

What is JAVA file? How to open, edit and convert JAVA files

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A file with a .JAVA extension is (or sometimes also used in .JAV format) is a Java source file written in the Java programming language. This is a simple text file format that is fully readable in text editors and plays an essential role for the entire process of building Java applications.

A JAVA file will be used by the Java compiler to create Java class files (.CLASS), usually binary and unreadable. If the source file contains multiple classes, each class will be compiled into its own CLASS file.

These CLASS files will then be converted into a Java application that can be executed with the .JAR file extension. These Java archive files make it easier to store and distribute .CLASS files and other Java application resources such as images and audio.



How to open a JAVA file

As mentioned, JAVA files can be opened in popular code editors, please refer to our article '5 best free code editors' for more details.

In addition, text data in JAVA files can also be read by any text editor, such as Notepad in Windows, or TextEdit in macOS, etc.

However, JAVA files are only really useful when they are compiled into CLASS byte code files, which the Java SDK program can do. The data in the CLASS file is used by Oracle's Java Virtual Machine (JVM) when the JAR file is created.

To edit JAVA files, you can use a program for application development, such as Eclipse or JCreator LE. Code editors like NetBeans and the tools mentioned in the article '5 best free code editors' can also help you modify JAVA files.

How to convert a JAVA file

Because the JAVA file contains the source code for the Java application, it can also easily be converted or translated into other formats through different applications or programming languages.

For example, you can convert JAVA file into Kotlin file using IntelliJ IDEA software. You can use the Code menu to find the option to convert Java files to Kotlin files or go to **Help > Find Action** and start importing the task you want to perform as "convert java file". JAVA file under KT file format.

Alternatively, you can use the **javac** command mentioned above to convert JAVA to CLASS file. If you cannot call the **javac** command tool from the Command Prompt, another CMD trick you can apply is to access the EXE file location as described above, then drag and drop the javac.exe file directly. Go to Command Prompt to complete the command.

After the file is in CLASS format, you can basically convert from JAVA format to JAR using jar command, as described in this Java tutorial from Oracle.

JSmooth and JexePack are two tools that can be used to convert JAVA files to EXE, thereby enabling the Java application to run as a normal executable file in Windows.

How can I still open a JAVA file?

If you still cannot open JAVA files even though you have used the above methods, it is possible that your file is not actually in JAVA format. Some file types with a look-through extension look very similar to the .JAVA file extension, so you should also double-check the standard file extension.

For example, the AVA format looks a bit similar to JAVA but is used for AvaaBook e-book files and has nothing to do with JAVA files. If you are processing the AVA file, it will not work with the programs mentioned above but instead only works with AvaaPlayer software.

JA files may also look like Java-related files, but they are actually Jet files, which are used to store compressed game files. JVS files can also be confusing, but they are essentially Autoconfig JavaScript Proxy files that web browsers use to configure proxy servers.

See more:

1. What is MOV file? How to open, edit and convert MOV files
2. What is WMV file? How to open, edit and convert WMV files
3. What file is XSPF? How to open, edit and convert XSPF files
4. List of some types of files that are potentially dangerous on Windows

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