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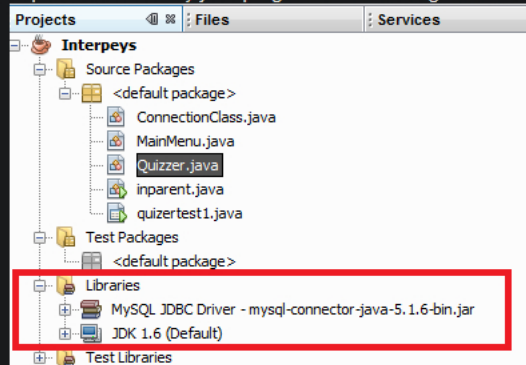
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# how to include libraries in java without using an IDE

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How do I import libraries in my java program without using an IDE like Netbeans? In Netbeans I do it



this way:

How can I achieve the same thing by just using notepad++ or programmer's notepad. As much as possible I don't want to use Netbeans because it would be overkill since I'm only working on simple projects.

java libraries

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asked Feb 25 '11 at 1:26

user225269

4,719 57 156 236

6 Answers

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33

javac -classpath external.jar myClass.java

EDIT:

If your main class is in a package

✓

```
package com.mycompany;
public class myClass
{
...
...
}
```

then

you'll need

```
javac -classpath external.jar com/mycompany/myClass.java
```

asked 8 years, 4 months ago

viewed 67,884 times

active 3 years, 8 months ago

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and

to run

```
java -classpath external.jar com.mycompany.myClass
```

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edited Feb 25 '11 at 3:59

answered Feb 25 '11 at 1:30



Bala R

92.1k • 21 • 166 • 191

1 Exception in thread "main" java.lang.NoClassDefFoundError: Quizzer Caused by: java.lang.ClassNotFoundException: Quizzer at java.net.URLClassLoader\$1.run(Unknown Source) at java.security.AccessController.doPrivileged(Native Method) at java.net.URLClassLoader.findClass(Unknown Source) at java.lang.ClassLoader.loadClass(Unknown Source) at sun.misc.Launcher\$AppClassLoader.loadClass(Unknown Source) at java.lang.ClassLoader.loadClass(Unknown Source) Could not find the main class: Quizzer. Program will exit. – user225269 Feb 25 '11 at 3:46

does your main class have a package name? – Bala R Feb 25 '11 at 3:52

@StackOverflowError - you also need a -classpath argument on the java command. – Stephen C Feb 25 '11 at 3:57

@Stephen Edited! – Bala R Feb 25 '11 at 4:00

If you compile in directory that java file is in you use that: java -classpath external.jar:com.mycompany.myClass – Halil Ibrahim Oymaci Jul 18 '16 at 8:33

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In addition to @StackOverflowException's post adding multiple files and locations is perfectly ok too...

14

```
javac -cp location1;/location2;/file1.jar;file2.jar fileToCompile
```



Notes::

-cp and -classpath are the same thing. If you're on Solaris (and some other UNIX flavors) change the ';' to ':'

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answered Feb 25 '11 at 1:37



Simon David Kelly

221 • 1 • 3

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All of the other posters are spot on, you just need to add the jar to your classpath.

6

Java offers many mechanisms for setting the classpath, including via the command line, via an environment variable, and through setting it in the MANIFEST.MF of an executable Java jar file.



These are all a pain in the neck to manage. It's good to know the technique, and understand the basics. But it's really a bad idea to actually use them.

What you should do is this.

First, put all of your Java libraries in a single place on your system. C:\java\libraries, or whatever. Someplace that you remember, someplace accessible by all of your projects.

Next, name all of your libraries using their version numbers. If you using log4j v1.4.1, then put the jar in a log4j-1.4.1 directory in your library area. This gives you "free" library versioning.

Finally, learn Ant. For simple projects, Ant is simple. Use the Ant build.xml file to compile, test, and

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run your application.

Why? Several reasons.

Because once it's set up, adding a new library to your project is trivial, you add a line to your build.xml. Ant lets you more easily handle simple abstractions (like where all of your libraries are located).

The build.xml is self contained. If you use, say, an environment variable for the classpath, then the classpath for one project may be different from that of another. That means resetting the environment variable. Continue this and you'll end up swearing at some "new problem" where it "worked before" when it's because you had your classpath set wrong. Set it once in the build.xml, and forget it.

Ant is portable. It runs the same on Windows, on Linux, on Mac, on AS/400, it runs everywhere that Java runs, unlike shells scripts or BAT files.

It's lightweight. Simple ant scripts are simple. They don't bring a lot of baggage with them, you can always make them scary complicated. It's much simpler than Maven for just builds.

Most IDEs support Ant directly. If you decided to go back to an IDE, most can simply use your ant build file with minimal configuration.

This is how you solve your classpath problem with notepad++. Setting the classpath works, but it doesn't go far enough, it's a pain to administer and manage. Learning the basics of Ant will take you much farther with minimal work.

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answered Feb 25 '11 at 1:51



Will Hartung

96.3k • 17 • 112 • 189

2 this might work. But it is not best practice to dump all of your JARs in one place. – Stephen C Feb 25 '11 at 3:59

add a comment



You should put them on your classpath, like

3

```
java -classpath someJar.jar YourMainClass
```



And, of course, you can do the same for javac .

If you need to have more than one jar or directory on your classpath, you'll need to use your platform's default path separator. For example, on Windows,

```
java -classpath someJar.jar;myJar.jar YourMainClass
```

On a side note, you might find it easier to use an IDE to manage this sort of stuff. I've personally used just my slightly scriptable editor and have managed fine. But it's good to know how to do this stuff by command line.

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edited Oct 15 '15 at 12:12



Shepard

607 • 4 • 11 • 30

answered Jan 3 '13 at 9:23



user1249380

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put the jars in your classpath, classpath is an environment variable

2

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answered Feb 25 '11 at 1:29



f0ster

463 • 3 • 10

Two parameters are not enough

Would skyscrapers tip over if people fell sideways?

Chandra exiles a card, I play it, it gets exiled again

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The classpath *can* be specified via an environment variable, but best practice is to use `-classpath .` –  
Stephen C Feb 25 '11 at 1:38

add a comment



Make sure the jar file is in your classpath and you have the import statement.

1

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answered Feb 25 '11 at 1:31



Derek Beattie

8,397 ● 3 ● 25 ● 43

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