

JavaService

A Windows NT Service Utility for Java Applications

Introduction

The JavaService utility allows a Java application to be installed and run as a Windows NT Service.

Once installed, the Java-based service can be run automatically on system startup and may be controlled using the standard Windows command line or Services Administration tools.

No changes are required to your Java application software for it to work with JavaService, so there are no cross-platform issues to consider in making use of the Windows NT-specific features. This means that any server-type Java program can be easily run as a background process on the NT platform.

Features

- Easy command interface to install, configure and uninstall JavaService applications
- Works with the locally installed Java run-time environment
- Source Java program code is unchanged for use as a service
- Works on Windows NT4, 2000 and XP.
- Makes use of Windows Registry, Event Logger and Services Admin facilities
- Sample scripts provided for widely-used application servers
- Program output can be recorded in configured log files
- Support available from the ObjectWeb software forge for this project

Description

JavaService can be used to run any Java application that operates in the background without a user interface. This makes it particularly useful for application servers or system monitoring programs. It has also proved to be a good solution for running test tools or server stubs that accept network connections from application software in development or test environments.

All standard Java programs have at least one class and a public static 'main' function. Given this information, and details of the local JRE, JavaService can be used to install the program as a service. For example, a simple program with the class org.objectweb.MyService can be installed using a command similar to the following:

```
> JavaService -install MyService %JRE_BIN%\jvm.dll -start org.objectweb.MyService
```

This command would load the application configuration details into the registry and the service would be automatically started when the system next reboots. It may be stopped and started using the standard Services Admin Tool, or using the 'net stop MyService' and 'net start MyService' commands.

All configuration details are held in the Windows System Registry, and this is cleaned up on service removal when using the command:

```
> JavaService -uninstall
```

History

The JavaService utility was initially provided by Alexandria Software Consulting in April 2000, under a BSD-style licensing agreement, with updates provided through to April 2001. From November 2002 to July 2003, Multiplan Consultants Ltd extended this software with additional features and fixes.

As of October 2004, the ObjectWeb consortium accepted JavaService as an open source project. Previous and current releases of the software are now available from the JavaService web site <http://javaservice.objectweb.org/> with ongoing development leading to an updated version that will shortly be offered under an LGPL licence.

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