# Project Setup Guide: The Chef's Table

## 📝 Overview

This document outlines the steps required to set up and run 'The Chef's Table' restaurant management system. The project source code and necessary files are provided in the repository.

## 🚨 CRITICAL KNOWN ISSUE (NetBeans Configuration Error)

Due to persistent NetBeans configuration errors, a stable standalone executable (.jar or .exe) could not be generated. Therefore, the application must be run directly from the source code within the Apache NetBeans IDE. All testing and execution should be performed using the IDE's internal run command.

## 💻 System Prerequisites

Please ensure the following software components are installed on your machine:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Component | Minimum Version | Purpose |
| Java Development Kit (JDK) | 17 | Required for compiling and running Java applications. |
| Apache NetBeans IDE | 12.0 | Required to run the project from source. |
| XAMPP | Latest stable | Required to host the MySQL database locally (using Apache and MySQL services). |

## ⚙️ Configuration and Setup

Follow these steps carefully to configure the project environment.

1. Step 1: Obtain and Prepare Project Files

Extract the main project source code from the repository file EAD1-Repeat.7z to a suitable directory (e.g., D:\Projects\). Launch the Apache NetBeans IDE, go to File → Open Project, and select the extracted folder.

1. Step 2: Start XAMPP and Configure Database

Launch XAMPP Control Panel → Start Apache and MySQL → Open phpMyAdmin (http://localhost/phpmyadmin) → Create database 'ead1\_repeat\_db' → Import SQL script 'ead1-repeat-fix.sql'.

1. Step 3: Verify Database Connection Details

Open DatabaseConfig.java and confirm database settings (default user: root, password: empty).

1. Step 4: Clean and Build the Project

Right-click on the project in NetBeans → Select 'Clean and Build' → Ensure 'BUILD SUCCESSFUL' appears in output window.

### Database Configuration

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Property | Default Value | Notes |
| DB\_URL | jdbc:mysql://localhost:3307/ead1\_repeat\_db | Ensure the database name is ead1\_repeat\_db |
| DB\_USER | root | Change if you set a custom MySQL user. |
| DB\_PASSWORD | "" (empty string) | Change if you set a MySQL root password. |

## 📦 Project Dependencies (Required Libraries)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Dependency | Version | Purpose/Notes |
| mysql-connector-j | 9.0.0 | JDBC Driver for MySQL database connection. |
| jasperreports | 7.0.3 | The main reporting engine. |
| itextpdf | 5.5.13.4 | PDF generation library (for report exports). |
| jfreechart | 1.5.6 | Charting library (used for generating graphs). |
| jcommon | 1.0.23 | Core library for JFreeChart. |
| AbsoluteLayout | N/A | Swing/AWT layout helper used in the GUI. |
| jackson-core | 2.20.0 | Jackson core processing library for data binding. |
| jackson-annotations | 3.0-rc5 | Jackson annotations for data binding. |
| jackson-databind | 2.20.0 | Jackson data binding library. |
| jackson-dataformat-xml | 2.20.0 | Jackson XML parser for JRXML files. |
| commons-logging | 1.2 | Apache logging utility. |
| commons-beanutils | 1.11.0 | Apache utilities for JavaBeans. |
| commons-collections4 | 4.1 | Apache collection data structures. |
| commons-digester | 2.1 | Apache XML-to-object mapping tool. |
| stax2-api | 4.2.2 | STAX2 XML API interface. |
| woodstox-core | 7.1.1 | High-performance XML implementation. |

## ▶️ Running the Application

Run the application ONLY using the NetBeans IDE.  
  
In the NetBeans IDE, ensure the project is selected.  
Click the Run Project button (green play icon) or press F6.  
The application will start, and the Login Window should appear, confirming setup success.