

SETTING UP YOUR PATH VARIABLE

1. Open Command line (win+R , cmd)
2. A bit about the command line...
 - a. Type 'dir' to show all of the files and directories inside the current folder

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Users\cdhanna>dir
DIR ection
Volume in drive C: Windows
Volume Serial Number is 7297-C90F

Directory of C:\Users\cdhanna

10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          .
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          ..
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Contacts
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Desktop
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Documents
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Downloads
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Favorites
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Links
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Music
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Pictures
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Saved Games
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Searches
10/30/2013  08:46 AM  <DIR>          Videos
07/20/2012  08:04 AM  <DIR>          visualparadigm
07/20/2012  08:06 AM  <DIR>          vps\workspace
0 File(s)      119,641,587,712 bytes free
15 Dir(s)
```

- b. `C:\Users\cdhanna>`
- c. Type 'cd' to change directory (**IMPORTANT: >cd .. will go UP a directory. If you are in \cdhanna\Desktop, and you type >cd .., you will end up in \cdhanna**)

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Users\cdhanna>cd Desktop
C:\Users\cdhanna\Desktop>
```

- d.
3. What is the PATH?
 - a. Anytime you type a command into command line, it has to run some instructions. Those instructions are saved as .bat or .exe files somewhere on your computer. Command line looks to the PATH for the location of the .bat or .exe file. So for example, if you had a command called javac that you wanted to run in command line, and the instructions for javac were located in C:\Program Files (x86)\Java\jdk1.6.0_26\bin, but your command line was sitting at C:\Users\cdhanna\Desktop, then since those file paths don't match, the command line will not be able to find the instructions for javac. If command line cannot find the instructions for javac, then it will say 'javac is not a recognized command'. **The PATH is a collection of file paths that the command line will search through to try and find instructions.** By adding C:\Program Files (x86) blablabla to the PATH, command line will check that folder for the javac command.
 4. Type...
 - a. Set PATH=%PATH%;C:\Program Files (x86)\Java\jdk1.6.0_26\bin
 - i. (The file path here needs to be the path to your jdk bin. Your version number may be different)
 - ii. The above command is appending the jdk bin to the PATH. (as a fun tidbit, just type PATH into command line to see all of the folders that it is looking at)
 5. Type...
 - a. Javac
 6. If you get anything that is not 'command is unrecognized', then you have successfully installed java! Whoo!

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