

GUI Designer Files

At design time, GUI information is stored in special files with a `.form` extension. These files are XML files that conform to a special schema. You can put the `.form` files into any version control system. A form can be associated with a [Java source file](#).

The GUI Designer suggests two ways of producing GUI forms: you can either create them [from scratch](#), or capture [snapshots](#) of the existing dialogs and create GUI Designer Forms from the snapshots. It doesn't matter if the dialogs were hand coded or made with another UI design tool - just capture them from the running application using the Form Snapshot feature.

A snapshot is not related to its original implementation. When you take a snapshot, you thus give up the source code used to produce the form.

IntelliJ IDEA does not provide the means to open the XML source of the `.form` files in the text editor, and you should not modify these files manually as text.

See Also

Concepts:

- [Bound Class](#)

Procedures:

- [Creating and Opening Forms](#)

Reference:

- [Components of the GUI Designer](#)
- [GUI Designer](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 