From JShell to an IDE

Welcome to Section 4.

In this section, we're going to make the switch from JShell to an Integrated Development Environment.

Why do we need an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) ?

An IDE is the easiest, least error-prone way to develop, manage and deploy Java classes. It provides many benefits to developers, including

- increased productivity,

- code completion,

- refactoring of code,

- debugging tools,

- version control,

- and team development, just to name a few. And don't worry if you don't understand some of these terms, they will make sense as we progress through the course.

Why do we need an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) ?

I like to think that the jump from JShell to an IDE is like the jump from a typewriter to a word processing program on a modern computer.

It's unlikely that you will want to go back once you have experienced the benefits.

What is IntelliJ?

IntelliJ IDEA, is one of several, IDE's, available for Java.

It's also written in Java, developed by JetBrains, and simply known as IntelliJ.

JetBrains offers a free and open-source community edition.

Installing IntelliJ

You now need to install IntelliJ to continue with the course. Thankfully this is an easy thing to do.

I've taken the liberty of recording a separate IntelliJ installation video for Windows, Mac, and Linux. All you need to do is watch the relevant video for the operating system you are running on your computer. All three videos are in this section of the course.

Once you have installed IntelliJ, it needs some configuration. I've recorded a configuration of IntelliJ video which covers all three operating systems. Watch that video after you have installed IntelliJ, and then you will be ready to get started programming in the IntelliJ IDE.

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