Setting the Target JDK in a Project in NetBeans

Source	http://www.netbeans.org/kb/55/using-netbeans/project_setup.html#51535

By default, the IDE uses the version of the J2SE platform (JDK) with which the IDE runs as the default Java platform for compilation, execution, and debugging. You can view your IDE's JDK version by choosing Help > About and clicking the Detail tab. The JDK version is listed in the Java field.

You can run the IDE with a different JDK version by starting the IDE with the --jdkhome jdk-home-dir switch from the command line or in your IDE-HOME/etc/netbeans.conf file. For more information, see Configuring IDE Startup Switches.
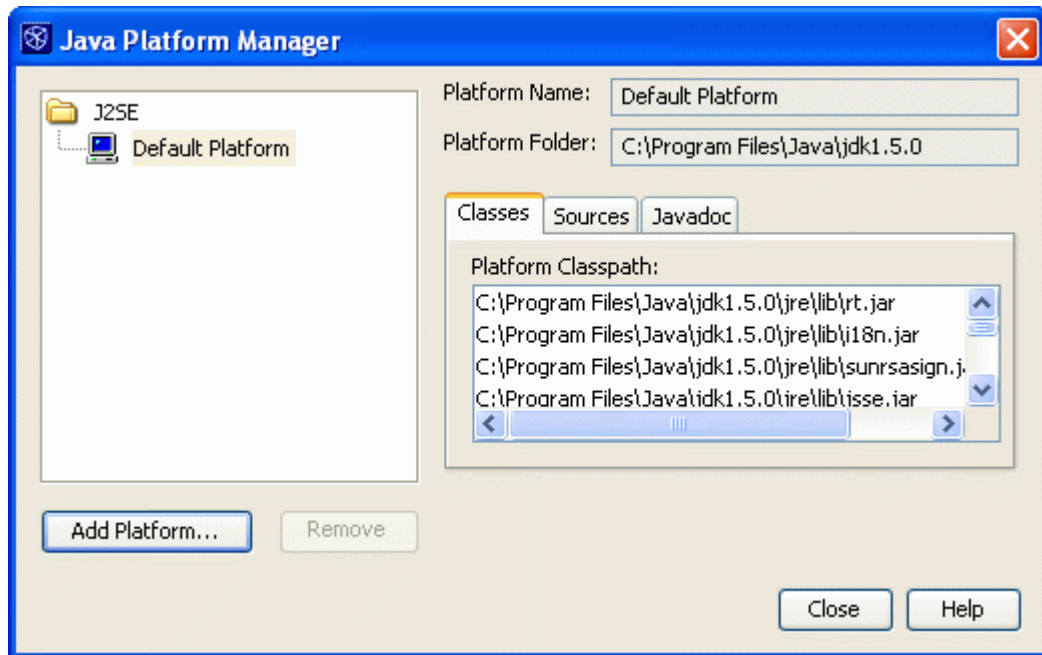
In the IDE, you can register multiple Java platforms and attach Javadoc and source code to each platform. Switching the target JDK for a standard project does the following:

- Offers the new target JDK's classes for code completion.
- If available, displays the target JDK's source code and Javadoc documentation.
- Uses the target JDK's executables (javac and java) to compile and execute your application.
- Compiles your source code against the target JDK's libraries.

You can switch the target JDK of your project by doing the following:

- **Standard projects.** In standard projects you switch the target JDK in the Libraries panel of the Project Properties dialog box.
- **Free-form projects.** In free-form projects you have to set the target JDK in the Ant script itself, then specify the source level in the Sources page of the Project Properties dialog box. You set the source level in the Project Properties dialog box because this is what the IDE uses to determine the JDK to use for your Javadoc and sources for your project. If the IDE cannot find a JDK corresponding to the source level specified, the IDE's default JDK is used.

To register a new Java platform, choose Tools > Java Platform Manager from the main menu. Specify the directory that contains the Java platform as well as the sources and Javadoc needed for debugging.

Java Platform Manager

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