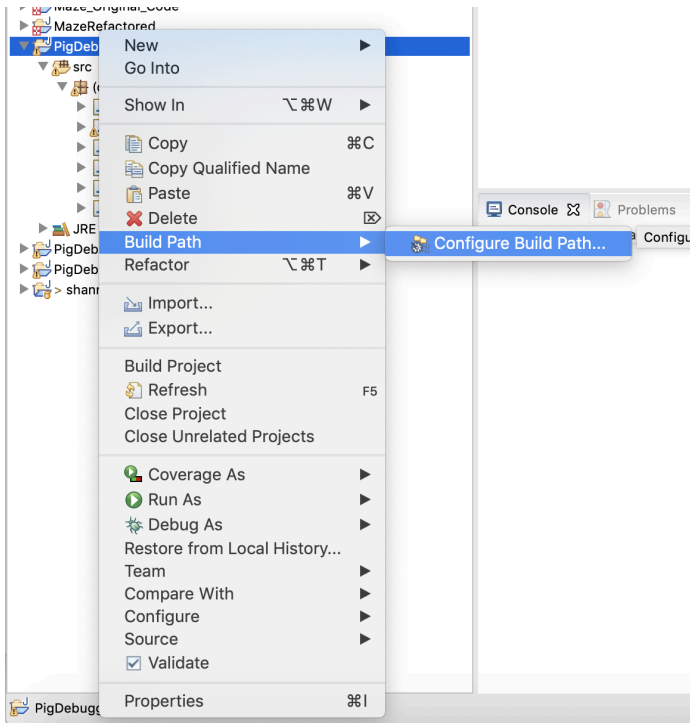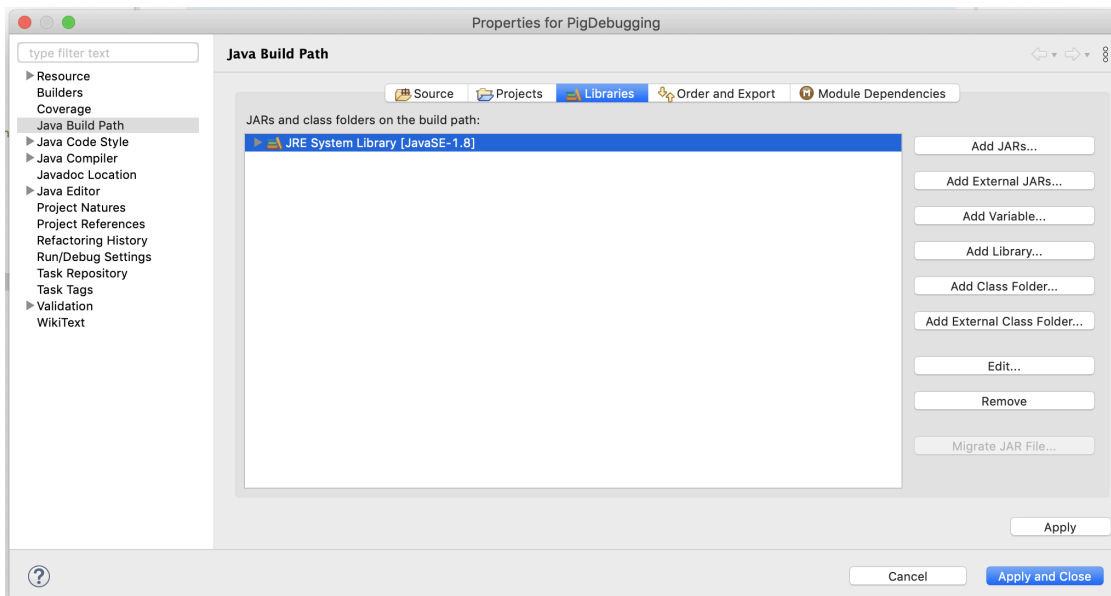# Advanced Eclipse Notes

Changing the JDK for a Project

To change the version of Java you are using for a project, you will configure the Build Path. The build path is the information telling the project where to look for Java libraries and the JDK.

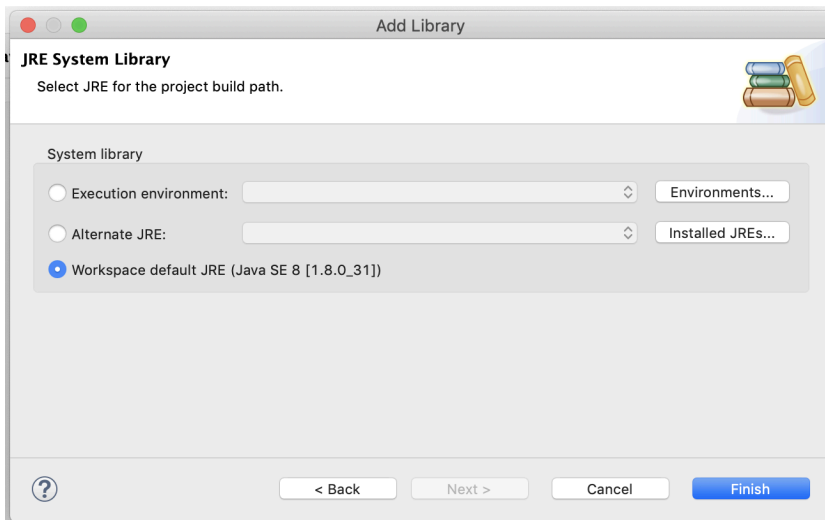Start by right-clicking on the project and choose "Build Path" then "Configure Build Path":

From the window that this brings up, choose the "Libraries" tab. Here you can remove the JDK that is currently selected:
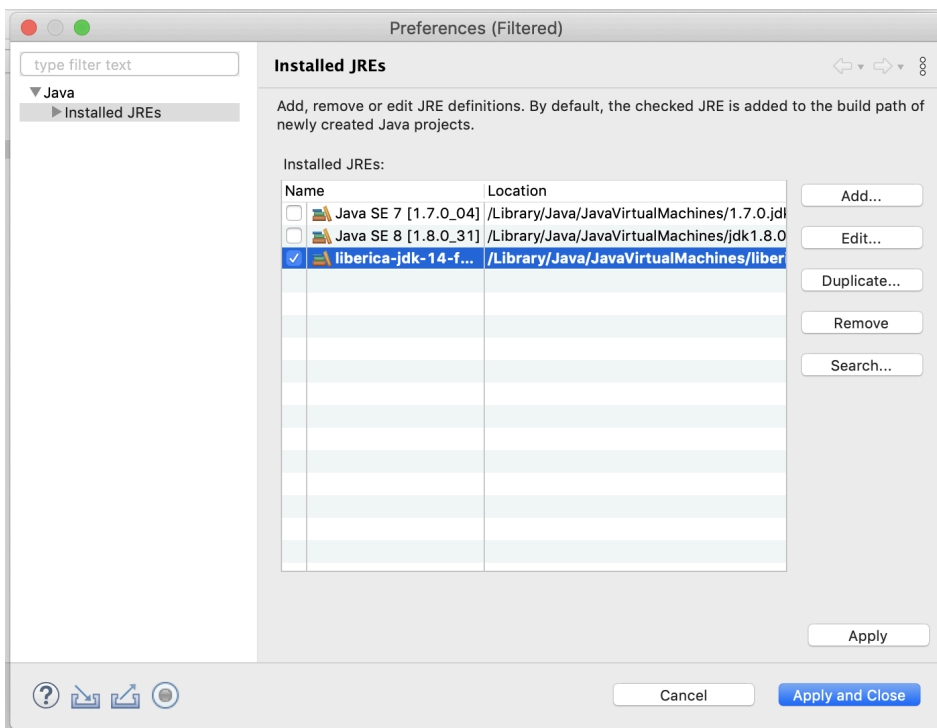

Now choose "Add Library", then "JRE System Library".

The next pop up window will have a button called "Installed JREs":

When you click this button, you will see any versions of Java that are installed, and you can choose the one you want.
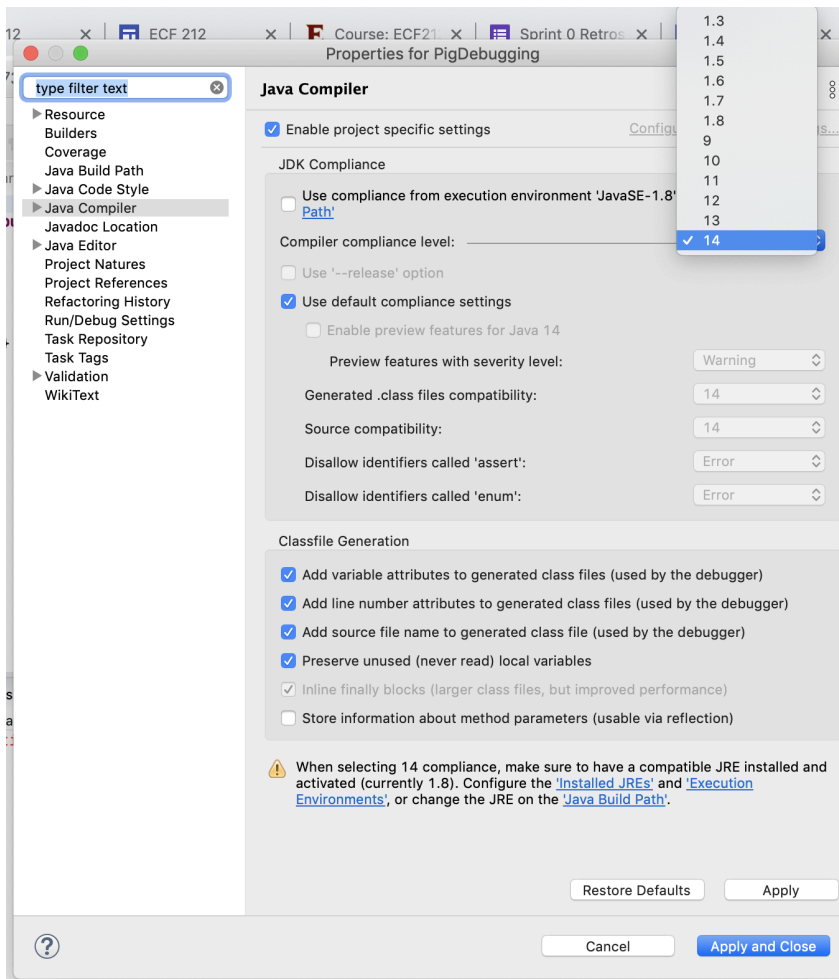

If you know you have installed a new version, but do not see it here, you can choose the "Add" button and then navigate to where the new version is saved. This will add the newly installed version to your list. If you aren't sure where it is saved, try searching for it or simply use the pattern of the other installed versions. For example, looking at the screenshot above, you can see that it is standard for Macs to install Java in /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines. On PCs, Java is often installed in "Program Files".

Unsupported Class Version Error

If you get this error for a project, it generally means that the properties of the project don't match the version of Java that is being used. For example, if you use syntax introduced in Java 11, but are using the Java 8 library on your build path (see above) then you will get this error.

To fix it, right-click on the project and choose "Properties".

From this window, choose "Java Compiler".

Here you can check the box that says "Enable Project Specific Settings".

Use the drawdown menu on the "Compiler Compliance Level" and choose the level of Java that matches (or is lower than) the JRE version on the build path.

My Project isn't a Java Project

If you are having trouble creating Java classes, it may be that your project is not a Java project. To fix this, right-click on the project and choose "Properties" (at the bottom). Then click "Project Natures" on the left panel, and "Add" a Java Nature.

Next, use the "Changing the JDK" steps above to add a JDK to the build path of the project.

My Syntax Errors are Still Showing for Imported Code

You are probably misusing Java modules. Delete the file in the project called "module-info.java" and try compiling again.