**TO RUN MESQUITE ON WINDOWS**

**PREREQUISITE: JAVA**

To start Mesquite, you need Java 9 or later installed. We recommend Java 21 or later. Download the **JDK version of Java**, available from oracle.com (e.g., try searching "download java jdk oracle").

You should NOT try to run Mesquite from the .zip file that you downloaded. You should copy Mesquite\_Folder to your storage drive and run it from there.

**STARTING MESQUITE**

To start Mesquite, double click on one of the apps or executable files with the name "**Mesquite\_Starter\_#GB.exe**", where # is 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, or 128. The number indicates the GB of memory that Mesquite will reserve for its use. For datasets of a few hundred or thousand characters, you should be OK with 2 or 4 GB. For genomic datasets, e.g. 100 taxa and over 1,000,000 characters, you may need 32 GB or higher.

**Mesquite\_Starter.bat** — This is for power users or if all else fails. You can edit the memory requirements in the text of the file.

**UNBLOCKING MESQUITE**

Because Windows will likely put up a security block each time you try to run Mesquite, you may want to unblock it. On Windows 11 you can do that by right clicking on the executable, choose Properties, and select Unblock under General.

**WHAT IF MESQUITE DOESN'T START?**

First, make sure you have java installed. One way to check is to go to the Command Prompt, and type "java --version" to see if the installed version of java is shown.

Second, make sure you haven't moved the starter apps. These starter apps should be in the Mesquite\_Folder, and should stay there. These double-clickable apps do not hold all of Mesquite's working code; they just get the code started. The working code is distributed among various files in Mesquite\_Folder.

Third, if you have an old Windows operating system or an old version of Java, you may need to use Mesquite 3.81 instead.

Fourth, there is a chance that Windows has changed since we released this version of Mesquite. Operating systems are constantly changing their security barriers, and it is difficult for us to keep up. If you are technically inclined, and find a way to build a starter app that bypasses whatever is the latest challenge thrown our way, please share it with the Mesquite community!