

Working with SASS and SCSS in Compass Projects

IntelliJ IDEA supports development in projects structured in compliance with the [Compass framework](#). This framework uses *SASS* and *SCSS* extensions of *CSS*.

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Preparing for Compass development

The *Compass* framework is installed through the *Ruby Gem manager*, therefore you need to install *Ruby* first.

1. [Download and install Ruby](#).
2. Specify a path variable for the folder where the Ruby executable file and the `gem.bat` file are stored. This lets you launch *Ruby* and *Gem Manager* from any folder and ensures that *Ruby* is successfully launched during transpilation.
3. **Install** and **enable** the *SASS Support* 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. Install *Compass*.

1. The installation is performed in the command line mode. To start the built-in *Terminal*, choose **Tools | Open Terminal** on the main menu.
2. Type the following command at the command line prompt:

```
gem install compass
```

The tool is installed to the folder where Ruby executable file and the `gem.bat` file are stored.

Setting up a Compass project

You can have a project set up according to the Compass requirements in two ways: create a new Compass project or create an empty project and introduce a Compass-specific structure in it. In either case, a project is set up through command line commands. Of course, you can set up a Compass project externally and then open it in IntelliJ IDEA.

During project set-up, a `conf.rb` configuration file is generated. You will need to specify the location of this file when integrating Compass with IntelliJ IDEA.

- To set up the Compass-specific structure in an existing project:

1. Open the desired project in IntelliJ IDEA.
2. Open the built-in **Terminal** by choosing **Tools | Open Terminal** on the main menu.
3. At the command line prompt, type:

```
compass init
```

- To create a Compass project from scratch:

1. Open the desired project in IntelliJ IDEA.
2. Open the built-in **Terminal** by choosing **Tools | Open Terminal** on the main menu.
3. Switch to the folder that will be the parent for the new project folder. Type the following command:

```
cd <parent folder name>
```

4. At the command line prompt, type:

```
compass create <the name of the project to be created>
```

Integrating Compass with IntelliJ IDEA

To develop a Compass-specific project in IntelliJ IDEA, you need to specify the Compass executable file `compass` and the project configuration file `config.rb`. You can do it either through the **Compass Support** page of the **Settings** dialog box or on the fly using an intention action that opens the **Compass Support** dialog box.

1. Open the **Compass Support** page or dialog box by doing one of the following:
 - Open the project settings by choosing **File | Settings | Project Settings**. For details, see [Accessing Project Settings](#). Then click **Compass Support**. The **Compass Support** page opens.
 - 1. In a `.sass` or `.scss` file, type the following *import* statement:

```
@import 'compass'
```

2. Click the red bulb icon or press **Alt+Enter**. Then choose **Configure Compass** from the suggestion list.
The **Compass Support** dialog box opens.

2. To activate Compass support, select the **Enable Compass support** check box.
3. In the **Compass executable file** text box, specify the location of the `compass` executable file under the Ruby installation. Type the path manually, for example, `C:\Ruby200-x64\bin\compass`, or choose it from the drop-down list, or click the **Browse** button  and choose the location of the `compass` file in the dialog box that opens.
4. In the **Config path** field, specify the location of the project Compass configuration file `config.rb`. Type the path manually, for example, `C:\my_projects\compass_project\config.rb`, or choose it from the drop-down list, or click the **Browse** button  and choose the location of the `compass` file in the dialog box that opens.

The Compass configuration file `config.rb` is generated during project set-up through `compass create` or `compass init` commands.

Transpiling SASS or SCSS code into CSS

SASS and *SCSS* are not processed by browsers that work with CSS code. Therefore to be executed, *SASS* or *SCSS* code has to be translated into CSS. This operation is referred to as *transpilation* and the tools that perform it are called *transpilers*.

IntelliJ IDEA supports integration with a transpiler tool that translates *SASS* and *SCSS* code from a Compass project without changing the Compass-specific project structure.

In IntelliJ IDEA, transpiler configurations are called *File Watchers*. For each supported transpiler, IntelliJ IDEA provides a predefined *File Watcher* template. Predefined *File Watcher* templates are available at the IntelliJ IDEA level. To run a transpiler 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 transpiler to use on your machine.

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.

Creating a Compass SASS or Compass SCSS transpiler

1. Install and enable the *File Watchers* repository plugin.

The plugin is not bundled with IntelliJ IDEA, but it is available from the [IntelliJ IDEA 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.

2. 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.

3. Click the **Add** button **+** or press **Alt+Insert** and choose the **compass sass** or **compass scss** predefined template from the pop-up list.

4. In the **Program** text box, specify the path to the executable file:

- `compass.bat` for Windows
- `compass` for Unix and OS X

Type the path manually or click the **Browse** button  and choose the file location in the dialog box that opens.

5. In the **Arguments** text box, type one of the following depending on the operating system used:

- For OS X and Unix

```
compile $FileDir$ $FilePath$
```

- For Windows

```
compile $FileDir$ $UnixSeparators($FilePath$)$
```

6. Proceed as described on page [Using File Watchers](#).

Running a Compass SASS or Compass SCSS transpiler

When you open a SASS or SCSS file, IntelliJ IDEA checks whether an applicable file watcher is available in the current project. If such file watcher is configured but disabled, IntelliJ IDEA displays a pop-up window that informs you about the configured file watcher and suggests to enable it.

If an applicable file watcher is configured and enabled in the current project, IntelliJ IDEA starts it automatically upon the event specified in the [New Watcher dialog](#).

- If the **Immediate file synchronization** check box is selected, the *File Watcher* is invoked as soon as any changes are made to the source code.
- If the **Immediate file synchronization** check box is cleared, the *File Watcher* is started upon save (**File | Save All**, **Ctrl+S**) or when you move focus from IntelliJ IDEA (upon frame deactivation).

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

See Also

Procedures:

- [Using File Watchers](#)
- [Minifying CSS](#)

- [Transpiling SASS, LESS, and SCSS to CSS](#)
- [Transpiling Stylus to CSS](#)

Reference:

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

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 