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## 8.4: Dealing with Files in Cross-Platform Code

File I/O can be a tricky thing when you're writing portable code. Fortunately, Java tries to help. The `java.io.File` class provides one important piece of platform-specific file-related information as a public static variable named `separatorChar`. This variable has the value "/" on a UNIX system, "\" on a Windows machine, and ":" on a Macintosh. It gives the character appropriate for use in separating path components in a filename. Note that this is too simplistic to extend to, say, VMS (DEC's proprietary operating system for its VAX minicomputer), where file path names are more complex.

Objects of class `File` can represent either an actual file or a directory. You can use other methods in the `File` class to interrogate a `File` object for information about its location in the file system, its access permissions, and its list of contained files, if it represents a directory. You can also create and delete files and directories using methods in this class.

The class `javax.swing.JFileChooser` provides a portable interface to user file selection.