

# Configuring Encoding for Properties Files

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Standard Java API is designed to use ISO 8859-1 encoding for the properties file.

To use other encodings, feed them as escape sequences and Unicode. The other option is to define the default encoding for `.properties` files on the project level and use different API that can read properties files in the encoding you have defined.

## To configure default encoding for properties files

1. Open the [Project Settings](#) and click [File Encodings](#).
2. Do one of the following:
  - To have the special mode turned on when symbols are stored in a properties file as escape sequences but displayed as normal letters, check the option **Transparent native-to-ascii conversion**. This option is helpful when the properties files are encoded in ISO 8859-1. It is recommended to use this approach, if you don't have any special reasons to change encoding.
  - In the field **Default encoding for properties files**, select the encoding that will be used for all properties files in project.

## See Also

Concepts:

- [Internationalization and Localization Support](#)
- [Encoding](#)

Reference:

- [File Encodings](#)

External Links:

- <http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.5.0/docs/api/java/util/Properties.html> 

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 