A Friendly Face for Eclipse

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Java at the Intro Level

- Great for OO Concepts

- But:

  - Tough syntax

  - "Magic code" for `main`, console I/O

  - Compile / Run at command line
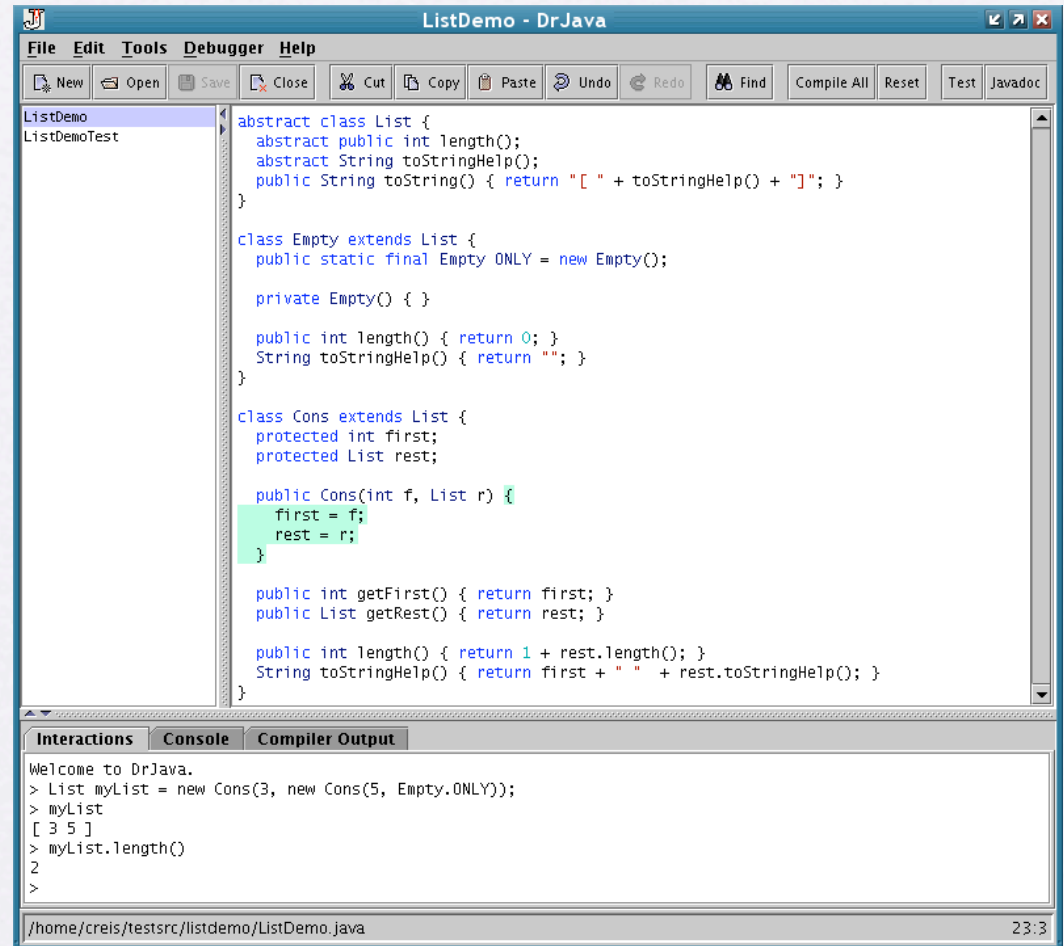
Simplify with IDEs

- Syntactic aids

- Error highlighting

- Avoid the command line

IDE Pitfalls for Novices

- No relief from `main` or console I/O

- Overwhelming interface

- Heavyweight

DrJava

- Pedagogic IDE

- Lightweight

- Simple user interface

DrJava

- Pedagogic IDE

- Lightweight

- **Simple user interface**

Interactions Pane

- "Read-Eval-Print Loop" (REPL)

- Calculator metaphor

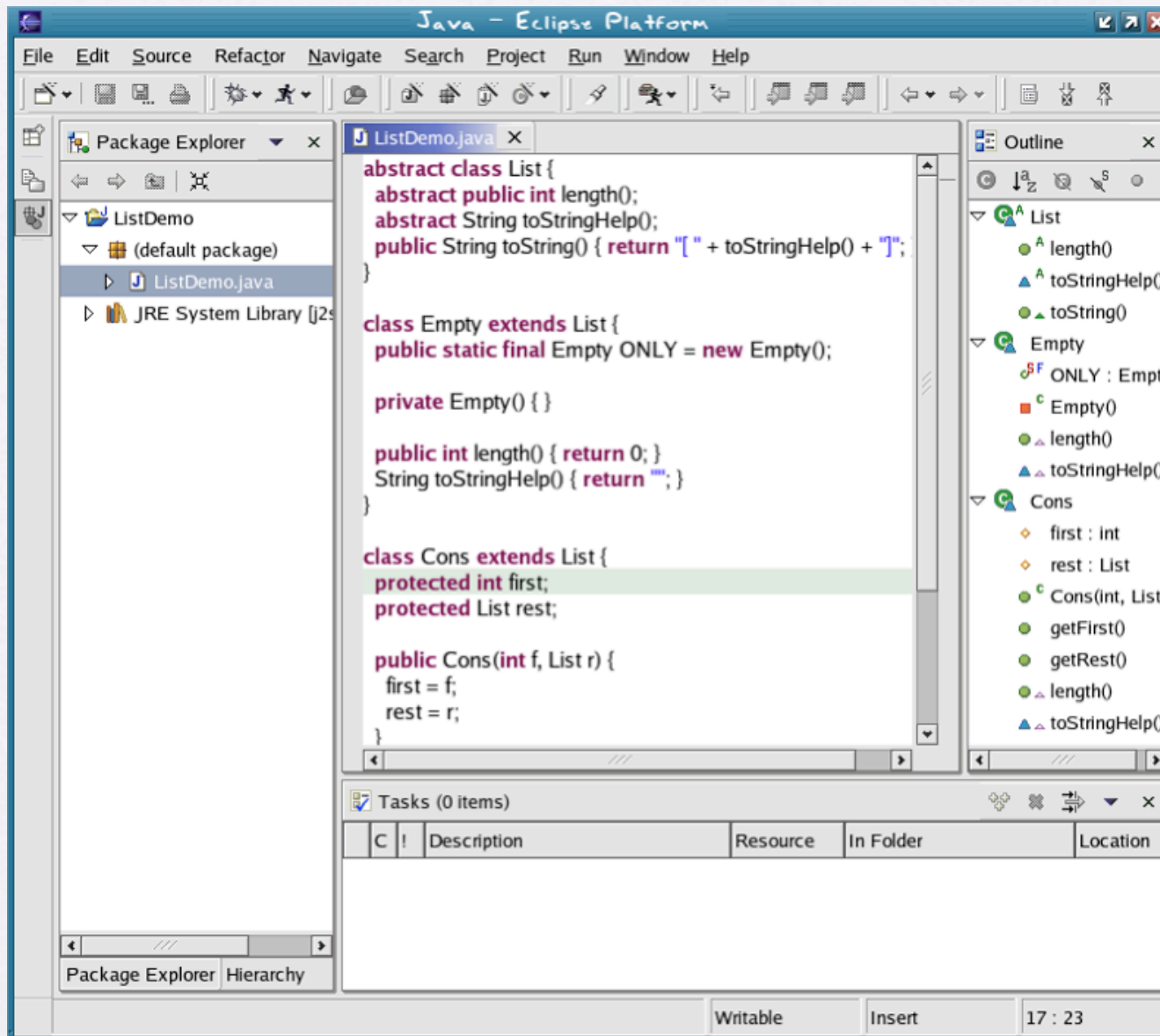- Build up state

- Good for demos, experiments, etc.

Potential DrJava Drawbacks
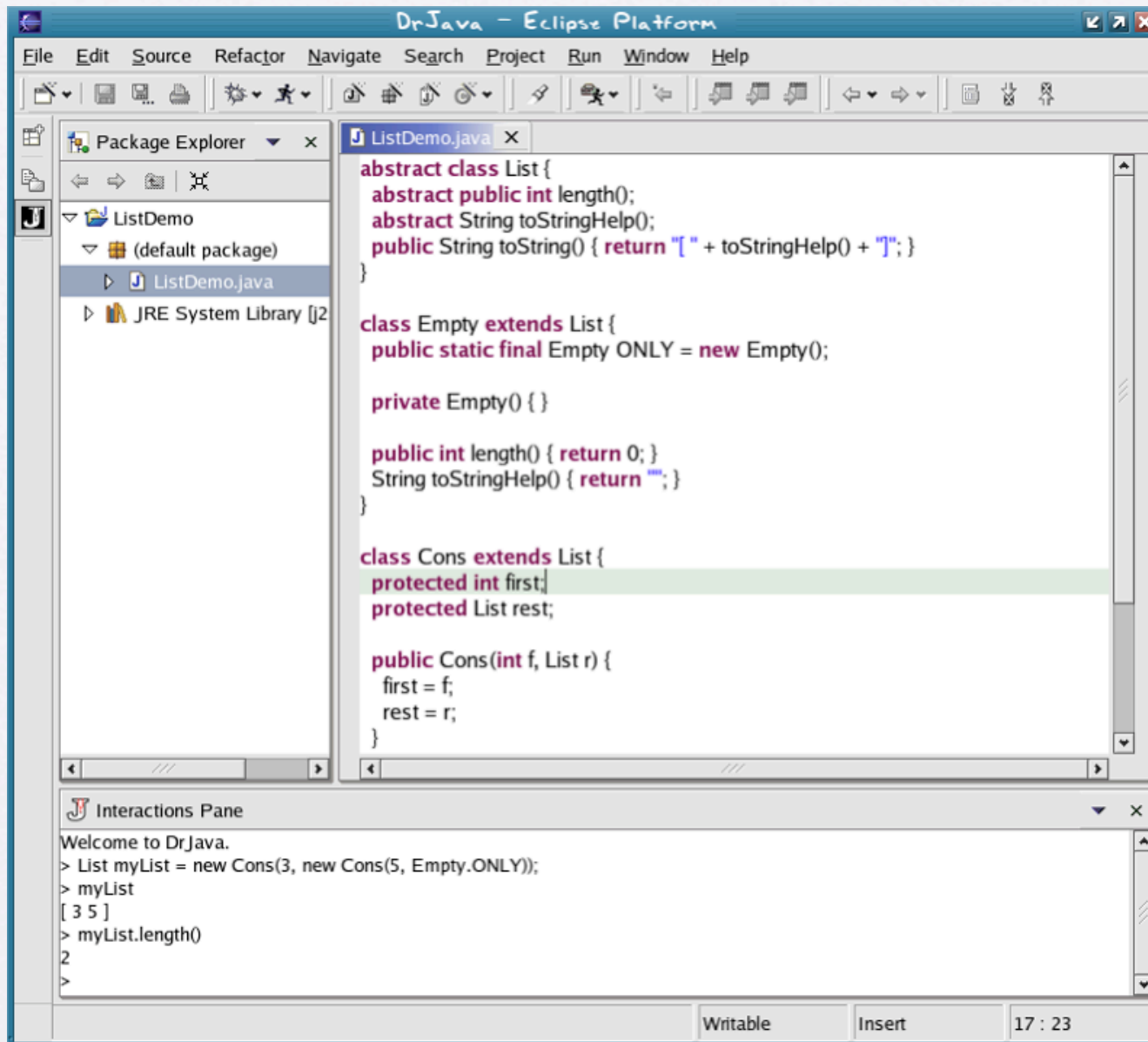
- No Plug-in Architecture

- Limited feature scope

DrJava Plug-in for Eclipse

- Create a DrJava / Eclipse Hybrid
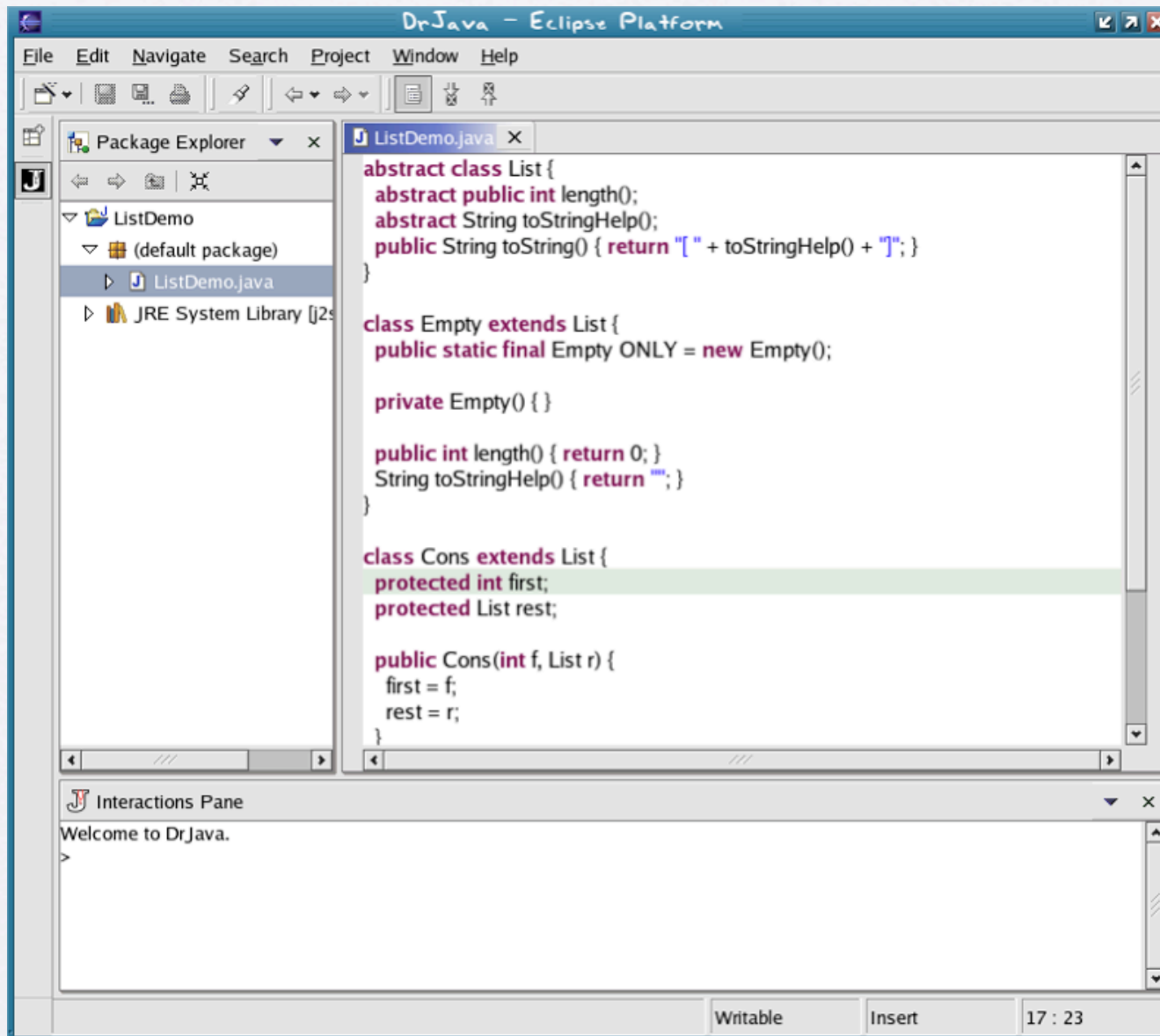
  - Simplify Eclipse's layout

  - Add Interactions Pane

Simplify the Layout

Simplify the Layout

Simplify the Layout

Interactions Pane

- Straight from DrJava

- REPL vs. Scrapbook Page

  - More intuitive metaphor

  - Clear, convenient to build up state

Coming Soon

- Debugger Integration

  - Interactions during suspension

  - More power than just expression eval

Conclusion

- Eclipse + DrJava: better for novices

  - Less daunting UI

  - Avoid complexities with REPL

  - Ease transition to advanced tools