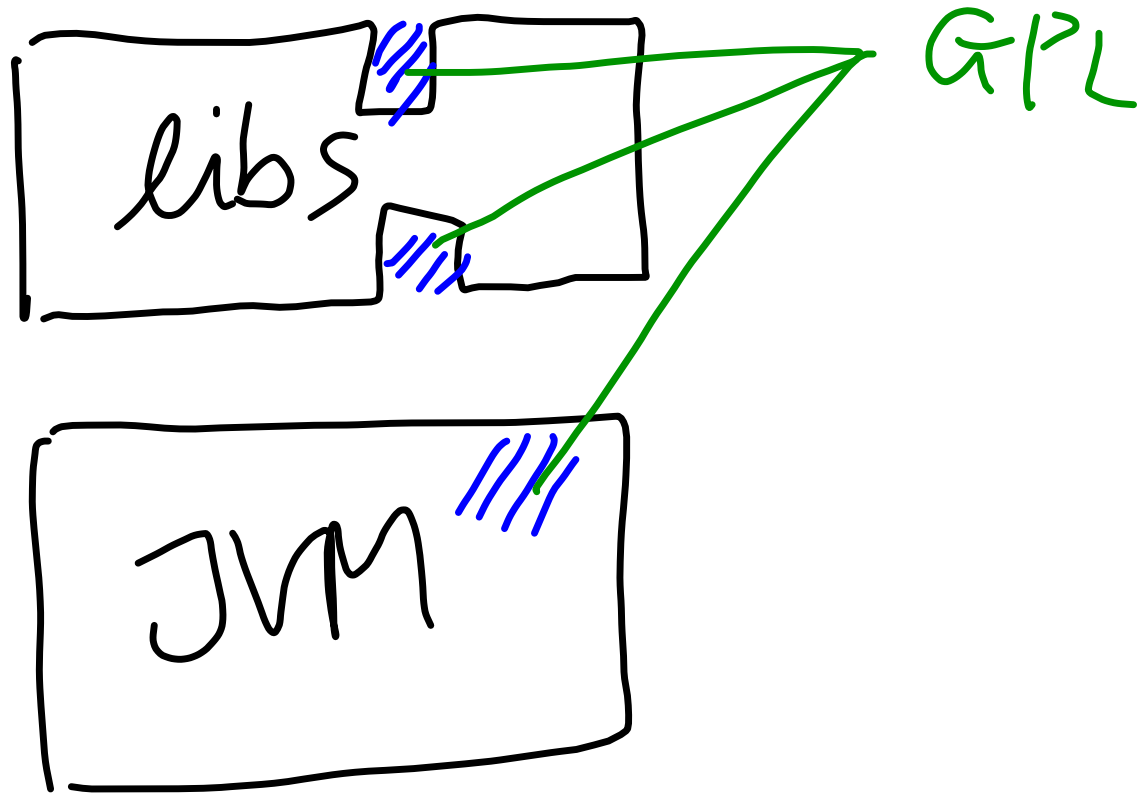


libs

JVM

any  
license





What's in it for Sun?

- Tap into free (for them) resources
- Java isn't their core business

Why do you  
really care?

Adds another 20  
years of life to  
Java