

# Installing JDK and NetBeans

Before we can start developing applications in Java, we need to download and install JDK and NetBeans. Both are free to download.

## Installing JDK

To download JDK, head over to <https://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html> and click on the first download button. You'll be redirected to another page to select the download version. The version that you'll be downloading depends on the operating system that you are using. x86 and x64 refer to the 32-bit and 64-bit operating systems respectively. For instance, if you are using the 64-bit Windows operating system, you'll be downloading the "windows-x64" exe file.

Once downloaded, double click on the downloaded file to install JDK.

## Installing NetBeans

Besides JDK, we also need to install NetBeans.

To download NetBeans, head over to <https://netbeans.apache.org/download/nb90/nb90.html>. Scroll down to the "Downloading" section and click on the link for **Binaries** to download the file. Once downloaded, unzip the file onto your **Desktop**.

Once that is done, you are ready to start coding your first Java program.

## Launching Netbeans

First, navigate to the "netbeans\bin" folder in your unzipped Netbeans installation folder (located on your Desktop). For Windows users, depending on whether you are using a 32-bit or 64-bit Windows computer, double click on the *netbeans.exe* (for 32-bit computers) or *netbeans64.exe* (for 64-bit computers) file to launch Netbeans. For Mac users, double click on the *netbeans* file.

If you get an error message that says "Cannot find Java 1.8 or higher", you need to tell Netbeans where your JDK is installed.

For Windows users, JDK will likely be installed in *C:\Program Files\Java\jdk-\*\*\**.

For Mac users, it will likely be installed in */Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk-\*\*\*.jdk/Contents/Home*.

In both cases, \*\*\* represents the version that you installed.

To tell Netbeans where JDK is installed, navigate to the "netbeans\etc" folder in your unzipped Netbeans installation folder. Open the *netbeans.conf* file with any text editor (e.g. Notepad) and use the "Find" function in your text editor to locate the line containing *netbeans\_jdkhome*. If it is commented out (line starts with #), remove the # to uncomment it. Next, set the value of *netbeans\_jdkhome* to the path of your JDK installation.

For instance, if JDK is installed in *C:\Program Files\Java\jdk-11.0.1*, you'll set *netbeans\_jdkhome* as

```
netbeans_jdkhome="C:\Program Files\Java\jdk-11.0.1"
```

Once this is done, save and close the *netbeans.conf* file.

Launch Netbeans again. It should launch without error now.

If you are prompted to install the *nb-javac* library, you can go ahead and install it.