

Java Environment

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Introduction

This page is based on experience of setting up Java 8 on Ubuntu 14.04. Much of it may be applicable to other Java versions and distros.

Architecture

First we check which architecture we are running on.

Open a terminal and type the command :

```
arch
```

The output could be **i686** or **i386** for a 32 bits system or **x86_64** for a 64 bits system.

Environment

No JVM

On a machine without any defined java, it will look like this. The **update-alternatives** doesn't display any defined alternatives:

```
user@machine:~$ update-alternatives --get-selections | grep java
lucli auto /usr/lib/liblucene2-java/lucli
```

If you try to run **java**, it doesn't run successfully:

```
user@machine:~$ java -version
The program 'java' can be found in the following packages:
* default-jre
* gcj-4.8-jre-headless
* openjdk-7-jre-headless
* gcj-4.6-jre-headless
* openjdk-6-jre-headless
Try: sudo apt-get install <selected package>
```

The next test will be to use the **update-java-alternatives** command, to check if we have some installed JVM:

```
user@machine:~$ sudo update-java-alternatives -l
default-java 1073 /usr/lib/jvm/default-java
java-1.8.0-openjdk-i386 1069 /usr/lib/jvm/java-1.8.0-openjdk-i386
java-8-openjdk-i386 1069 /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-openjdk-i386
java-8-oracle 1070 /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle
ramdisk-java-8-oracle 1073 /usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle
```

Hopefully in this example some existing JVM are installed however the JVM setup seems to be broken. Check your [Java Environment](#) then [Install](#) one.

If no existing JVM are installed, install [Oracle JDK](#) or [Open JDK](#).

Current JVM

```
user@machine$ java -version
java version "1.8.0_91"
Java(TM) SE Runtime Environment (build 1.8.0_91-b14)
Java HotSpot(TM) Server VM (build 25.91-b14, mixed mode)
```

The previous command shows us that we have a running java on our system.

```
user@machine$ which java
/usr/bin/java
```

The previous command shows us that we are running a **java** command from **/usr/bin**.

Let's see where is the **java** command:

```
user@machine$ ls -al /usr/bin/java
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 22 Mar 12 2013 /usr/bin/java -> /etc/alternatives/java
```

As you can see the **java** command from **/usr/bin** is a symlink and will be resolved against the **java** command contained in **/etc/alternatives**.

```
user@machine$ file /etc/alternatives/java
/etc/alternatives/java: symbolic link to `/usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle/jre/bin/java'
```

The previous command shows us where lies the **java** command and hopefully the directory **/usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle/jre/bin** contains the real **java** command.

```
user@machine$ ls -al /usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle/jre/bin/java
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 5730 May 4 10:54 /usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle/jre/bin/java
```

Update Alternatives

On Ubuntu 14.04 the Java commands are under the **/usr/bin** and **/etc/alternatives** directories.

Both directories expose all the Java commands and tools as symlinks and as such when runned are resolved against the standard **/usr/bin** directory who usually populates the **\$PATH** environment variable.

However in order to manage multiple version of Java the **update-alternatives** mechanism has been introduced. It allows multiple "providers" to be installed on the same machine, and configures which is the default.

This mechanism consists of two directories, **/etc/alternatives** who contains the symlinks and **/var/lib/dpkg/alternatives** who contains **update-alternatives** state information and a **update-alternatives** command.

Now take a look in the file **/var/lib/dpkg/alternatives/java**:

```
manual
/usr/bin/java
java.1.gz
/usr/share/man/man1/java.1.gz
/usr/lib/jvm/java-8-openjdk-1386/jre/bin/java
1069
/usr/lib/jvm/java-8-openjdk-1386/jre/man/man1/java.1.gz
/usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/java
1070
/usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/man/man1/java.1.gz
/usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle/jre/bin/java
1073
```

That file teaches us that there are several **java** command installed on this machine.

The following command shows the current alternatives configuration. This command helps to ensure that the **default-java** we defined will resolved the correct commands, tools and libraries.

```
user@machine:~$ update-alternatives --get-selections | grep java
appletviewer          manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/appletviewer
extcheck              manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/extcheck
firefox-javaplugin.so auto      /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/lib/i386/libnjp2.so
idlj                  manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/idlj
itweb-settings        auto      /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/itweb-settings
jar                   manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jar
jarsigner             manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jarsigner
java                  manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/java
javac                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/javac
javadoc              manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/javadoc
javah                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/javah
javap                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/javap
javaws               auto      /usr/lib/jvm/java-6-openjdk-i386/jre/bin/javaws
jcmd                  manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jcmd
jconsole              manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jconsole
jdb                   manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jdb
jdeps                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jdeps
jexec                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/lib/jexec
jhat                  manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jhat
jinfo                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jinfo
jjs                   manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/jjs
jmap                  manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jmap
jps                   manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jps
jrunscript            manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jrunscript
jsadebugd             manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jsadebugd
jstack                manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jstack
jstat                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jstat
jstatd                manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/jstatd
keytool               manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/keytool
lucli                  auto      /usr/lib/liblucene2-java/lucli
native2ascii          manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/native2ascii
orbd                   manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/orbd
pack200                manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/pack200
policytool            manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/policytool
rmic                  manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/rmic
rmid                   manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/rmid
rmiregistry           manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/rmiregistry
schemagen             manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/schemagen
serialver             manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/serialver
servertool            manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/servertool
tnameserv             manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/tnameserv
unpack200             manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/unpack200
wsgen                 manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/wsgen
wsimport              manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/wsimport
xjc                   manual    /usr/lib/jvm/default-java/bin/xjc
```

Update Java Alternatives

Known JVMs

The **update-alternatives** command shows the installed JVM on a command name basis:

```
user@machine:~$ update-alternatives --list java
/usr/lib/jvm/default-java/jre/bin/java
```

The **update-java-alternatives** command shows the installed JVMs and their respective priority number.

```
user@machine$ update-java-alternatives -l
default-java 1073 /usr/lib/jvm/default-java
java-1.8.0-openjdk-i386 1069 /usr/lib/jvm/java-1.8.0-openjdk-i386
java-8-openjdk-i386 1069 /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-openjdk-i386
java-8-oracle 1070 /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle
ramdisk-java-8-oracle 1073 /usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle
```

Java Layout

Java Installation Directory

Either the Open JDK or the Oracle JDK install their environment below **/usr/lib/jvm**:

```
user@machine:/usr/lib/jvm$ ls -al
total 100
drwxr-xr-x 5 root root 4096 Jul 11 12:07 .
drwxr-xr-x 205 root root 53248 Jul 7 09:33 ..
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 34 Jul 7 15:33 default-java -> /usr/lib/jvm/ramdisk-java-8-oracle
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 41 Jul 7 15:34 .default-java.jinfo -> /usr/lib/jvm/.ramdisk-java-8-oracle.jinfo
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 19 Apr 22 19:41 java-1.8.0-openjdk-i386 -> java-8-openjdk-i386
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3083 Jul 11 11:49 .java-1.8.0-openjdk-i386.jinfo
drwxr-xr-x 7 root root 4096 Apr 25 12:34 java-8-openjdk-i386
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 30 Apr 25 12:39 .java-8-openjdk-i386.jinfo -> .java-1.8.0-openjdk-i386.jinfo
drwxr-xr-x 8 root root 4096 May 4 10:55 java-8-oracle
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3135 Jul 11 11:48 .java-8-oracle.jinfo
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4096 Apr 25 12:42 openjdk-8
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 20 Jul 7 11:46 ramdisk-java-8-oracle -> /media/java-8-oracle
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 3563 Jul 11 11:47 .ramdisk-java-8-oracle.jinfo
```

Beyond the various directories, files and links in the **/usr/lib/jvm** directory several remarks need to be done.

The default-java symlink

First of all we use the debian layout by setting up the **default-java** symlink. Tomcat or Eclipse are tools who use the **default-java** symlink.

We see in the previous output that the **default-java** point to a **ramdisk-java-8-oracle** who is a local symlink who points to another directory.

Then setup the **default-java** symlink to your default JVM

```
cd /usr/lib/jvm
sudo ln -s ramdisk-java-8-oracle default-java
```

The .jinfo file

Second we see **.jinfo** files, one per JDK installed. In our example we have three different JVM and we see their respective **.jinfo** files.

Let's see the content of the **.java-8-oracle.jinfo**:

```

name=java-8-oracle
alias=java-8-oracle
priority=1070
section=main
jre ControlPanel /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/ControlPanel
jre java /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/java
jre javaws /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/javaws
jre jcontrol /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/jcontrol
jre jjs /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/jjs
jre keytool /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/keytool
jre orbd /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/orbd
jre pack200 /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/pack200
jre policytool /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/policytool
jre rmid /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/rmid
jre rmiregistry /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/rmiregistry
jre servertool /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/servertool
jre tnameserv /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/tnameserv
jre unpack200 /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/bin/unpack200
jre jexec /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/jexec
jdk appletviewer /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/appletviewer
jdk extcheck /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/extcheck
jdk idlj /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/idlj
jdk jar /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jar
jdk jarsigner /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jarsigner
jdk javac /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/javac
jdk javadoc /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/javadoc
jdk javafxpackager /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/javafxpackager
jdk javah /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/javah
jdk javap /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/javap
jdk javapackager /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/javapackager
jdk jcmd /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jcmd
jdk jconsole /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jconsole
jdk jdb /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jdb
jdk jdeps /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jdeps
jdk jhat /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jhat
jdk jinfo /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jinfo
jdk jmap /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jmap
jdk jmc /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jmc
jdk jps /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jps
jdk jrunscript /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jrunscript
jdk jsadebugd /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jsadebugd
jdk jstack /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jstack
jdk jstat /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jstat
jdk jstatd /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jstatd
jdk jvisualvm /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/jvisualvm
jdk native2ascii /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/native2ascii
jdk rmic /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/rmic
jdk schemagen /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/schemagen
jdk serialver /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/serialver
jdk wsgen /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/wsgen
jdk wsimport /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/wsimport
jdk xjc /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/bin/xjc
plugin xulrunner-1.9-javaplugin.so /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/i386/libnpjp2.so
plugin firefox-javaplugin.so /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/i386/libnpjp2.so
plugin iceape-javaplugin.so /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/i386/libnpjp2.so
plugin iceweasel-javaplugin.so /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/i386/libnpjp2.so
plugin mozilla-javaplugin.so /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/i386/libnpjp2.so
plugin midbrowser-javaplugin.so /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/i386/libnpjp2.so
plugin xulrunner-javaplugin.so /usr/lib/jvm/java-8-oracle/jre/lib/i386/libnpjp2.so

```

As you can see this file contains the description of each java tools, either jre, jdk or plugin tools are associated with a particular command or library.

In case the **jinfo** file doesn't exist, create one with the previous content and adjust paths accordingly.

The priority value needs to be unique among the [JVM installations](#). Choose a priority number who do not collapse an existing one.

Then setup the **.default-java.jinfo** symlink to your default JVM.

```
cd /usr/lib/jvm  
sudo ln -s .ramdisk-java-8-oracle.jinfo .default-java.jinfo
```