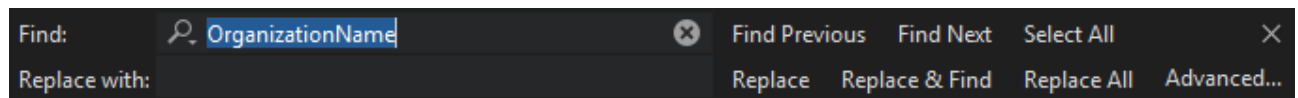


Finding and Replacing


To search through the currently open file:

1. Press **Ctrl+F** or select **Edit > Find/Replace > Find/Replace**.
2. In **Find**, enter the text you are looking for.



If the text is found, all occurrences are highlighted as you type.

3. To go to the next occurrence, click **> (Find Next)**, or press **F3**. To go to the previous occurrence click **< (Find Previous)**, or press **Shift+F3**.
4. To select all found occurrences in a file, select **Select All**.

You can restrict the search in the **Find** field by selecting . Select one or several search criteria:

- > To make your search case sensitive, select **Case Sensitive**.
- > To search only whole words, select **Whole Words Only**.
- > To search using regular expressions, select **Use Regular Expressions**. Regular expressions used in Qt Creator are modeled on Perl regular expressions. For more information on using regular expressions, see the documentation for the [QRegularExpression Class](#).

Note: If you have selected text before selecting **Find/Replace**, the search is conducted within the selection.

To replace occurrences of the existing text, enter the new text in the **Replace with** field.

- > To replace the selected occurrence and move to the next one, click **Find Next** or press **Ctrl+=**.
- > To replace the selected occurrence and move to the previous one, click **Find Previous**.
- > To replace all occurrences in the file, click **Replace All**.

The **Preserve Case when Replacing** option can be selected to preserve the case of the original text when replacing. This option is not compatible with the **Use Regular Expressions** search option, and will thus be disabled when regular expressions are used. When the option is used, the case of the occurrence will be conserved, according to the following rules:

- > All upper-case occurrences are replaced with the upper-case new text.
- > All lower-case occurrences are replaced with the lower-case new text.

- › If an occurrence and the new text have the same prefix or suffix, then the case of the prefix and/or suffix are preserved, and the other rules are applied on the rest of the occurrence only.

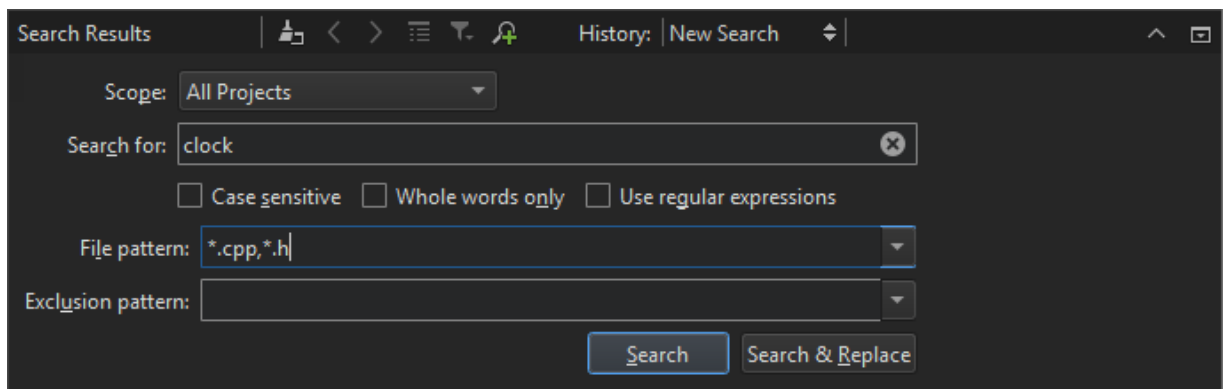
The locations of search hits, breakpoints, and bookmarks in your document are highlighted on the editor scroll bar. To turn highlighting off, select **Edit > Preferences > Text Editor > Display > Highlight search results on the scrollbar**.

To search using more advanced options, select **Advanced**.

Advanced Search

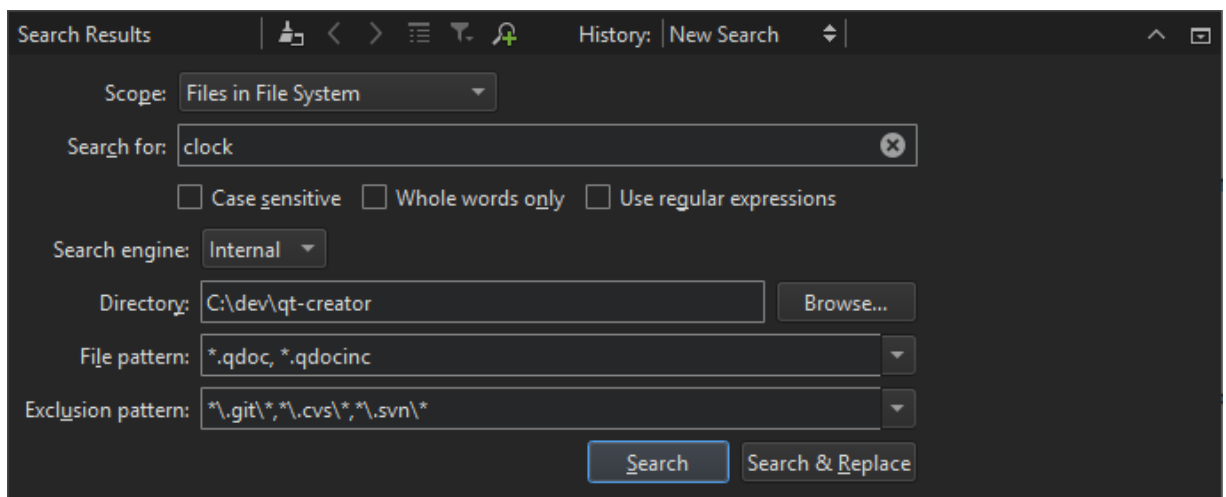
To search through projects, files on a file system, files in all project directories, or currently open files:

1. Press **Ctrl+Shift+F** or select **Edit > Find/Replace > Advanced Find > Open Advanced Find**.
2. Select the scope of your search:
 - › **All Projects** searches from all currently open projects.



If you cannot find some files, see [Specifying Project Contents](#) for how to declare them as a part of the project.

- › **Current Project** searches from the project you are currently editing.
- › **Files in All Project Directories** searches from all project directories.
- › **Files in File System** recursively searches from the selected directory.



In the **Search engine** field, select the search engine to use:

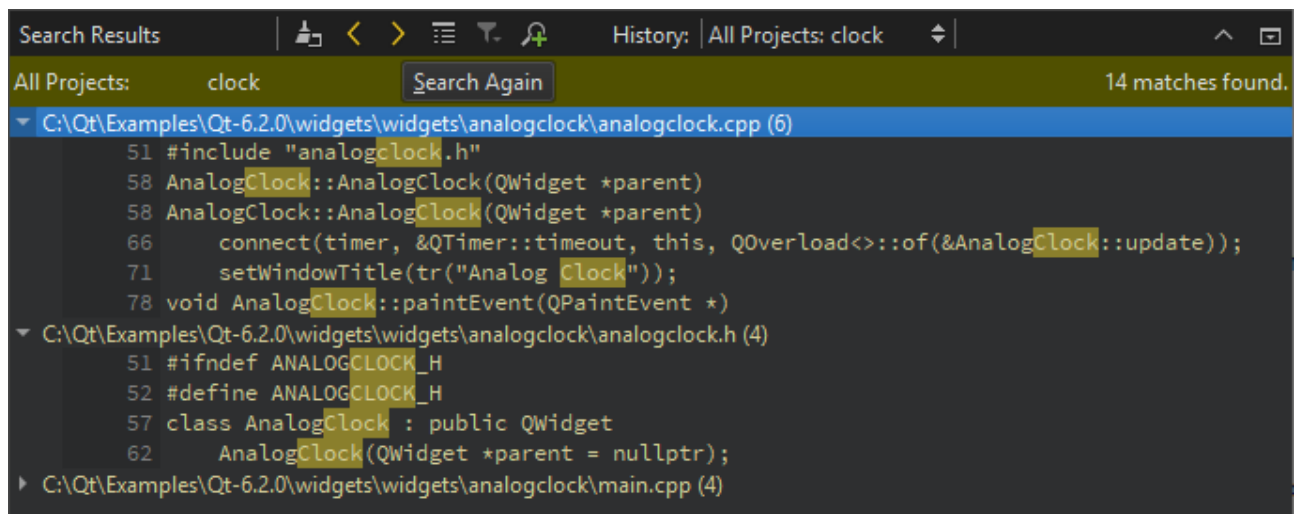
- › Select **Internal** to use the Qt Creator search engine.

empty to search through the file system.

- › Select **Silver Searcher** to use the experimental Silver Searcher plugin. For more information, see [Enabling Silver Searcher](#).

- › **Current File** searches only from the current file.
- › **Open Documents** searches from all open files.

3. In the **File pattern** field, specify file patterns to restrict the search to files that match the pattern. For example, to search for a string only in `.cpp` and `.h` files, enter `*.cpp, *.h`.
4. In the **Exclusion pattern** field, specify file patterns to omit files from the search.
5. Enter the text you are looking for and click **Search**.




A list of files containing the searched text is displayed in [Search Results](#).

- › To see all occurrences in a file, double-click the file name in the list.
- › To go to an occurrence, double-click it.
- › To repeat the search after you have made changes to the listed files, for example, select **Search Again**.

The search results are stored in the search history from which you can select earlier searches.

To clear the search results, select the  (**Clear**) button.

To expand and collapse the search results, select the **Expand All** button.

To start a new search, select the  (**New Search**) button.

Note: You can use **Advanced Find** also to search for symbols. For more information, see [Finding Symbols](#).

Enabling Silver Searcher

You can use Silver Searcher as a search engine in Qt Creator if you install Silver Searcher on the development PC and enable the experimental plugin.

To use Silver Searcher:



You might have to build Silver Searcher from sources for some platforms.

2. Select **Help > About Plugins > Utilities > SilverSearcher** to enable the plugin.
3. Select **Restart Now** to restart Qt Creator and load the plugin.
4. When searching, select **Silver Searcher** in the **Search engine** field.
5. If Silver Searcher is not found, you might have installed it in a location that is not found via the PATH environment variable. Select **Edit > Preferences > Environment > System** (or **Qt Creator > Preferences > Environment > System** on macOS), then select **Change** in the **Environment** field and add an entry `PATH=/path/to/bin:${PATH}`.

[< Finding](#)[Searching with the Locator >](#)

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