While I didn’t really have problems with the installation and configuration of Java. I did experience some discrepancies with the NetBeans installation video. I had a difficult time finding 11.3 so I installed NetBeans 19 which appears to be the LTS version.

It is also worth noting that I installed Java 21 and it appeared to have a compatibility issue with NetBeans 19, so I rolled my Java version back to Java 17 and it appeared to work fine.

I spent some time exploring NetBeans and found it to be a bit clunky for the purposes of the first assignment. I think all the tools and somewhat confusing file structure will become more useful or at least clearer as we continue with Java and build larger more complex programs.

Since I noticed in the videos, he said NetBeans was “not required”, I opted to use good ole Visual Studio Code to write my first assignment. While practicing printing strings I ran into a classic error that took me way too long to figure out. Basically my “public class” name did not match the name of my file, so it returned an error. My file/public class name also started with a lowercase letter and the w3schools tutorial recommends using the convention where the public class always starts with a capitalized letter. So, I made those changes, and my code ran just fine.

Hopefully the liberties I have taken with my installation of Java and NetBeans won’t come back to haunt me, but my gut said to go with the latest LTS versions. So, I did.