

Setting the Classpath in Java

This page is obsolete.

To use our standard library files (`StdDraw.java`, `StdIn.java`, and `StdOut.java`), you can place them in the same directory as the main program you are writing. A drawback with this approach is that you end up with many copies of the same library files, scattered in different directories. Java's *classpath* mechanism allows you to store and access the library files from a common directory.

Organizing the Shared Libraries

Place the shared library files (`StdDraw.java`, `StdIn.java`, and `StdOut.java`) in a common directory, say `C:\introcs`. Go to that directory and compile them.

Setting the Classpath in DrJava

To set the classpath for DrJava:

- From DrJava, choose the menu option *Edit -> Preferences -> Resource Locations -> Extra Classpath -> Add* and select `C:\introcs`. Click the *Apply* button, then the *OK* button.

Setting the Classpath for the Windows Command Prompt

To set the classpath for the Windows XP Command Prompt:

- Select *Start -> Control Panel -> System -> Advanced -> Environment Variables -> System Variables -> CLASSPATH*.
- If the Classpath variable exists, prepend `.;C:\introcs` to the *beginning* of the `CLASSPATH` variable.
- If the `CLASSPATH` variable does not exist, select *New*. Type **CLASSPATH** for the variable name and `.;C:\introcs` for the variable value.
- Click OK three times.

Setting the Classpath in OS X

To set the classpath for the bash shell in OS X:

- Use your favorite text editor (e.g., TextEdit) to add the following line to the file `/Users/username/.bashrc`.

```
export CLASSPATH=./Users/username/introcs/
```

If the file doesn't exist, create a new one.

- Close the Terminal and open a new one. If it does not work, in addition, try repeating the same instructions with the file `/Users/username/.profile` or `/Users/username/.bash_profile`.

Troubleshooting

Here are a few suggestions that might help correct any installation woes you are experiencing. If you need assistance, don't hesitate to contact a staff member.

How can I check the value of my **CLASSPATH** variable?

- *Windows Command Prompt* Type the following at the command prompt.

```
C:\introcs\hello\> echo %CLASSPATH%
```

The `CLASSPATH` variable should begin with `.;C:\introcs`.

- *OS X and Linux* Type the following at the shell.

```
echo $CLASSPATH
```