
How do I set or change the PATH system variable?

This article applies to:

- **Platform(s):** Solaris SPARC, Solaris x86, Red Hat Linux, SUSE Linux, Windows 7, Vista, Windows XP

MORE TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The **PATH** is the system variable that your operating system uses to locate needed executables from the command line or Terminal window.

The **PATH** system variable can be set using **System Utility** in control panel on Windows, or in your shell's startup file on Linux and Solaris.

SOLUTION

Setting Path on Windows

Windows 7

Select Computer from the Start menu

Choose System Properties from the context menu

Click Advanced system settings > Advanced tab

Click on Environment Variables, under System Variables, find **PATH**, and click on it.

In the Edit windows, modify **PATH** by adding the location of the class to the value for **PATH**. If you do not have the item **PATH**, you may select to add a new variable and add **PATH** as the name and the location of the class as the value.

Reopen Command prompt window, and run your java code.

Windows XP

Start -> Control Panel -> System -> Advanced

Click on Environment Variables, under System Variables, find **PATH**, and click on it.

In the Edit windows, modify **PATH** by adding the location of the class to the value for **PATH**. If you do not have the item **PATH**, you may select to add a new variable and add **PATH** as the name and the location of the class as the value.

Close the window.

Reopen Command prompt window, and run your java code.

Windows Vista

Right click My Computer icon

Choose Properties from the context menu

Click Advanced tab (Advanced system settings link in Vista)

In the Edit windows, modify **PATH** by adding the location of the class to the value for **PATH**. If you do not have the item **PATH**, you may select to add a new variable and add **PATH** as the name and the location of the class as the value.

Reopen Command prompt window, and run your java code.

Setting Path on Solaris and Linux

To find out if the java executable is in your **PATH**, execute:

```
% java -version
```

This will print the version of the java executable, if it can find it. If you get error java: Command not found. Then path is not properly set.

To find out which java executable the first one found in your **PATH**, execute:

```
% which java
```

Below are the steps to set the **PATH** permanently,

Note: We are here giving instructions for two most popular Shells on Linux and Solaris.

Please visit link below if you are using any other shells.

[Path Setting Tutorial \(http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/essential/environment/paths.html\)](http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/essential/environment/paths.html)

For bash Shell:

Edit the startup file (~/.bashrc)

Modify **PATH** variable:

```
PATH=/usr/local/jdk1.6.0/bin
```

```
export PATH
```

Save and close the file

Open new Terminal window

Verify the **PATH** is set properly

```
% java -version
```

For C Shell (csh):

Edit startup file (~/.cshrc)

Set Path

```
set path=(/usr/local/jdk1.6.0/bin )
```

Save and Close the file

Open new Terminal window

Verify the **PATH** is set properly

```
% java -version
```