

Installing JDK with Netbeans

In order to *run* Java applications you only need to have the Java Runtime Environment (JRE¹) installed; but if you want to *develop* Java applications, you need the Java Development Kit (JDK²). The JDK includes the JRE, so after you install the JDK, you can both develop and run Java applications. This document outlines the steps for installing the JDK with NetBeans, one of [many](#) Integrated Development Environments (IDE) in which you can develop Java applications.

In class we use [DrJava](#) or [JCreator](#) Pro as our IDE because they are relatively easy to use; however, JCreator Pro requires that you purchase a license to use it. JCreator LE, which previously did not require purchasing a license, is no longer available for free. After a trial period you will be required to pay a licensing fee if you wish to continue to use it. Xinox Software offers a JCreator LE v4.5 Classic download, which may not require a licensing fee. I have not verified this, but it is worth downloading and trying it out. DrJava is open source and may be used without purchasing a license. Of the two IDEs, I recommend using DrJava.

NetBeans is open-source and does not require you to purchase a license to use it. It is a bit more complicated, but it is MUCH more powerful. This document provides the steps necessary to install the JDK with NetBeans on a Windows platform. If you are installing Java with NetBeans on a Mac or Linux-based machine, the procedure will be similar; however, you will download the package for your preferred OS from the download page.

Installing JDK with NetBeans

1. Click [here](#) to visit the Java SE download center (or search for [Java SE Download](#)).
2. Click on the NetBeans with JDK download icon.
3. Another page will load. Click on the *Accept License Agreement* radio button if you agree to the terms of the license. Then click on the download link associated with your platform to download the file.
4. After the file downloads to your machine, double-click the file to start the installation process.
5. The defaults for the installation will work sufficiently, but if you wish, you may change options during the installation process.
6. After completing the installation, the JDK and the NetBeans IDE will be ready to use.
7. After launching NetBeans, a Learn & Discover page will be displayed allowing you to learn more about NetBeans. Unlike JCreator, NetBeans uses projects to organize your work. You may have a bit of a learning curve when you first start out, but the benefits significantly outweigh the time investment. There are many [tutorials](#) on how to use NetBeans available online.

The [PDF Association](#) still has not released a PDF specification that allows `_blank` as a target frame option. They have done some amazing work (e.g. pairing with partner members to create software like [PDF Java Toolkit](#)), but adding the `_blank` target frame to hyperlinks is not one of them (and the JavaScript option is mute since it is user configurable). If you are viewing this document in a browser and wish to open a link in a new tab, please right-click on the link and select *Open link in new tab* from the context menu, or hold the *Ctrl* (*Command* for Mac) key down before clicking on the link.

¹ The **JRE** consists of the **Java** Virtual Machine (JVM), **Java** platform core classes, and supporting **Java** platform libraries.

² The **JDK** includes the **Java** Runtime Environment, the **Java** compiler and the **Java** APIs.