

## Find and Replace in Path

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**Edit | Find | Find in Path or Replace in Path**

Ctrl+Shift+F or Ctrl+Shift+R

In the [Project tool window](#): **Find in Path** or **Replace in Path** from the context menu for a directory

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Specify what you want to find and where. In the **Replace in Path** dialog, also specify the replacement text or pattern.

Use Ctrl+Shift+F and Ctrl+Shift+R to switch between the find and replace modes.

Item	Description
Text to find	<p>In this field, specify the search pattern. Type the text manually or select one of the previously specified patterns from the drop-down list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ If you specify the search pattern through a regular expression, use the \$n format in back references (to refer to a previously found and saved pattern).</li><li>■ This field can be left empty. If there is no text to find, but the <a href="#">File mask</a> check box is selected, then search results include only the files matching the specified mask.</li></ul>
Replace with	<p>In this field, specify the replacement text. Type the text manually or select one of the previously specified substitutions from the drop-down list.</p> <div data-bbox="344 992 1396 1272" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px;"><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ If you specify the replacement text through a regular expression, use the \$n format in back references.</li><li>■ To use a backslash character \ in a regular expression, escape the meaningful backslashes by inserting <i>three extra backslashes</i> in front: \\\\. </li><li>■ This field is available only in the <b>Replace in Path</b> dialog.</li></ul></div>

Item	Description
Options	<p>In this area, specify additional search parameters. The available options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Case sensitive</b> - select this check box to have IntelliJ IDEA distinguish between upper and lowercase letters while searching.</li> <li>■ <b>Preserve case</b> - if this check box is selected, IntelliJ IDEA retains the case of the first letter and the case of the initial string in general. For example, <i>MyTest</i> will be replaced with <i>Yourtest</i> if you specify <i>yourtest</i> as the replacement.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>This check box is disabled, if the <b>Case sensitive</b> or <b>Regular expressions</b> check box is selected.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Whole words only</b> - select this check box to have IntelliJ IDEA search for whole words only, that is, for character strings separated with spaces, tabs, punctuation, or special characters.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>This check box is disabled, if the <b>Regular expressions</b> check box is selected.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Regular expressions</b> - select this check box if the specified search pattern should be treated as a <a href="#">regular expression</a>.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Click the <b>[Help]</b> link next to the check box to view reference on regular expressions syntax. For more information on regular expressions and their syntax, refer to documentation for <code>java.util.regex</code>.</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Comments only</b> - select this check box to confine search to comments, ignoring the other occurrences.</li> <li>■ <b>String literals only</b> - select this check box to confine search to string literals, ignoring the other occurrences.</li> </ul>
Scope	<p>In this area, specify the scope to apply the search to. The available options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Whole project</b> - select this option to search through the entire project.</li> <li>■ <b>Directory</b> - select this option to perform search within the specified directory. By default, the text area already contains the directory name where a file currently opened in the editor is located (if you call the dialog from the editor), or where a file selected in the tool window is located (if you call the dialog from the tool window), or the directory name selected in the tool window. Pressing the ellipsis button opens the <a href="#">Select Path</a> dialog, where you can select the necessary directory.</li> <li>■ <b>Recursively</b> - this check box is only available for the directory search. If selected, sets the search to be performed in the chosen directory and its subdirectories.</li> <li>■ <b>Custom</b> - select this option to search in a <a href="#">scope</a>. You can choose one of the scopes from the drop-down list, or click the ellipsis button, and define a new scope in the <a href="#">Scopes dialog</a>.</li> </ul>

Item	Description
File name filter	<p>In this area, specify additional settings to narrow down the search scope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <b>File mask</b> - select this check box to narrow down the search scope through file masks. In the drop-down list, select the desired mask or specify a new one using wildcards. Wildcard can include * to substitute a set of any characters, and ? to substitute a single character. Note that you can specify multiple file masks, delimited with comma (for example, *.xml,*.sql,*.html).</li></ul> <p>If <a href="#">text to find is not entered</a>, and this check box is selected, then IntelliJ IDEA find all files matching the specified mask, regardless of their contents.</p>
Open in new tab	<p>If selected, sets the search results to be displayed in a separate tab.</p> <div data-bbox="344 607 1394 736" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"><p>The check box is available only in the <b>Find in Path</b> dialog and only if the <a href="#">Find tool window</a> is already opened.</p></div>

## See Also

### Procedures:

- [Finding and Replacing Text in Project](#)

### Reference:

- [Regular Expression Syntax Reference](#)

### Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 