Installing Java on Linux

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In the early days of Linux, obtaining a proper Java installation and getting it to work could be quite difficult.

This was due to a combination of technical/licensing or political/philosophical issues. As a result, the early implementations had serious deficiencies and tended to not be up to date with official releases from Oracle/Sun.

Today, the situation is both easier and more stable. All major Linux distributors prepackage and configure a JRE (Java Runtime Environment) and/or a JDK (Java Development Kit); the JRE is usually part of a default installation, and the JDK is easily added if necessary.

For example, on Red Hat Enterprise Linux and similar distributions, it is sufficient to do:

```
$ sudo yum install java-1.8.0-openjdk
```

to get the JRE, and:

```
$ sudo yum install java-1.8.0-openjdk-devel
```

to get the full JDK. You may have to update the version number, of course.

On recent Ubuntu distributions, you can do:

```
 $ sudo apt-get install default-jre default-jdk
```

or

```
$ sudo apt-get install openjdk-8-jre openjdk--jdk
```

which will accomplish the same task since **openjdk** is the default.

If, for some reason, you need an official release version from Oracle/Sun rather than the standard package provided from your Linux distribution, it can be obtained from Oracle's website.

Likewise, if you want the official release of the IBM version of Java, it can be obtained from IBM's website.