Mars Rover Scoring Program Instructions

The Mars Rover scoring program is a Java program that requires the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) to be installed. First let me answer a question. Is Java safe? Java is very safe. What is not safe is an old feature to allow Java to be started from inside a web browser. Java Web Start is a separate option of Java that should be turned off. This can be done by changing a check box inside the control panel. The following link explains how to disable Java inside a web browser. http://www.java.com/en/download/help/disable_browser.xml Most current web browser have this feature disabled by default. But I still recommend making sure the option is turned off.

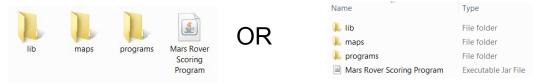
If you already have Java installed, then you can continue on to the next section. To install the Java Virtual Machine, click this link and follow the instructions. Just click the Free Java Download button. http://www.java.com/en/ FYI: You do not need to install the search toolbar options for the Rover Navigator program to work.

Installing Rover Program

The program, sample maps, and sample program are sent out in a compress file with the extension '.zip'. The file will appear as a folder with a zipper. The folder is small enough to be sent via email. Currently less than 1MB.



- 1) Right click the file and select the option "Extract All..." It is recommended to either extract the files on your desktop or document folder. Just remember where you place the folder.
- 2) View the contents of the folder. The following is an example of inside the folder.

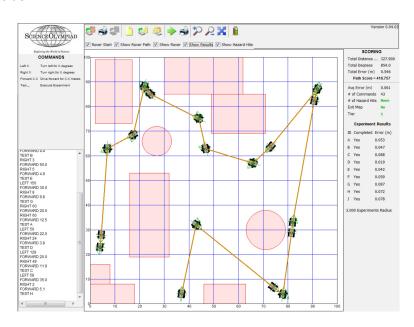


Note: If the file does not have the 🕍 icon, then Java is not installed. Follow the instructions above before continuing.

3) Double click the file "Mars Rover Scoring Program". This will start the actual program. With Java there is no install program or process. Just unzip the file and double click the program.

Uninstalling the Rover Program

- Since there is no install program, just delete the folder.



How to Use the Program

- 1) Load a map by clicking this icon. Sample maps are included with the program under the map directory. A map should always be loaded first.
- Enter the commands for the rover in the command area. Or use the Load Program icon to load a sample program from the programs directory.
- 3) Click the Execute Rover Path icon. A dialog box with Team # and School name will appear. These field can be left blank when testing. Click the "Run/Update" button to run the command list. This will show the rover's path and calculate the path score. Any changes to the command list are execute by clicking Execute Rover Path icon.
- 4) By default the path score results are turned off. Click the Show Results check box to view the results.
- 5) The program can be save by using the Save Program 🚉 icon.

