

Java Application: BlueRedWhite

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Description

BlueRedWhite is a Java 1.4 graphical (GUI) application to test the size and spacing of alternating blue and red lines on a white background, as used by icons for the “Hex Byte Char” application. Medium blue and medium red are strong colors when placed near each other. Separating them with white creates different effects depending upon how wide the lines are.

This program is of interest to graphic artists and Java programmers. There are several limitations. The GUI layout is low effort. Sliders are approximate when moved with a mouse; arrow keys are more precise, and a dialog box with an exact number would be better. The basic design assumes an even number of pixels (that is, a multiple of two) for icon sizes and the width of the white lines, which is not enforced in an obvious manner.

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Installation

You must have the Java run-time environment (JRE) installed on your computer. BlueRedWhite was developed with Java 1.4 and should run on later versions. It may also run on earlier versions, but this has not been tested. You can download the JRE from Oracle (formerly Sun Microsystems):

JRE for end users: <http://www.java.com/download/>

SDK for programmers: <http://www.oracle.com/java/> or the OpenJDK builds

IDE for programmers: <http://www.eclipse.org/> or <http://www.netbeans.org/>

Once Java is installed, you need to put the program files for BlueRedWhite into a folder (directory) on your hard drive. The name of the folder and the location are your choice, except it is easier if the name does not include spaces. Assume that files will go into a “C:\Java” folder. Then create the folder and unpack the Java *.class files into this folder (if you received the program as a ZIP file). The files look something like this:

- ApacheLicense20.txt (12 KB, legal notice)
- BlueRedWhite1.class (6 KB, executable program)
- BlueRedWhite1.doc (30 KB, this documentation in Microsoft Word format)
- BlueRedWhite1.ico (87 KB, icon for Windows)
- BlueRedWhite1.jar (7 KB, archive file with same class files inside)
- BlueRedWhite1.java (22 KB, source code)
- BlueRedWhite1.manifest (1 KB, main class manifest for archive file)
- BlueRedWhite1.pdf (66 KB, this documentation in Adobe Acrobat format)
- BlueRedWhite1.png (14 KB, sample program image)
- BlueRedWhite1Grid.class (3 KB, helper class for main program)
- BlueRedWhite1User.class (3 KB)
- GnuPublicLicense3.txt (35 KB, legal notice)
- RunJavaPrograms.pdf (60 KB, more notes about running Java)

To run the program on Windows, start a DOS command prompt, which is Start button, Programs, Accessories, Command Prompt on Windows XP/Vista/7. Change to the folder with the program files and run the program with a “java” command:

```
c:
cd \java
java BlueRedWhite1
```

The program name “BlueRedWhite1” must appear exactly as shown; uppercase and lowercase letters are different in Java names. Some systems (Macintosh) will run a main “class” file by clicking on the class file name while viewing a directory in the file browser (Mac Finder). Many systems will run a “jar” file by clicking (or double clicking) on the jar file name (Windows Explorer). The command line is the only guaranteed way of running a Java program. Should you find this program to be popular, you can create a Start menu item or desktop shortcut on Windows XP/Vista/7 with a target of “java.exe BlueRedWhite1” starting in the “C:\Java” folder.

One complication may arise when trying to run this program. Java looks for an environment variable called CLASSPATH. If it finds this variable, then that is a list of folders where it looks for *.class files. It won’t look anywhere else, not even in the current directory, unless the path contains “.” as one of the choices. The symptom is an error message that says:

Exception in thread "main" java.lang.NoClassDefFoundError: BlueRedWhite1

To find out if your system has a CLASSPATH variable defined, type the following command in a DOS window:

```
set CLASSPATH
```

To temporarily change the CLASSPATH variable to the current directory, use the following command line:

```
java -cp . BlueRedWhite1
```

To permanently change the CLASSPATH, you must find where it is being set. This is in Control Panel, System, Advanced, Environment Variables on Windows XP/Vista/7.

Removal or Uninstall

To remove this program from your computer, delete the installation files listed above. If the folder that contained the files is now empty, you may also delete the folder ... if you created the folder, of course, not the system. If you created desktop shortcuts or Start menu items, then delete those too. There are no hidden configuration or preference files, and no information is stored in the Windows system registry. You don't need an "uninstall" program.

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