

How to create a standalone program

Introduction

Eclipse can produce standalone Java programs called JAR files (for Java ARchive). As long as your computer has a Java Runtime Environment (JRE) installed, you should be able to run a .jar as a program by double-clicking it. Normally, this is very easy to do with a few clicks, but because we're using the non-standard ACM libraries and the Stanford plugin in the ConsolePrograms and GraphicsPrograms we have been writing throughout the course, we have to go through a fairly long process instead. Here are the steps required to produce a standalone program.

1 Adding a `main()` method

You may have wondered why we needed a `main()` method in the LeJOS programs but not in the ConsolePrograms and GraphicsPrograms. This is because the Stanford Eclipse plugin is automatically adding a `main()` method. Before we can export to a JAR, we need to add this method back in. That is, inside your main class (the one that extends `ConsoleProgram` or `GraphicsProgram`), you should add the code:

```
public static void main(String[] args) {  
    new MyClass().start(args);  
}
```

In this code snippet, you should replace "MyClass" with whatever the name of your class is. So for instance if at the top of your file you have the line

```
public class RandomCircles extends GraphicsProgram {
```

then you should write `RandomCircles` in place of `MyClass` in the above code.

2 Using Eclipse's Export Wizard