Java Development Kit ()

Installing, Configuring and Running

The [app]` Platform` is written in Java; therefore, before running any server, you must have a working Java Runtime Environment () or Java Development Kit () installed on your system. In addition, the JRE or JDK you are using to run [app] must be version 7.

Should I Install the JRE or JDK?

Although you can run servers using the Java Runtime Environment, we assume that most users are developers interested in developing Java-based, [app]-driven solutions. Therefore, in this guide we take the tact of showing how to install the full Java Development Kit.

Should I Install the 32-Bit or the 64-Bit JDK, and Does It Matter?

Briefly stated: if you are running on a 64-Bit Linux or Windows platform, you should consider installing and running the 64-bit JDK over the 32-bit one. Here are some heuristics for determining whether you would rather run the 64-bit Java Virtual Machine (JVM) over its 32-bit cousin for your application:

- Wider datapath: the pipe between RAM and CPU is doubled, which improves the performance of memory-bound applications when using a 64-bit JVM.
- 64-bit memory addressing gives virtually unlimited (1 exabyte) heap allocation. However large heaps affect garbage collection.
- Applications that run with more than 1.5 GB of RAM (including free space for garbage collection optimization) should utilize the 64-bit JVM.
- Applications that run on a 32-bit JVM and do not require more than minimal heap sizes will gain nothing from a 64-bit JVM. Barring memory issues, 64-bit hardware with the same relative clock speed and architecture is not likely to run Java applications faster than their 32-bit cousin.

Note that the following instructions detail how to download and install the 32-bit JDK, although the steps are nearly identical for installing the 64-bit version.

Downloading

You can download the Sun JDK 7 (Java 2 Development Kit) from Sun's website: http://java.sun.com/javase/downloads/index_jdk5.jsp. Click on the Download link next to "JDK 5.0 Update <x>`" (where [replaceable]<x>` is the latest minor version release number). On the next page, select your language and platform (both architecture—whether 32- or 64-bit—and operating system), read and agree to the Java Development Kit 5.0 License Agreement, and proceed to the download page.

The Sun website will present two download alternatives to you: one is an RPM inside a self-extracting file (for example, *jdk-1_5_0_16-linux-i586-rpm.bin*), and the other is merely a self-extracting file (e.g. *jdk-1_5_0_16-linux-i586.bin*). If you are installing the JDK on Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Fedora, or another RPM-based Linux system, we suggest that you download the self-extracting file containing the RPM package, which will set up and use the SysV service scripts in addition to installing the JDK. We also suggest installing the self-extracting RPM file if you will be running [app]`` in a production environment.

Installing

The following procedures detail how to install the Java Development Kit on both Linux and Windows.

Procedure: Installing the JDK on Linux

1. Regardless of which file you downloaded, you can install it on Linux by simply making sure the file is executable and then running it:

```
~]$ chmod +x "jdk-1_5_0_<minor_version>-linux-<architecture>-rpm.bin"
~]$ ./"jdk-1_5_0_<minor_version>-linux-<architecture>-rpm.bin"
```

You Installed Using the Non-RPM Installer, but Want the SysV Service Scripts

If you download the non-RPM self-extracting file (and installed it), and you are running on an RPM-based system, you can still set up the SysV service scripts by downloading and installing one of the `-compat` packages from the JPackage project. Remember to download the `-compat` package which corresponds correctly to the minor release number of the JDK you installed. The compat packages are available from link:ftp://jpackage.hmdc.harvard.edu/JPackage/1.7/generic/RPMS.non-free/.

You do not need to install a `-compat` package in addition to the JDK if you installed the self-extracting RPM file! The `-compat` package merely performs the same SysV service script set up that the RPM version of the JDK installer does.

Procedure: Installing the JDK on Windows

1. Using Explorer, simply double-click the downloaded self-extracting installer and follow the instructions to install the JDK.

Configuring

Configuring your system for the JDK consists in two tasks: setting the `JAVA_HOME` environment variable, and ensuring that the system is using the proper JDK (or JRE) using the `alternatives` command. Setting `JAVA_HOME` usually overrides the values for `java`, `javac` and `java_sdk_1.5.0` in `alternatives`, but we will set them all just to be safe and consistent.

Setting the `JAVA_HOME` Environment Variable on Generic Linux

After installing the JDK, you must ensure that the `JAVA_HOME` environment variable exists and points to the location of your JDK installation.

Setting `java`, `javac` and `java_sdk_1.5.0` Using the `alternatives` command

As the root user, call `/usr/sbin/alternatives` with the `--config java` option to select between JDKs and JREs installed on your system:

Setting the `JAVA_HOME` Environment Variable on Windows

For information on how to set environment variables in Windows, refer to http://support.microsoft.com/kb/931715.

Testing

Finally, to make sure that you are using the correct JDK or Java version (5 or higher), and that the java executable is in your `PATH`, run the `java -version ` command in the terminal from your home directory:

```
~]$ java -version
java version "1.5.0_16"
Java(TM) 2 Runtime Environment, Standard Edition (build 1.5.0_16-b03)
Java HotSpot(TM) Client VM (build 1.5.0_16-b03, mixed mode, sharing)
```

Uninstalling

There is usually no reason (other than space concerns) to remove a particular JDK from your system, given that you can switch between JDKs and JREs easily using `alternatives`, and/or by setting `JAVA_HOME`.

Uninstalling the JDK on Linux

On RPM-based systems, you can uninstall the JDK using the `yum remove <jdk_rpm_name> ` command.

Uninstalling the JDK on Windows

On Windows systems, check the JDK entry in the `Start` menu for an uninstall command, or use `Add/Remove Programs`.