

Getting Started with AIDA

Introduction

This document provides instructions on how to launch the AIDA Server and Client applications in a Java IDE. We provide the code so that it can be evaluated and/or modified by those who are interested. AIDA can be run in Windows (Windows 2000 and later), Mac (OSX series), or Linux operating systems.

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Relevant Files

Although this document primarily focuses on how to launch the server and client components of AIDA, users may also want to look at how the server and client components function. The files that describe these components are located in the directories mentioned below.

Instructions on the AIDA Server: /Manual /AIDA_Server.pdf

Instructions on the AIDA Client: /Manual /AIDA_Client.pdf

Installing Java

Many users may already have Java installed on their machines. In order to use AIDA, we recommend that a version of Java 1.6 (<http://java.sun.com/javase/downloads/index.jsp>) be installed on the user's computer. Mac users can automatically update their Java by launching Software Update. Users may also need to download Java 3D in order to conduct some of the 3D visualization in AIDA. Users can also go to https://java3d.dev.java.net/binary-builds.html#Release_builds to download and install Java 3D.

Obtaining a Java IDE

In order to evaluate and modify the code, a Java Integrated Development Environment (IDE) will need to be downloaded and installed. We recommend that Eclipse (<http://www.eclipse.org/downloads/>; Eclipse IDE for Java Developers) or NetBeans (<http://netbeans.org/downloads/>; Java SE) be used to assess the server and client components. For the remaining parts of the instructions in this document, Eclipse will be used as the example application for running the AIDA components. Users can go to the NetBeans site (<http://netbeans.org/>) for further instruction on how to use NetBeans.

Loading AIDA in the IDE

After Eclipse or NetBeans have been installed, the next step is to start the IDE by clicking on the IDE icon. In Eclipse, this opens a welcome window, which can be clicked away by pressing the "x" on the upper left "Welcome" tab (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The Eclipse welcome window.

Importing: The next set of steps concern loading AIDA into the workspace. This can be accomplished by importing the server and client components into the workspace by left-clicking on the far left white panel and selecting the “Import” option (Figure 2).

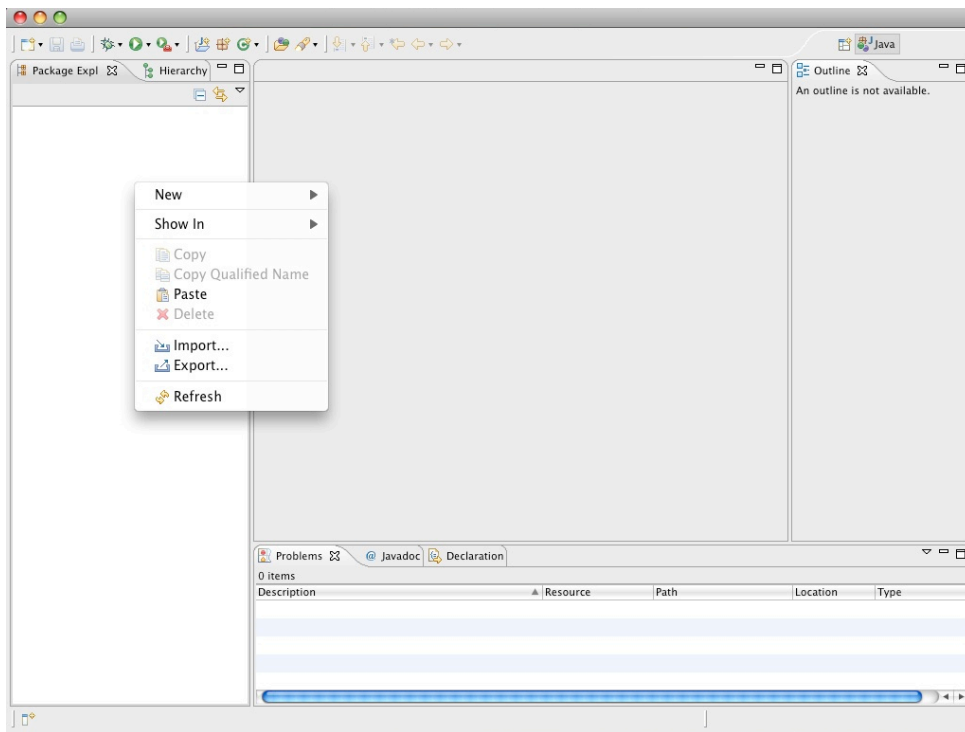


Figure 2. The “Import” option to load projects into Eclipse.

Selecting: After clicking on the “Import” option, a Select window should open that indicates which type of file loading is requested (Figure 3).

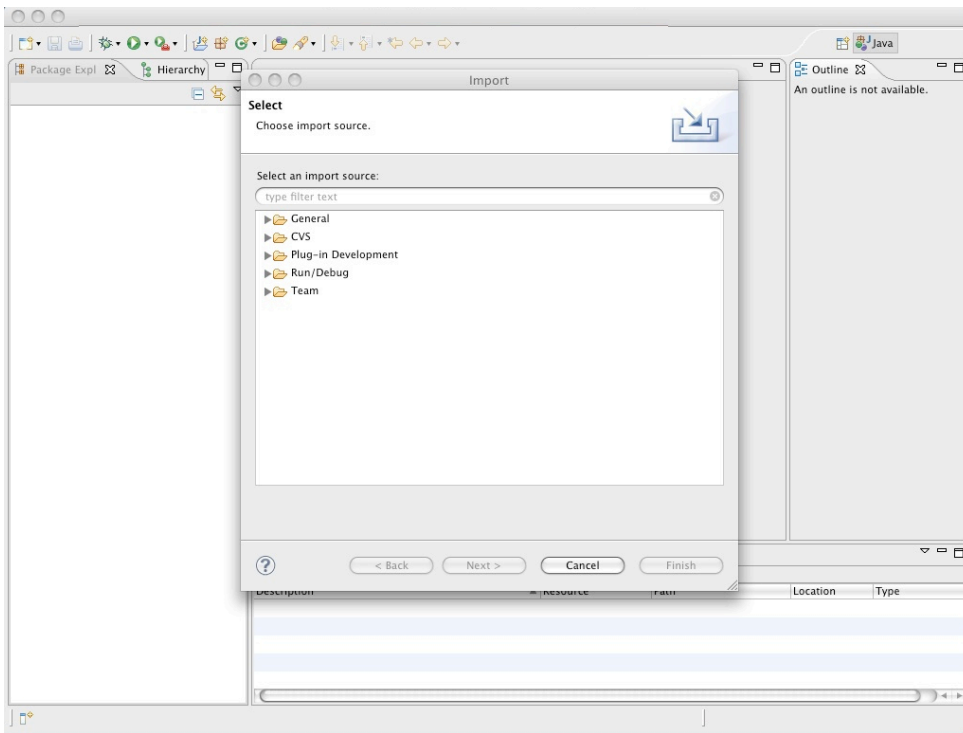


Figure 3. The Select window.

The “General” file option should be clicked on, which then opens four options. The “Existing Projects into Workspace” option should then be chosen and the “Next” button should be pressed (Figure 4).

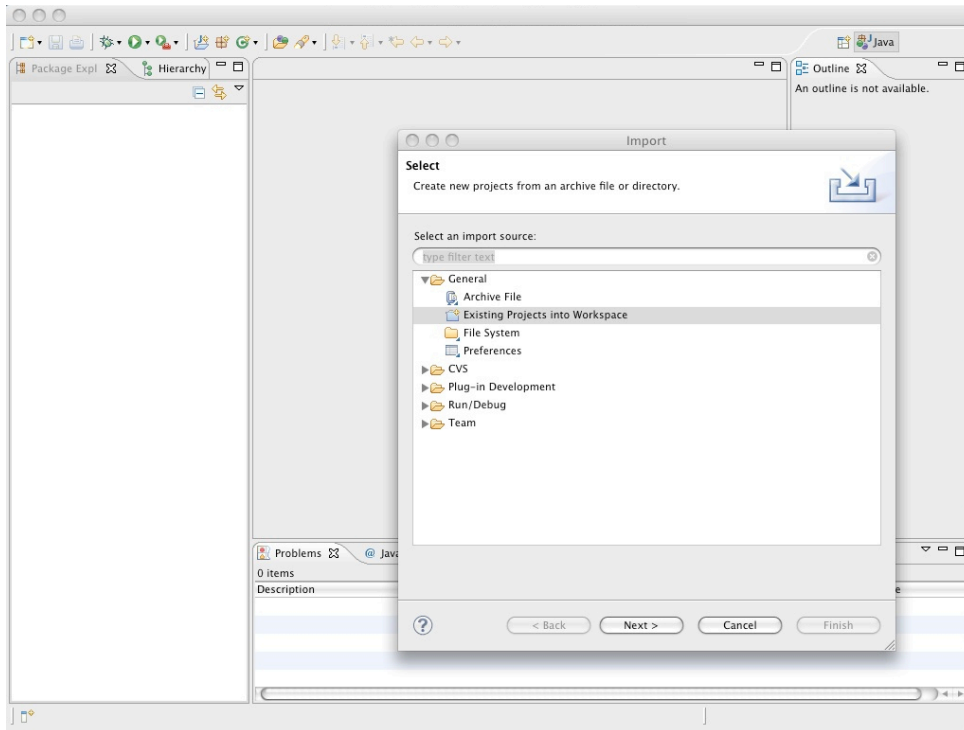


Figure 4. The “Existing Projects into Workspace” option.

Import Projects: After the “Next” button has been pressed, this should open an “Import Projects” window that has a button called “Browse...” which should be pressed (Figure 5).

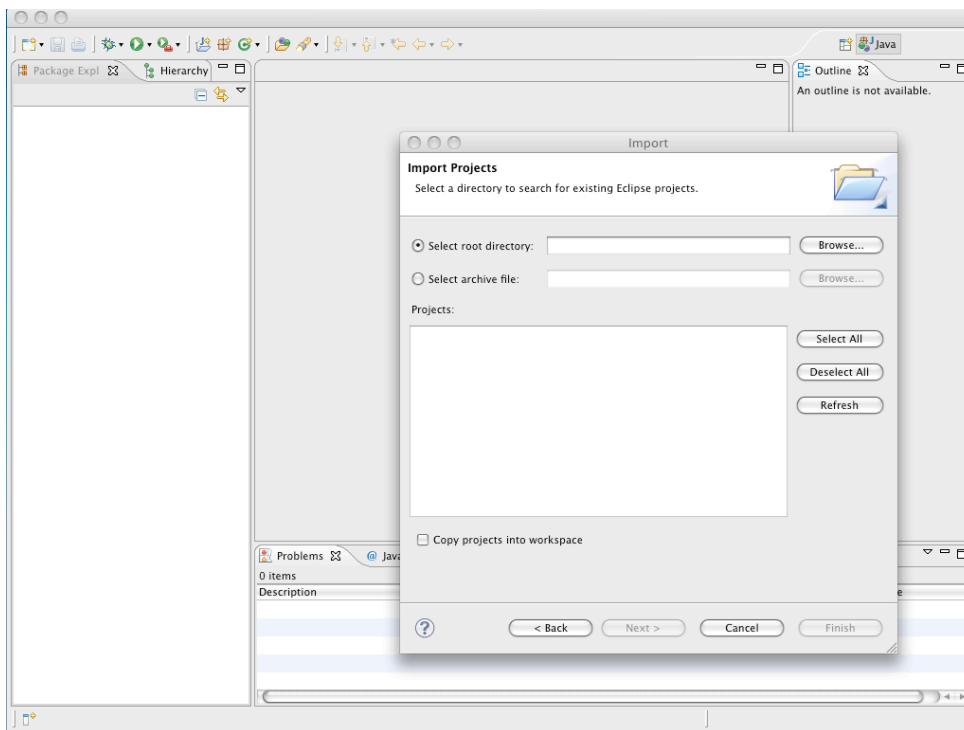


Figure 5. The “Import Projects” window.

At this point, the AIDA server and client components should be selected and loaded. Both the server and client components should be chosen and the “Finish” button should be pressed when the projects are chosen (Figure 6). Users may need to do the loading process (i.e., starting from the Importing step) twice, once for each project (server and client).

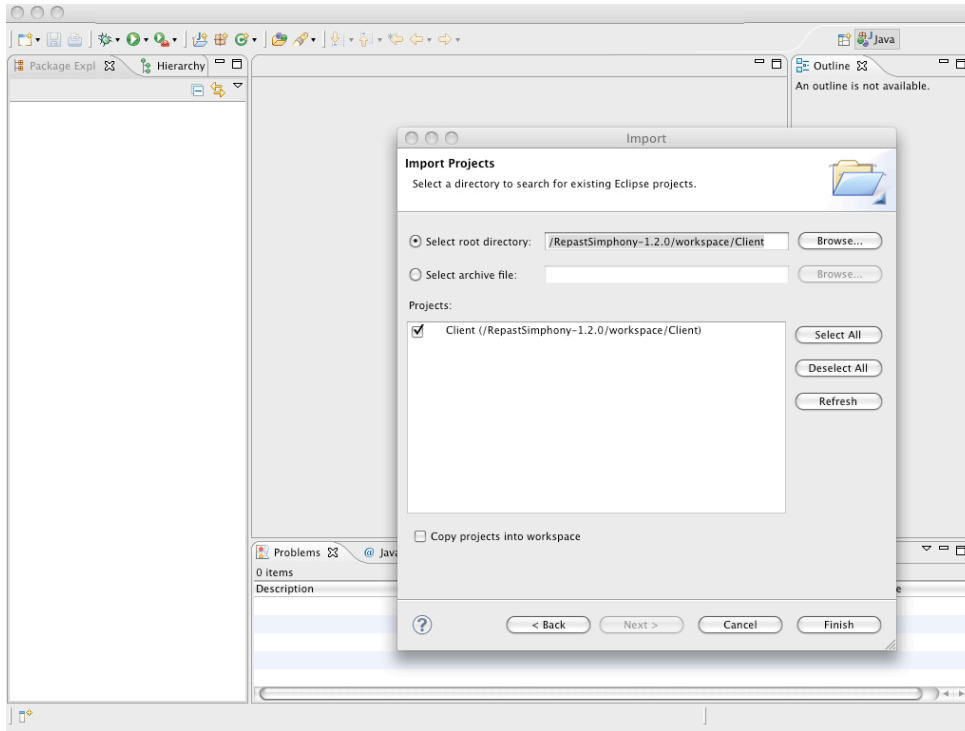


Figure 6. The “Import Projects” window with the loaded client component and its local path.

Workspace: After both components have been loaded into the workspace, the workspace window should have both projects visible (Figure 7).

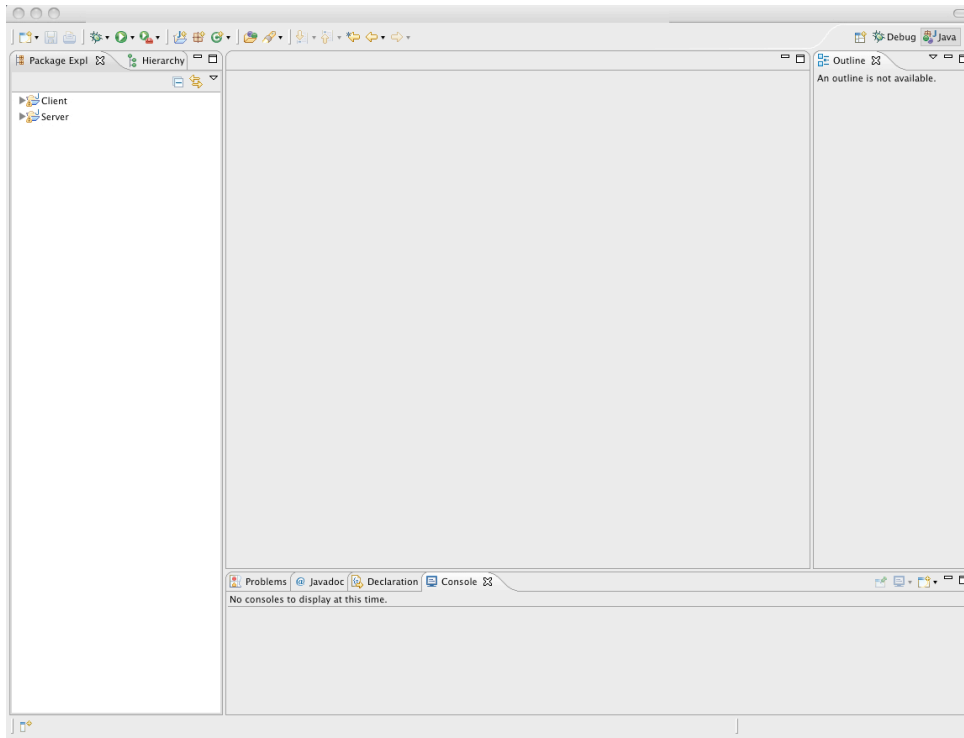


Figure 7. Workspace with the server and client projects loaded.

Running the Components: At this point the server and client can both be run. To launch the server, simply click on the small downward pointing arrow next to the larger green run arrow button in the top menu bar (Figure 8).



Figure 8. The green run arrow at the top of the menu bar.

This should lead to a set of options. The “Run Configurations...” option should then be selected (Figure 9).

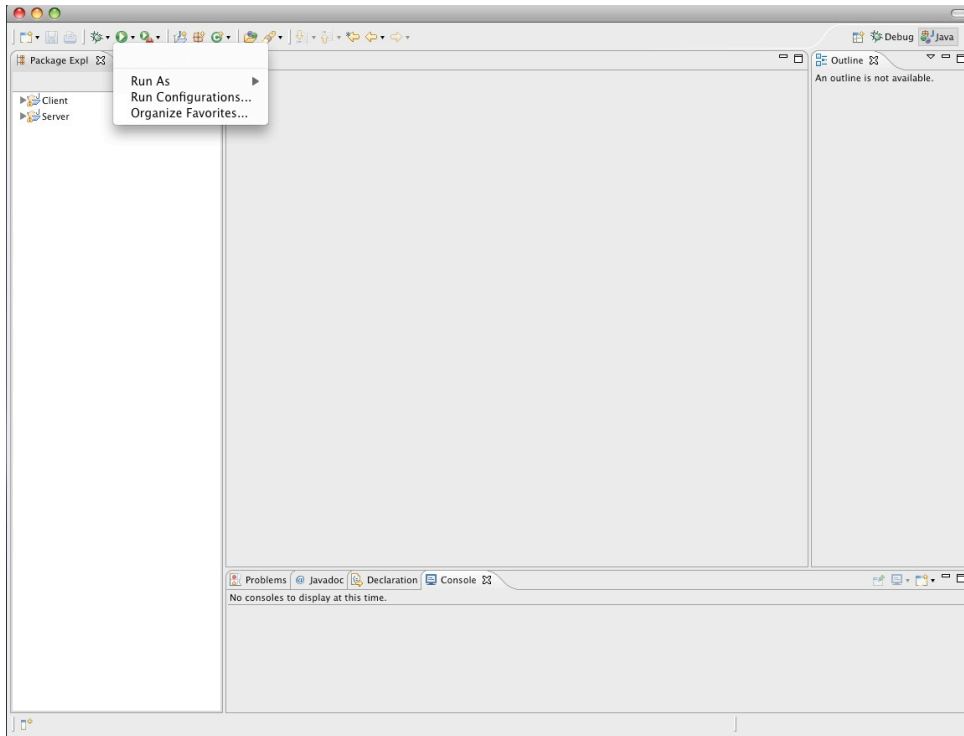


Figure 9. The “Run Configurations...” option.

In the next step, a Run Configurations window should open and the “Java Application” option, in the far left vertical panel within Run Configurations, should be chosen (Figure 10).

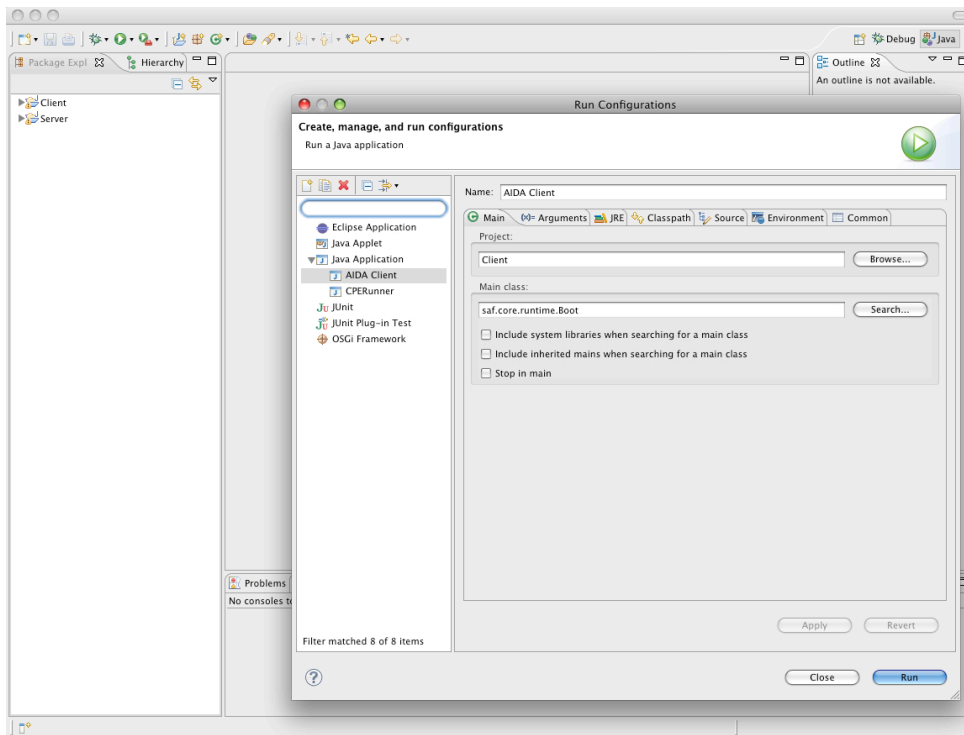


Figure 10. The “Java Application” option.

Now, all that needs to be done is the launching of the server component. To launch the server component, the CPERunner (in the Java Application window) launch option should be chosen and the Run button at the bottom right in the Run Configurations window should be pressed. Be sure that the JRE (third tab on the left in the Run Configurations window; see Figure 10) is set to a JRE 1.6 version. After the run is complete, the CPERunner will produce a cache (see /Server/scenarios/data/cache); during the run, text output should be visible in the bottom Console panel in Eclipse. To launch the client component, the AIDA Client (in the Java Application window) launch option should be chosen and the Run button pressed. The client will open the AIDA Client, which is by default set to assess the Iowa sub-scenario (/Client/Cache_Iowa) data produced from a previous server execution. To change the cache to the Nebraska data, the user can select the File menu option in the AIDA Client, after it is launched, and choose the “Open Cache” option (Figure 11). Then the /Client/Cache_Nebraska (i.e., Nebraska’s cache) should be selected. Like Iowa’s cache, this cache was created in a previous server execution. To change the server component so that it assesses the Nebraska scenario, the /Server/scenarios/data/server.properties file needs to be modified. The information needed to adjust this file can be found in the comments included in that file.

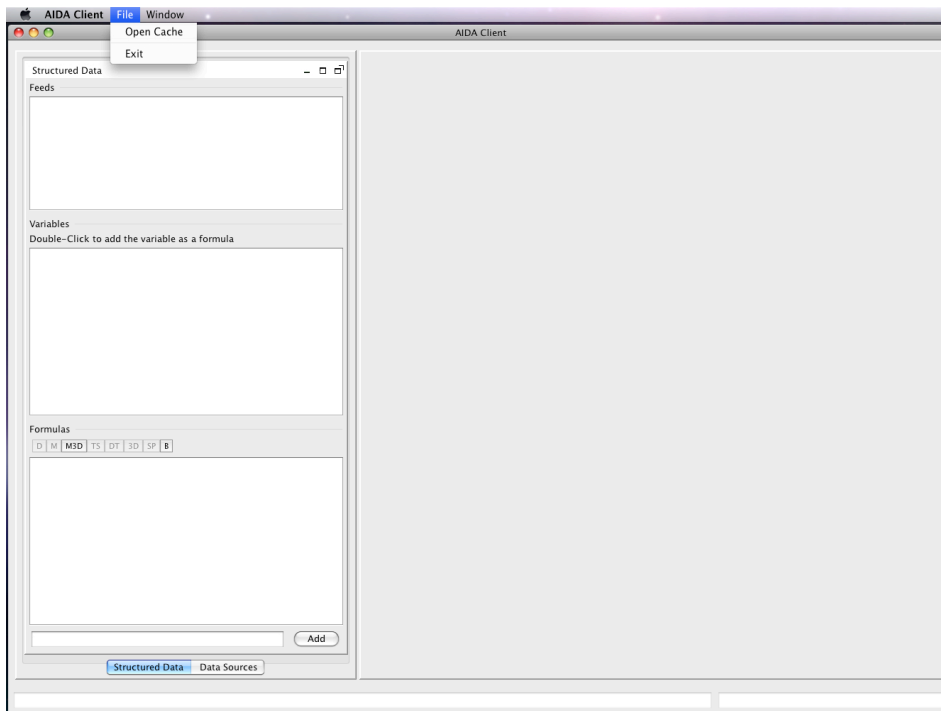


Figure 11. Changing the cache loaded option in the AIDA Client.