

# Jenkins: Tip and Tail

Version support & use patterns

17 Dec 2025 - Mark Waite

# Jenkins core release lines

Weekly

2.489, 2.490, 2.491

[Weekly Release Line](#)

Long Term Support (LTS)

Baseline every 12 weeks

Incremental every 4 weeks

2.479.1, 2.479.2, 2.479.3

[LTS Release Line](#)



Security fixes only on most recent weekly and most recent LTS

# Jenkins core for users

Supports 2 most recent  
Java tail versions  
(Java 17 and 21)

Does not support  
Java tip versions  
(Java 18, 19, 20, 23, 24)

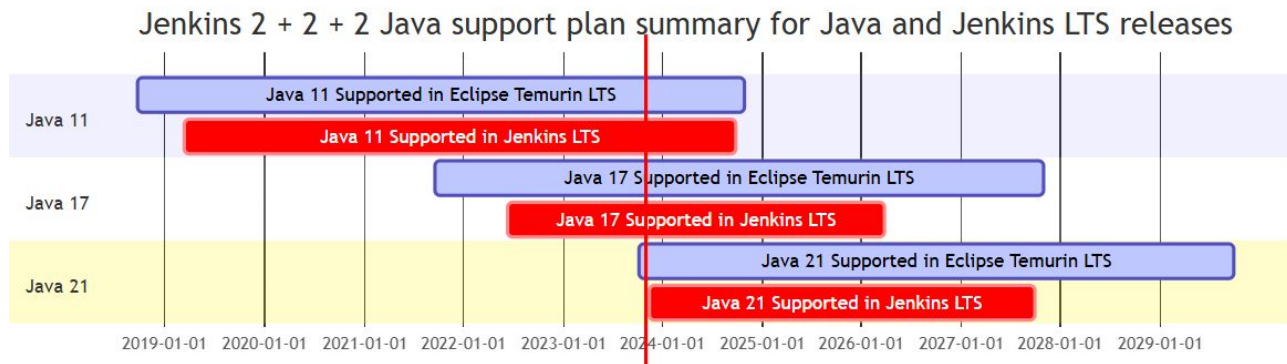


# Jenkins Java 2+2+2 Support Plan

2 years as a supported Java version

2 years as a required minimum Java version

2+ years as a not supported Java version



Detailed description in the blog post

[Introducing the 2 + 2 + 2 Java support plan](#)

# Jenkins Java Support History

## End of support

- Java 8 support ended Sep 2022
- Java 11 support ended Oct 2024

## Start of support

- Java 17 support started June 2022
- Java 21 support started Aug 2023
- Java 25 support planned Sep 2025

Detailed history in the Jenkins [Java Support Policy](#)

# Jenkins core development

Supports 2 most recent  
Java tail versions  
(Java 17 and 21)

Uses Java tip versions  
to prepare for tail  
(Java 20, 24)



# Jenkins core dependencies

## Tail examples

- NodeJS 12.18.x
- Jakarta EE 9

## Tip examples

- Spring Security 6
- Eclipse Jetty 12
- XStream
- Apache libraries



# Jenkins core dependencies

## More detailed tail examples

- Oct 2024 major tail upgrades ([changelog](#) and [upgrade guide](#))
  - Java EE 8 ⇒ Jakarta EE 9
  - Eclipse Jetty 10 ⇒ Eclipse Jetty 12
  - Spring Security 5 ⇒ Spring Security 6
  - End of support for Java 11
- Jan 2021 dependency upgrade ([blog post](#))
  - Guava 11 ⇒ Guava 31
- Nov 2020 dependency upgrades ([blog post](#))
  - Acegi ⇒ Spring Security 5
  - XStream unforked



# Jenkins plugins

Tip strongly preferred

Continuous delivery of plugins is moving more and more plugins away from semantic versioning

