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A Primer

"Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler."

— Albert Einstein

1.0   Introduction

Before you begin programming your robot with Java, you should consider some things that will make your Java robot experience much more enjoyable. They include the following:

- A configured personal computer and various software*

- A serial link

- A microcontroller

- A robot

■**Note** Be sure your PC has a fast Internet connection as I will often refer to links from the Internet for download or reference.

To begin, I'll walk you through a setup similar to mine. Forgive me non-Windows users, all screen captures are from Windows XP. When the occasion arises, I'll mention an alternative way of achieving the same thing with a UNIX-based operating system.

Personal Computer Setup

To facilitate use of your personal computer for this book, you should do the following. Download and install the Java Standard Edition 1.4.2 from:

- http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/download.html

Download and install Eclipse 3.02 from:

- http://download.eclipse.org/eclipse/downloads/index.php