What are the most useful Intellij IDEA keyboard shortcuts? [closed]

stackoverflow.com/questions/294167/what-are-the-most-useful-intellij-idea-keyboard-shortcuts

290 favorite

628

closed as not constructive by ajreal, Will Sep 9 '11 at 13:57

As it currently stands, this question is not a good fit for our Q&A format. We expect answers to be supported by facts, references, or expertise, but this question will likely solicit debate, arguments, polling, or extended discussion. If you feel that this question can be improved and possibly reopened, visit the help center for guidance. If this question can be reworded to fit the rules in the help center, please edit the question.

locked by animuson♦ Jul 21 '13 at 22:26

This question exists because it has historical significance, but **it is not considered a good, on-topic question for this site**, so please do not use it as evidence that you can ask similar questions here. This question and its answers are frozen and cannot be changed. More info: help center.

24 Answers

8 `Shift+Delete` deletes the entire line (will 'cut' it to clipboard)

`Ctrl+Alt+L` to reformat and optimize imports

`Ctrl+Shift+J` to join lines (pull content of next line up to current line).

88 Here are the Intellij IDEA keyboard shortcuts I find most useful (listed in roughly the order of usage for me):

The shortcut I use the most is `Ctrl` + `B` (Go to declaration), to see what a method does, where a variable is declared etc. This is almost always followed by `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Left` to get back to where I was (`Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Right` works to “go forward” again).

A related navigation shortcut is `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `B`, (Go to implementation). Press it when the caret is at the method name of an interface, and you get a pop-up list of all the places where this method is implemented, and you can select which one you want to go to (if there is only one implementation, you go straight there). The same goes for overridden methods.

The opposite of this is `Ctrl` + `U` (Go to super-method/super-class). If the caret is at the implementation of a method in an interface (indicated by the little green interface-symbol in the left gutter), this shortcut takes you to the interface itself.

When I want to see all the places where a method or variable is used (which I want to do a lot), I use `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `F7` (Show usages). This gives you a pop-up list of all the usages, and you can easily navigate to each one. I prefer this over `Alt` + `F7` (Find usages), which gives you the same information, but in a separate pane below.

To find classes, I use `Ctrl` + `N` (Go to class), which lets you search using only the capital letters in the class name (“camel humps”), and * as wildcard.

Yet another shortcut I use, both when reading and writing code, is `Ctrl` + `P` (Parameter info) at the arguments of methods and constructors, to see the types and names of the parameters.

When it comes to writing code, I use `Ctrl` + `space` (Basic code completion) a lot to auto-complete method names, variable names etc (or simply to see which methods are available for a certain object, by trying to auto-complete directly at the dot following the name of the object).

For searching in the current file I use `Ctrl-F` (Find - probably the least surprising shortcut in this list), `F3`/`Shift` + `F3` (Find next/previous) to repeat the search, and `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `F` (Find in path) to search in the whole project.

`Ctrl` + `W` (Select successively increasing code blocks) is handy when selecting chunks of code. Repeatedly pressing it selects more and more of the code. Useful when searching, indenting, commenting out code etc.

If there are errors in the file, `F2`/`Shift` + `F2` (Next/previous highlighted error) will jump to them.

I use the sequence `Alt` + `C`, `N` (Show Changes View) to see which files in the project I have modified compared to the subversion repository. To diff the current file against the version in the subversion repository, I use the sequence `Alt` + `C`, `S`, `Y` (Compare with the Same Repository Version). In the diff view, I use `F7`/`Shift` + `F7` to navigate between the changes.

When not in the diff view, I use `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `Alt` + `Up`/`Ctrl` + `Shift` + `Alt` + `Down` to jump to the parts of the file that have been changed compared to the checked-out version. At each modification point, you see the corresponding part in the checked-out version in a pop-up window.

Finally, I run JUnit tests using `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `F10`.

Edit: One really useful shortcut that I've only started using in the last few months is `Ctrl` + `E`. It brings up a pop-up with the 15 most recently used files, and you just arrow down to the one you want and hit enter to navigate to it.

7 `Alt` + `Shift` + `Insert` - switches to column selection mode, allowing the selection of rectangular text fragments (columns)

`Ctrl` + `Shift` + `Backspace` - go to most recent code edit. Hit again to go even further back. Very useful when coding something, browsing other classes for a while and then wanting to go back where we left our code.

`Ctrl`+`E` - recently opened files

`Ctrl`+`Shift`+`E` - recently edited files

`Ctrl`+`Shift`+`V` - paste one of the previous values from clipboard

5 `Ctrl` + `F11` invokes a dialog with all alphanumeric keys on the keyboard. Selecting one empty will add the current line to bookmarks and mark the line with selected key.

`Shift` + `F11` invokes a list of bookmarks. Pressing a key takes to associated bookmark.

9 Yes, `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `A` is the most useful one. It's a meta shortcut

4 `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `Enter` - automatically completes the code statement you are typing, inserting the quotation marks, brackets, curly braces and other punctuation as necessary.

9 This is probably dependent on your development environment, but when doing BlackBerry development I code in IntelliJ and still compile and debug through the BlackBerry JDE. `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `C` is vital in this case as it allows you to copy the full path of the file you are currently editing, making it easy to open the file in the separate dev environment.

1 `Ctrl` + `N` : Open class.

`Alt` + `F7` : Find usages.

3 `F7` `F8` `F9` for debugging

1 Any combination of `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `Shift` and `N`.

`Ctrl` + `Shift` + `T` in idea8 is also excellent.

There is a complete keymap in the online help too.

22 Try using the Key Promoter plugin. That will help in learning the shortcuts. Couple of shortcuts apart from the above suggestions:

- `Alt` + `Ins`: Works consistently to insert anything. (Add a new class, method etc)
- `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `T`: Surround code block. Another useful stuff.

30 Some of the time savers:

1. `Alt` + `Enter` : show intention actions (like Eclipse quick fix)
2. `Ctrl` + `Alt` + `V` : introduce variable (never type the left hand side of an assignment again)
3. `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `Space` : smart completion (even two levels down since IntelliJ 8)
4. `Ctrl` + `W` : select succesively increasing code blocks. Kind of obvious but a real time saver!

The Canoo blog contains some (+8) articles on some more advanced IntelliJ keyboard shortcuts.

The *Key Promoter* and *Shortcut keys list* plugins are **really helpful** for (constantly) learning new IntelliJ keyboard shortcuts.

5 One of my real favorites may not count as a keyboard shortcut exactly. But the "iter" smart template is really great.

basically if you want to iterate though something using a for loop type "iter" then tab to use the live template

iter`tab`

it will figure out the most likely variable you want to iterate over and generate a for loop for it. I'm pretty sure it uses the nearest reference to an object which supports iteration.

answered Aug 8 '11 at 1:48

sylvanaar

6,5702750

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deleted by Will Sep 9 '11 at 13:58 answered Aug 8 '11 at 1:46

sylvanaar

6,5702750

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0 I didn't find reference cards that cover the other options like "Default for Gnome". If anyone has such a reference card, or a simple rule (Alt-F7 becomes Alt-Shift-7, and etc. for all the F-keys), that would be handy to know. It'd be great if IDEA had an option to create a reference card from whatever I've configured in my environment, but I haven't found such an option.

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176 By far my favourite all purpose shortcut is `Ctrl+Shift+A`

It does a search as you type through all the commands in intellij. Not only that but when you find the command you want it also displays the corresponding shortcut key next to it!

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2 If you are coming from Eclipse: http://tanu.wordpress.com/2010/09/24/moving-from-eclipse-to-intellij-idea/

General documentation and shortcuts are on Intellij's site http://www.jetbrains.com/idea/documentation/index.jsp

answered Jun 7 '11 at 1:23

Marcus Ericsson

1,086812

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0 Excellent I never knew this was possible [Ctrl+Shift+A!]

214 These are some of my most used keyboard short cuts

Syntax aware selection in the editor selects a word at the caret and then selects expanding areas of the source code. For example, it may select a method name, then the expression that calls this method, then the whole statement, then the containing block, etc.: **`Ctrl+W`**

Basic Code Completion, to complete methods, keywords etc.: **`Ctrl+Space`**

Go to Declaration. Use this to navigate to the declaration of a class, method or variable used somewhere in the code: **`Ctrl+B`**

Introduce Variable Refactoring, to create a variable from an expression. This expression may even be incomplete or contain errors. Since version 8, IDEA intelligently selects a likely expression when no text is selected: **`Ctrl+Alt+V`**

Go to Class, to quickly open any class in the editor: **`Ctrl+N`**

To open any file, not just classes: **`Ctrl+Shift+N`**

Comment/Uncomment current line or selection: **`Ctrl+/`** and **`Ctrl+Shift+/`**

Quick JavaDoc Popup to show the JavaDoc of the method or class at the text cursor: **`Ctrl+Q`** (*`Ctrl+J`* on Mac OS X)

Smart Type Completion to complete an expression with a method call or variable with a type suitable in the current Context: **`Ctrl+Shift+Space`**

Rename refactoring to rename any identifier. Can look in comments, text files and across different languages too: **`Shift+F6`**

Select in Popup to quickly select the currently edited element (class, file, method or field) in any view (Project View, Structure View or other): **`Alt+F1`**

Highlight Usages in File. Position the text cursor on any identifier without selecting any text and it will show all places in the file where that variable, method etc. is used. Use it on a throws, try or catch keyword to show all places where the exception is thrown. Use it on the implements keyword to highlight the methods of the implemented interface: **`Ctrl+Shift+F7`**

0 This link has everything you need. Plus in Idea 8 atleast, every shortcut is completely customizable, so it's really up to you what the most useful ones are.

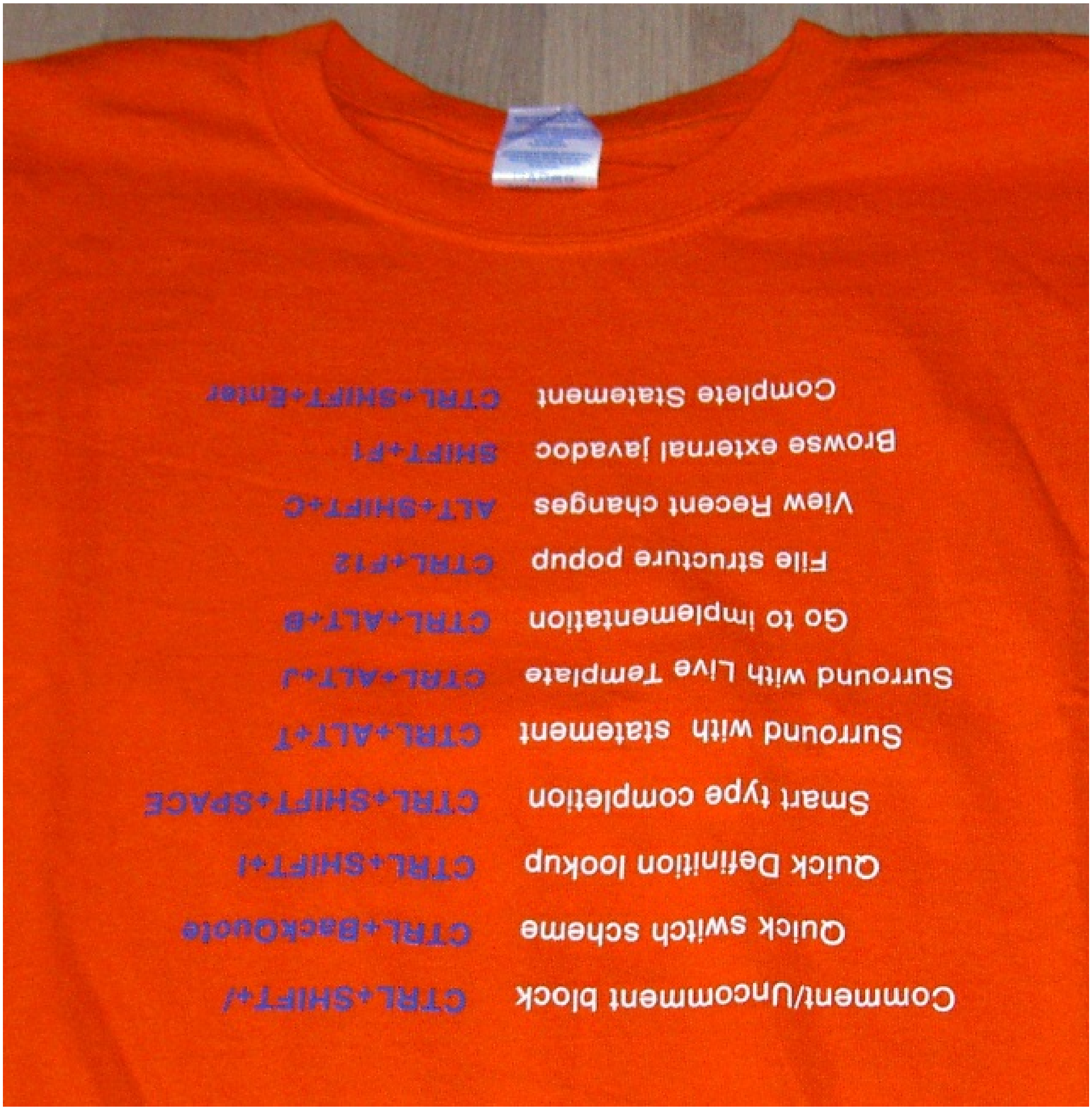
Idea 8 reference PDF

answered Apr 27 '09 at 15:33

Mike Pone

8,280103958

80 According to the Jetbrains folks, it will have to be these, as they are for the one wearing the shirt: (Got that from Devoxx)



Comment/Uncomment block	CTRL+SHIFT+/
Quick switch scheme	CTRL+BackQuote
Quick Definition lookup	CTRL+SHIFT+I
Smart type completion	CTRL+SHIFT+SPACE
Surround with statement	CTRL+ALT+T
Surround with Live Template	CTRL+ALT+J
Go to implementation	CTRL+ALT+B
File structure popup	CTRL+F12
View Recent changes	ALT+SHIFT+C
Browse external javadoc	SHIFT+F1
Complete Statement	CTRL+SHIFT+Enter

0 http://www.jetbrains.com/idea/docs/ReferenceCard70_mac.pdf has everything you need. after a while, you'll develop your own preference for certain shortcuts.

answered Nov 30 '08 at 19:00

saad

32 Help\Productivity Guide

It tells you what are the shortcuts you use/don't use and displays usage statistics. It will guide you to the unknown features.

answered Nov 20 '08 at 11:35

Karl

2,4561423

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