

BootClassPath

Coping with the Boot Class Path

Some projects, such as [MethodHandles](#), require us to develop Java code and test cases under packages like `java.dyn`. Classes in packages under `java` cannot be loaded by the normal means of setting `CLASSPATH` or using the `-cp` flag. The JVM will throw an exception like this:

what can happen when you develop in java.dyn

```
$ java -cp "$mypath" java.dyn.MethodHandleBytecodeTest
Exception in thread "main" java.lang.SecurityException: Prohibited package name: java.dyn
```

Instead, you must put your classes on the boot class path, as follows:

successfully running your java.dyn code

```
$ java -Xbootclasspath/a:"$mypath" java.dyn.MethodHandleBytecodeTest
invoke toString
invoke mh=java.dyn.hotspot.VMH@15ff48b
...
```

If you are running [JUnit](#), you will also need to place the JAR for JUnit on the boot class path. You can fish the JAR out of your NetBeans distribution (e.g., under `NetBeans 6.1.app/Contents/Resources/NetBeans/java2/modules/ext`), or you can download it from [SourceForge](#).

NetBeans Modifications

In order to run test correctly from inside NetBeans, you have to hack the boot class path. Add the following line to `nbproject/project.properties`:

NetBeans properties hacking boot class path

```
run.jvmargs=-Xbootclasspath/a:"${build.classes.dir}:${libs.junit.classpath}"
```

The quotes are important, since there might be spaces in the path names.

(I would like put the setting in `build.xml`, so that it will have the required effect outside of NetBeans. No success with this yet.)