# How to set JAVA environment variables in Linux or CentOS

sh

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# How to set JAVA environment variables JAVA\_HOME and PATH in Linux

After installing new java (jdk or jre) or latest Java you may have usually find that the version of java is not exactly the same which you have installed. It might be showing you the same old version.

### How to check the java version which is currently set in linux system?

Answer: Run the below given command

```
# java --
version
or
# java -version
```

#### Now we will install new Java and set the java variables

Download the rpm file from Oracle website. Click here (If you have installed with tar ball then again there is no problem)

I installed the jdk-1.7.0\_21-fcs.i586 hence showing practical case to case (You can skip the step if you installed through tar ball)

#### Install JDK (java) rpm

```
rpm -ivh
jdk-1.7.0 21-fcs.i586
```

Generally after installation Java file goes to the path /usr/java/jdk-xx-version/. In my case it is in

```
/usr/java/jdk1.7.0 21
```

To check where is the latest Java (JDK or JRE) you have installed in your system. Run below given command

```
find / -name java
```

#### How to set Java variable environment

Follow the given below steps (Replace the version no. as per your new Java version installed in your

#### system)

**Step1**: Open /root/.bash\_profile through your text editor. (I prefer to use vi editor) And paste the given below two lines

```
export JAVA_HOME=/usr/java/jdk1.7.0_21
export PATH=/usr/java/jdk1.7.0_21/bin:$PATH
```

Step 2: Now enable the Java variable without system restart (On system restart it bydefault set the java variable)

```
source
/root/.bash profile
```

**Step 3:** Now check the Java version, JAVA\_HOME and PATH variables. It should show you correct information as you have set.

```
java --version
echo $JAVA_HOME
echo $PATH
```

Given below is the reference of my system's root bash\_profile file

```
[root@localhost ~]# cat /root/.bash_profile
# .bash_profile

# Get the aliases and functions
if [ -f ~/.bashrc ]; then
. ~/.bashrc
fi

# User specific environment and startup programs

PATH=$PATH:$HOME/bin

export PATH

export JAVA_HOME=/usr/java/jdk1.7.0_21

export PATH=/usr/java/jdk1.7.0_21/bin:$PATH

[root@localhost ~]#
```

# Other files and location where you can set Java variable and what are the difference

- (1) /etc/profile = To set environment variable to all users
- (2) \$HOME/.bashrc = To set environment for login user.
- (3) \$HOME/.bash\_profile = To set environment for login user

Note: .bash\_profile is executed for login shells, while .bashrc is executed for interactive non-login shells.

- (4) Create a shell script inside /etc/profile.d/ with .sh extension. and make the file executable.
- (5) Create a shell script in some other location and give its path in /etc/rc.local

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