



Commonly used Java system properties

Key	Description	Example value
<code>file.encoding</code>	The default encoding for plain text.	UTF-8
<code>file.separator</code>	The character used by the OS to separate directories in filesystem paths.	/
<code>java.class.path</code>	The program's classpath.	/home/michael/workspace/test/bin
<code>java.home</code>	The filesystem path to the JVM.	/usr/lib/jvm/java-6-openjdk/jre
<code>java.io.tmpdir</code>	The filesystem path to the system's temporary directory.	/tmp
<code>java.specification.version</code>	The version of Java that the program was compiled for.	1.6
<code>java.version</code>	The version of the JVM.	1.6.0_18
<code>line.separator</code>	The character(s) used by the OS to represent a newline.	\n
<code>os.name</code>	The name of the OS.	Linux
<code>os.version</code>	The version of the OS.	2.6.32-24-generic
<code>path.separator</code>	The character used to separate entries in a path such as the classpath.	:
<code>user.country</code>	The country that the user resides in.	US
<code>user.dir</code>	The working directory of the running application.	/home/michael/workspace/test
<code>user.home</code>	The user's home directory.	/home/michael
<code>user.language</code>	The user's language.	en
<code>user.name</code>	The user's username.	michael
<code>user.timezone</code>	The user's timezone.	

To retrieve the value of a property, run the following code:

```
System.getProperty("property.key");
```

There are many more properties. To see all of the properties, run the following code:

```
Properties properties = System.getProperties();  
Set<Object> sortedKeys = new TreeSet<Object>(properties.keySet());  
for (Object key : sortedKeys){  
    Object value = properties.get(key);  
    System.out.println(key + "=" + value);  
}
```

Properties can be set when the application launches using the “-D” command-line option:

```
java -DpropName=propValue com.example.Main
```