

## HOWTO: Suppress the console window in GUI applications

Article ID: 000013

Last Revised On: 26-Dec-2005

The information in this article applies to:

- Excelsior JET since version 2.5

### SUMMARY

An EXE created by Excelsior JET with default settings opens a console window on startup, as if your application is started using the `java` launcher. However, Java applications with graphical user interface are usually started with the `javaw` launcher, which does not open a console window. This article describes how to prevent the console window from appearing on executable startup and how to re-enable it without rebuilding the executable.

### DETAILS

By default, the standard input/output/error streams are enabled to let the application print messages to the console. As a result, when starting your GUI application, you see a black console window opened in addition to the application's frames. If you do not want the window to appear, you can suppress it for the application:

- Using JET Control Panel: Check the **Hide console window** checkbox on the **Appearance** page.
- In the project file: Turn on the **GUI** option:

`-GUI+`

**Note:** In Excelsior JET 4.0, this checkbox is placed on the **Resources** page. In Excelsior JET versions prior to 4.0, the checkbox was named **Suppress console window** and placed on the **Target** page.

This setting has no effect on DLLs.

Under certain circumstances, you may wish the console to be created for a GUI program, e.g. if you need to view diagnostic messages printed to standard output. The subsystem is specified in EXE header, so it is possible to switch it without recompilation. You may do that using the `GUI .EXE` utility, which is part of Excelsior JET 3.1 and above.

To force `MyApp .EXE` to the console subsystem:

```
gui - myapp.exe
```

To force `MyApp .EXE` to the window subsystem:

```
gui + myapp.exe
```

To query the current subsystem setting in `MyApp .EXE`:

```
gui ? myapp.exe
```