

New Java 5 features

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Java 5 encompasses the first set of new language features since Java 2.

These features are:-

Autoboxing - This allows you to use primitives and objects without needing to put in the wrapper classes (The compiler still adds these so there is no real performance advantage, but it aids readability)

Variable Args - Just like in C++ you can now call a method with a variable number of arguments - so things like printf and scanf become possible

printf - new printf method just like in C++

Scanners - this is a new method for reading input - similar to scanf

Static imports - a new import static keywords allows you to specify a package prefix, which you can then miss out of the code aiding readability

Enums - Java now has standard enums :-)

Generics - Java now allows you to specify types in collections and other calls.

A good synopsis of this can be found at <http://www.sitepoint.com/article/introducing-java-5/> thanks to Andy Grant for writing that article.