

Spring 2020

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Common Problems When Using or Installing Java/DrJava

1. *My computer says that DrJava is a corrupted file and will not run it.*

By default Apple computers are set to only run files that are downloaded from the Apple store. You need to go to the DrJava jar file in the Finder application, and hold the control key as you click on the file so you get a menu, and choose "Open" on the menu. The OS should pop up a dialog asking if you want to override the security features.
2. *Nothing happens when I click on the DrJava jar file or I get a strange error message.*

You may not have the correct version of Java installed. Here is a way to find the version. Open a terminal (Mac or Linux) or a command prompt (Windows), and enter

```
java -version
```

In my testing, on Mac the version must be 1.8, but in Windows and Linux it was okay for the version to be larger than 1.8 as long as you had Java 8 loaded on your system. If you are still getting the error on Windows or Linux, you can change the PATH environment variable to include the Java 8 JDK's bin file *at the front* of its list of folders. If you do not want to mess with environment variables, you can remove the other versions of the JDK leaving only Java 8.

A second problem on Windows is that some setting may not be telling the system that a double click on a jar file should use java to open it. I am not sure how to fix that, but there is a work around by creating a batch file. Go to the page about installing Java on Windows, and near the bottom is a description of how to create a batch file to launch DrJava.
3. *DrJava does not find a Java compiler.*

First, verify that you have a Java JDK installed. Second, verify that you have the same version of the JDK and the JRE. If you do not, you should uninstall Java from your system and then install the JDK. When you install the JDK it should see that the JRE is missing and install a matching version. Third, try using the Jar file version of DrJava instead of the executable version. Fourth, check to see if you have the wrong version of Java on your system, and if you do try installing Java 8.
4. *I compile and get no error messages, but it can't find my class file.*

Your DrJava may not be correctly linked to the Java compiler. When you go to the "Compiler Output" tab and select your compiler what message appears? It should say "Compiler ready: JDK 8.0 in ..." (and list the JDK file)". If it instead lists the DrJava file, then it is not correctly linked. You need to edit the "Resources Location" in DrJava, and you can find the instructions in the page on installing Java for your operating system, on the section of "Linking DrJava to the Java compiler".
5. *I am using the JavaFX library, but when I compile, it says it can't find any JavaFX class.*

This can happen, especially on Windows machines if you have more than one version of Java installed. Please see: [Getting JavaFX to Work on Your System](#)
6. *How do you display line numbers in DrJava?*

Displaying line numbers in DrJava will help you with debugging your code and understanding any error messages you receive. To display line numbers, launch DrJava and choose *Edit, Preferences*, and *Display Options*. Click on *Show All Line Numbers*.
7. *The DrJava Test and/or JavaDoc buttons do not work*

The JavaDoc and JUnit suites are not on your system. Most likely, this is because you did not load the full Java JDK, but instead you are using the default Java compiler that comes with DrJava (the Eclipse version of the compiler). You need to load the Java JDK to get access to the extra features.
8. *The fonts in DrJava are incredibly tiny!*

The current version of DrJava did not anticipate the very high resolution of some modern screens. If you go to the *Edit* menu and select *Preferences* and *Fonts*, you can increase the point size of the default fonts.