
COSC 1173

How to Setup Path for Using javac in Command Lines

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There is a so-called *environment variable* named PATH for the operating system to know where to find programs for execution. In our case, the program we want to execute is `javac.exe`. In case that your computer complains about “`javac is not recognized...`” when you try to use `javac` in command-line to compile your java programs, that is because PATH is not set correctly. Do the following to set PATH.

1. First, you have to know where is the program, `javac.exe`, in your computer. To locate `javac.exe`, you may use the following steps under MS Windows:

`Start` > `Search` > `All files and folders`

and type `javac.exe` into the box of “All or part of the file name”, and make sure driver C: is selected in the box of “Look in”. Then, click `Search` button to start searching. Examine the search result window and find out where `javac.exe` is. Suppose it is

`C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.5.0_04\bin`

Write it down or just leave the window open for later reference.

2. Then, set the path variable, PATH, as follows:

`Start` > `Control Panel` > `Performance and Maintenance` > `System` > `Advanced`
> `Environment Variables`.

The window of environment variables should pop up.

- (a) If your account is an administrator account (if you are using lab’s computers, you are not; use (b) step described in the next item), select `Path` from System variables window (the lower one) and click `Edit`. When another window pops up, click on `Variable value` box and use arrow key to move to the very end of the box (be careful, don’t overwrite the old value). Then, append

`;C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.5.0_04\bin;`

to the old value. **Don’t** forget the semicolons before and after `C:\Program Files...` If there are consecutive semicolons, you may remove the extra ones.

- (b) If your account is not an administrator account, select `Path` from User variables window (the upper one) and click `Edit`. If there is no variable `Path` in User variable window, then click `New` and let `Path` be the new variable name. Click on `Variable value` box and input the value as above.

Click OK’s to complete the modification.

3. You have to close and re-open every command-line window to let the new setting take effect.
4. In the command-line window, type in `path` to see if the path is set as you want.