

# Netbeans: The best Ruby IDE

That's what I think; so there!

# Mainly because the underlying NetBeans IDE works so well

- Indents logically (most of the time)
- Recognises end of next line
- Tracks external file change
- Very flexible window control
- Good performance
  - 8 is new – 7.3 is a little faster at the moment
- Good support for plugins
- Cross platform – works well on Linux, Windows, and Macs

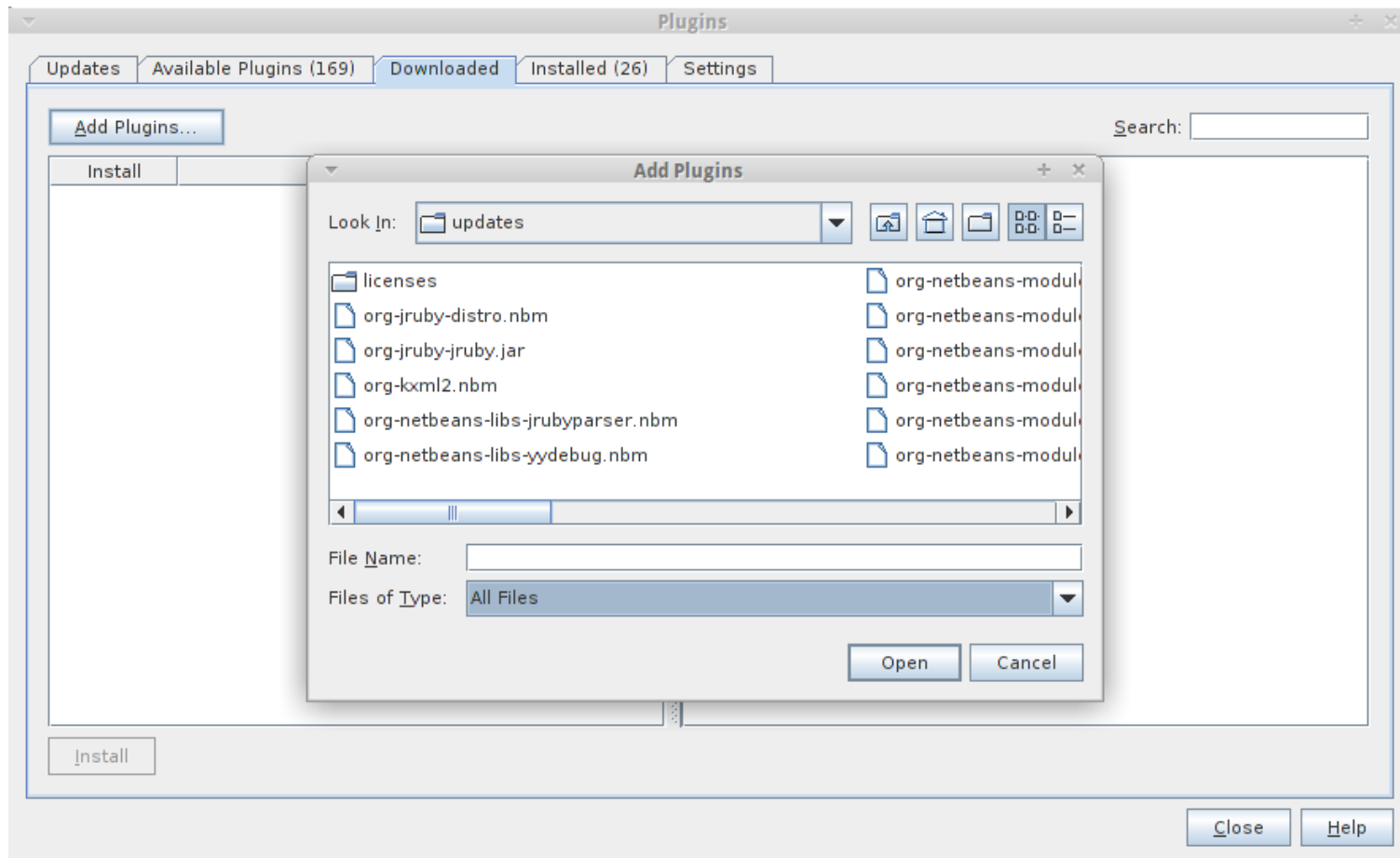
# Installation on Linux

- Download main app from:  
<https://netbeans.org/downloads/>
  - Change the .sh file permission to executable and run it.
- Download Ruby on Rails plugin from:  
<http://plugins.netbeans.org/plugin/38549/ruby-and-rails>
  - Extract files

# Installing the plugin

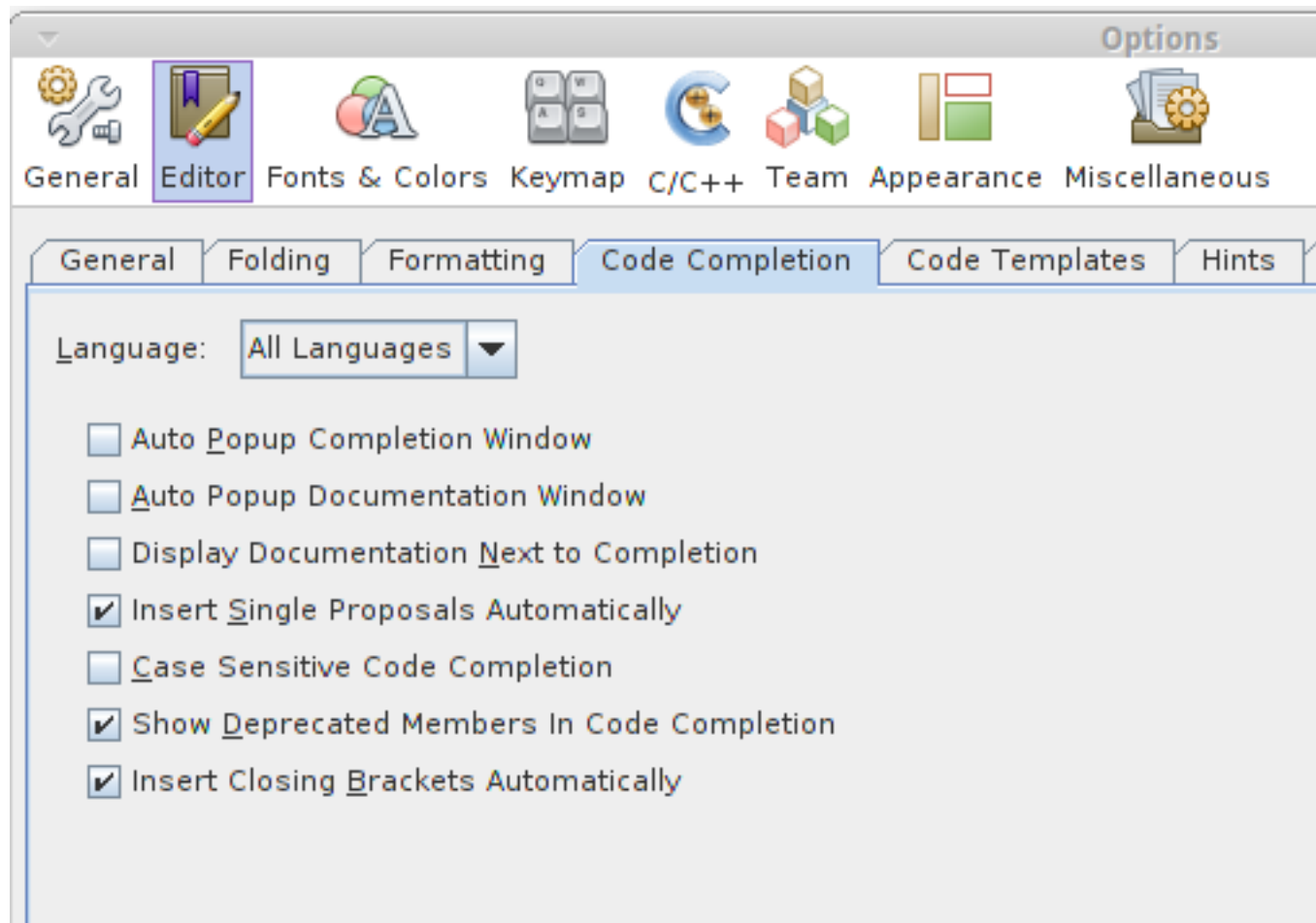
- Open Netbeans and select Tools > Plugins
- Select the Downloaded tab
- Click on Add Plugins ...
- Change 'Files of Type' to 'All files'
- Navigate to extracted plugin files
- Click on Open
- Follow the menus through, accepting the prompts

# The plugin GUI

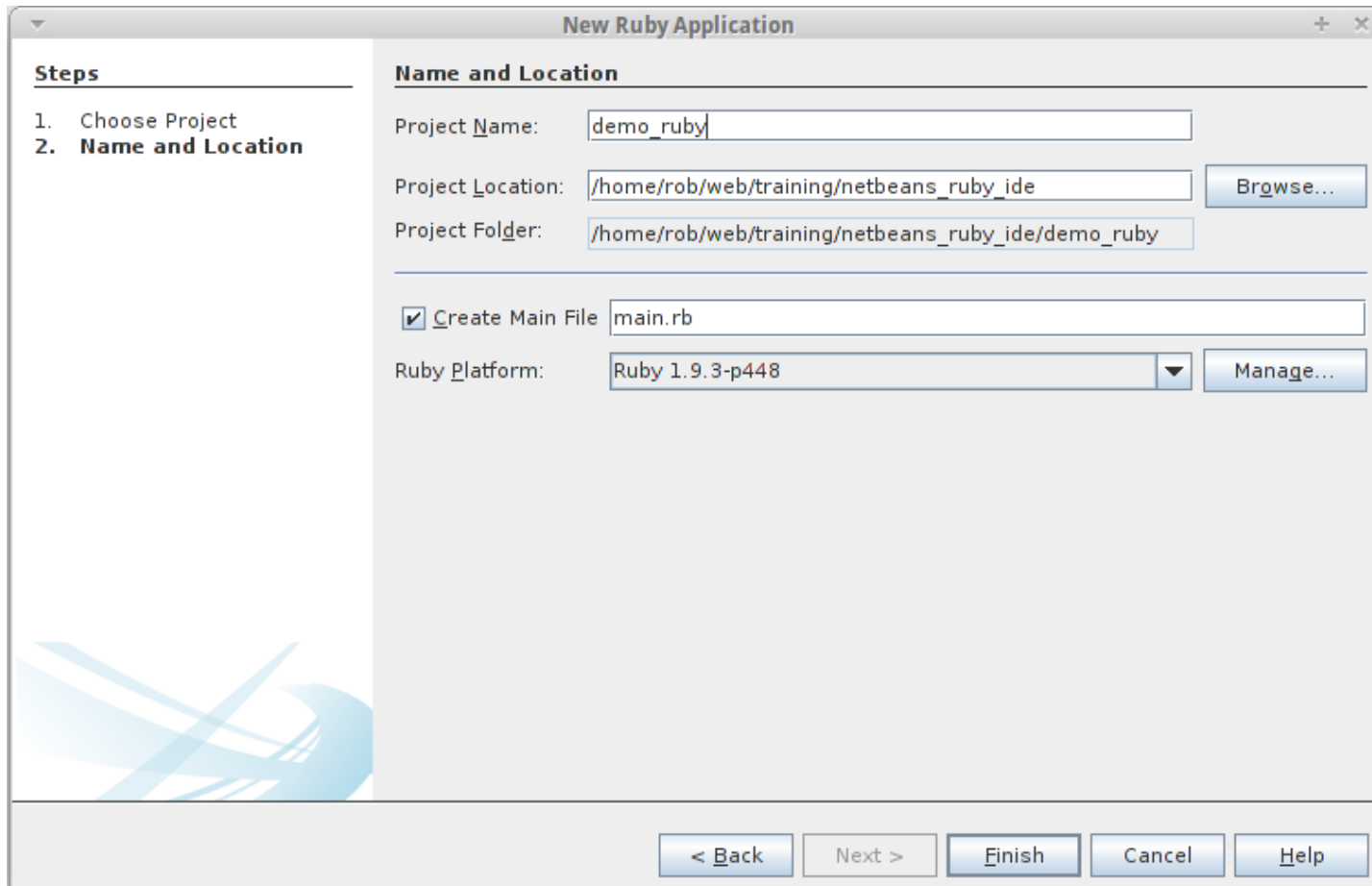


# Autocomplete Popup

- Turn it off via Tools > Options



# Create a new ruby app



The screenshot shows the 'New Ruby Application' dialog box in the NetBeans IDE. The dialog is titled 'New Ruby Application' and has a standard window with maximize and close buttons. On the left, there is a 'Steps' panel with two steps: '1. Choose Project' and '2. Name and Location', with the second step being the active one. The main area is titled 'Name and Location' and contains several input fields and buttons. The 'Project Name' field is filled with 'demo\_ruby'. The 'Project Location' field is filled with '/home/rob/web/training/netbeans\_ruby\_ide' and has a 'Browse...' button to its right. The 'Project Folder' field is filled with '/home/rob/web/training/netbeans\_ruby\_ide/demo\_ruby'. Below these fields, there is a checkbox labeled 'Create Main File' which is checked, and a text field next to it containing 'main.rb'. The 'Ruby Platform' is set to 'Ruby 1.9.3-p448' in a dropdown menu, with a 'Manage...' button to its right. At the bottom of the dialog, there are five buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', 'Finish', 'Cancel', and 'Help'.

**Steps**

1. Choose Project
2. **Name and Location**

**Name and Location**

Project Name: demo\_ruby

Project Location: /home/rob/web/training/netbeans\_ruby\_ide Browse...

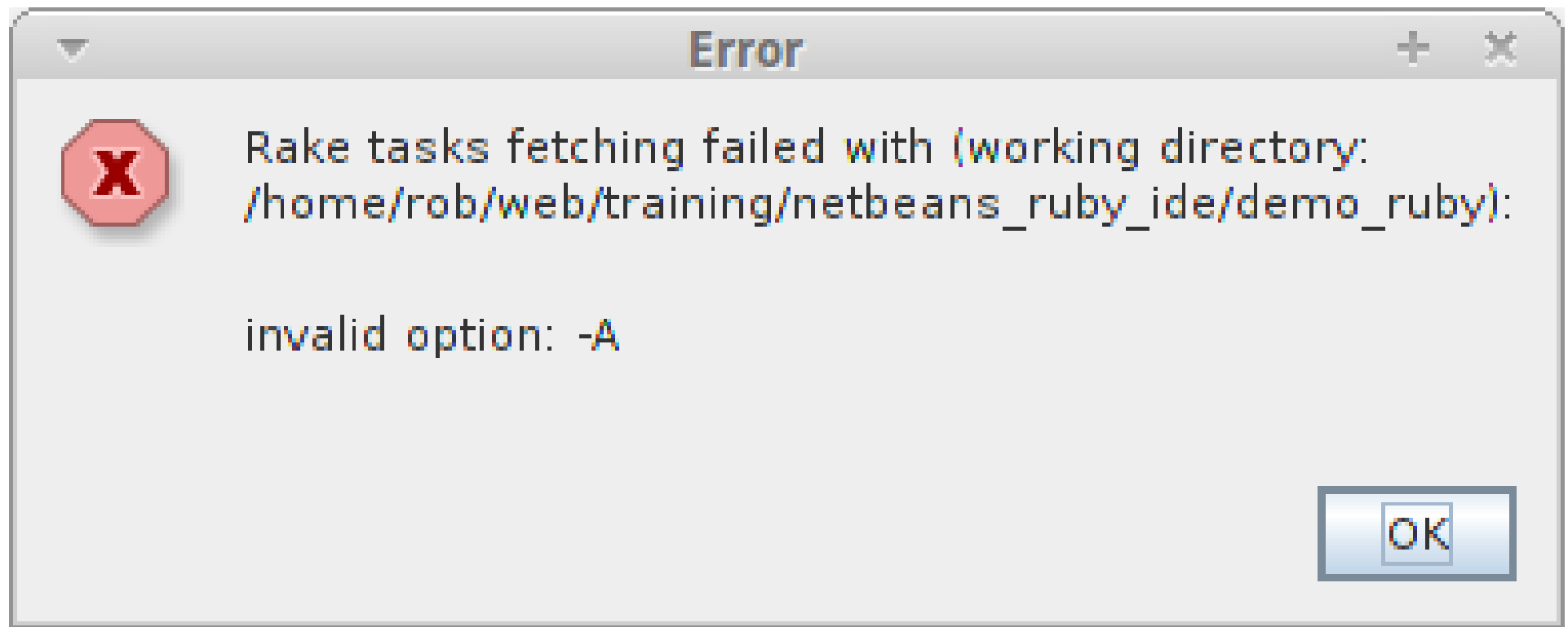
Project Folder: /home/rob/web/training/netbeans\_ruby\_ide/demo\_ruby

☒ Create Main File main.rb

Ruby Platform: Ruby 1.9.3-p448 Manage...

< Back   Next >   Finish   Cancel   Help

# Ignore Rake error





# New project

- The project will be created with:
  - Folders: lib, spec, test, nbproject
  - Files: lib/main.rb, LICENSE, README, Rakefile
    - Rakefile has some useful defaults

# Git: ignore all of nbproject

- Netbeans will modify an existing .gitignore to exclude some nbproject files.
- However, I'd recommend adding a .gitignore file as nbproject/.gitignore with this content:

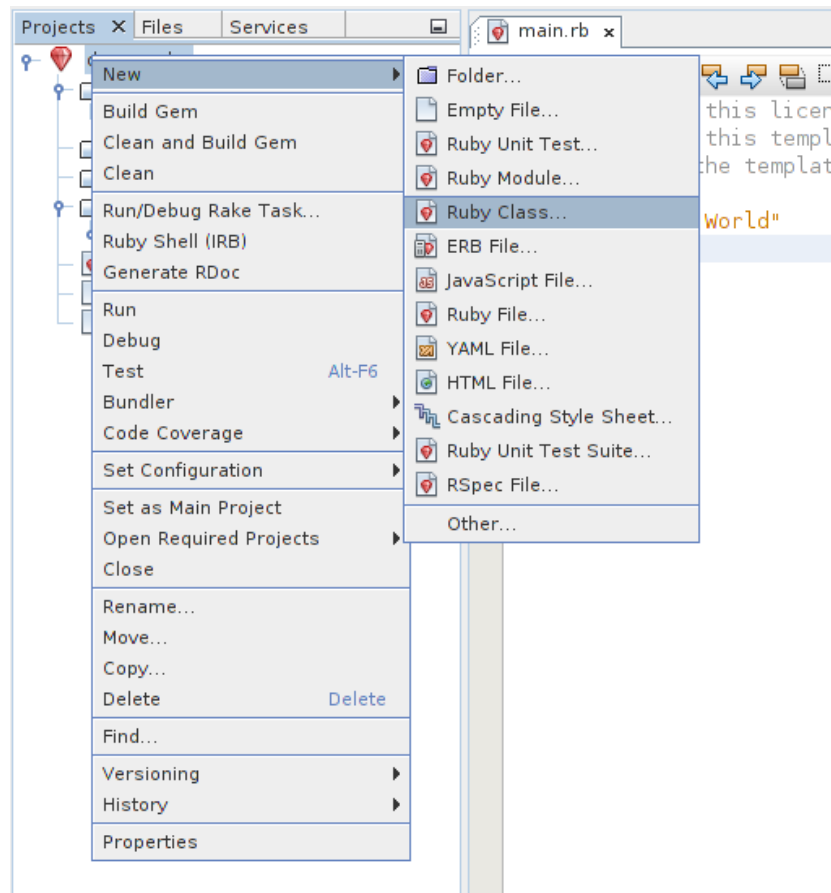
```
* *
```

```
.
```

```
*/**/*.*
```

# Create new class

- Use menu via right click on location in project



# New class

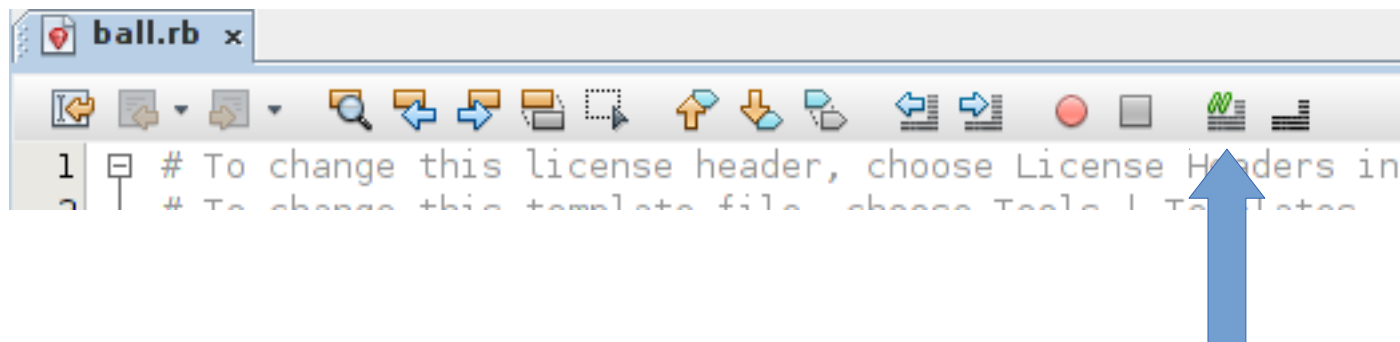
- Method initialize automatically created
- Create a setter  
    `def colour=(new_colour)`
- On hitting return, end is created and cursor is placed in right place to start entering content
- Variable `new_colour` has wavy underlining until it is used – when it also changes colour
- Selecting the `def` highlights the matching end
- Selecting the `(` highlights the matching `)`

# Use with an existing rails app

- Select new project
- Choose option 'Ruby on Rails Application with Existing Sources'
- Navigate to root of existing app
- Ignore the rake error again
- Create a nbproject/.gitignore file as before

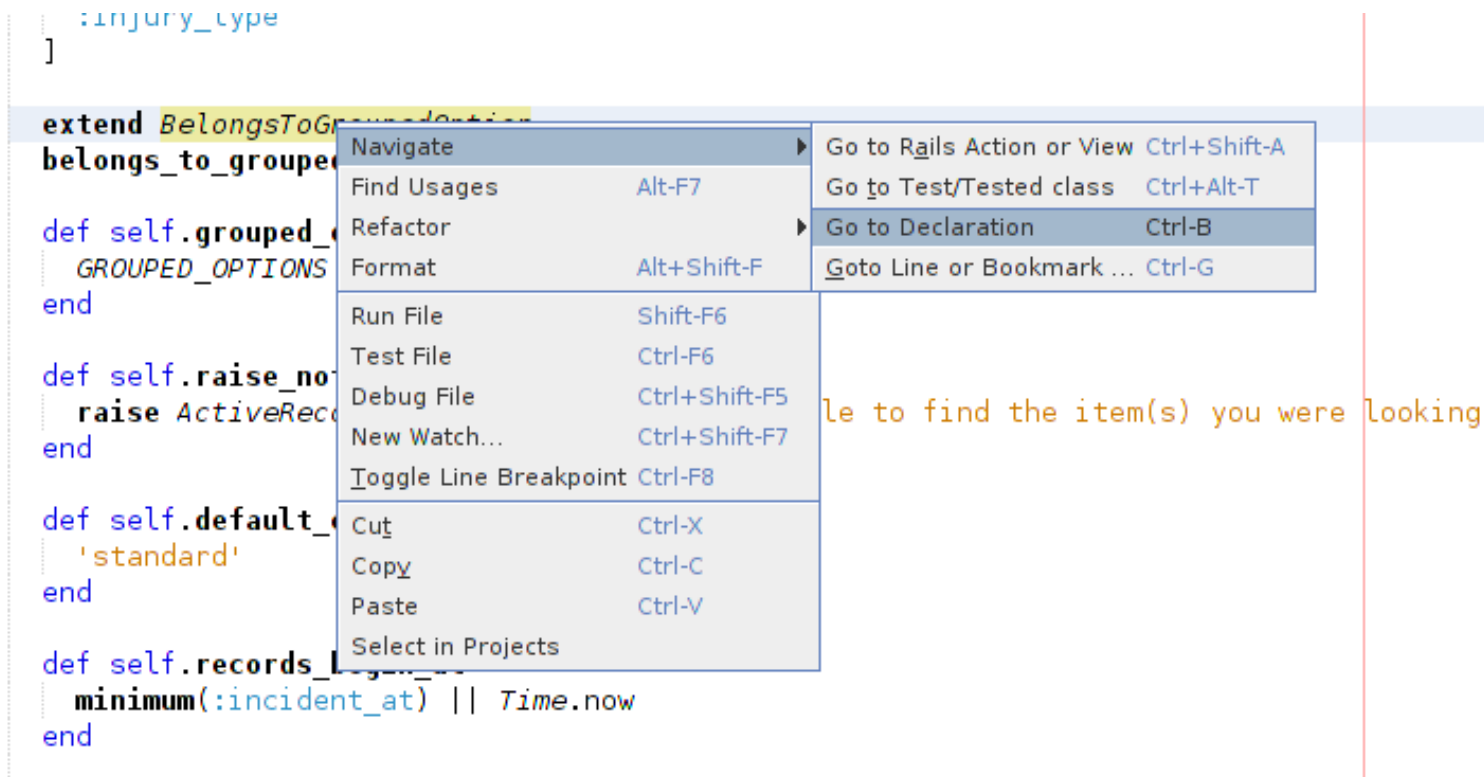
# Block changes

- Highlight a block of code
  - Tabbing insets text two spaces
    - Shift-tab reverses the insets
    - Go to Tool > Options > Editor > Formatting to alter tab spacing
  - Use file tool bar comment buttons to comment out block of code



# Go to declaration

- Right click on a class or method and select Navigate > Go to Declaration
- Doesn't work within erb view files



# Find in project

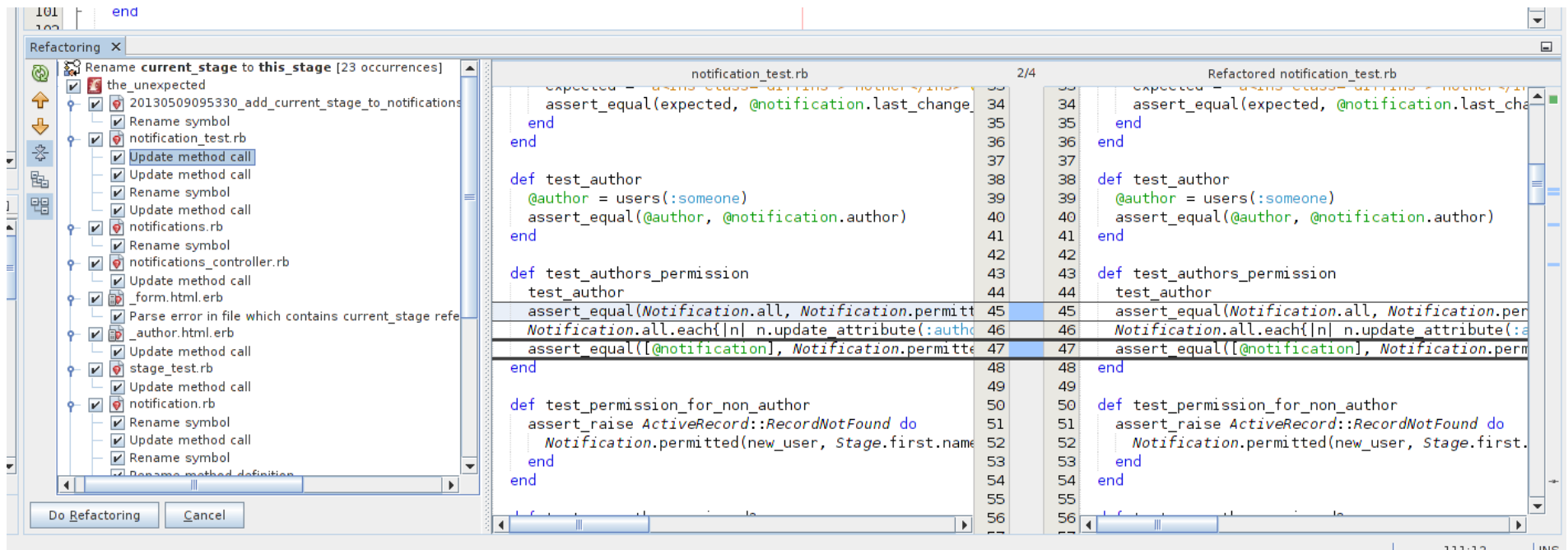
Use find in project in Edit menu to search all project files for text.

There is also a replace in project option



# Refactor

- Right click on an object or method you want to rename. Select refactor and then rename
- Avoid running from declaration



# Right margin indicators and errors

- Select a method or variable and the location of other instances within the file will be shown as brown bars
- The location of errors will be show as red bars
- If you save a file with an error, the file will get a warning icon.

# Git integration

- Modified files and tree get an extra icon
- Left margin highlight changes:
  - Red margin signifies where lines removed
  - New lines indicated by green margin
  - Blue margin signifies where lines changed
- Hover over margin to view change
- Click on margin for options (including rollback)
- File names will also change colour to reflect status

# History

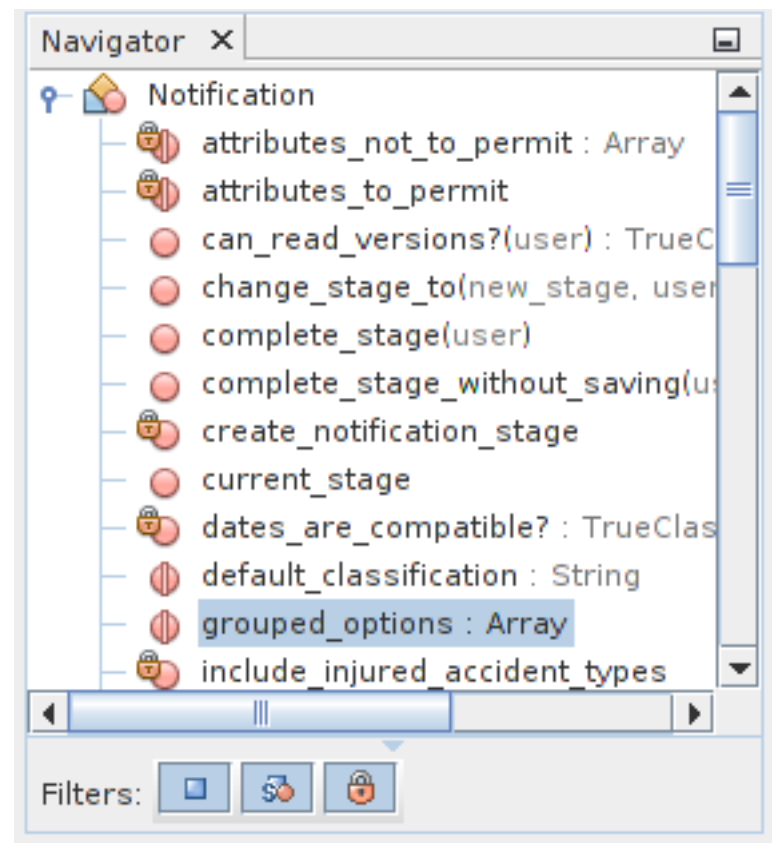
- On right click menu
- Allows you to restore deleted files even if they are not version controlled!

# Other file support include

- HTML
  - On create – creates HTML structure
- JavaScript
  - Highlights errors/issues such as lack of trailing semicolon
- CSS and SASS
  - SASS support in version 8 (was a plugin before)
- YML
  - Avoids inserting tabs
  - Colour highlight help identify valid structure
- Erb

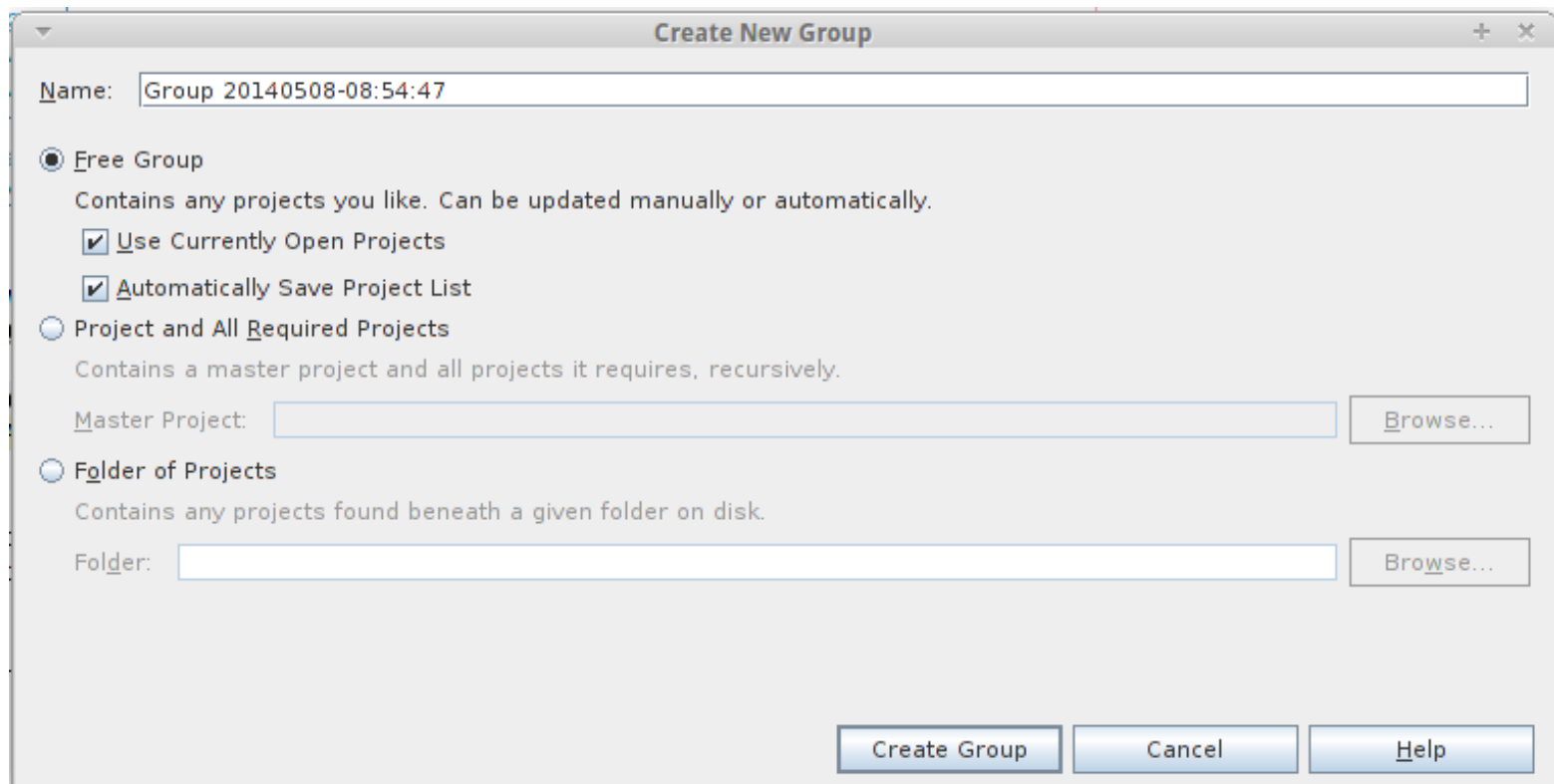
# Method Navigator

- Window showing methods within page. Makes finding and locating methods in large files easy.
- Also shows YAML file structure



# Grouping

- Makes it easy to swap between projects
- System remembers which files were open and restore them (but not windowing)



The screenshot shows a 'Create New Group' dialog box with the following elements:

- Title Bar:** 'Create New Group' with standard window controls (+, x).
- Name Field:** A text box containing 'Group 20140508-08:54:47'.
- Radio Buttons:**
  - ☒ **Free Group**  
Contains any projects you like. Can be updated manually or automatically.
    - ☒ **Use Currently Open Projects**
    - ☒ **Automatically Save Project List**
  - ☐ **Project and All Required Projects**  
Contains a master project and all projects it requires, recursively.
    - Master Project:** A text box followed by a 'Browse...' button.
  - ☐ **Folder of Projects**  
Contains any projects found beneath a given folder on disk.
    - Folder:** A text box followed by a 'Browse...' button.
- Buttons:** 'Create Group', 'Cancel', and 'Help' at the bottom right.

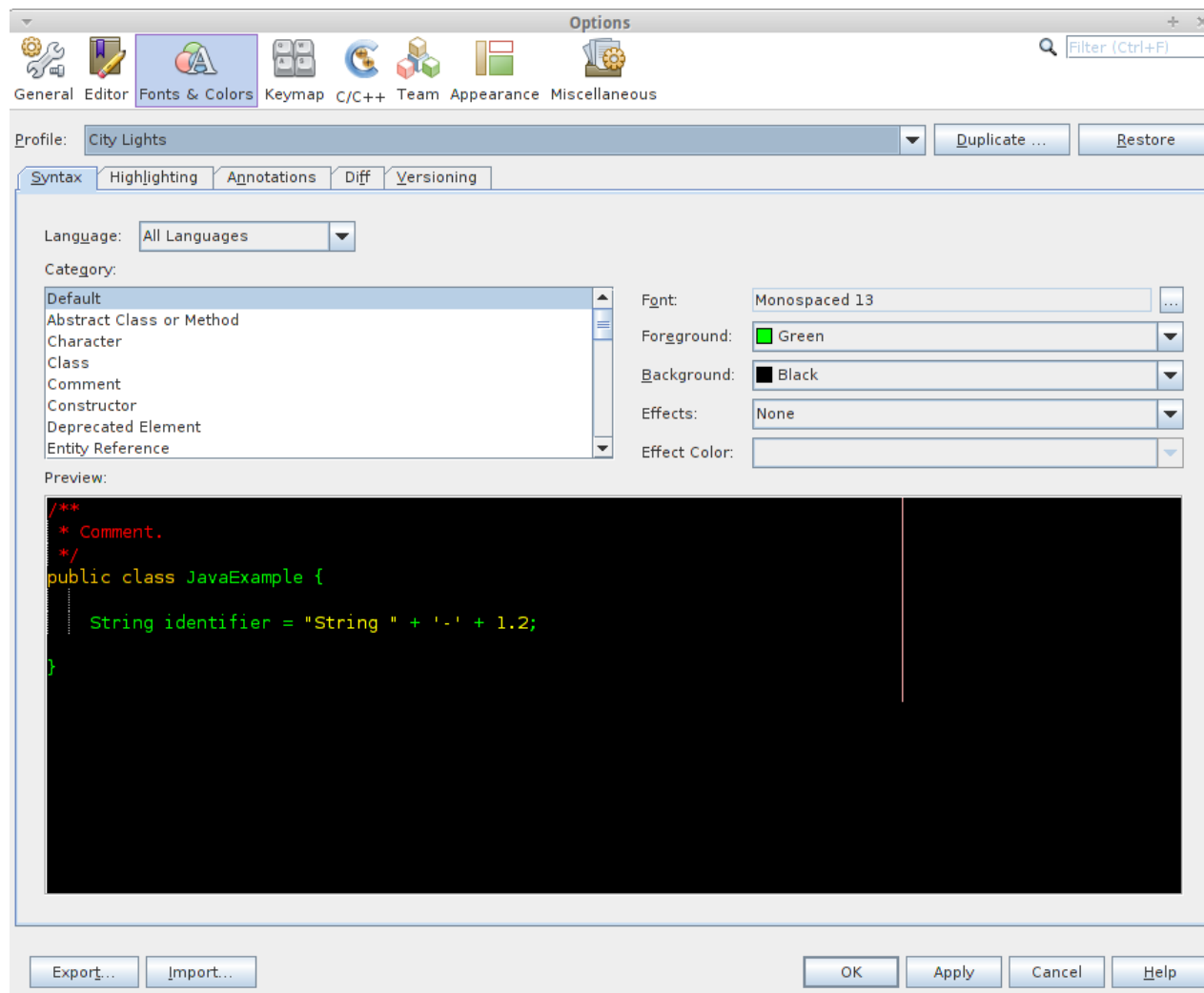
# Multi-pane / split screen

- Drag a window to where you want it
- Very useful for comparing files. For example, a test with the class being tested.



# Other colour scheme

<http://netbeansthemes.com/>



# What doesn't work

- Rake tasks
- Running and testing files within the IDE
- Console (unless you open from within folder)

All of these can be done at the console instead

More things work if you launch netbeans from project folder – but I'd rather have project grouping goodness.

# What other IDEs do better

- Aptana
  - Nothing
- RubyMine
  - Language file support
  - Avoidance of the rest of the world. If you want an IDE that does everything for you – this is the one for you!
- Sublime
  - Multi-line editing
- All
  - Avoid being owned by Oracle