

# Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into...

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[Maxim Shafirov](#) 5,023 posts since

Oct 12, 2001

We have an idea to split single .ipr file into multiple configuration files like

- code style scheme
- inspection profiles
- project libraries
- shared run configurations
- etc.

Basically, the problem is .ipr files is supposed to be versioned but it changes way too often and changes are hard to track. As the side effect we could support graceful reload of named settings on external change like VCS update.

What do you think?



[Jon Steelman](#) 967 posts since

Aug 19, 2002 **1. Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 21, 2006 3:04 AM

Good idea. Do you plan to have an option in the system to treat chosen configuration files as a remote resource that can be cached locally?



**2. Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 21, 2006 3:11 AM

Hmm, my experience is that the average developer who doesn't hang out on these forums all

day already has problems to understand the differences between .ipr, .iws and .iml files 😊

While the concept and the possibilities sound great, I'm not sure if it won't cause too

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much confusion. On the other hand, it could reduce the confusion when it's more obvious what all of the files contain when they get more descriptive names.

One thing I maybe wouldn't like is an inflation of project-related files, but I guess the system could be designed in a way that the user can choose which parts should go into separate files and which should stay in the .ipr.

Sascha

Maxim Shafirov wrote:

We have an idea to split single .ipr file into multiple configuration files like

- code style scheme
- inspection profiles
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- shared run configurations
- etc.

Basically, the problem is .ipr files is supposed to be versioned but it changes way too often and changes are hard to track. As the side effect we could support graceful reload of named settings on external change like VCS update.

What do you think?



Guest [3](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 21, 2006 2:23 PM

Hmm, my experience is that the average developer who doesn't hang out on

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these forums all day already has problems to understand the differences between .ipr, .iws and .iml files 😞

Fully agree.

One thing I maybe wouldn't like is an inflation of project-related files,

Me either. In most of the projects, the teams already use more than one IDE and there are just too many IDE related files. The different plug-ins for those IDEs also add specific files, so it's just a nightmare for the average developer.

>> What do you think?

IMHO it should not be done.

Ahmed.



[Dave Griffith](#) 2,784 posts since

Aug 21, 2002 4. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 21, 2006 7:24 PM

This is a pet annoyance of mine. There's no excuse for plugin writers to be writing into the project directory. Elther write into the project or workspace files, or write into the config directory if you've got application global configuration.

--Dave

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[zmbz](#) 224 posts since

Feb 20, 2003 5. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 8:37 PM

What about those of use that work on multiple machines?

I use my laptop at work, but when at home, I prefer to use my PC(bigger, better, and faster everything).

I keep my projects on a memory card and put them in the machine I am using. I want anything that is project related to come along.



[llopo](#) 126 posts since

Sep 26, 2002 6. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 25, 2006 11:39 AM

One thing I maybe wouldn't like is an inflation of project-related files,

Totally true.



[Dave Griffith](#) 2,784 posts since

Aug 21, 2002 7. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 21, 2006 4:57 PM

Yes, please. We're hitting this problem more and more often. There's really no reason that someone else adding a shared run profile should cause me to reload my project on SVN update.

--Dave Griffith



[Martin Fuhrer](#) 1,657 posts since

Oct 9, 2002 8. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 21, 2006 6:05 PM

I think it's a good idea, but:

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1.) Those multiple files should be placed inside a dedicated directory. This way the root directory becomes less 'polluted' (and non-IDEA-developers will still accept them to be added into VCS...)

2.) It should finally become possible to add those files into VCS without having to create a dummy module.



[Mark Derricutt](#) 508 posts since

Aug 16, 2002 9. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 22, 2006 12:55 AM

I like this dedicated directory idea. Maybe some form of "conversion" wizard that turns the myproject.ipr FILE into an myproject.ipr DIRECTORY which includes say project.xml, shemes.xml, runprofiles.xml etc. etc. etc.

The "Open Project" dialog could be file/directory aware and list both as projects.

Thoughts?



Guest 10. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 22, 2006 4:11 PM

Mark Derricutt wrote:

I like this dedicated directory idea.

+1

The "Open Project" dialog could be file/directory aware and list both as projects.

Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into...

The only issues the directory-only way would cause is the lack of the ability to load a project file by double-clicking it. The solution might be to keep the .ipr file and create a parallel folder named \$PROJECT\$-Files or \$PROJECT\$.ipr-Files that can contain all other files:

MyProject.ipr

MyProject-Files/codestyle.xml

MyProject-Files/inspections.xml

...

Sascha



Guest [11](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 22, 2006 7:21 PM

We are used to clicking the .ipr file to start the project. It doesn't mean that there isn't a .ipr file. It can be in the new IntelliJ specific directory, along with the other files.

Sascha Weinreuter wrote:

Mark Derricutt wrote:

>> I like this dedicated directory idea.

Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into...

>

+1

>

>> The "Open Project" dialog could be file/directory aware and list both  
>> as projects.

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>

MyProject.ipr  
MyProject-Files/codestyle.xml  
MyProject-Files/inspections.xml  
...

>

>

Sascha



Guest 12. Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files Oct 23, 2006 10:52 AM

I think what Mark was suggesting is:

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If there is a (not yet converted) ipr file, then the open project dialog shows this file and you can click on it to open the project.

But if there's a dedicated project directory containing all those new project files, then the open project dialog doesn't show it as a regular directory but as a dedicated project entry and clicking on it doesn't open the directory but opens the project.

So you won't lose anything by putting all those files into the directory.

Sascha Weinreuter wrote:

Mark Derricutt wrote:

>> I like this dedicated directory idea.

+1

>> The "Open Project" dialog could be file/directory aware and list both

>> as projects.

The only issues the directory-only way would cause is the lack of the ability to load a project file by double-clicking it. The solution might be to keep the .ipr file and create a parallel folder named

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\$PROJECT\$-Files or \$PROJECT\$.ipr-Files that can contain all other files:

MyProject.ipr

MyProject-Files/codestyle.xml

MyProject-Files/inspections.xml

...

Sascha

--

Martin Fuhrer

Fuhrer Engineering AG

<http://www.fuhrer.com>



Guest 13. Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files Oct 23, 2006 12:26 PM

Martin Fuhrer wrote:

So you won't lose anything by putting all those files into the directory.

You cannot double-click directories to start an application from e.g. the Windows Explorer.

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Sascha



[Anders Wallgren](#) 827 posts since

Aug 23, 2002 14. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 22, 2006 1:55 AM

Why does support for a more graceful reload require splitting the file up? The two would seem to be orthogonal to me.



[Maxim Shafirov](#) 5,023 posts since

Oct 12, 2001 15. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 22, 2006 1:51 PM

When .ipr file changes we're pretty unsure what changed there and will be required to build a diff of something to investigate. Having in mind we do not control all of the components writing to the project file as there are 3rd party plugins it becomes quite a tricky task.



[Keith Lea](#) 1,286 posts since

Sep 8, 2002 16. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 10:26 PM

Maxim, it seems to me that constructing a diff would not be hard, and if all changes are to components which implement ReloadableComponent (or something) then no project reload required.



[Hani Suleiman](#) 1,146 posts since

Aug 22, 2002 17. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 7:32 AM

I agree, if the only reason is to enable reload then you're attacking the problem from the wrong direction.

You can detect the file has changed (as it is now), if one of the 'known' nodes has changed (eg, vcs, code style, whatever standard top level nodes idea writes out) then just that gets reloaded. Anything else means a project reload.

There are already too many config files (all the .imls). Adding even more just makes things even more confusing to developers.

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[Eugene Vigdorichik](#) 3,735 posts since

Feb 26, 2003 18. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 12:14 PM

+1



[Peter Morelli](#) 185 posts since

Aug 25, 2002 19. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 1:32 AM

+1, Please yes! Exactly what I was hoping for...

<http://www.jetbrains.net/jira/browse/IDEA-10066>

That's only for project libs, but more is better. ;o) Just be sure to include documentation for all the new files, and keep the ability to define everything with relative paths.

--pete

ps. please include ant settings and build files (and maven2 if you ever integrate it) in the set of configurable settings. There's a Jira issue for this, but Jira seems to be down right now.



[Simon Knott](#) 456 posts since

Sep 9, 2002 20. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 3:05 AM

+1 to the project library sharing idea. In fact, +1 to the whole idea of splitting the project file!



[Stephen Friedrich](#) 1,446 posts since

Aug 21, 2002 21. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 11:08 AM

That would be great.

But please properly support a dedicated "idea-project-files folder".

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I have always stored ipr, iml and iws in a separate folder named "idea", but that makes it a little hard to configure and work with my project:

For example the module creation wizard proposes "idea" as content root (but I'd like the content root to be the parent folder).

I have to remember to check "store path outside the project folder as relative", because virtually all files are outside that "idea" folder.



[James Shiell](#) 71 posts since

Oct 16, 2002 [22](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 5:41 PM

Please, not more files! 😊

If this does happen, could they be kept under a subdirectory please? As the last thing we need is more files cluttering up the base directory, especially in an environment with multiple IDEs where everyone has there own project files in there.



Guest [23](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 8:06 PM

I think that the new 6.0(.2?) feature of being able to share run/debug settings goes a long way, at least for us.

That was our last need to share an .iws in the SCM system and now it's resolved (it's not even in the on-line help...).

I would vote no for that.

We'll finally go from 3 to 2 IntelliJ file types (.ipr and all .iml files) in SCM, I don't think it will do us any good to have multiple types.

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Thanks,

Amnon

Maxim Shafirov wrote:

We have an idea to split single .ipr file into multiple configuration files like

- code style scheme
- inspection profiles
- project libraries
- shared run configurations
- etc.

Basically, the problem is .ipr files is supposed to be versioned but it changes way too often and changes are hard to track. As the side effect we could support graceful reload of named settings on external change like VCS update.

What do you think?



[Maxim Drobintsev](#) 45 posts since

Sep 22, 2006 [24](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 23, 2006 9:09 PM

I suggest to keep the existing project(.ipr) file around and just move the components that you want to treat separately in a subdirectory. This way you can preserve the existing behavior of opening a project upon double-click on the .ipr file. The stuff to keep in the .ipr file is:

- ProjectModuleManager

- ProjectRootManager

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- information about the subdirectory where other stuff is kept

Maxim.



[Boaz Nahum](#) 193 posts since

Jul 29, 2004 [25](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 12:34 AM

Yes great idea. Will solve many of our problems.

But i want to suggest a small step forward, something that will solve our problems completely:Each file will consist of two parts, one i taken from he default location were .jpr is and the other can be taken from other relative or absolute location.

This will allow us for example to share run configuration and on the other end, to add some personal configurations.(same goes for inspection[which is big problem today] and others)

Thank

Boaz



Guest [26](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 12:43 AM

Boaz Nahum wrote:

Yes great idea. Will solve many of our problems.

But i want to suggest a small step forward, something that will solve our problems completely:Each file will consist of two parts, one i taken from he default location were .jpr is and the other can be taken from other relative or absolute location.

This will allow us for example to share run configuration and on the other end, to add some personal configurations.(same goes for inspection[which is big problem today] and others)

You can already do that with configurations, as in the 6.0.2 EAP there's

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a checkbox to share a configuration which moves it to the ipr.

Amnon



[Boaz Nahum](#) 193 posts since

Jul 29, 2004 27. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 12:46 AM

Yes, but i can take from other place other then .ipr - you see i wan to share configurations(and other settings) between PROJECTS and users.

Regards

Boaz



Guest 28. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 2:30 AM

Boaz Nahum wrote:

Yes, but i can take from other place other then .ipr - you see i wan to share configurations(and other settings) between PROJECTS and users.

Between users is basically covered. Between projects? Well, that is something else that may make sense to some people, though I don't think that splitting the IPR further would help here, but possibly allowing other partial files to be used in conjunction, thus allowing projects like ours to continue as they are now, but environments like yours to use additional files as well.

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Amnon



[Boaz Nahum](#) 193 posts since

Jul 29, 2004 29. Re: **Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 7:10 PM

Thanks For Your Reply.

I guess I'm missing something-

You said:

Between users is basically covered.

Can you share settings (for example run configurations) without share .ipr or .iws ? and allowing individual to add it's private run configurations ? how you do it ? It is very useful for us.

A more urgent need for us - how can we share settings or JDK tables definition between users and again allowing individual add it's own JDKs ?

These question are critical to our project. Today distributing these settings between 60 developers is a nightmare, and in some cases we just give up.

Thanks

Boaz

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[Keith Lea](#) 1,286 posts since

Sep 8, 2002 30. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 24, 2006 8:02 PM

Boaz, at my company we don't share ipr/iws/iml files, but we all use the same templates when checking out code. So when you check out, you copy /idea/project.i\* into the checkout root, and open that in IDEA. You never check those files back in.

If you want to change a run configuration, which is rare, you simply open those template files, change what you want to change, and check them back in.

However, on a smaller project that I work on, I do share ipr and iml files (not iws files). This seems to work okay although I wish I could check in parts of the file but not other parts. Why don't you want to share iml and ipr files?



[Boaz Nahum](#) 193 posts since

Jul 29, 2004 31. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 25, 2006 11:01 AM

Hi Keith.

We work with ClearCase and we don't have such a concept(or we are not used to think this way) of check in/out a whole project.

How ever what important is your question: share \*.iml and \*.ipr files. I think i need to check this option again with IntelliJ 6. What prevent us doing it till now is we never want the user check out this files. My big question is: now with IntelliJ 6, is it possible for every modification i made (not including changing project structure) is to choose where is be should shared (placed in .ipr) or should it private (placed in .iws) ?

We here all appreciate your support.

Regards

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Boaz



[Ruben Boer](#) 149 posts since

Jan 3, 2003 [32](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Oct 25, 2006 1:08 PM

Great idea

>dedicated directory

+1



[suedkm](#) 5 posts since

Feb 20, 2007 [33](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Jan 27, 2010 4:27 PM

+1

Unfortunately the poll is from 2006 so it has lead to nothing? We would need different codestyles in a project.



[Dmitry Jemerov](#) 11,708 posts since

Aug 19, 2002 [34](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Jan 27, 2010 4:43 PM

Hello suedkm,

+1

Unfortunately the poll is from 2006 so it has lead to nothing? We would need different codestyles in a project.

Directory-based project format is supported since IDEA 8.1.

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--

Dmitry Jemerov

Development Lead

JetBrains, Inc.

<http://www.jetbrains.com/>

"Develop with Pleasure!"



[suedkm](#) 5 posts since

Feb 20, 2007 [35](#). **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Jan 27, 2010 5:48 PM

Thank you Dimitry,

I think I missed the point. I thought that this feature would help me maintain different codestyles in a project. The author of this issue mentioned codestyles but in relation to merge conflicts and not in my sense.

Do you see any possibility to do what I need? Reason our project consists of several CVS modules which have different codestyle rules. We seem to be unable to apply different automatic codestyle rules for each of them.

Best regards

Michael

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**Dmitry Jemerov** 11,708 posts since

Aug 19, 2002 36. **Re: Poll: Split project (.ipr) file into multiple files** Jan 27, 2010 6:13 PM

Hello Michael,

IntelliJ IDEA does not currently support per-module code styles. You can watch/vote for IDEABKL-2988 to get notified when this is implemented.

I think I missed the point. I thought that this feature would help me maintain different codestyles in a project. The author of this issue mentioned codestyles but in relation to merge conflicts and not in my sense.

Do you see any possibility to do what I need? Reason our project consists of several CVS modules which have different codestyle rules. We seem to be unable to apply different automatic codestyle rules for each of them.

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Development Lead

JetBrains, Inc.

<http://www.jetbrains.com/>

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