Java Application: FileDateName

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Description

FileDateName is a Java 1.4 graphical (GUI) application to rename multiple files or to change their directory dates. The contents of the files are not changed. File names may be converted to all lowercase ("a happy dog.txt"), to all uppercase ("A HAPPY DOG.TXT"), or to title case ("A Happy Dog.txt"). Leading, trailing, and multiple spaces may be removed. Folders and subfolders may be searched recursively. Changes may be applied to files only, both files and folders, or only the folders. Hidden and read-only files won't be renamed or redated unless an option is given on the command line, and the action is permitted by both Java and the operating system.

One word of caution: there is no "undo" feature. Once you change a file date or name, the only way to restore the original date or name is to change the file date or name again. Practice on copies of your files before you blindly apply this program to large folders. You may also turn on the "simulate" option to see what would be changed, without actually making the changes.

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Installation

You must have the Java run-time environment (JRE) installed on your computer. FileDateName 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/getjava/

SDK for programmers: http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/
IDE for programmers: http://www.netbeans.org/

Once Java is installed, you need to put the program files for FileDateName 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)
FileDateName1.class (28 KB, executable program)
FileDateName1.doc (31 KB, this documentation in Microsoft Word format)
FileDateName1.gif (21 KB, sample program image)
FileDateName1.ico (87 KB, icon for Windows)
FileDateName1.jar (17 KB, archive file with same class files inside)
FileDateName1.java (83 KB, source code)
FileDateName1.manifest (1 KB, main class manifest for archive file)
FileDateName1.pdf (69 KB, this documentation in Adobe Acrobat format)
FileDateName1.txt (9 KB, sample text for custom renaming)
FileDateName1User.class (2 KB, helper class for main program)
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  FileDateName1
```

The program name "FileDateName1" 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 FileDateName1" 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: FileDateName1
```

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  .  FileDateName1
```

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.

Graphical Versus Console Application

The Java command line may contain options for including hidden or read-only files, searching subfolders, and the size of the display font. See the "-?" option for a help summary:

```
java  FileDateName1  -?
```

For information on Java regular expressions and back references, please see the following web page:

```
http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.5.0/docs/api/java/util/regex/Pattern.html
```

The command line has more options than are visible in the graphical interface. An option such as -u14 or -u16 is recommended because the default Java font is too small.

Restrictions and Limitations

Daylight saving time (DST) may not be properly accounted for when setting times in a period of the year opposite to the current DST rules. Java should have the correct time, but Windows

2000/XP/Vista/7 can sometimes be too helpful in adjusting the clock, and the effect varies with the underlying file system (FAT32, NTFS, etc).