

Backbase

Next Generation Portal Software

Preparing a typical development environment for CXP Backend projects using IntelliJ

Objectives

This guide explains how to configure a typical development environment for CXP Backend projects using *IntelliJ*. You will be able to execute the following activities:

- Prepare your IDE to be used for the first time
- Configure a CXP project
- Start and stop CXP servers using your IDE
- Configure the logging level of your application

Prerequisites

- Existing Launchpad-based Portal project: If you do not have configured this project yet, please follow this guide
- *IntelliJ IDEA* IDE: If you do not have this software yet, you can download it [here](#).
Two editions are offered: *Community* and *Ultimate*. The functionalities present in the *Community* edition are enough for learning purposes, and you can use it for this task. The *Ultimate* version is paid and has additional enterprise-wide features like *Spring* Integration

Timeframe

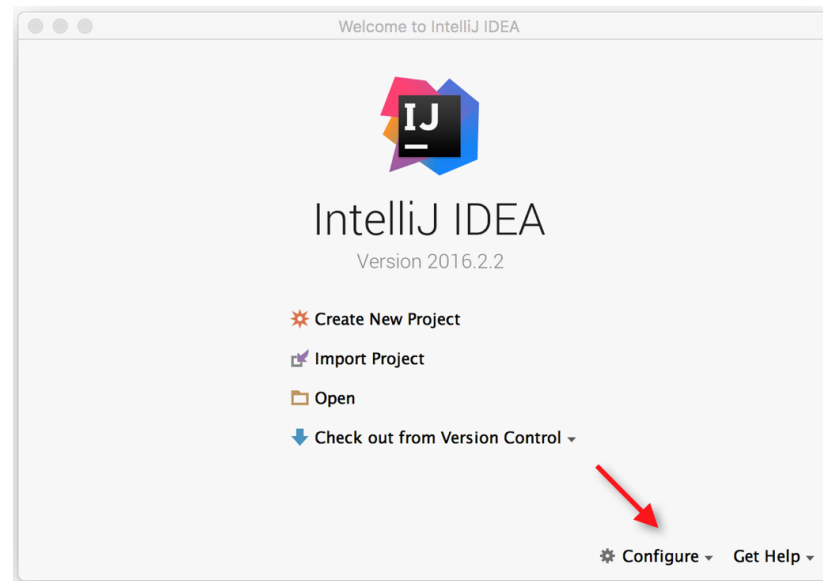
This task takes around 30 minutes.

Prepare your IDE to be used for the first time

During this step, you will set up your SDK (Standard Development Kit) and *Maven* in *IntelliJ*.

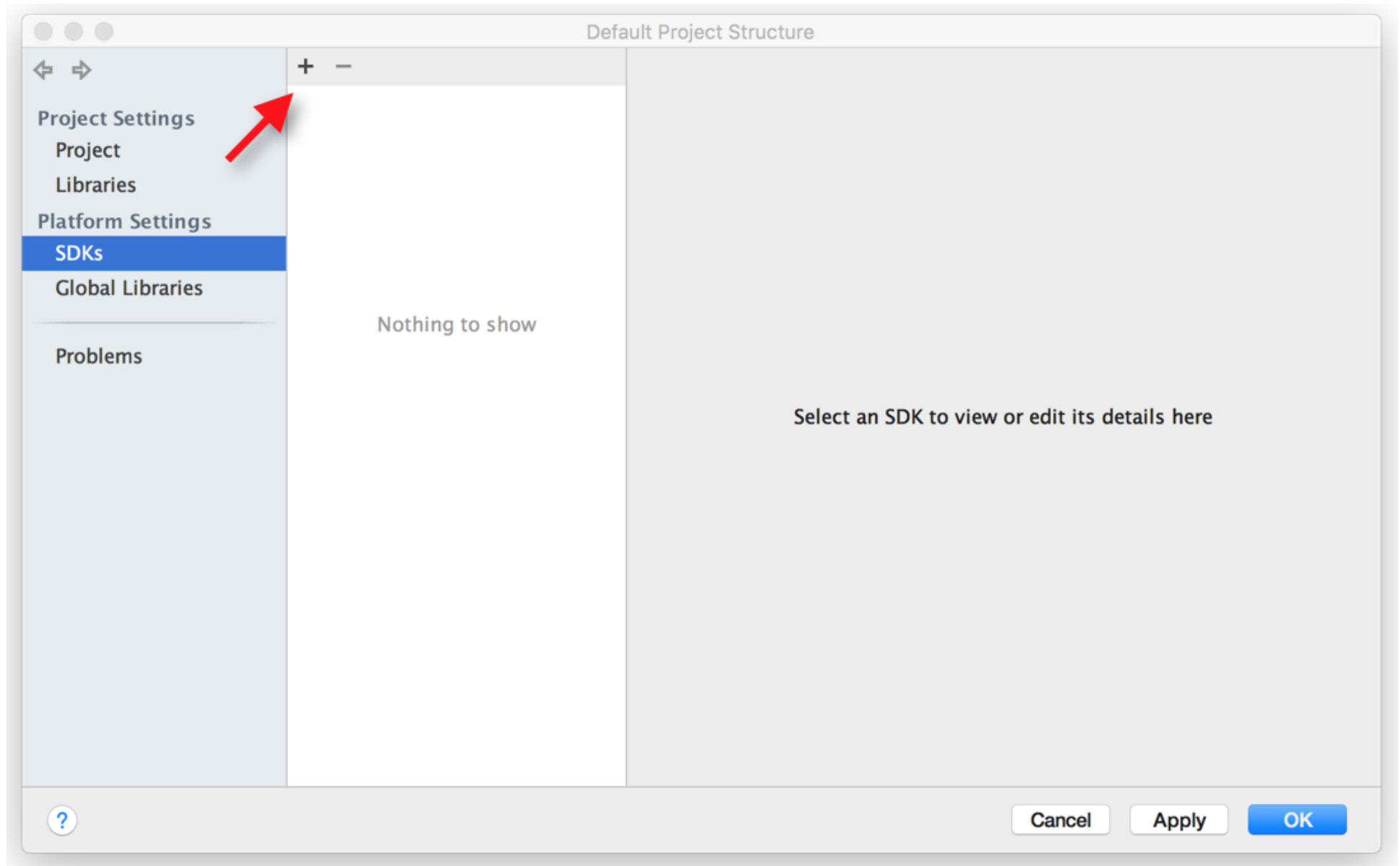
Configure SDK

1. Start *IntelliJ*. The initial screen will appear. Click the *Configure* present at the bottom of the welcome screen:



Please note that the layout of *IntelliJ* may vary depending on the operating system.

2. Select *Project Defaults > Project Structure*. The project configuration window will appear.
3. Select the *SDKs* option under *Platform Settings*, and click the + button highlighted in the image shown below:



4. Select the JDK (Java Development Kit) option among a set of predefined SDKs.

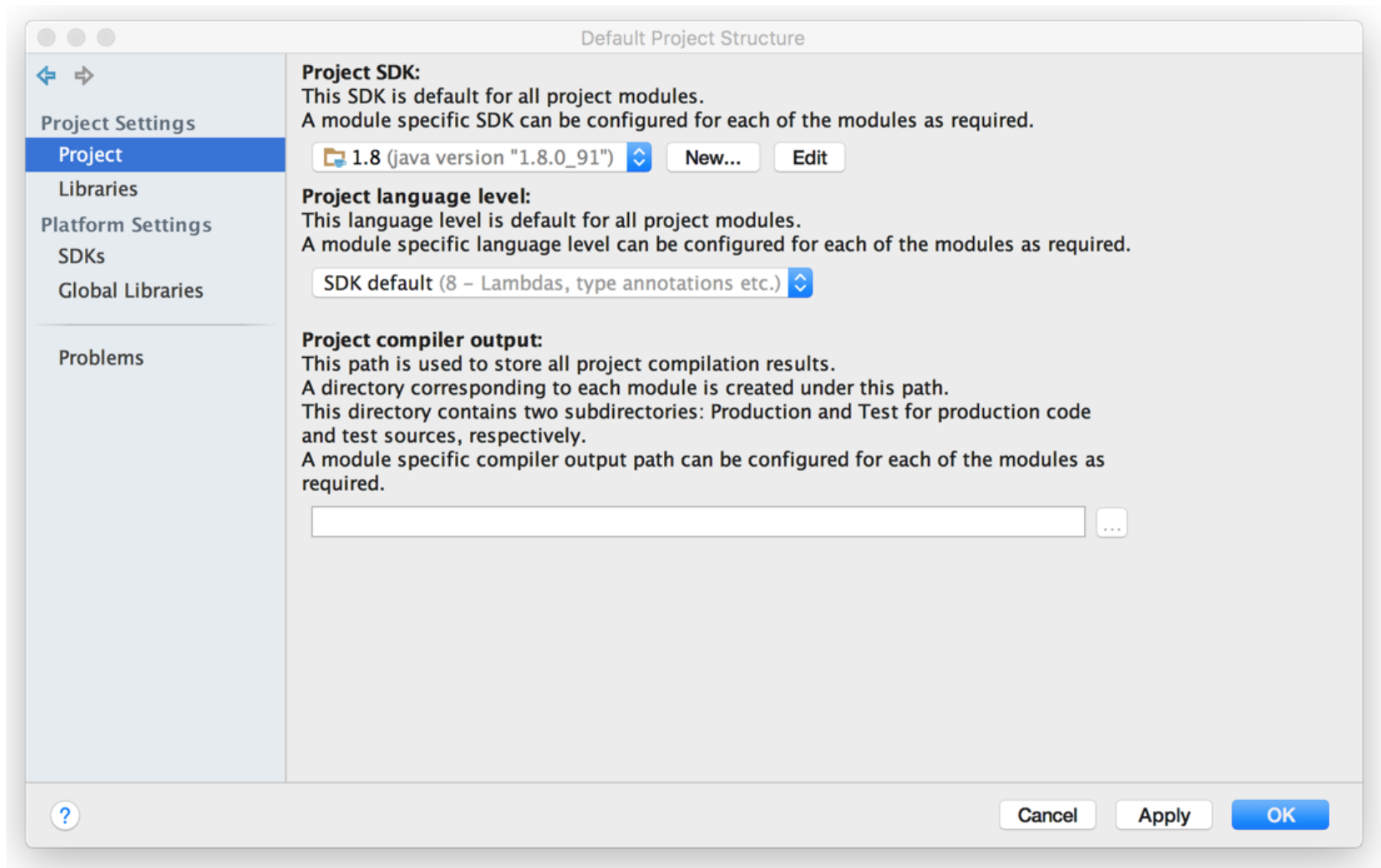


5. A dialog window will appear. Select your JDK home folder.

If you forgot your installation folder, take a look at the content of your *JAVA_HOME* environment variable. Here the list of typical folders of JDK installations:

- Windows machines: c:\Program Files\Java\jdk
- Mac OSX machines: /Library/Java/JavaVirtualMachines/jdk<version>.jdk/Contents/Home

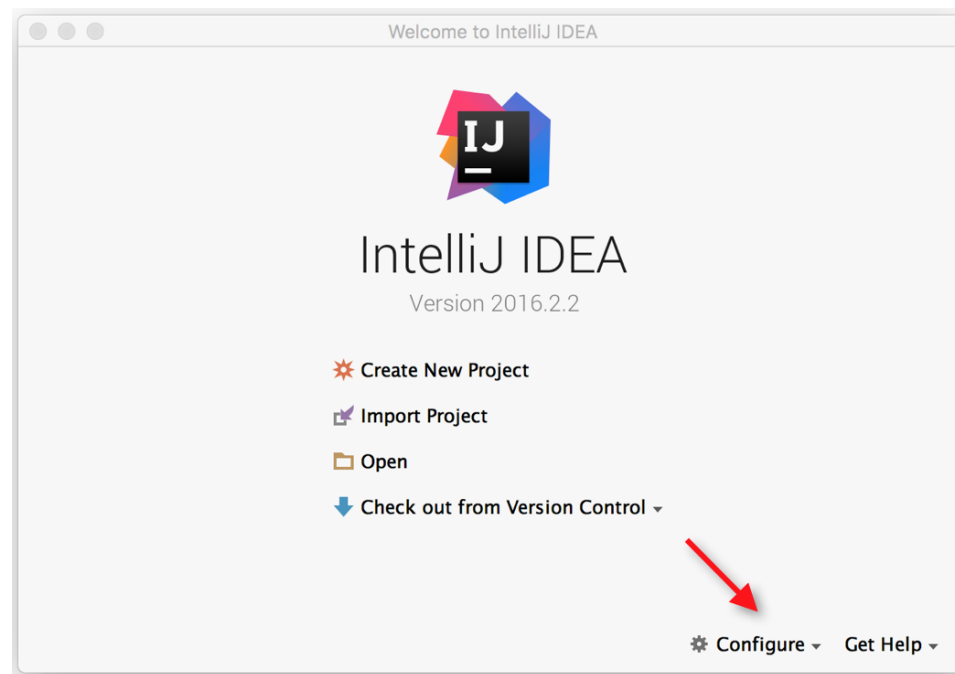
6. Select the *Project* option under *Project Settings*, and specify your JDK to be the default option for all projects. Make sure that the *Project language level* is greater than 7 (we are using 8 in this guide).



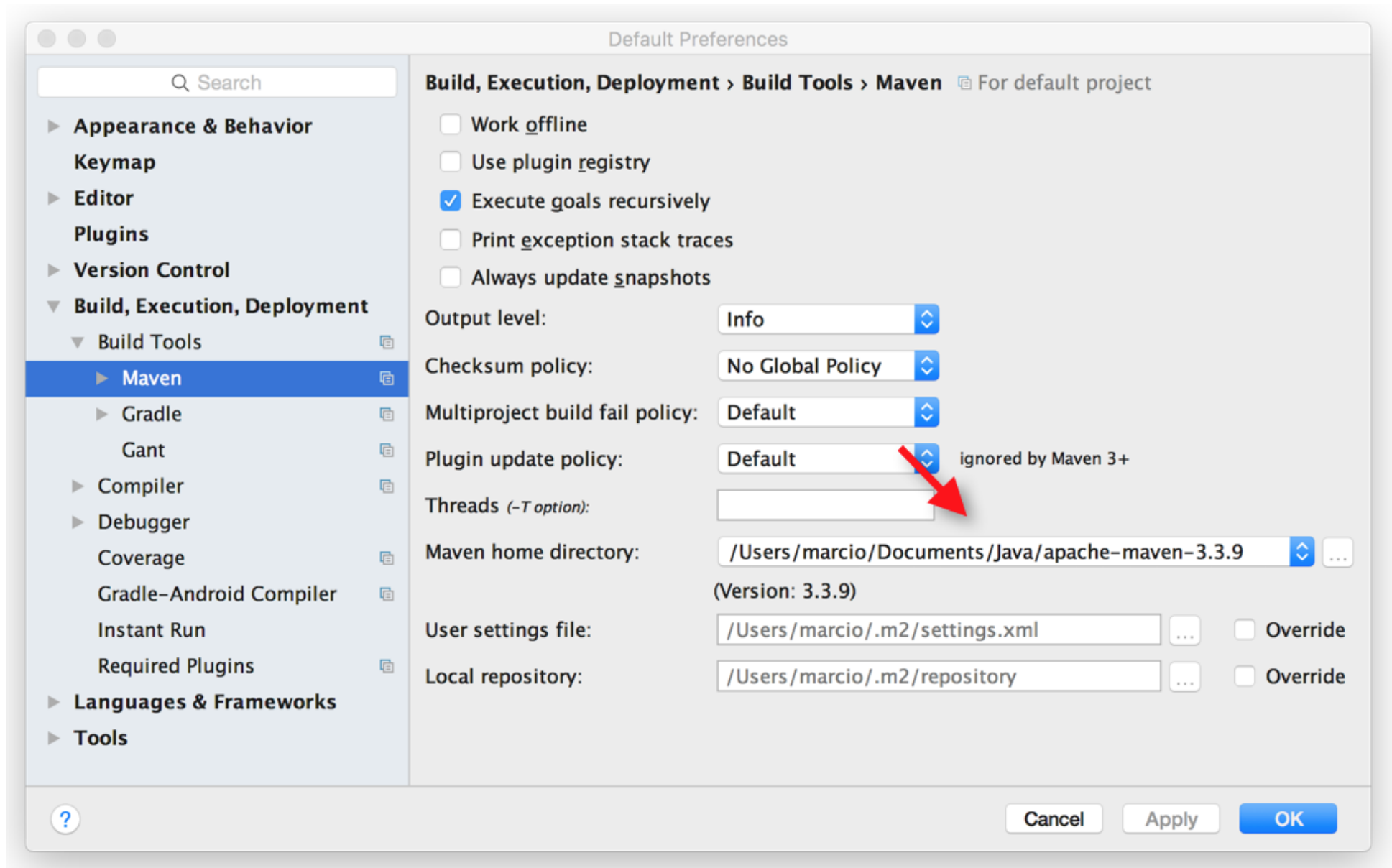
7. Click *Apply* and *OK*

Configure *Maven*

1. Use the same welcome window of *IntelliJ* and click the *Configure* link present at the bottom of the screen:



2. Select *Preferences (Settings on Windows)*. The preferences window will appear.
3. Choose the option *Build, Execution, Deployment > Build Tools > Maven* from the tree.
4. Change the *Maven* home directory to point to your installation, instead of the bundled version. If you forgot your folder, take a look at the content of your *M2_HOME* environment variable. *IntelliJ* also detects existing *Maven* installations, and you can find the list by clicking on the combo box.



Note that *IntelliJ* updated the default location for the user settings file, as well as your local repository location.

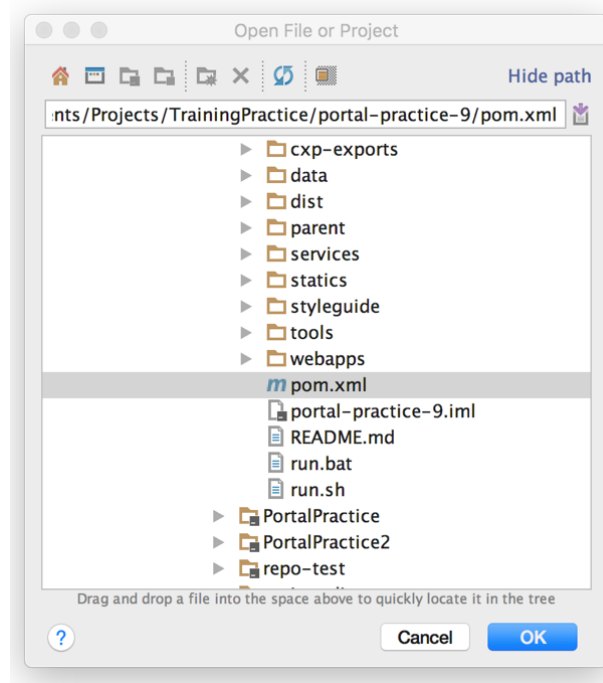
Configuring a CXP project

Now that you have the JDK and *Maven* configured in your IDE, it is time to open your CXP project.

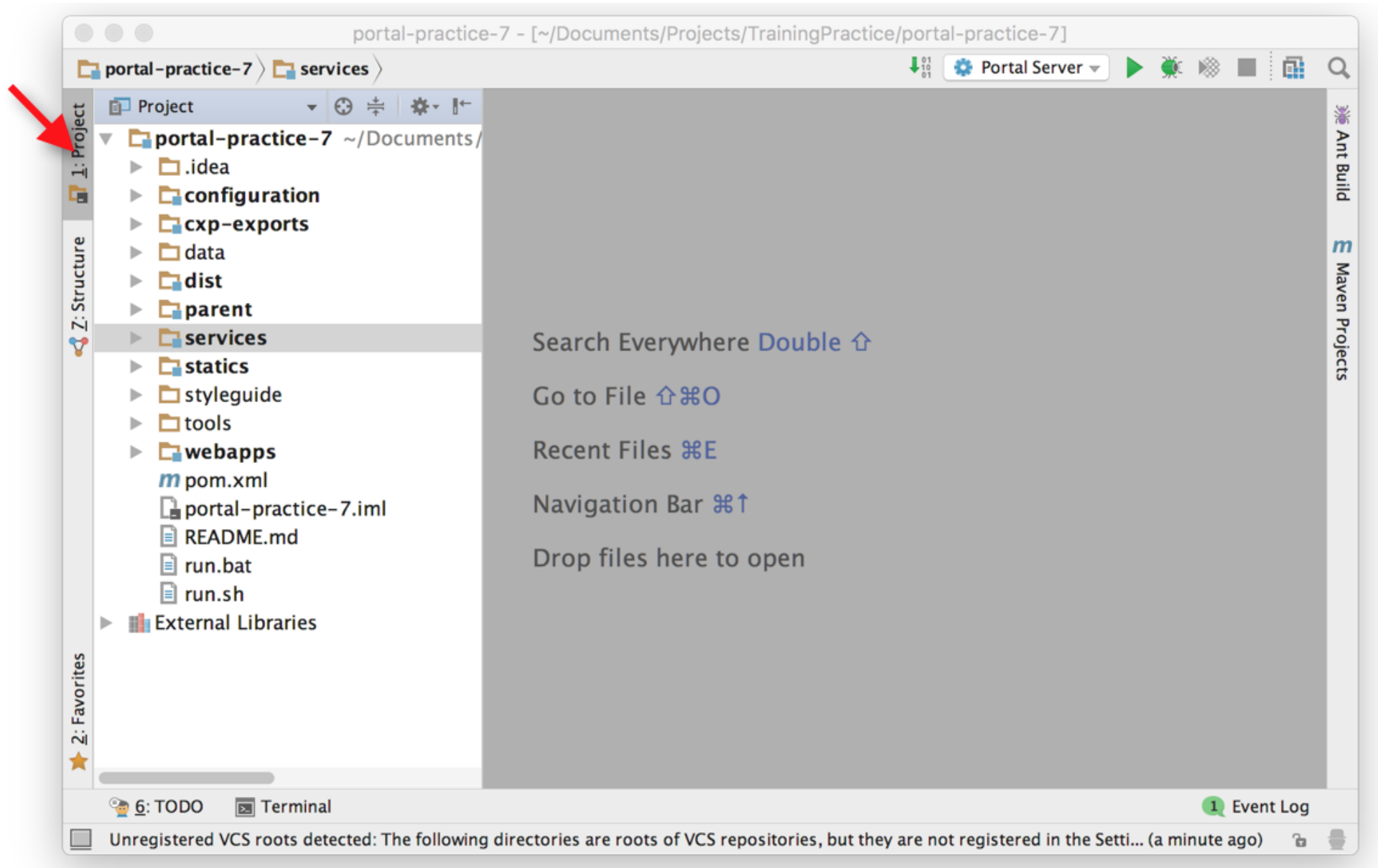
1. Start your *IntelliJ* IDE (or use the one that is already started).
2. Click the *open* link present on the initial screen.



3. A file selection dialog will appear. Select the *pom.xml* file located at the root of your CXP project.



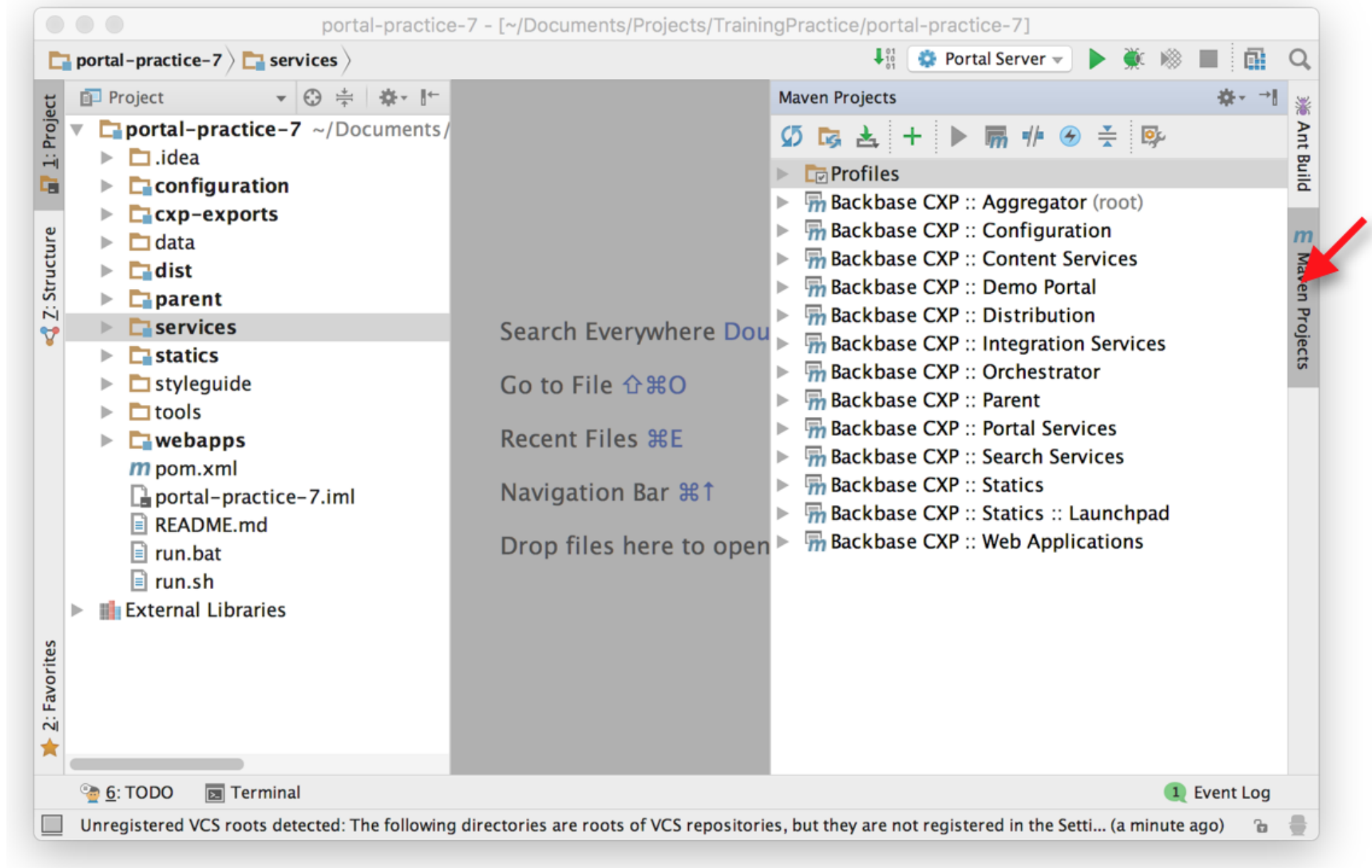
4. Click *OK*. A set of background tasks to configure and index your *Maven* project will start.
5. It will take some time (approx. 2 mins) to load the project, index all libraries, and download plugins. Finally, the structure below will be available:




Now it is time to navigate through the project structure.

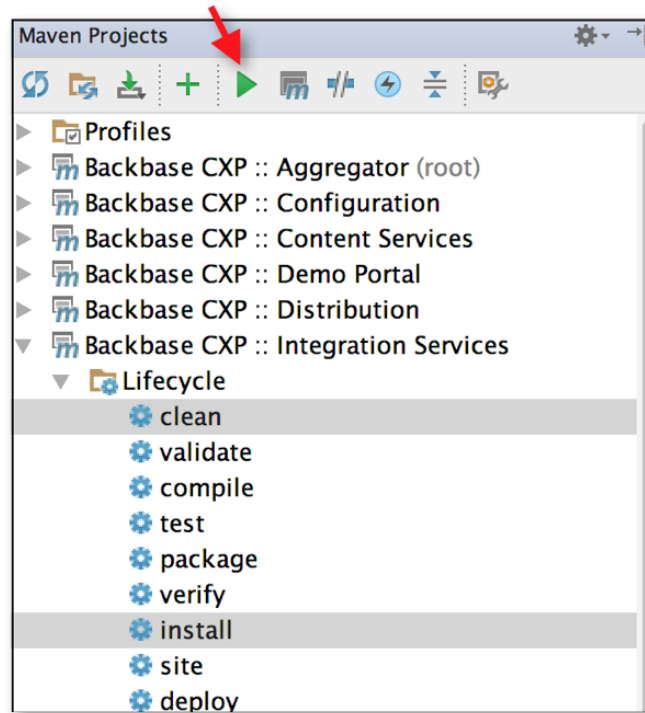
1. Click the  located at the left bottom of your screen to toggle views. You will see several tabs (e.g. *Project*, *Maven*, *Terminal*, and so on).

2. Click the *Project* view (left-hand corner) and navigate to the project structure.
3. Expand your project and navigate through the project structure.
4. Click the *Maven projects* view (right-hand corner) and see all projects.

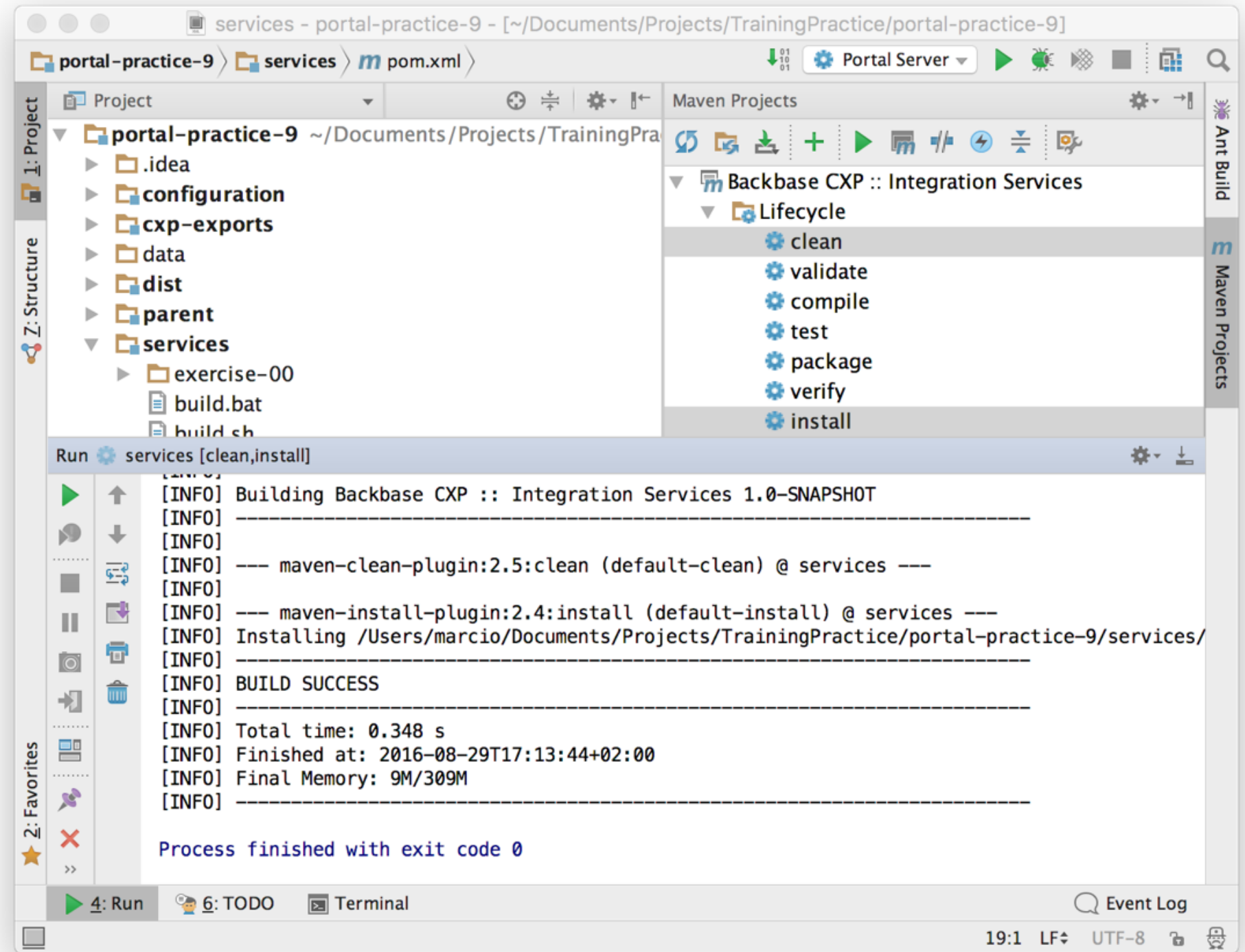


5. You should be able to run Maven goals from the IDE. For example:

- Select *Backbase CXP :: Integration Services* project and expand the lifecycle element present in the tree.
- Select the goals *clean* and *install* and click the play  on the toolbar. For multiple goals, use the *CTRL* key on Windows or *cmd ⌘* key on Mac.



- You will see the console with the execution results. The project must be compiled without errors.

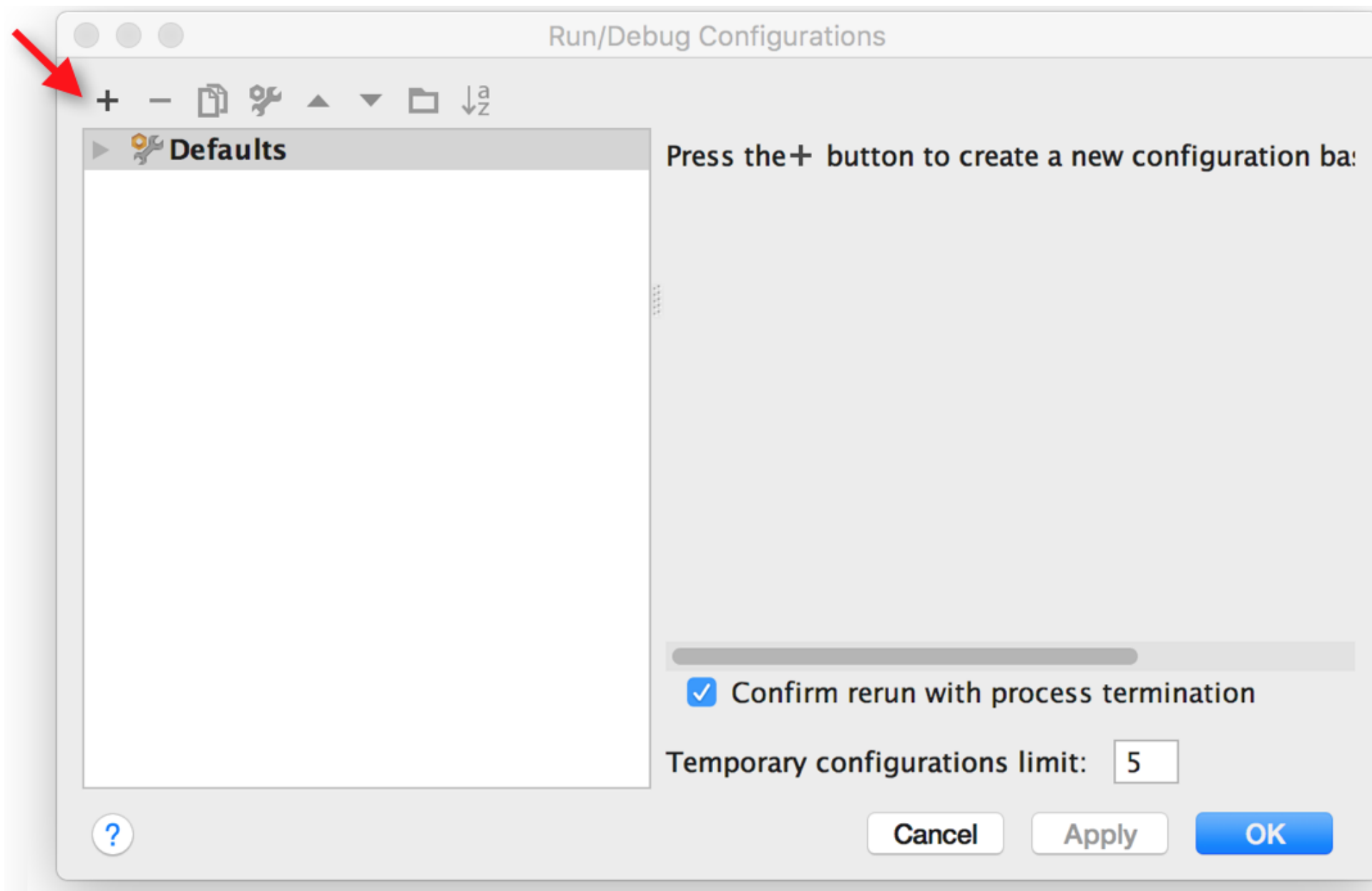


Start and stop CXP servers using your IDE

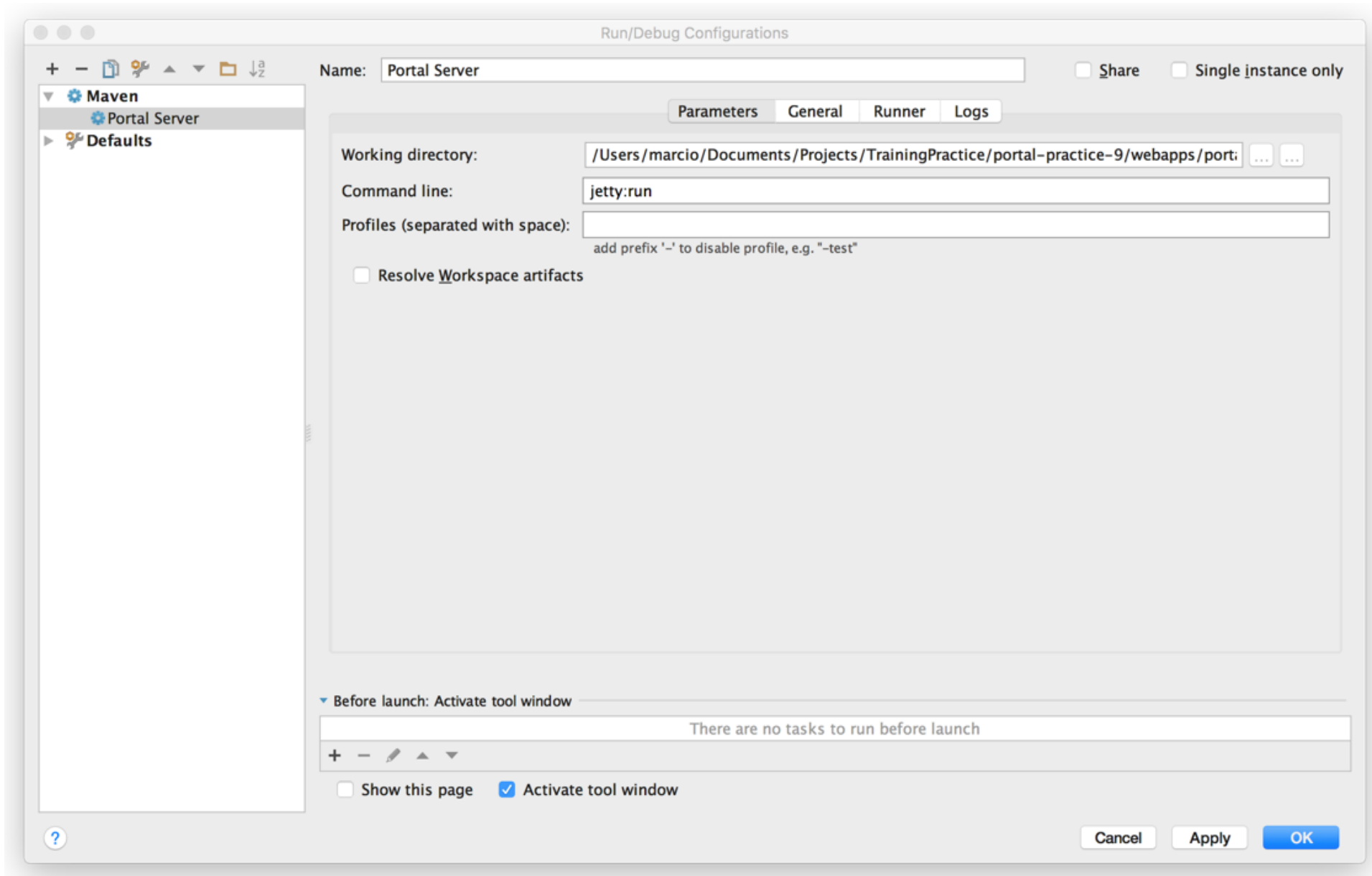
As you could see in the how-to guide used for the project preparation, the portal could be started by running a shell script on your local machine (`run.sh` in Unix-based machines, and `run.bat` for Windows). However, developers need more control over the log messages to check errors and information messages, as well as starting servers using the debug mode.

During this step, you will configure the shortcuts to CXP web apps projects.



1. Select *Run > Edit Configurations* from the *IntelliJ* menu. A dialog window will appear.

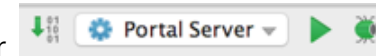


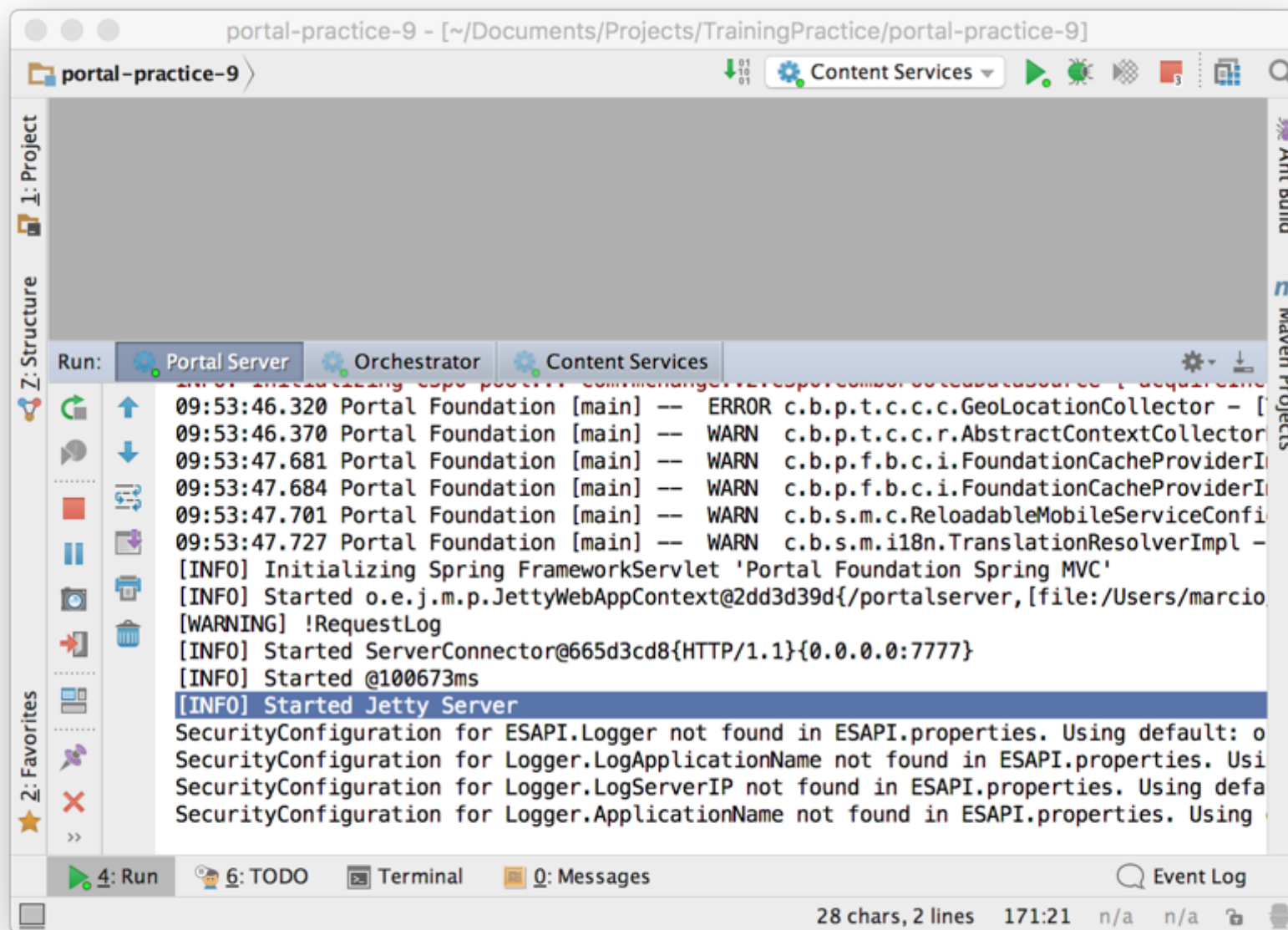
2. Click the **+** to create a new configuration and select *Maven*.



3. Give a name (e.g. *Portal Server*) to this shortcut. For the working directory, select the folder `webapps/portalserver`
4. For the command line field, inform the goal `jetty:run`. This goal will start a jetty JEE container in your local machine for the selected project.
If you want to understand better how each server is started and the different startup options, take a look at the shell script located in the root folder of your project (`run.sh` for Unix-based systems, `run.bat` for Windows).

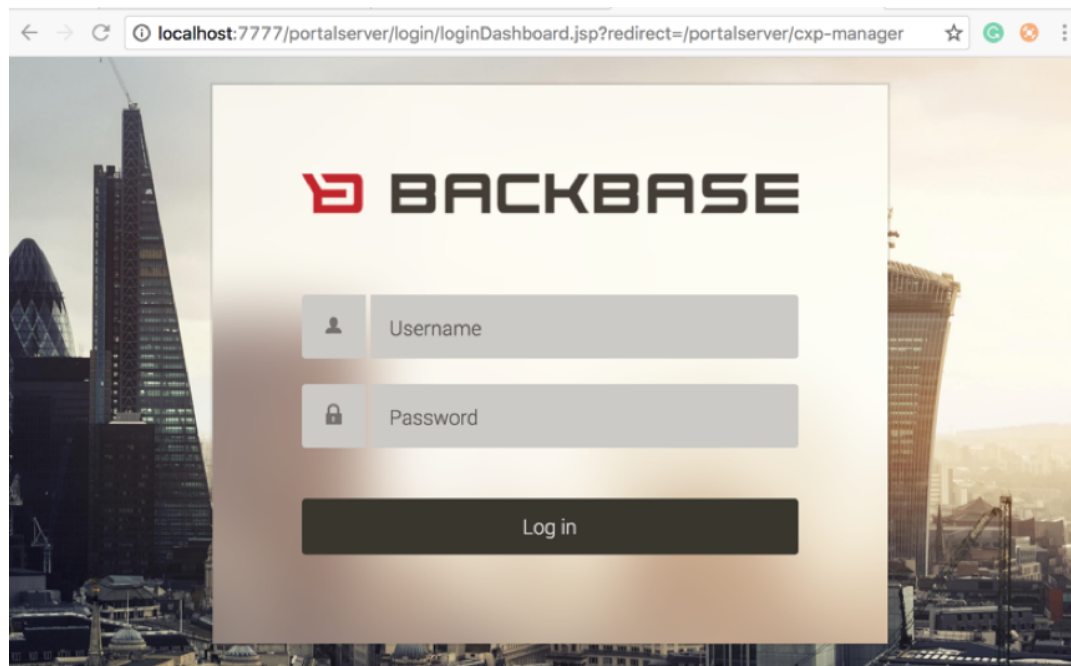
5. Click *Apply* and *OK*.
6. Execute steps from 2 to 5 to configure the shortcut for the remaining servers: content services (webapps/contentservices) and the orchestrator (webapps/orchestrator)
7. Now, you will see the set of shortcuts to start your servers in normal or debug mode in your toolbar
8. Start each server in normal or debug mode. Each server has its console so that you can follow all messages separately. From the same console window, you can restart  and stop  the server.
9. These actions will spawn three new console windows, running Portal Server, Content Services and Orchestrator on *Jetty*. Wait until you see the message "*Started Jetty Server*" in each of the three windows.





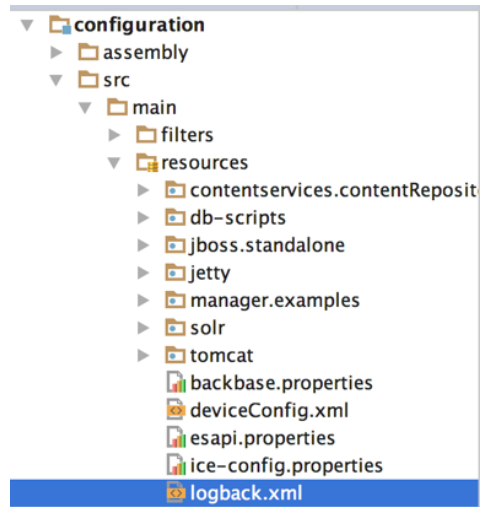
10. Open the CXP manager using your preferred browser: <http://localhost:7777/portalserver/cxp-manager>

11. You should see the welcome login screen. Congrats! You have your CXP development environment set.



Configuring the logging level of your application

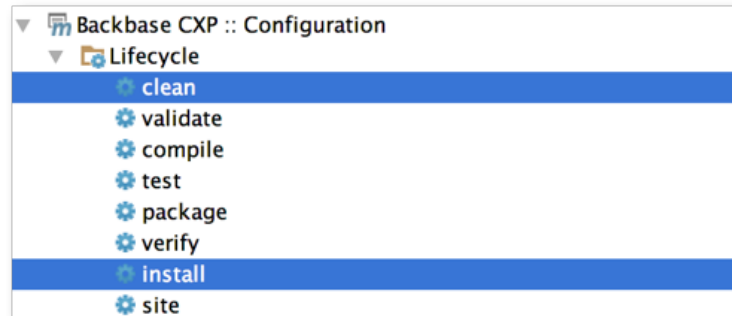
Logging is a recurrent and critical feature for all applications. Backbase CXP ships with a default *Logback* configuration file called `logback.xml`. This file is located under the *configuration* subproject, in the folder `src/main/resource`, as can be seen in the figure below:



1. Open the `logback.xml` file and navigate through the XML structure. You will find a set of *appenders* and *loggers*. *Appendors* define how logging messages will be shown or stored (e.g. console, flat files, databases). *Loggers* describe the severity level of logging messages (e.g. debug, info, warning, error).
2. If you are using CXP for the first time (attending a training, doing experiments), we recommend adding a new *logger* for your packages (e.g. `com.backbase.training`), with the logging level set to *debug*. It states that all classes that belong to this package are eligible to debugging logging to the console. The figure below shows an example of modified `logback.xml`, with all classes and sub-packages belonging to the package `com.backbase.training` set to the *debug* level.

```
<logger name="com.backbase.training" level="DEBUG"/>
<logger name="org.hibernate" level="ERROR"/>
<logger name="org.springframework" level="ERROR"/>
<logger name="org.apache" level="ERROR"/>
<logger name="org.apache.camel" level="ERROR"/>
<logger name="org.apache.velocity.app" level="OFF"/>
```

3. Do not forget to compile your *configuration* project and restart the portal after each change. To do so, open your console window, go to the configuration folder and type `mvn clean install`.
You can also compile the configuration project using your IDE (see the *Maven Projects* tab in your *IntelliJ* interface).



For more information on how to customize your logging files, take a look at the CXP documentation at [My Backbase](#).

This entry was posted in Integration, Launchpad on December 7, 2016 [<http://wordpress-awsprod.extranet.backbasecloud.com/?p=5475>] by Marcio Fuckner.

About Marcio Fuckner

Marcio is a Trainer at the Backbase Academy team. His role is sharing best practices related to the software development lifecycle of financial institutions using Backbase products.

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