

## Switch between different JDK versions in Windows

By Pranav Prakash on [Dec 13, 2008](#)



Being a Java developer, I always compile and test my code on different Java versions. But switching between them is a huge problem. So finally I found an easy method to do this. You have to create following batch files and place them in directory you open your command line in or in SYSTEM PATH. You can use your favorite text editor to create these files.

### jdk14.bat

```
@echo off
echo Setting JAVA_HOME
set JAVA_HOME=C:\j2sdk1.4.2_12
echo setting PATH
set PATH=C:\j2sdk1.4.2_12\bin;%PATH%
echo Display java version
java -version
```

### jdk15.bat

```
@echo off
echo Setting JAVA_HOME
set JAVA_HOME=C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.5.0_12
echo setting PATH
set PATH=C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.5.0_12\bin;%PATH%
echo Display java version
java -version
```

### jdk16.bat

```
@echo off
echo Setting JAVA_HOME
set JAVA_HOME=C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_11
echo setting PATH
set PATH=C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_11\bin;%PATH%
echo Display java version
java -version
```

Make sure you assign the appropriate JAVA\_HOME value in batch files, according to your Java installation. Whenever you want to switch between Java versions, just run the respective batch file and you are done.

*Note- **JAVA\_HOME** and the path to **java** must **always** refer to the exact same version of the JDK. If you mix them up, unpredictable things will happen!*

Category: Tips

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Comments:

Your note is very true, so make sure you don't run more than one batch file in the same command-window. Close the command window and open a new one first.

Posted by [SwitchBL8](#) on December 13, 2008 at 11:57 PM IST <#>

why don't use te JAVA\_HOME variable for setting the PATH variable? Like this: @echo off echo Setting

```
JAVA_HOME set JAVA_HOME=C:\Archivos de programa\Java\jdk1.6.0_07 echo setting PATH set  
PATH=%JAVA_HOME%\bin;%PATH% echo Display java version java -version This way we reduce the  
risks you mention
```

Posted by [Roman Rubio](#) on December 15, 2008 at 07:58 PM IST <#>

```
:: On modern versions of windows (XP, probably 2000, not sure about 98) - drop this script into any java  
installation folder: :: drive and path of this script set CWD=%~dp0 :: drop trailing '\' when setting  
JAVA_HOME set JAVA_HOME=%CWD:~-0,-1% :: put first in PATH set  
PATH=%JAVA_HOME%\bin;%PATH% :: display version java -version
```

Posted by **Trevor Torrez** on November 17, 2009 at 08:13 PM IST <#>

It works. But immediately after changing the environment variables, they are getting reset to older values.  
ie issuing java -version command in a new prompt shows the old values.

Posted by **Sreehareesh KM** on January 21, 2010 at 09:52 AM IST <#>

Good to be visiting your site again, it has been weeks for me. Anyway, this is the post that i've been  
waiting for so long. I can use this article to finish my assignment in the college, and it has same topic like  
your post. Regards, great share.

Posted by **Tanna Recher** on April 22, 2010 at 12:20 AM IST <#>