Install the applications in the following order.
1. JDK 8u251
2. JDK 16
3. NetBeans 12.4
4. MySQL
5. Adding JDK 8 as a Java Platform (in NetBeans)
6. Installing Payara Server (in NetBeans)
7. Creating a MySQL Connection (in NetBeans)

Installing JDK 8, JDK 16, NetBeans, and MySQL

Installation is pretty straightforward for all applications listed in the title. Please, read the notes below before you start the installation.

Notes for NetBeans
- After starting NetBeans for the first time, you will be asked to install/update some plugins. Please, do so and do not skip this part.

Notes for MySQL
- During the Configuration step, you will be asked to type a password. Choose "Use Strong Password Encryption" and type a password of your choice, and do not forget your password.
- Choose "Server Only" during setup.

Adding JDK 8 as a Java Platform (in NetBeans)
- Open the "Tools" menu, then "Options."
- Go to the "Java" tab, then to the "Java Shell" tab.
- Click on "Manage..." next to the "Java Platform."
- Click on "Add Platform..." at the bottom left of the window.
- Choose "Java Standard Edition" and click on "Next >."
- Follow the same file path as JDK 16 but find JDK 8's folder. That is, often under C:\Program Files\Java\.
- Click on "Next >" and type "JDK8" as a "Platform Name."
- NetBeans will complete other input areas by itself.
- Click on "Finish," you should see JDK8 in the list now.

Installing Payara Server (in NetBeans)
- Go to the "Services" tab on the Netbeans (If you do not see the "Services" tab, click on Windows > Reset Windows)
- Right-click on "Servers."
- Click on "Add server."

- Choose **Payara Server** from the server list.
- Choose an "Installation Location" (and make sure there is no space in the installation path). Please note, if you remove the Payara Server folder later, you won't be able to use it anymore.
- Choose "Local Domain."
- Below "Choose Payara Server 5.201", you will see the "Download" option, click it and wait for NetBeans to download and install Payara Server. (this will take some time)
- After it is done, click "Next."
- Leave the "Domain" as it is (i.e., "domain1"), type a user name and password (if you want to).

Creating a MySQL Connection (in NetBeans)
- First, extract the JAR file in the mysql-connector-java ZIP file.
- Then, open NetBeans and do the following:
  - Go to the "Services" tab on the Netbeans (If you do not see the "Services" tab, click on Windows > Reset Windows)
  - Right-click on "Databases" and click on "New Connection."
  - From the "Driver" menu, choose "MySQL (Connector/J driver)."
  - Click on "Add..." and locate the MySQL driver JAR file on your computer.
  - Click on "Next >."
  - Type your password in "Password." The same password you set during MySQL installation.
  - Click on "Test Connection" to see if everything works well.
  - Click on "Next >." until the end, then click on "Finish."