

IDE Switcher User Manual

Quick Start

Once installed, simply press **Ctrl+Shift+D** in either Delphi or VS Code/WindSurf to switch between them.

Features

Automatic File Synchronization

- **Auto-save:** Files are automatically saved before switching
- **Auto-open:** Files automatically open in the target IDE
- **Position preservation:** Cursor position is maintained exactly

Supported Scenarios

Basic Switching

- **Single file editing:** Edit the same file in both IDEs seamlessly
- **Project navigation:** Switch while navigating through multiple files
- **Quick corrections:** Jump to Delphi for IntelliSense, back to WindSurf for AI assistance

Advanced Use Cases

1. Mixed development workflow

- Write code structure in Delphi with full IntelliSense
- Switch to WindSurf for AI-powered completion
- Switch back to Delphi for debugging

2. Code review workflow

- Review in VS Code with better Git integration
- Fix issues in Delphi with compiler feedback
- Seamlessly move between both

3. Learning workflow

- Use WindSurf's AI to generate code examples
- Study and debug in Delphi's familiar environment

Usage Instructions

Basic Operation

1. Ensure both IDEs have access to the same files

- Open the same project/folder in both IDEs

- Or work with standalone files accessible to both

2. Start editing in either IDE

- Open any source file
- Position your cursor where you're working

3. Press Ctrl+Shift+D to switch

- Current file is saved
- Other IDE activates
- Same file opens at same position

4. Continue working

- Make changes
- Press Ctrl+Shift+D to switch back
- Changes are preserved

Keyboard Shortcuts

Action	Shortcut	Where
Switch to other IDE	Ctrl+Shift+D	Both IDEs
Cancel switch	Esc	During switch

Status Indicators

In Delphi

- Plugin loaded: "IDE Switcher Plugin Loaded" message on startup
- Switch initiated: File saves automatically
- Error: Message dialog appears

In VS Code/WindSurf

- Extension active: "IDE Switcher Ready" notification
- Switch initiated: File saves automatically
- Error: Notification in bottom-right corner

Best Practices

File Organization

✓ DO:

- Keep files in consistent locations
- Use the same project root in both IDEs

- Maintain consistent file encoding (UTF-8 recommended)

❌ DON'T:

- Use symbolic links that only one IDE can resolve
- Edit files on network drives with different mappings
- Use different line endings in each IDE

Workflow Tips

1. For maximum efficiency:

- Set up identical formatting rules in both IDEs
- Use the same tab size (spaces vs tabs)
- Configure similar color themes to reduce visual jarring

2. For debugging:

- Set breakpoints in Delphi
- Write test code in WindSurf with AI help
- Switch to Delphi to run and debug

3. For refactoring:

- Use Delphi's refactoring tools for type-safe changes
- Use VS Code's multi-cursor and regex for text manipulation
- Switch between them as needed

Troubleshooting

Common Issues

"File not found" after switching

Cause: Different working directories **Solution:** Use absolute paths or ensure both IDEs open the same project folder

Cursor position is off by a few characters

Cause: Different tab settings **Solution:** Configure both IDEs to use the same tab width and space/tab preference

Switching is slow (>1 second)

Cause: Large file being saved or antivirus scanning **Solution:**

- Exclude project folders from real-time antivirus scanning
- Ensure files are on local SSD, not network drive

Hotkey doesn't work

Cause: Another application or IDE plugin using Ctrl+Shift+D **Solution:**

- Check keyboard shortcut conflicts in both IDEs
- Temporarily disable other extensions to identify conflicts

Error Messages

Error	Meaning	Solution
"No active file to switch"	No file is open in current IDE	Open a file before switching
"Could not connect to [IDE]"	Target IDE plugin/extension not running	Ensure both components are installed and active
"File save failed"	Current file couldn't be saved	Check file permissions and disk space
"Invalid cursor position"	Position data corrupted	Try switching again, restart if persists

Configuration

VS Code Settings

Access via: File → Preferences → Settings → Extensions → IDE Switcher

- **ideSwitcher.autoSave:** - Enable automatic saving
- **ideSwitcher.delphiExecutable:** - Custom Delphi IDE location
- **ideSwitcher.showNotifications:** - Show status notifications
- **ideSwitcher.switchDelay:** - Milliseconds to wait before switching

Delphi Settings

Currently configured in source code constants. Future version will have IDE options dialog.

Limitations

Current Limitations

- **Windows only:** Uses Windows named pipes for communication
- **Single instance:** Only one instance of each IDE supported
- **Text files only:** Binary files don't preserve cursor position
- **Local files:** Network files may have delays

Planned Features

- Multiple IDE instance support
- Project-wide state preservation (all open files)

- Bookmark and breakpoint synchronization
- Selected text preservation
- Folded code region synchronization

Tips & Tricks

Power User Features

1. Rapid prototyping:

- Generate boilerplate with WindSurf AI
- Switch to Delphi
- Compile and test
- Switch back for AI refinements

2. Learning new APIs:

- Ask WindSurf AI for examples
- Switch to Delphi to see IntelliSense
- Understand the types and parameters
- Switch back to ask follow-up questions

3. Code review preparation:

- Write code in Delphi
- Switch to VS Code
- Use GitLens to see history
- Make review-based changes
- Switch back to test

Performance Tips

- **Faster switching:** Keep both IDEs on SSD
- **Reduce delay:** Disable auto-save if you manually save
- **Smoother transition:** Use similar themes in both IDEs
- **Better accuracy:** Use fixed-width fonts in both IDEs

FAQ

Q: Can I change the hotkey? A: Not through UI yet. Edit source code and recompile.

Q: Does it work with Lazarus instead of Delphi? A: Not tested, but should work with minor modifications.

Q: Can I use it with other VS Code forks? A: Yes, any VS Code-based editor (WindSurf, Cursor, etc.) should work.

Q: Is my code sent anywhere? A: No, all communication is local between your IDEs only.

Q: Can multiple developers use this on the same machine? A: Yes, named pipes are user-session specific.

Q: Does it work with Remote SSH in VS Code? A: No, both IDEs must be on the same machine.

Support

For issues, feature requests, or contributions:

- Check the Implementation Guidelines document for technical details
- See the AI Agent Instructions for code structure
- Report bugs with: IDE versions, Windows version, error messages

Version History

- **v1.0.0:** Initial release
 - Basic switching functionality
 - Auto-save and auto-open
 - Cursor position preservation