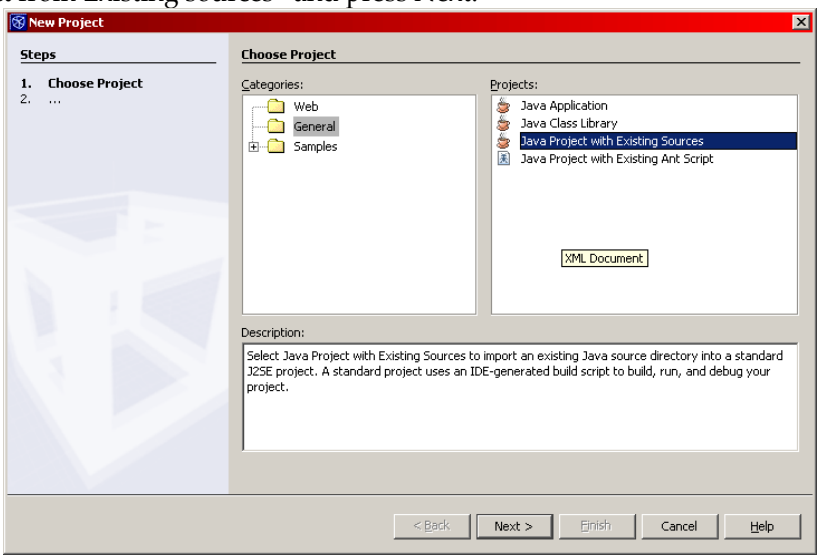
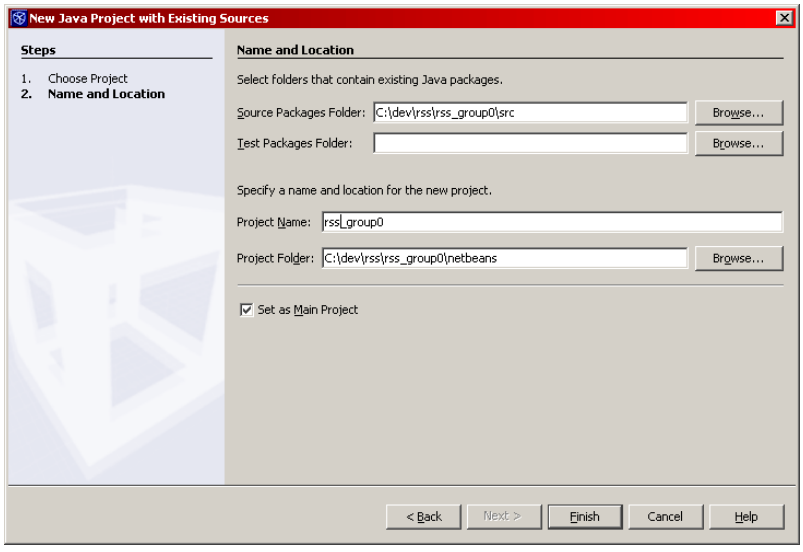
# Getting Started in NetBeans

NetBeans is a Graphical Integrated Development Environment (IDE) from Sun Microsystems for developing Java. It can make it a lot easier to compile, test, and debug your code, but you need to set it up before you use it.

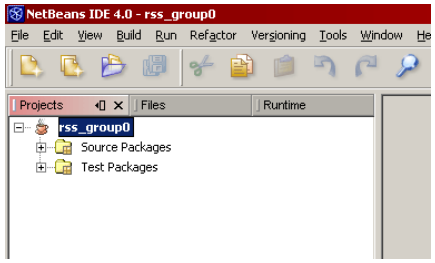
1. If you have not already done so, check out the course code from the subversion repository.
2. Type "`netbeans &`" from a terminal to run NetBeans.
3. Select "File->New Project"
4. Select "Java Project from Existing sources" and press Next.



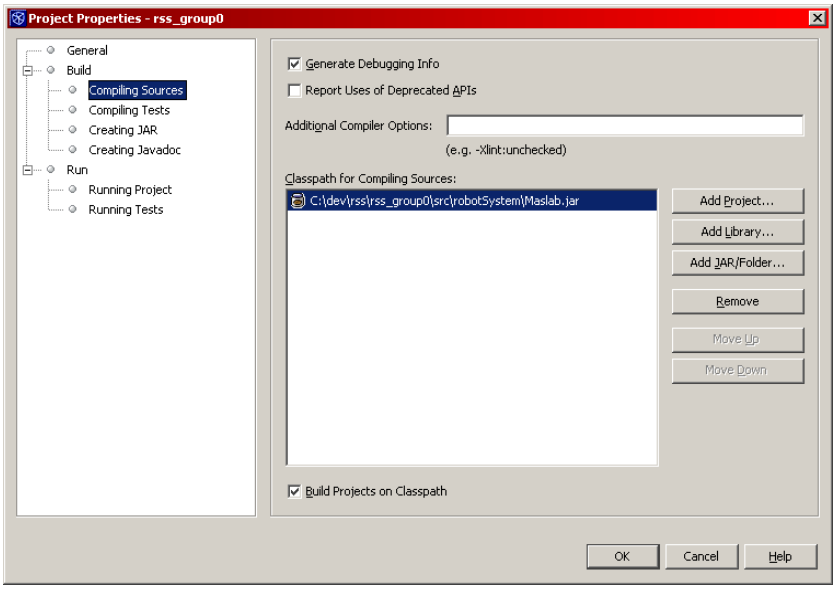

5. Fill out the dialog box similarly to the example shown below. Use the browse button to search for your source packages folder. It should be located in ~/rss/rss_groupX where X is, well, you know. Your project folder should point to ~/rss/rss_groupX/netbeans. Be sure the "Set as Main Project" box is checked. Press "Finish".



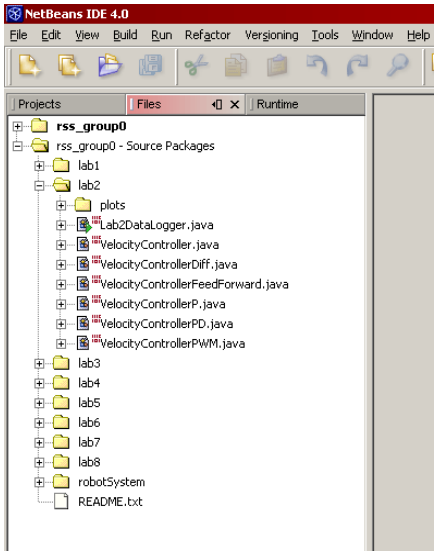

6. NetBeans should find and scan your class paths, then create a new project for you in the upper-left hand potion of your window. Right click on this new project and select "properties".




7. Select “Compiling Sources” then click on “Add Jar/Folder”. Browse to ~/rss/rss_groupX/src/robotSystem. Click on “maslab.jar” and select “ok”. This tells NetBeans to look for classes in this jar file when it is compiling code. Click ok to close this dialog box. NetBeans should scan maslab.jar. Your setup is complete.

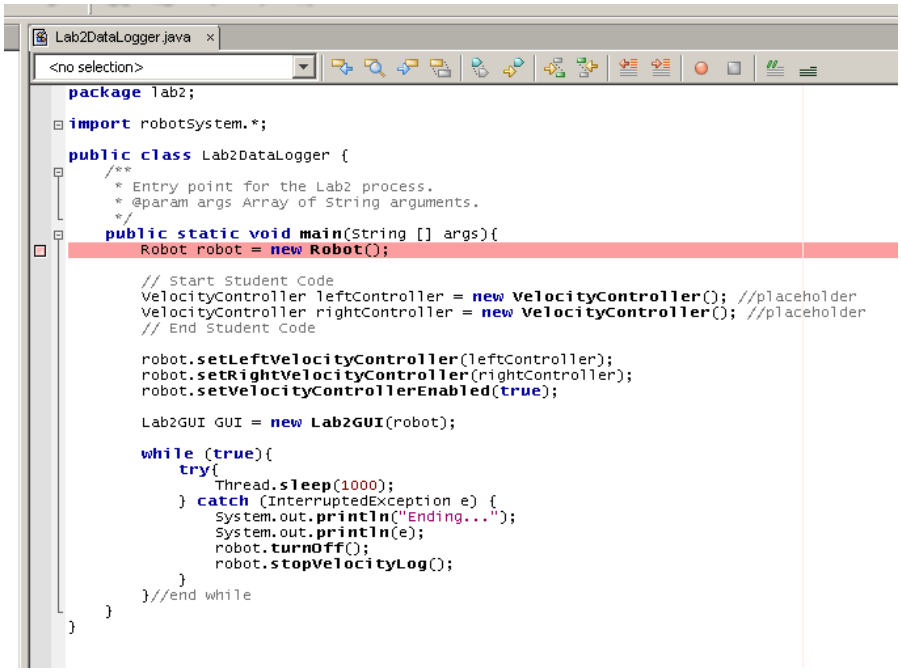



8. Click on the “Files” tab at the top left. Expand the source packages folder, then the lab2 folder. Double click on the file you want to edit.



9. When you are done with your edits and want to test your code, click on the green triangle with the red square, or press "F5". Do not use the green triangle without the red square, as this will spawn a separate process to run your program.


This will run your program in the debugger and allow you to set break points and inspect variables. Break points can be set by left clicking on the grey area to the left of each line. Set one at the beginning of Lab2DataLogger.java




10. Now run your code. The red line should change to green, indicating that the computer is stopped at that line. You can use Step Into (F7) or step over(F8) to observe the execution of your program. Local variables are displayed in a window at the bottom right of the screen. You can drag its tab and dock it somewhere else (I like mine on the left hand side) to make it easier to read.

That's the end of the tutorial. If you want more information, please do not hesitate to ask one of the staff.