

The *BeanBox*, from Sun, eases the development of JavaBeans by providing a test container for the components. The BeanBox can test that the code you wrote for your bean works properly inside a container.

Running the BeanBox

To run the BeanBox from the command line, change directories to the directory in which you installed the SDK. (From now on, we'll call this the "SDK directory.") Then switch to the `beanbox` subdirectory. This directory contains two files, `run.sh` (for Unix) and `run.bat` (for Windows). Running the batch file appropriate for your operating system will start the BeanBox.

If you're a Windows user, you can create a batch file called BEANBOX.BAT and place the following lines in it:

```
@echo off

cd SDK-directory\beanbox

run.bat
```

(Be sure to replace *SDK-directory* with the name of the SDK-directory.) Users of Windows 95 or Windows NT can even create a shortcut to this batch file, and run the BeanBox by simply clicking the shortcut's icon.

Upon running the BeanBox, a small window will appear, saying `Loading and analyzing jars....`

At this point, the BeanBox is reading the JAR files in the `jars` subdirectory of the SDK-directory. A JAR file is a ZIP archive file containing class files (including beans), GIF files, and other resource files the classes may need, plus an optional *manifest* containing structured information describing the contents of the JAR. You can create your own JAR files and put them in the `jars` directory, and the BeanBox will include them in the ToolBox. See [Resources](#) below for links to finding out more about JAR files.

After a few moments, the small JAR file window disappears, to be replaced by three windows, as seen in the figure below:

These three windows are:

On the left, the *ToolBox*. This window contains all of the beans that are available for adding to the BeanBox.

In the middle, the *BeanBox*. This window contains the beans we're working on.

On the right, the *Property Sheet*. This window contains property editors for all of the properties of the currently selected bean. (In Figure 2, the currently selected bean is the

BeanBox itself, as evidenced by the crosshatched box around the perimeter of the BeanBox.)

The BeanBox currently is in *design mode*, meaning that you can select beans from the ToolBox, place them on the BeanBox, change their properties by using the Property Sheet, and manipulate their behavior with the items on the menu across the top of the BeanBox.

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