

How to Run Java Files (.jar)

Today's WikiHow will show you how to open and run executable JAR files on a Windows or Mac computer. JAR files (Java Archive - Java archive) contain data that can be used with Java programs. Most JAR files are simply a medium containing data that another program needs to run Java; Therefore, you cannot run these files and nothing happens when double-clicking them. Similarly, most executable JAR files are downloaded as installation files for the purpose of installing applications or programs. Therefore, if you have problems opening the file, you should check whether your JAR file is compatible with the operating system or not.

On Windows



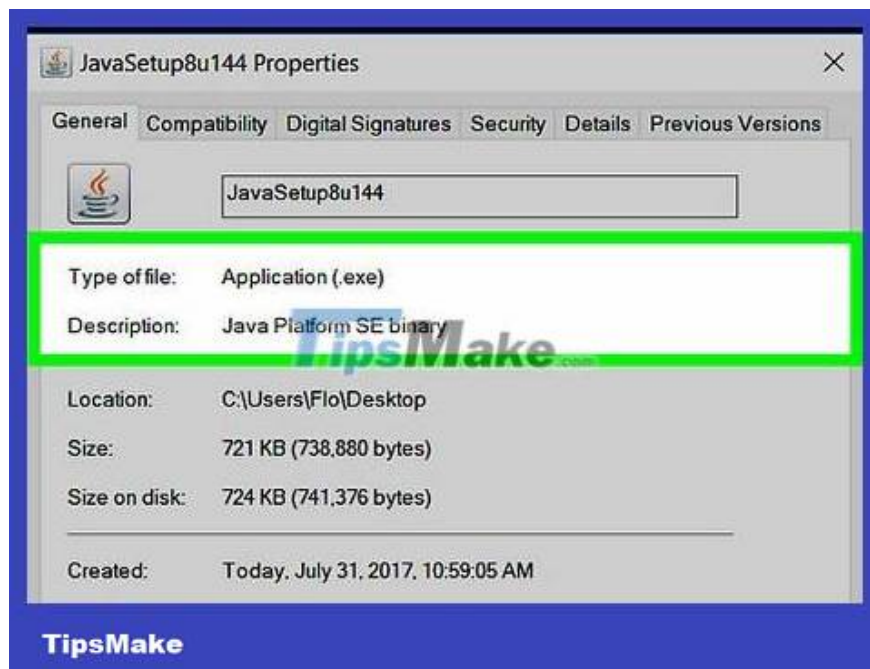
Install Java on your computer if you don't already have it installed. You cannot run a JAR file if Java is not installed on the computer. Go to the website <https://www.java.com/en/download/> and click the **Free Java Download** button below the latest Java version, then install Java once the file has downloaded.

You may have to restart your computer for Java to be fully added.



Double click the JAR file. If the file is viable and you have Java installed, the file will open. If not, proceed to the next step.

A window may pop up asking which program you want to use to open the file. Then, click **Java(TM)** and then select **OK** .



You need to make sure that the JAR file is a viable file. The JAR file that you load to set up the program is different from the "library" JAR file that stores data that a program running Java can use. Because non-executable JAR files do not have the same interface as executable JAR files, you cannot run them.

For example, many JAR files in the program's data directory are not executable files.

If you download a JAR file from the internet, make sure you click on the correct Windows version and not the Mac version.



Update Java. If the JAR file gives an error after you double-click it, we need to update Java. To proceed, you:

Open Start .

Scroll down and click the **Java** folder .

Click **Check For Updates** .

Click **Update Now** on the **Update** tab .



Double click the JAR file again. If the file still doesn't open this time, the file you're trying to open isn't viable, and therefore the file can't be "run" in the usual sense.

On Mac



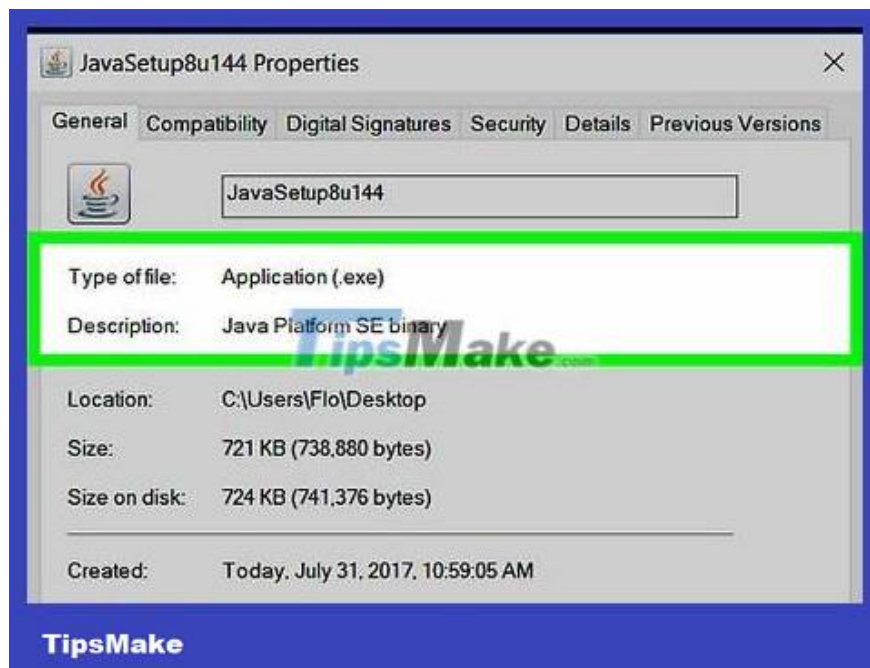
Install Java on your computer if not already installed. You cannot run a JAR file if Java is not installed on the computer. Go to the website <https://www.java.com/en/download/> and click the **Free Java Download** button below the latest Java version, then install Java once the file has been downloaded.

While installing a non-Apple file on your Mac, you must click **OK** in the previous warning, then click **the Apple menu**, click **System Preferences**, click **Security & Privacy** (Security & Privacy), unlock the menu, click

Open Anyway next to the file name, then click **Open** in the prompt before installing the file.



Try double-clicking the JAR file. If the file is viable and you have Java installed, the file will open. If not, proceed to the next step.



You need to make sure that the JAR file is a viable file. The JAR file that you load to set up the program is different from the "library" JAR file that stores data that a program running Java can use. Because non-executable JAR files do not have the same interface as executable JAR files, you cannot run them.

For example, multiple JAR files in a program data directory are not executable files.

If you downloaded the JAR file from the internet, you need to make sure you downloaded the Mac version and not another operating system version.



Update Java. If the JAR file gives an error after double clicking, we need to update Java. To proceed, you:

Open the **Apple menu** .

Click **System Preferences** .

Click **Java** .

Click the **Update** tab .

Click **Update Now** .



Double click the JAR file again. If the file still doesn't open this time, the file you're trying to open isn't viable, and therefore the file can't be "run" in the usual sense.

You finished reading the article "**How to Run Java Files (.jar)**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.