Installing Hudson: An Automated Build System

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This week we want to take a look at Hudson, and how to install it. Hudson is a continuous integration tool, which was released by Sun Microsystems. It is now open source software and is free to use, subject to its license.

Hudson has a wide variety of add-on plugins that can be installed with it to support just about any mainstream continuous build and release need. We'll talk some more about Hudson later, but first, let's install it! We're on a Windows 7 machine, and Java is required, so let's do that first.

http://java.com/en/download/index.jsp

After clicking on the Free Java Download button in the above screen, we are presented with this screen:
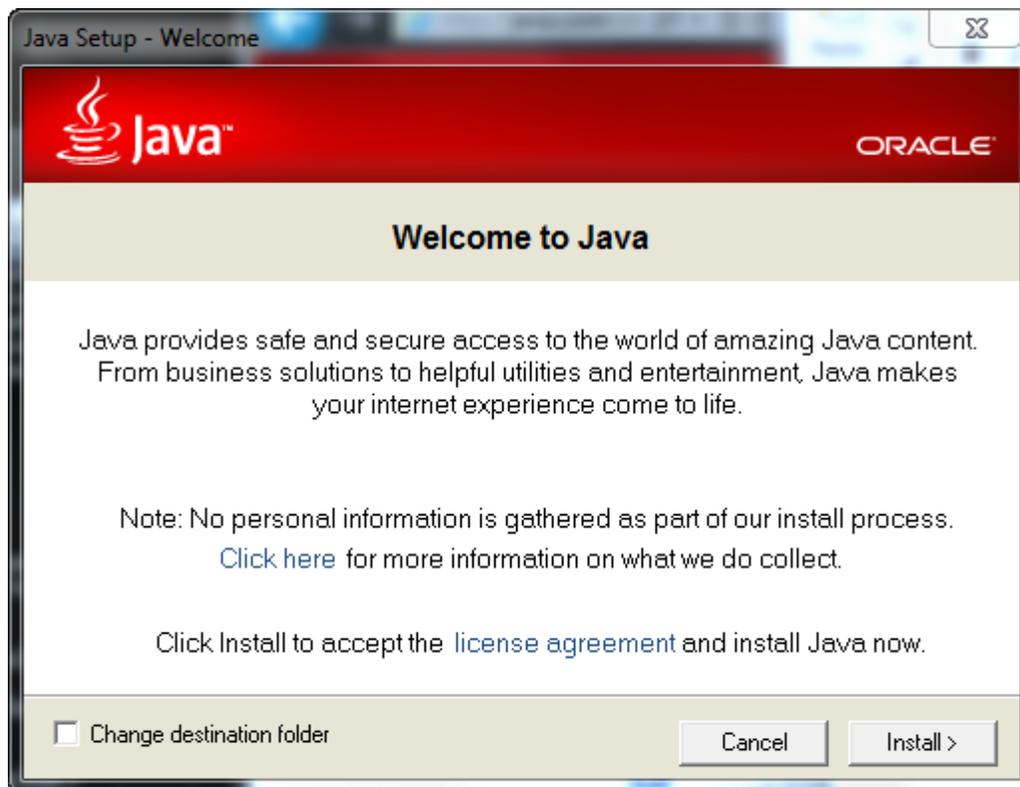
This is the beginning of the Java install process. There is the choice of accepting the default install location, or this can be altered by ticking the "Change destination folder" box. Then click Install.

The next install screen is displayed below:
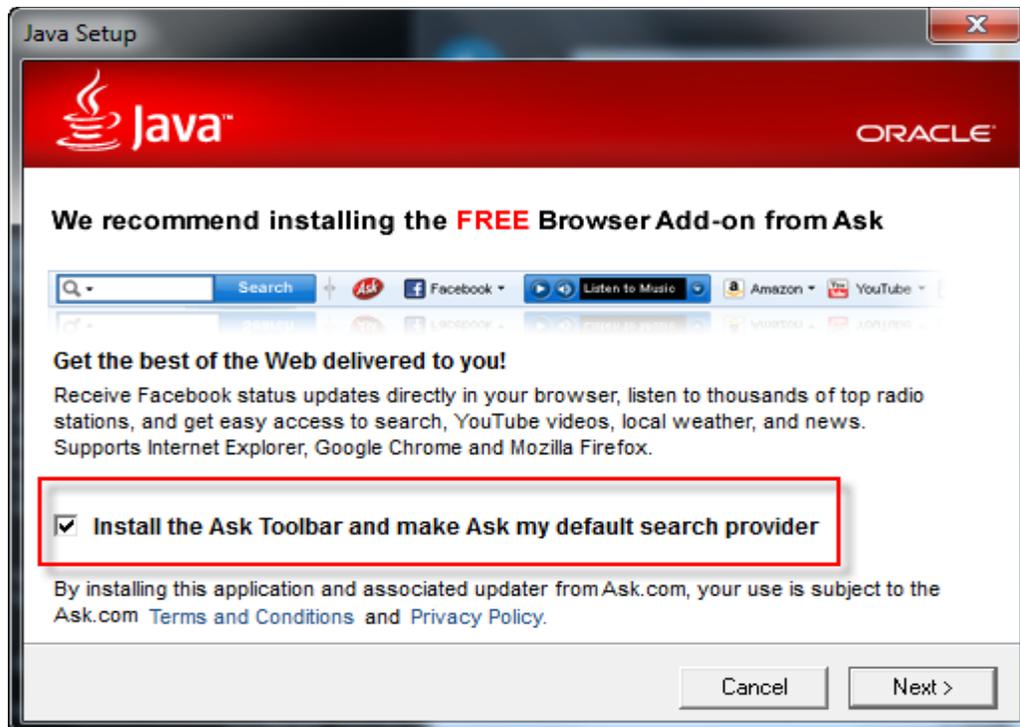
I guess this screen is how Java pays it bills. It's up to you whether or not you want another toolbar cluttering your browser. Just be aware you will get one if you don't untick the box authorizing the install of the toolbar. Make your choice, and click Next.
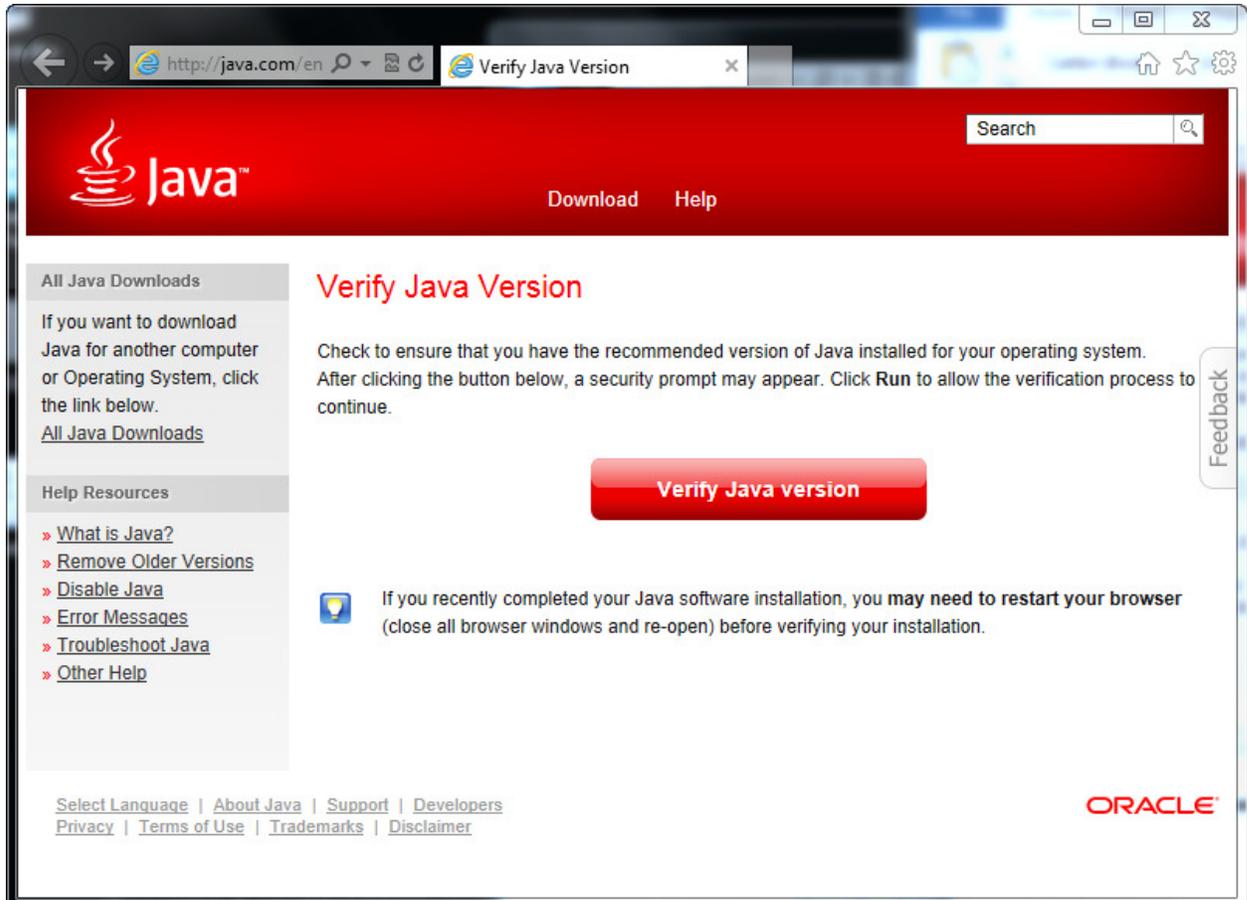
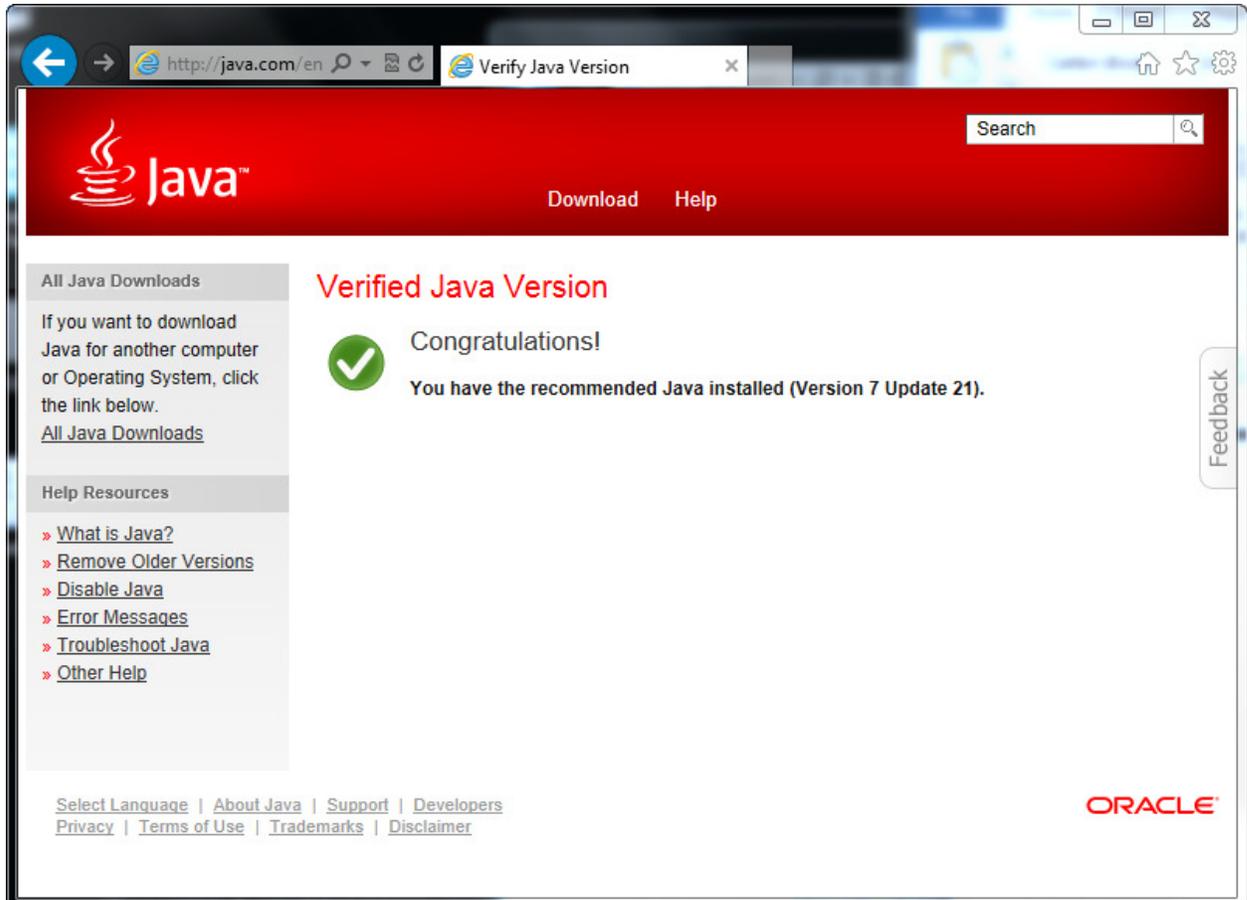The next install pane below displays a progress bar as the install proceeds.

The install should run to completion, and display the next screen:
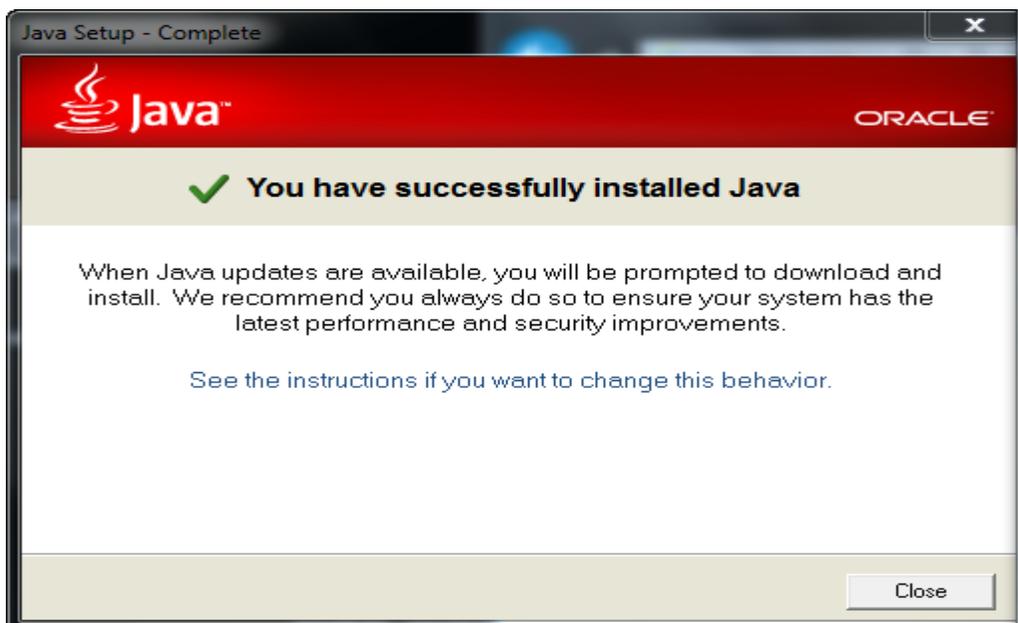
Upon successful install, click Close. After this, the install can be verified.

Clicking "Verify Java version" will run a check to insure that all went well with the install. The results are on the next screen below.

We see above that the current version has been installed and should function correctly.

All right. Now that we've taken care of the Java install, it's time to move on the main event – installing Hudson! First of all, we need the install binary, which can be found at:
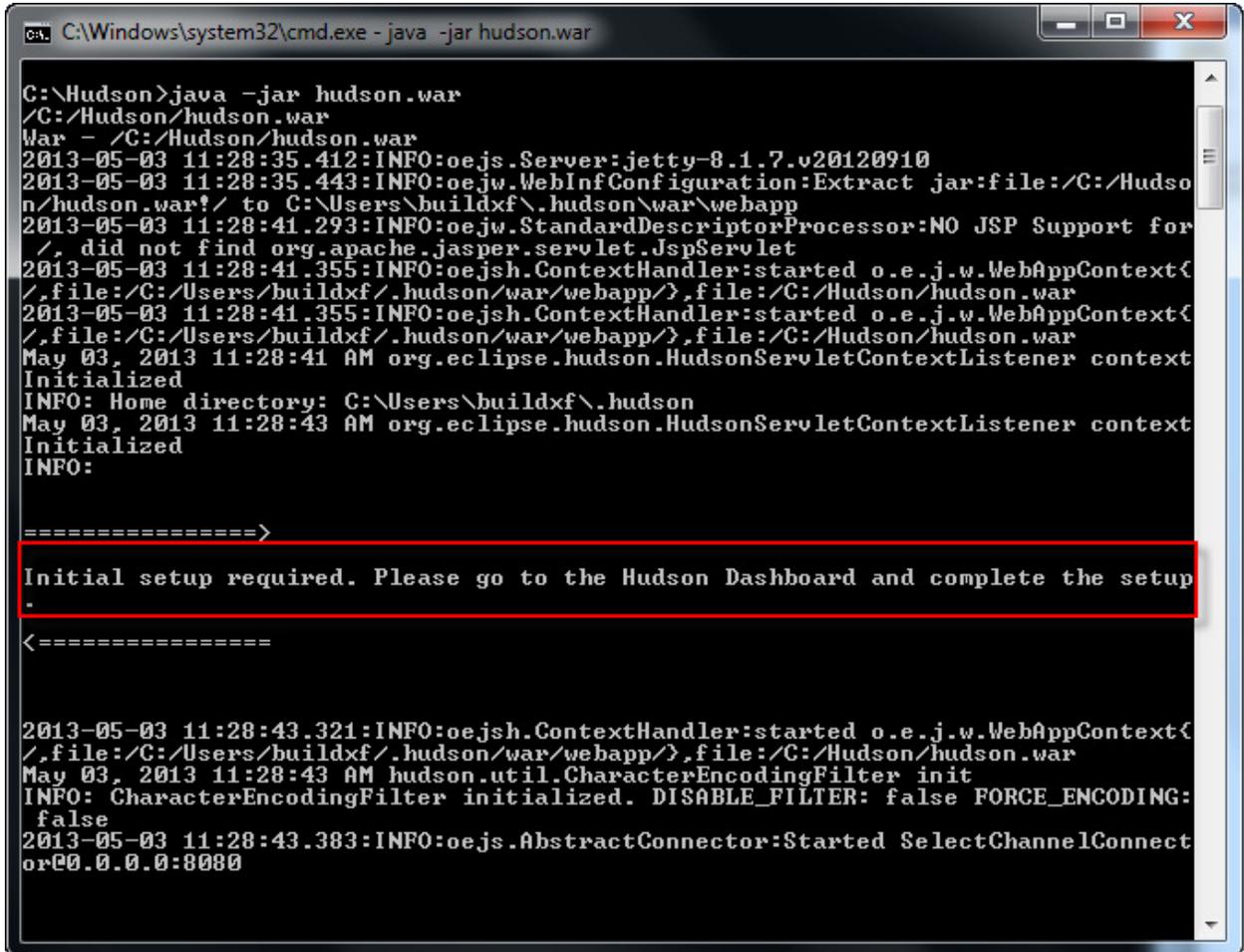
http://hudson-ci.org/downloads/war/

Click on 3.0.1 or whatever the latest version is. Save the download for later use by the install process. In the next screens, we can view the results of our download.
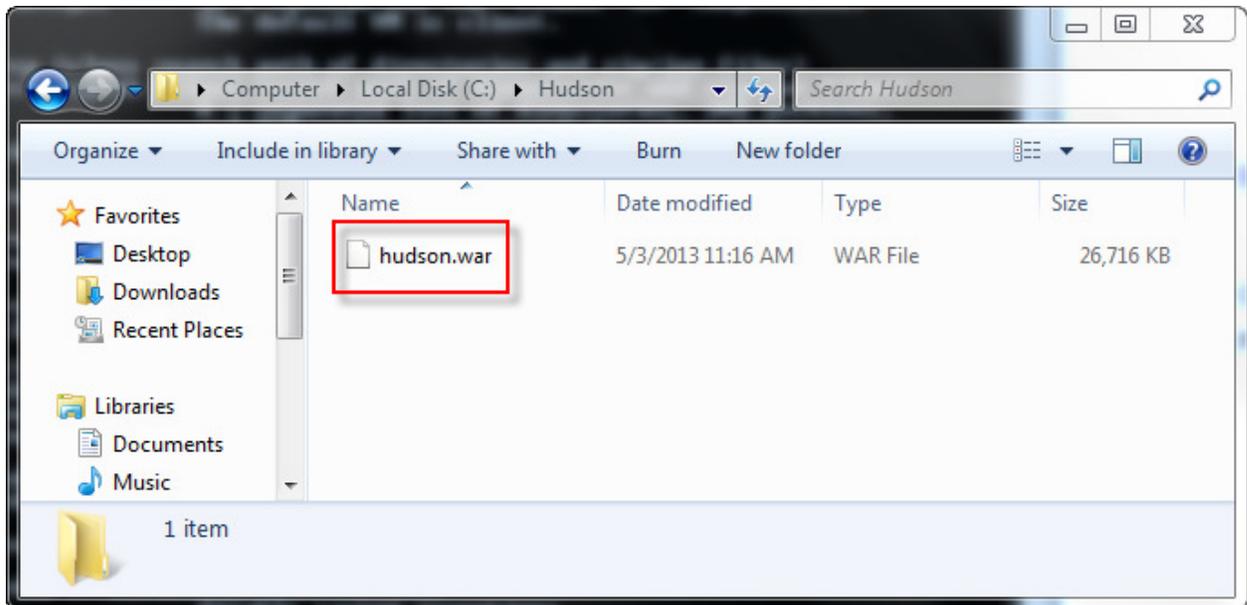
Above, we see the file that we downloaded, along with its location. Below we initiate the installation process.

To install Hudson, we change into the directory containing the Hudson.war file, and then run the command "java –jar <war_file>". In the following screen we see the results of starting the install.
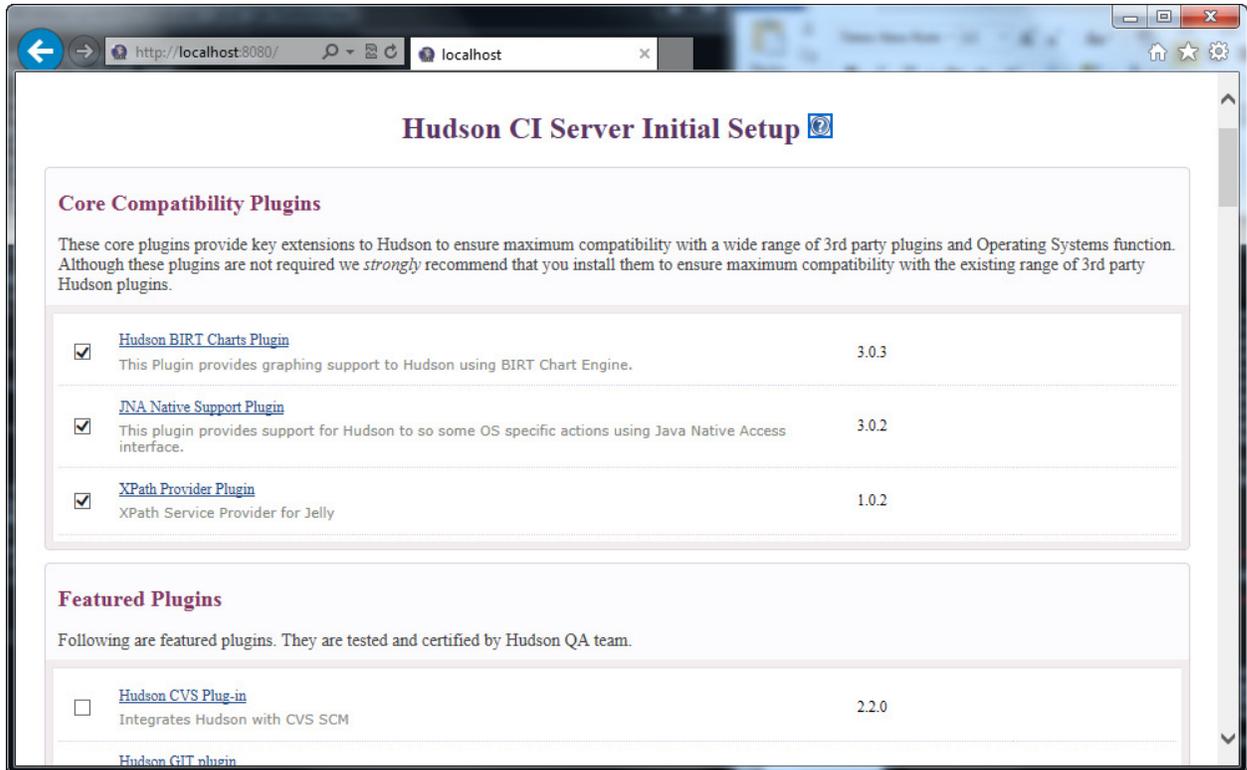
Here we see the install running. It has stopped and is waiting for us to configure Hudson. This is done by launching a browser, and viewing the Hudson GUI. Use a URL such as the following: http://localhost:8080 to begin our interaction with Hudson.
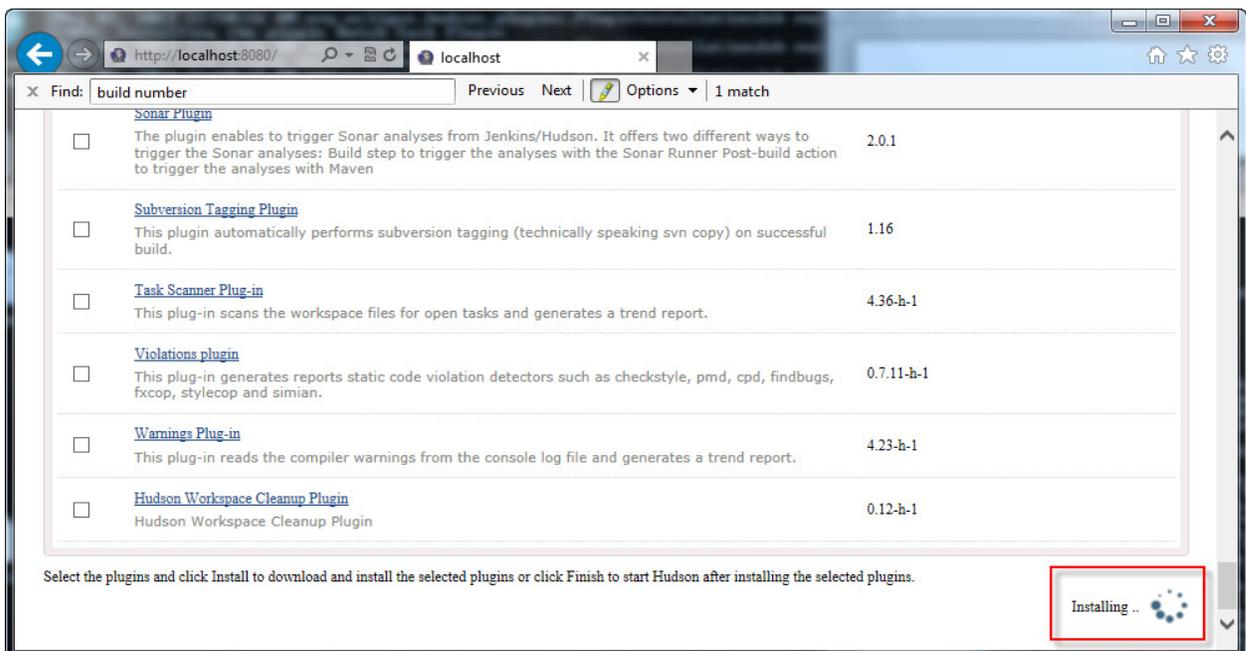
The following screens show some options for Hudson configuration. The first screen below will be for initial setup of Hudson.
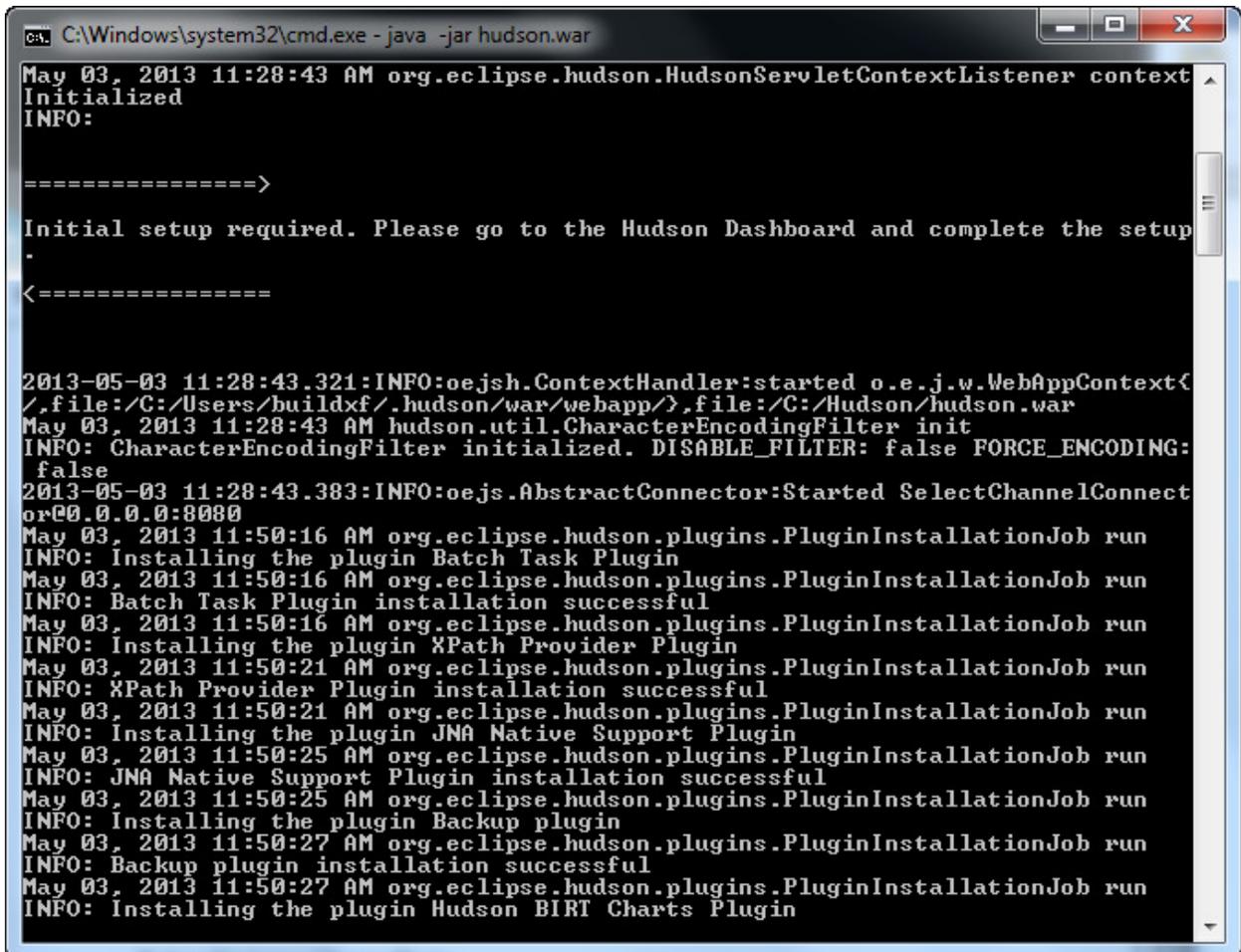
Hudson has a great variety of plug-ins that can be installed for various purposes. Proceed to look through all the (many) options, and select those plug-ins that you believe will be useful. If you can't decide now, don't worry, you can always install more plug-ins later! The next screen shows the end of the list, and how to complete the installs.

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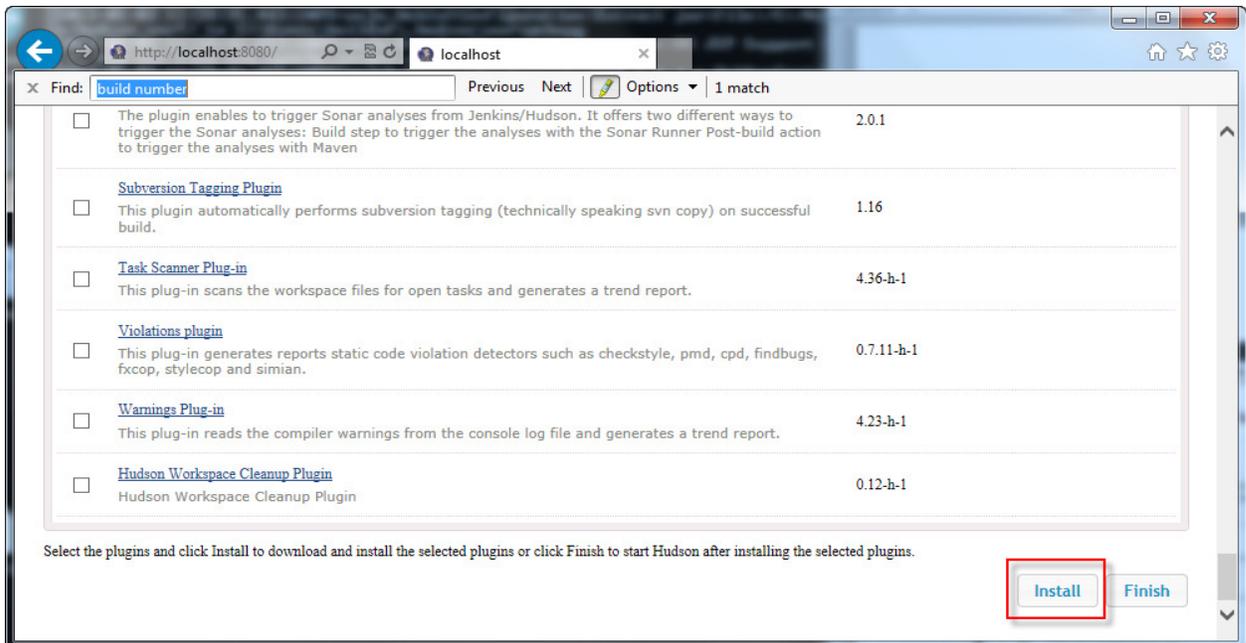
Above, we see the end of the plug-in install list. Click Install after making selections.

The screen above shows the install in progress. This is reflected in the line command below.
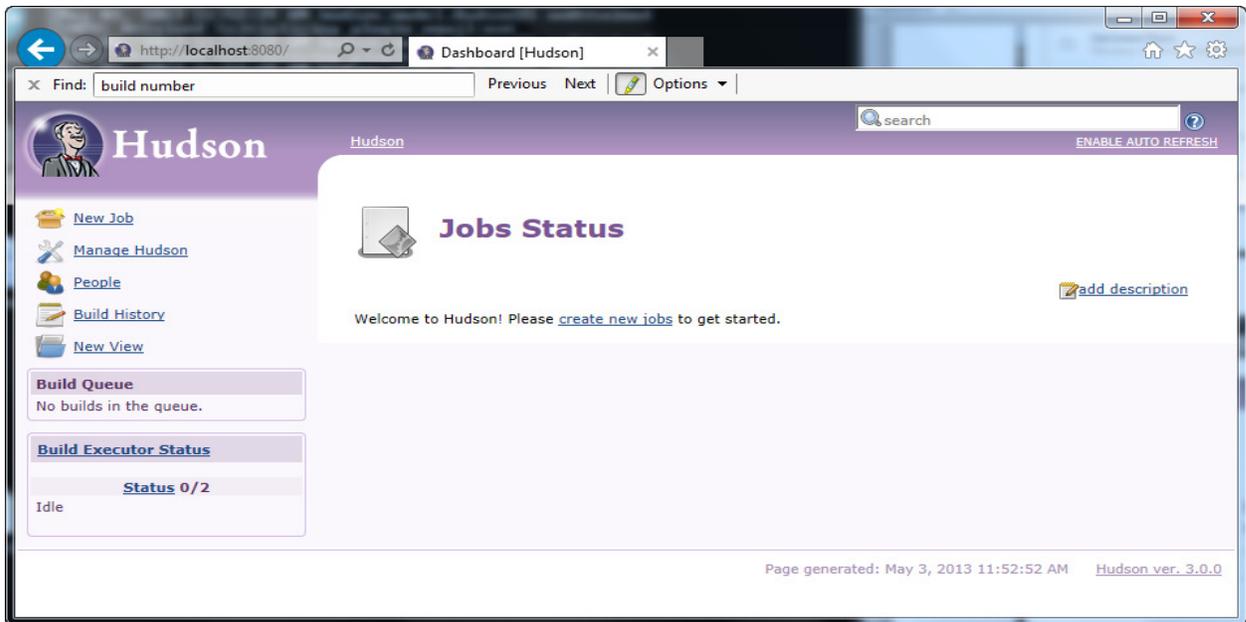
After clicking Install above, we can see the progress displayed in the still running line command. We note the different plug-ins being installed, and then we proceed to the next screen, which lets us complete the initial phase of Hudson installation.
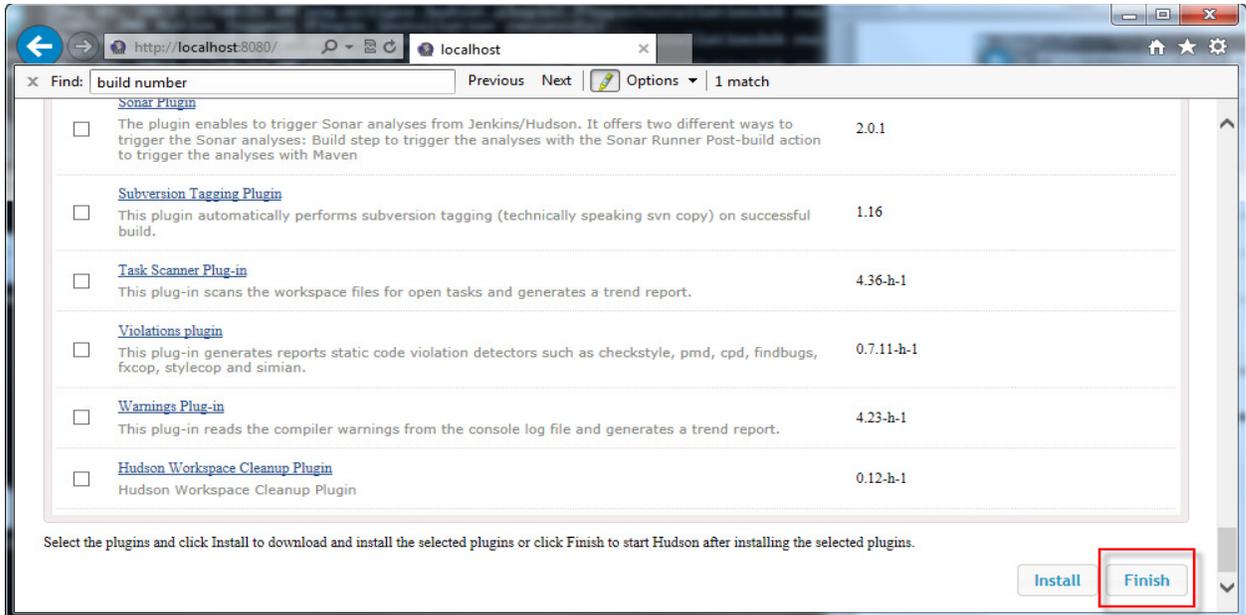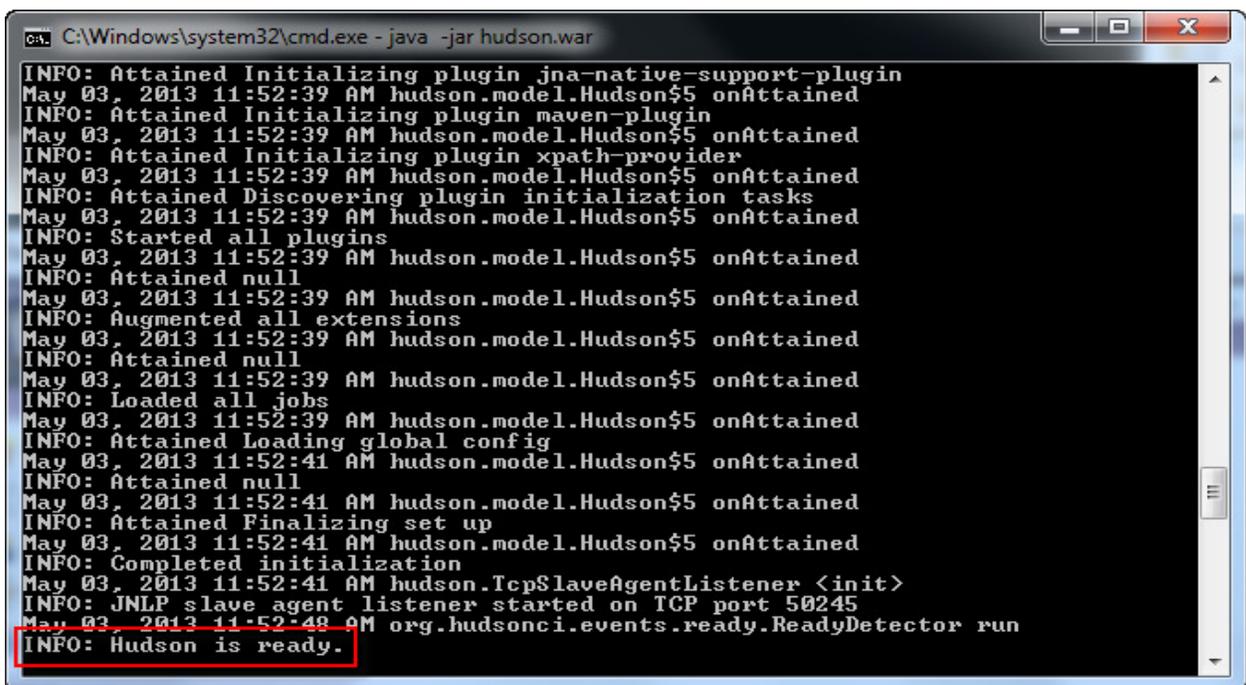
We can see above that the initial install of our plug-ins has completed. Click Finish to activate Hudson for use.
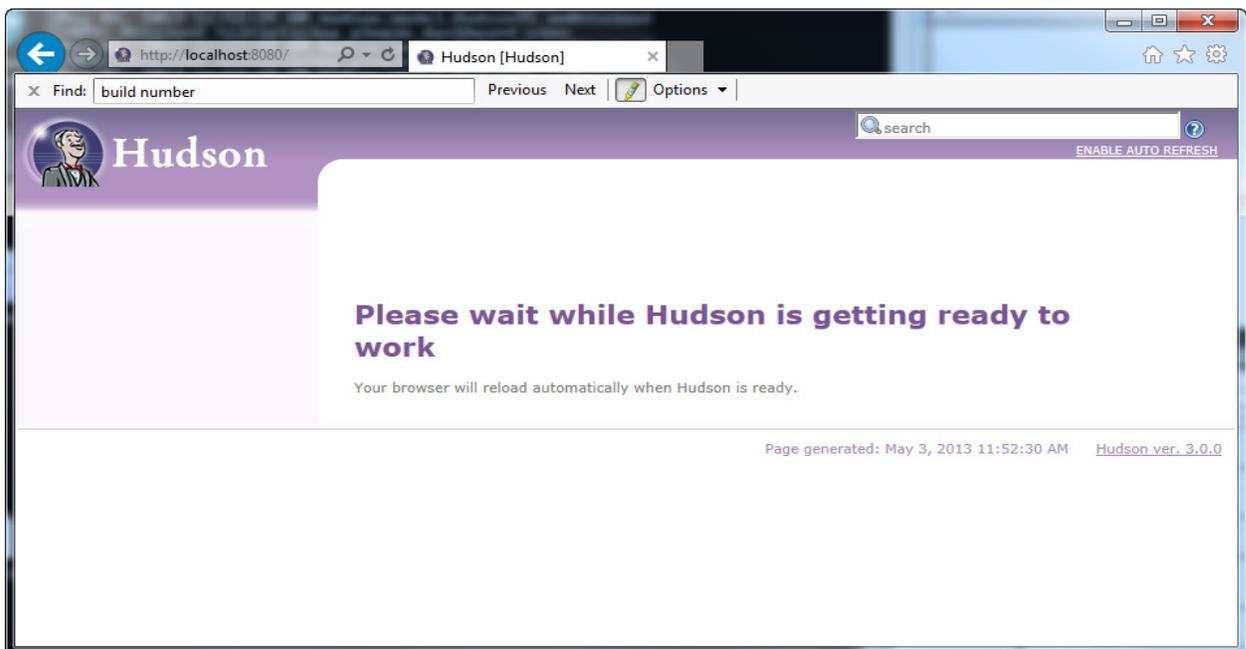
Above we see Hudson beginning to restart itself. Below we see Hudson ready for further configuration.
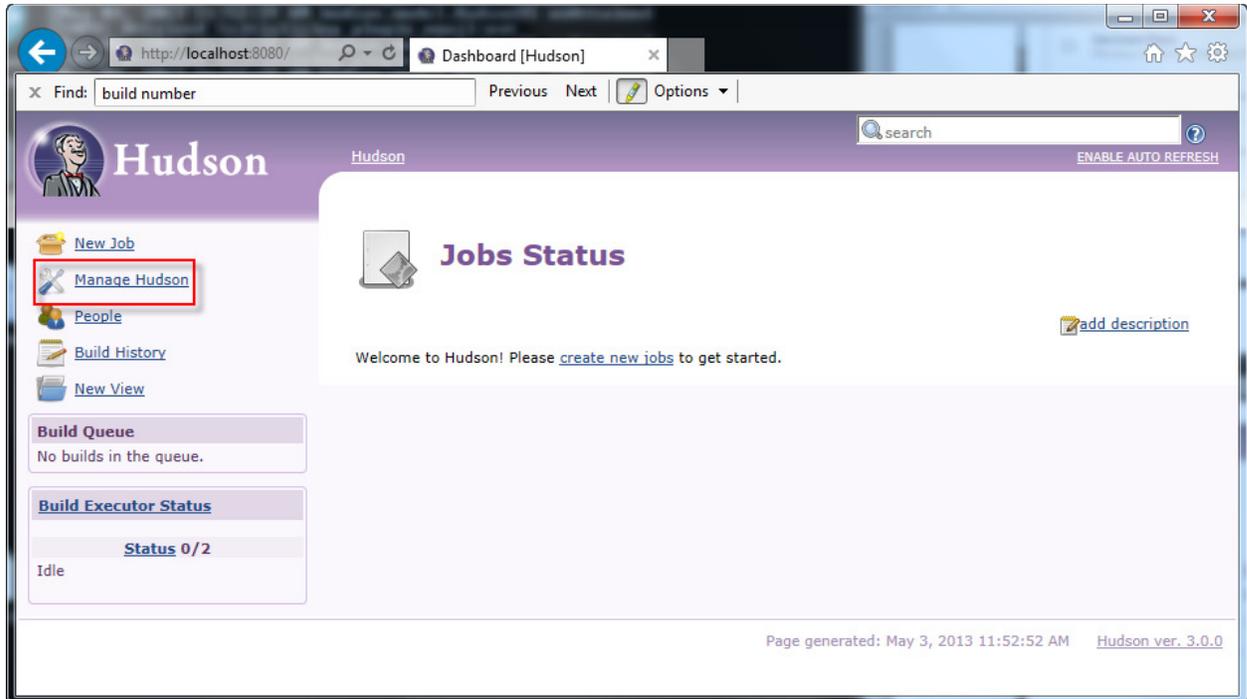
Hudson is how operational. See the progress in the line command below:


We can see that Hudson is now ready for use. But there is a bit more that we want to do, which will be explained in the upcoming screens.

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Here is where we now are. Hudson is running from the command window that we initially opened for the installation of this application. Although we can use it while it is in this state, we probably don't want to continue with this configuration.   Instead we would like to install Hudson as a Windows service so that Hudson will start up along with Windows during any reboot.

Do add Hudson as a started task, we need to do a bit more configuration of Hudson. Click the Manage Hudson link in the above screen. We are then taken to a screen where we can configure Hudson, shown below.
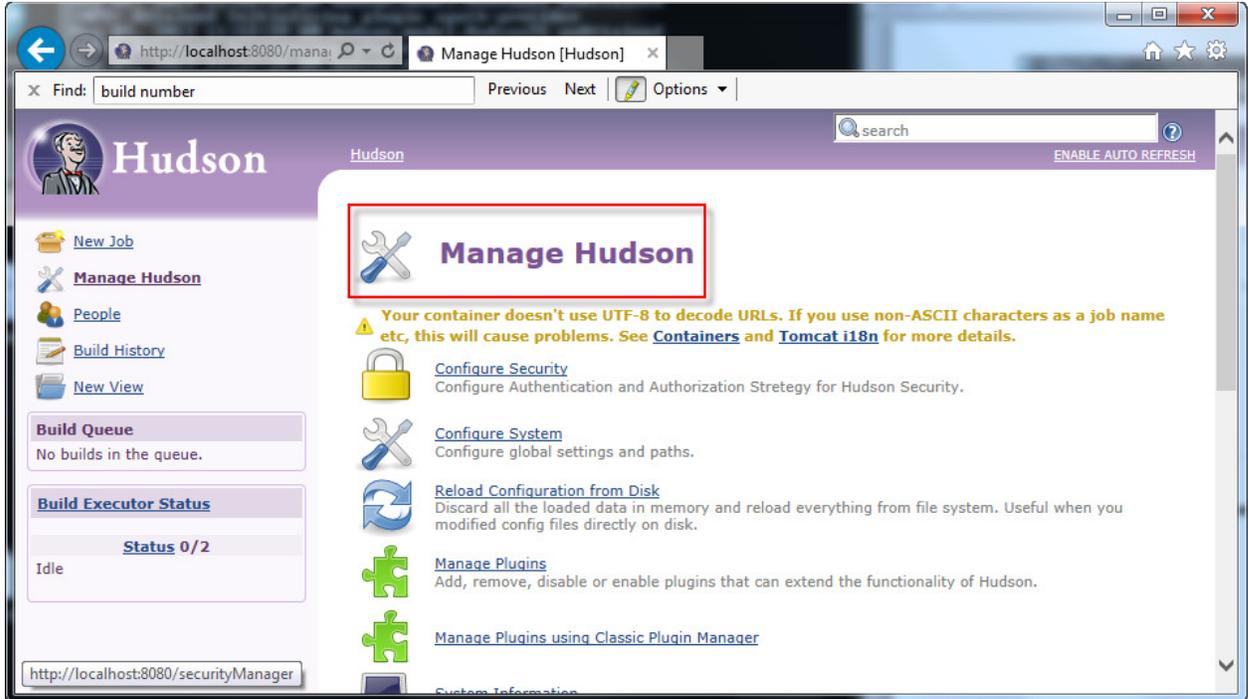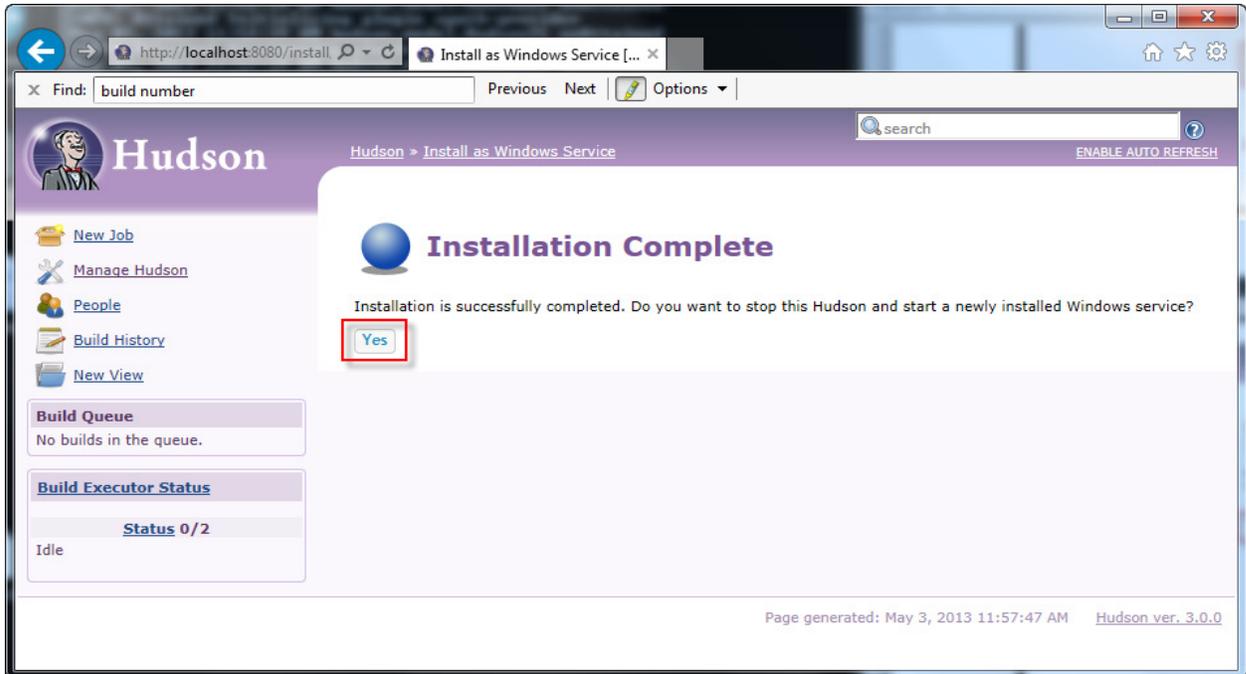
To install Hudson as a Windows service, click the link in the screen below.
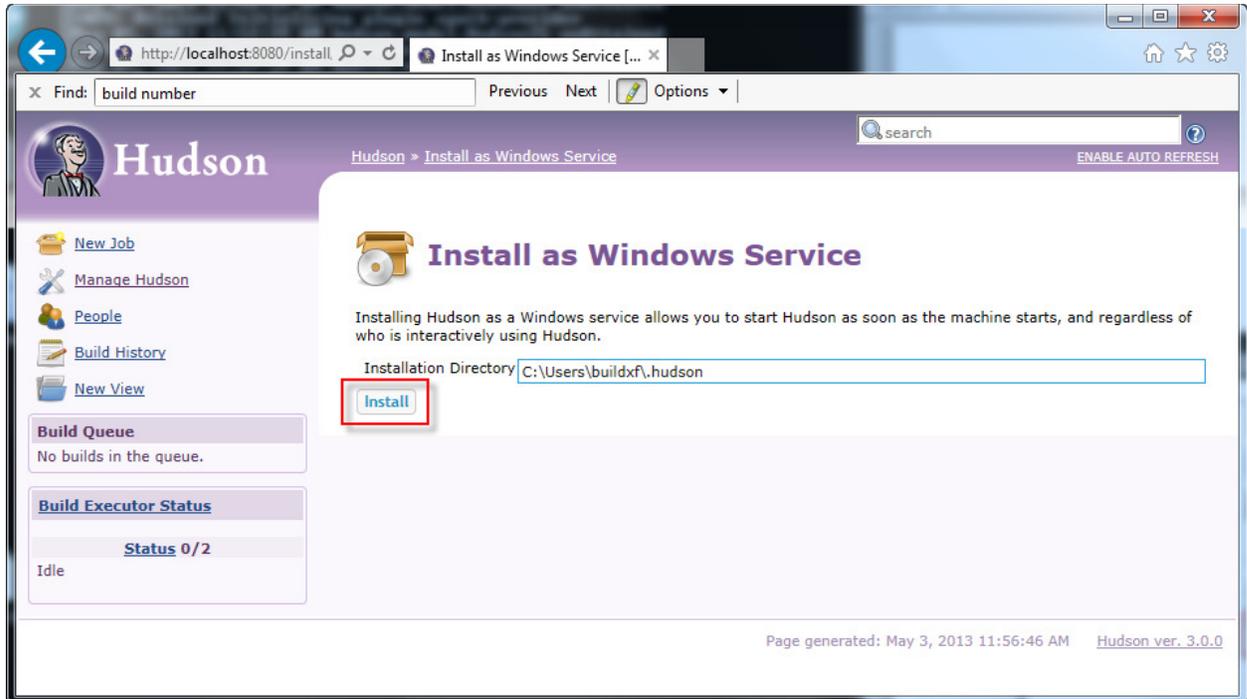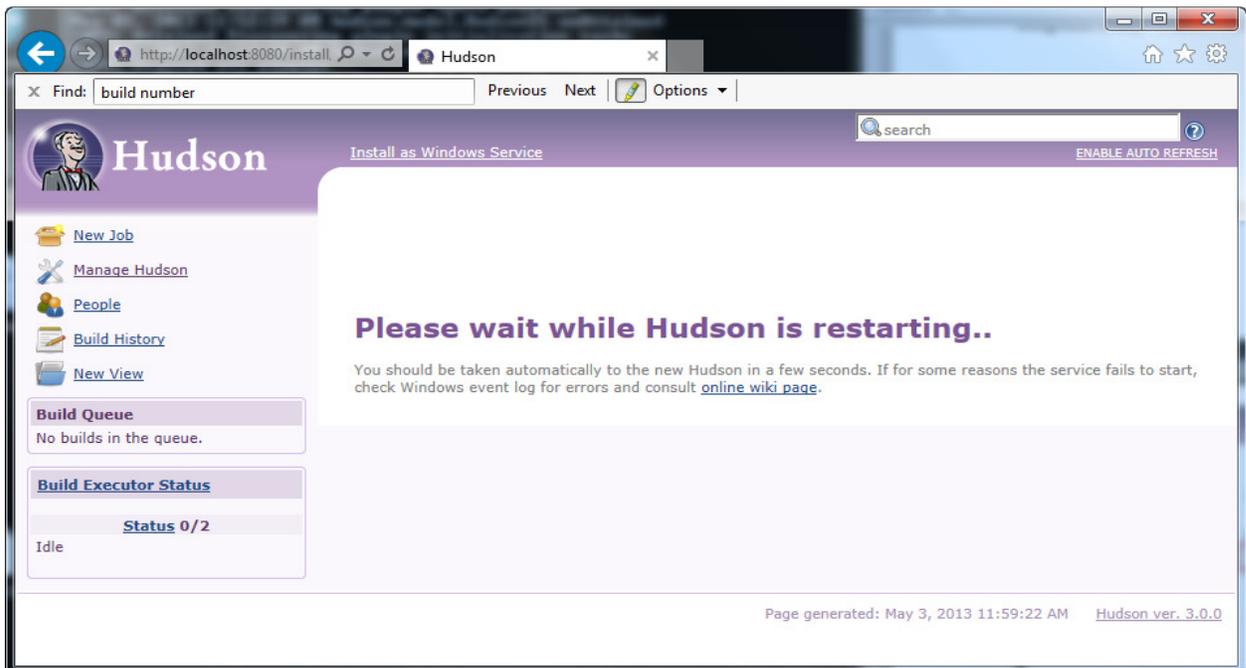
Click Install to begin the installation of Hudson as a Windows service. Respond to any Windows security and allow the installation to continue. When this is completed, we will no longer need the command prompt to use Hudson.
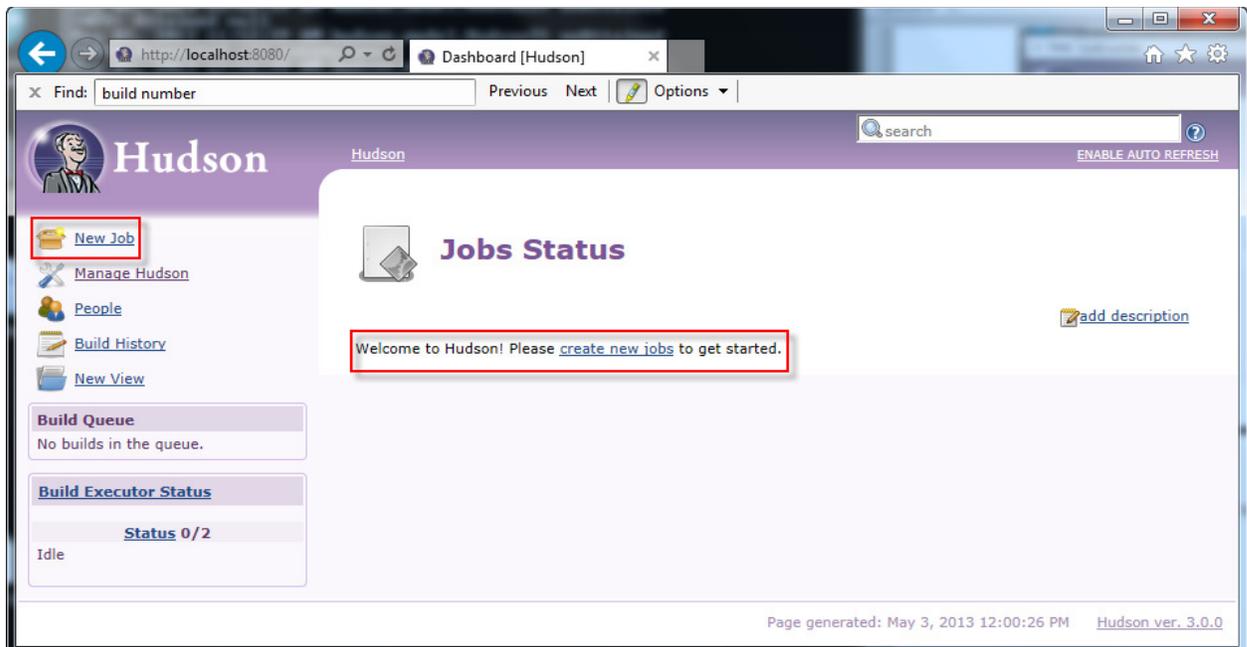
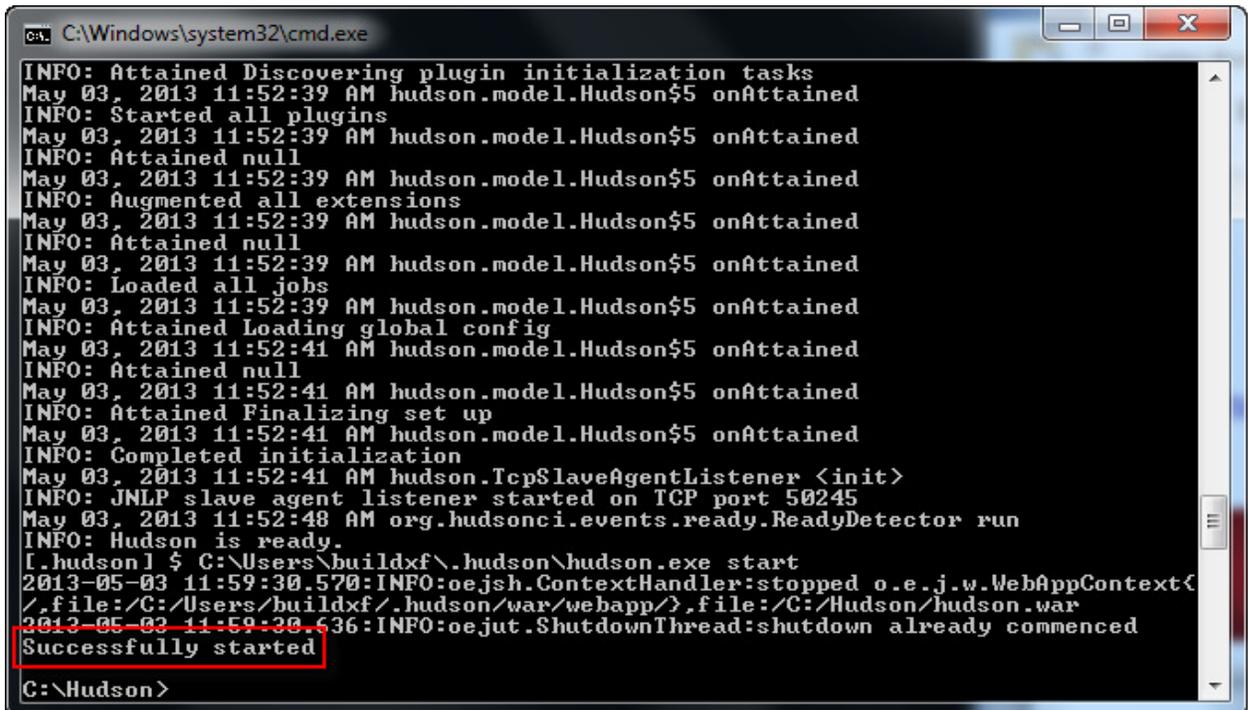The screens below shows the completion of the Windows service installation.

Click Yes, above to restart Hudson as a Windows service.

Hudson is restarting itself as a Windows service. The next screen shows the result.

Hudson is now fully installed on Windows and ready for use! See the results below in the command window:

The last screenshot above shows that the command window has fully completed its installation and it is now out of the loop. Hudson is now a Windows service, and will start up when Windows boots up. This concludes the topic that we wanted to cover today, the installation of Hudson. Next time, let's have a look at configuring a job and starting a build using Hudson!