

# Plugins

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Plugins are extensions to IntelliJ IDEA core functionality. They provide the IDE integration with version control systems (VCS) and application servers, add support for various development technologies, frameworks and programming languages, and so on.

The more plugins are installed and enabled, the more features you have available. On the other hand, disabling unnecessary plugins may increase the IDE performance, especially on "less powerful" computers.

Certain plugins are independent, certain aren't. Dependent plugins require other plugins to be enabled.

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## Categories of plugins

In relation to IntelliJ IDEA, plugins may be attributed to one of the following categories:

- Plugins bundled with the IDE. These plugins are installed and enabled by default. You can disable unnecessary bundled plugins, but you cannot uninstall them. See [Enabling and Disabling Plugins](#).
- Repository plugins, that is, plugins stored in [plugin repositories](#) (e.g., the JetBrains Plugin Repository). To be able to use the repository plugins, you should download and install them. See [Installing, Updating and Uninstalling Repository Plugins](#).

## Plugin repositories

IntelliJ IDEA provides access to the JetBrains Plugin Repository at <http://plugins.jetbrains.com> and to the dedicated IntelliJ IDEA Plugin Repository. The IntelliJ IDEA Plugin Repository resides at <http://plugins.jetbrains.com/?idea> and stores numerous plugins created by the IntelliJ IDEA community members.

You can set up your own, enterprise plugin repositories, for example, to store plugins that you want to reserve for your company's internal use only. (A plugin repository corresponds to one or more Web servers.)

You can register such repositories in IntelliJ IDEA and then work with them the same way as with the JetBrains Plugin Repository. See [Managing Enterprise Plugin Repositories](#) and [Adding Plugins to Enterprise Repositories](#).

## Plugin development

IntelliJ IDEA provides an open API that enables you to extend the IntelliJ IDEA functionality: add new [intention actions](#), code [inspections](#) and refactorings, facilities for integrating the IDE with various external systems, and more.

For plugin development, IntelliJ IDEA provides dedicated [SDK](#), [module](#) and [run/debug configuration](#) types.

For more information, refer to:

- [Plugin Development Guidelines](#).
- [Information for Plugin Developers](#).

## See Also

Procedures:

- [Managing Plugins](#)

Reference:

- [Plugins](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 