

2. Interacting with Java Programs

Lesson 1: Getting started with Java

2.1 Introduction to the JDK

- The Java Development Kit (JDK) is a set of development tools that allows Java developers to create Java applications.
- JDK consists of a set of programming tools, including
 - javac.exe – A compiler, which converts java source code into Java bytecode
 - jar.exe – An archiver which packages related java into a single file
 - javadoc.exe – The documentation generator, which automatically generates documentation from java source code comments
 - jdb.exe – A debugging tool
 - java.exe – An interpreter, that plays the role of the Java Virtual Machine converting the java bytecode into the machine code of the host computer and executing it.
- The JDK also comes with a complete JRE (with in turn contains the JVM and APIs)

2.2 Installing Java

- JDK can be downloaded from <http://java.sun.com>.
- Make sure you download the version compatible with your computer platform (E.g. Microsoft Windows)
- The Default settings given by the JDK Setup Wizard should be fine for the moment.
 - By default the JDK is installed in a new folder in the default drive, with a name based on the version you're downloading (E.g. "C:\Program Files\jdk1.5").
 - The javac, jar, javadoc, jdb tools are in the "bin" folder (E.g. "C:\Program Files\jdk1.5\bin").