Get Ready to Learn, Bitches

1. **Make sure you have a fairly recent JVM installed**. Don’t worry about it too much unless you’re having server problems later.
2. **Install your JSP server**. I’ve been using Apache Tomcat because it’s free, has lots of great documentation and examples, requires very little setup, and defaults to a developer friendly environment. You can download it here [DIRECT LINK TO DOWNLOAD] and here’s the documentation [LINK TO DOCUMENTATION]. When installing, I changed these settings…
   1. Install the service. Now you don’t have to start it manually every time you boot
   2. Install the examples. These are very helpful along with some of the tutorials you’ll be reading
3. **Verify your server is working**. Point your browser to <http://localhost:8080/>. If you’re being congratulated by a web page with a cartoon cat, good job, you can follow step-by-step instructions. If not,follow these steps…
   1. Make sure you didn’t change your port to something besides 8080. If you did, that’s the port you should be using in the address bar.
   2. Make sure windows firewall or an antivirus isn’t blocking server traffic.
   3. Try uninstalling all JVM packages and updates and reinstall only the latest one.
   4. If you’re still having problems email me.
4. **Play with a few JSP examples.** If you installed the examples you can navigate to <http://localhost:8080/examples>. Poke around with these if you want, but they probably won’t be too instructive until after you read up on JSP.
5. **Drop a shortcut to your website directory on your desktop**. This serves the double purpose of saving you time later and teaching you where all the webpages are supposed to go. Navigate to “[Your Installation Directory]\Apache Software Foundation\Tomcat 6.0\webapps” and drop a shortcut to it on your desktop. Anything you put in here will be accessible via your browser.
6. **Now you’re ready to start learning web development.** I’ve collected a few tutorials here, and they’re a good place to get started.
   1. **JSP**
   2. **SQL**
   3. **HTML refresher**