

## Cutting, Copying and Pasting

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IntelliJ IDEA provides a number of handy Clipboard operations. You can copy, cut, and paste selected text, a path to a file, or a reference to a symbol or a line of code.

Because IntelliJ IDEA uses the system Clipboard, you can copy and paste between applications. So doing, when pasting Clipboard entries, IntelliJ IDEA removes any formatting from the text and any special symbols from the `String` values.

The *Paste* command smartly understands what is being inserted. If you paste a reference to a symbol, it is analyzed for possible imports, references, etc. So doing, IntelliJ IDEA provides the necessary brackets and places the caret at the appropriate insertion point. The *Paste Simple* command helps paste any Clipboard entry as a plain text, without any analysis.

IntelliJ IDEA enables Clipboard stacking, which means that you can store multiple Clipboard entries and access them with a single shortcut. The number of entries that can be kept in the Clipboard stack is customizable on the [Editor](#) page of the IDE Settings.

### To copy selected text, do one of the following

- On the main menu, choose **Edit | Copy**.
- Press **Ctrl+C** or **Ctrl+Insert**.
- Click the **Copy** button  on the toolbar.

The **Ctrl+D** keyboard shortcut clones a line at the caret or a selected arbitrary fragment of text.

### To copy path to a file, do one of the following

- Open the desired file in the editor, then choose **Edit | Copy Path** on the main menu or press **Ctrl+Shift+C**.
- Select the desired file in the [Project](#) tool window and choose **Copy Path** on the context menu of the selection.

### To copy reference to a line or symbol


1. Open the desired file in the editor.
2. Place the caret at a certain line of code.
3. Do one of the following:
  - On the main menu, choose **Edit | Copy Reference**
  - On the context menu of the line at caret, choose **Copy Reference**
  - Press **Ctrl+Shift+Alt+C**.

IntelliJ IDEA creates a string in the format that depends on a symbol at caret. For example:


```
/MetersToInchesConverter.java:14 for a Java class (format <fully qualified path>:<line number>)
```

```
java.io.PrintStream#println(java.lang.String) for a Java method (format <full class name>.<method_signature>)
```

## To cut the selected text

1. [Select](#) the desired fragment in the editor.
2. Do one of the following:
  - On the main menu, choose **Edit | Cut**.
  - Press **Ctrl+X** or **Shift+Delete**.
  - Click the **Cut** button  on the toolbar.

## To paste the last entry from the clipboard

1. Place the caret in the location where you want to paste content.
2. Do one of the following:
  - On the main menu, choose **Edit | Paste**.
  - Press **Ctrl+V** or **Shift+Insert**.
  - Click the **Paste** button  on the toolbar.

If you perform paste in a Java file, the further behavior depends on the settings in the [Auto Import](#) page of the Editor options. If the *Ask* option has been selected, select the necessary imports from the list of missing imports. In all other cases, the last clipboard entry is pasted silently.

## To paste the last entry from the clipboard as plain text, do one of the following

- On the main menu, choose **Edit | Paste Simple**.
- Press **Ctrl+Shift+Alt+V**.

## To paste a specific entry from the clipboard

1. On the main menu, choose **Edit | Paste from History** or press **Ctrl+Shift+V** or **Ctrl+Shift+Insert**.
2. In the **Choose Content to Paste** dialog box select the desired entry from the list of recent Clipboard entries, and click **OK**.

The depth of the Clipboard stack is configured in the **Limits** section on the [Editor](#) page of the [Settings](#) dialog box. When the specified number is exceeded, the oldest entry is removed from the list.

## See Also

### Procedures:

- [Configuring IDE Settings](#)

### Reference:

- [Editor](#)
- [Keyboard Shortcuts and Mouse Reference](#)

### Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 