



Create a pluglet

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Create a pluglet

This tutorial guides you through the steps needed to create and run pluglets.

Pluglets are small Java applications that are used to make minor extensions to the workbench in a simple and straightforward way. Pluglets are written in Java and reside in a pluglet project. The pluglet can be tested in the same instance of the workbench just like any other Java application. Pluglet authors can use the Java development environment, and they have access to the application programming interfaces (APIs) of the workbench plug-ins to extend and implement the existing pluglets. The Java source editor is fully functional with pluglets for refactoring.

Learning objectives

The objective of this tutorial is to learn how to create and run a pluglet.

Time required

15 minutes

Related information

Extending your Java environment with pluglets

Sample: Fan-In pluglet

Sample: Model Enumeration pluglet

[View the PDF version](#)

Introduction: Create a pluglet

You can create pluglets to handle routine tasks. The pluglet functionality offers you an easy way to explore and learn the application programming interfaces (API) offered by the workbench platform and other product extensions. The pluglet source file is no different from any other Java source file. Pluglet writers can specify what Eclipse plug-ins their pluglets require, and this controls the pluglet class path, both at compile and at run time.

This tutorial might require some optionally installable components. To ensure that you have installed the appropriate optional components, see the System requirements list.

Learning objectives

This tutorial is divided into three lessons. The beginning lesson helps you to set up the environment needed to create pluglets. After the environment is set, you will learn how to create a pluglet project. Next, you will learn how to create a pluglet. Last, you will run the pluglet.

In this tutorial, you will learn the following:

- How to set up the pluglet development environment
- How to create a pluglet project
- How to create a pluglet
- How to run a pluglet

Time required

This tutorial should take approximately 15 minutes to finish. If you explore other concepts related to this tutorial, it could take longer to complete.

Skill level

Beginner

Audience

The intended audience for this tutorial is developers.

System requirements

To complete this tutorial, you need to have the following tools and components installed:

- Pluglets

Prerequisites

In order to complete this tutorial end to end, you should be familiar with the following tasks and concepts:

- Eclipse basic concepts, such as architecture, plug-ins, and plugging into the workbench
- How to create, install and run a simple plug-in using the Eclipse Java IDE
- The elements of a minimal plug-in, such as projects, Eclipse UI views and editors
- The perspectives and views of the Java IDE
- The Standard Widget Toolkit (SWT) API

Lesson 1: Create pluglet projects

To create a pluglet, you need to first customize your perspective and create a pluglet project.

Before you create a pluglet project, you need to activate the pluglet projects and pluglet functionality through customizing your perspective.

1. Customize your perspective.
 - a. Click **Window** → **Customize Perspective**.
 - b. In the Customize Perspective window, click the **Shortcuts** tab and be sure **New** is specified in the **Submenus** list.
 - c. In the **Shortcut Categories** list, select **Pluglets** to enable the related shortcuts. Make sure that the **Pluglet** and **Pluglets Project** check boxes are checked in the **Shortcut** list.
 - d. Click the **Commands** tab. In the **Available command groups** list, select **Pluglets** and **Modeling**.
 - e. Click **OK**.
2. Click **File** → **New** → **Pluglets Project** to start creating the pluglets project. The New Pluglets Project wizard appears.
3. On the first page of the New Pluglets Project wizard, type the project name.
4. Either accept the default directory or specify an output directory for the new pluglet project.
5. Click **Finish**.

The pluglet project is created. Now you are ready to begin “Lesson 2: Create pluglets” on page 3.

Lesson checkpoint

You learned the following:

- How to set up the pluglet development environment
- How to create a pluglets project

Lesson 2: Create pluglets

Pluglets are written in Java™ and reside in a pluglet project.

Before you begin, you must complete Lesson 1: Creating a pluglet project

Show Me

To create a pluglet:

1. Click **File** → **New** → **Pluglet** to open the New Pluglet wizard.
2. On the Select page, choose one of the pluglets. The available pluglets are **Simple**, **UML Modeler**, **Workbench**.
 - a. To start with the basic pattern for all pluglets, on the Select page click **Simple** and then click **Pluglet** or **Hello World Pluglet**.
 - b. To create a pluglet that lists the contents of a selected class in a model, on the Select page click **UMLModeler** and then click **Model Enumeration**.
 - c. To create a pluglet that replaces the text editor selection, on the Select page click **Workbench** → **Text Editor** and then click **Replace Text Editor Selection Pluglet**.
3. Click **Next**.
4. Type the name for the new pluglet in the **Name** field. Start with an uppercase letter.
5. Click **Finish**.

Now you are ready to begin Lesson 3: Running pluglets.

Lesson checkpoint

You learned the following:

- The available pluglet templates
- How to create pluglets

Lesson 3: Run pluglets

Once you have created a pluglet, it can be run in the same instance of the workbench, just like any other Java™ application.

Before you begin, you must complete “Lesson 2: Create pluglets.”

To run the pluglet:

1. Select the pluglet in the Project Explorer view.
2. Click **Run** → **Internal Tools**, and click the name of your pluglet.
3. Click **Run**.

Finish this tutorial by reviewing the materials in the Summary topic.

Lesson checkpoint

You learned the following:

- How to run a pluglet

Summary: Create pluglets

Well done. This tutorial has taught you how to create and run pluglets.

Provide extended summary information here.

Lessons learned

By completing this tutorial, you learned about the following concepts and tasks:

- Set up the pluglet development environment
- Create pluglet projects
- Create a pluglet
- Run a pluglet

Additional resources

If you want to learn more about the topics covered in this tutorial, consider the following sources:

- Extending your Java environment with pluglets
- Pluglets API

Related information

ibm.com

eclipse.org