

Downloading and starting IGV (Integrative Genomics Viewer)

Author: Lynn Sanford, 2022

Downloading IGV

IGV is one of several platforms that you can use to visualize short read and genomics data. It's available from the Broad Institute: <https://software.broadinstitute.org/software/igv/download>

IGV is built in Java and therefore requires a recent install of Java. If you know that you have Java 11 on your machine already, you can install IGV separately, otherwise download the IGV/Java bundle for your operating system.

Install IGV 2.13.1

See the [Release Notes](#) for what's new in each IGV release.

Users of the new M1 Mac: Apple's Rosetta software is required to run the IGV MacOS App that includes Java. If you run IGV with your own Java installation, Rosetta may not be required if your version of Java runs natively on M1.

Linux users: The 'IGV for Linux' download includes AdoptOpenJDK (now Eclipse Temurin) version 11 for x64 Linux. See [their list of supported platforms](#). If this does not work on your version of Linux, download the 'Command line IGV for all platforms' and use it with your own Java installation.

About log4j: IGV versions 2.4.1 - 2.11.6 used log4j2 code that is subject to the log4jShell vulnerability. We recommend using version 2.11.9 (or later), which removed all dependencies on log4j.



Start the installer, accept the license agreement and install it.

Starting IGV (different memory allocation)

Just click on the IGV icon to run it with default options.

The default memory allocation for IGV is 4Gb. Depending on your computer specs, this may be too much or too little. If you have 8+ Gb memory on your system, this is a good starting point. If you only have 4Gb memory, you may want to decrease IGV's memory allocation to 2Gb.

If IGV uses too much memory on your system, the whole system will slow to a crawl. If it uses too little, and you're trying to work with large or many files, IGV may slow to a crawl.

When using the installer, IGV automatically places a file called `java_arguments` in a hidden directory within your home directory named `.igv/`

```
lsanford@DESKTOP-3GP5MRN:/mnt/c/Users/lsanford/.igv$ ll
total 0
drwxrwxrwx 1 lsanford lsanford 512 Jul  7 14:03 /
drwxrwxrwx 1 lsanford lsanford 512 Jul  7 14:03 /
-rwxrwxrwx 1 lsanford lsanford 183 Jul  7 14:03 java_arguments*
```

The path looks something like this using Bash on Windows for Windows machines. For Mac and Linux users, the path should be `~/igv/`

Opening the `java_arguments` file looks something like this:

```
# See https://raw.githubusercontent.com/igvteam/igv/master/scripts/readme.txt for tips on
using this file.
# Uncomment the following line for an 8 GB memory spec for IGV.
# -Xmx8G
```

Uncomment the `-Xmx8G` line and input whatever memory limit you need (`-Xmx2G` for 2Gb).

If you are starting IGV from a JAR file on the command line (such as on a super computer), you can also enter the memory allocation each time you initialize the program:

```
<java -Xmx8G -jar igv.jar>
```