

Finding and Replacing Text in Project

IntelliJ IDEA extends search and replace capability to the entire project, specific module, or any directory with its nested hierarchy. Explore search results in the [Find tool window](#).

To find a piece of text in all the files within a specified path

1. On the main menu, choose **Edit | Find | Find in Path**, or press **Ctrl+Shift+F**.
2. In the [Find In Path](#) dialog box, specify the following options:
 - The text to find. Type the text explicitly, or specify a pattern using a regular expression, or select a previously used piece of text or a pattern from the recent history drop-down list.

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).

- Search scope (project, module or directory).
 - Search options (case sensitivity, whole words, and regular expressions).
3. Click **Find**.

If the search takes too long time, click [Background](#) in the search progress window. In this case the search progress is indicated in the Status bar.

To replace a piece of text in all the files within a specified path

1. On the main menu, choose **Edit | Find | Replace in Path**, or press **Ctrl+Shift+R**.
Alternatively, being in the [Find In Path](#) dialog box, press **Ctrl+Shift+R** to switch to [Replace In Path](#) dialog box.
2. In the [Replace In Path](#) dialog box, specify the search and replace strings, the search options, and the scope. Type the search and replacement text explicitly, or specify patterns using regular expression, or select a previously used piece of text or a pattern from the recent history drop-down list.

1. If you specify the search and/or replacement text through a regular expression, use the `$n` format in back references (to refer to a previously found and saved pattern).
2. To use a backslash character `\` in a regular expression, escape the meaningful backslash by inserting *three extra backslashes* in preposition: `\\`.

3. Click **Find**. The encountered occurrences of the search string are displayed in the [Find tool window](#), do one of the following:
 - Select one or more occurrences you want to replace and click the **Replace selected** button.
 - To have all the detected occurrences replaced, click the **Do Replace All** button.

Use **Ctrl+Shift+F** and **Ctrl+Shift+R** to toggle between the [Find In Path](#) and [Replace In Path](#) dialog boxes.

See Also

Procedures:

- [Working with Search Results](#)

Reference:

- [Find and Replace in Path](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 