

Minifying CSS

IntelliJ IDEA supports integration with the [YUI Compressor](#) CSS minification tool.

In IntelliJ IDEA, minifier configurations are called *File Watchers*. For each supported minifier, IntelliJ IDEA provides a predefined *File Watcher* template. Predefined *File Watcher* templates are available at the IntelliJ IDEA level. To run a minifier against your project files, you need to create a project-specific *File Watcher* based on the relevant template, at least, specify the path to the minifier to use on your machine.

On this page:

- [Installing and configuring the YUI Compressor](#)
- [Creating a FileWatcher](#)

Installing and configuring the YUI Compressor

1. Download and install [Node.js](#). The framework is required for two reasons:
 - The CSS minifier is started through *Node.js*.
 - *NPM*, which is a part of the framework, is also the easiest way to download the CSS minifier.

For details on using *Node.js* in IntelliJ IDEA, see the section [Node.js](#)

Alternatively, you can define [Node.js](#) as an external tool, as described in the section [Configuring third-party tools](#). This approach is helpful, when you need facilities that are missing in the plugin, for example, the possibility to pass certain parameters as wildcards.

2. If you are going to use the command line mode, make sure the following paths are added to the PATH variable:

1. The path to the parent folder of the *Node.js* executable file.
2. The path to the *npm* folder.

This enables you to launch the CSS minifier and *npm* from any folder.

3. Install and enable the *NodeJS* repository plugin.

The plugin is not bundled with IntelliJ IDEA, but it is available from the [JetBrains plugin repository](#). Once enabled, the plugin is available at the IDE level, that is, you can use it in all your IntelliJ IDEA projects. See [Installing, Updating and Uninstalling Repository Plugins](#) and [Enabling and Disabling Plugins](#) for details.

4. Download and install the JavaScript minification tool. The easiest way is to use the *Node Package Manager (npm)*, which is a part of [Node.js](#).

1. Switch to the directory where the *Node Package Manager (npm)* is stored or define a path variable for it so it is available from any folder.
2. Type the following command at the command line prompt:

```
npm install yuicompressor
```

If you use the *Node Package Manager (npm)*, the minifier is installed under *Node.js* so *Node.js*, which is required for starting the tool, will be specified in the path to it.

Creating a FileWatcher

IntelliJ IDEA provides a common procedure and user interface for creating *File Watchers* of all types. The only difference is in the predefined templates you choose in each case.

1. To start creating a *File Watcher*, open the **Project Settings** by choosing **File | Settings** on the main menu, and then click **File Watchers**. The [File Watchers page](#) that opens, shows the list of *File Watchers* that are already configured in the project.
2. Click the **Add** button **+** or press **Alt+Insert** and choose the **YUI Compressor CSS** predefined template from the pop-up list.
3. In the **Program** text box, specify the path to the `yuicompressor-<version>.jar` file. If you installed the tool through the *Node Package Manager*, IntelliJ IDEA locates the required file itself and fills in the field automatically. Otherwise, type the path manually or click the **Browse** button  and choose the file location in the dialog box that opens.
4. Proceed as described on page [Using File Watchers](#).

Minifying the code

When a *Minification File Watcher* is enabled (see [Enabling and disabling File Watchers](#)), minification starts automatically as soon as a file to which transpilation is applicable is changed or saved, see [Configuring the behaviour of the File Watcher](#).

IntelliJ IDEA creates a separate file with the generated output. The file has the name of the source *CSS* file and the extension `min.css`. The location of the generated file is defined in the **Output paths to refresh** text box of the [New Watcher dialog](#). However, in the **Project Tree**, it is shown under the source *CSS* file which is now displayed as a node.

See Also

Procedures:

- [Markup Languages and Style Sheets](#)
- [Using File Watchers](#)

Reference:

- [File Watchers](#)
- [New Watcher Dialog](#)

External Links:

- <http://yui.github.com/yuicompressor/> 

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 