CS 351 Design of Large Programs Creating Executable Jar

Brooke Chenoweth

University of New Mexico

Spring 2025

Jar Files

- The Java Archive (JAR) file format bundles multiple files into a single archive file.
- Uses ZIP file format
- Contains class files and auxiliary resources.
- May hold a library or standalone application.

Jar Command

- The jar command allows you to create and manipulate jar files.
- Common options:
 - f Specify jar file name
 - v Be more verbose
 - c Create a jar file
 - e Specify entry point
 - t View table of contents
 - x Extract files
- https://docs.oracle.com/javase/ tutorial/deployment/jar/index.html

Creating Executable Jar

- 1. Compile your classes.
- 2. Make sure you have all resources needed (sounds, images)
- 3. Create jar file. If all files needed are in current directory, easiest to use wildcard:
 - jar cvfe MyProgram.jar MyMainClass *
- Make sure program runs from the jar. Use the -jar option with java. java -jar MyProgram.jar

Extracting Files from Jar

- Use jar xvf MyProgram.jar to extract all files.
- Use jar xvf MyProgram.jar filename to extract specific file(s).

Loading Resources from Jar

- Regular file operations will be looking for files relative to the current program directory.
- Use ClassLoader to look for files relative to class location (even inside a jar)
- getClass().getClassLoader()
 .getResourceAsStream(resourceFileName)
 will give an InputStream which you can use in
 other IO operations.
- Run jar in new location to make sure you are properly loading resources.

Configuring Executable Jar with IntelliJ IDEA

- File \rightarrow Project Structure...
- Project Settings \rightarrow Artifacts
- Click Add Icon (green plus)
- Select JAR \rightarrow From modules with dependencies. . .
 - Select Main Class
 - Select extract to target JAR
 - Click OK
- Add source code to jar as well as compiled files
 - Click Add Icon on Output Layout
 - Select Directory Content
 - Browse to src directory

Building Executable Jar with IntelliJ IDEA

- Build \rightarrow Build Artifacts
 - Select Build.
 - Once it's done building, the jar file will be located inside of your out folder: out/artifacts/project_jar/project.jar (or whatever you named the project and jar)
- If this is a version of the jar that you are submitting, move the file to the top level of your project, add it to git, commit, and push.

Loading Resources from Jar

- Regular file operations will be looking for files relative to the current program directory.
- Use ClassLoader to look for files relative to class location (even inside a jar)
- getClass().getClassLoader()
 .getResourceAsStream(resourceFileName)
 will give an InputStream which you can use in
 other IO operations.
- Run jar in new location to make sure you are properly loading resources.

Setting resources folder

- Images, sounds, and other files to be included in the jar belong in the resources folder
- Right-click on folder and "Set as resources root"
- Now you'll be able to load files with the class loader using just the file name relative to this resource folder.
- Make sure you include resources when building the jar!