Setting the JBOSS_HOME Environment Variable

The [app]`Platform` () is built on top of the [app]. You do not need to set the `JBOSS_HOME` environment variable to run any of the [app]`Platform` servers *unless* `JBOSS_HOME` is *already* set.

The best way to know for sure whether `JBOSS_HOME` was set previously or not is to perform a simple check which may save you time and frustration.

Checking to See If JBOSS_HOME is Set on Unix

At the command line, `echo $JBOSS_HOME` to see if it is currently defined in your environment:

```
~]$ echo $JBOSS_HOME
```

The [app]`Platform` and most &THIS.PLATFORM; servers are built on top of the ([app]). When the [app]`Platform` or &THIS.PLATFORM; servers are built *from source*, then `JBOSS_HOME` *must* be set, because the &THIS.PLATFORM; files are installed into (or "over top of" if you prefer) a clean `installation, and the build process assumes that the location pointed to by the JBOSS_HOME environment variable at the time of building is the [app]` installation into which you want it to install the &THIS.PLATFORM; files.

This guide does not detail building the [app]`Platform` or any &THIS.PLATFORM; servers from source. It is nevertheless useful to understand the role played by `JBoss AS` and `JBOSS_HOME` in the &THIS.PLATFORM; ecosystem.

The immediately-following section considers whether you need to set `JBOSS_HOME` at all and, if so, when. The subsequent sections detail how to set `JBOSS_HOME` on Unix and Windows

> Even if you fall into the category below of *not needing* to set `JBOSS_HOME`, you may want to for various reasons anyway. Also, even if you are instructed that you do *not need* to set `JBOSS_HOME`, it is good practice nonetheless to check and make sure that `JBOSS_HOME` actually *isn't* set or defined on your system for some reason. This can save you both time and frustration.

You *DO NOT NEED* to set `JBOSS_HOME` if...

- ...you have installed the [app]`Platform` binary distribution.
- ...you have installed a &THIS.PLATFORM;server binary distribution *which bundles [app]``*.

You *MUST* set `JBOSS_HOME` if...

- ...you are installing the [app]`Platform` or any of the &THIS.PLATFORM; servers *from source*.
- ...you are installing the [app]`Platform` binary distribution, or one of the &THIS.PLATFORM; server binary distributions, which *do not* bundle [app]``.

Naturally, if you installed the [app]`Platform` or one of the &THIS.PLATFORM; server binary releases which *do not* bundle `, yet requires it to run, then you should install before setting [var]`JBOSS_HOME` or proceeding with anything else.

Setting the JBOSS_HOME Environment Variable on Unix

The `JBOSS_HOME` environment variable must point to the directory which contains all of the files for

the [app]` Platform` or individual &THIS.PLATFORM; server that you installed. As another hint, this topmost directory contains a *bin* subdirectory.

Setting `JBOSS_HOME` in your personal *~/.bashrc* startup script carries the advantage of retaining effect over reboots. Each time you log in, the environment variable is sure to be set for you, as a user. On Unix, it is possible to set `JBOSS_HOME` as a system-wide environment variable, by defining it in */etc/bashrc,* but this method is neither recommended nor detailed in these instructions.

Procedure: To Set JBOSS_HOME on Unix…

1. Open the *~/.bashrc* startup script, which is a hidden file in your home directory, in a text editor, and insert the following line on its own line while substituting for the actual install location on your system:

   ```
   export JBOSS_HOME="/home/<username>/<path>/<to>/<install_directory>"
   ```

2. Save and close the *.bashrc* startup script.

3. You should `source` the *.bashrc* script to force your change to take effect, so that `JBOSS_HOME` becomes set for the current session [1: Note that any other terminals which were opened prior to your having altered .bashrc will need to source ~/.bashrc as well should they require access to JBOSS_HOME.].

   ```
   ~]$ source ~/.bashrc
   ```

4. Finally, ensure that `JBOSS_HOME` is set in the current session, and actually points to the correct location:

   > The command line usage below is based upon a binary installation of the [app]` Platform`. In this sample output, `JBOSS_HOME` has been set correctly to the `topmost_directory` of the `installation. Note that if you are installing one of the standalone [app]` servers (with `JBoss AS` bundled!), then `JBOSS_HOME` would point to the `topmost_directory` of your server installation.

   ```
   ~]$ echo $JBOSS_HOME
   /home/silas/<path>/<to>/<install_directory>
   ```

Setting the JBOSS_HOME Environment Variable on Windows

The `JBOSS_HOME` environment variable must point to the directory which contains all of the files for the &THIS.PLATFORM;Platform or individual &THIS.PLATFORM;server that you installed. As another hint, this topmost directory contains a *bin* subdirectory.

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