

Solution Sheet

Take Charge of Java to Optimize Security and Compatibility

Browser management delivers enterprise-wide telemetry and control, empowering you to take command of Java proliferation that's putting your organization at risk

Introduction

We get it. Java can be a real pain.

With its long history of incompatible versions and security patches, Java has a reputation as being the second biggest security vulnerability, after Adobe's Flash plug-in.

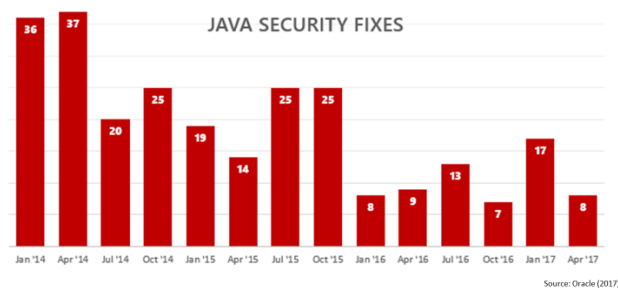
Unfortunately, because many of the line-of-business web applications your organization relies upon were built using Java applets, Java won't go away any time soon.



Java proliferation is one of the most common concerns we hear from our global customers. For many, proactively dealing with legacy Java versions and standardizing on the latest release often gets set aside for more urgent initiatives. But left unmanaged, Java presents some very real security and compatibility risks.

However, there's good news. You can manage Java without sacrificing compatibility, and improve your organization's security profile, with the right browser management software tools. To put this headache to rest, it's good to start with a clear understanding of the Java problem.

Java is the 2nd biggest security vulnerability after Adobe's Flash plugin



The Java Problem

Java management problems are particularly difficult to assess because understanding how Java functions in your browser environment is complex. With Java's 22-year history, 8 full releases, quarterly security patches, and hundreds of legacy and modern Java-dependent applications, this is no surprise. If you happen to have a geographically distributed organization, these challenges multiply. To clearly understand Java's challenges, it's important to outline

the information you need to best understand Java in your environment and the risks of leaving it unmanaged.

Understanding your Java landscape

To truly understand Java's impact on your environment, you need detailed telemetry. Without this data, you're working blindly to manage Java. To reach most organization's first goal – **determining which versions of Java can be removed, and which are required but vulnerable** – you need to know much more than simply the number of Java versions you have. You need to understand how Java is used, by whom, and the interdependencies that might make you rethink removal of a specific version.

The cost of manual inventory is skyrocketing

One large enterprise reported that a manual inventory of browser-based applications, Java and ActiveX dependences, along with all cloud-based or SaaS services **would take 4 staff members 6 months to complete.**

Doing the math...



Source: Browsium Customer

The risk of unmanaged Java

Left unmanaged, Java creates an array of **security vulnerabilities and compatibility issues** for your organization. While you can choose to keep side-stepping Java, and perhaps miss a few security patches, the open and exploitable nature of today's computing environments makes this approach a potentially costly proposition for your enterprise. Without a proper understanding of Java in your environment, you may be supporting a particularly vulnerable version of Java or have a variety of insecure versions installed by end users and not controlled by IT. This results in a larger-than-necessary attack surface for hackers to target. In addition, if you can't correlate web applications with the version of Java they depend upon, you may inadvertently create a work stoppage by removing a required legacy Java version. And if this work stoppage impacts a business-critical application, the financial implications can be huge. Another temptation to ease the stress of keeping up with the quarterly security patches, is to take shortcuts in regression testing, saving time and money. Again, this will leave your enterprise vulnerable to security and compatibility problems.

Added Java management challenges

Most organizations need to run many Java-dependent web applications, and several can require a different version of Java. Historically, this has forced you to compromise compatibility in favor of security – standardizing on a secure version of Java even though some applications won't function properly. Or, sacrificing security in favor of compatibility – allowing many (sometimes unknown) versions of Java to be run in your environment and hoping you don't suffer a security breach.

What you really need is the ability to detect Java usage in your organization, eliminate the versions you don't need, and proactively manage the versions you do need, optimizing compatibility and security.

Specifically, you need to:

- Understand Java versions and their usage in your browser environment
- Eliminate unnecessary versions of Java without causing unexpected compatibility issues
- Run multiple incompatible versions of Java side-by-side
- Keep vulnerable but necessary versions of Java available, but isolated, without security exposure
- Standardize on the most secure version of Java on the Internet

Here's where the good news comes in. There is a solution that empowers you meet your Java management challenges.

The solution – Browsium’s browser management suite

You can take command of Java in your environment, and free yourself from that Java headache, with the right set of browser management tools. Browsium’s customers effectively manage Java by using Browsium software in three stage. First, they discover how Java is installed and used in their environment. They then use this discovery to chart the best plan forward to meet their compatibility needs and security objectives. Finally, they act to control exactly how Java functions in their environment. These are some of the ways this process works.

Discover Java in your browser estate

You can’t manage what you can’t see. Browser environments are complex, interdependent, and distributed in nature, therefore you need specialized software tools to uncover this activity. Browsium’s browser management suite delivers the telemetry you need to understand Java versions and use in your browser estate. This data includes:

- Inventory of all Java versions
- Number of users for each Java-dependent web application
- Frequency of use for each of these applications
- Any outlier Java use on websites not controlled by IT



Plan with deep insights gained from detailed analytics

As you move to put together a Java management plan, you’ll need even deeper telemetry. Browsium’s browser management suite gives you the information needed to avoid unintentionally breaking critical web applications as you work to eliminate unnecessary Java versions and reduce your attack surface. To help you strike the right balance between security and compatibility, Browsium software also:

- Maps all Java versions to every Java-dependent web application across the organization
- Reports applications used by each version of Java, to identify interdependencies
- Reports unused Java-dependent web applications so they can be removed
- Identifies departments using each application, so you determine their importance and preserve critical applications
- Presents data in easy-to-read and charts and graphs



Empowers you to act

So, now you have a plan. You know what Java versions aren’t needed and the legacy versions you need to keep. Here is how Browsium’s browser management suite empowers you to act on your plan:

- **Remove unnecessary Java versions** throughout the organization, without inadvertently causing compatibility issues, using the interdependency information gathered during the discovery phase to reduce attack surface
- **Isolate select legacy Java versions** to only critical applications that need them to achieve a balance of compatibility and security



- **Standardize on most recent/secure version of Java** without compatibility issues or user downtime
- **Run multiple Java versions side-by-side** so each web application can use the most compatible version
- **Block unmanaged Java on the Internet** by turning off Java for all sites, except the 'whitelist' of sites you manage or trust
- **Reduce the time and cost of regression testing** by locking specific Java versions to specific applications.


Reduce the cost of Java regression testing

One pharmaceutical customer reported it **cost them \$2M per year just to regression test for Java updates**. The risk of deploying updates without full testing is great – your business could suffer losses well in excess of the \$2M.

Browser management significantly reduces the time and cost of regression testing.

Doing the math...

Save 70% of \$2M/yr. = \$1.4M/year SAVINGS



for a 1-time application inventory, plus you get a tool for ongoing testing

Source: Browsium Customer

Java doesn't need to be so painful

Java can be managed in the enterprise if you have the right software tool set. When you use these tools to discover, plan, and act to manage Java in your browser environment, you can improve your security profile, maximize compatibility, and ultimately save your organization money. Browsium's browser management suite is the solutions that empowers you to do this and more. Plus, you can hopefully relax a little knowing how Java is operating in your browser environment.

Why wait?

Information about Browsium's complete browser management suite can be found at www.browsium.com. Or email info@browsium.com to schedule an executive briefing.



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