How to increase IDE memory limit in IntelliJ IDEA on Mac?

Asked 10 years, 5 months ago   Modified 1 year ago   Viewed 297k times

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I'm using IDEA 12 Leda on Mountain Lion. I wanted to increase the maximum memory that IDE can use. I set the VMOptions in Info.plist file to be `-Xmx2048m -ea -XX:+HeapDumpOnOutOfMemoryError -Xverify:none -Xbootclasspath/a:../lib/boot.jar`

When I open up IDEA, I still see the maximum memory to be 711m.

`jps -v` shows my VMOptions has been loaded but it's replaced by the following options.

```
29388  **-Xmx2048m** -ea -XX:+HeapDumpOnOutOfMemoryError -Xverify:none -
Xbootclasspath/a:../lib/boot.jar -Xms128m **-Xmx800m** -XX:MaxPermSize=350m -
                                    -XX:+UseCompressedOops -
      ! -
  asspath=false -

  .af.useScreenMenuBar=true -

  fer.size=1024 -
  ple.awt.graphics.UseQuartz=true
  ! -DCVS_PASSFILE=~/.cvspass -
  ple.mrj.application.live-

  nes/1.6.0.jdk/Contents/Home -
```

edited Mar 29, 2013 at 11:20   asked Nov 27, 2012 at 5:43

Mariusz Jamro   woodings
30.4k 24 119 159   **7,453** 5 34 51

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4   just note that for 64-bit the filename needs to be idea64.vmoptions – Ittai May 2, 2013 at 12:10

@Ittai for me idea.vmoptions works for 64 bit as well on mac os 10.9 – Koray Tugay Jul 7, 2014 at 10:13

On OS X 10.10.3 with IntelliJ 14, I had to rename `~/Library/Preferences/IdeaIC14/idea.vmoptions` to `idea64.vmoptions` before it would recognize the change, i.e., `-Xmx2048m` . – user711807 Apr 24, 2015 at 0:58

On OS X 10.11 Intellij 15 64-bit, I had to rename idea64.vmoptions to idea.vmoptions to make it work. – himanshu shekhar Feb 28, 2019 at 18:14

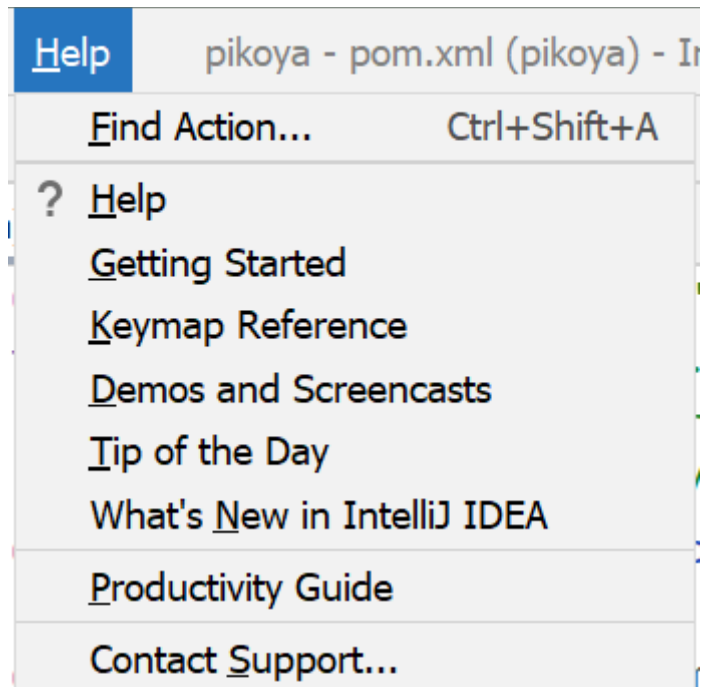See also IDEA options investigation at tomaszdziurko.com/2015/11/... – Grigory Kislin Apr 24, 2019 at 11:38

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13 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⇕

Help	pikoya - pom.xml (pikoya) - I

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ıstom VM Options... :

e in the config folder and open a dialog to edit it.

Older versions:

IntelliJ IDEA 12 is a signed application, therefore changing options in `Info.plist` is no longer recommended, as the signature will not match and you will get issues depending on your system security settings (app will either not run, or firewall will complain on every start, or the app will not be able to use the system keystore to save passwords).

As a result of addressing [IDEA-94050](#) a new way to supply JVM options was introduced in IDEA 12:

> Now it can take VM options from `~/Library/Preferences/<appFolder>/idea.vmoptions` and system properties from `~/Library/Preferences/<appFolder>/idea.properties`.

For example, to use **-Xmx2048m** option you should copy the original `.vmoptions` file from `/Applications/IntelliJ IDEA.app/bin/idea.vmoptions` to `~/Library/Preferences/IntelliJIdea12/idea.vmoptions`, then modify the `-Xmx` setting.

The final file should look like:

added, they are **replaced**.

updates and application files will remain unmodified making signature checker happy.

`a.vmoptions` file is used instead.

edited Apr 17, 2020 at 1:04   answered Nov 27, 2012 at 9:54

CrazyCoder
386k   170   975   891

7   this file worked for me: /Users/<user>/Library/Preferences/IdeaIC12/idea.vmoptions – PaulG Jan 21, 2013 at 16:03 ✎

1   I want to put the *properties* file outside the application bundle, because editing the `.app` bundle will cause its code signature to break and/or need redoing after every update. – praseodym Jan 21, 2013 at 17:27 ✎

7   On Mac OS X 10.8.3 and IntelliJ IDEA Ultimate 12.1.4 the correct command was `$ cp -i /Applications/IntelliJ\ IDEA\ 12.app/bin/idea.vmoptions ~/Library/Preferences/IntelliJIdea12/` . This matches the latest IDEA configuration docs at jetbrains.com/idea/webhelp/increasing-memory-heap.html as mentioned by michael-m. – miguno Jul 10, 2013 at 9:56

6   `cp /Applications/IntelliJ\ IDEA\ 13.app/bin/idea.vmoptions ~/Library/Preferences/IntelliJIdea13/idea.properties` and then `vi ~/Library/Preferences/IntelliJIdea13/idea.properties` – Darius Dec 9, 2013 at 10:39 ✎

2   If you are on OSX and using PHPStorm, you can copy it to ~/Library/Preferences/WebIde80/idea.properties (use WebIde70 if you are using phpstorm 7) – Mixologic Jun 1, 2014 at 22:14

▲   [Updated Aug 2021 since the JetBrains UI has changed]

things accordingly using the `Memory Indicator`

e `Memory Indicator` item

cator

e Wire stats

tion Settings

1 Event Log

It shows up in the lower right of the window.

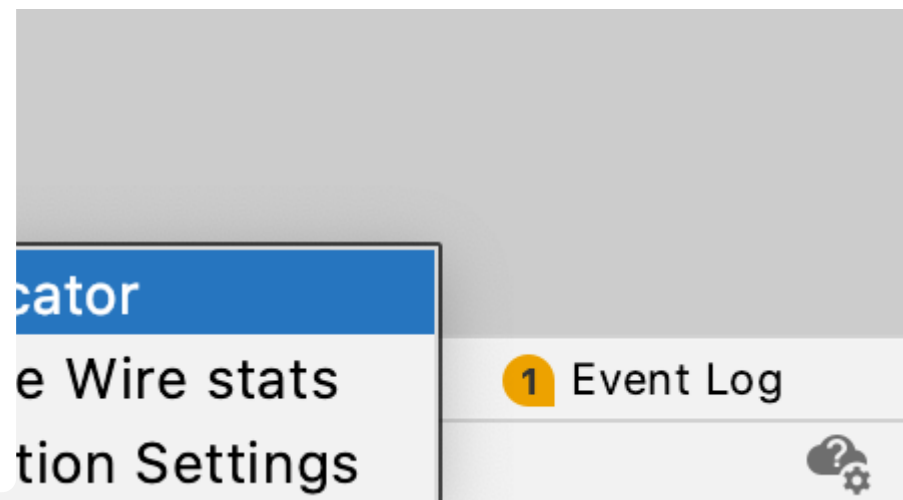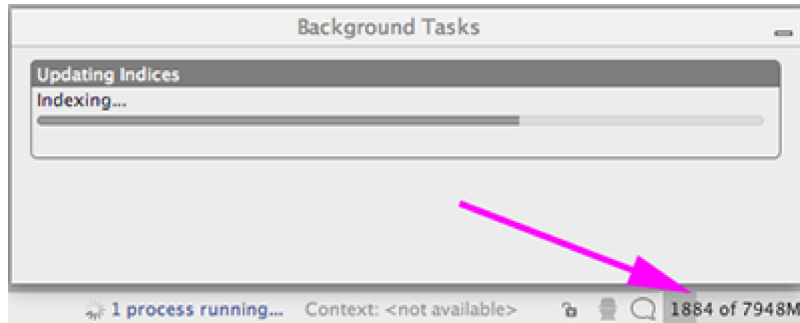Share Improve this answer Follow

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ire:

/idea.vmoptions

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1   I don't have IntelliJIdea13 folder inside ~/Library/Preferences. Tried to create it and put the file inside but no luck. Any other tips? – Bitcoin Cash - ADA enthusiast
    Mar 24, 2015 at 21:41 🖉

Here is a link to the latest documentation as of today http://www.jetbrains.com/idea/webhelp/increasing-memory-heap.html

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answered Jun 17, 2013 at 17:48

Michael M
8,027   2   34   50

That is only about increasing the heap for the compiler, not for the IDE. – Zayenz Sep 9, 2013 at 14:29

3   @Zayenz :: False. It's not "only" about increasing the heap for the build process, but it also includes information to answer the question - i.e. Under the "Notes" it
    be changed by editing the corresponding VM options. Depending on the platform, these
    : 19:33 🖉

    . Thanks for correcting me. – Zayenz Sep 10, 2013 at 6:41 🖉

DEA 12.1.4\bin\idea.exe.vmoptions" and change size to -Xmx512m

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8   That's true for windows, but not OSX, which is what the question is about. – cdeszaq Jul 27, 2013 at 1:42

1   found it, and it has helped me in windows! Thanks! – WebComer Apr 29, 2016 at 21:39

As for the intellij2018 version I am using the following configuration for better performance

6

```
-server
-Xms1024m
-Xmx4096m
-XX:MaxPermSize=1024m
-XX:ReservedCodeCacheSize=512m
-XX:+UseCompressedOops
-Dfile.encoding=UTF-8
```

Your privacy

Thanks Avishek..Will surely give it a try to this config on intellij IDEA 2018 – Gaurav Feb 20, 2019 at 11:05 ✏️
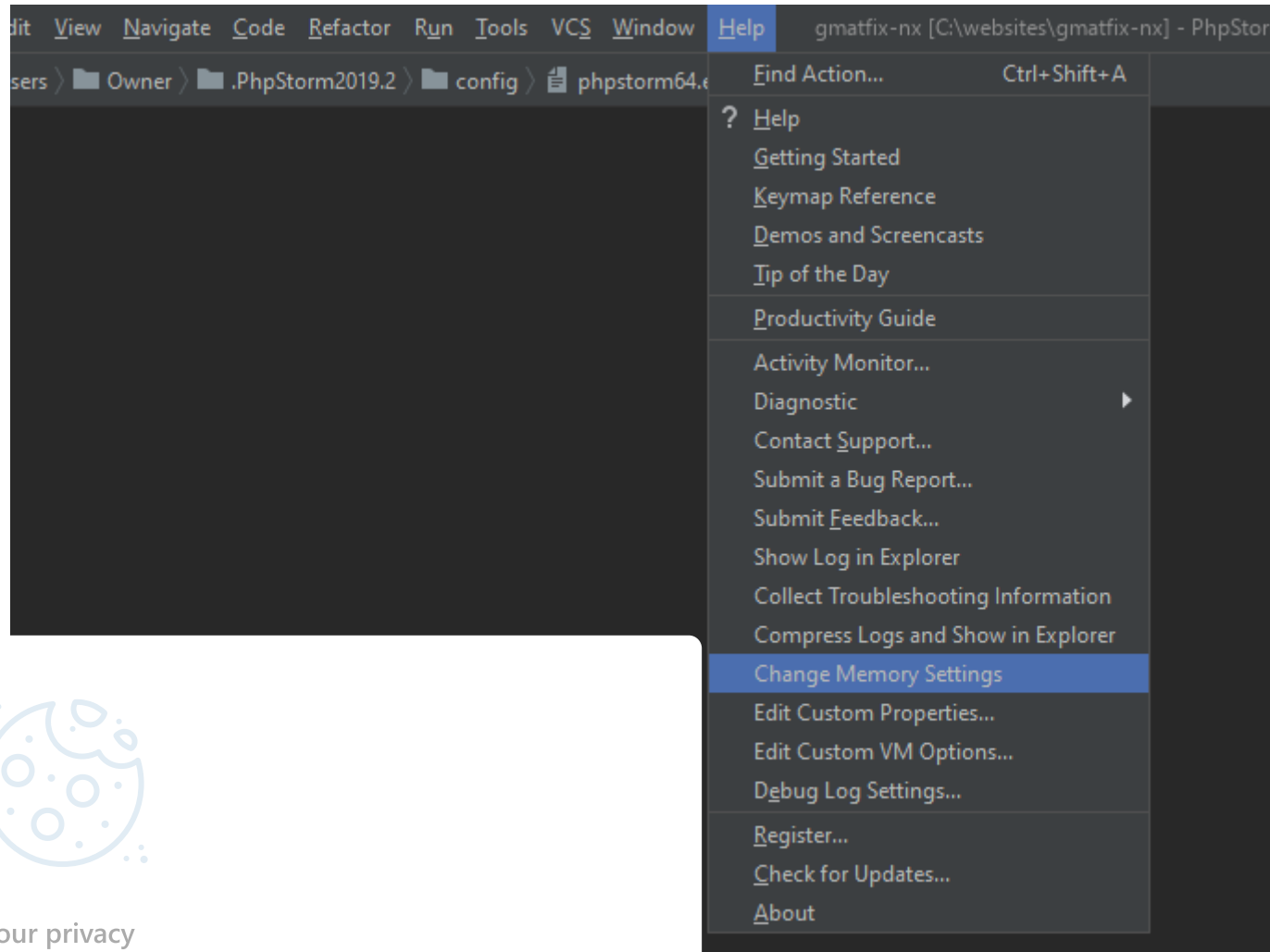
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More recent versions of IntelliJ (certainly WebStorm and PhpStorm) have made this change even easier by adding a `Help >> Change Memory Settings` menu item that opens a dialog where the memory limit can be set.

sers › 📁 Owner › 📁 .PhpStorm2019.2 › 📁 config › 📄 phpstorm64.e

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Change Memory Settings
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Edit Custom VM Options...
Debug Log Settings...

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Check for Updates...
About

Project View **Alt+1**

Memory Settings   ×

MB *(current value: 2048)*

onfig\phpstorm64.exe.vmoptions'

ve and Restart   Close

answered Nov 16, 2019 at 6:40

BeetleJuice

39.1k   18   100   163

ou might just change

:ions

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On my machine this only works in `bin/idea.vmoptions`, adding the setting in `~/Library/Preferences/IntelliJIdea12/idea.vmoptions` causes the IDEA to hang during startup.

2

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edited Nov 28, 2012 at 9:19

ajtrichards
29.5k   13   93   100

Please see my updated answer. Note that `idea.vmoptions` in the `Preferences` doesn't add options, it replaces them. Therefore you need to copy the original file from the `bin` directory and then modify it – CrazyCoder Nov 29, 2012 at 10:23

. When loading a large project and letting it thrash, it will open a dialog to up the
utdown", then restarting IDEA makes IDEA start up with more memory. This seems to
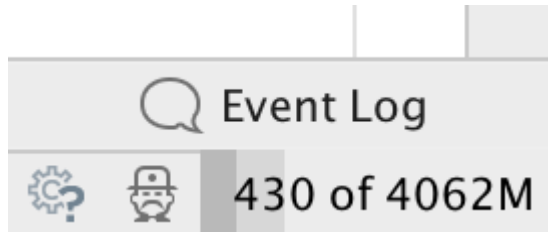or me on Windows (not sure about IDEA 12).

ow.com/posts/13581526/revisions

ow.com/a/39563251/5515861

And you'll have something like this in the bottom right

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I use Mac and Idea 14.1.7. Found idea.vmoptions file here: /Applications/IntelliJ IDEA 14.app/Contents/bin

0   details

boot IntelliJ would not open even after updating to the newest version. After opening

Contents/MacOS/idea in `terminal` the output gave me additional insight on where the

```
idea
d 1.8*,1.8+
ory: /Users/richardmiles
: IDEA_VM_OPTIONS = (null)
s: /Applications/IntelliJ

xists: /Applications/IntelliJ

2022-04-21 13:01:55.192 idea[1288:14845] parseVMOptions: /Applications/IntelliJ
```

```
IDEA.app/Contents/bin/idea.vmoptions
2022-04-21 13:01:55.192 idea[1288:14845] parseVMOptions: /Applications/IntelliJ
IDEA.app.vmoptions
2022-04-21 13:01:55.195 idea[1288:14845] parseVMOptions:
/Users/richardmiles/Library/Application
Support/JetBrains/IntelliJIdea2022.1/idea.vmoptions
2022-04-21 13:01:55.195 idea[1288:14845] parseVMOptions: platform=17 user=1
file=/Users/richardmiles/Library/Application
Support/JetBrains/IntelliJIdea2022.1/idea.vmoptions
Invalid maximum heap size: -Xmx2048m -Drun.processes.with.pty=true
Invalid maximum heap size: -Xmx2048m -Drun.processes.with.pty=true
2022-04-21 13:01:55.266 idea[1288:14845] JNI_CreateJavaVM (/Applications/IntelliJ
IDEA.app/Contents/jbr) failed: -6
```

Note when you work with the path remember to quote properly like so!

```
vim "/Users/richardmiles/Library/Application
Support/JetBrains/IntelliJIdea2022.1/idea.vmoptions"
```

answered Apr 21, 2022 at 18:16

Richard Tyler Miles
423   3   17

– Richard Tyler Miles Apr 21, 2022 at 18:17

ciation bonus) in order to answer this question. The reputation requirement helps protect this