File Encodings
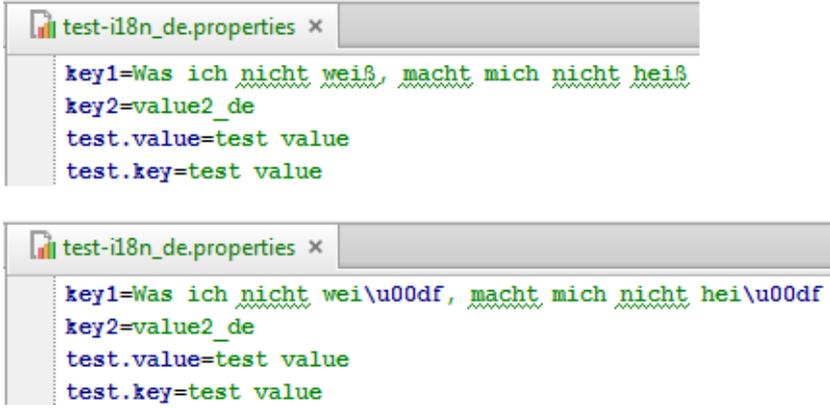
Use this dialog to configure encoding options for a project and for the entire IDE.

Item	Description
IDE Encoding	From this drop-down list, choose the encoding to be used when no project is currently opened. The encoding will be applied, for example, when you specify the settings of a default project or check out sources from a version control storage. Choose **System Default** to have the default encoding of your operating system used or choose a specific encoding.
Project Encoding	From this drop-down box, choose the default encoding to use in the folders for which no encoding is appointed in the **Default encoding** field below. Choose **System Default** to have the default encoding of your operating system used or choose a specific encoding.
File/Directory	This column displays the project tree view.
Default encoding	This column displays encoding for a file or directory, if applicable. If encoding is defined within a file, it cannot be configured, and is shown in grey font. If encoding is configurable, click the **Default Encoding** column for a selected file or directory, and choose encoding from the drop-down list. Encoding information embedded in a file overrides the selected one; encoding information for the nested files or directories overrides that for the outer directories or the whole project.
Autodetect UTF-encoded files	Check this option, if you want IntelliJ IDEA to change file encoding to UTF, if at least one character encoded in UTF-8 or UTF-16 is detected in a file.
Default encoding for properties files	Use this drop-down list to define encoding for the properties files in a project. According to the Java API, the `load(InputStream)` / `store(OutputStream, String)` methods of the `java.util.Properties` class, use ISO 8859-1 encoding for input/output stream. It is advisable to use this encoding unless you have special reasons to change it. In this case, you can select the desired encoding from the drop-down list; in particular, you can use encoding defined for the whole project.

Item	Description
Transparent native-to-ascii conversion	Select this option to show in properties files the national characters (non-ISO 8859-1), stored as escape sequences. For more details refer to Configuring Encoding for Properties Files. If this check box is not selected, the national characters will not be shown.

Compare two representations of the national characters:

```
test-i18n_de.properties  ×

key1=Was ich nicht weiß, macht mich nicht heiß
key2=value2_de
test.value=test value
test.key=test value
```

```
test-i18n_de.properties  ×

key1=Was ich nicht wei\u00df, macht mich nicht hei\u00df
key2=value2_de
test.value=test value
test.key=test value
```

See Also

Concepts:

- Encoding

Procedures:

- Configuring Individual File Encoding

Web Resources:

- Developer Community 🔗