Manually Setting the Driver Station to Start SmartDashboard

If WPILib is not installed to the default location (such as when files are copied to a PC manually), the "C++" or "Java" buttons may not properly launch the SmartDashboard. To have the DS start the SmartDashboard when it starts up you have to manually modify the settings for the Default Dashboard.

⚠ This is not needed for most installations, try using the appropriate Dashboard Type setting for your language first.

Set DS to Default
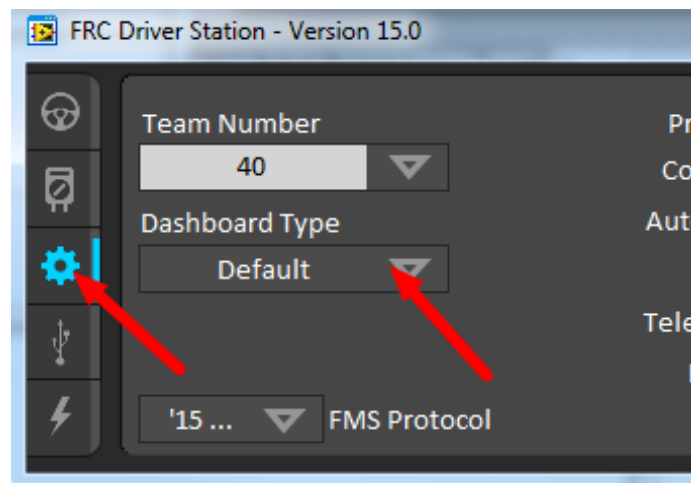
Open the Driver Station software, click on the Setup tab and set the Dashboard setting to Default. **Then close the Driver Station!**

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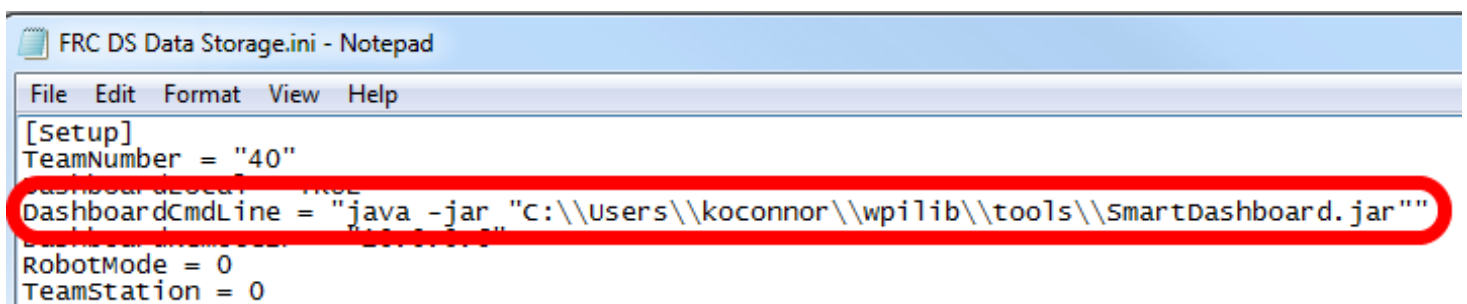
Locate SmartDashboard

Find the location of the SmartDashboard jar file. It should be installed to C:\Users\USERNAME\ wpilib\tools where USERNAME is the username of the user logged into the computer.

Open DS Data Storage file
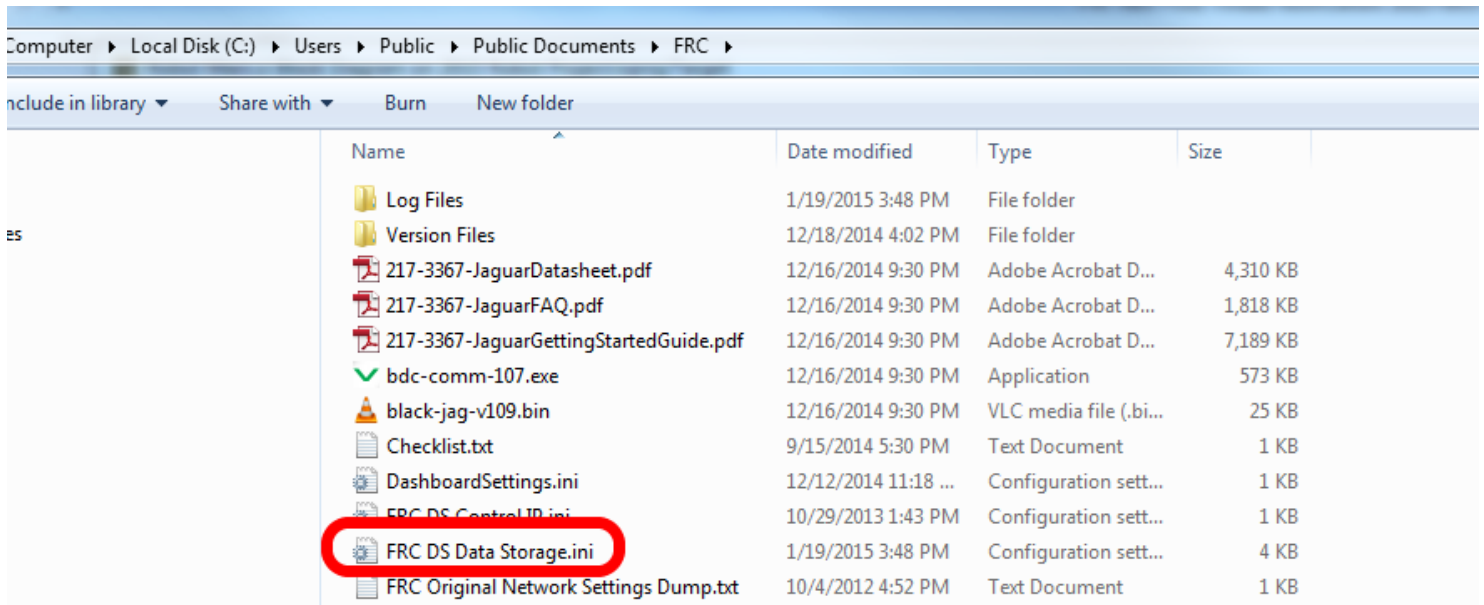
Browse to "C:\Users\Public\Documents\FRC" and double click on "FRC DS Data Storage" to open it.

DashboardCmdLine

Locate the line beginning with **DasboardCmdLine**. Replace the string after = with **"java -jar "C:\\Users\\USERNAME\\wpilib\\tools\\SmartDashboard.jar""** where Username is the username determined above. Save the file.

Launch DS

The Driver Station should now launch the SmartDashboard each time it is opened.