

# Using Java Command Line Compiling

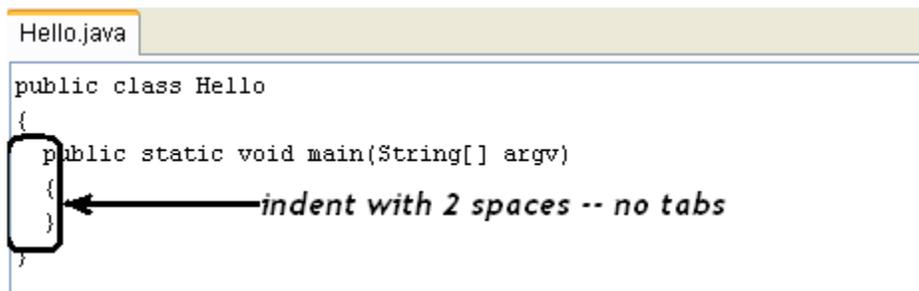
## Editing and Compiling in Java

This explains *in detail* the steps in creating a console program using Java in *command line mode*.

### Editing

Use any text editor of your choosing, such as Windows' Notepad, Mac TextEdit, Adobe Brackets, etc.

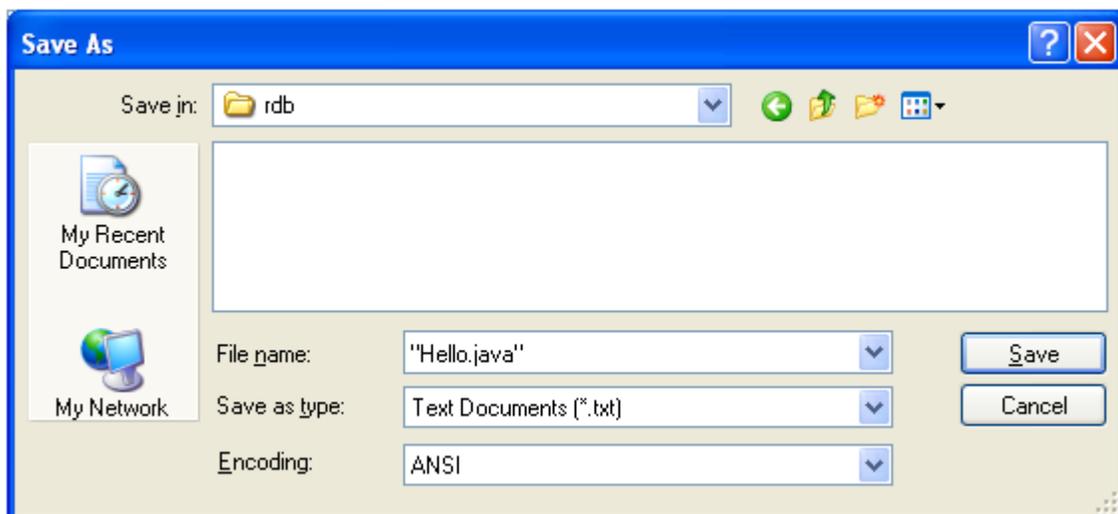
When writing code in Java, use 2 spaces instead of a tab to indent, because the number of spaces that a tab represents varies with the editor or viewer of your code. For consistency and readability, avoid tabs in source code.



```
Hello.java
public class Hello
{
    public static void main(String[] argv)
    {
    }
}
```

← indent with 2 spaces -- no tabs

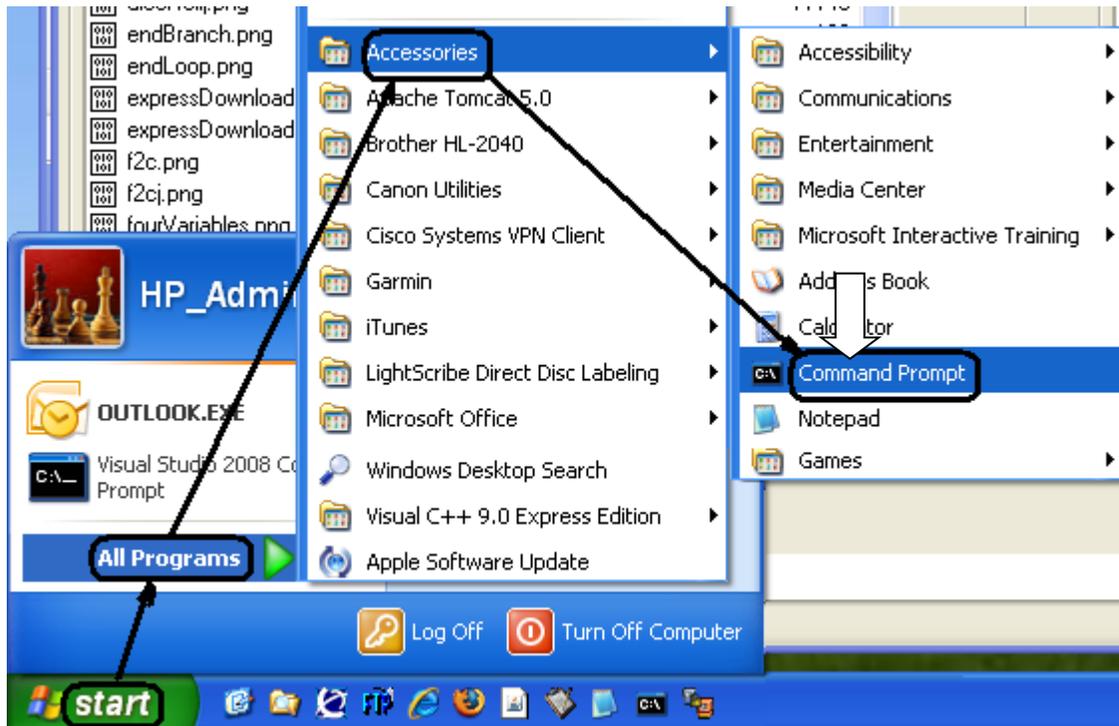
When saving JAVA files from Windows Notepad, put the filename in quotes to prevent Windows from adding **.txt** to the filename.



# Compiling

First search for a file named `javac.exe` on your system. It should be located in a folder named `C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_10\bin`, or something similar. You may even have more than one from which to choose – if so, choose the newest one. If you have none, then you need to install the Java SE Development Kit (JDK) from this URL: <http://java.sun.com/javase/downloads/>.

Access the command line directly from the Start menu:



Choose a folder in which to work (in this example, a folder named “rdb” on a flash drive mapped to the “e:” drive). Enter these four commands to activate the compiler (assuming that `javac.exe` is located in `C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_10\bin`):

```
e:
```

```
cd\rdb
```

```
path=C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.6.0_10\bin;%path%
```

```
set classpath=
```

Note that the last command has *nothing* after the equal sign – not even a blank space.

*To compile*, use a command like the following to create a CLASS file:

```
javac Hello.java
```

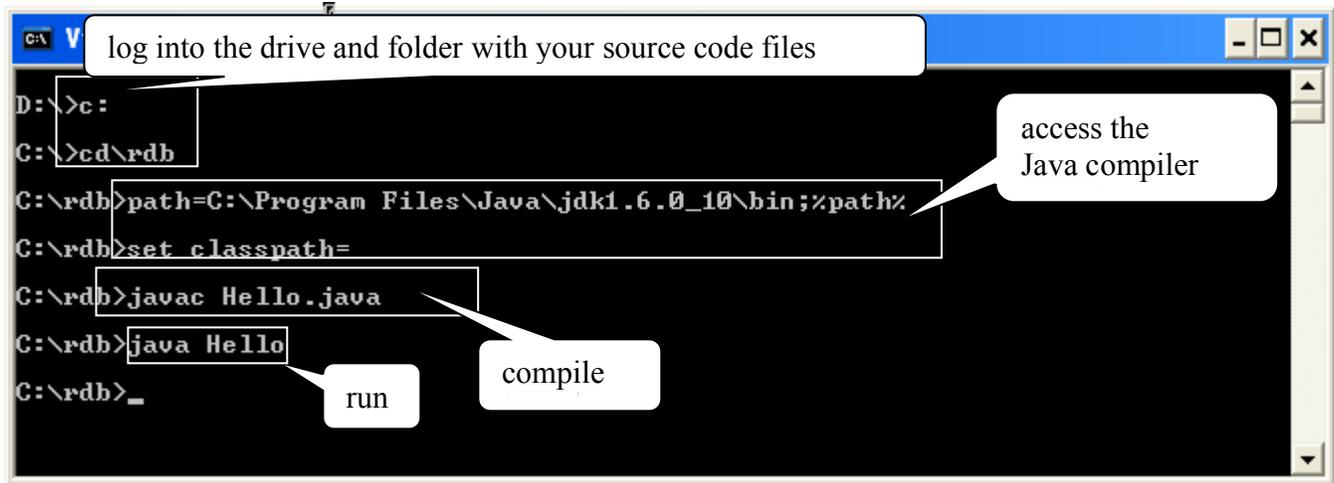
# Running

After successfully compiling the JAVA file, you can run it as many time as you want.

*To run*, use a command like the following:

```
java Hello
```

Note that there is no filename extension – just “Hello”.



In the above example, the file `Hello.class` was created on the “rdb” folder of the c: drive as a result of compiling. It’s run in the last command, without reference to the `.class` part of the filename – Java requires that the filename extension be left out.

## Using Windows’ Command Line Buffer

So that you do not have to retype the compile and run commands, use the up and down arrow keys to navigate through previously-typed commands. Use the **F7** key to popup a list of commands in the buffer.

The usual sequence is to type the compile and build command, followed by the run command. After that, *up-up* returns to the compile and build command, and *down* goes from there to the run command.