

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

WIKIPEDIA The Free Encyclopedia

Main page  
Contents  
Featured content  
Current events  
Random article  
Donate to Wikipedia  
Wikimedia Shop

Interaction  
Help  
About Wikipedia  
Community portal  
Recent changes  
Contact page

Tools  
Print/export  
Languages

Català  
Español  
Français  
한국어  
Bahasa Indonesia  
Magyar  
日本語  
Polski  
Português  
Русский  
Slovenščina  
Cymraeg

WIKIPEDIA

Article Talk

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**Java bytecode**

**Contents** [hide]

- 1 Relation to Java
- 2 Instructions
- 3 Model of computation
- 4 Example
- 5 Generation
- 6 Execution
- 7 Support for dynamic languages
- 8 See also
- 9 References
- 10 External links

**Relation to Java** [edit]

A Java programmer does not need to be aware of or understand Java bytecode at all. However, as suggested in the IBM developerWorks journal, "Understanding bytecode and what bytecode is likely to be generated by a Java compiler helps the Java programmer in the same way that knowledge of assembly helps the C or C++ programmer."<sup>[2]</sup>

**Instructions** [edit]

See also: *Java bytecode instruction listings*

As each byte has 256 potential values, there are 256 possible opcodes. Of these, 0x00 through 0xca, 0xfe, and 0xff are assigned values. 0xca is reserved as a breakpoint instruction for Java debuggers and its type is not used by the language. Similarly, 0xfe and 0xff are not used by the language and are reserved for internal use by the Java virtual machine. Instructions fall into a number of broad groups:

— Load and store in a word (0x00-0x0a)

