

# Comparing Files

IntelliJ IDEA enables you to compare arbitrary files in project (including image files), selected file with the editor, or compare a file in the editor with the Clipboard contents. All comparisons are performed in the [Differences viewer](#).

In this section:

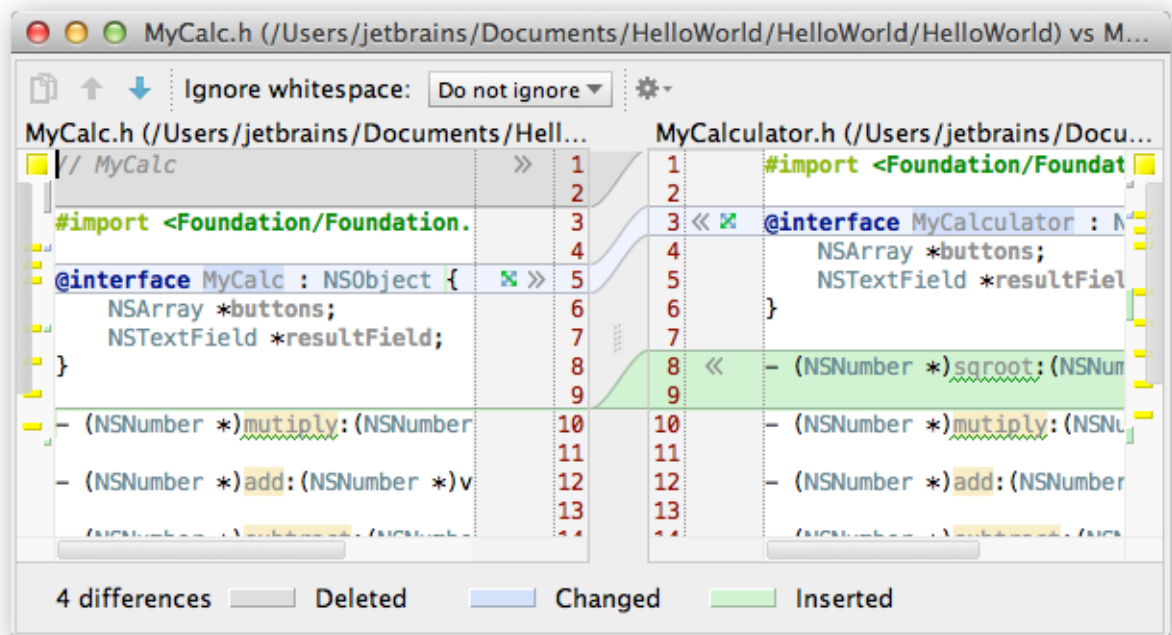
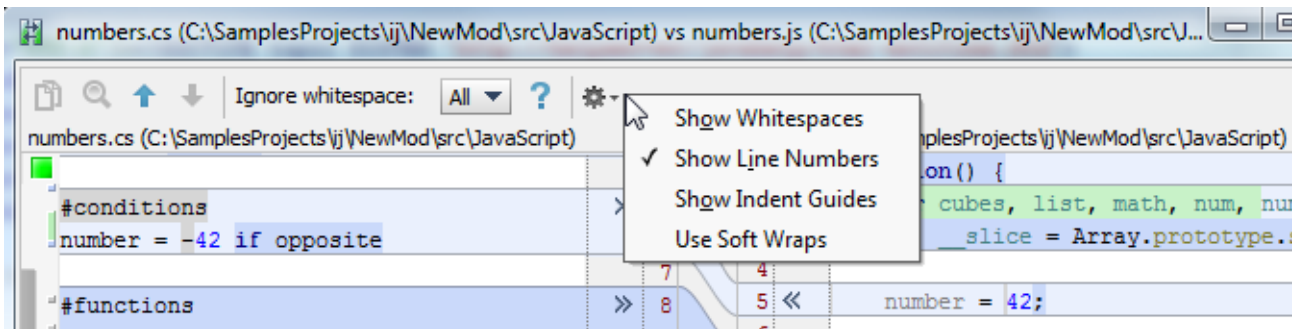
- [Comparing files](#)
- [Comparing file in the editor with the Clipboard contents](#)
- [Comparing a file with the editor contents](#)

## To compare two files

1. Keeping the Ctrl key pressed, click two files in the Project tool window.
2. On the context menu of the selection, choose **Compare Two Files**. The [Differences Viewer for Files](#) opens, with the differences being color-highlighted.

It is enough to select a single file in the Project tool window. In this case the context menu command is **Compare File with Editor**, and the Differences Viewer shows the contents of the selected file on the left pane, and the contents of the active editor tab on the right pane.

3. View the differences and apply them, if necessary, using the buttons **>>** and **<<**.



## To compare a file with the Clipboard contents

1. Open the desired file in the editor.
2. Right-click the editor pane and choose **Compare with Clipboard** on the context menu.
3. View and manage differences in the [Differences Viewer for Files](#).

## To compare a file with Editor

1. Right-click the desired file in the Project tool window.
2. Choose **Compare File with Editor** on the context menu.
3. View and manage differences in the [Differences Viewer for Files](#).

## See Also

### Procedures:

- [Comparing File Versions](#)
- [Comparing Deployed Files and Folders with Their Local Versions](#)

### Reference:

- [Differences Viewer](#)

### Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 