

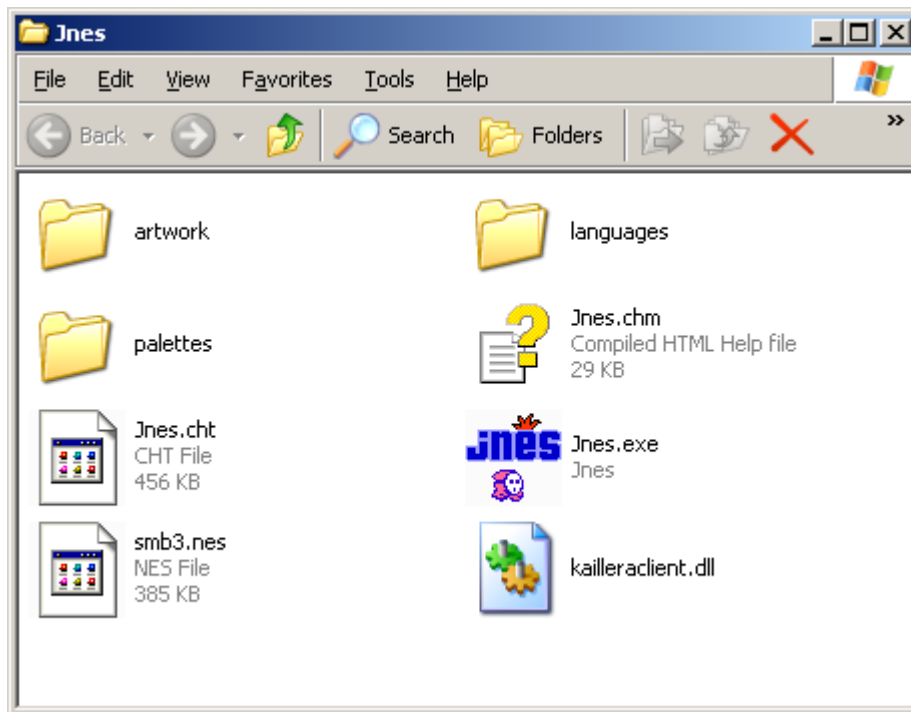
There are tons of gaming consoles, and for a lot of them there have been programs made that will allow your computer to emulate the operations of the console, basically allowing you to have your computer function just like the console, using ROM dumps or ISO files in place of game cartridges or CDs or DVDs. No matter what system you're using, each emulator has the same basic parts. There can be setup options for the video, audio, controller input, memory cards (if applicable), save states (if applicable), etc. I'm going to run through an example using the NES, and other consoles are pretty similar.

You should follow along the steps for setting up the NES emulator, since you'll probably end up wanting to play it sometime anyway. There are tons of NES emulator programs, but I suggest Jnes, which is a really simple one that has all sort of advanced features and supports most of the NES ROM dumps available.

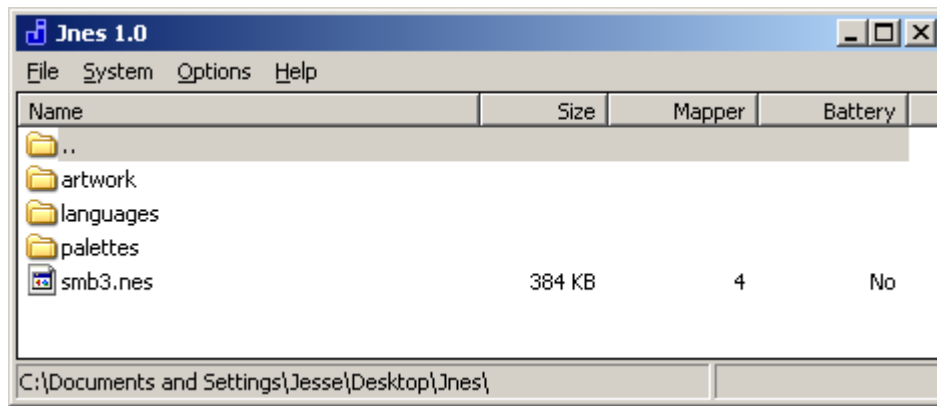
Step 1: Get Jnes from this website <http://jabosoft.com/>

Step 2: Download a ROM, say from http://www.theoldcomputer.com/Library%27s/Emulation/NES/ROMs/NES_roms_summary.htm

The ROMs for NES will have an extension of .nes, and the filename of the Super Mario Bros 3 ROM I downloaded is smb3.nes. I put everything in one folder here:



Okay so now I'm going to run Jnes.exe and it looks like this:



Before we start playing, we need to set up our "controller" on the keyboard, so go to Options -> Input and set up the keys you want to use. I generally use the arrow keys for up/down/left/right and "A" for the B button, "S" for the A button, "Z" for the Select button, and "X" for the Start button. You can also set additional keys for a turbo A and B buttons, which means when you hold that key down it will push the A or B button repeatedly. You can also use this screen to set up a joyypad which we will get to in a moment.

Now we can go to File -> Open and find our ROM (remember, extension of .nes) or use the list of files in the main window.



Bam, we have liftoff. You can go into the Options menu and set sound and video options if you want. The defaults seem to work fine for me. So I'm going to show you how Save States work and that will be it. Save States allow you to save or load your game from anywhere for any game. Go System -> Save to save, and System -> Restore to load from your last saved state. You can also go to System -> State Slot and choose which of ten "slots" you want to save from.