

Managing Mercurial Branches and Bookmarks

With IntelliJ IDEA, you can use both [named branches](#) and [light-weight branches \(bookmarks\)](#). IntelliJ IDEA provides interface for creating, merging, and switching between branches and bookmarks, see [Switching Between Working Directories](#). You can also run commands in the embedded Terminal, see [Working with Embedded Local Terminal](#).

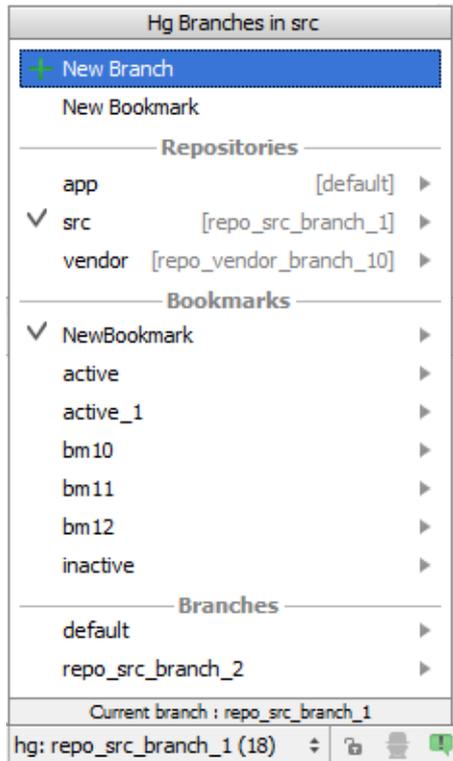
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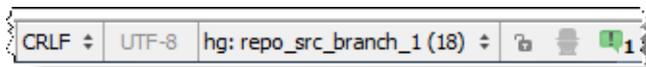
For information about switching between branches and bookmarks, see [Switching Between Working Directories](#).

Opening the Branches pop-up list

Most of the operations with branches and bookmarks are invoked from the **Branches** pop-up list.

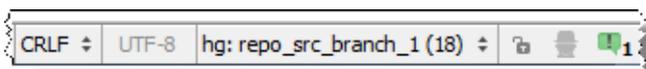


The list shows all the Mercurial repositories under the project root, all the named branches, and all the bookmarks in them. The current repository and the current bookmark are marked with a tick. The name of the current named branch is shown in the dedicated **hg** area on the **Status** bar:



To open the **Branches** pop-up list, do one of the following:

- On the **Status** bar, click the name of the current named branch in the dedicated **hg** area.



- On the main menu, choose **VCS | Mercurial | Branches**.
- On the context menu of the **Editor** or **Changes** tool window, choose **Mercurial | Branches**.

Creating a named branch

1. In the **Branches** pop-up list, click **New Branch**.
2. In the **Create New Branch** dialog box that opens, specify the name of the new branch.

The new branch immediately becomes active and its name is shown on the **Status** bar in the **hg** area.

Creating a bookmark

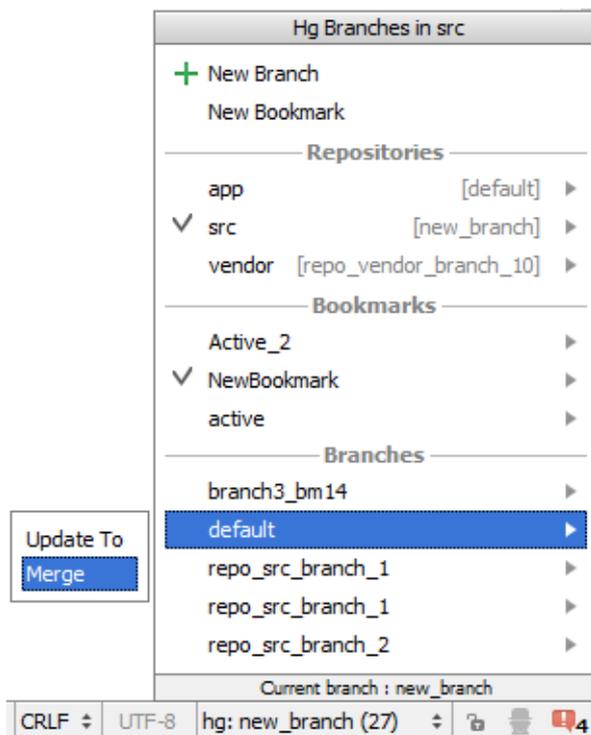
1. In the **Branches** pop-up list, click **New Bookmark**.
2. In the **New Bookmark dialog box** that opens, specify the name of the bookmark to be created.
3. Specify, whether you want to switch to the new bookmark immediately or not.
 - To activate the new bookmark and thus enable tracking and updating the light-weight branch the bookmarks identifies, leave the **Inactive** check box cleared. The new bookmark immediately becomes active and its name is marked with a tick in the **Branches** pop-up list.
 - To have an inactive bookmark created, that is, to remain in the current light-weight branch (bookmark) or named branch and switch to the new bookmark later, select the **Inactive** check box.

Merging named branches and bookmarks

You can merge a named branch or a bookmark with another named branch, another bookmark, or a specific changeset identified by a tag or a revision number.

- Merging a named branch or a bookmark with another named branch or bookmark means merging with its *head*.

Merging with named branches and bookmarks can be invoked through the menu item **VCS | Mercurial | Merge**, which opens the Mercurial-specific **Merge** dialog box of from the **Branches** pop-up list.



- Merging a named branch or a bookmark with a changeset means merging the branch *head* with the specified changeset. A changeset can be identified either by a revision number or a tag, see <http://mercurial.selenic.com/wiki/Tag?highlight=28\bCategoryGlossary\b29>.

Merging a named branch or a bookmark with a specific changeset can be invoked *only* through **VCS | Mercurial | Merge**.

For definitions and Mercurial-specific details regarding the merge operation itself, see <http://www.selenic.com/hg/help/merge>.

By default, *Mercurial* requires that before merge the current working directory should be *clean*, that is, it should not contain any uncommitted changes. Otherwise the merge operation fails and IntelliJ IDEA shows the corresponding error message. The message also recommends that you clean the current working directory by running the `hg merge <target branch, bookmark, or changeset> -C` to discard the uncommitted changes.

If your current working copy is not clean, you can either commit the changes or shelve them as described in [Shelving and Unshelving Changes](#).

Merging a named branch or bookmark with another named branch or bookmark

Merging a named branch or a bookmark with another named branch or bookmark means merging with its *head*.

1. Make sure, your current working directory is *clean*, that is, it does not contain any uncommitted changes. Commit or shelve the changes, if any.
2. Invoke merge by doing one of the following:
 - In the **Branches** pop-up list, click the name of the branch or bookmark to merge with, then choose **Merge** on the pop-up menu:
 - Choose **VCS | Mercurial | Merge** on the main menu or **Mercurial | Merge** on the context menu of the **Editor**.

In the **Merge** dialog box that opens:

1. Choose the target repository from the **Repository** drop-down list which shows all the Mercurial repositories available under the current project root.
 2. Choose the **Branch** or **Bookmark** option and choose the named branch or bookmark to merge the current working directory with.
3. Resolve conflicts. As soon as a conflict takes place, the **Files Merged with Conflicts** dialog box opens with a list of conflicting files. Use the controls of the dialog box to resolve the problems:
 - To have the version of the current working directory preserved, click **Accept Yours**.
 - To have the version of the branch you are merging with preserved, click **Accept Theirs**.
 - To resolve the conflicts manually, click **Merge** and use the **Conflict Resolution Tool**, as described in [Resolving Conflicts](#).

If no conflicts arise during merge, the operation passes silently and the merge log is shown in the **Version Control** tool window.

Merging a named branch or bookmark with a changeset

Merging a named branch or a bookmark with a changeset means merging the branch *head* with the specified changeset. A changeset can be identified either by a revision number or a tag, see <http://mercurial.selenic.com/wiki/Tag?highlight=28\bCategoryGlossary\b29>.

1. Make sure, your current working directory is *clean*, that is, it does not contain any uncommitted changes. Commit or shelve the changes, if any.
2. Choose **VCS | Mercurial | Merge** on the main menu or **Mercurial | Merge** on the context menu of the **Editor**.
3. In the **Merge** dialog box that opens:
 1. Choose the target repository from the **Repository** drop-down list which shows all the Mercurial repositories available under the current project root.
 2. Choose the **Tag** or **Revision** option and choose the tag or specify the hash or revision number to merge the current working directory with. To copy a hash, open the **Log** tab of the **Changes** tool window, select the relevant branch and revision, and then choose **Copy Hash** on the context menu of the selection.
4. Resolve conflicts. As soon as a conflict takes place, the **Files Merged with Conflicts** dialog box opens with a list of conflicting files. Use the controls of the dialog box to resolve the problems:
 - To have the version of the current working directory preserved, click **Accept Yours**.
 - To have the version of the branch you are merging with preserved, click **Accept Theirs**.
 - To resolve the conflicts manually, click **Merge** and use the **Conflict Resolution Tool**, as described in [Resolving Conflicts](#).

If no conflicts arise during merge, the operation passes silently and the merge log is shown in the **Version Control** tool window.

See Also

Procedures:

- [Using Mercurial Integration](#)

Reference:

- [Merge Dialog \(Mercurial\)](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#)