# Notes about the `tools/icu` subdirectory

This directory contains tools and information about the International Components for Unicode (ICU) integration. Both V8 and Node.js use ICU to provide internationalization functionality.

- `patches/` are one-off patches, actually entire source file replacements, organized by ICU version number.
- `icu_small.json` controls the "small" (English only) ICU. It is input to `icutrim.py`
- `icu-generic.gyp` is the build file used for most ICU builds within ICU.
- `icu-system.gyp` is an alternate build file used when `--with-intl=system-icu` is invoked. It builds against the `pkg-config` located ICU.
- `iculslocs.cc` is source for the `iculslocs` utility, invoked by `icutrim.py` as part of repackaging. Not used separately. See source for more details.
- `no-op.cc` contains an empty function to convince gyp to use a C++ compiler.
- `shrink-icu-src.py` is used during upgrade (see guide below).

Note:

> The files in this directory were written for the Node.js v0.12 effort. The original intent was to merge the tools such as `icutrim.py` and `iculslocs.cc` back into ICU. ICU has gained its own "data slicer" tool. There is an issue open, https://github.com/nodejs/node/issues/25136 for replacing `icutrim.py` with the ICU data slicer.

## See Also

- docs/guides/maintaining-icu.md for information on maintaining ICU in Node.js

- docs/api/intl.md for information on the internationalization-related APIs in Node.js

- The ICU Homepage