

## Java Changes and FMW Launcher

### Summary

- Java 8 has now entered LTS (long term support), Oracle is now requiring commercial licenses for you to receive ongoing updates for versions of Java that enter LTS.
- Java now releases a new version every 6 months, these are similar to previous minor releases (ie: the difference between Java 8u40 & Java 8u66).
- Every 3rd version of Java (8, 11, 14, 17, etc..) released will be a LTS release, releases in-between will be removed for download by Oracle.
- Java web start is removed from Java 11 and up, we've made a [replacement](#), that bundles a JRE exclusively used by FMW so it will no longer rely on the system version of Java.
- You will need to use [FMW Launcher](#) on client machines of FMW unless you plan to stay on Java 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10.
- OpenJDK is not recommended as a replacement, it has poor support for java web start, if you choose to take this route to bypass commercial LTS we will not support issues arising from it

### Java 8 has entered LTS (Long term support)

As of January 2019, Oracle is charging commercial users of Java to receive continuing updates to Java 8, entering a period known as Long Term Support.

Oracle has changed the release cadence of Java. What used to be minor updates are now becoming major version increments. The difference between Java 8 update 40 and Java 8 update 66, would now be comparable to Java updating from java 11 to 12.

With this change, Oracle is making every 3rd release, starting from Java 8, a LTS release. Versions in-between will become unavailable.

What this means is, if you visit Oracle to download Java 9 or 10, it will not be found. The only meaningful reason to upgrade past Java 8 for FMW is for the UI scaling feature.

Here is an example of how the releases work

- Java 8 LTS
- Java 9 (no longer available once Java 10 was available, available for 6 months)
- Java 10 (no longer available once Java 11 was available, available for 6 months)
- Java 11 LTS (still available once Java 12 is released for LTS. Java web start removed)

A good article explaining this new release schedule be found here:

<https://dev.karakun.com/java/2018/06/25/java-releases.html>

## How does this affect FMW?

[Click here to review the information about Java 11+ and Java web start](#)

These are the options moving forward for Java/FMW:

- To stay on Java 8 and continue to receive updates from Oracle, you will need to obtain commercial licenses from Oracle for LTS
- If you require Java 9 for UI scaling, we provide a download link in the contents of the above link under “Downgrade your Java Version”, you will be required to stay on this specific version of Java going forward.
- If you require to upgrade client machines to a version of Java that is 11 or greater for your system version of Java, download [FMW Launcher](#), this has a bundled JRE that will be used exclusively for FMW and your system version of Java will run independent of FMW.