

To compile Java programs, you need the Java SE Development Kit (JDK). Go to the following link

<http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/>

Follow the download link for the JDK. Download and install the latest version of the JDK for your machine. You will not need JDK with Java EE, because we will not run our Java programs on the Web.

Unlike C++, the standard file organization for Java is to have each class contained in its own source file with extension `.java`. The name of the class is the same as the name of the file. For example, class `MyClass` would be contained in the file `MyClass.java`.

To compile a Java program on the command line:

1. Write the source file in the text editor of your choice.
2. Save the source file with a file extension of `.java`.
3. Compile the source file with the `javac` compiler command as follows:

```
javac MyClass.java
```

If your program contains no errors, the object code is stored in the file named `MyClass.class`.

4. Java is an interpreted language, which means that `.class` files are not native machine code, but are in the form of Java byte code instead. To execute Java byte code, you cannot execute the `.class` file directly. Instead, you must execute the Java Virtual Machine with the `java` command, which takes the `.class` file as follows:

```
java MyClass
```

Note that you do not type the `.class` extension, which is assumed by the Java Virtual Machine.

To compile and execute a Java program requires that you modify your path variables. The way to do that depends on whether you use Windows or OS X. Instead of pursuing the command line approach further, we will use NetBeans, which takes care of these issues automatically.