

JAVA COMPILATION PROCESS

Java is the programming language which is called a high level language. Before they can run, programs in high level language have to be translated into low level language, also called machine language. Two kinds of programs translate high level language into low level languages are interpreters and compilers. An interpreter reads a high level program and executes it, meaning that it does what the program says. In contrast, a compiler reads the entire program and translates it completely before the program starts running.

The Java compiler is a program named `javac`. It translates `.java` files into `.class` files that store the resulting byte code. The Java interpreter is another program, named `java` which is short for Java Virtual Machine (JVM). We write source code in the file `Hello.java` and use `javac` to compile it. If there are no errors, the compiler saves the byte code in the file `Hello.class`. To run the program, we use `java` to interpret the byte code. The result of the program is then displayed on the screen.

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