Key Topics

- Configuration

- The isCOBOL IDE Perspective

- Working with Projects

- Screen Programs

- Importing programs from AcuBench

Overview

isCOBOL offers developers the choice of continuing to use their current editor, command line utilities, and scripts for source code control and builds or leveraging the isCOBOL Integrated Development Environment (IDE). Enabling rapid COBOL application development, the isCOBOL IDE includes a COBOL source editor, complete with COBOL syntax highlighting, compiling, and project handling, providing a single, flexible environment for all COBOL development tasks (design, coding, testing and debugging) in the open and extensible Eclipse framework.

isCOBOL IDE is available only for the 64 bit architecture.

The current version of isCOBOL IDE is based on Eclipse 2023-09 (4.29) and requires Java 11 or greater.

Note - Though the IDE runs with Java 11 or greater, it produces classes that are compatible with Java 8 by default, as Java 8 is the minimum Java version supported by isCOBOL.

Getting Started

The setup of isCOBOL IDE requires the following steps:

1. Download and install the Java Development Kit (JDK)
2. Download and install isCOBOL Evolve
3. Activate the License

In order to activate your isCOBOL Evolve products, you will need the e-mail you received from Veryant containing your license key. Contact your Veryant representative for details.

Note - isCOBOL IDE setups are available only for 64 bit platforms.

Download and install the Java Development Kit (JDK)

A JDK must be installed on your machine in order to use isCOBOL IDE. For best results and performance, install the latest JDK version available for your platform. isCOBOL IDE is certified to work correctly with both Oracle JDK and OpenJDK from version 11 to version 21.

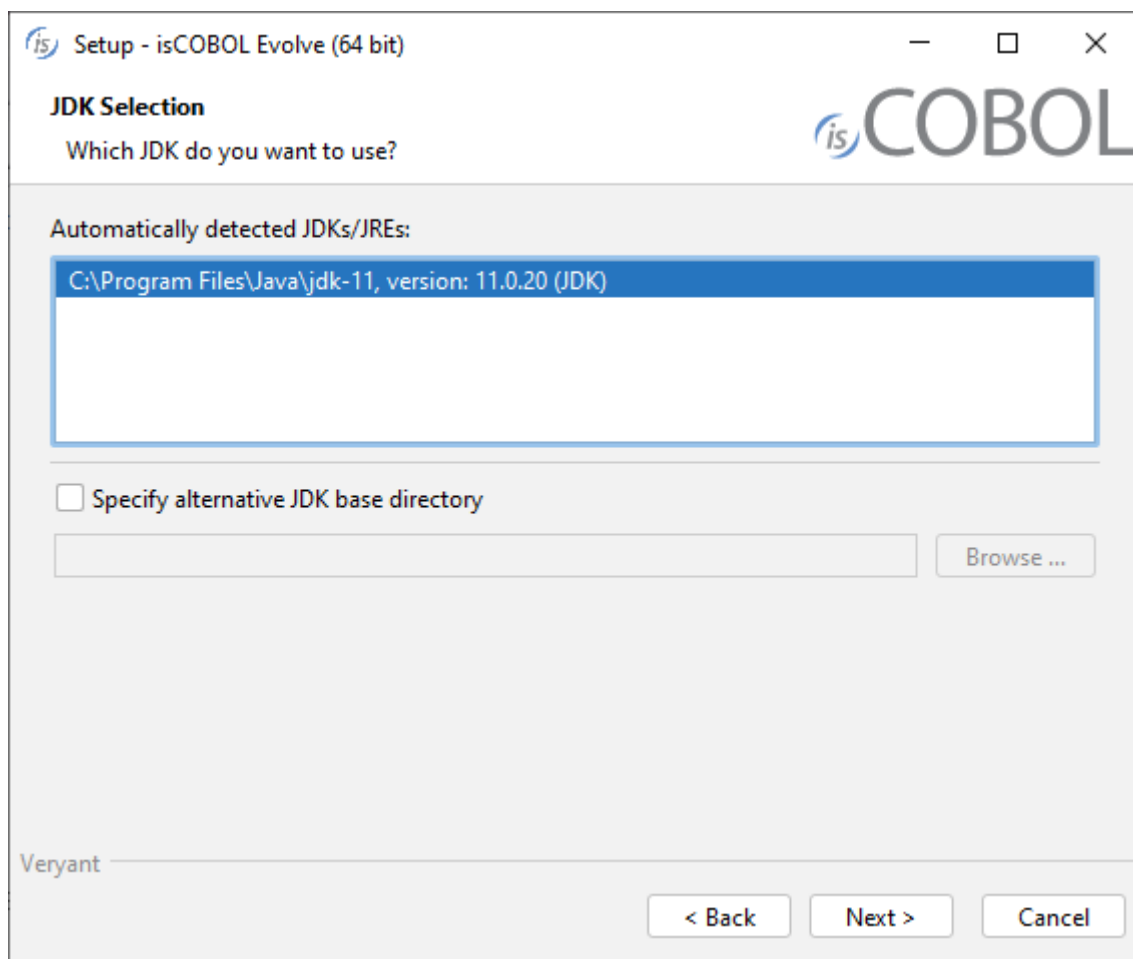**Note -** Using Java 21 the default encoding is UTF-8 on every operating system.

A self-extracting setup is provided for the Windows platform.

On Unix/Linux platforms Java may be already installed. If it's not the case, you can install it using the appropriate system commands (e.g. yum, or apt-get).
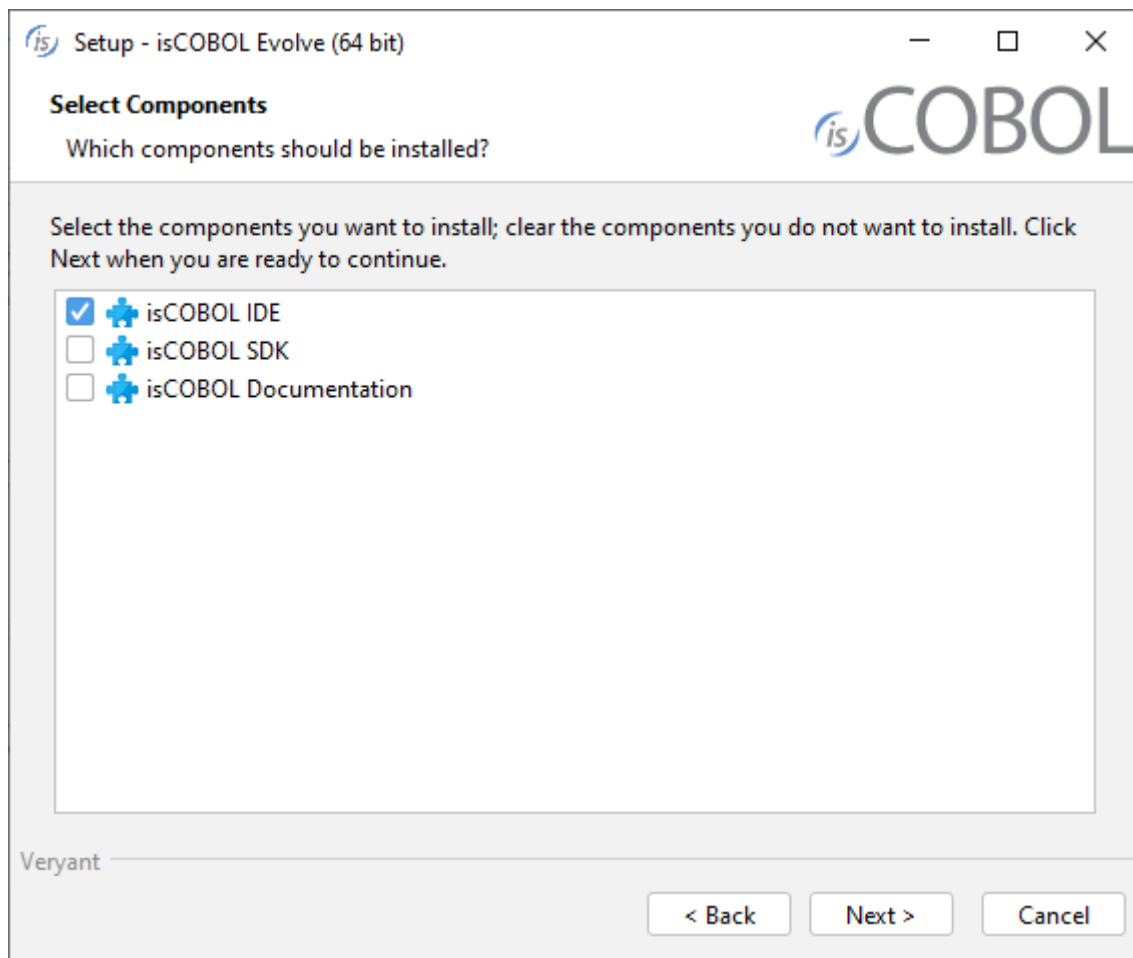
Download and install isCOBOL Evolve

Windows

1. If you haven't already done so, Download and install the Java Development Kit (JDK).

2. Go to "https://support.veryant.com".

3. Sign in with your User ID and Password.

4. Click on the "Download Software" link.

5. Scroll down to the list of files for Windows x64 64-bit. Select isCOBOL_Evolve2023_2_*n*_Windows_64.msi, where *n* is the build number.

6. Run the downloaded installer to install the files.

7. Select your JDK when prompted

8. Choose if you wish to install only the IDE or also the isCOBOL SDK. Installing the isCOBOL SDK will allow you to compile, run and debug from a command prompt, outside of the IDE.

9. Follow the wizard procedure to the end. In the process you will be asked to provide the installation path ("C:\Veryant" by default) and license keys. You can skip license activation and perform it later, as explained in Activate the License.

Quiet mode

The isCOBOL Evolve setup supports the msi quiet mode. Settings can be driven with a response file.

A response file is a text file with name-value pairs that represent installer variables.

A response file is generated automatically after an installation is finished. The generated response file is found in the *.install4j* directory of the isCOBOL Evolve and is named *response.varfile*.

When an installer is executed, it checks whether a file with the same name and the *.varfile* extension can be found in the same directory and loads that file as the response file. For example, if an installer is named *foo_setup.msi* on Windows, the response file next to it has to be named *foo_setup.varfile*.

For more information about msi setups and their command line options, see Microsoft Standard Installer Command-Line Options.

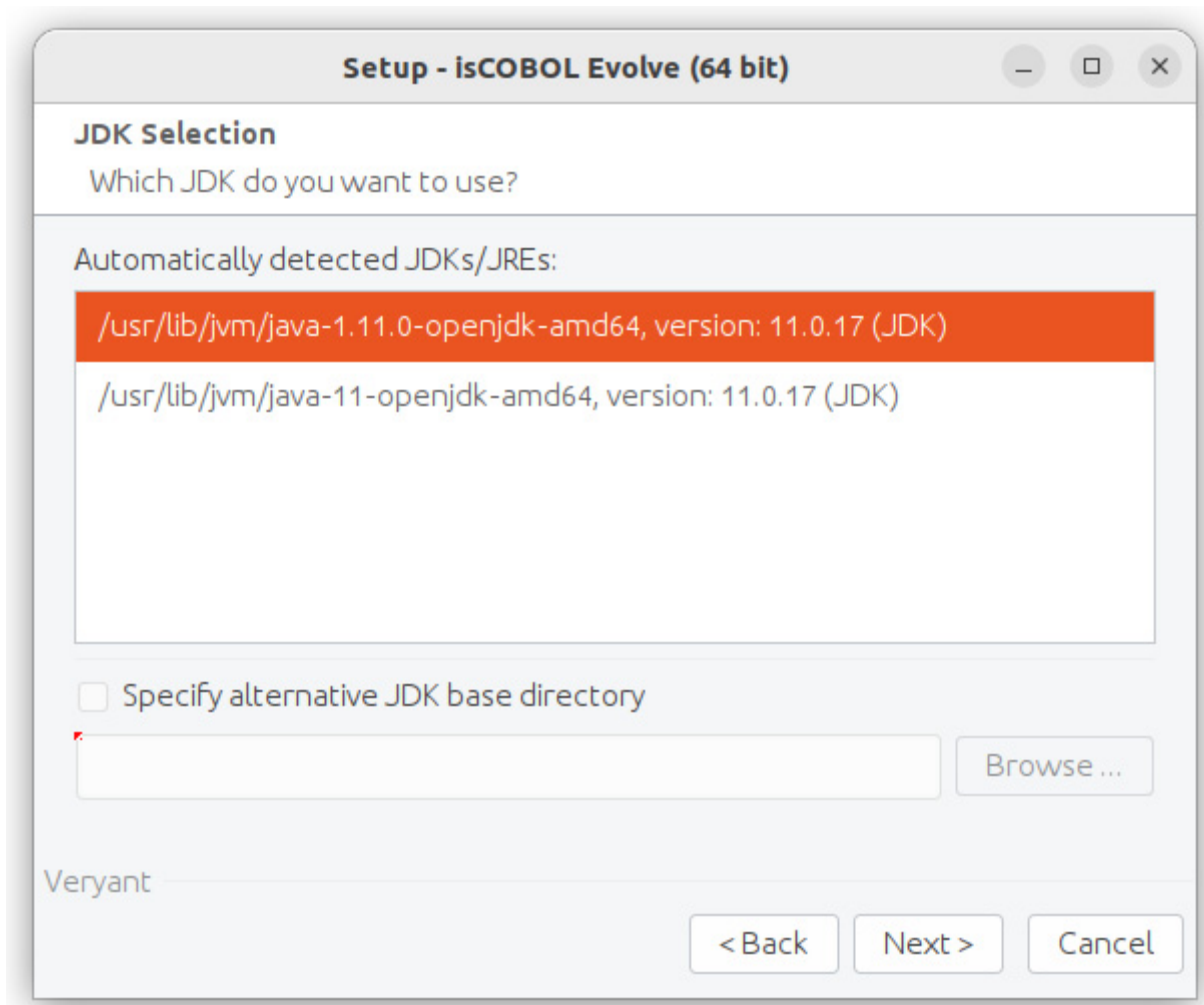## Linux

1. If you haven't already done so, Download and install the Java Development Kit (JDK).
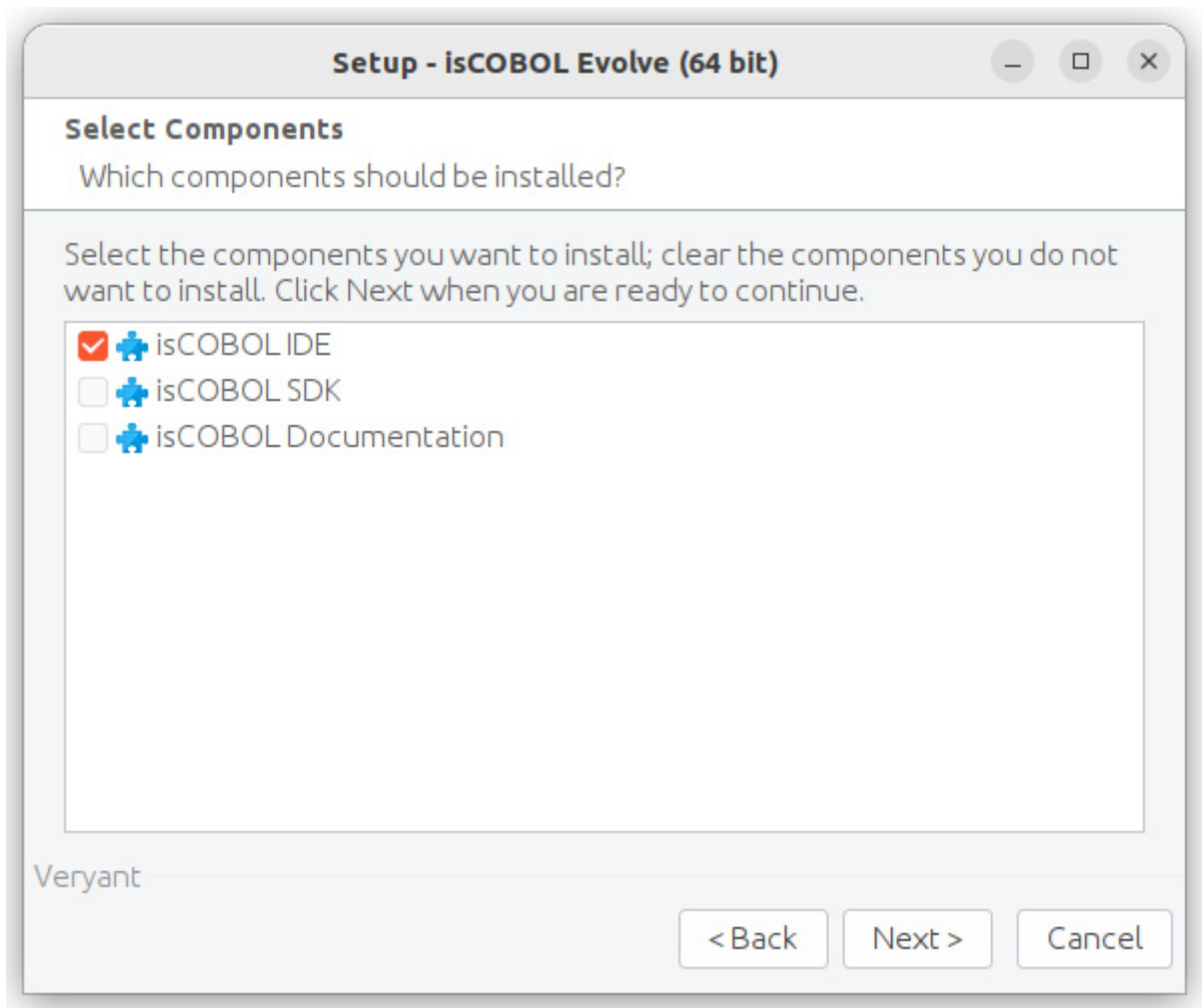
2. Go to "https://support.veryant.com".

3. Sign in with your User ID and Password.

4. Click on the "Download Software" link.

5. Scroll down to the list of files for Linux x64 64-bit. Select isCOBOL_Evolve2023_2_*n*_Linux_64.sh, where *n* is the build number.

6. Run the downloaded installer to install the files, e.g.

```
sh isCOBOL_Evolve2023_2_*_Linux_64.sh
```

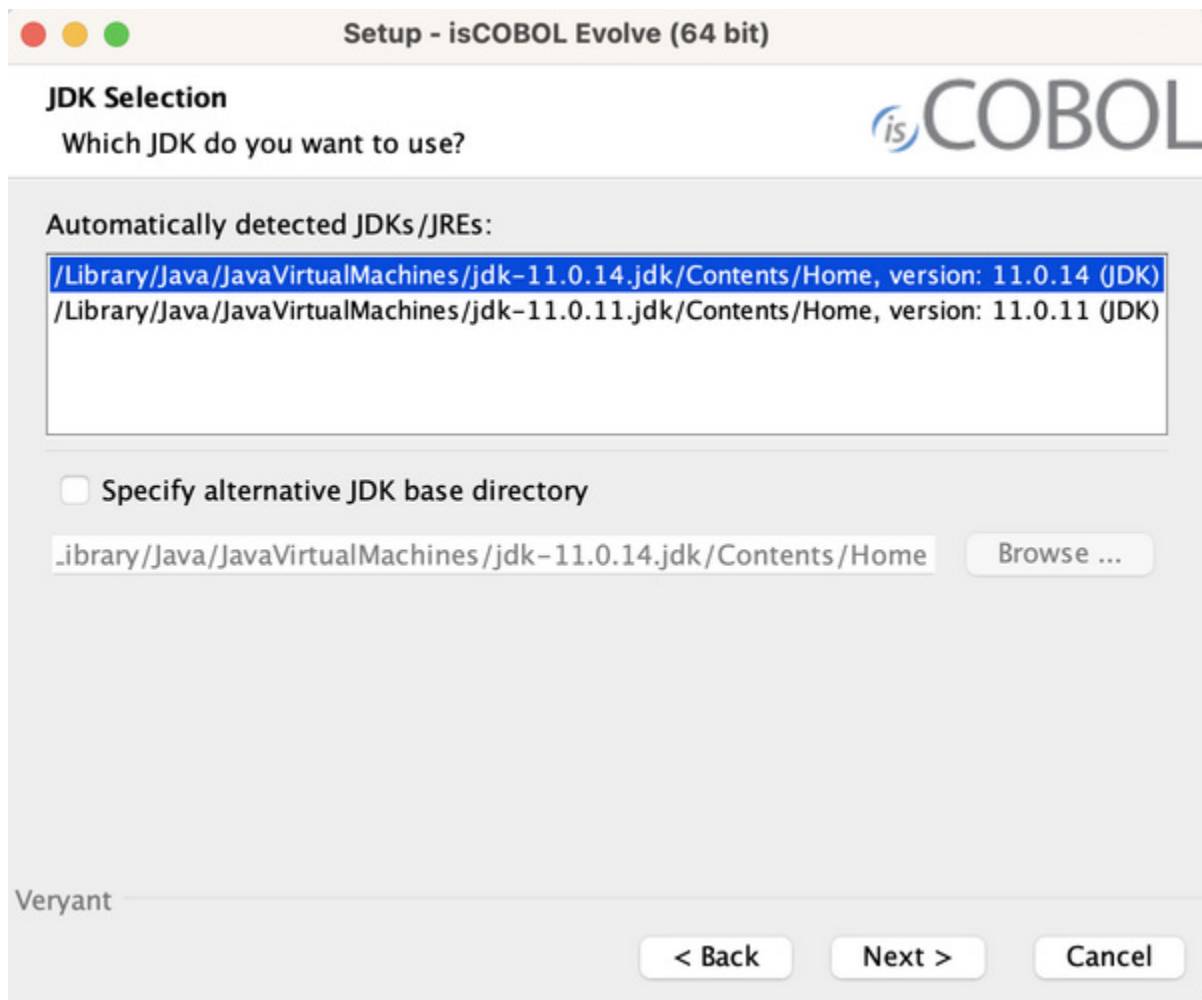7. Select your JDK when prompted

8. Choose if you wish to install only the IDE or also the isCOBOL SDK. Installing the isCOBOL SDK will allow you to compile, run and debug from a command prompt, outside of the IDE.
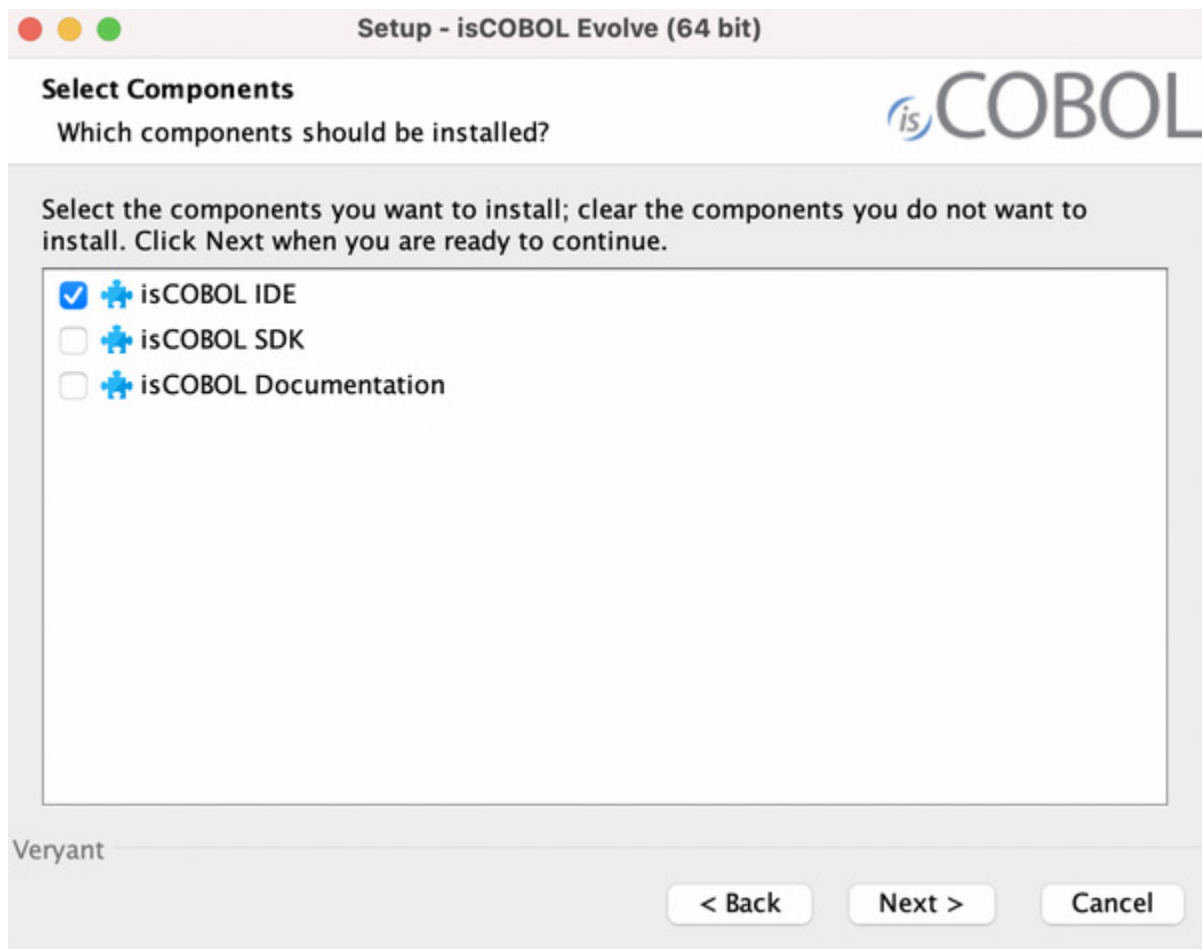
9. Follow the wizard procedure to the end. In the process you will be asked to provide the installation path ("$HOME/veryant" by default) and license keys. You can skip license activation and perform it later, as explained in Activate the License.

MacOSX

1. If you haven't already done so, Download and install the Java Development Kit (JDK).

2. Go to "https://support.veryant.com".

3. Sign in with your User ID and Password.

4. Click on the "Download Software" link.

5. Scroll down to the list of files for Mac OS 64-bit. Select isCOBOL_Evolve2023_2_*n*_MacOsx_64.dmg, where *n* is the build number.

6. Run the downloaded installer to install the files.

7. Select your JDK when prompted

8. Choose if you wish to install only the IDE or also the isCOBOL SDK. Installing the isCOBOL SDK will allow you to compile, run and debug from a command prompt, outside of the IDE.

9. Follow the wizard procedure to the end. In the process you will be asked to provide the installation path ("/Applications" by default) and license keys. You can skip license activation and perform it later, as explained in Activate the License.
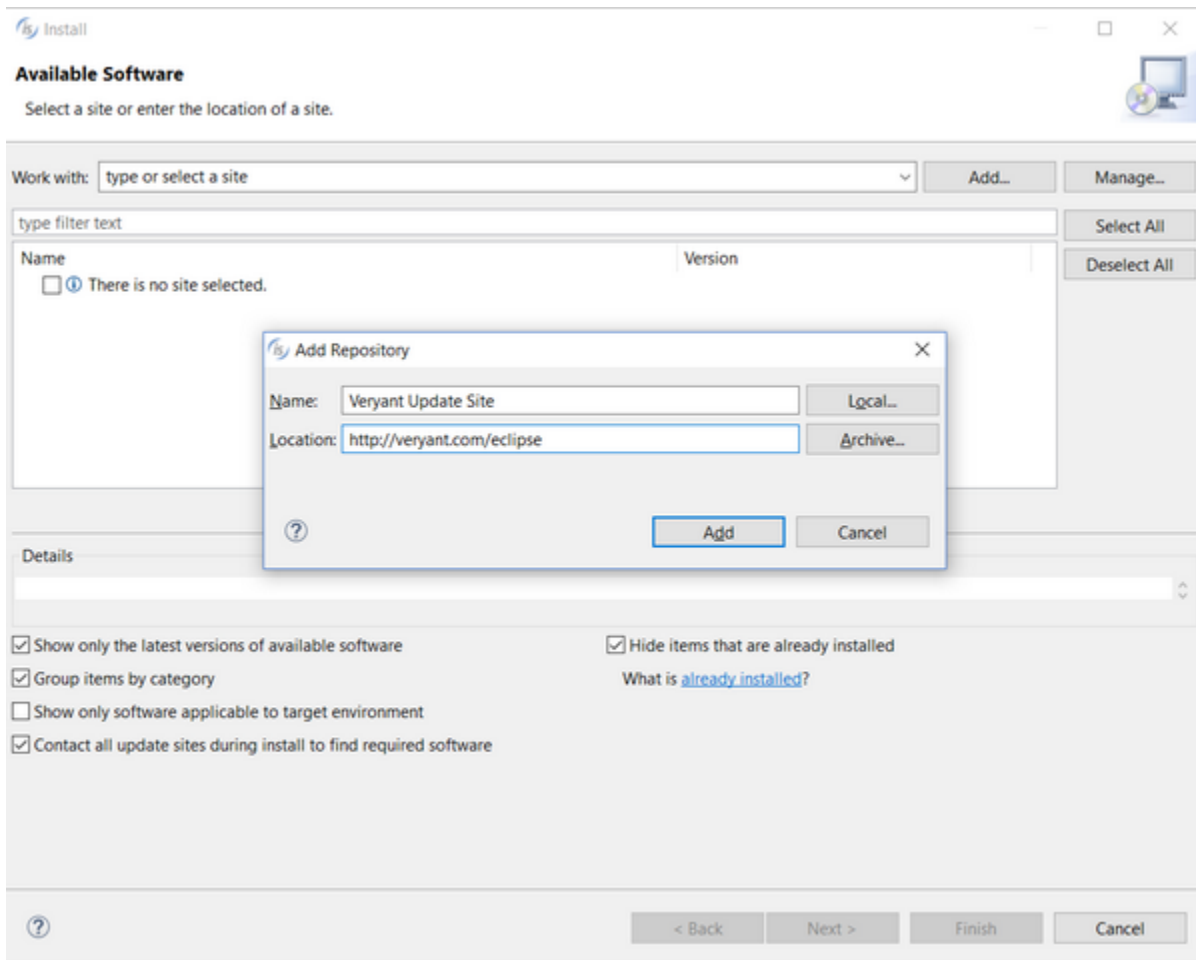
Other

For other platforms or for existing Eclipse environments, it is possible to install the isCOBOL IDE plugins using the Eclipse "Install New Software" feature.

It's good practice to use an Eclipse environment of the same version as the one which isCOBOL IDE is based on. The current isCOBOL IDE is based on Eclipse 2023-09 (4.29).
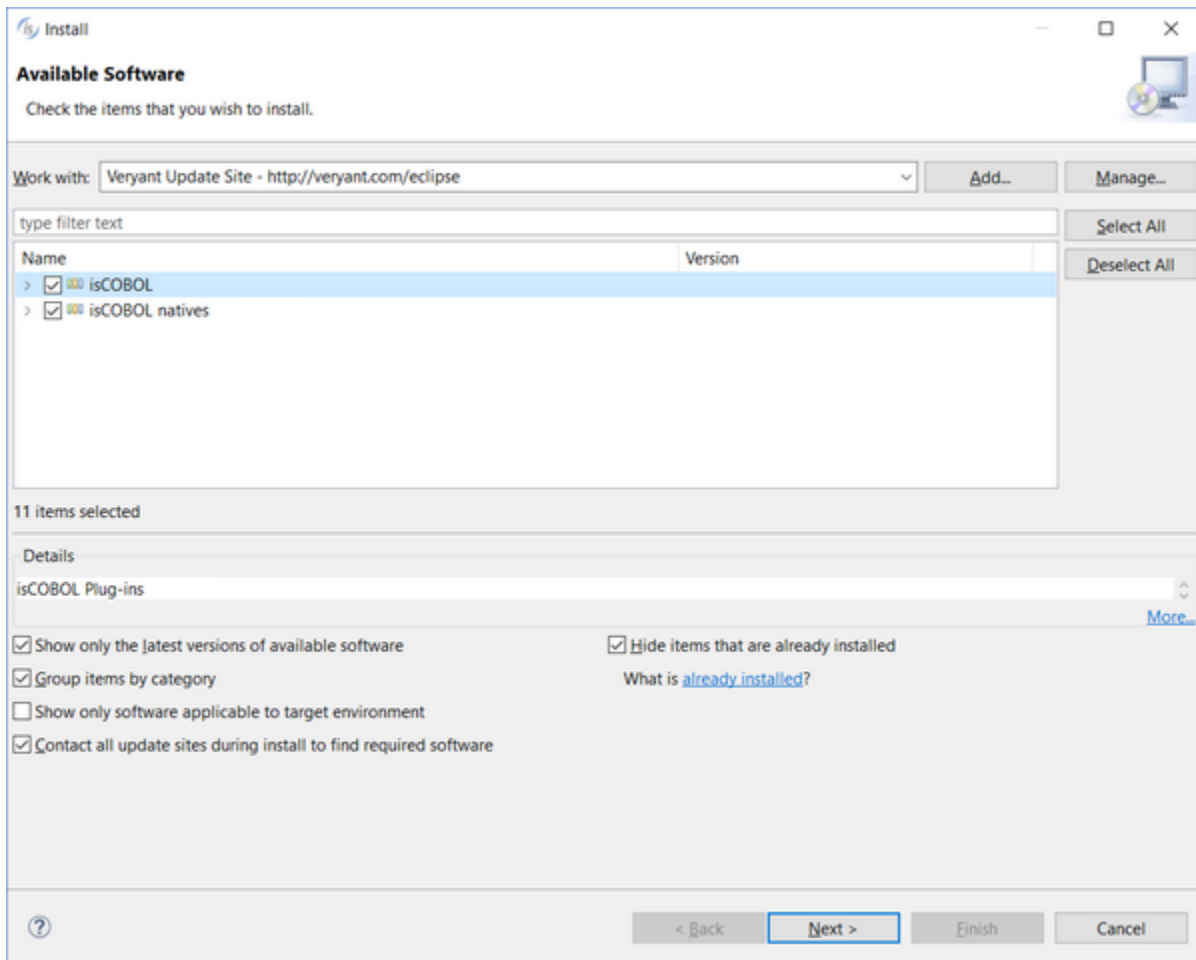
To install the isCOBOL IDE plugins in an existing Eclipse environment:

1. Click on *Help* menu and choose *Install New Software…*
2. Click on the *Add…* button
3. Fill in the fields as follows:

4. proceed in the wizard procedure and choose isCOBOL from the list of available products:

How to install a previous release

By filling the *Location* field with "http://veryant.com/eclipse" you obtain the latest IDE release. In order to download previous releases, use this kind of url instead: "http://veryant.com/eclipse/older/v<*version*>". For example, in order to download isCOBOL IDE 2021 R2, use "https://www.veryant.com/eclipse/older/v2021R2".

Activate the License

If you provided license keys during the installation, on Windows, you should skip reading this chapter.

isCOBOL Compiler and Runtime included in the IDE look for the following configuration properties for license keys:

```
iscobol.compiler.license.2023=<license_key>
iscobol.license.2023=<license_key>
```

The keys should be stored in one of the following files (if they exist):

Windows

1. \etc\iscobol.properties in the drive where the working directory is
2. C:\Users\<username>\iscobol.properties (the setup wizard saves licenses here, if you don't skip

activation)

3. iscobol.properties found in the Java Classpath

4. a custom configuration file passed on the command line

5. %ISCOBOL%\iscobol.properties

Unix/Linux

1. /etc/iscobol.properties

2. $HOME/iscobol.properties

3. iscobol.properties found in the Java Classpath

4. a custom configuration file passed on the command line

5. $ISCOBOL/iscobol.properties

NOTE - Files are listed in the order they're processed. If the license key appears in more than one of the above files, then the last occurrence is considered.