

## About JAR files

The Java Archive (JAR) file format enables you to bundle multiple files into a single archive file. Typically a JAR file will contain the class files and auxiliary resources associated with applets and applications.

Similarly to a ZIP file, a JAR file can contain both files and directories, preserving the directory structure.

### Creating a JAR file:

JAR files are created and handled with the `jar` command, which is installed by default with the Java compiler (`javac`). Thus, if you can successfully compile your program, you should be able to jar your files together. A simplified syntax of the '`jar`' command is as follows:

```
Usage: jar {ctx}[vf] [jar-file] files ...
Options:
  -c   create new archive
  -t   list table of contents for archive
  -x   extract named (or all) files from archive
  -v   generate verbose output on standard output
  -f   specify archive file name
```

The `jar` command works both in UNIX and Windows environments.

To create a jar file named `myproject.jar` that contains all the files in the current directory, type:

```
jar -cvf myproject.jar *
```

To include all the Java files in the current directory and the `Readme.txt` file, type:

```
jar -cvf myproject.jar *.java Readme.txt
```

### Viewing the contents of a JAR file:

To view the contents of a jar file named `myproject.jar`, type:

```
jar -tvf myproject.jar
```

### Extracting the contents of a jar file:

To extract the contents of a jar file named `myproject.jar` into the current working directory, type:

```
jar -xvf myproject.jar
```

You can find more details about JAR files at <http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/jar/>