

# Comparing Files

You can use a diff editor to display unsaved changes in the current file or all open files or to compare any two text files that can be either versions of the same file or arbitrary files.

To view unsaved changes in the current file, select **Tools > Diff > Diff Current File**.

To view unsaved changes in all open files, select **Tools > Diff > Diff Open Files**.

To compare two files:

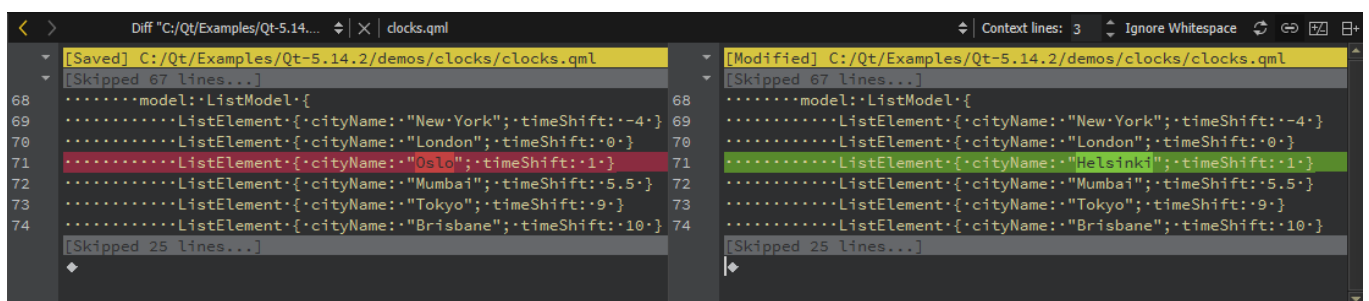
1. Select **Tools > Diff > Diff External Files**.
2. Select two files to compare.

To compare the currently opened file against another file in a project or the filesystem:

1. Open the first file in an editor.
2. Right click on the second file in the **Projects** or **File System** view and select **Diff Against Current File**.


If Qt Creator cannot detect the encoding of the files to compare, an info bar appears that displays the option to reload the document using some other encoding. For more information, see [File Encoding](#).

## Viewing the Changes




The changes are displayed in the **Edit** mode. Color coding is used to mark changed lines. By default, red indicates lines that contain removed text (painted another shade of red) in the left pane and green indicates lines that contain added text (painted another shade of green) in the right pane.

To revert the changes, right-click added text and then select **Revert Chunk** in the context menu. To apply the changes, select removed text and then select **Apply Chunk**.

To view the differences in a unified view where changed rows are placed below each other, select  (**Switch to Unified Diff Editor**).

To only show text changes, select **Ignore Whitespace**.

To expand the context for the changes, set the number of unchanged lines to show in **Context lines**.

By default, the horizontal scroll bars in the left and right pane are synchronized. To use them independently of each other, select the  (**Synchronize Horizontal Scroll Bars**) button.

If the files change outside Qt Creator, select  (**Reload Editor**) to compare them again and to show the results.

To send a chunk of changes to a [code pasting service](#), select **Send Chunk to CodePaster** in the context menu.

## Changing the Colors

To change the default colors, select **Edit > Preferences > Text Editor > Font & Colors**. Create your own color scheme and select new colors for the following items:

- › **Diff File Line** sets the color of the line that shows the path and filename of the changed file.
- › **Diff Context Line** sets the color of the line that shows the number of hidden lines between changed lines.
- › **Diff Source Line** sets the color of lines that contain removed text.
- › **Diff Source Character** sets the color that indicates removed characters.
- › **Diff Destination Line** sets the color of lines that contain added text.
- › **Diff Destination Character** sets the color that indicates added characters.

[◀ Using Text Editing Macros](#)

[Parsing C++ Files with the Clang Code Model ▶](#)

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