**How to fix NetBeans 12 and Java incompatibility**

Version 0.5 (Jan 6, 2021)

The following is primarily for Mac, but may also work on Windows.

NetBeans may have incompatibility issues with versions of Java. For example, see <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/63954870/does-apache-netbeans-12-1-support-jdk-15>.

A possible fix is to install an older version of Java and configure NetBeans to use it instead. Alternatively, it is possible that adding only a single file from an older Java version to the current Java installation is needed to make NetBeans work.

1. **If the currently installed version of Java is 14 or greater, try adding the ‘unpack200’ file to it**NetBeans will not work if the file ‘**unpack200**’ is not included in the Java installation. If you have a copy of ‘**unpack200**’, try this:  
     
   On Mac, Java gets installed in **/Library/Java/VirtualJavaMachines/**. You can install ‘unpack200’ in  
   **/Library/Java/VirtualJavaMachines/(current Java version)/Contents/Home/bin/.**This should fix the NetBeans and Java incompatibility problem. You don’t have to follow the rest of the steps.  
     
   If you *don’t* have a copy of ‘**unpack200**’, you can try installing an older version of Java – say version 14 – then extract ‘**unpack200**’ from this version (it should be in the directory given above).  
   See the next step about installing another Java version.
2. **Install an older version of Java JDK**You can find different versions on the Oracle site here:  
   <https://www.oracle.com/java/technologies/javase-downloads.html>   
     
   Select a Java version.  
   Make sure to download the right one for your operating system.  
     
   Install this version of Java. It will install in:  
    **/Library/Java/VirtualJavaMachines/(Java version)/Contents/Home/bin/ .**
3. **Either copy ‘unpack200’ from one Java version to the other, or configure NetBeans to use the older Java version**  
     
   See Step 1 about copying ‘**unpack200**’ to the currently active Java version on the system.  
     
   If this is not possible, you may try pointing NetBeans at this older Java version. To do so, find the NetBeans icon in the **Applications** folder and ***right***-click on it.  
   Graphical user interface, text, application

   Description automatically generatedThen click on ‘**Show Package Contents**’:  
   Once the contents of the Application are shown, go to **Contents -> Resources -> NetBeans -> netbeans -> etc**.  
   Then open the file **netbeans.conf** in a text editor (like **TextEdit** or **BB Edit**).  
   Find the line  
    #netbeans\_jdkhome="/path/to/jdk"  
   and remove the ‘#’ at the beginning.  
   Replace the text in the quotes with the path to the Java JDK that NetBeans should be using.  
   Save the file.  
   Restart NetBeans and verify that it works. You should be able to create a C/C++ ‘Hello World’ program at this point.

**Appendix**

* **To check the Java version**   
  **Mac**: Open a terminal window (**Go** menu -> **Utilities** -> **Terminal**) and type ‘**javac --version**’ and press **<return>**. If an error is returned, try typing only *one* dash before ‘**version**’, i.e. ‘**javac -version**’  
  and press **<return>**.