



# 10 Novel Features of JavaWIDE



## 1. **Zero-Install**

There's no need to install JavaWIDE. It already works in your browser. JavaWIDE only needs an Internet connection and the Java 1.5 Runtime Environment or higher (JRE 1.5+). *The Java Developers Kit is NOT required.*

## 2. **Single Code Base**

All of the code in JavaWIDE is stored in a single base directory. By convention, each user places his or her own code in a package named after the username. This convention avoids naming conflicts. For example, if everyone is creating a class called RectangleTest, they need to be in different directories such as jenny/RectangleTest and joe/RectangleTest. This single code base makes it possible to import classes that other students have written or to create special packages for group work. Emailing code back and forth is no longer necessary for group work with the single code base.

## 3. **Annotated and Hyperlinked Source Code**

Every program has an associated web page that shows the syntax highlighted source code. This source code is automatically linked to helpful tutorials on the Sun Java web site and relevant parts of the Java API. In addition, mousing over the program brings up tooltips that describe what the different parts do. All keywords, braces, brackets, numbers, and literals are hyperlinked and have tooltips.

## 4. **Integrated Java API**

The Java API can be shown in the same window as the code editor. This provides students and instructors with easy and convenient access. While making in-class example programs teachers can view the API without covering up the source code. This side-by-side view of JavaWIDE allows students to avoid the typical context switching that can occur when teachers change back and forth between the code view and the API view. As a result, students are better able to follow along as teachers demonstrate how to program using the API.

## 5. **Social Network Enabled**

Every program on JavaWIDE can be added to Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Digg, del.icio.us, Google Bookmarks, Browser Favorites, and others. It is possible to email the program or print using the toolbar. The html for embedding an applet is easily accessible from within the IDE.

## 6. **Automatic Posting of Programs**

Every program written on JavaWIDE automatically posts to a web page. No special action is required to post an applet or application beyond writing the program.

## 7. **Also a Wiki**

The same environment that is used for the IDE is also a wiki. This makes it extremely convenient to take notes and provide documentation all in the same place.

## 8. **Mandatory Auto-Indent**

Every program is automatically indented. It is not possible to save a program with poor indentation.

## 9. **Full Revision History**

Every save on JavaWIDE is logged with the complete source code, time of edit, difference between this save and the last one, and the author of the edit. When viewed, the revision history not only shows the source code for that revision, but it also runs that version of the program. This can be used to demonstrate how programs are developed, not by just posting the final version, but also by posting all versions leading to the final version. Examining these revision histories can also reveal when work is original and when work has been copied.

## 10. **Restore after Delete**

Deleting on JavaWIDE is simply writing a blank program. This removes the program, but any prior version can always be restored using the revision history.