

Using Help Topics

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This type of documentation is available for Ultimate edition only.

- [Online documentation](#)

This type of documentation is available for both Ultimate and Community editions.

Documentation structure

Both built-in and online IntelliJ IDEA documentation have similar structure, which is outlined below:

Getting Started

- The parts [Guided Tour around the IntelliJ IDEA User Interface](#) and [Tool Windows](#) contain essential information about the user interface.
- The part [Familiarize Yourself with IntelliJ IDEA Editor](#) helps you master the IntelliJ IDEA editor, and describes the basic and advanced editing procedures.
- Besides that, you can find information on IntelliJ IDEA registration, most essential keyboard shortcuts, navigation facilities, and more.

Basic concepts

The [Basic concepts](#) part contains information about the notions that underlie the IntelliJ IDEA functionality.

Product Usage Guidelines

The [IntelliJ IDEA Usage Guidelines](#) part provides descriptions of the actions required to fulfil certain common tasks with IntelliJ IDEA. Note that the part page contains an alphabetical index of all the available task descriptions.

Language and Framework-Specific Guidelines

The [Language and Framework-Specific Guidelines](#) part provides important prerequisites, enabling procedures, meta procedures of working with the various frameworks, and gives some details for performing specific tasks.

Reference

In the [Reference](#) part you can find descriptions of the tool windows, dialog controls, lists of the keyboard shortcuts, information related to specific version control systems etc.

Using built-in documentation

Built-in documentation enables you to browse through the topics using the table of contents, find occurrences in the **Search** tab, or use the detailed **Index** that contains all keywords from all topics.

To bring up help contents, do one of the following

- On the main menu, choose **Help | Help Topics**.
- Press F1.
- Click **Help** button, if it is available.

To find a particular piece of information

1. Click the **Search** tab of the help viewer.
2. In the search field, type the search string and press Enter.
3. In the list of topics that contain occurrences of the search string, select the desired one. Occurrences are highlighted in the right pane of the help viewer.

To find a keyword in the Index tab

1. Click the **Index** tab of the help viewer.
2. In the search field, type the desired keyword and press Enter. The caret rests at the first occurrence of the keyword. Every time you press Enter, the caret moves to the next occurrence of the keyword. To see the information about a keyword, select one of its sub-entries.

Online documentation

On the IntelliJ IDEA site, you can find online version of the IntelliJ IDEA's built-in documentation:

[IntelliJ IDEA web help](#) 

The online version enables you to print out pages, find pieces of information, using the **Search** pane, browse the documentation with the table of contents, rate topics, ask question and express your opinion. It consists of three panes:

Contents pane

This pane shows the table of contents.

- Use this pane to browse through the topics.
- Click the *chevron* buttons **»** and **«** to show or hide this pane.
- If for some reason your browser fails to show actual table of contents, click the **Refresh Tree** button on top of the pane.

Topic pane


This pane shows topics, selected in the table of contents.

- The **Previous** and **Next** links help navigate across the topics of the same level.
- The link **See also** is enabled, when the corresponding section is not empty.
- The link **Comments** brings you to the Comments section, where you can view the existing comments and add you own ones.
- In the **Shortcuts** drop-down list, choose the platform you want to view keyboard shortcuts in (Windows/Linux, or OS X).

Search pane

- This pane is hidden by default. Click the *chevron* buttons **«** and **»** to show or hide this pane.

To print a page in PDF format

1. Open the desired page of the online documentation.
2. Click the link **Get printable** .

To find a piece of information in the online documentation

The **Search** pane is hidden by default, for the sake of providing more space. To perform search, you have click the *chevron* button « at the right edge of your browser, to reveal the **Search** pane.

1. In the **Search** field, type your query.
2. Press Enter.
3. Click the desired entry in the search results pane. The corresponding page will open in the central pane, and will be highlighted in the Table of Contents pane.