

Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ...



[Scott Mueller](#) 23 posts since

Mar 4, 2008

I'm new to mac os x, so I'm not sure how to set IntelliJ IDEA 8 to run on JDK6 instead of JDK5 which the "About IntelliJ IDEA" menu item says I'm using. What's the proper way for doing this? I went to Applications -> Utilities -> Java -> Java Preferences and made Java SE 6 the top position for both the preferred Applet version and Java application version. But that hasn't affected IntelliJ IDEA... What do I do?

Tomcat also defaulted to JDK5, I had to look for JDK6 and set the JRE_HOME environment variable to `"/System/Library/Frameworks/JavaVM.framework/Versions/1.6/Home"` before starting tomcat in order to get it to use JDK6. I want EVERYTHING to run on JDK6!! But I'd be happy with at least intellij for now...

Tags: idea, jdk, setting



[Paul Bienick](#) 26 posts since

Nov 26, 2002 1. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 19, 2009 4:49 PM

Scott,

Do you have IntelliJ in the Dock? If so, CMD+CLICK it and it will open the Applications folder with the app highlighted. (nice tip, eh? :-) Right-click the app, and choose "Show Package Contents...". Double click the Contents directory. Now you want to edit the Info.plist file. Either double click it to open it in the plist editor (not sure if you have to have the Apple developer tools to get this editor or not), or open it in a text editor (this particular plist file is in XML format). Find the Java section, and the entry for JVMVersion. Change 1.5* to 1.6*, restart IntelliJ, and you're all set.

Note that some have reported trouble with using IntelliJ with 1.6. You may need to increase the maximum amount of memory that the JVM uses. You can achieve that within the Info.plist file as well.

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[Scott Mueller](#) 23 posts since

Mar 4, 2008 2. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 20, 2009 2:57 AM

Thank you Paul, you helped me learn a couple tricks with mac os x too 😊. Why does IntelliJ default to 1.5? They're having memory issues with 1.6? Or 1.6 just consumes more memory without adding much new?



[Paul Bienick](#) 26 posts since

Nov 26, 2002 3. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 20, 2009 4:33 PM

I'm really not sure why the default is 1.5. Any idea if it's the same for other platforms? I read someshwere that JDK 1.6 on OS X is buggy, but I haven't confirmed this yet.



[Dmitry Jemerov](#) 11,708 posts since

Aug 19, 2002 4. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 23, 2009 7:46 PM

Hello Paul,

I'm really not sure why the default is 1.5. Any idea if it's the same for other platforms? I read someshwere that JDK 1.6 on OS X is buggy, but I haven't confirmed this yet.

On other platforms the default JDK is 1.6. On MacOS X the JDK 6 is 64-bit only (which means significantly larger memory consumption) and less stable than JDK 1.5.

--

Dmitry Jemerov

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Development Lead

JetBrains, Inc.

<http://www.jetbrains.com/>

"Develop with Pleasure!"



Guest 5. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 23, 2009 7:46 PM

On MacOS X the JDK 6 is
64-bit only (which means significantly larger memory consumption) and
less stable than JDK 1.5.

Does that also mean, on Win64 it is better to take the 32-bit or 64-bit Java

1.5 because it is more stable than 64-bit Java 1.6?

Tom



[Dmitry Jemerov](#) 11,708 posts since

Aug 19, 2002 6. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 23, 2009 7:49 PM

No. The stability problems are specific to the Apple version of the 1.6 JDK. On Windows, Java 1.6 is more stable than Java 1.5.



[Scott Mueller](#) 23 posts since

Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ...

Mar 4, 2008 7. Re: **Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 23, 2009 8:46 PM

Maybe this is why I didn't see any extra memory usage in switching from jdk 5 to 6, I was using the 64-bit version of jdk 5...



[Scott Mueller](#) 23 posts since

Mar 4, 2008 8. Re: **Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jan 20, 2009 6:07 PM

1.6 has been working great for me. It's interesting that you mentioned IntelliJ uses more ram on 1.6 and I read that elsewhere on these forums too. However, I see it using a little less ram in general. Haven't performed any real tests of this, but certainly any more ram it uses is not noticeable.



[Sander Verbruggen](#) 1 posts since

Apr 1, 2009 9. Re: **Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Apr 1, 2009 1:06 PM

Changing Info.plist with 'vi' as you described results in an error when starting IntelliJ. If I do 'open -a /Applications/IntelliJ\ IDEA\ 8.1.app', it gives the error

LSOpenFromURLSpec() failed with error -10810.

No matter what I try (1.6 without the asterisk, 1.4), it only seems to run when 1.5* is given...



[Antoni Batchelli](#) 5 posts since

Sep 6, 2002 10. Re: **Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jun 16, 2009 7:33 AM

Same issue here. I get the following on the logs:

```
6/15/09 8:32:05 PM [0x0-0x3e03e].com.jetbrains.intellij[454] [JavaAppLauncher Error]
unable to find a version of Java to launch
```

```
6/15/09 8:32:05 PM com.apple.launchd[131] ([0x0-0x3e03e].com.jetbrains.intellij[454])
Exited with exit code: 1
```

Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ...

6/15/09 8:32:33 PM [0x0-0x40040].com.jetbrains.intellij[457] [JavaAppLauncher Warning] Java application launched from PPC or bad stub. Relaunching in 32-bit, and tagging sub-processes to prefer 32-bit with \$JAVA_ARCH=i386.

6/15/09 8:32:33 PM [0x0-0x40040].com.jetbrains.intellij[457] [JavaAppLauncher Warning] Java application launched from PPC or bad stub. Relaunching in 32-bit, and tagging sub-processes to prefer 32-bit with \$JAVA_ARCH=i386.

6/15/09 8:32:34 PM [0x0-0x40040].com.jetbrains.intellij[457] [JavaAppLauncher Error] This process is [i386] and was re-exec'd from [i386], but for some reason we are trying re-exec to [].



[Jon Bodner](#) 23 posts since

Sep 10, 2002 11. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jun 16, 2009 7:41 PM

Apple has only provided JDK 6 for 64-bit Intel Macs running Mac OS X 10.5. PPC (32 and 64 bit) and older Intel (32 bit) Macs cannot use JDK 6.

There is a rumor that Apple will provide a 32-bit JDK 6 for Intel Macs in Snow Leopard, but I'll believe it when I see it. There will never be an Apple-provided PPC JDK 6.

Landon Fuller has done work on getting OpenJDK 6 to run on the Mac:

http://landonf.bikemonkey.org/code/java/OpenJDK6_MacPorts.20090516.html

I was kinda-sorta able to get it to run IntelliJ on my 32-bit Intel iMac, but I wouldn't use it for everyday use.

Jon



[Antoni Batchelli](#) 5 posts since

Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ...

Sep 6, 2002 12. Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X Jun 16, 2009 8:56 PM

I am using Core 2 Duo computers, with full 64 bit support. I used JDK6 with older versions of IDEA a few months ago.

I think that your comment pinpoints what the issue might be here. The IDEA launcher, for some reason, can't find the JDK6 on my computer. That is actually why it doesn't work. But that JDK is there and fully functional.

This could just be a bug in the launcher.



k 125 posts since

Aug 22, 2002 13. Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X Jun 16, 2009 10:12 PM

yes, this used to work but now i'm getting the same error. they've changed something in the launcher, i've tried a dozen different things and can't get IntelliJ to find JDK6... i get the same messages as in your post in the console



Dennis Meier 3 posts since

Jun 17, 2009 14. Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X Jun 17, 2009 1:52 PM

I used the JDK6 for months until 1 week ago. After installing a new java update (http://support.apple.com/downloads/Java_for_Mac_OS_X_10_5_Update_4) the launcher isn't able to find the JDK6 anymore .. hmm, not sure where exactly the problem is. I'll try if I can remove that update, because I can't work on my projects with JDK5... :-)



Mariusz Nosinski 10 posts since

Oct 20, 2008 15. Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X Jun 17, 2009 1:20 PM

You no need launch IntelliJ with JDK 6 if you want to use this JDK in your projects. My IntelliJ working with JDK 5 and all projects use JDK 6 without any problems. All you need is set JDK 6 in Project Settings as Project JDK.



Dennis Meier 3 posts since

Jun 17, 2009 16. Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X Jun 17, 2009 2:08 PM

Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ...

Ok, that seems to work indeed. Thanks for your help. But what doesn't work completely now is the JFormDesigner-PlugIn: When a form which contains beans from other modules in the project (all set to language level and jdk 6) JFormDesigner throws a `UnsupportedClassVersionError` exception for each occurrence:

```
java.lang.UnsupportedClassVersionError: Bad version number in .class file
```

Ok, so it seems as JFormDesigner is the one having problems with this (as far as I remember I set the JDK for IntelliJ to 1.6 in the plist in order to to fix that).



[k](#) 125 posts since

Aug 22, 2009 17. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jun 17, 2009 4:35 PM
the suggestion in this thread worked for me

<http://www.jetbrains.com/devnet/message/5240216#5240216>



[Dennis Meier](#) 3 posts since

Jun 17, 2009 18. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Jun 17, 2009 4:44 PM
also works for me, great! thanks!



[Lajos Doma](#) 1 posts since

Oct 22, 2009 19. **Re: Proper way to use JDK6 for IntelliJ IDEA itself on Mac OS X** Oct 22, 2009 2:22 PM

The proposed solution worked for me too. Wrote a small article about all the necessary steps to run Idea with JDK6 on OSX: [Mac OS X: Using IntelliJ IDEA on 64bit JDK6](#)