

Command-line environments

Java programs may be developed and executed in command-line environments such as the Windows Command Prompt, available via *Start / All Programs / Accessories*. The command-line window's standard format has white type against a black background. In a command-line environment, all actions are initiated by the user typing a *command*, at the *prompt*, which is normally a series of characters giving the current directory path, followed by a greater-than symbol, as in:

```
C:/Java>
```

Valid commands in a Windows system include *dir*, *cd*, *mkdir*, *path=*, *del*, *copy*, and *move*.

Current directory

Any command may have *arguments* or parameters that are often the names of files in a particular directory, named in the prompt, which is the *current directory* (*C:/Java* in the example above). To make a subdirectory of the current directory be the current directory (to “go into” the subdirectory), type *cd* and the subdirectory name.

To step out of a subdirectory into the parent directory, type *cd* and a period, then press the *Enter* key. (All commands must be followed by *Enter*.)

To see a list of files and subdirectories in the current directory, type *dir*.

To create a new subdirectory of the current directory, type *mkdir* followed by the

Executable files

Other valid commands are the names (minus extensions) of files with the extensions *.exe* and *.bat*. The latter are executable files. Files with the *.exe* extension are in machine language. Files with the *.bat* extension are batch files, which are text files in the language of the command line. Typing the name of a batch file causes the commands in the file to be executed in the command-line environment as if the user had typed them at the prompt.

Repeating commands used earlier

The time from when you invoke the command line, to when you close it with the command *exit*, is called a *session*. To use a command that you used earlier in a session, without retyping it, scroll through the command history of your session with the up or down cursor keys. You may also edit a command using the left and right cursor keys.

The *path* command

In order to execute *.exe* or *.bat* files that are not in the current directory, these files may be made available by use of the *path* command. For example, if the Java compiler is in the directory *C:\java*, then typing

```
path=%path%c:\java
```

will make the compiler available in the current directory.

Other commands

To delete a file, type *del* followed by the file name.

To make a copy of a file, type *copy*, the file name, and the name of the new file.

To rename a file or to move it to a subdirectory, type *move*, the file name and the new file name or the subdirectory name.

To edit any text file, type *notepad* and the file name. Note that in Notepad, to save a file under a new name that does not have the extension *.txt*, you must use quotation marks around the file name in the Notepad *Save As* dialog.