

Running IntelliJ IDEA as a Diff or Merge Command Line Tool

Besides using IntelliJ IDEA as an *Integrated Development Environment*, you can run use it as a command line tool for comparing and merging files.

In this topic:

- [Enabling invocation of IntelliJ IDEA operations from the command line](#)
- [Comparing files using IntelliJ IDEA as a diff command line tool](#)
- [Merging files using IntelliJ IDEA as a command line tool](#)
- [Example](#)

To enable invoking IntelliJ IDEA operations from the command line, do one of the following

- Using the command line commands, for example, `cd` to change the directory, switch to the directory where the IntelliJ IDEA executable file is located (IntelliJ IDEA installation directory). The CMD commands, the name of the IntelliJ IDEA executable, and its default location depend on the operating system you use. See the lists of CMD commands for [Windows](#), [OS X](#), [Linux](#).
- Specify the location of the IntelliJ IDEA executable in the `Path` system environment variable. In this case, you will be able to invoke the IntelliJ IDEA executable and other IntelliJ IDEA command from any directory.

To compare two files using IntelliJ IDEA as a diff command line tool

1. [Enable invoking IntelliJ IDEA operations from the command line.](#)
2. Type the following command at the command line prompt:

```
<IntelliJ IDEA launcher> diff <path to file1> <path to file2>
```

where `file1` is your local copy, `file2` is the repository version.

1. If you have specified the location of the IntelliJ IDEA executable as a `Path` environment variable, the command will work no matter which directory you are currently in. Otherwise, you need to switch to the IntelliJ IDEA installation folder first or specify the full path to the executable.
2. IntelliJ IDEA executable is platform-dependent: `IntelliJ IDEA.exe` or `%product.bat` for Windows and `IntelliJ IDEA.sh` for Linux.

For OS X, the executable is `/Applications/PhpStorm.app/Contents/OS X/webide`. To add the launcher to your path, add its containing directory `/Applications/PhpStorm.app/Contents/OS X`.

To merge files using IntelliJ IDEA as a command line tool

Most often you need to merge three versions of the same file: your local version, the version in the repository or in the upstream, and the base revision, which is the origin for the two diverged versions.

1. [Enable invoking IntelliJ IDEA operations from the command line.](#)
2. Type the following command at the command line prompt:

```
<IntelliJ IDEA launcher> merge <path to file1> <path to file2> <path to file3> <path to output
```

where `file1` is your local copy, `file2` is the repository version, `file3` is the base revision for `file1` and `file2`, and `output` is the file to save the merge results in (optional).

Example

```
alias idiff='/Applications/IntelliJ IDEA.app/Contents/OS X/idea diff $
```

See Also

Procedures:

- [Working with IntelliJ IDEA Features from Command Line](#)
- [Handling Differences](#)
- [Version Control with IntelliJ IDEA](#)

Reference:

- [Differences Viewer](#)
- [Differences Viewer for Folders and DB Objects](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 