

State of Spring 2026

Why Tanzu Spring is the best option for
enterprise applications in 2026 & beyond

Coté

Tanzu

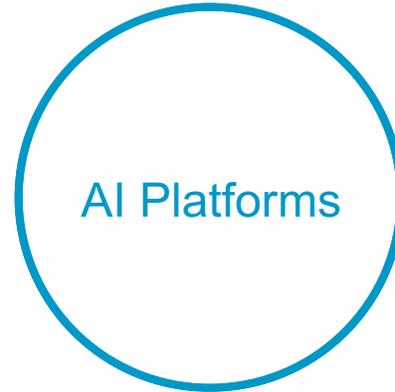
February 18th, 2026



#1 for enterprise apps

Addresses top 3 CIO priorities

All the new, cool features



50%+ AI on private cloud

Spring AI is a top AI framework

Official MCP Java SDK



60% of Spring Boot downloads out of support

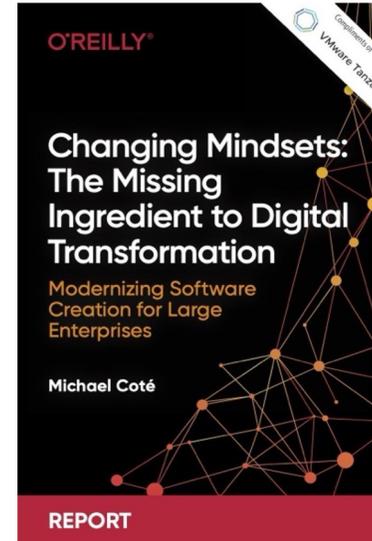
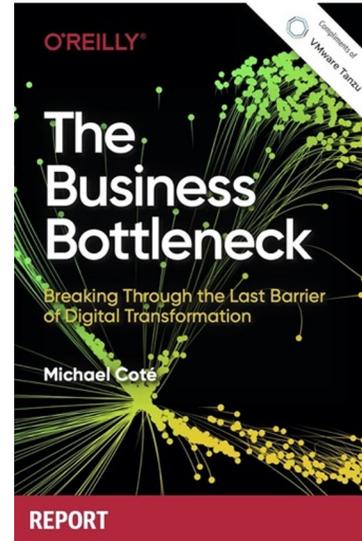
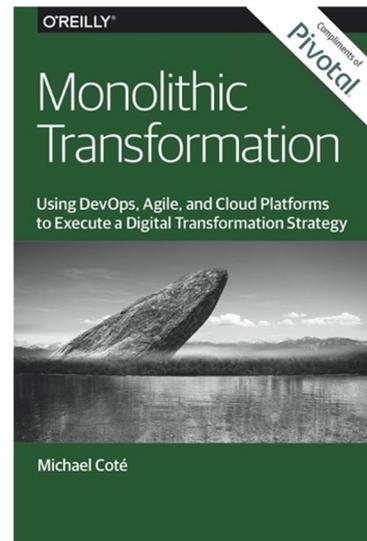
65% upgrade manually

App Advisor is 70% faster



Côté

<https://www.cote.io/> | cote@broadcom.com



Tanzu
Catsup



8 out of 8 DaShaun Carters agree:

“No one every got fired for using Spring.”



The Spring Community is Thriving

Market Leadership and Growth

77M+

MONTHLY DOWNLOADS

Maven Central Statistics 28% YoY growth

85%

JAVA ENTERPRISE USAGE

Most popular Java framework [JetBrains]

482K+

GITHUB STARS

Across public Spring ecosystem repositories

1.9M

**GITHUB
SPRING REPOSITORIES**

28%

YOY DOWNLOAD GROWTH

Maven Central 2023-2024 comparison

23

ACTIVE CORE PROJECTS

Boot | Security | Data | AI | Cloud | Batch

Ecosystem Breadth

AWS

Azure

GCP

Docker

K8s

Redis
Valkey

Kafka

OAuth

GraphQL

Mongo
DB

MySQL

OIDC

LDAP

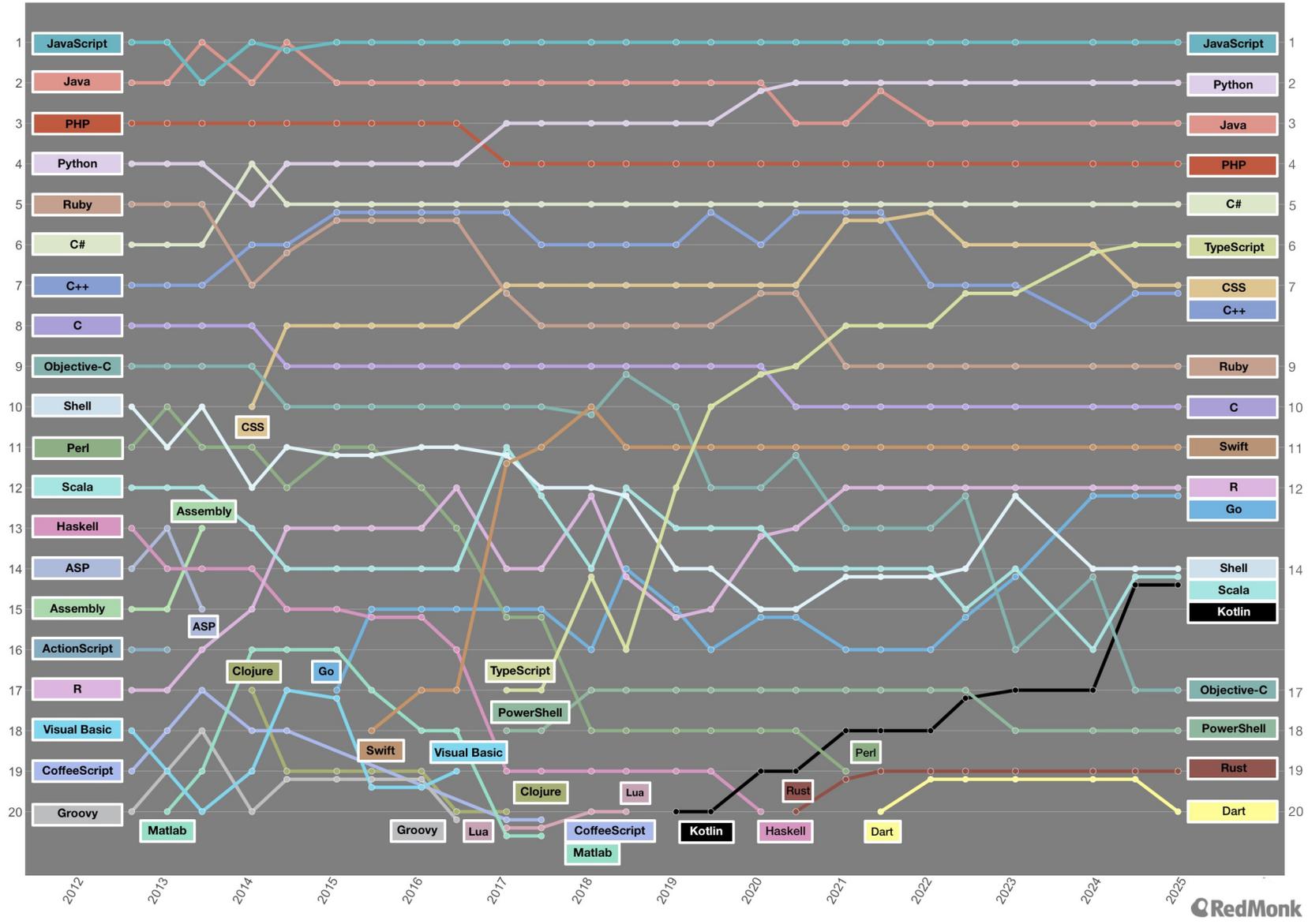
Cloud
Foundry

MQTT

+200
more

RedMonk Language Rankings

September 2012 - December 2024



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Source: "RedMonk Top 20 Languages Over Time: January 2025," Rachel Stephens, RedMonk, June, 2025.

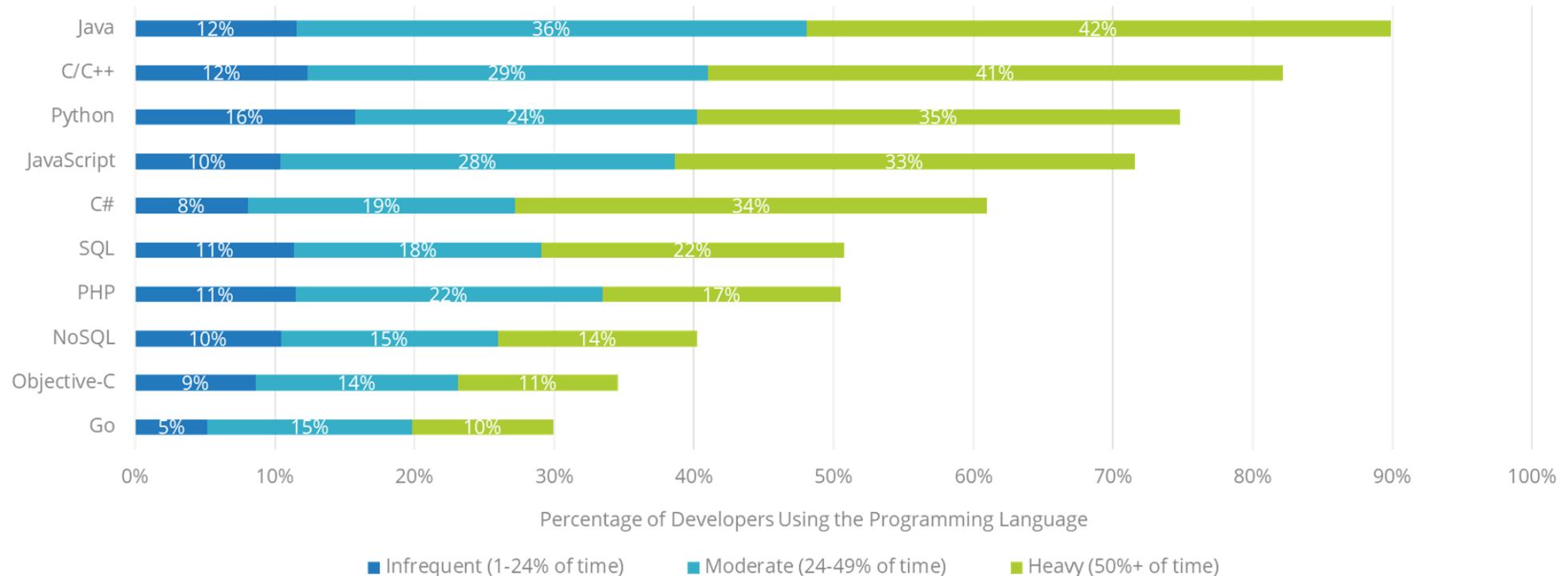
IDC Survey Spotlight

What are the top ten languages used by software developers?



Adam Resnick

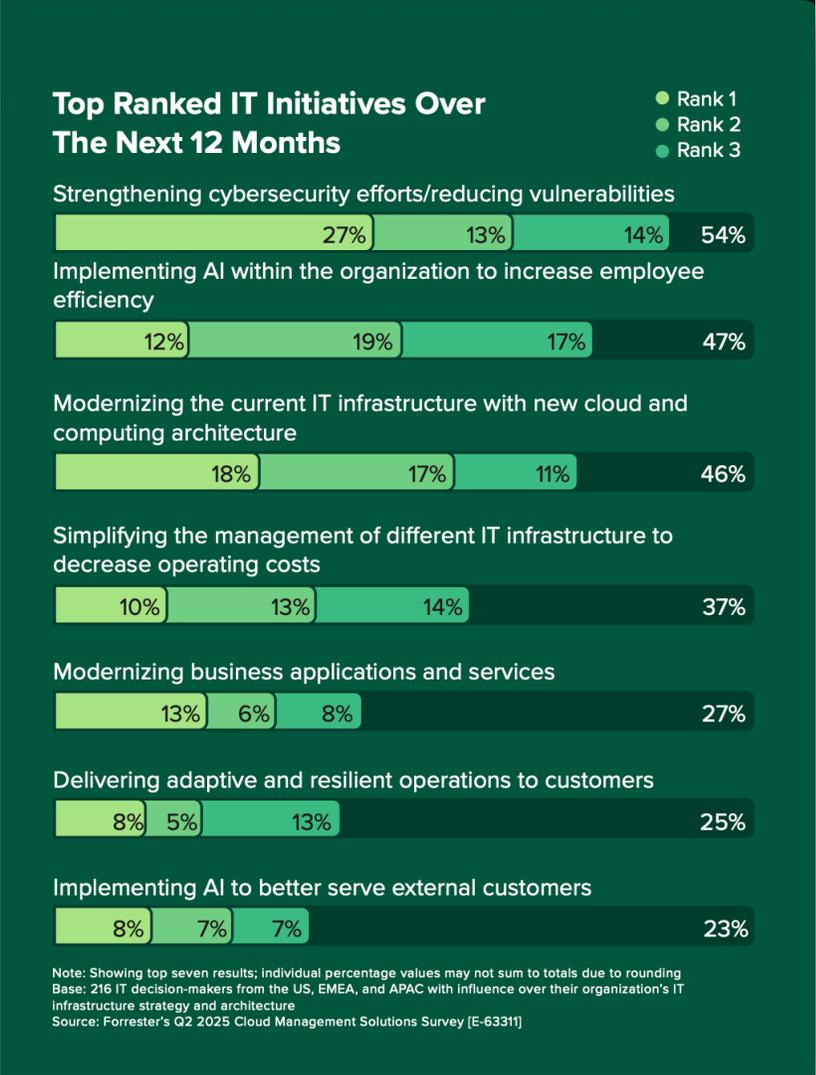
QB1. Please indicate how much you (or the team you are responsible for) used the following languages as a software developer in the last 12 months.



IDC # US52257024 (May 2024)
Source: IDC, Developer View 2023, N = 2257, Base=All respondents that answered this section



Spring Developers Are Critical for Every Top CIO Priority



AI Platforms & Frameworks



“The critical adjacency for building business apps with LLMs is **existing business logic and infrastructure**. And the critical skill set is building sophisticated business applications. In both these areas, **the JVM is far ahead of Python and likely to remain so**.

...

We have invested a lot in domain models, some of which are even very good. And, **to be able to leverage that as we move to the new world is really, really important.**”

Rod Johnson, 2025



62% of enterprises now use Java to power AI apps

Azul's 2026 State of Java Survey reveals a majority of enterprises are deploying Java for production AI workloads.

Feb 10th, 2026 12:58pm by Darryl K. Taft



Photo by Mike Kenneally on Unsplash

According to a new report released today, an increasing number of enterprises are using **Java** as a foundational language for AI development.

Java platform provider Azul's 2026 State of Java Survey & Report shows that **62% of organizations polled now use Java to code AI functionality — up from 50% last year.**

Java for scale

This reflects a shift toward integrating machine learning models with existing Java applications. Moreover, as enterprises move AI from experimentation to production, Java is becoming indispensable for scaling AI workloads, **Gil Tene**, co-founder and CTO of Azul, says.

"People are not playing around making little demos; they're making real applications with Java for AI," Tene tells *The New Stack*.

An FAQ to the Azul report says: "While other popular languages like Python are often used for rapid prototyping and model building, enterprises rely on Java to run AI in production due to its proven scalability, stability, security, and performance in production environments."

Meanwhile, Tene notes that many major AI libraries and frameworks now offer mature Java integrations, which lowers the barrier for enterprise teams to adopt AI without switching languages or retraining staff.

SHARE THIS STORY



TRENDING STORIES

- 62% of enterprises now use Java to power AI apps
- 2025 Is the Last Year of Python Dominance in AI: Java Comin'
- Java 25: Oracle Makes Java Easier To Learn, Ready for AI Development
- Your Enterprise AI Strategy Must Start With Java, Not Python
- Java Developers Get Multiple Paths To Building AI Agents

JAMES GOVERNOR'S MONKCHIPS

Java relevance in the AI era – agent frameworks emerge.

By James Governor | @monkchips | October 27, 2025



an incredible industry asset. But that doesn't mean your Java skills aren't relevant for developing apps that *use* models.

Java has incredible antibodies. Its ability to swallow and digest new innovation, to find new niches, is why it's lasted so long in this industry and been so successful. Think about big data. For a while, people were saying, "Oh no, there's no innovation in Java." Big data came along, and sure enough, we saw frameworks like Hadoop and Spark written in Java and JVM languages. Java has maintained relevance through all of the waves that we've seen over the last couple of decades – it is the exemplar of a general purpose programming language and runtime. With the distributed systems and cloud revolution, so many of the applications and systems that were built, so much of the infrastructure, was built in Java, new languages like Go and Rust notwithstanding. **The idea that somehow Java isn't going to be play well with AI doesn't make any sense.**



Supports all major frontier & open source models

Model Context Protocol
Tool/Function Calling
Model Eval
Public & private cloud
Chat Conversation Memory
Vector Databases
RAG
Embeddings
Structured Outputs



ChatClient API
Chat Completion
Text to Speech
Text to Image
Audio Transcription
Moderation
Observability
Advisors API
ETL

Model Context Protocol

Q Search... ⌘K

Blog GitHub ↻

Documentation Specification Registry Community

Get started

What is MCP?

About MCP

Architecture

Servers

Clients

Versioning

Develop with MCP

Connect to local MCP servers

Connect to remote MCP Servers

Build an MCP server

Build an MCP client

SDKs

Security >

Developer tools

MCP Inspector

Extensions

Extensions Overview

MCP Apps

Java SDK Overview

Introduction to the Model Context Protocol (MCP) Java SDK

Copy page

SDK Contents

[Java MCP Overview]

Java MCP Client

Java MCP Server

The Java SDK for the **Model Context Protocol** enables standardized integration between AI models and tools.

Features

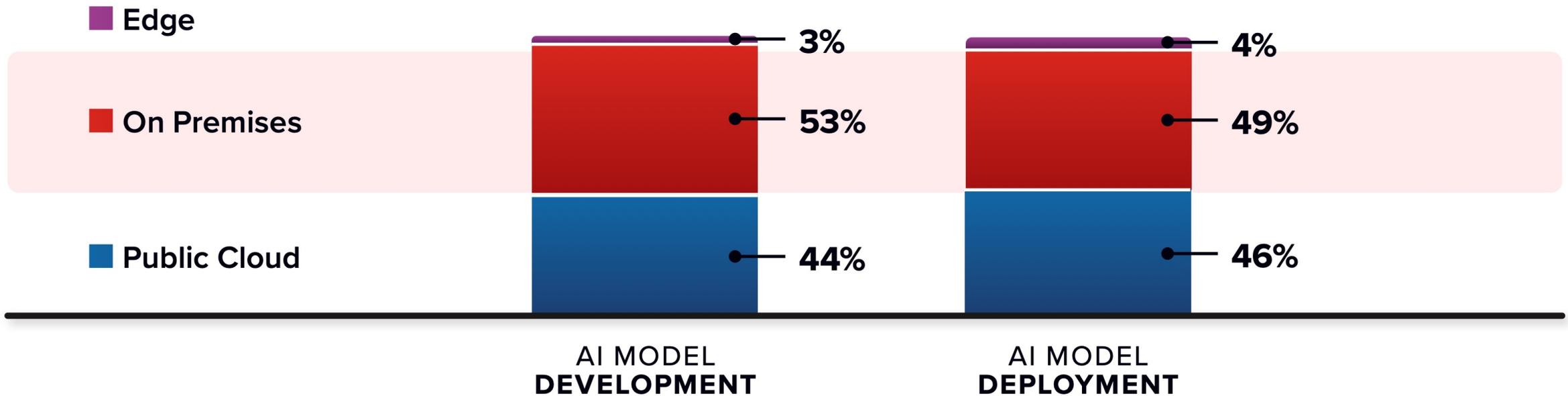
- MCP Client and MCP Server implementations supporting:
 - Protocol **version compatibility negotiation**
 - Tool** discovery, execution, list change notifications
 - Resource** management with URI templates
 - Prompt** handling and management
 - Completion** argument autocompletion suggestions for prompts and resource URIs
 - Progress** tracking for long-running operations
 - Ping** lightweight health check mechanism
 - Server Keepalive** to maintain active server connections
 - Logging** for sending structured log messages to clients
 - Roots** list management and notifications
 - Sampling** support for AI model interactions
 - Elicitation** for servers to request additional information from users through the client
- Multiple transport implementations:

FIGURE 5

Deployment Location for the Development and Deployment of AI Models

Where does your organization primarily develop and deploy AI models?

(Percentage of respondents)

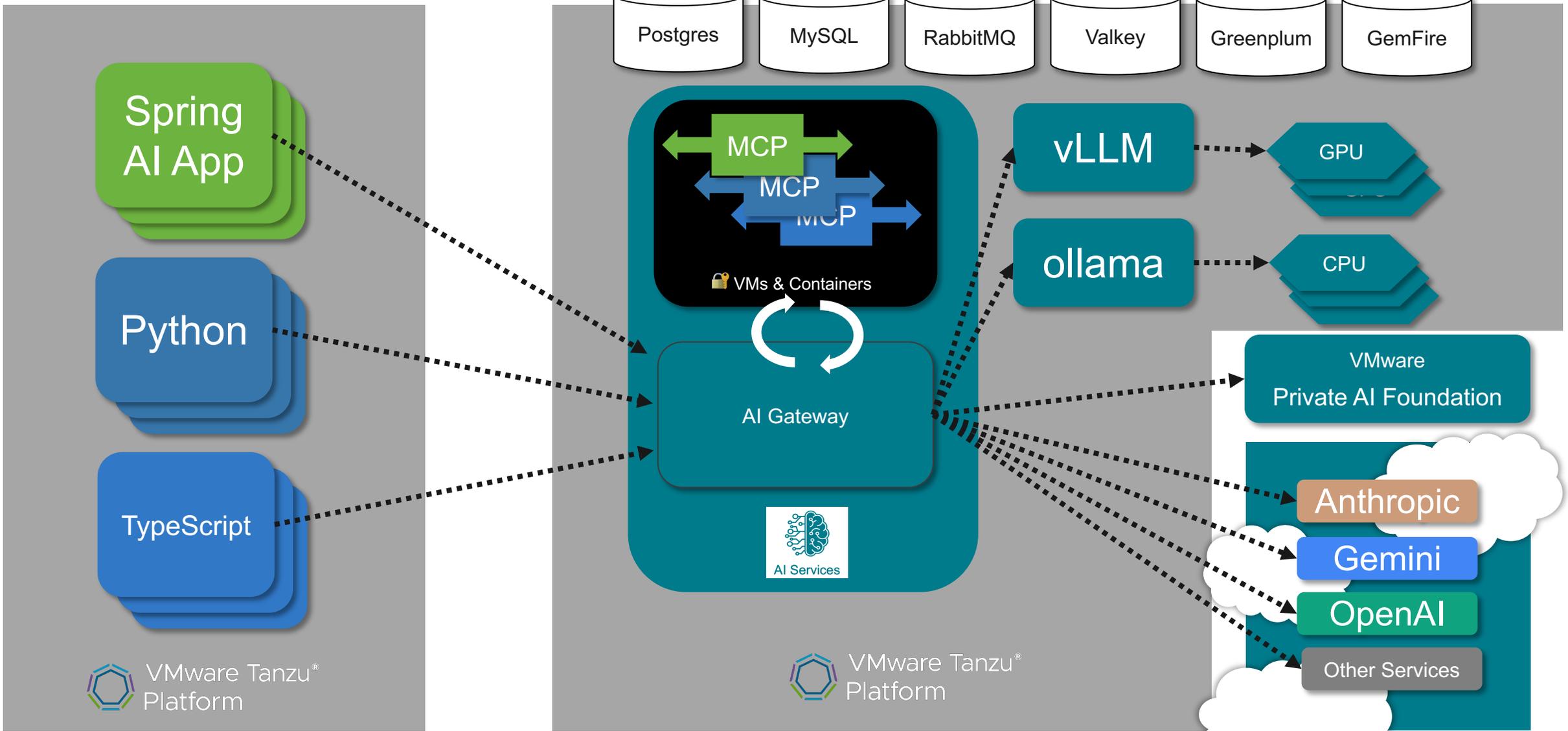


Note: Public cloud includes public cloud provider, managed services provider, and special-purpose cloud. On premises includes private cloud, traditional infrastructure, and colocation provider. n = 411; Source: IDC's *AI Infrastructure Survey*, July 2024.

For an accessible version of the data in this figure, see [Figure 5 Supplemental Data](#) in Appendix 1.

Last login: Thu May 24 16:34:03 on ttys001

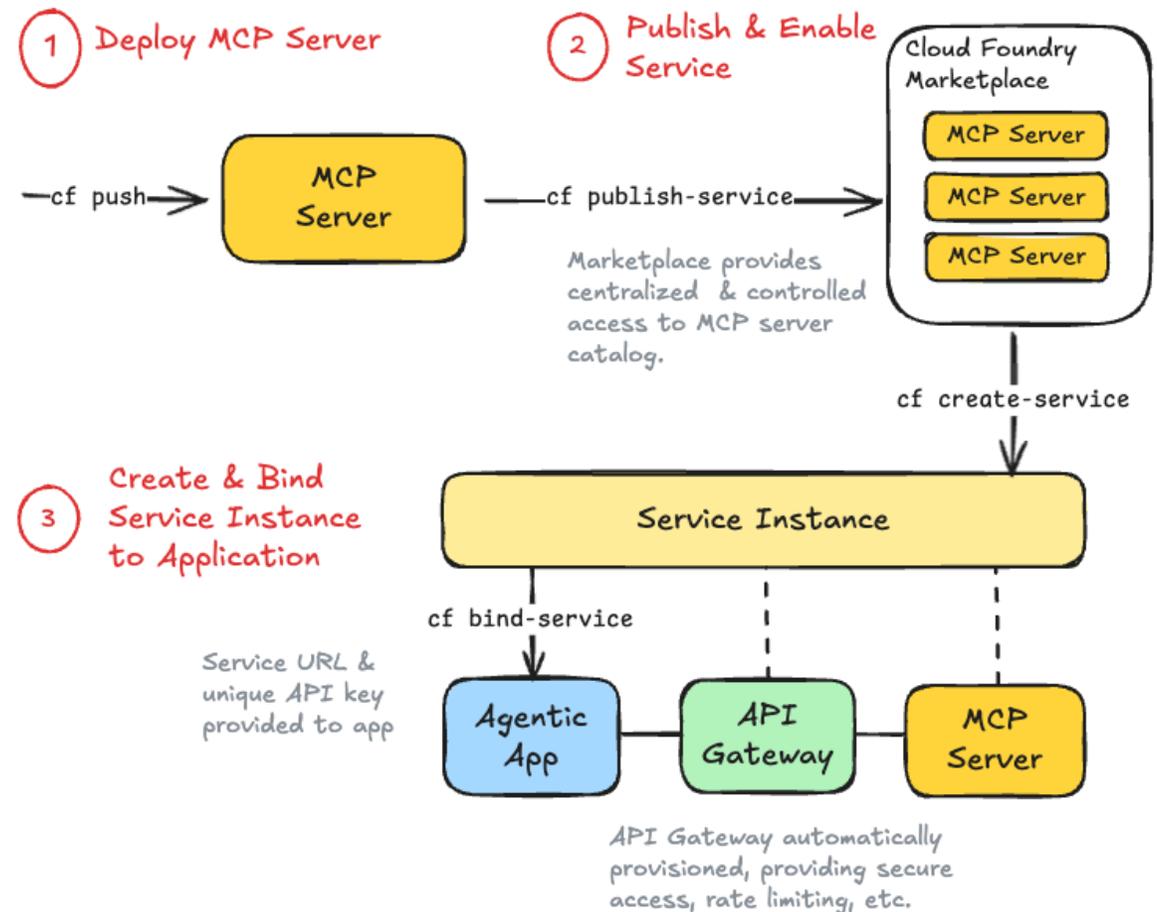
PicklesFromTheJar:~ cote\$ █



Scale 1,000's of devs, apps for hosting AI tools, models, and apps

“Standards for AI integration, like model context protocol (MCP), are very early; it's a fast-moving world, but they're not all enterprise-ready yet. The solution that Tanzu Platform provides fills the gaps in these enterprise standards while delivering the telemetry we need to understand adoption, usage and continually improve our services.”

Alan Davidson,
CIO, Broadcom



Upgrading & Modernization



60%

of Spring Boot downloads in the past 12 months
were for versions **no longer supported** in open source

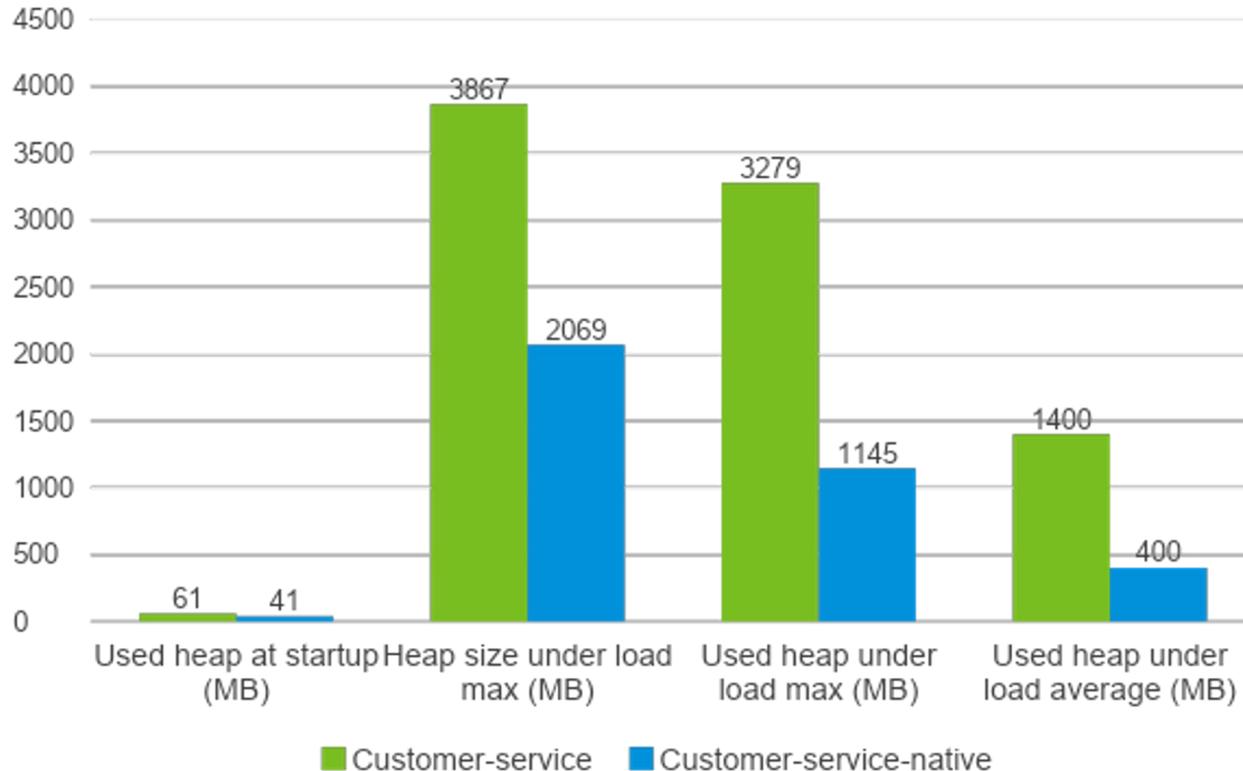
76%

of executives say
legacy software is
holding them back.

Upgrades bring performance and cost improvements

Memory Footprint Comparison

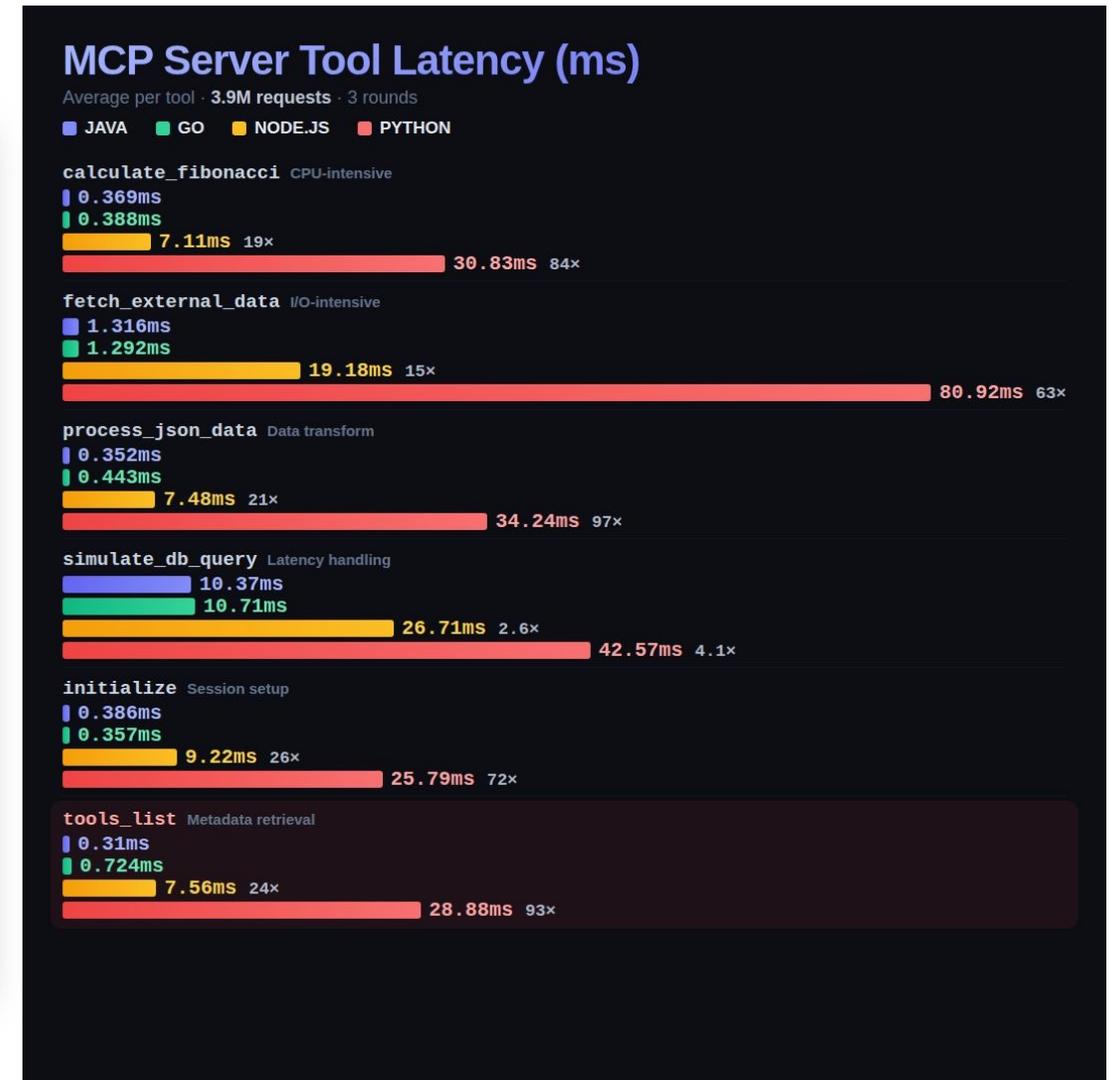
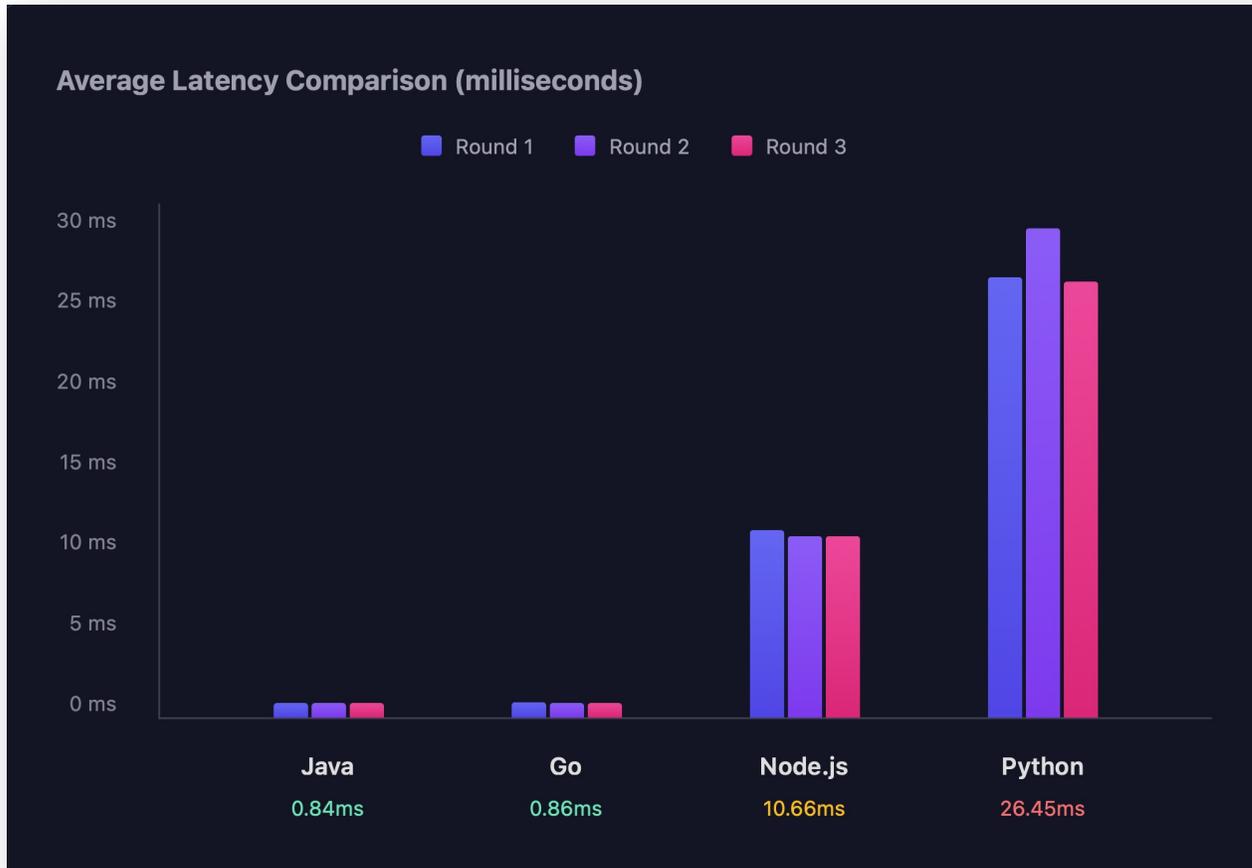
2022 native compiled



“[O]n Java 21, organizations have observed up to 20% lower memory consumption and as much as 2x faster startup, with even stronger results on Java 25.”

Tanzu internal studies, March, 2025.

Java excels at MCP performance



Tanzu Application Advisor

Merged [Auto] Upgrading spring-boot to 3.0.x, spring-framework to 6.0.x and spring-security to 6.0.x spring-advisor-to-6.0.x-3... into main

Overview 1 Commits 1 Pipelines 1 Changes 26 Add a to do

Search (e.g. *.vue) (%P)

src

- main/java/org... 'samples/petclinic'
 - model
 - BaseEntity.java +4 -4
 - NamedEntity.java +2 -2
 - Person.java +3 -3
 - owner
 - Owner.java +10 -10
 - OwnerController.java +5 -5
 - Pet.java +9 -9
 - PetController.java +5 -5
 - PetType.java +2 -2
 - PetTypeNatter.java +0 -2
 - Visit.java +4 -4
 - VisitController.java +2 -2
 - system
 - CrashController.java +4 -1
 - vet
 - Specialty.java +2 -2
 - Vet.java +7 -7
 - Vets.java +2 -2

src/main/java/org/springframework/samples/petclinic/owner/Owner.java

```
28 + import jakarta.persistence.Table;
29 + import jakarta.validation.constraints.Digits;
30 + import jakarta.validation.constraints.NotEmpty;
31 31
32 32 import org.springframework.core.style.ToStringCreator;
33 33 import org.springframework.samples.petclinic.model.Person;
```

src/main/java/org/springframework/samples/petclinic/owner/OwnerController.java

```
@@ -17,7 +17,7 @@ package org.springframework.samples.petclinic.owner;
17 17
18 18 import java.util.List;
19 19 import java.util.Map;
20 - import javax.validation.Valid;
20 + import jakarta.validation.Valid;
21 21 import org.springframework.data.domain.Page;
22 22 import org.springframework.data.domain.PageRequest;
23 23 import org.springframework.data.domain.Pageable;

@@ -56,7 +56,7 @@ class OwnerController {
56 56 }
57 57
58 58 @ModelAttribute("owner")
59 - public Owner findOwner(@PathVariable(name = "ownerId", required = false)
Integer ownerId) {
59 + public Owner findOwner(@PathVariable(required = false) Integer ownerId) {
60 60 return ownerId == null ? new Owner() : this.owners.findById(ownerId);
61 61 }
62 62

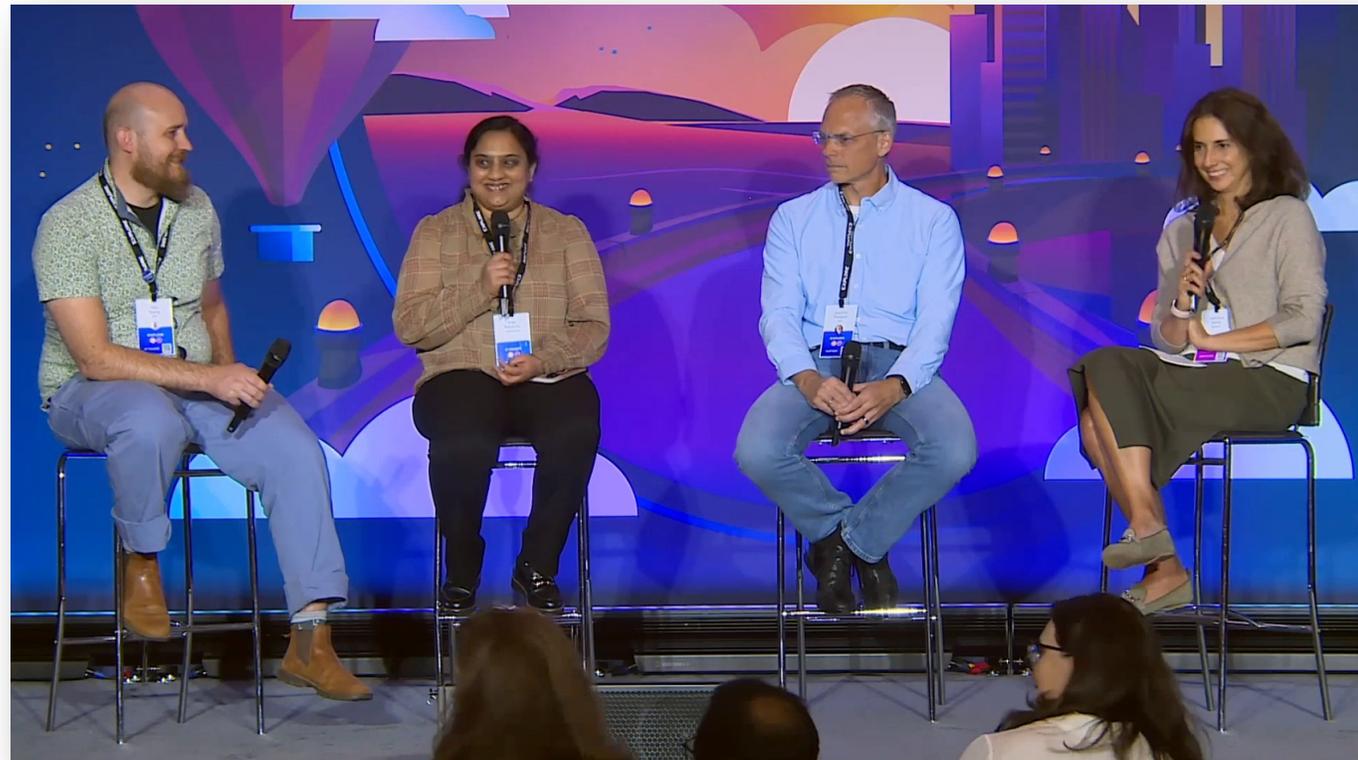
@@ -126,7 +126,7 @@ class OwnerController {
```

- Step 1:
 - * Upgrade java from 11 to 17
- Step 2:
 - * Upgrade spring-data-jpa from 2.7.x to 3.0.x
 - * Upgrade hibernate-orm from 5.6.x to 6.1.x
 - * Upgrade spring-framework from 5.3.x to 6.0.x
 - * Upgrade spring-boot from 2.7.x to 3.0.x
 - * Upgrade spring-data-commons from 2.7.x to 3.0.x
 - * Upgrade micrometer from 1.9.x to 1.10.x
- Step 3:
 - * Upgrade spring-data-jpa from 3.0.x to 3.1.x
 - * Upgrade hibernate-orm from 6.1.x to 6.2.x
 - * Upgrade spring-boot from 3.0.x to 3.1.x
 - * Upgrade spring-data-commons from 3.0.x to 3.1.x
 - * Upgrade micrometer from 1.10.x to 1.11.x
- Step 4:
 - * Upgrade spring-data-jpa from 3.1.x to 3.2.x
 - * Upgrade hibernate-orm from 6.2.x to 6.4.x
 - * Upgrade spring-framework from 6.0.x to 6.1.x
 - * Upgrade spring-boot from 3.1.x to 3.2.x
 - * Upgrade spring-data-commons from 3.1.x to 3.2.x
 - * Upgrade micrometer from 1.11.x to 1.12.x
- Step 5:
 - * Upgrade spring-data-jpa from 3.2.x to 3.3.x
 - * Upgrade hibernate-orm from 6.4.x to 6.5.x
 - * Upgrade spring-boot from 3.2.x to 3.3.x
 - * Upgrade spring-data-commons from 3.2.x to 3.3.x
 - * Upgrade micrometer from 1.12.x to 1.13.x
- Step 6:
 - * Upgrade spring-data-jpa from 3.3.x to 3.4.x
 - * Upgrade hibernate-orm from 6.5.x to 6.6.x
 - * Upgrade spring-framework from 6.1.x to 6.2.x
 - * Upgrade spring-boot from 3.3.x to 3.4.x
 - * Upgrade spring-data-commons from 3.3.x to 3.4.x
 - * Upgrade micrometer from 1.13.x to 1.14.x

“ Our upgrade time has significantly reduced...
Actually 70%.”

Sree Alaparthy

alight



Tanzu Spring



Built for enterprises
by the creators of
Spring



Comprehensive Security
across the entire
application lifecycle



Simplified compliance with
automated controls and
reporting



"Organizations using VMware Tanzu Spring reduced security incidents by 62% while accelerating deployment frequency by 43%."

IDC Business Value Study, 2023

- Give**
- Security & Compliance
 - Modernization
 - Performance & Cost
 - AI apps & strategy

- Get**
- Integrated AI app platform
 - Newest versions of Spring
 - Career in Spring & Java
 - Fun & happiness



Slides & stuff



Thank You