
Java Web Start



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Overview of Java Web Start

- Java Web Start is a framework that allows a user to start a Java application directly from the Internet
 - Via a link in a "download" page in a browser
- Java Web Start supports "normal" Java applications
 - The user uses the Internet to download the Java application
 - The application runs in a separate frame
 - Note: The application is limited to the same sandbox limitations as for applets, for safety reasons
- Benefits of Java Web Start:
 - Simplified deployment - users download the app themselves
 - Easier for a company to update versions - just put the latest version on the download site



Preparing an Application for Java Web Start

- If you want your application to be available for users to install via Java Web Start:
 - Place your application code resources on a web server that runs on SSL (i.e. has an `https://` address)
 - Create a special XML file with a `.jnlp` file extension
 - In this `.jnlp` file, specify the application requirements, code location, parameters, and permissions (see example later)
 - Add a link on your website, pointing to the `.jnlp` file

- Note:
 - JNLP means Java Network Launching Protocol



Installing an Application via Java Web Start

- If a user wants to install an application via Java Web Start:
 - Open a browser (or other JNLP client tool) and navigate to the web site that contains a link to the `.jnlp` file
 - Click the `.jnlp` link, to download the file to the browser
- The browser parses the `.jnlp` file, and then:
 - Requests the resources specified in the `.jnlp` file (e.g. JAR files)
 - Waits until all the required resources have been downloaded
 - Launches the application
- Note:
 - A `.jnlp` file can list resources as "lazy"
 - The JNLP client will only load such resources when needed



Example .jnlp File

- Here's an example of a typical .jnlp file:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<jnlp codebase="http://www.MyDomain.com/MyApps">

  <information>
    <title>My JNLP example</title>
    <vendor>Me!</vendor>
    <offline-allowed/>
  </information>

  <security>
    <all-permissions/>
  </security>

  <resources>
    <j2se version="1.6+"/>
    <jar href="MyApp.jar"/>
  </resources>

  <application-desc main-class="mypackage.Main"/>

  <update check="background"/>

</jnlp>
```

Any Questions?

