

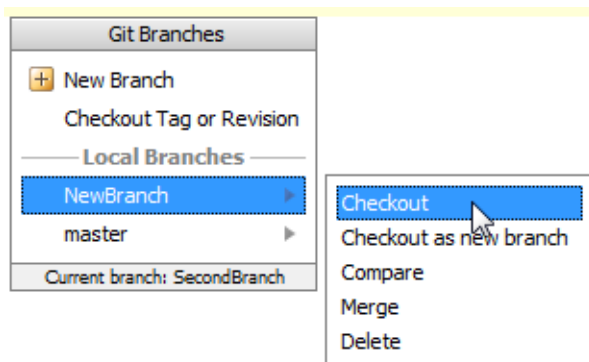
Checking Out (Switching Between Branches)

In this topic:

- [Checking out an existing branch](#)
- [Finding out the current branch](#)

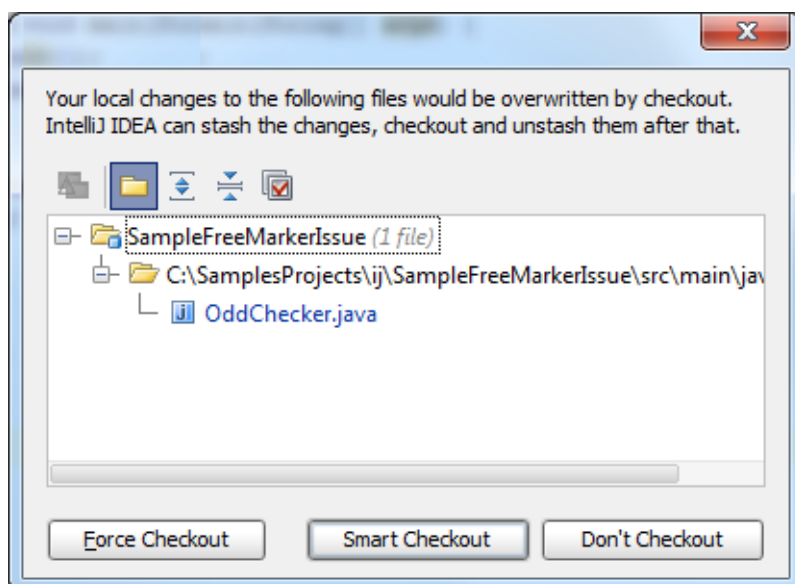
To check out an existing branch

1. Invoke the **Branches** menu as described in the section [Accessing Git Branches Popup Menu](#).
2. On the pop-up list that shows all available local and remote branches, click the desired one, and choose **Checkout** on the submenu.



The subsequent behavior depends on the presence of conflicts.

3.
 - If your working tree is not dirty, or your local changes do not conflict with the specified branch, then this branch is checked out, which is reported in a balloon in the lower-left corner of the IntelliJ IDEA window.
 - If you are working with a dirty tree, and your local changes would be overwritten by checkout, IntelliJ IDEA shows the files that prevent checking branch out, and suggests to choose between *force checkout*, and *smart checkout*.



Force checkout: local changes will be overwritten, like `git checkout -f` does.

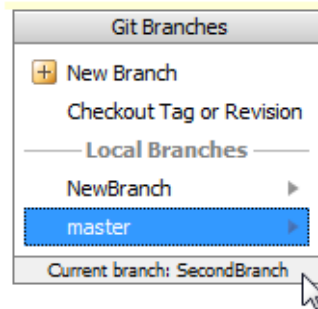
Smart checkout: IntelliJ IDEA [stashes](#) local changes, checks the branch out, and then [unstashes](#) changes back. If a conflict happens during unstash, merge dialog is shown.

To find out which branch is currently checked out in a local repository, do one of the following

- View information about the current branch in the widget in the Status bar:



- Invoke the **Git Branches** popup menu, and see the current branch name at the bottom line:



See Also

Concepts:

- [Version Control with IntelliJ IDEA](#)

Procedures:

- [Stashing and Unstashing Changes](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 