

Setting the JBOSS_HOME Environment Variable

Table of Contents

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>.