**What is Java Web Start and how is it launched?**

**What is Java Web Start?**

The Java Web Start software allows you to download and run Java applications from the web. The Java Web Start software:

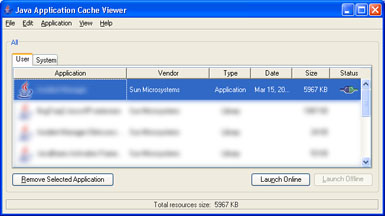
* Provides an easy, one-click activation of applications
* Guarantees that you are always running the latest version of the application
* Eliminates complicated installation or upgrade procedures

**Getting Java Web Start Software**

Java Web Start is included in the Java Runtime Environment (JRE) since release of Java 5.0. This means that when you install Java, you get Java Web Start installed automatically. The Java Web Start software is launched automatically, when a Java application using Java Web Start technology is downloaded for the first time. The Java Web Start software caches (stores) the entire application locally on your computer. Thus, any subsequent launches are almost instantaneous as all the required resources are already available locally. Every time you start the application, the Java Web Start software component checks the application's website to see if a new version is available, and if so, automatically downloads and launches it.

**Launching an Application Using Java Web Start Software**

* **From a browser:** Click on a link from a web page.
* **From desktop icon:** If you use an application frequently, you can create a shortcut on your desktop or in the Start Menu. Java Web Start may ask if you would like to create shortcuts or an entry in the Start Menu. If you say 'yes,' all future launches of the application can start without a browser.
* **From Java Application Cache Viewer:** Java Web Start also provides an Application Cache Viewer which you can launch from the Java Control Panel. The Cache viewer enables you to directly launch applications that you have downloaded.  
    
  **Instructions to launch from Application Cache Viewer**
  1. Go to **Start** > **Settings** > **Control Panel** > Double click on the **Java** icon. The Java Control Panel will start.
  2. Click on the **General** tab
  3. Click on the **Settings** button from the **Temporary Internet Files** section
  4. Click on the **View Applications** button
  5. Double click on the respective application from the list that you want to launch



* **From command prompt:** You can also launch an application from a command prompt by typing **javaws *jnlp\_url*** where *jnlp\_url* is a url to the jnlp file of the application.
  1. Go to **Start** > **Run** > **type** "command". A command prompt window will appear.
  2. **Type** "javaws url\_of\_jnlp"

Java Web Start uses the HTTP protocol for communication between the client and the server

The total size of the Java Web Start Bundle is about 38 MB. If the editor is run for the first time, the Java Web Start will download the entire package ; the next time it will check only for modified jar files (an upgrade) and eventually download them. If this is not the case, the application will start immediately.

Press "Start" when the Java™ Web Start finishes the download

**Can I deploy any application with Java Web Start?**

Java Web Start is an application launcher for Java 2 technology based applications that are written to be Web-deployed.

An application must be delivered in a set of JAR files and all application resources, such as images, configuration files and Native libraries, must be included in the JAR files. The resources must be looked up using the ClassLoader getResource or another method. Java Web Start only transfers JAR files from the Web server to the client.