

# IntelliJ 9's native ctrl+tab has a...

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Aardwolf 99 posts since

Aug 24, 2009

Hello,

I was delighted to see that IntelliJ 9 offered ctrl+tab natively, instead of through the tabswitch plugin. However after using it for a few weeks, I have to go back to the tabswitch plugin anyway, because it turns out to be better for my purpose.

The main reason I use CTRL+tab is to easily switch between the current file I'm editing and the previous one, making it very easy to be working in two files at once.

At first sight, ctrl+tab of IntelliJ does that, exactly like the tabswitch plugin used to do in IntelliJ 8.

I discovered however that at seemingly random times, pressing ctrl+tab shortly in IntelliJ 9 doesn't bring up the previous file, but instead, a random pane (such as "Ant Build" or "Maven Projects"), or a random java file (instead of the previous one).

This happens regularly enough to be an annoyance and a reason for me to disable the native ctrl+tab and use tabswitch plugin instead again.

I also discovered the reason for this seemingly random behaviour now: If the mouse pointer happens to be over the place where the popup window appears when you shortly tap ctrl+tab, and the mouse accidentally moves 1 pixel during that time, then it goes to the file in the list where the mouse pointer was over.

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For me the above is problematic enough to use the old plugin again. But it sure is a shame to not be able to use the native functionality instead for such a dumb reason...

Maybe mouse movement over the native ctrl+tab popup window should not have any influence, unless you actually press a button? In the tabswitch plugin mouse movement also has no influence.

It's pretty important to me because when working on multiple files at the same time it's important to have a reliable, taking not-too-much-brainpower, way of switching between the most recent files, and since the editor tabs are always in a seemingly random order (instead of e.g. the most recently edited ones nicely ordered in a predictable and visible location), it's things like ctrl+tab that are the life-saver instead!

Am I being way too picky? Does this kind of thing annoy anyone else or am I the only one. Does anyone else have such usage habits, could my usage habits be wrong?



[Wi Wi](#) 206 posts since

Mar 28, 2005 1. **Re: IntelliJ 9's native ctrl+tab has a problem that Tabswitch plugin hasn't got...** Jan 27, 2010 3:12 PM

> Am I being way too picky? Does this kind of thing annoy anyone else or am I the only one. Does anyone else have such usage habits, could my usage habits be wrong?

i'm here 😊

totally agree with you



[Jeff Olson](#) 3 posts since

Nov 19, 2008 2. **Re: IntelliJ 9's native ctrl+tab has a problem that Tabswitch plugin hasn't got...** Feb 9, 2010 12:36 AM

I wholeheartedly agree...I just switched back to Tabswitch because of this.

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[Dave Lorde](#) 570 posts since

Aug 21, 2002 3. Re: IntelliJ 9's native ctrl+tab has a problem that Tabswitch plugin hasn't got... Feb 9, 2010 2:44 PM

I agree - it's too unpredictable. Better to require a mouse click (or a keystroke) to select an item when the popup is displayed.



Guest 4. Re: Tabswitch plugin better than IntelliJ 9's native ctrl+tab... Feb 17, 2010 4:05 PM

Aardwolf wrote:

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