Configuring Java for your Computer
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Introduction

You need the Java Developer's Kit (JDK) and an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for this course. The JDK provides the Java compiler and run time environments while the IDE wraps a user friendly graphical user interface around the Java compiler allowing for easy debugging and creation of your Java code.

You can use either Netbeans or Eclipse as the IDE for this course (and all other courses at UMUC). This document provides current download instructions and tips for configuring your environment. Each of the IDEs have very detailed user's guides and installation instructions that you should use to help you configure and optimize the software for your environment.

The steps needed to configure your environment for this course include:

1. Installing the JDK
2. Installing an IDE (either Netbeans or Eclipse)
3. Testing your environment to make sure it works

This document will walk through each of these steps at high level. In all cases, it is assumed, you have permissions to install software on your machine. Java works on PC's, MACs and Linux machines. Just be sure you download the appropriate versions based on your environment.

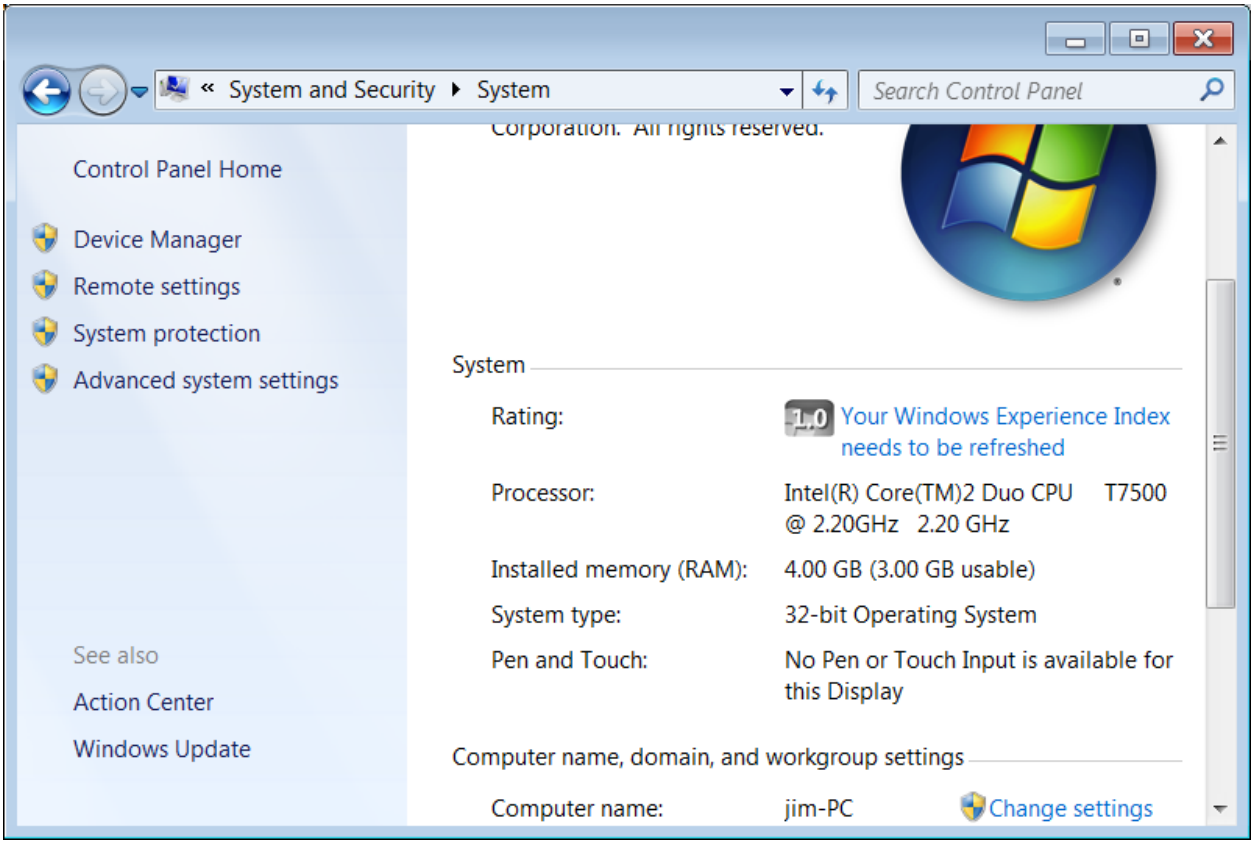
Step 1. Installing the JDK

Prior to installing an IDE, you need to have the JDK installed on your system. If you are already compiling Java programs you probably already have the JDK installed. However; you should make sure you have the most recent version. (At the time of this writing the current JDK version is 7.x)

a. Download the current JDK by going to the Oracle web site. Now, links change, but at the time of this writing the JDK 7 download is available here:

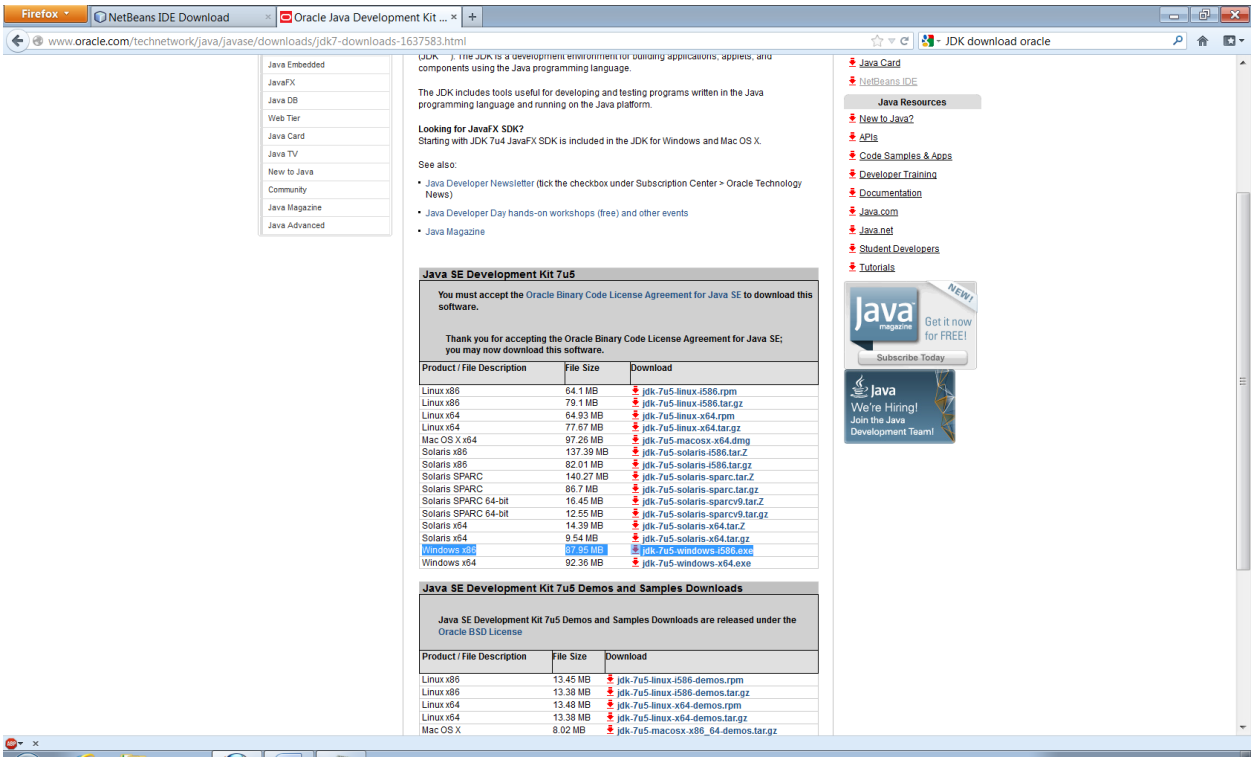
http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/jdk7-downloads-1637583.html

b. Once you go to this site and accept the license you have to choose the version to download. This is trickier than it used to be due to propagation of so many different O/S versions. But you probably know your O/S information. The challenge for Windows users is if you are using 32-bit or 64-bit. You can determine this by looking into the Control Panel -> System and then view the System type. Below is a screenshot from a Laptop running Windows 7 32-bit system:



c. Download the current Java version that best matches your system. In the case listed above, I selected Windows 32-bit version – (Windows x86,87.95 MB,jdk-7u5-windows-i586.exe)

Note: It is Ok to have multiple versions of the JDK installed on your machine. For example, having JDK6 and JDK7 installed in different directories is fine. Once you install the IDE, it will ask which version you want to use.



d. After downloading the executable, install Java on your system.

Notes:

1) The executable will ask install 3 specific software packages on your system: JDK, JRE (run time environment) and JavaFX. You don't really need JavaFX for this class but you are welcome to install it. You will definitely need the JDK and JRE.

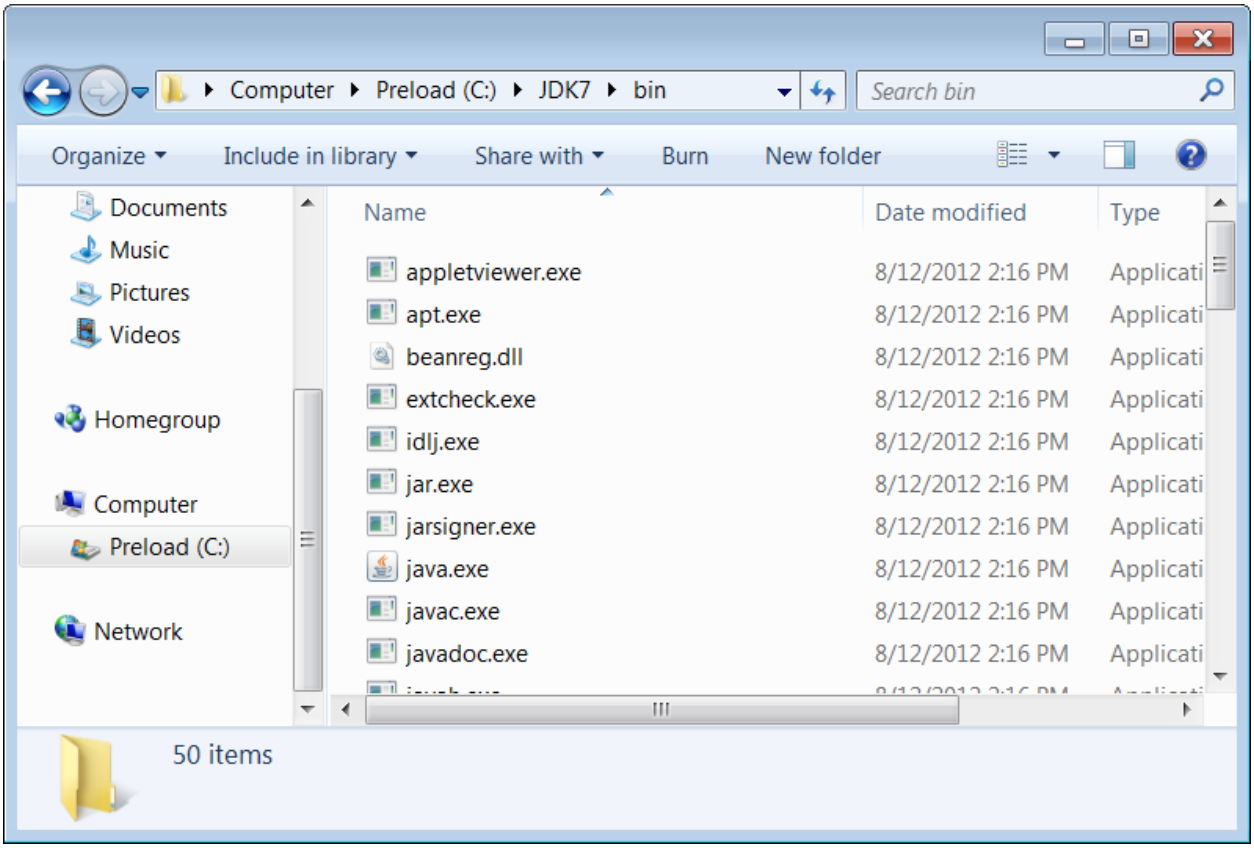
2) After successful installation, a registration option will most likely come up for you to consider. To register you actually need an Oracle account. It is all free, but you will get more email with Oracle offerings if you register. This isn't necessarily bad but registration is up to you.

e. If you need detailed instructions for installing the JDK see the links that contain installation instructions:
http://docs.oracle.com/javase/7/docs/webnotes/install/index.html

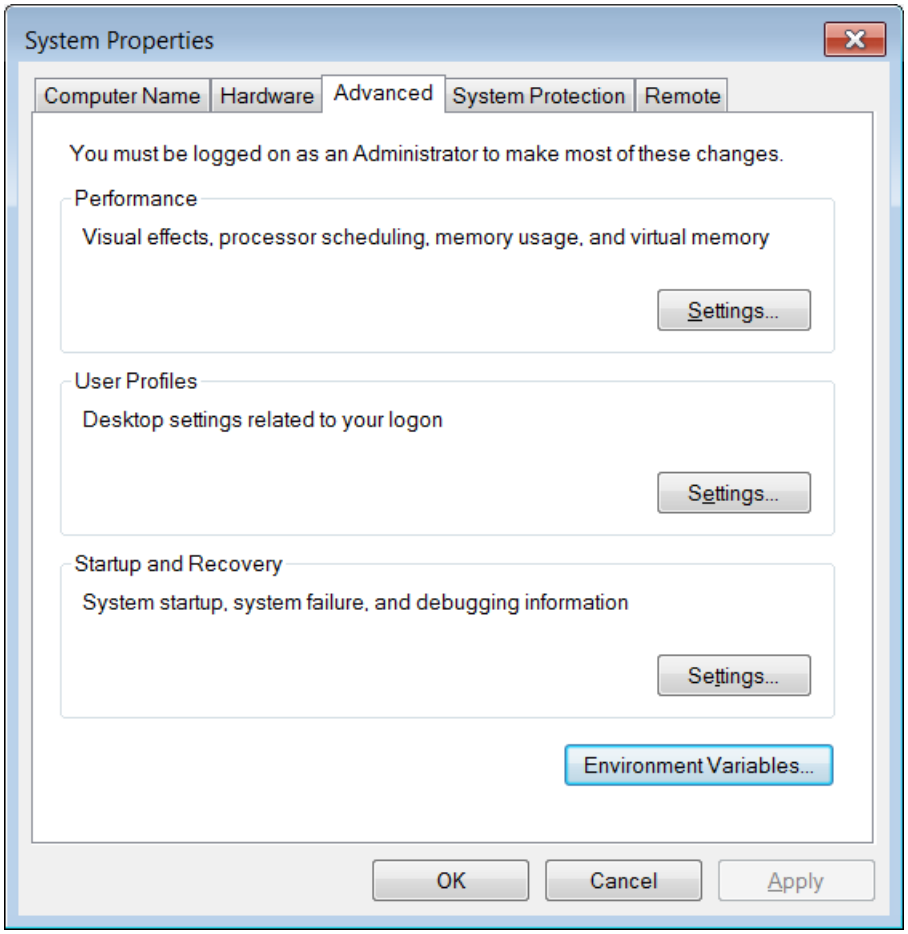
f. If you want to be able to compile directly from the command line (DOS prompt) in Windows, you will need to set the path in your windows control panel-> System-> Advanced to point to where bin directory where you installed your JDK. To do this follow these steps:

1) Locate where your JDK7/bin directory is on your system. For my install, it is here:

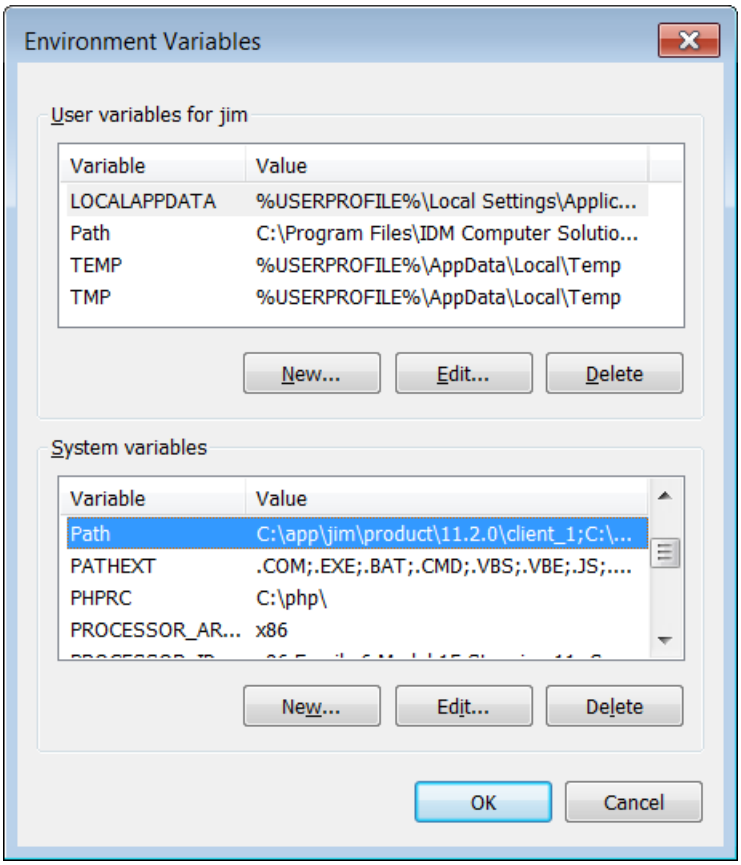
C:\JDK7\bin



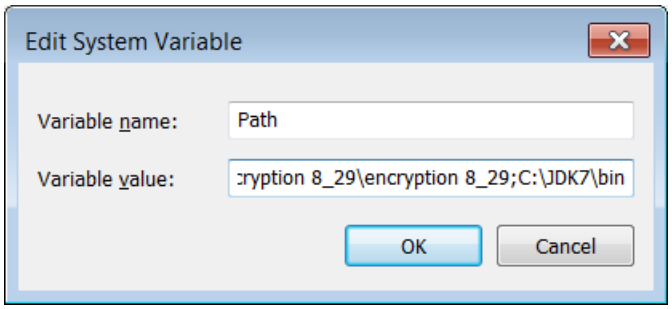
2) Open up your control panel -> System and Security->Advanced System Settings click on the "environment variables" button



3) Under the System variables, click on Path and then select edit:

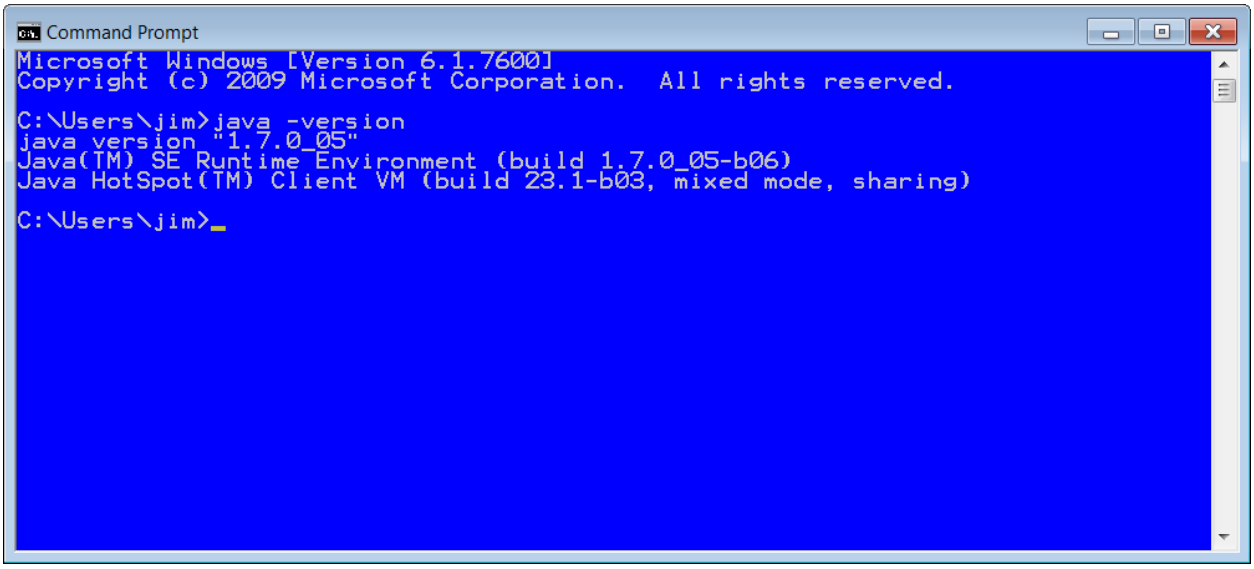


4) Add the Windows path that included your JDK\bin directory and click OK:

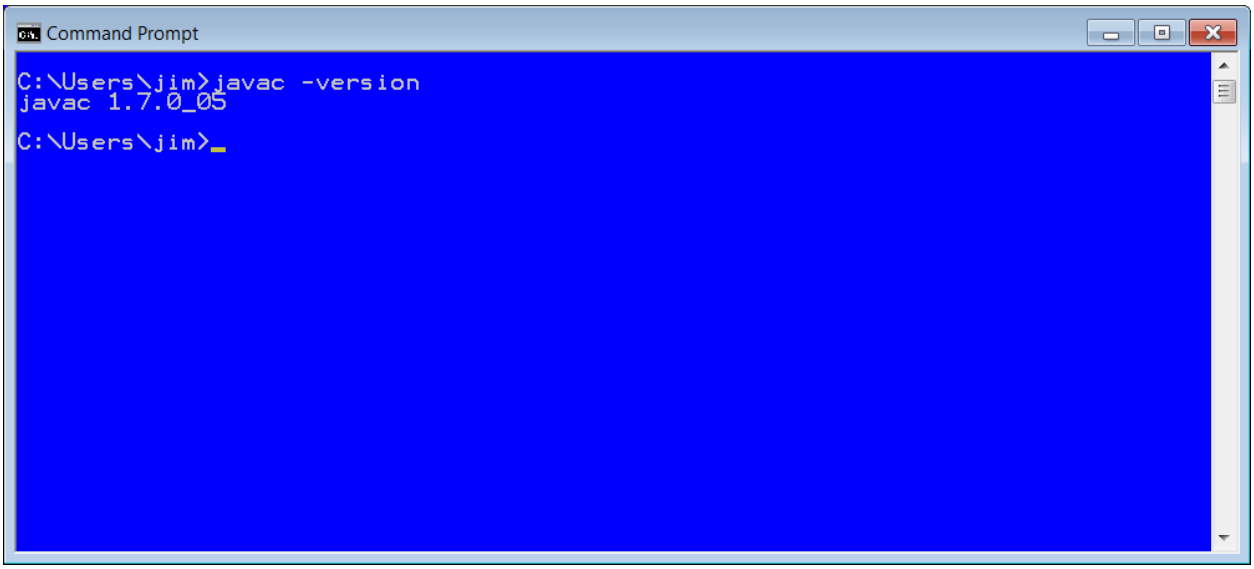


g. Finally, double check that your computer has the JDK properly installed. To do this, open a command prompt and type the following commands:

java –version



javac –version



h. If you were successful, you should see a response indicating the current versions of Java on your machine to be 1.7.x (where x may be slightly different depending of minor versioning)

Now, you can proceed to install Netbeans of Eclipse.

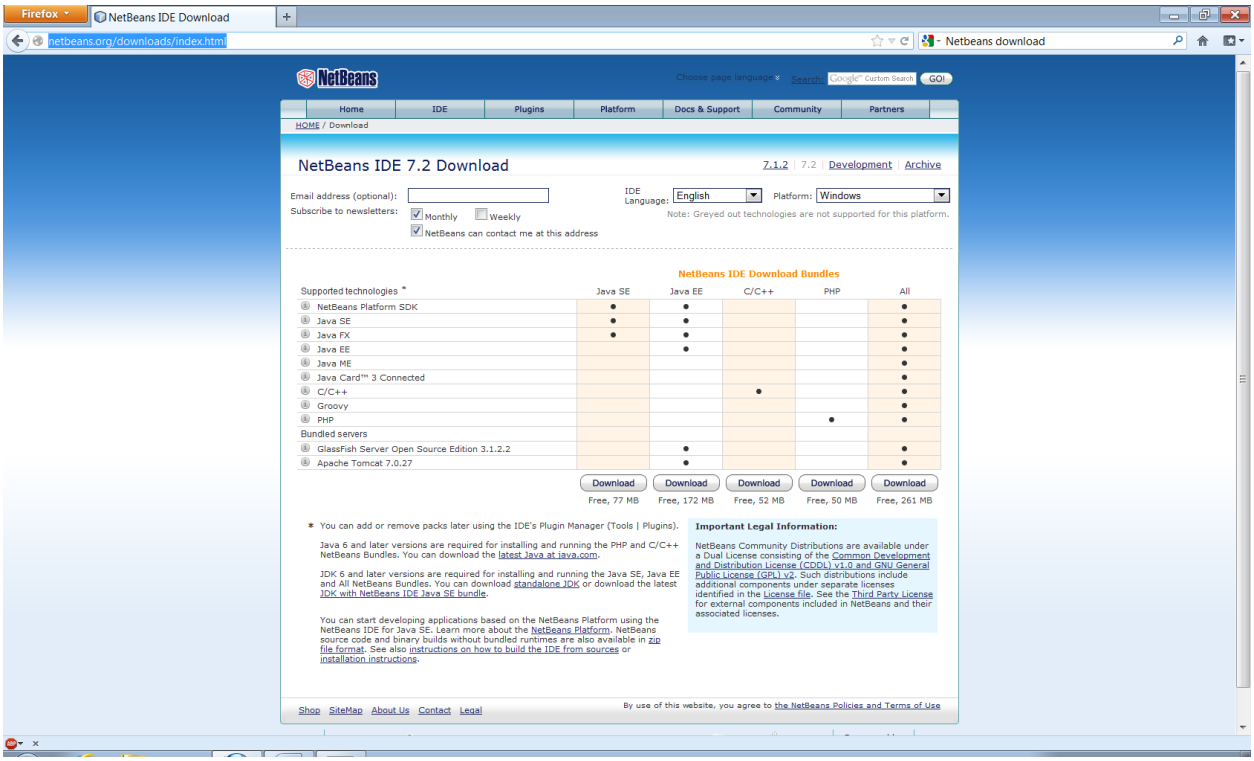
Note: you do not need both- one will suffice. If you are new to IDE's I would recommend Netbeans as the install is a bit less complicated)

Step 2. Installing and IDE (either Netbeans of Eclipse)

Installing Netbeans (Not needed if Eclipse is installed)

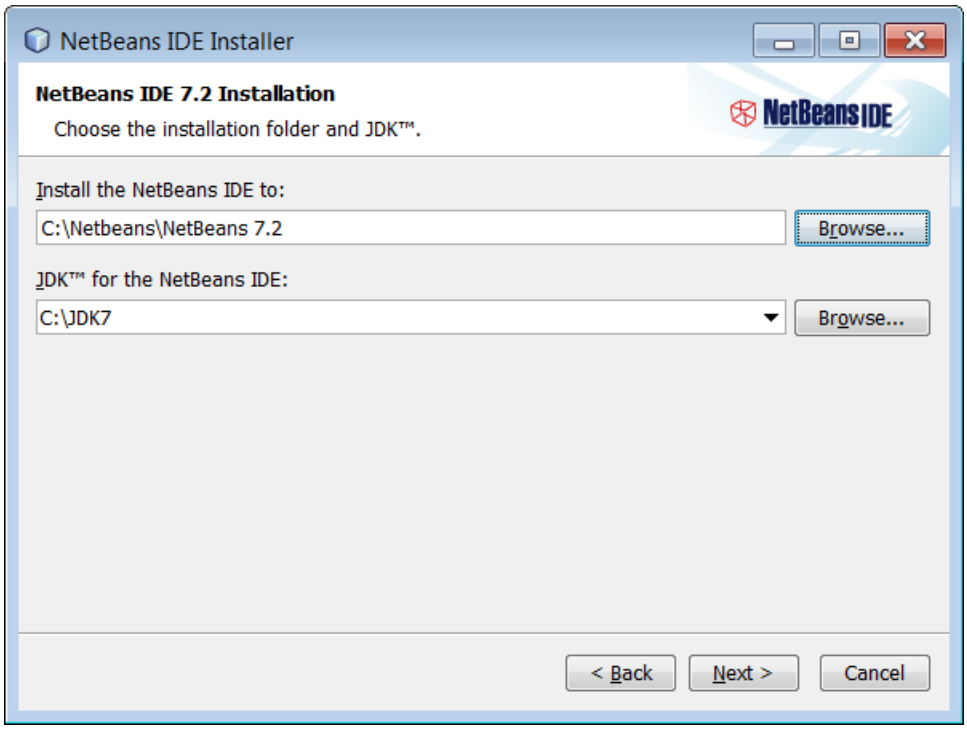
a. Go to Netbeans.org and download the Java SE (standard Edition) found at this URL: http://netbeans.org/downloads/index.html

Note: Be sure to select your platform in platform drop down menu as needed.



b. Once downloaded, install the software on your system. Specific installation instructions are found here if needed: http://netbeans.org/community/releases/72/install.html

Note: You will be asked for the location of the JDK you previously installed.



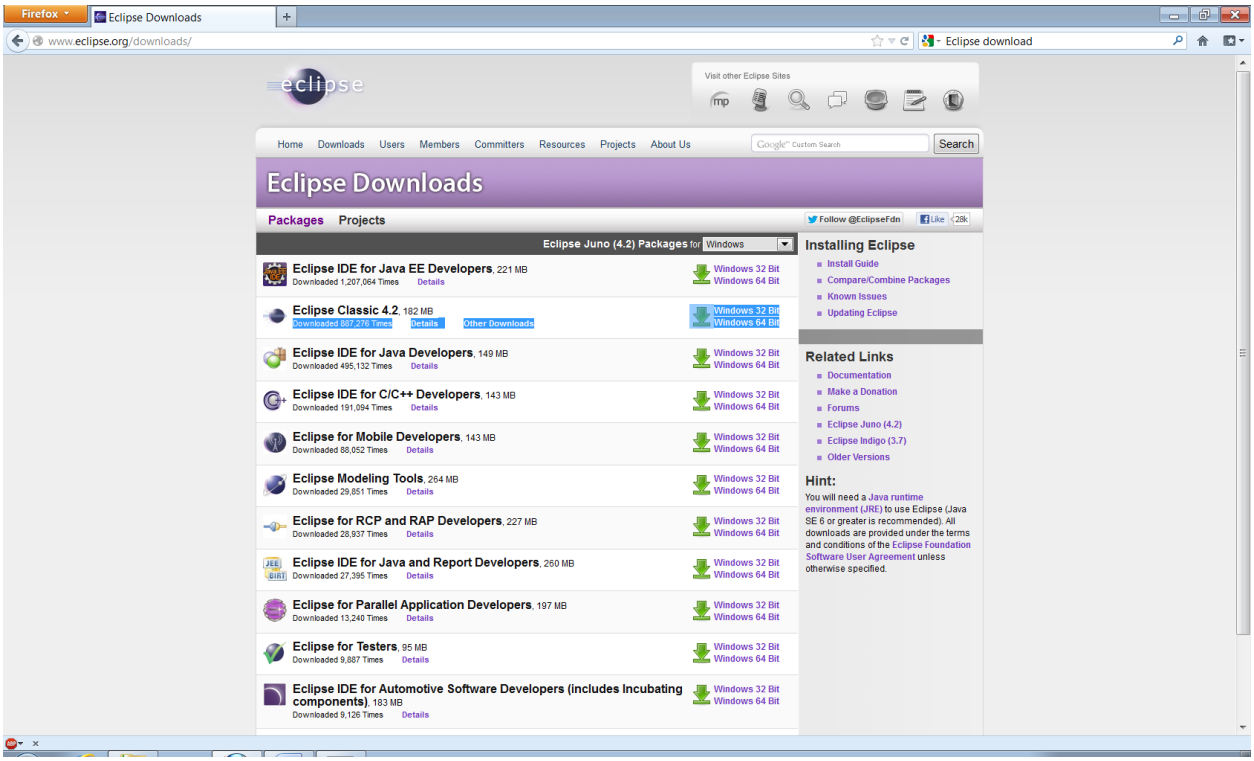
After you have provided your environment settings, Click next and continue the installation.

c. Netbeans will inform you once installation is complete.

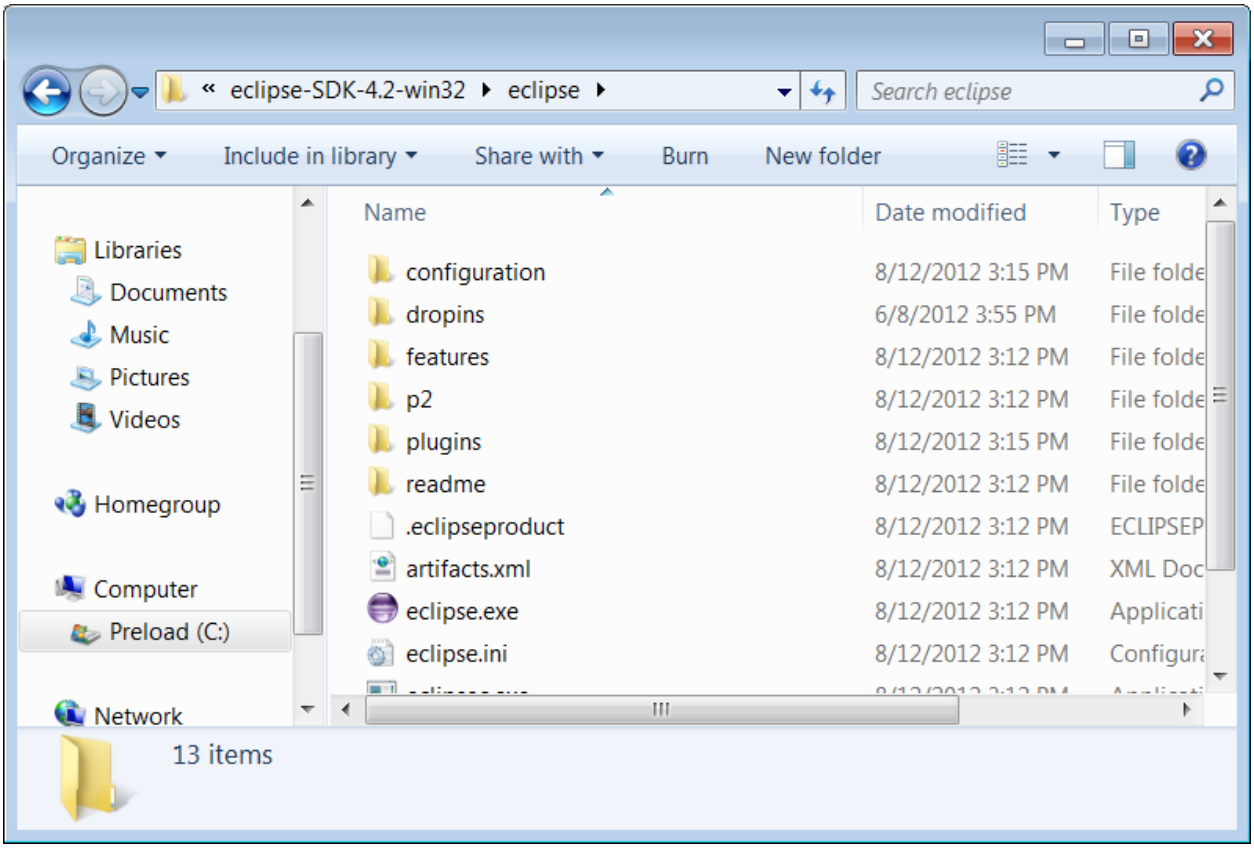
Installing Eclipse (Not needed if Netbeans is Installed)

a. Go to Eclipse.org and download the Eclipse Classic found at this URL: http://www.eclipse.org/downloads/

Note: Be sure to select your platform in platform drop down menu as needed.



b. Once downloaded, install the software on your system. Specific installation instructions are found here if needed: http://wiki.eclipse.org/Eclipse/Installation
   Note: To install Eclipse you essentially just unzip the file you downloaded.
c. Once installed, you will see the Eclipse executable in the directory where you unzipped the archived file:

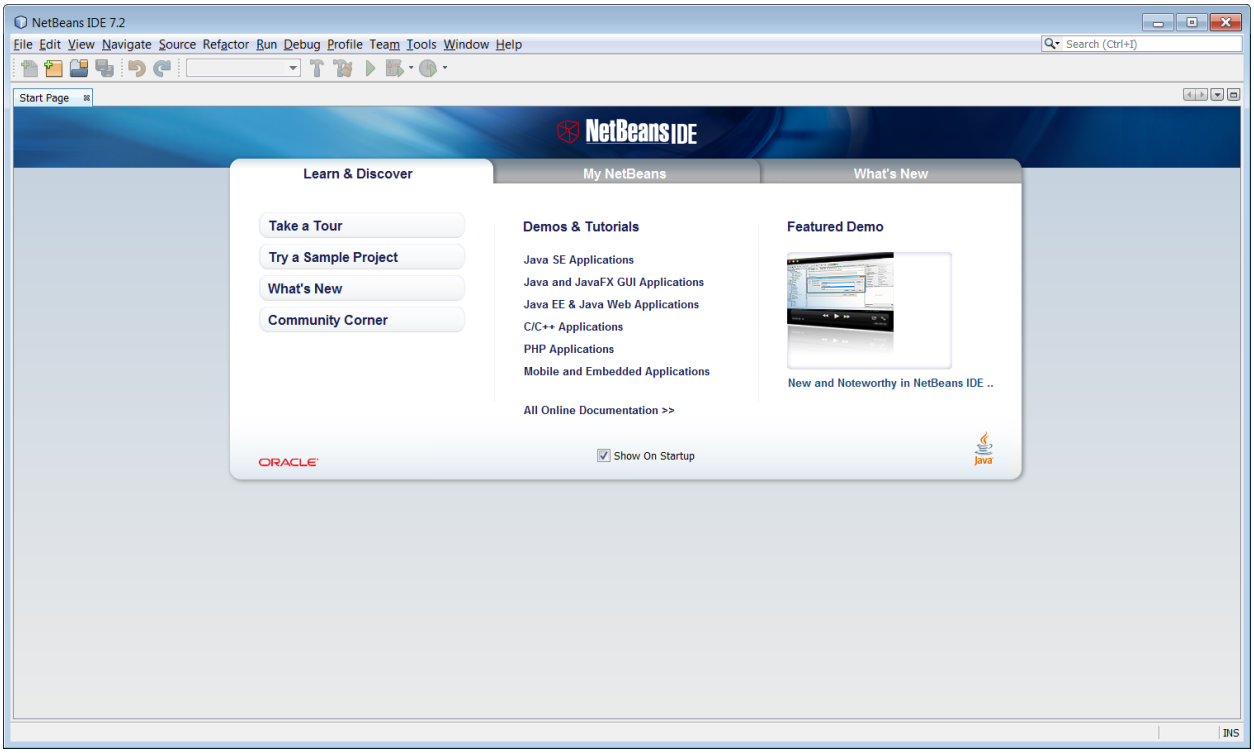


Step 3. Testing your environment to make sure it works

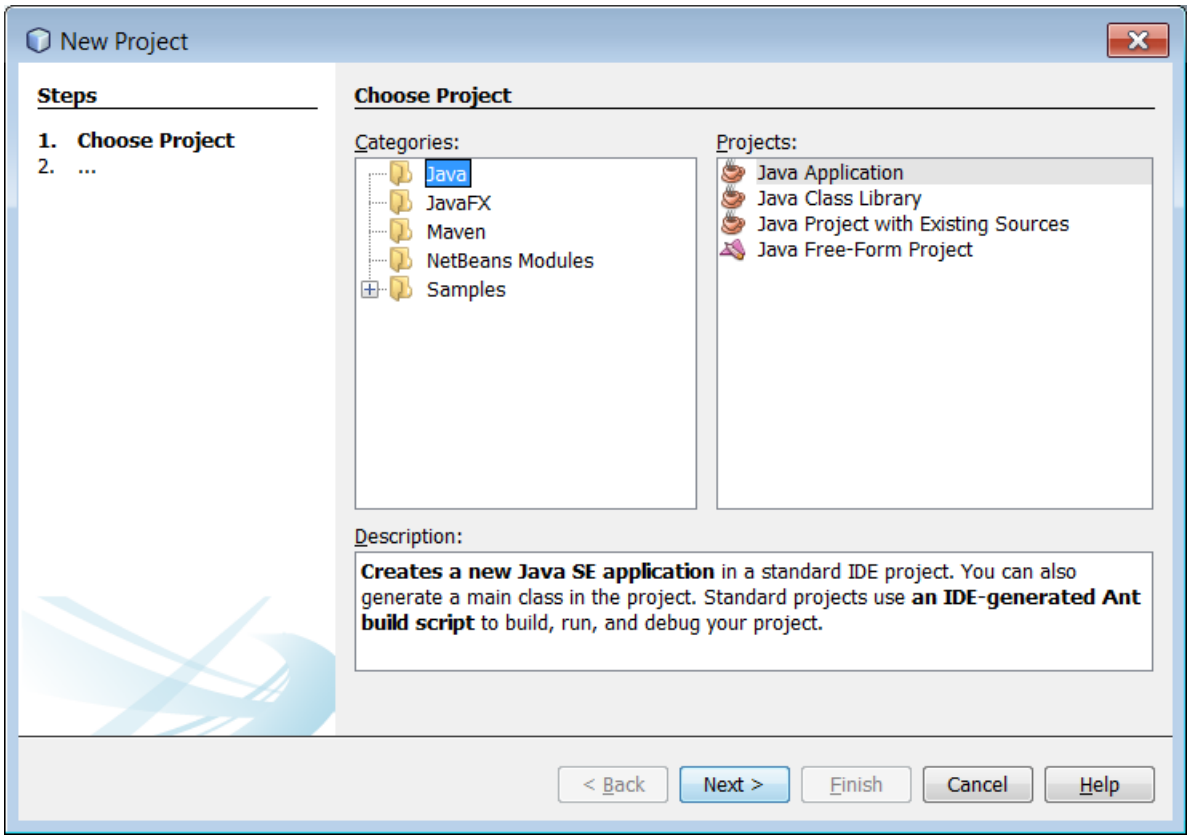
You can run the following steps to see if your IDE's are working properly. This code is a simple Hello, World Program that should work in all Java environments.

Netbeans steps:

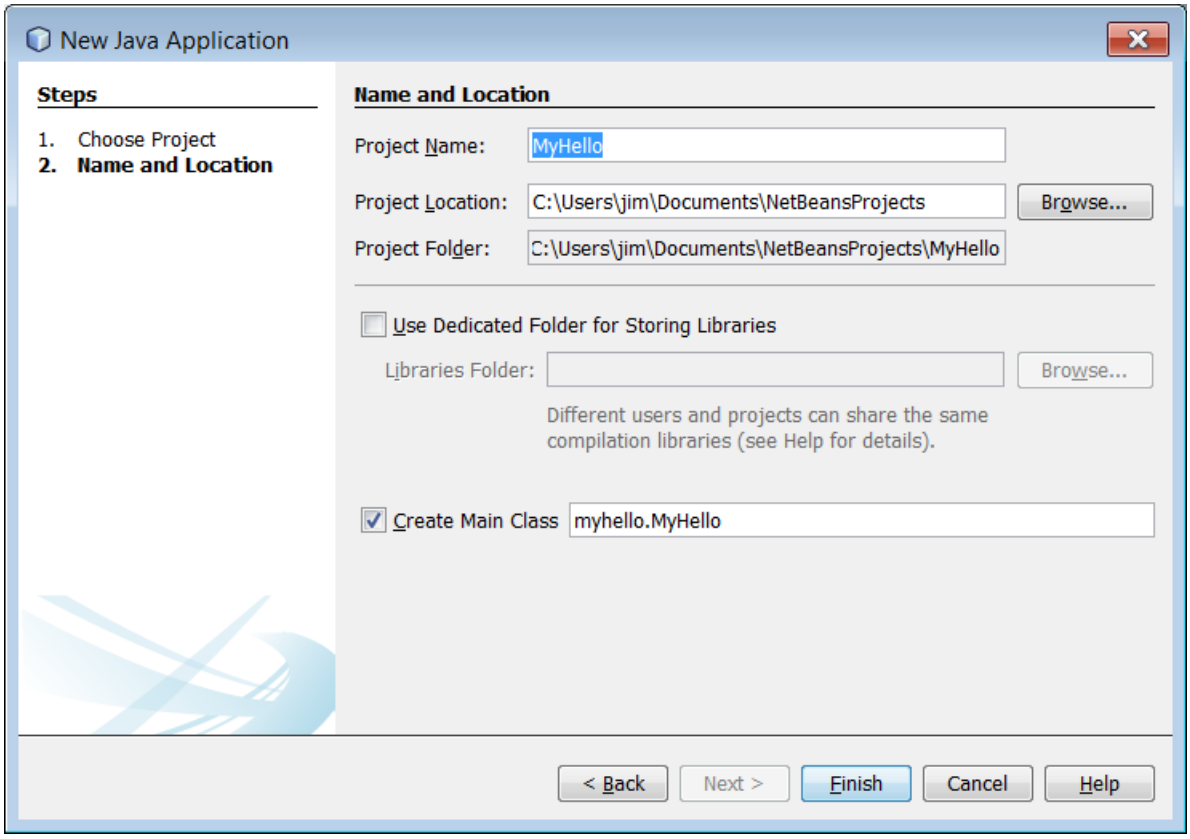
1. Launch Netbeans by double-clicking the Netbeans icon on your desktop, or by selecting it in from your Applications



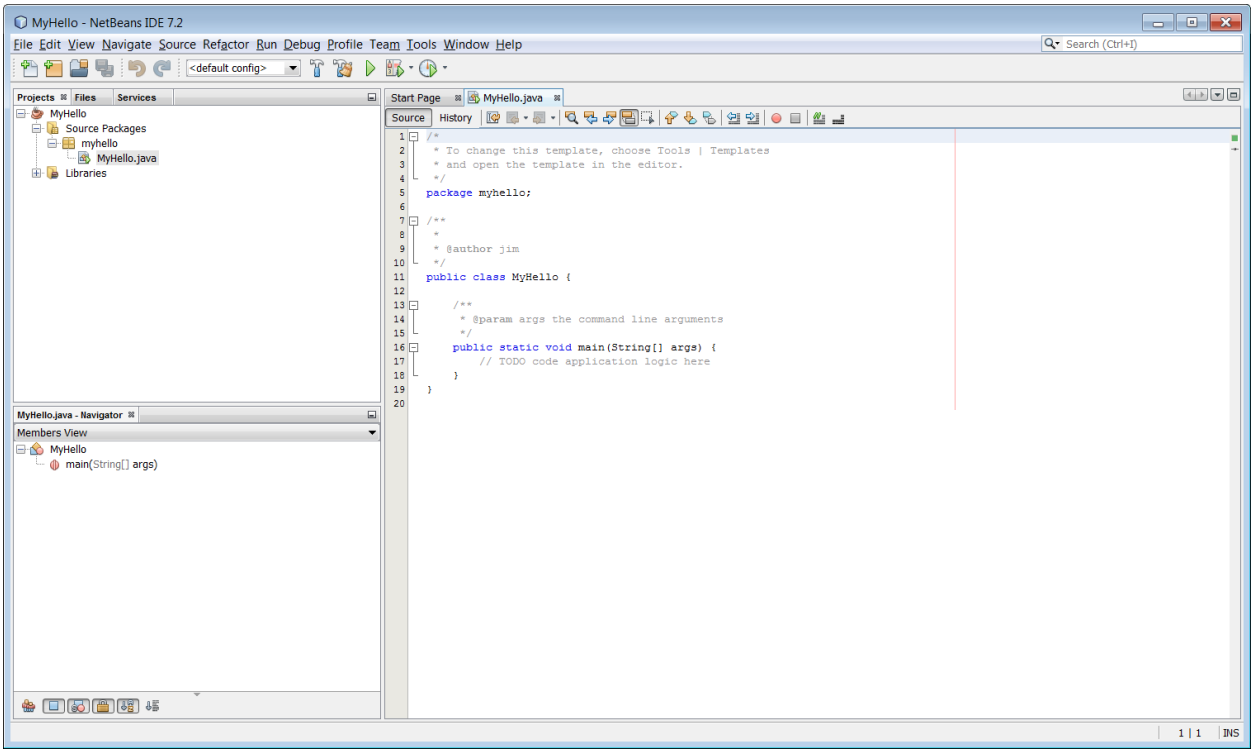
2. From the menu, select File->New project



3. Select Java -> Java application and click Next.



4. Enter the Project Name as MyHello and click Finish. The project space will appear and the template code is provided.

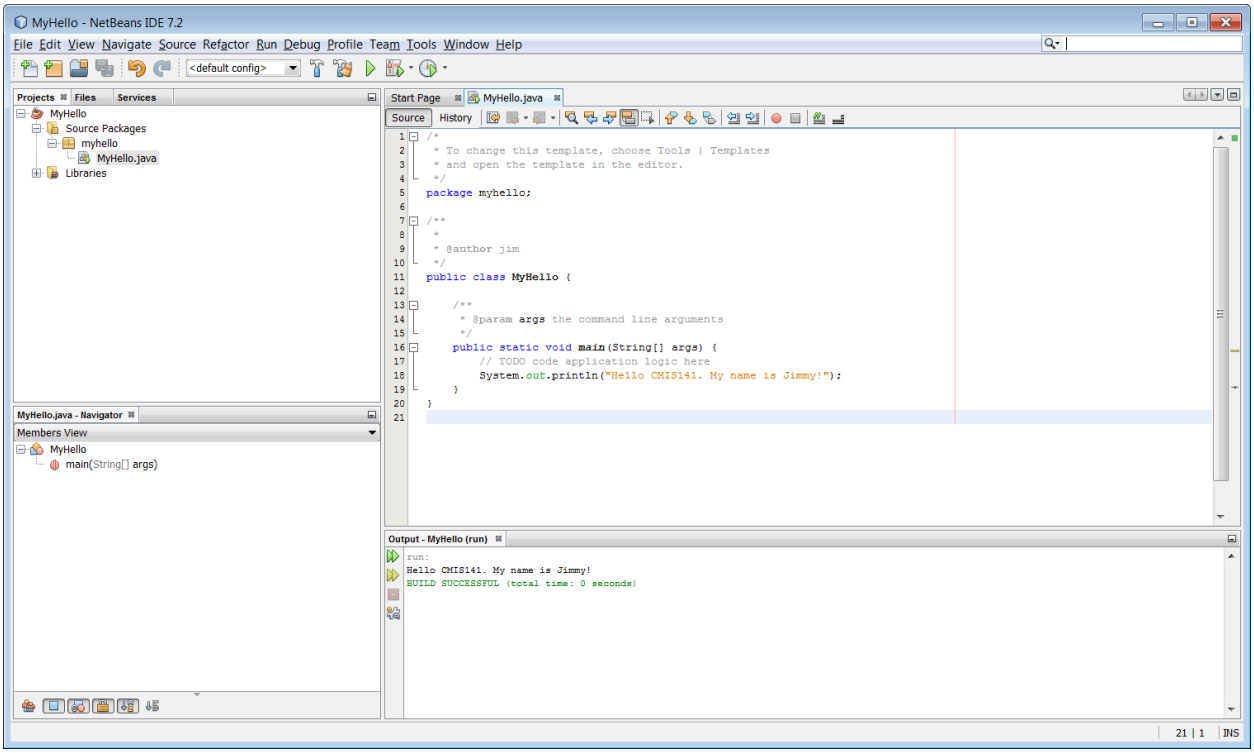


5. Under the //TODO line enter a line similar to the following:

System.out.println("Hello CMIS141. My name is Jimmy!");

6. Click the Green Arrow in the tool bar near top and watch as the code successfully compiles and runs.

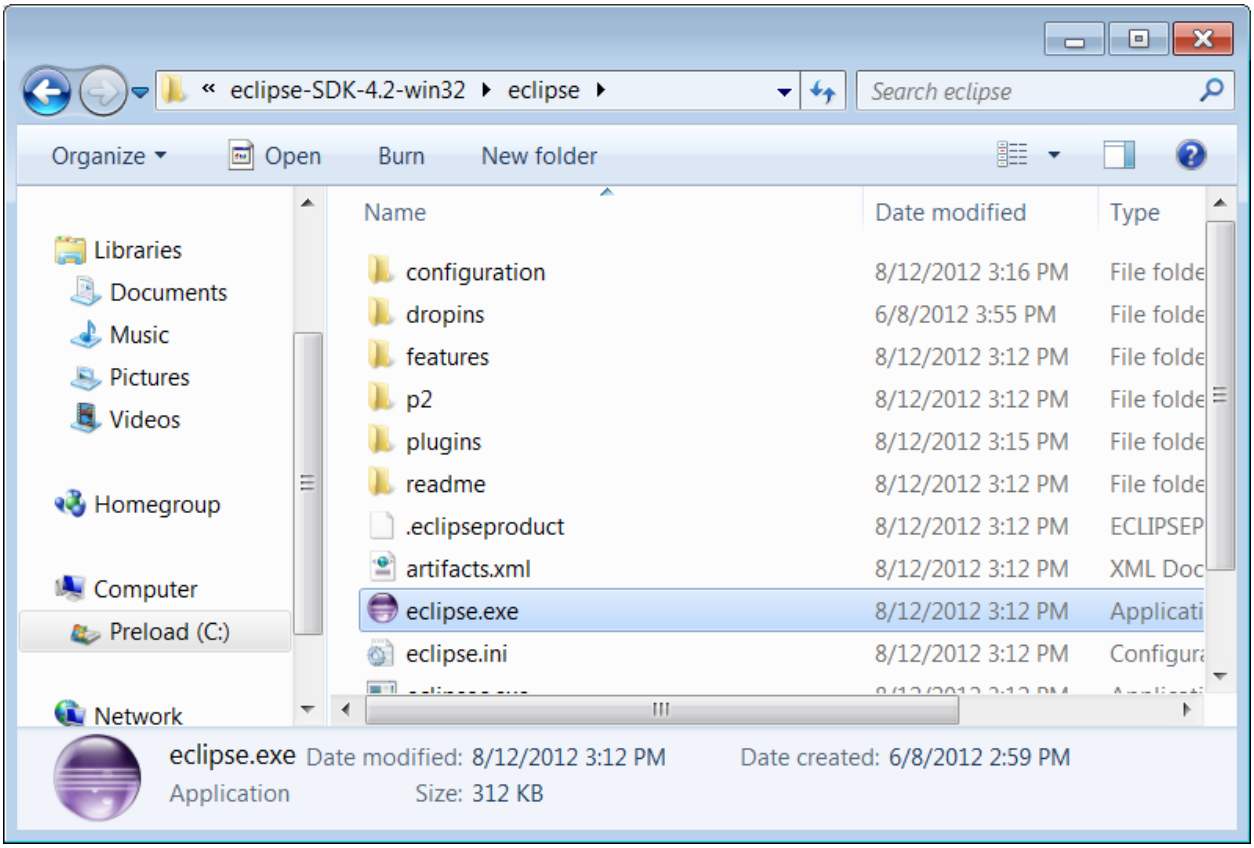
Note: The output or results of running the code is shown at the bottom of the screen.



7. Feel free to experiment with changing the code to display other text. But the good news is your environment is successfully configured and you are ready to code in Java!

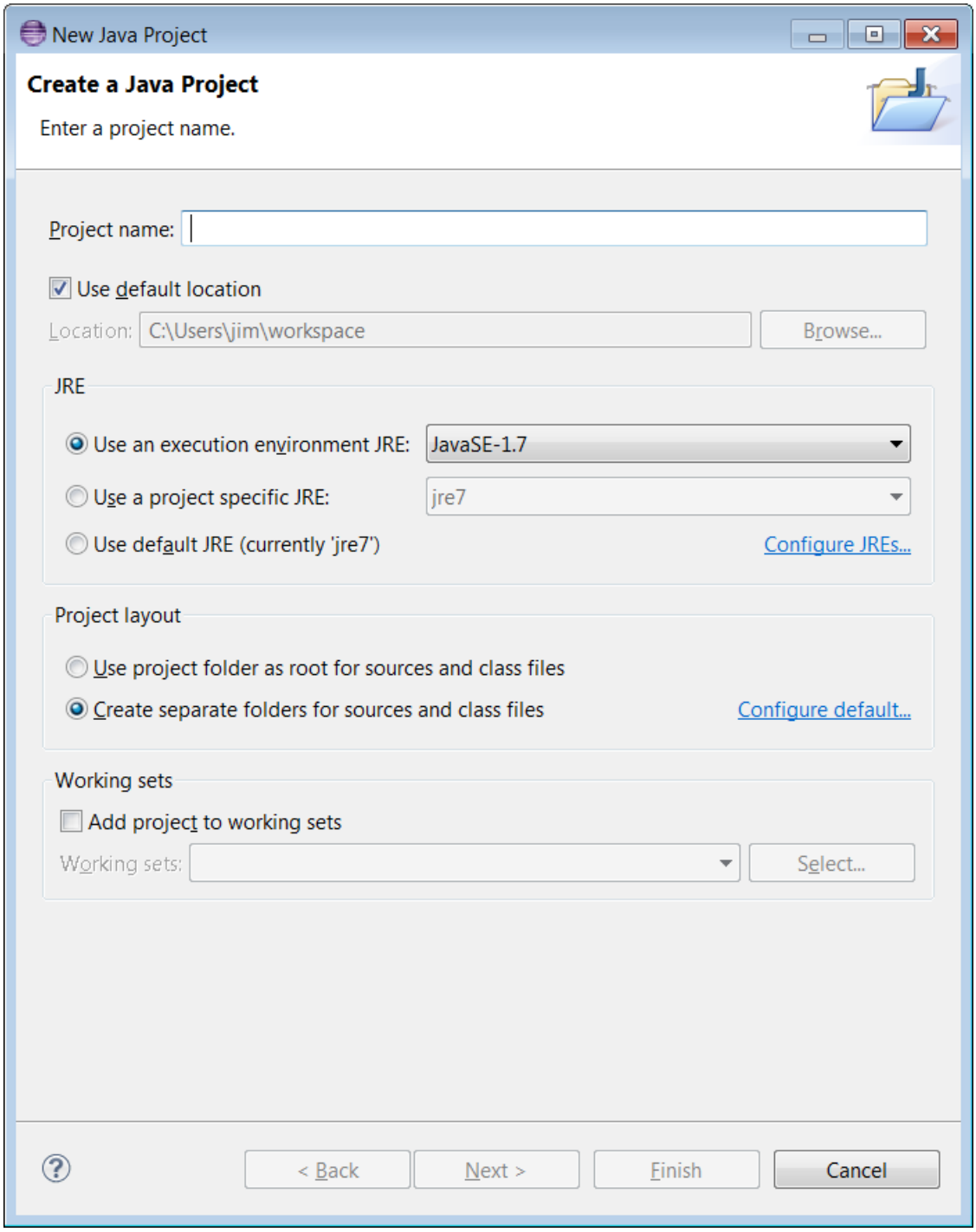
Eclipse steps (optional):

1. Launch Eclipse by double-clicking the Eclipse.exe program in your file system.



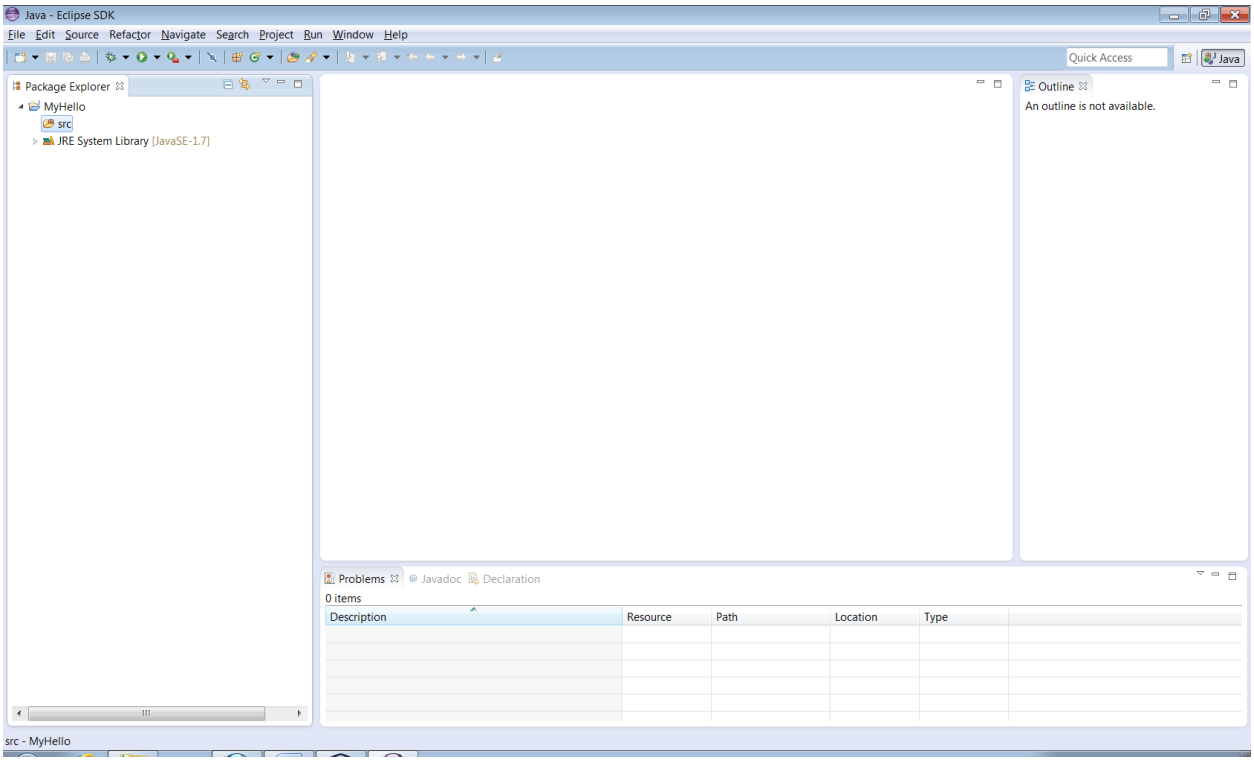
Note: When clicking on the eclipse.exe you may be prompted to run the application and then select the default workspace for your files.

2. From the menu, select File-> New -> Java project

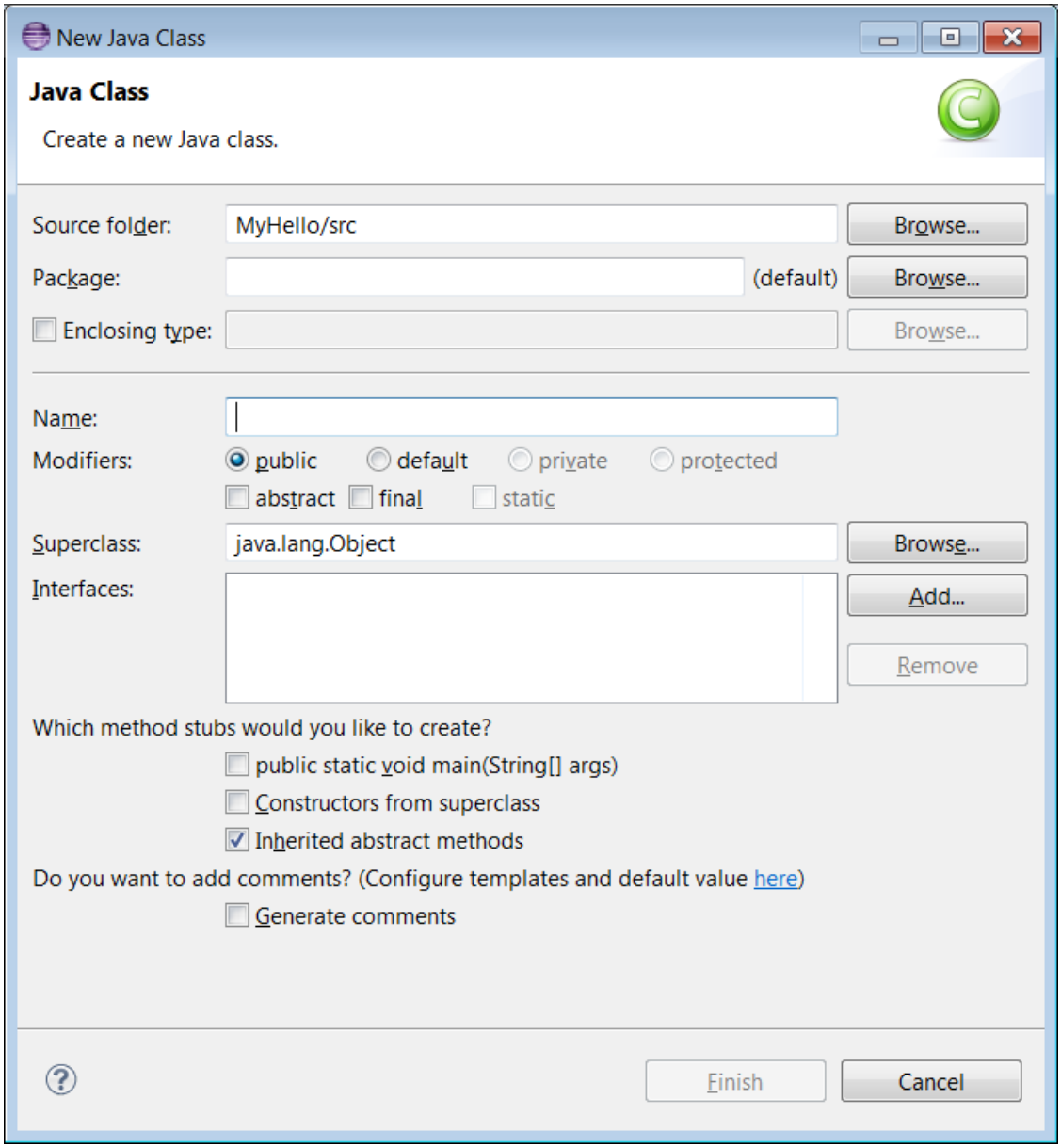


3. Enter MyHello for the Project name and click Finish

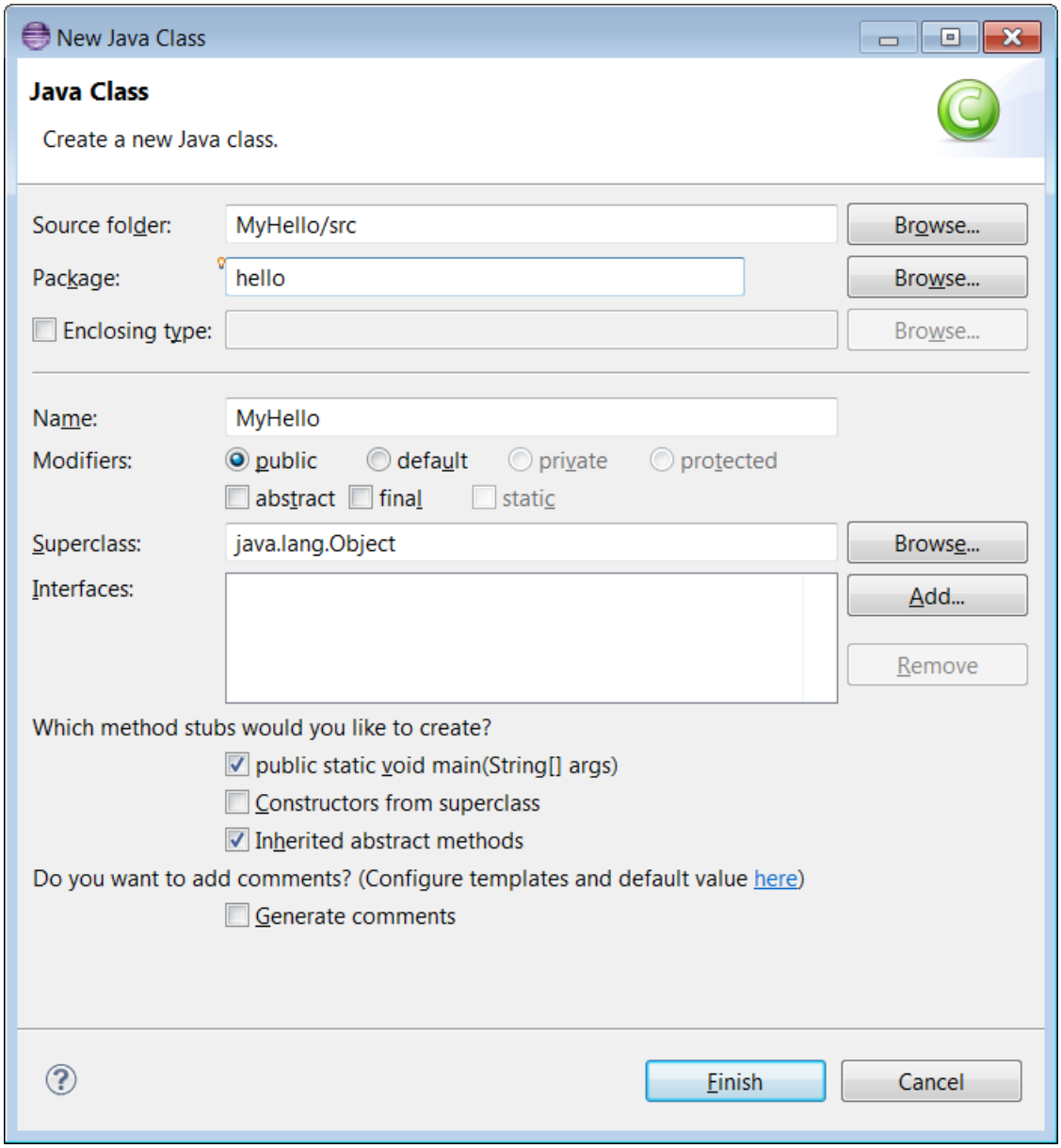
4. Click on the Workbench icon in the upper right corner to display the workbench with your Project:



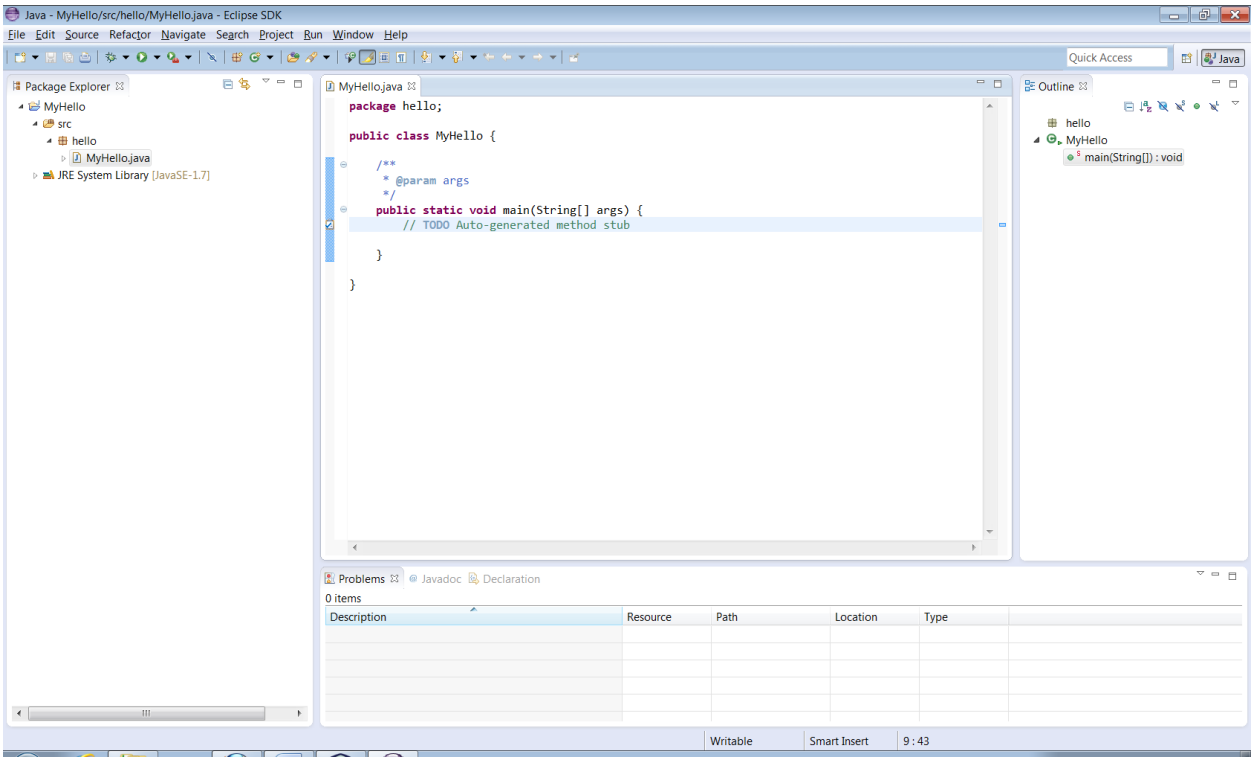
5. In the left hand, upper corner of the screen, right click on src and select new class



6. Add MyHello to the Name and hello to the Package fields and check the public static void main (String[] args] and then click finish.



7. The code template will appear:



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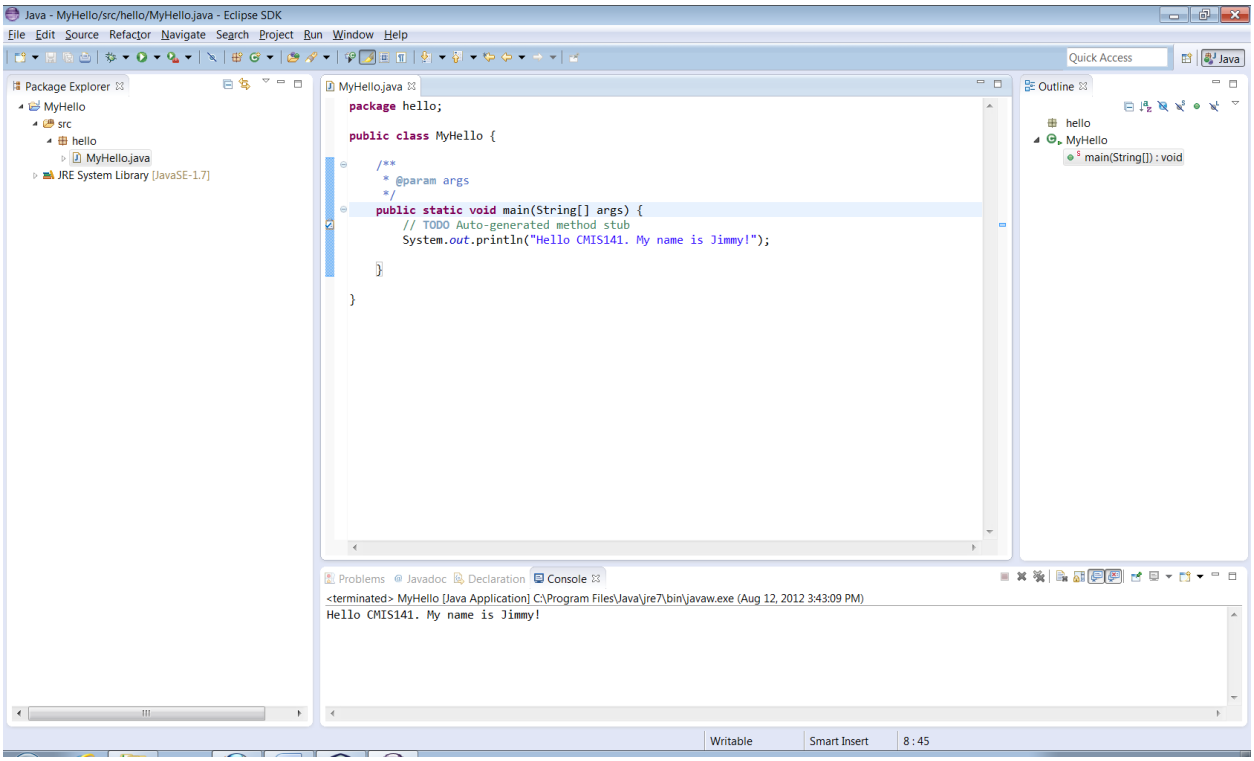
System.out.println("Hello CMIS141. My name is Jimmy!");

9. Click the Green Arrow in the tool bar near top and watch as the code successfully compiles and runs.

Note(s):

1) The output or results of running the code is shown at the bottom of the screen.
2) The system may ask you to save the file before it compiles and runs.



10. Feel free to experiment with changing the code to display other text. But the good news is your environment is successfully configured and you are ready to code in Java!