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Using External Tools

You can use external tools directly from Qt Design Studio. Qt Linguist, QML preview tools, and the default text editor for your system are preconfigured for use. You can change their default configurations and configure new tools.

To run the tools, select **Tools** > **External**, or use the x filter in the locator.

Using Qt Linguist

When you create a new project, you can automatically generate a translation source file (TS) for one language. You can add other languages later by editing the project file.

You can use the Qt Linguist release manager tools, lupdate and lrelease, directly from Qt Design Studio. The lupdate tool is used to synchronize source code and translations. The lrelease tool is used to create run-time translation files for use by the released application.

> **Note:** Running the tools from Qt Design Studio is supported only when using qmake as the build system. For more information about using the tools with CMake, see Qt6::LinguistTools.

To synchronize TS files from a translator with the application code, select **Tools** > **External** > **Linguist** > **Update Translations (lupdate)**.

To generate from the TS files Qt message (QM) files that can be used by an application, select **Tools** > **External** > **Linguist** > **Release Translations (lrelease)**.

By default, the project .pro file is passed to the tools as an argument. To specify other command line arguments for the tools, select **Tools** > **External** > **Configure**.

To open TS files in Qt Linguist, right-click a TS file in the **Projects** or **File System** view and select **Open With** > **Qt Linguist** in the context menu. For more information about Qt Linguist, see Qt Linguist Manual.

Running QML Files

You can test the current QML document while you are developing an application.

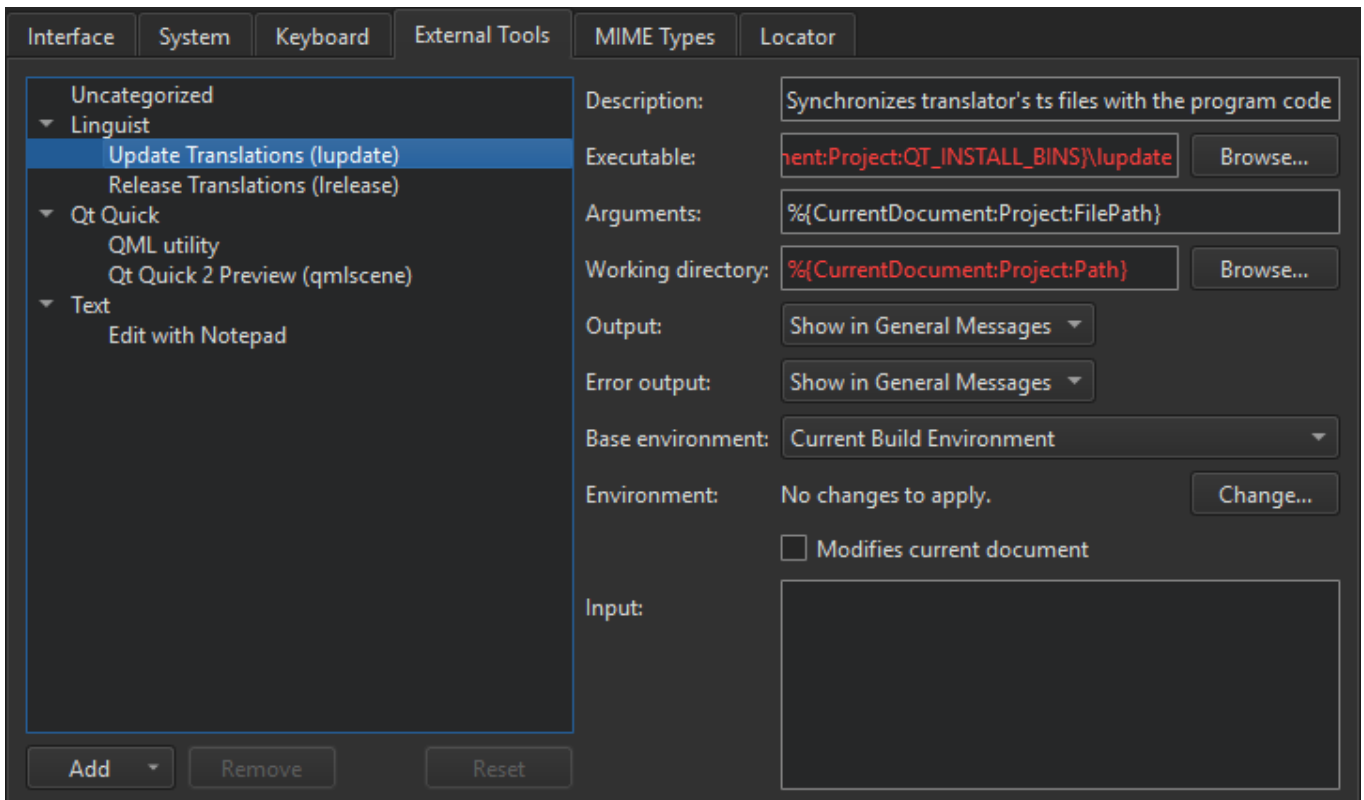To run the currently active QML file, select **Tools** > **External** > **Qt Quick** > **QML Runtime**.

Using External Text Editors

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Notepad or **Edit with vi**, depending on your system.

Qt Design Studio looks for the editor path in the PATH environment variable of your operating system.

Configuring External Tools

You can change the configuration of preconfigured tools and configure additional tools in Qt Design Studio **Preferences**.

Select the ⊞ (**Variables**) button in a field to select from a list of variables that are available in a particular context.

To configure external tools:

1. Select **Tools** > **External** > **Configure**.

2. Select **Add** > **Add Tool** to add a new tool. You can also select **Add Category** to add a new category.

3. In the **Executable** field, specify the executable to run. If the executable is found in your system PATH variable, do not specify the path to it.

4. In the **Arguments** field, specify optional arguments for running the executable.

5. In the **Working directory** field, specify the path to the working directory.

6. In the **Output** field, select how to handle output from the tool. You can ignore the output, view it in General Messages, or replace the selected text with the output in the code editor.

7. In the **Error output** field, select how to handle error messages from the tool.

8. In the **Base environment** field, use the default settings.

9. In the **Environment** field, select **Change** to modify environment variable values for build and run environments in the **Edit Environment Changes** dialog.

   To globally change the system environment from the one in which Qt Design Studio is started, select **Edit** > **Preferences** > **Environment** > **System**, and then select **Change** in the **Environment** field.

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11. In the **Input** field, specify text that is passed as standard input to the tool.

The category and tool are added to the **Tools** > **External** menu.

If you change the configuration of preconfigured tools, you can later revert the changes by selecting the **Reset** button.

The tool configurations that you add and modify are stored in XML format in the user configuration folder. For example, `~/config/QtProject/qtcreator/externaltools` on Linux and macOS and `C:\Users\username\AppData\Roaming\QtProject\qtcreator\externaltools` in Windows. To share a configuration with other users, copy an XML configuration file to the folder.

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