Lesson 8 FAQs

Q: Are there any automated ways to generate a window layout in Java, or do we have to lay the components out by hand every time?

A: There is an automated way to create a window in Java. The NetBeans IDE lets you create a form that represents your window. Then you drag and drop components into it and place them where you want them. NetBeans will generate Java code that will display the window you've designed.

The reason we did not start out using a drag-and-drop process is that once you have your components in place, you still have to modify the code to make them work. Jumping into the middle of that code without understanding what it does can be dangerous. Once we've finished doing it "the hard way," you'll be able to look at code generated by an IDE like NetBeans and figure out how it works. Then you'll be able to modify it appropriately.

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