There is a so-called environment variable named PATH for the operating system to know where to find programs for execution. In our case, the program we want to execute is javac.exe. In case that your computer complains about “javac is not recognized...” when you try to use javac in command-line to compile your java programs, that is because PATH is not set correctly. Do the following to set PATH.

1. First, you have to know where is the program, javac.exe, in your computer. To locate javac.exe, you may use the following steps under MS Windows:
   
   Start > Search > All files and folders

   and type javac.exe into the box of “All or part of the file name”, and make sure driver C: is selected in the box of “Look in”. Then, click [Search] button to start searching. Examine the search result window and find out where javac.exe is. Suppose it is

   C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.5.0_04\bin

   Write it down or just leave the window open for later reference.

2. Then, set the path variable, PATH, as follows:

   Start > Control Panel > Performance and Maintenance > System > Advanced

   > [Environment Variables].

   The window of environment variables should pop up.

   (a) If your account is an administrator account (if you are using lab’s computers, you are not; use (b) step described in the next item), select Path from System variables window (the lower one) and click [Edit]. When another window pops up, click on Variable value box and use arrow key to move to the very end of the box (be careful, don’t overwrite the old value). Then, append

   ;C:\Program Files\Java\jdk1.5.0_04\bin;

   to the old value. Don’t forget the semicolons before and after C:\Program Files.... If there are consecutive semicolons, you may remove the extra ones.

   (b) If your account is not an administrator account, select Path from User variables window (the upper one) and click [Edit]. If there is no variable Path in User variable window, then click [New] and let Path be the new variable name. Click on Variable value box and input the value as above.

   Click OK’s to complete the modification.

3. You have to close and re-open every command-line window to let the new setting take effect.

4. In the command-line window, type in path to see if the path is set as you want.