APPENDIX D

Installing the JDK and Using the JDK Documentation

To write and execute Java programs, you will need to download and install the Java Development Kit (JDK). For this text, you need the JDK Standard Edition, which is available for the Windows, Linux, macOS, and Solaris operating systems. It can be downloaded from this website:

```
www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html
```

NOTE: If you would rather not type this entire address into your browser, you can also go to `www.oracle.com`, click *Downloads*, then click *Java for Developers*.

On the webpage, click the link to download the JDK. You will need to accept the license agreement, then select the version of the JDK for your operating system to begin the download.

Once the file is downloaded, execute it to start the installation. The installation program will install two items to your system: the JDK and the Java Runtime Environment (JRE). First the JDK will be installed. Click the Next button on each screen to accept the default selections, and be sure to take note of the location on your system where the JDK will be installed. Depending on the version of the JDK that you are installing, on windows the location will be something similar to

```
C:\Program Files\Java\jdk-9.0.1
```

Once the JDK is installed, the installation process for the JRE begins. Click the Next button on each screen to accept the default selections, and be sure to take note of the location on your system where the JRE will be installed. Depending on the version that you are installing, on windows the location will be something similar to

```
C:\Program Files\Java\jre-9.0.1
```

Setting the Path Environment Variable

If you plan to use the JDK command-line utilities to compile and run your programs, you will probably want to edit the contents of the Path variable on your system. This allows your system to find the JDK utilities from any folder when you run them at the command-line.

The Path variable contains a list of directory paths separated by semicolons. For example, on windows the Path variable might contain something like the following:

```
C:\Games;C:\Temp;C:\Program Files\MyPrograms
```

When you type the name of an executable file at the command-line and press Enter, the system will first look in the current folder for that file. If it cannot find the file there, it will begin looking in the folders that are listed in the Path variable. (On an actual system, the Path variable will contain many more paths than shown in this example, but this gives you an idea of how it works.)

We mentioned earlier that during the JDK installation process, you should take note of the location on your system where the JDK is installed. Inside that folder, there is another folder named bin that contains the JDK utility programs. The path to that folder on windows will be something like

```
C:\Program Files\Java\jdk-9.0.1\bin
```

NOTE: Keep in mind that the actual path on your system might differ slightly from this example, depending on the version of the JDK that you have installed.

To make it easy to execute the JDK utilities from the Windows command line, you should add this path to the Path variable. The procedure for adding this path to the Path variable depends on the version of Windows you are using. The steps required for Windows 10, Windows 8, and Windows 7 follow.

Windows 10

In the Windows search box, type "environment variables" then select **Edit the system environment variables** from the search results.

This will display the *System Properties* window (with the *Advanced* tab selected at the top of the window). Click the Environment Variables ... button. Under **System Variables,** find *Path*, click on it, then click the Edit button. Add a semicolon to the end of the existing contents then add the path of the JDK utility programs. Click the OK buttons until all the dialog boxes are closed and exit the control panel.

Windows 8

In the right bottom corner of the screen, click on the **Search** icon and type **Control Panel.** Click on **Control Panel,** then click **System,** then click **Advanced system settings.** Click on the **Advanced** tab, then click Environment Variables. Under **System Variables,** find Path, click on it, then click the Edit button. Add a semicolon to the end of the existing contents and then add the path of the JDK utility programs. Click the OK buttons until all the dialog boxes are closed and exit the control panel.

Windows 7

Click the Start button then right-click **Computer**. On the pop-up menu, select **Properties**. In the window that appears next, click **Advanced system settings**. This displays the System Properties window. Click the Environment Variables ... button. In the System Variables list, scroll to the `Path` variable. Select the Path variable and click the Edit button. Add a semicolon to the end of the existing contents, and then add the path of the JDK utility programs. Click the OK buttons until all the dialog boxes are closed and exit the control panel.

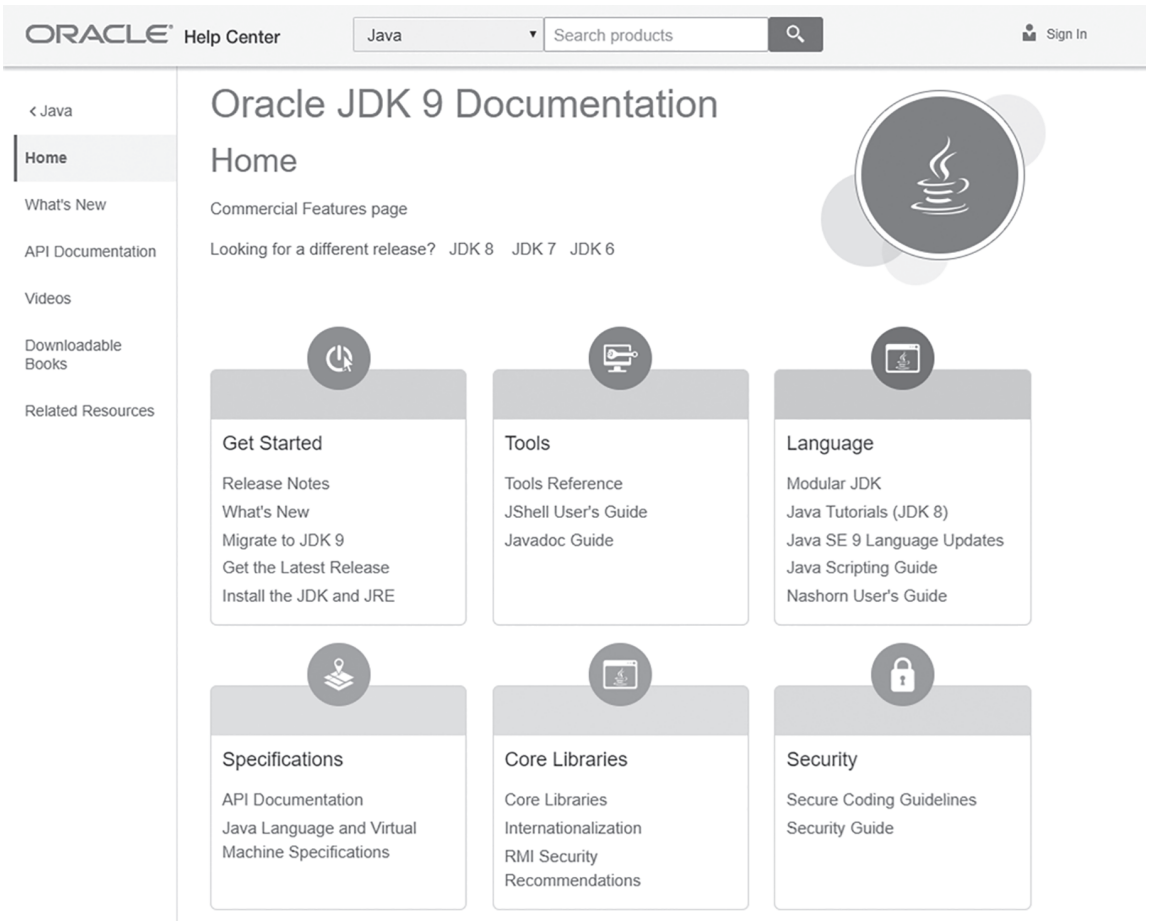
Using the Java API Documentation

To view the official Java API documentation, go to the following site:

```
http://docs.oracle.com/javase
```

Figure D-1 shows how the page appears at the time this was written. The page provides links to several useful sites, including the official *API documentation*. As a student learning Java, or as a professional Java programmer, you will find yourself referring to the API documentation frequently.

Figure D-1 The Java SE documentation site (Oracle Corporate Counsel)



When you click the link for the *API documentation*, and then click the link for *Frames*, you will see a page similar to the one shown in Figure D-2. In the leftmost pane, you will see an alphabetically ordered list of all the classes and interfaces in the Java API. To see the documentation for a particular class, simply scroll to the name of the class in the left pane, and click it.

Figure D-2 Java SE API documentation (Oracle Corporate Counsel)