Unbeknownst to the team, he and a couple of other Sun senior executives had been negotiating with Netscape's Marc Andreessen throughout the night.

THE OFFICIAL BIRTH OF JAVA TECHNOLOGY...

Scott McNealy and other managers in Sun Microsystems had seen enough to commit. They decided to announce Java technology to their customers during the keynote speech at the upcoming SunWorld™ Conference.

It was May 23, 1995, and McNealy described the new technology to the conference crowd. Their enthusiastic response was more than he expected, and he still had a surprise up his sleeve.

McNealy signaled for Andreessen to come onstage. Andreessen and Netscape were well-known and highly regarded throughout the industry, especially to Sun customers. After all, they turned the Internet from an esoteric place used by academics and scientists to a tool accessible to the general public, first with their Mosaic browser, then again with the vastly improved Netscape Navigator™ browser. Sitting behind the easily accessible power of the Netscape browser, the Web had become a phenomenon that was impossible to ignore.

Andreessen took the microphone and announced that the next release of the browser, Netscape Navigator 2.0, would come with embedded Java technology. This was just the endorsement the fledgling technology needed. The crowd went wild. The final handshake on the agreement had come in the wee hours of that morning.

