

# What is "Open in New (Directory Based)...

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[Esko Luontola](#) 117 posts since

Feb 11, 2005

I noticed that the latest EAP has a menu item "File | Open in New

(Directory Based) Format". What does it do? What is that new format and

how does it work? When does it make sense to use it?

I tried it once and it seems that it created a ".idea" directory with

lots of config files under the project root directory. I did not

understand its benefits, so I reverted the changes.

--

Esko Luontola

[www.orfjackal.net](http://www.orfjackal.net)



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

Aug 19, 2002 1. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jan 26, 2009 1:56 PM

Hello Esko,

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What is "Open in New (Directory Based)...

I tried it once and it seems that it created a ".idea" directory with lots of config files under the project root directory. I did not understand its benefits, so I reverted the changes.

The main benefit of the directory-based format is avoiding merge conflicts when working in a team. Each logically independent piece of the configuration is stored in a separate file, so, for example, when someone updates an inspection profile and you have some local changes in a shared run configuration, there's no merge operation involved.

--

Dmitry Jemerov

Development Lead

JetBrains, Inc.

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

"Develop with Pleasure!"



Guest 2. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jan 27, 2009 12:53 AM

Hm, will the update work smoothly as far as team collaboration is concerned?

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)..."

- I update the project to use the directory based format
- IDEA deletes the \*.ipr (and \*.iml?) files from disk
- I commit (IDEA commits the project files deletion and the project directory addition)
- my coworkers update
- on their machines IDEA detects the missing project files and the new project directory

Or will I have to tell everybody to shut down IDEA, update, then load the project from a different place?

(Would be kind of strange for a feature that should ease collaboration via vcs.)

Dmitry Jemerov wrote:

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

Aug 19, 2002 3. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jan 27, 2009 1:23 PM

Hello Stephen,

The conversion doesn't delete anything. If a directory contains both the .ipr file and the .idea directory, .idea takes precedence.

Most likely you will want to delete the .ipr file manually and ask your colleagues to reload the project, but this is just a one-time inconvenience which brings many subsequent benefits. 😊

Hm, will the update work smoothly as far as team collaboration is concerned?

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Dmitry Jemerov

Development Lead

JetBrains, Inc.

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

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[Justin Stockton](#) 9 posts since

Jun 12, 2009 4. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jun 25, 2009 11:42 PM

Sorry to dig this up from January, but what about the \*.iws file? Can that be deleted as well so that only the \*.iml file remains? The .idea directory that is created in the conversion contains a workspace.xml file that has the same contents as the \*.iws file however the .idea/workspace.xml file is blocked in the ignore list and can't be checked in unless I override it. This is great later on, but if I commit my new .idea directory to SVN and the rest of my team downloads it, where will they get the workspace.xml file?

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)..."

Btw: This thread would be a good candidate to be rewritten into the FAQ as this is the only place in the community that I've found information about how to convert from the .ipr file based config to the new .idea directory based configs.

- Justin



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

Aug 19, 2002 5. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jun 26, 2009 4:18 PM

Hello Justin,

Yes, the .iws file can be deleted.

Your colleagues do not need your workspace.xml file because it contains settings specific to your workspace. You should never store .iws or workspace.xml files in version control systems.

Sorry to dig this up from January, but what about the \*.iws file? Can that be deleted as well so that only the \*.iml file remains? The .idea directory that is created in the conversion contains a workspace.xml file that has the same contents as the \*.iws file however the .idea/workspace.xml file is blocked is on the ignore list and can't be checked in unless I override it. This is great later on, but if I commit my new .idea directory to

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Original message URL:

<http://www.jetbrains.com/devnet/message/5240792#5240792>

--

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What is "Open in New (Directory Based)..."



[Jean Sini](#) 4 posts since

Jul 23, 2009 6. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jul 23, 2009 10:49 PM

Hi Dmitry,

we're using the directory-based format for our project, and running build #9902 (that fixes an issue where the .idea sub-directories were overwritten by IDEA and losing their own .svn sub-directories in the process, making them hard to source-control). What are best practices about what to source-control (thus share) what not to? Intuitively, it seems that we'd want to share anything that doesn't contain developer specific settings (such as file paths), but things might be subtler than that. Is there any documentation about which files and directories under .idea should be source-controlled?

Thanks,

Jean



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

Aug 19, 2002 7. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jul 24, 2009 1:56 PM

Hello Jean,

All files except for workspace.xml are designed to be stored in source control.

we're using the directory-based format for our project, and running build #9902 (that fixes an issue where the .idea sub-directories were overwritten by IDEA and losing their own .svn sub-directories in the process, making them hard to source-control). What are best practices about what to source-control (thus share) what not to? Intuitively, it seems that we'd want

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Dmitry Jemerov

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[Jean Sini](#) 4 posts since

Jul 23, 2009 8. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jul 24, 2009 10:11 PM

Hi Dmitry,

Thanks for your prompt reply,

I noticed the following fragment in .idea/misc.xml:

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)...

```
<component name="ProjectKey">  
  <option name="state" value="project://C:\Blah\idea\misc.xml" />  
</component>
```

with C:\Blah being developer- and project-dependent.

Am I doing something wrong in terms of project settings, as it seems this path might be problematic on others' machines?

Thanks,

Best regards,

Jean



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

Aug 19, 2002 9. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jul 27, 2009 1:26 PM

Hello Jean,

Which VCS integration are you using in IntelliJ IDEA?

Thanks for your prompt reply,

I noticed the following fragment in .idea/misc.xml:

```
<component name="ProjectKey">  
  <option name="state" value="project://C:\Blah\idea\misc.xml" />  
</component>
```

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)...

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[Jean Sini](#) 4 posts since

Jul 23, 2009 10. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jul 27, 2009 9:23 PM

Hi Dmitry,

We use the built in Subversion integration feature in IntelliJ IDEA (#9902). We also use the Tortoise SVN client

Under File/Settings -> Version Control / VCS / Subversion, we checked the "Use system default Subversion configuration directory" box.

Thanks,

Jean

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)..."



[Jean Sini](#) 4 posts since

Jul 23, 2009 11. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Jul 29, 2009 2:53 AM

Hi Dmitry,

let me know if you need more information about our project settings.

This absolute path is the only one appearing in misc.xml, or any file within .idea and its subfolders, by the way. Everything else is using the \$PROJECT\_DIR\$ variable.

Incidentally, we use the "relative paths" setting for both the project itself and its modules.

Best regards,

Jean



[Anthony Horne](#) 1 posts since

Jul 30, 2009 12. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Aug 3, 2009 6:10 PM

Dmitry,

What is the purpose of the "ProjectKey" entry? I have this entry in misc.xml:

```
<component name="ProjectKey">  
  <option name="state" value="our.perforce.hostname:1666://" />  
</component>
```

Will there be any problems if other developers use this? I think I read somewhere that this has something to do with file indexing/caching or something like that...

Edit: After I open the re-opened the project, IntelliJ modifies the misc.xml and changes the ProjectKey:

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)...

```
<component name="ProjectKey">  
  <option name="state" value="C:\MyProjectDirectory\idea\misc.xml" />  
</component>
```



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

Aug 19, 2002 13. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Aug 10, 2009 4:30 PM

Hello Anthony,

The project key is used for storing workspace files on the settings sharing server. You can disable the IDEA Server plugin if you don't use this functionality and don't want the entry to appear.

What is the purpose of the "ProjectKey" entry? I have this entry in misc.xml:

```
<component name="ProjectKey">  
  <option name="state" value="our.perforce.hostname:1666://" />  
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[Shane Witbeck](#) 38 posts since

Aug 19, 2002 14. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Aug 20, 2009 1:51 AM

I'm running into an issue with misc.xml getting changed when a colleague pulls this file from Perforce.

Should this file be checked into a SCM if we wish to share settings or should it be off limits like workspace.xml should be?

It seems my colleague picked up changes from the Idea Server settings.



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

Aug 19, 2002 15. Re: **What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Aug 20, 2009 1:33 PM

Hello Shane,

misc.xml is supposed to be sharable. What exactly changed in the file?

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)..."

I'm running into an issue with misc.xml getting changed when a colleague pulls this file from Perforce.

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[Shane Witbeck](#) 38 posts since

Aug 29, 2002 16. **Re: What is "Open in New (Directory Based) Format"?** Aug 20, 2009 4:44 PM

Dmitry,

One additional piece of information is that I found that my colleague had the Idea Server Plugin enabled but I did not. Would the plugin being enabled impact this issue?

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)..."

Here are examples of what changes occur in misc.xml:

```
<UsedPathMacros>  
  <macro name="HOME" />
```

changes to:

```
<UsedPathMacros>  
  <macro name="HOME" description="" />
```

Also, this element changes from:

```
<component name="ProjectKey">  
  <option name="state" value="project://default" />  
</component>
```

to:

```
<component name="ProjectKey">  
  <option name="state" value="nyggmmbd1:11666:///depot/spg/beaver/.idea/misc.xml" />  
</component>
```

What is "Open in New (Directory Based)..."

I believe there were other changes in addition to the above.

Thanks,

Shane