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NetBeans IDE 4.0 Applet Tutorial

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Though there are no project templates that are specifically designed for creating applets in NetBeans IDE 4.0, you can easily develop them in a Java project and package them in a web project. The application that you build in this tutorial guides you through the following activities in NetBeans IDE 4.0:

- Creating or importing an applet source file -- create a Java project, create or import an applet source file (see the final section if you want to import a JAR file containing applet source files)
- Running and debugging an applet source file -- run an applet source file, debug it by modifying its parameters in the `src` folder
- Embedding an applet in a web application -- create a web project, import a NetBeans IDE 4.0 Java project or a JAR file containing applet source files, add applet tags to a JSP file or HTML file, run the web project

This tutorial can be completed in 20 minutes.

Creating or Importing an Applet Source File

Create the Java project from scratch or from existing sources

1. Choose File > New Project (Ctrl-Shift-N). Under Categories, select General.

2. Choose one of the following:

   - If you are creating a new applet source file, select Java Class Library under Projects. Click

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Next.

- o If you want to import an applet source file, select Java Project with Existing Sources. Click Next. Specify the file's location in the Source Packages Folder text box.

3. Under Project Name, type `HelloApplet`. Change the Project Location to any folder on your computer.

4. Click Finish. If you imported an applet source file, run and debug it.

Create the applet source file

1. Right-click the HelloApplet project node in the Projects window and select New File/Folder (Ctrl-N).

2. Under Categories, select Java Classes. Under File Types, select Applet. Click Next.

3. Under Class Name, type `MyApplet`. Under Package, type `org.me.hello`.

4. Click Finish.

   The IDE creates the applet source file in the specified package. The applet source file opens in the Source editor.

5. Define your applet class by copying and pasting the following code over the existing default code:

```
package org.me.hello;

import java.applet.Applet;
import java.awt.Graphics;

public class MyApplet extends Applet {
    public void paint(Graphics g) {
        g.drawString("Hello applet!", 50, 25);
    }
}
```

For detailed information on writing applets, see The Java™ Tutorial's Writing Applets section.

Running and Debugging an Applet Source File

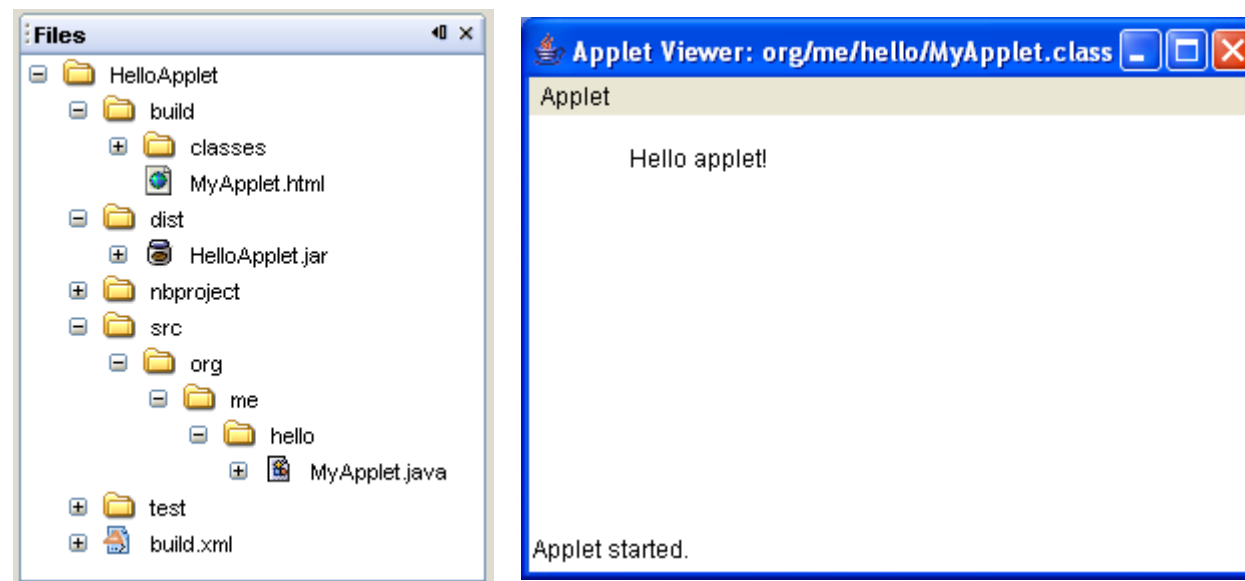**Build and run the applet source file**

1. Right-click the HelloApplet project node in the Projects window and choose Build Project from the contextual menu.

   The `HelloApplet.jar` file is created in the `dist` folder.

2. Right-click the applet class node in the Projects window and choose Run File from the contextual menu.

   The `MyApplet.html` launcher file, with the applet embedded, is created in the `build` folder and launched in the Applet Viewer.

Debug the applet source file by modifying its

The `MyApplet.html` launcher file in your `build` folder is overwritten each time you run or debug the applet. Therefore, do not modify the launcher file in your `build` folder. Instead, use the following procedure:

parameters

1. Open the Files window (Ctrl-2).

2. Copy the `MyApplet.html` launcher file from the `build` folder to the package where the applet class lives in the `src` folder (in this case, to `org.me.hello`). Make sure that the `MyApplet.html` launcher file has the same name as the applet class.

3. Now edit the `MyApplet.html` launcher file as needed.

   When you build the project, the `MyApplet.html` launcher file is copied from the `src` folder to the `build` folder.

   Tip: The launcher file is created by the IDE when you run or debug an applet. If you copy it to your `src` folder for editing, it will automatically be included in the JAR file when you build the project. Normally, you do not need to include this file when you package your application. Exclude the launcher file from the JAR file by right-clicking the project, choosing Properties, clicking Creating JAR, and adding an expression to exclude launcher files such as `MyApplet.html`.

Embedding an Applet in a Web Application

Create the web project

1. Choose File > New Project. Under Categories, select Web. Under Projects, select Web Application. Click Next.

2. Under Project Name, type `HelloWebApplet`. Change the Project Location to any folder on your computer.

3. Click Finish.
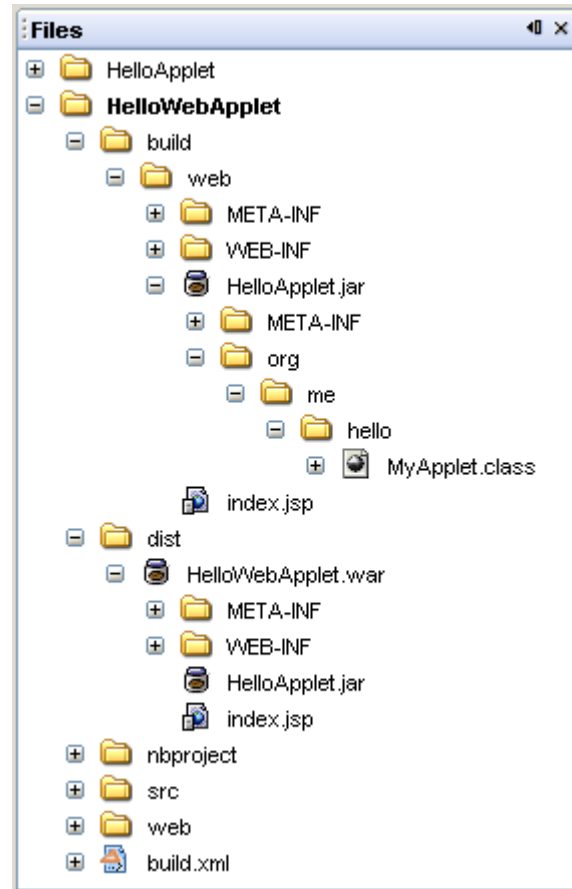
Add the applet JAR file to the web project

When you want to include an applet JAR file in a web project, you can do so by adding the NetBeans IDE 4.0 Java project that contains the JAR file, or by adding the JAR file itself. Although the choice is yours, note that when you add the NetBeans IDE 4.0 Java project to the web project, you enable the IDE to build the applet whenever you build the web application. Therefore, when you modify the applet in the NetBeans IDE 4.0 Java project, the IDE builds a new version of the applet whenever the web project is built. On the other hand, if the applet JAR file is not in a NetBeans IDE 4.0 Java project, the applet source file is not rebuilt when you build the web project.

1. In the Projects window, right-click the HelloWebApplet project node and select Properties from the contextual menu.
2. Choose one of the following:

    ○ If the applet JAR file is in a NetBeans IDE 4.0 Java project, click Packaging Project, and then click Add Project. Browse to and select the folder that contains the NetBeans IDE 4.0 Java project. Note that NetBeans IDE 4.0 projects are marked by the NetBeans IDE project icon.

    ○ If the applet JAR file is not in a NetBeans IDE 4.0 project, click Packaging Project, and then click Add JAR/Folder. Browse to and select the folder that contains the JAR file.

    The JAR file containing the applet source file is listed in a table at the bottom of the Project Properties dialog box.

3. Optionally, you can type a location for the applet in the table's Path in WAR column. By default, the applet JAR file will be copied to the web application's document root, which is the `build/web` folder (the highest level of the web application's file structure). Click OK.

    When you build the project, the applet's JAR file is packaged in the project's WAR file in the `dist` folder. It is also added to the `build/web` folder. For details, see the illustration below.

**Create and run
the JSP file or
HTML file**

1. Choose one of the following:

   o If you want to embed the applet in a JSP file, double-click the default `index.jsp` file in the
     Projects window. This file is created by the IDE when you create a web project. It opens in the
     Source Editor.

   o If you want to embed the applet in an HTML file, right-click the HelloWebApplet project
     node, and choose New > File/Folder from the contextual menu. Under Categories, select Web.
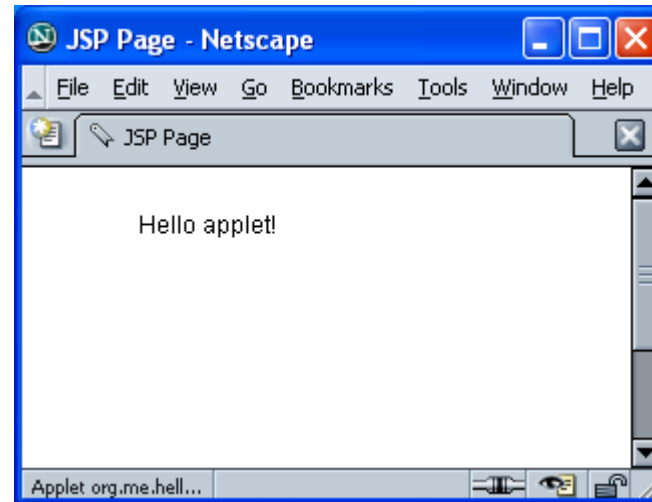   Under File Types, select HTML. Click Next. Give your HTML file a name and click Finish.

2. Embed the applet in the file by adding the following applet tag anywhere between the file's `<body></body>` tags:

```
<applet code="org.me.hello.MyApplet" archive="HelloApplet.jar"/>
```

   o `org.me.hello.MyApplet` is the full classname to your applet
   o `HelloApplet.jar` is the JAR file that contains the applet

3. Right-click the JSP node or HTML node in the Projects window and choose Run File from the contextual menu.

   The server deploys the JSP file or HTML file in the IDE's default browser. You should see something similar to the illustration below.

   Note that applets run in the virtual machine of the IDE's default web browser. The IDE uses a different virtual machine and therefore applets are not included in a web application's debug session. Debug the applet within the Java project, as explained above.

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