

# Configuring Synchronization with a Web Server

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IntelliJ IDEA distinguishes among *in-place*, *local*, and *remote* servers, however the meaning of these terms in the context of IntelliJ IDEA slightly differs from their common meaning:

- An *in-place server* is a server whose *document root* is the parent of the project root, either immediate or not. In other words, the Web server is running on your computer, your project is under its document root, and you do your development directly on the server.
- A *local server* is a server that is running in a local or a mounted folder and whose *document root* is *NOT* the parent of the project root.
- A *remote server* is a server on another computer (remote host).

For more information about possible configuration of the production and development environment and working with servers from IntelliJ IDEA, see [Working with Web Servers: Copying Files](#).

IntelliJ IDEA controls interaction with Web servers through *server access configurations*. Anytime you are going to use a server, you need to define a *server access configurations*, no matter whether your server is on a remote host or on your machine.

A *server access configuration* defines:

1. The server type (*in-place*, *local*, or *remote*).
2. The computer (host) where the server is running. For *in-place* and *local* servers, IntelliJ IDEA presupposes that it is the current computer where your project is.
3. The *server access configuration root*: the highest folder in the server hierarchy that can be accessed through the server configuration.
4. The URL address to access the *server configuration root*. Both the *HTTP* and the *HTTPS* protocols are supported.
5. The protocol to transfer the data through.
6. Correspondence between local (project) folders, destination folders on the server, and URL addresses to access the data on the server. This correspondence is called *mapping*.

You can define as many configurations as necessary, thus enabling flexible switching between upload/download setups.

## Prerequisites

Synchronization with servers, uploading, downloading, and managing files on them are provided via the *Remote Hosts Access* bundled plugin, which is by default enabled. If not, activate it in the **Plugins** page of the **Settings** dialog box. For details, see [Enabling and Disabling Plugins](#).

In this part:

- [Creating an in-Place Server Configuration](#)
- [Creating a Local Server Configuration](#)
- [Creating a Remote Server Configuration](#)
- [Customizing Upload/Download](#)
- [Excluding Files and Folders from Upload/Download](#)

## See Also

Procedures:

- [Creating a Project from Downloaded Files](#)
- [Working with Web Servers: Copying Files](#)

Reference:

- [Deployment](#)
- [Remote Host Tool Window](#)

**Web Resources:**

- [Developer Community](#) 